

**How the 20s & 30s Group was Born by Judi Lintott and Terri Wilkerson,
presented December 28, 2014, page 1**

Terri **Once upon a time, long, long ago, in a church far, far away . . .**

Judi *Oh come on, it wasn't THAT long ago or that far away!*

Terri **Well, way back when neither of us had houses or husbands or kids or gray hair!**

Judi *OK, you got me. That was nearly 30 years ago.*

Terri **Right! So, once upon a time, back in early 1986, two young women wandered through the doors of the UU Chalet on Washtenaw and met.**

Judi *One (pointing thumbs at own chest) was a lifelong UU, so she knew what she was looking for.*

Terri **And the other (pointing thumbs at own chest) was exploring, not quite sure what she needed, but looking for something that felt right.**

Judi *We both liked what we heard that morning, but when we looked around, we didn't really like what we saw - lot's of "white tops". (Sheepishly pointing to the Terri's hair)*

Terri **Over the next weeks, we began to get to know each other. We'd found that one important connection that kept us coming back. We also noticed that other young people came to the church occasionally, but usually they didn't come back.**

Judi *We decided the church definitely needed more young people to stay, and that maybe they WOULD stay if the few of us already there were more visible.*

Terri **Even though the congregation was much smaller then, the church seemed to have a group or committee for almost every interest and type of person – except us!**

Judi *But that didn't slow us down. We were used to being active in volunteer-led organizations, and we both knew that if you want something to happen, you have to own the idea. Back then it was pretty easy to put an idea into action, and that's what we did.*

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Terri We'd made friends with a couple of other young 20-somethings, and we decided that 3 or more is a "Group."
So, we became "The Young Adult Group."

Judi But it wasn't enough to create an official group; we had to be really visible to all the new young people who visited the church. This was back before cell phones, email and the Internet, so getting the word out had to be a lot more personal.

Terri Other than the printed newsletter every other week, the main way to share information was live, in person announcements every Sunday morning. We made sure one of us joined the queue to announce the upcoming Young Adult Group activities every Sunday.

Judi Almost every week, we would go to brunch after church, see a movie, go contra dancing, go canoeing, or some other fun outing.

Terri Pretty soon, the group of 3 had grown to a mailing list of over 100, and we were having monthly gatherings or 20 or more in the gracious library of the old church. Those evenings were designed to be almost no work for that month's rotating leader, and were a totally no-pressure way for us to make connections, share important parts of our lives and...

Judi Of course eat pizza! The group grew and solidified, and eventually was re-named the Ann Arbor Unitarian Universalist 20s & 30s Group – or A2 U2 T2 for short.

Terri Our activities expanded to community service, vacations, and sharing many volunteer activities here at the church, including just washing windows together once in awhile. Life-long friendships were forged. We created a family of choice filled with many people who have become our dearest friends.

Judi As some of us paired off and our families began to grow, we drifted away from our reliance on the 20s&30s Group. A generation of new UUs began to fill the gap we left.

Terri Next, as married folks with young kids, we had a new need – to connect and have fun with other young UU families. We started

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vacationing at Lake Michigan with Tom Chettleburgh and Kathy Sergeant, Jeff and Shelley Poliner, to name a few.

Judi *Then one year, as I was headed off to attend the weekend Women's Retreat, my husband commented "Gee, how come there's nothing like this for families to do together?" He was right! There was a great retreat for the men, one for women, trips for our teens, but nothing for us all together with our kids.*

Terri **So, as we'd done before, we put our love into a new project, and Family Camp was born the next year.**

Judi *We both love it here, and we think there is something wonderful for almost everyone. But if you're looking for something a little different, don't be afraid to make your own idea happen!*

Terri **It's a little more complicated to get approval for new committees and projects now that the congregation is more than three times the size it was when we joined, but don't let that stop you.**

Judi *That's right. For us, all it took was one great connection to start something pretty good growing into something wonderful.*