

**THE UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
OF CLEVELAND**

2728 Lancashire Road
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106
Phone: 216-932-1898
Fax: 216-932-1516
Email: uuscleveland@yahoo.com
www.uucleleveland.org

Rev. Colin Bossen
Minister
Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wed. 2-4 p.m.

Carol Splaver
Administrator/Beacon Editor
Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Wed. 2-6 p.m.

Amy Collins
Commissioned Lay Leader

Nathan Staples
Director of Religious Education
Tues. 10 a.m.-12 p.m.; Thurs. and
Sun. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Lee Batdorff
Facilities Manager

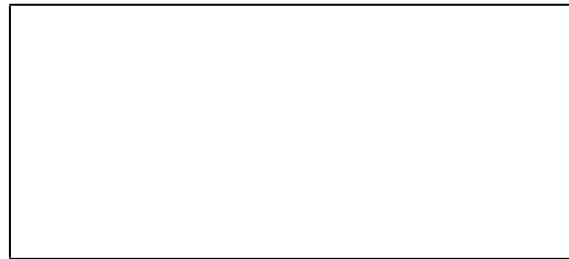
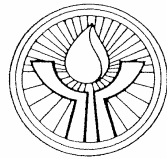
Barbara Boyd
Choir Director

Rev. Peggy C. Clason
Minister Emerita

UUSC Board of Trustees

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Maureen Meslovich | President |
| Jesse Honsky | Vice President |
| Heather Moise | Secretary |
| Steve Doell | Treasurer |
| Brett Cohen | Member |
| Michael Hugill | Member |
| Kathy Weise | Member |
| David Schatzman | Member |

*Board Meetings are held on the
3rd Tuesday of the month at
7:00 p.m.*



UUSC DEADLINES:

Beacon Articles: Deadline for May (*April 26*)

Order of Service/Announcements:

Wednesday a.m. before the Sunday Service

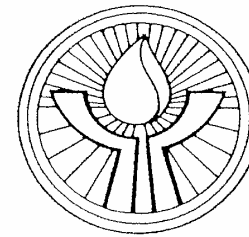
Board Reports: Wednesday a.m. before the Board Meeting

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

This is only a partial list, to make it complete, send your special dates to the office at uuscleveland@yahoo.com or just call and leave a message on the machine. Thanks!!

APRIL

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Maureen Meslovich | 2 |
| Rev. Peggy Clason | 3 |
| Don Clason | 23 |



THE BEACON

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

Volume 60, Issue 10 March 19, 2009

| INSIDE THIS ISSUE: | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| <i>Service Information</i> | 1 |
| <i>Minister's Column</i> | 2 |
| <i>UUSC News</i> | 3-6 |
| <i>UUSC Calendar</i> | 7 |
| <i>Birthdays</i> | 8 |

UPCOMING SERVICE INFORMATION

Musical Prelude at 10:45 a.m. Service at 11:00 a.m.*

March 29, 2009, 11 a.m.
A Tribute to Utah Phillips
Worship Leaders: Rev. Colin Bossen and Anne Feeney
Musician: Anne Feeney
Welcoming: Maureen Meslovich, Nancy Simpson and Stephanie Sweeton

Utah Phillips, the folksinger, labor activist and Unitarian Universalist who died last year, was a friend and mentor of generations of younger activists and songwriters. This intergenerational service will celebrate Utah's life and philosophy through song and story. It will be co-led by Anne Feeney, an activist and songwriter from Pittsburgh. Anne will be performing at the UUSC on Sat., March 28 at 7:30 p.m.

April 19, 2009, 11 a.m.
In Every Generation
Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen
Musician: Karin Tooley
Welcoming: TBD

This year, in honor of Passover, we will consider the text from the Haggadah that reads "In every generation, each individual should feel as if he or she had actually gone out from Egypt."

April 5, 2009, 11 a.m.
An American Religion
Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen
Musician: Karin Tooley
Welcoming: TBD

Unitarian Universalism is a non-creedal and congregational religious tradition. As a result, extraordinary theological diversity can be found within our communities. This service will explore that diversity through the stories of historic American Unitarian Universalist congregations, each of which has something important to teach us.

April 26, 2009, 11 a.m.
Earth Sunday
Worship Leaders: Worship Associates
Musicians: Paul Minkler (born) and Karin Tooley (piano)
Welcoming: TBD

Virtually all spiritual traditions include a deep tradition of respect and honor for our natural world. As people of faith and especially as Unitarian Universalists, we recognize our place within the community of life, as a part of the interdependent web of all existence.

April 12, 2009, 11 a.m.
**Trauma and Recovery:
An Easter Story**
Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen
Musicians: UUSC Choir, Barbara Boyd, Director
Welcoming: TBD

At some point in most of our lives, we experience a traumatic event like the death of a loved one, the loss of a job or a disabling disease or an accident. How do these traumas continue to effect us and shape our world view? How can we recover from them?

May 3, 2009, 11 a.m.
"I Never Met the Man"
Worship Leader: Tom Beck
Musician: Karin Tooley
Welcoming: TBD

Tom will explore the phenomenon of how our actions can influence others in ways that we may not have anticipated. Tom is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent . . . and for walking-around money, Tom serves as an administrator at The University of Akron.

Wheelchair Available: The Society has a wheel-chair available for use during congregational events.

New UUSC Website: Check out our new Website at www.uucleleveland.org. Our email address will soon change. We'll keep you posted!

Notes from our Minister

Joys and concerns are an important part of our congregational life. They are one way we learn about the goings on in the lives of our members. There are many different ways of doing joys and concerns and not all of them are best suited for our congregation's needs. This April, in an attempt to better meet our needs, we will be experimenting with a new format.

Once a month, on the first Sunday, we will use the current format where people individually share their joys and concerns and a Worship Associate lights a candle in honor of the joy or concern. The rest of the month joys and concerns will be incorporated into the service leader's spoken meditation. At each service we will continue the practice of lighting silent candles for joys and concerns during the offertory.

Joys and concerns for the spoken meditation may be communicated up to the start of the service. There will be three ways to inform the worship leader about a joy or concern you wish shared:

1. You can send an e-mail to me at cbossen@gmail.com up until 10:00 a.m. the day of the service;
2. You can contact the Society's office up until 6:00 p.m. on the Thursday before the service;
3. You can fill out a joys and concern form up until the start of the service. The forms, and a box to receive them, will be available in the back of the sanctuary starting on Sunday, April 12. They will be collected by a Worship Associate immediately before the service starts. On the form you can indicate whether or not you would like to be contacted by the minister or if you would like your joy or concern to be included in the Beacon.

I understand that these changes to the joys and concerns format may be disconcerting or thought provoking for some of you. If you would like to speak with me about them please know that I would be happy to talk with you.

love,
Colin

UUSC Investment Portfolio

Thanks to bequests from several deceased members and friends, the Society has an investment portfolio totaling, as of December 31, 2008, \$948,430. The greater portion of this amount is invested with the UUA's Common Endowment Fund. The rest is placed with Fidelity Investments in conservative bond funds and a socially responsible fund.

The board has made a policy of withdrawing five percent of the portfolio's value each year. 3 1/2% now goes into the annual budget to be used for current expenses. 1 1/2% is set aside for the cost of capital improvements to the building and grounds. Since the value of the portfolio has decreased this past year (as the financial markets overall have gone down in value), our withdrawal amount for next year's budget is lower than this year's amount.

In addition, until growth in members and subsequently in pledge amounts occur, the congregation has agreed to balance the budget by withdrawing an additional amount from the portfolio to pay for full-time ministry, half-time DRE, additional programming and so forth. The greater our contributions as members and friends, the smaller this additional withdrawal will be.

Glenn Solomon,
Finance Committee Chair

April 2009

CG = Covenant Group

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 First Sunday Lunch followed by Congregational Budget Hearing | 6 | 7 Building Your Own Theology 7-9 p.m. | 8 UU Parenting Group 6:30-8 p.m. Passover Begins at Sundown | 9 | 10 Good Friday | 11 |
| 12 Easter Sunday After Service Nature Walk Banned Books 7p.m. | 13 Green Sanctuary Group 7 p.m. | 14 Choir Re- hearsal 7:30-9 p.m. Building Your Own Theology 7-9 p.m. | 15 UU Parenting Group 6:30-8 p.m. | 16 J. Campbell Round Table 7:30 p.m. | 17 | 18 Circle Suppers 6:30 p.m. |
| 19 Newcomer Orientation 1-3 p.m. Earth-Centered Spirituality 1 p.m. | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 UUSC Annual Meeting 7 p.m. | 25 |
| 26 Beacon Deadline | 27 | 28 Choir Rehearsal 7:30-9 p.m. | 29 | 30 | 1 May First Friday Game Night 7-10p.m. | 2 "Searching for the Future" |

Resistance and Transformation

Rev. Bossen is currently co-writing an adult religious education curriculum for the Unitarian Universalist Association on Unitarian Universalist social justice history. The curriculum is due for release January 2010. Between now and then each month the Beacon will contain a sneak-peak of the curriculum. This month we present a section on different types of social justice voices.

Prophetic, Parallel and Institutional Voices in the Quest for Social Justice

Often, history is presented as a timeline of important people, highlighting the actions of extraordinary individuals and chronicling the events that shaped an era. However, not all change is effected in the same way, and even the most individualistic leader is in relationship with other communities and ways of thinking. This curriculum believes that there is more than one way to resist injustice, and more than one way to work for the transformation of our world. We have recognized three strategies commonly found in social justice leadership and organization: The Prophetic, Parallel, and Institutional voices that have shaped our history.

The Prophetic voice speaks out against the conventions of the times, often marginalized or considered "before their time", with a vision for the future. Prophetic leaders are often alienated from the broader social movements that they are in dialogue with and can be unconventional in their life style choices. They speak to the movement from outside of the movement.

The Parallel voice advocates for an alternative to the established structure, creating a new system to replace that which is deemed broken. The alternative structure can be a utopian vision of a whole new life, or simply the idea of a new institution formed as an alternative to the existing model.

The Institutional voice seeks to work within established power structures to change them from within. Once the institution is transformed, the power and stability of the organization can then be directed towards the ideal of change in the larger society.

These are not isolated strategies, but may overlap and work with each other.

More Announcements

Searching for the Future: At times when we talk about "growth" or "programs" or "facilities", we assume we all mean the same thing with the same words. But deeper discussion may prove that this is incorrect. The UU Society of Cleveland is growing and changing. In order to guide our change in the directions we want, we have an opportunity to have our voices heard. Not just "leaders", but everyone. We want the widest range of input possible. Frankie Price Stern, a UUA consultant who was here earlier in the year, is coming back to lead a workshop called "Searching for the Future" on Saturday, May 2. There will be a morning and an afternoon version of the same workshop, so you can choose which to attend. It will be held at the Society, and some food – a light meal – will be provided (breakfast for the morning and lunch for the afternoon). Child care will be provided. There will be sign-up sheets, since we need to know how many to plan for. Plan to attend this and have your voice heard.

Equality Ohio Lobbying Day, May 13: Join Rev. Bossen and hundreds of other Ohioans on May 13 in Columbus to speak with elected officials about equal rights for all Ohioans regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. If you are interested in attending this important event contact Rev. Bossen and register on-line, by May 4, at <http://eqfed.org/equalityohio/events/lobby09/details.tcl>. At least one car will be driving down from the Society for the event.

From Your Green Sanctuary Committee: Ways to Go Green and Save Green:

- Take shorter showers to reduce water use. This will lower your water and heating bills, too.
- Install a low-flow showerhead. They don't cost much, and the water and energy savings can quickly pay back your investment.
- Make sure you have a faucet aerator on each faucet. These inexpensive appliances conserve heat and water, while keeping water pressure high.
- Plant drought-tolerant native plants in your garden. Many plants need minimal watering. Find out which occur naturally in your area.

Notes From Our President

Greetings!

Spring is just around the corner. With the arrival of spring comes the Stewardship Campaign. This campaign is our major fundraising drive for the Society. All month you have been hearing testimonials about what the Society means to people and why they pledge to help the Society continue into the future. So, if you haven't already done so, please take some time to consider what the Society means to you, and fill out and return your pledge cards.

The arrival of spring also brings us to the annual budget hearing and annual meeting. There will be a budget hearing on Sunday, April 5, after first Sunday lunch. If you have any questions or concerns after you read the attached budget, please join us to discuss them at the meeting on April 5. The annual meeting is Friday, April 24, 2009. We will vote on the new budget, new board members and discuss many things at this meeting. Please plan to attend.

Cheers!

Maureen

Reflections

I know it probably seems early for it but this is the time of year where we decide on what curriculum will be used in our classrooms next year. This year our students have been learning about our Unitarian Universalist history and values, next year they will be learning about Jewish and Christian traditions. On March 14, I attended the OMD Curriculum Fair and got some great ideas about what's available as well as some valuable information from fellow DREs about lesson plans they've used that don't work. I'll be doing research throughout the rest of March and April and will be making decisions with the RE committee in early May. Please feel free to ask if you are interested in the process, I'm more than happy to talk your ear off about it.

Thanks,

Nathan Staples; Director of Religious Education

UUSC Annual Meeting

Mark Your Calendar! Join us for UUSC's Annual Meeting will be Friday, April 24 at 7:00 p.m. Your vote is very important.

Board Minutes

If you would like to receive the minutes from Board Meetings via email, please contact the Society's Office. Alternatively, the minutes from the previous month's Board Meeting are posted on the Bulletin Board outside the Office.

UUSC News/Announcements

Visitor Parking Spaces: Due to our increasing membership and worship attendance our parking lots are often full on Sunday mornings. To help ensure that we remain welcoming and accessible to visitors, two visitor parking spaces have been created in the West parking lot. Please leave these spaces for visitors on Sunday morning. Doing so is a great way to be hospitable to our guests!

Adopted Refugee Families: If you would like to help our Refugee families contact Heather Moise at 216-921-0939.

Building Your Own Theology New Dates: Because of scheduling conflicts, the dates of the class have been moved back. Mark your calendars for the new Tuesday dates: March 24 and 31; April 7 and 14; May 5, 12 and 26; and June 2.

District Assembly: March 27-28, First Unitarian Church of Cleveland, Shaker Heights: District Assembly is a chance for congregational leaders and ministers to meet, network, ask questions, provide input on the direction of the district and gather resources. At the assembly delegates from the district's congregations conduct the business of the Ohio Meadville District. This year a new District Trustee to the Unitarian Universalist Association Board will be elected to serve a four year term.

The assembly will feature a forum with the two candidates for President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman and Rev. Peter Morales. Michael Durall will offer a Saturday morning keynote address starting at 11:00 a.m. Rev. Bossen will lead the closing service Saturday afternoon.

Durall is a long-time Unitarian Universalist and the author of four books about congregational life. His address is titled, "The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Future." Unitarian Universalist congregations build on many strengths. But more and more people are becoming un-churched these days. Our congregations need to evolve and adapt to a society that is increasingly unsympathetic to religious expression. This will mean retaining some traditions and replacing others with new ways of doing things. We'll take a close look at those things we need to keep, and those we need to discard. Attendees may be surprised with what's on one list, and what's on the other.

Registration for the event is \$65 (with the Society's fair share discount) To register, or for more information, visit

<http://www.ohiomeadville.org/annmtg/districtassembly.html>.

Friday at OMD DA is Free: Friday evening, March 27, is open to the public without charge. Anyone who wishes dinner who is not registered as part of DA will be asked for a donation. All are invited to the reception. To help with anticipating the numbers, please register on the above website for the forum. Anyone who attends the Saturday sessions must be registered and have a name tag.

After-Service Nature Walk Sun., April 12: All are welcome (including newcomers) to join the group for lunch at a local restaurant, followed by a walk at Forest Hill Park off Lee Road. For information, ask David Schatzman or Peter Dillard.

Banned Books Covenant Group, Sun., April 12: *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engel is the coming-of-age fantasy story of Meg, her brother Chares Wallace, and school mate Calvin O'Keefe. They travel through time and space to rescue Meg's father from an evil, other-worldly captor. A copy can be found in the downstairs library.

Circle Suppers Sat., April 18: Circle Suppers resume at 6:30 on April 18, so if you would like to come, please sign up on the sheet at Coffee Hour.

Newcomer Orientation Sun., April 19: From 1-3 p.m., learn about UUSC and how to become a member of the UUSC family; includes lunch.

Anne Feeney in Concert at UUSC

Join the Society Sat., March 28 at 7:30 p.m. for a special night of music and fellowship with folksinger and activist Anne Feeney. Anne is an award-winning singer/songwriter who draws on Irish, bluegrass, traditional, labor, pop, folk and contemporary material. Utah Phillips called Anne "the best labor singer in North America" and her work has been covered by Peter, Paul and Mary. She can regularly be found performing on picket lines, in union halls, community centers and churches throughout North America. Tickets are \$10 and are available through the Society's office and at the door. A special collection for strikers in Elkhart, IN, and Effingham, IL, will be taken up during the concert. Bring canned goods, cash or make checks out to "Food 4 Strikers."

Special Collection

The April 12 Special Collection will help to fund the education of the Unitarian Universalist seminarians affiliated with our congregation, Chris Long and Kate Landis. Chris is currently a student at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, CA. He will be ordained by the First Unitarian Church of Oakland this June. Kate Landis is a first year student at Andover Newton Theological School located outside of Boston, MA.

The March 8 Special Collection raised \$201.80 for the Home Repair Resource Center in Cleveland Heights. The Home Repair Resource Center helps to maintain and support the homes of Cleveland Heights. Visit their website at www.hrrc-ch.org.

Save the Date

On Sunday, April 5, there will be a Congregational Budget meeting after the First Sunday Lunch. Please bring your ideas of how our budget should be allocated. It's never too early to start thinking about how we can maintain and improve the Society, and then how to pay for it.

More Announcements

UUA General Assembly June 24-28 in Salt Lake City, Utah: GA is the annual meeting of the UUA. This year at GA delegates will be electing a new UUA President and considering revisions to the UUA's Principles and Purposes. Our congregation gets to send two voting delegates. If you are interested in serving as a delegate, contact Board President Maureen Meslovich. For more information about GA, visit www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/.

OMD Summer Institute July 12-18: It's not too early to start planning for Summer Institute, the annual UU summer family camp. This year the theme speaker will be UU theologian the Rev. Dr. Thandeka. Join UUs from Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia for an inspiring and spirit-filled week at Kenyon College. For more information, visit <http://www.omdsi.org/>

UUSC Choir Rehearsals: In addition to Sunday rehearsals at 9:30-10:30 a.m., the UUSC Choir under the director of Barbara Boyd holds rehearsals on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 7:30-9:00 p.m. If you would like to sing with our choir, contact Barbara Boyd at 216-991-6318.