

**THE UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY  
OF CLEVELAND**

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**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

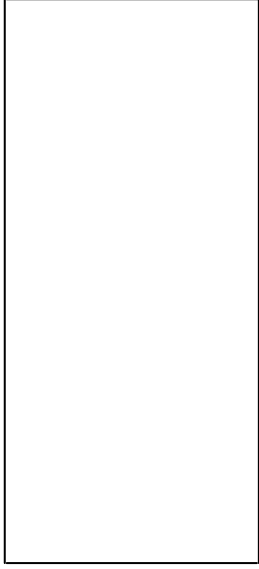
**Rev. Peggy C. Clason**

Minister Emerita

**UUUC 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.*



**UUUC DEADLINES:**

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

**Order of Service/Announcements:**

Wednesday a.m. before the Sunday Service

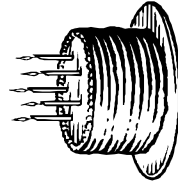
**Board Reports:** Wednesday a.m. before the Board Meeting

**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

*This is only a partial list, to make it complete, send your special dates  
to the office at [uuscleveand@yahoo.com](mailto:uuscleveand@yahoo.com) or just call and leave a message  
on the machine. Thanks!!*

**MAY**

Sue McKimm	2
Marie Nightingale	7
Kate Landis	12
Blanche Livingstone	15
Dana Bjorklund/Linda Coulter anniv.	15
Sharon Marrell	28
Edwin Burwell	31



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*May 3, 2009, 11 a.m.*

**"I Never Met the Man"**

*Worship Leader: Tom Beck, UU Church of Kent*

*Musician: Karin Tooley  
Welcoming: Walt Nicholes, Stephanie Sweeton  
and Krissie Wells*

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.

*May 10, 2009, 11 a.m.*

**Music Sunday**

*Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen*

*Musicians: UUUC Choir, Barbara Boyd, Director,*

*Karin Tooley and Friends*

*Welcoming: Glenn Altschuld, Muriel Senseman,*

*Wes Senseman and Stephanie Sweeton*

On Mother's Day we'll celebrate our congregation's many musical talents with a special concert by the UUUC Choir and music from members and friends.

*May 17, 2009, 11 a.m.*

**Pursuing the Moral Mind**

*Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen*

*Musician: Karin Tooley*

*Welcoming: Patrick Laughlin, Sarah Stigenbauer,*

*Stephanie Sweeton and Sarah Thuerk*

How do we know what is right and what is wrong? How and why do we make moral decisions? This service will explore these questions while drawing on resources from Western philosophy, liberal theology and contemporary neuroscience and psychology.

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

**New UUUC Website:** Check out our new Website at [www.uucleveland.org](http://www.uucleveland.org). Our email address will soon change. We'll keep you posted!

# THE BEACON

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

Volume 60, Issue 11 April 30, 2009

## UPCOMING SERVICE INFORMATION

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

*May 24, 2009, 11 a.m.*

**The Place Where Music Begins...**

*Worship Leader: Hal Walker*

*Musician: Karin Tooley*

*Welcoming: Pat Dillard, Kate Jones,*

*David Schatzman and Stephanie Sweeton*

Through music, song and words, Hal Walker will explore the question of where music begins...Hal has been the music director of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent for 12 years. His original songs celebrate work, community, local history and the human spirit. He composes and improvises on the piano, guitar, harmonica and other instruments from around the world. He makes much of his living as a "teaching artist" in schools all around Ohio.

*May 31, 2009, 11 a.m.*

**A Shame Free Zone**

*Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen*

*Musician: Deborah Van Kleef*

*Welcoming: Jeri Rask, Shirley Skeelenger  
and Stephanie Sweeton*

During hard economic times and periods of personal crises, it can be easy to develop a sense of shame or inadequacy. This shame can become debilitating or even immobilizing. Can religious liberalism help us address the shame in our lives? Can our congregation be a community where we are freed from shame?

*June 7, 2009, 11 a.m.*

**Tomorrow's Unitarian Universalism**

*Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen*

*Musician: Karin Tooley*

*Welcoming: TBD*

What might Unitarian Universalism look like in ten years? How might it change? What might be different about our own congregation? What might be different about our larger movement?

## Notes from our Minister

This past month our congregation hit an exciting milestone. When Sara Bossen, Anela Forrest, Amanda Hatfield, Peggy Lagodny and Jennifer Steinfurth signed the membership book our congregation grew to 100 members!

The congregation has more than doubled in size in only a few short years. When Rev. Clason retired and the congregation decided to call a full-time minister, membership was 49 and average Sunday attendance was about 35. Four years later average Sunday morning attendance is almost 75 and the Society's pledge income has close to doubled.

Some people might credit the switch to full-time ministry for the congregation's growth. As the minister I like to flatter myself by thinking that is true. However, the congregation started to grow well before I got here. I think that the growth has come not so much from calling a full-time minister but from the conscious decision to grow it inspired. A lot of congregations say that they want to grow but are unable to make the changes to congregational culture that growth requires. They often lack the sense of urgency necessary to alter the status quo.

The Society has managed to create a sense of urgency around growth. The bold decision that the congregation made four years ago to use part of the endowment to finance growth has meant that people have been willing to change if changes are required. This has allowed the congregation to become more focused on being an outward oriented and welcoming community. It is to this attitude, more than anything else, that I think we can attribute our growth.

Over the next few years I hope that the congregation can continue our sense of urgency around growth. I hope that we will continue to be willing to make changes and experiment. If we can then I have no doubt that in another few years membership will have doubled again and we will all be able to celebrate the addition of our two hundredth member.  
love,  
Colin

## Joys and Concerns

Once a month, on the first Sunday, we invite people to individually share their joys and concerns while a Worship Associate lights a candle in honor of the joy or concern. The rest of the month joys and concerns are incorporated into the service leader's spoken meditation. If you have a joy or concern you would like shared there are three ways you can communicate it to the service leader:

1. You can contact the Society's office up until 6:00 p.m. on the Thursday before the service;
2. You can fill out a joys and concern form up until the start of the service. The forms, and a box to receive them, are available in the back of the sanctuary starting. They are 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. 3. On those weeks he is leading the service, you can send an e-mail to Rev. Colin Bossen at [minister@uucleveland.org](mailto:minister@uucleveland.org) up until 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning.

## 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.

# May 2009

CG = Covenant Group

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 First Sunday Lunch	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6 Building Your Own Theology 7-9 p.m.	7 Shifting Gears 1:30 p.m.	8 Yoga 9-10:30 a.m. First Friday Game Night 7-10 p.m.	9 "Searching for the Future"
10 Mother's Day	11 Green Sanctuary Group 7 p.m.	12 Choir Re- hearsal 7:30-9 p.m.	13 Equality Ohio Lobby Day Building Your Own Theology 7-9 p.m.	14	15 Yoga 9-10:30 a.m.	16 Circle Sup- pers 6:30 p.m.
17 Mushroom Hunt 12:30 p.m. Earth-Centered Spirituality 1 p.m.	18	19 Board Meeting 7-10 p.m.	20	21 J. Campbell Round Table 7:30 p.m.	22 Yoga 9-10:30 a.m.	23
24 <i>Beacon Deadline</i>	25 Memorial Day	26 Choir Re- hearsal 7:30-9 p.m.	27 Building Your Own Theology 7-9 p.m.	28	29 Yoga 9-10:30 a.m.	30
31 After Service Nature Walk	GA Business Review After Service May 31					

## 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 peacemaking.

### Peacemaking

The 2006-2010 Study Action Issue for the Unitarian Universalist Association asks the question: "Should the Unitarian Universalist Association reject the use of any and all kinds of violence and war to resolve disputes between peoples and nations and adopt a principle of seeking just peace through nonviolent means?" This Study Action Issue was proposed as an effort to develop an alternative to both just war theory and pacifism. As the Unitarian Universalist theologian Paul Rasor writes "we should avoid getting caught up in a debate between just war and pacifism." Unitarian Universalist ethicist Sharon Welch agrees and suggests that "a third way" exists that includes "joint efforts to prevent war, stop genocide, and repair the damage caused by armed conflict."

Welch calls this third way peacemaking and Rasor describes it as prophetic non-violence. Whatever it's label, the strategy seeks to "move beyond old divisions and adopt a position that integrates critical elements from both traditions." Welch identifies the third way as having three components:

1. Peacekeeping--early intervention to stop genocide and prevent large-scale war.
2. Peacemaking--bringing hostile parties to agreement, negotiating equitable and sustainable peace agreements that include attention to the pressing need for post-conflict restoration and reconciliation.
3. Peacebuilding--the creation of long-term structures for redressing injustice and resolving ongoing conflict, as well as addressing the root causes of armed conflict, economic exploitation, and political marginalization."

This third way calls for the use of violence only as a last resort. It draws some of its inspiration from earlier Unitarian and Universalist thinkers such as William Ellery Channing and Adin Ballou who, in Channing's case, advocated 19th century versions of just war theory and, in Ballou's, pacifism that were deeply nuanced. Channing, for example, observed that "peace without can come only with peace within." Ballou advocated for the use of "uninjurious force" in cases of self-defense or to protect society from violent criminals.

Peacemaking or prophetic non-violence seeks to position itself as an alternative to both just war theory and pacifism. It is a relatively new theory, and one to which Unitarian Universalists are making an important contribution. Whether it is able to provide that alternative and help bring stability and peace to our planet remains to be seen.

## Special Collection

The May 10 Special Collection will benefit Planned Parenthood.

The April 12 Special Collection raised \$500.00 for to help 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.

## Reflections

Because of the Annual Meeting, I've been thinking a lot about how far we've come as a congregation over the last year and just how proud I am to be a member of this community. I've now served as your Director of Religious Education for almost a year and have enjoyed every day of it.

After taking over an already healthy program from Dana, we've made many changes that have put us in a better position to grow in the future. We've got more classes, a new teacher system, substitute teachers, curriculum for each class, a new structure for our RE committee, a Coming of Age class, and a new classroom on the way. We've already seen growth in our RE program this year and new families are walking through our doors all the time. Next time you see an RE teacher walking around coffee hour, ask how his or her class is going and thank the teacher for what he or she does.

If you'd like to get more involved with the RE program please come and see myself, a teacher, or anyone on the RE committee for small and big ways you can help. Thanks,

Nathan Staples; Director of Religious Education

## UUSC and Heights Emergency Food Center

Friends,

It has been years since the Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland first began to support the Height Emergency Food Center through donations and a cadre of "Fourth Thursday Evening" volunteers at the center. During that time there has been an erosion of our level of support in both these areas.

You all must be aware the economic situation has increased the requests for help this organization is receiving, but you may not be aware that businesses and government have reduced their levels of support at the same time. The HEFC could use more donations, which I will continue to deliver to the HEFC on the fourth Thursday of the month from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. They would also welcome a few more regular volunteers from the Society. At present I am the only UUSC volunteer and it would be nice if I had a backup for when I can't do it. If you have any questions about volunteering, I would love to answer what I can.

Wes Senseman, [wessenseman@bcglobal.net](mailto:wessenseman@bcglobal.net) 216-650-8622

## 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/](http://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.

## 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 Dates:** The remaining dates for Building Your Own Theology have been changed to Wednesdays May 6, 13 and 27; and Tuesdays June 2 and 9.

**Banned Books Covenant Group, Sun., May 10:** Two boys born in Afganistan grow up in different worlds after experiencing life-changing events. Read as their stories unfold in the novel The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini. A copy can be found in the downstairs library.

**Free their Minds in May:** The Banned Books Covenant Group is collecting books for the Cleveland Books-To-Prisoners program. Come be a part of this liberating project by bringing in your gently used paperback books.

**Equality Ohio Lobbying Day Wed., May 13:** Join Rev. Bossen and hundreds of other Ohioans 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 online 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.

**2009 UUSC Spruce-Up Day Sat., June 6:** CrUW Volunteers are wanted to complete 2009 UUSC Spruce Up Day Tasks on Sat., June 6 (rain date Sat., June 13), 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (whatever time you can provide between these hours). Noon - 12:30 p.m. is 1/2 hour break for photo shoot of volunteers and potluck lunch. *Please sign up to be a member of the CrUW at Coffee Hour May 3 and May 10.* For task list and tool needs, see: [www.adva.com/UUSC/spr.htm](http://www.adva.com/UUSC/spr.htm). Spruce Up Day is led by UUSC Facilities Manager Lee Batdorff, 216-932-8358, [bat@adva.com](mailto:bat@adva.com).

**Circle Suppers Sat., May 16:** Circle Suppers resume at 6:30, so if you would like to come, please sign up on the sheet at Coffee Hour.

**Spring Mushroom Hunt, Sun., May 17:** There will be a spring morel mushroom forage after the service. We will leave after Coffee Hour and drive to a nearby park. Bring your hiking shoes, walking sticks and pocket knives. For more information, contact Rev. Colin Bossen or Peter Dillard.

**Earth-Centered Spirituality Group Sun., May 17:** Join the Earth Centered Spirituality Group at 1:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary as we explore Shamanic Journey Work, with Neal Szpatura, a shamanic practitioner. Journey work is a deep-meditation-based altered state of consciousness. It can be effective in work to heal the self, the community and the planet. It can bring a profound spiritual connectedness across all religious and cultural boundaries. Wear comfortable clothes and bring something to lay on. Everyone is welcome. Free-will donation. Pot luck will follow. Contact Mary Schatzman or Lainey Warren for more information.

**After-Service Nature Walk Sun., May 31:** These is an open group where everyone is welcome, including visitors. The location is to be announced later. For questions ask Peter Dillard or David Schatzman.

**Young Adult Potluck Fri., June 12:** Rev. Colin and Sara Bossen will be hosting a Young Adult Potluck and Barbeque at their home, 2925 Berkshire Road, Cleveland Heights, starting at 6:30 p.m. Bring a dish and bring a friend!

## Pastoral Associates

Pastoral Associates, applications enclosed with this Beacon, are now being accepted. Pastoral Associates assist the minister with the ongoing pastoral care of the congregation. Under the supervision of the minister, they visit and coordinate aid for sick and shut-in members of the Society. Pastoral Associates meet on a quarterly basis and communicate regularly about the pastoral needs of the congregation. Please complete your application by June 30 and put it in the mail box of Rev. Colin Bossen or hand it to Rachel Webb. Please let Rev. Bossen know if you would like an electronic version of the application. You may also submit applications electronically to [minister@uucleveland.org](mailto:minister@uucleveland.org) or [rmwebbynyp@hotmail.com](mailto:rmwebbynyp@hotmail.com).

## Worship Associates

Worship Associates applications, enclosed with the Beacon, are now being accepted for a two-year term beginning in September. The Worship Associates have opportunities to create and write elements of the worship service such as chalice lightings, opening words, offertory introductions, meditations, stories, or messages/homilies. They may assist with researching appropriate readings for sermon topics. During services they may be asked to contribute or read any of these elements of a service. They communicate with service leaders and, when appropriate, compile orders of service, coordinate with musicians, and communicate with the office regarding service information. On designated weeks, they participate in the logistics and set-up of Sunday morning services such as supplying candles, changing microphone batteries and distributing hymnals.

Additionally, as a team, the Worship Associates lead Sunday service about four times a year. The program is an excellent opportunity for worship participation, collaborative worship development and spiritual growth. Please complete your application by June 30 and put it in the mail box of either Rev. Colin Bossen or Amy Collins, CLL. Please let Amy know if you would like an electronic version of the application. You may also submit applications electronically to [amymcollins@sbcglobal.net](mailto:amymcollins@sbcglobal.net) and [minister@uucleveland.org](mailto:minister@uucleveland.org).

### Qualifications

- Has an Ability to work effectively as a team member
- Has a commitment to shared ministry
- Has an ability to communicate effectively
- Is willing to be a public presence at the Society as part of regular worship participation
- Considers the Society a source of personal and spiritual growth
- Is capable of effective conflict resolution
- Is able to receive constructive feedback to further growth as a worship associate
- Expectations, Commitment and Responsibilities
- Serve as Worship Associate during services for 8-12 services throughout the year when the minister or a guest speaker is leading the service
- Work collaboratively with other Worship Associates to lead 4 Worship Associate lead services interspersed throughout the year
- Attend and participate in a ½ -day Worship Associate Training in the Fall
- Attend and participate in a 1 -day Worship Retreat in the Winter
- Attend quarterly Worship Associate planning meetings
- Attend majority of Sunday services throughout the year
- Average estimated time commitment = 5-10 hrs. per month

### Application Process

Candidates complete a Worship Associate Application which is reviewed by the Minister and the Commissioned Lay Leader. Candidates will be notified of their acceptance into the Worship Associate Program. Terms begin in September.