

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.

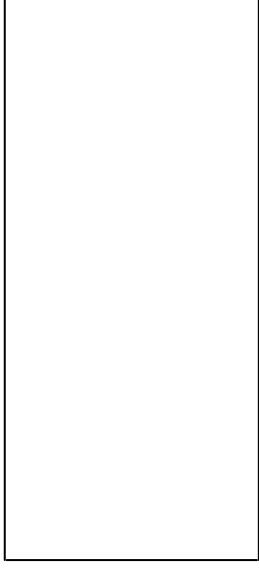
Barbara Boyd
Choir Director

Rev. Peggy C. Clason
Minister Emerita

UUSC Board of Trustees

Maureen Meslovich	President
Elaine Weaver	Vice President
Beverly Austin	Secretary
Steve Doell	Treasurer
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Michael Hugrill	Member
Marie Nightingale	Member
Rachel Webb	Member

*Board Meetings are held on the
2nd Wednesday of the month
at 7:00 p.m.*



UUSC DEADLINES:

Beacon Articles: Deadline for July (June 28)

Order of Service/Announcements:

Wednesday a.m. before the Sunday Service

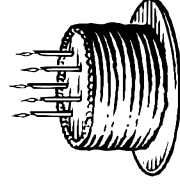
Board Reports: Wednesday a.m. before the Board Meeting

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!!

JUNE

Richard & June Wortman anniversary	10
June Wortman	11
Richard Wortman	14
Amy Collins	21
Melinda Pegram	26



THE BEACON

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

Volume 60, Issue 12 June 3, 2009

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UPCOMING SERVICE INFORMATION

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

June 7, 2009, 11 a.m.
**Tomorrow's Unitarian
Universalism**

*Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen
Musicians: Kate Jones (String Bass) and Karin Tooley
Welcoming: Amy Collins, Stephanie Sweeton, Eric Wellman and Rachel Wellman*

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?

June 14, 2009, 11 a.m.
Coming of Age Sunday

*Worship Leaders: Rev. Colin Bossen and Nathan Staples, DRE
Musicians: UUSC Choir, Barbara Boyd, Director, and Karin Tooley
Welcoming: Stephanie Sweeton, Rachel Webb and Krisie Wells*

Join us for a special service as we celebrate with Taiesha Collins, Dylan Forrest and Ben Kleidman as they complete their Coming of Age process and formally graduate from the children's religious education program.

June 21, 2009, 11 a.m.
Flower Communion

*Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen
Musician: Karin Tooley
Welcoming: Ryan Byrd, Pat Dillard, Stephanie Sweeton and Sarah Thuerk*

To mark the end of another year together, we gather for our annual Flower Communion. The Flower Communion originated with Dr. Norbert Capek, founder of the modern Unitarian movement in what is now the Czech Republic. Please bring a flower to be blessed during the service.

June 28, 2009, 11 a.m.
The Joys and Honor of Old Age

*Guest Worship Leader: Robert Ford
Musician: Karin Tooley*

Welcoming: Michael Hugrill, Sue McKimm and Stephanie Sweeton

Robert Ford will share his reflections on the positives of living longer, what centenarians have in common and the importance of grandparents. Bob is a member of the Delaware UU Fellowship. He retired from the U.S. Forestry Service last year, and is a frequent speaker at his home congregation in Delaware, Ohio.

July 5, 2009, 11 a.m.
Wholly, Holey, Holy

*Worship Leader: Lisa Bollander
Musician: Karin Tooley
Welcoming: TBD*

Who are you? Self-awareness is a spiritual practice that can cultivate wholeness, compassion and wisdom. Self-awareness can help us to actualize our inherent worth and open us up to deeper truth. Lisa is a friend of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland, and a practicing Buddhist. Following the service, all are invited to join in the traditional 4th of July weekend potluck picnic in Shelter 2A at Forest Hills Park.

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

New UUSC Email: Our general email address is now office@uucleveland.org.

Notes from our Minister

UUA stewardship consultant Frankie Price-Sterns was here last month to lead the Society in the process of writing a new mission statement. As part of that process 39 members and friends of the congregation gathered in small groups to discuss what excites them about our congregation. One recommendation that emerged from those conversations was that we consider starting a second worship service.

The Worship Associates and I have taken this recommendation into consideration and over the next few months we will be surveying the congregation to gauge interest in and support for a second service. We do not know what such a service might look like. It is unknown whether it would happen monthly, bi-monthly or weekly or whether it would occur on a weekday, a Saturday or a Sunday. We do not know who would lead it or what format it would take. We do not even know if there's enough support for a second service to move forward with one. The only thing that is known right now is that the second service would be different in content from the regular Sunday morning service.

The survey will be available both online and in a traditional paper form. A link to the survey will be placed on the Society's website later this month. If you prefer a paper copy, contact the office and one will be sent out to you. Surveys will be accepted until the end of August. I hope that you will take the opportunity to fill a survey out.

If, once compiled, the surveys indicate that there is sufficient interest in and support for a second service the Worship Associates and I will bring a recommendation about the service to the Board. Assuming the Board agrees with our recommendation the second service would be launched sometime during the 2009-2010 program year.

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. 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 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.

June 2009

CG = Covenant Group

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Building Your Own Theology 7-9 p.m.	2 Building Your Own Theology 7-9 p.m.	3 Building Your Own Theology 7-9 p.m.	4 Shifting Gears 1:30 p.m.	5 First Friday Game Night 7-10 p.m.	6 Spring Spruce Up Day 9 a.m.-1 p.m.	7 First Sunday Lunch
8 Own Theology 7-9 p.m. Choir Re- hearsal 7:30-9 p.m.	9 Building Your Own Theology 7-9 p.m.	10 Board Meeting 7-10 p.m.	11 Young Adult Pot- luck 6:30 p.m.	12 Spring Spruce Up Day 9 a.m.-1 p.m.	13 Rain Date - Spring Spruce Up Day 9 a.m.-1 p.m.	14 Newcomer Orientation 1-3 p.m. Earth-Centered Spirituality 1 p.m.
15 Green Sanctuary Group 7 p.m.	16 Office Volunteer Training 1:30 p.m.	17 J. Campbell Round Table 7:30 p.m.	18 Member- ship Party 1 p.m. Circle Suppers 6:30 p.m.	19 Fathers' Day Summer Begins	20 Independence Day	21 Beacon Deadline
22 23	23 24	24 25	25 26	26 27	27 28	28 29
29 30	30 1 July	1 July 2	2 3	3 4	4 5	5 6

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 at the curriculum. This month we present a section on Unitarian collaboration with and confrontation of the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850.

Collaboration or Confrontation?

The passage of the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 caused considerable conflict among the Unitarians of Boston. The Fugitive Slave Law required that runaway slaves be returned to their so-called masters. It also criminalized anyone who aided or harbored runaways. The legislation was enacted in an effort to preserve the union of the Northern and Southern states in the lead-up to the Civil War. It was opposed by some Unitarians as immoral and supported by others as necessary compromise to prevent the nation from splitting apart over the conflict about slavery.

One of the most prominent opponents to the Fugitive Slave Law was the minister Theodore Parker (1810-1860). Parker was a transcendentalist and one of Boston's leading social reformers. He had begun his career as a Unitarian minister but his radical theological views caused many of his Unitarian ministerial colleagues to ostracize him. They refused to exchange pulpits with him and in 1845 he left the Unitarian Church of West Roxbury for the independent 28th Congregational Society of Boston. The congregation grew rapidly and its peak gathered together as many as three thousand people for a Sunday worship service. This represented almost 2 percent of the population of Boston at the time. Some of those who attended were among the most prominent anti-slavery and social justice activists of their time, including Senator Charles Sumner, educator Horace Mann and abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison.

Parker called for non-compliance with the Fugitive Slave Law. In a sermon he preached immediately after the passage of the law he said "it is the natural duty of citizens to rescue every fugitive slave from the hands of the marshal who essays to return him to bondage; to do it peaceably if they can, forcibly if they must, but by all means to do it."

Parker's views were not held by those in leadership positions within the American Unitarian Association. One notable supporter of the Fugitive Slave Law was Ezra Stiles Gannett (1801-1871). Gannett was one of the founders of the Association, serving as its first Secretary and later its President. He also served the Federal Street Church in Boston, first as William Ellery Channing's assistant and later, starting in 1842, as Channing's successor. In the 1830s Gannett had cautioned Channing against speaking out about slavery, knowing that his senior colleagues views were not shared by many powerful members of the congregation.

Gannett reluctantly supported the Fugitive Slave Law because he felt it was necessary to preserve the Union. Perhaps more importantly many of the officials charged with enforcing the law were members of his congregation. According to the abolitionist Samuel J. May, Gannett had stated, "he should feel it to be his duty to turn away from his door a fugitive slave, – unfed, unaided in any way, rather than set at naught the law of the land."

Gannett's feelings were shared by other members of the Unitarian establishment and Parker publicly took Gannett to task for his support of the rendition of Thomas Sims. Sims had escaped from slavery in Georgia and lived in Boston. He was kidnapped on the streets of Boston by policemen in April of 1851 and returned to the South. Unitarians from Gannett's congregation played a role in Sim's kidnapping.

In a public address to mark the year anniversary of Sims's abduction, Parker accused his fellow ministers of celebrating "the sacrament of kidnapping." Shortly beforehand, at a ministerial meeting, Parker had lambasted Gannett for "calling on his church members to kidnap mine." At the same time Parker claimed, "I have in my church...fugitive slaves. They are the crown of my apostle-ship, the seal of my ministry." He told his fellow ministers, probably hoping that they would pass the message along to their congregants, that he would use violence to prevent the seizure of other fugitive slaves. He is famous for claiming that he wrote his sermons with his pistol by his side. Parker went on to assist many other fugitive slaves, and ultimately provided money to support John Brown's attempt to start a slave insurrection in Virginia, defending a slave's right to violence as a means of liberation. After a long illness, he died in 1860, with no show of sympathy from the Boston Unitarian establishment."

Ohio-Meadville District "Planning for Growth" Project

The UUSC in conjunction with five other UU congregations in the Ohio-Meadville District, is participating in a "Planning for Growth" project. This is a series of workshops conducted over the course of three years that are focused on helping small congregations grow. This growth not only means increasing membership but also growing spiritually, improving the day to day functioning of the congregation, and making UU values real among ourselves and in the greater community. Participants in the project met for the second time early in May with the congregations from Canton, Bellville, Berea, Oberlin, and North Olmsted. The workshop was lead by Ellen Germann-Melosh, who works with the UUA helping small UU congregations all over the country. The representatives from our congregation are Stephanie Sweeton, Pat Solomon, Glenn Solomon, Maureen Meslovich, Jesse Honsky and Rev. Bossen.

One of the most significant things that the UUSC participants took away from this workshop is that the congregation is on the right track. Currently, there are a many people and groups helping the UUSC grow in all ways. A few examples of these are the Committee on Ministry, Pastoral Care Associates, Green Sanctuary Committee, the Religious Education program, the Stewardship Committee, Worship Associates and Sunday morning greeters. Thank you everyone who has taken the time to contribute to the growth of the UUSC.

As a group, the congregational representatives decided that their role will be to bring back the information learned in the workshops to the congregation to pass it on to the various committees and programs that may benefit from it. The participants have also set a few small goals to help the UUSC continue on the path of growth. These goals are: 1) making a bulletin board naming current committees and members, 2) compiling the policies and procedures in a handbook, 3) creating a Right Relations Covenant, 4) creating a small publicity campaign, 5) participating as a congregation in three community events, like the Heights Home Tour and Coventry Street Fair, and 6) keeping the congregation informed about what is happening related to this Growth Project. The intent is to reach these goals over the next six months by the next meeting on November 21. If you have any questions you can talk to any of the Growth Project participants and if you are interested in becoming a congregational representative for the Growth Project please contact Jesse Honsky at jkhonsky@gmail.com or 440-488-8273. Thank you all again for everything you do to support the UUSC.

Submitted by Jesse Honsky

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: The last Tuesday Choir Rehearsal of the program year will be June 9. Rehearsals will start again in September. Barbara Boyd and the UUSC Choir holds rehearsals Sundays 9:30-10:30 a.m. and on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 7:30-9:00 p.m. If you would like to join 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.

Volunteer Office Squad Has Two New Members: A warm welcome to Sharon Cook and Shirley Skellenger who just joined our current members Joanna Buck, Darrell Cook, Pat Dillard, Gerald Hartman, Maureen Meslovich, Walt Nicholes, Marie Nightingale, David Schatzman, Glenn Solomon, Stephanie Sweeton and Dietz Ziechmann. The volunteers cover the Office when Carol is out, saving the Society the cost of hiring temporary help. If you have a few hours a year (we work in 2-hour shifts) during the day and are interested in joining the Volunteer Office Squad, call Pat Dillard at 216-321-7116. This is a good time to join because we will be having training to update our skills with the phone system, copy machine and computer. See details below.

Georgie Adamson Update: Former UUSC member Georgie Adamson sends her thanks to the congregation for their thoughts and prayers after her recent heart surgery.

Building Your Own Theology Dates: The remaining date for Building Your Own Theology is Tuesday, June 9.

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. For task list and tool needs, see the UUSC Bulletin Board outside the Office.

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!

Earth-Centered Spirituality Group Sun., June 14: The E.C.S.G. will meet next at Elaine and Lisa's home at 1 p.m. for celebration of the Summer Solstice. Please look in your closets for gold or yellow-colored clothing to celebrate the sun. Drums, rattles or other noisemakers will be most welcome. Please remember to bring a dish to share for the potluck. Questions, call Lainey Warren at 216-662-1962.

Office Volunteer Training Tues., June 16: If you would like to volunteer in the Office, join us for training on the copier, telephone and other simple duties at 1:30 p.m. for 30-45 minutes. Brownies will be served. Call Pat Dillard at 216-321-7116.

Green Sanctuary Group Mon., June 15: We know you're there . . . chock full of green ideas for our Society and community! Join us for pizza and sharing our ideas for green UUSC and community action! The Green Sanctuary Open Pizza Supper Meeting will be at 6 p.m. on the deck at Pat and Peter Dillard's home, 3237 Ormond, Cleveland Heights. Let us know if you can join us: 216-321-7116 the Dillard's work/home phone.

Circle Suppers Sat., June 20: The June Circle Suppers will be held at 6:30 p.m. These are potluck suppers in people's homes. This is an open group, so newcomers are welcome. There is a sign-up sheet each month, and the contact person is Mary Schatzman (216-321-7264). You do not have to be able to host in order to attend, and attempts are made to accommodate physical limitations and all food preferences. This is a good way to get to know people in the congregation, and is a fun event..

After-Service Nature Walk Sun., June 28: After a light lunch at a local restaurant we will enjoy a walk at North Chagrin Reservation. All are welcome. For information contact David Schatzman or Peter Dillard.

Pastoral and Worship Associates

Now seeking applicants for Pastoral and Worship Associates. 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.

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.

Applications are due June 30. For an application contact the Society's office, Rev. Bossen or pick one up from the service information table at the back of the sanctuary.

Meet Our New UUSC Members

Anela Forrest

I am currently working at Urban Community School in Cleveland. I am an Instructional Aide. I am planning to go to school to be a Radiology Technician. I have lived in Cleveland or surrounding suburbs most of my life. I lived in Panama for almost 2 years and then some short stints in Southern Ohio.

My children actually made me look at going to church again because I wanted a community for our family, a safe place to ask questions, and a church that would educate them about the whole picture. I needed a place to let down and meet like minded folks. I have always been very interested in activism also.

Now that my family has grown, I feel at peace about where we are and look forward to the years to come.

Peggy Lagodny

Peggy describes herself as: Gracefully aging (sort of). Witchy. Quicksilver sliding into wisdom (I hope). Photographer, writer, lace maker, bookaholic. Scribe for the newly formed and blossoming UUSC Earth-Centered Spirituality Group. I love the welcoming and joyful spirit I've found here. It has truly become my spiritual home.

Shirley Skellenger

I'm a retired librarian. I grew up mostly on the west side and moved to this area two years ago after living for 20 years in northern California.

Special Collection

The May 10 Special Collection raised \$208.75 Planned Parenthood. The June 14 Special Collection will benefit Rebuilding Together Cleveland. Thank you for your generosity.

Calendar Guidelines

As you all know, many meetings and events (both Society-related and rentals) are scheduled for our facility, and offsite meetings as well. It is important that all of these are placed on the Society calendar.

There is a paper calendar in the office, but it's no longer enough to just write your date there. To standardize scheduling, keep the office and web calendars up-to-date, avoid conflicts, and get things on the website calendar as soon as possible, we need everyone's help.

Please email or call Carol Splaver, our office administrator, or leave a note in her box, asking her to add your information to the calendars if there is not a conflict. The goals are to avoid mix-ups and be transparent and welcoming.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

Pat Solomon

OMD Leadership Training

Ohio Meadville District UUA 4-District Leadership School, UULTI (UU Leadership Team Institute) will be held July 26-Aug 1 in Huntingdon, PA. Courses offered include Leadership Training in Governance, Growth and Marketing, Social Transformation, Theological Deepening, Youth and more. Early Bird Registration deadline is June 6.

Both lay leaders and clergy and youth are encouraged to participate. Information and registration links are at: <http://www.ohiomeadville.org/conference/uulti.html>.

Meet Our New UUSC Members

Jennifer Steinfurth

After spending over 10 years on the Near West Side of Cleveland as a United Methodist Pastor, Jennifer and her partner Anela Forrest and their family and moved to southern Ohio for a year of adventure. Last summer Jennifer and Anela decided to move back to Cleveland Heights, where Jennifer grew up and pretty quickly found a home here at the UU Society. Jennifer and Anela's family includes Anela's children Dylan and Hannah, Jennifer's daughter, Eleanor, and some much loved kitties. (We won't mention how many :) Jennifer just started a new job last month as social worker with Beech Brook working with at-risk youth and she's loving it! In her spare time Jennifer loves to go to Eleanor's baseball games and spend time with her family.

Equality Ohio Lobby Day

On May 13, Rev. Bossen and Darrell Cook attended the fourth annual Lobby Day of Equality Ohio, an organization which devotes its resources to promote civil rights for all persons living in the State of Ohio. This year, the focus of the Lobby Day was on H.B. 176 which would, if it passes, would prohibit employers and landlords from engaging in behaviors which discriminate against persons who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender, or who are *suspected* of being members of the GLBT community.

At a short, early meeting, after a brief history outlining the work of Equality Ohio and a plan for the day was explained, the nearly 300 persons present listened to State Attorney General Richard Cordray promise to lend his support to the group during his tenure in office. We learned that the organizers had identified members of the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives who were known to supportive of GLBT concerns. Anyone who wished to was encouraged, during their visits to members of the Legislature, to relate personal experiences that they believed were evidence of discrimination against them because their sexual orientation or gender identity.

At each meeting, the plan was the same: to report that, over the previous three years, Equality Ohio has managed to gain an increasing number of supporters from the State Legislature, beginning with three to more than 20. The message to be given at each visit was to relate this history and to educate the listeners as to why H.B. 176 is so important. In so doing, it will be important to increase the number of supporters.

Following the general meeting:

- 1) the entire assembly was divided into smaller groups of ten or less;
- 2) a spokesperson for the group was selected;
- 3) for the next four hours visits were made to those elected officials or legislative aides with whom appointments had been arranged.

At a debriefing session during lunch, the small group in which Rev. Bossen and Darrell had participated agreed that our visits with these officials had been very rewarding. We felt we had been welcomed. In each case, the message we wanted to impart appeared to be understood, and each promised to speak with their colleagues to "pass the word" about the importance of H.B. 176. One of the legislators revealed that her brother, who is gay, found it necessary to move away from Ohio to New York State where he believed he would not have to face the risk of exposure. That same legislator also brought up the issue of the negative economic effect of "anti-gay" discrimination, i.e., if the State of Ohio continues to refuse to recognize the rights of all people, including differences in sexual orientation and gender identity, more persons from the GLBT community are going to move away, further eroding the base of tax revenue. This theme was woven into our conversations on subsequent visits.

The only negative note came from a long-time Senator who was pessimistic about the passage of H.B. 176, which, he suspects, will "die" in committee. Nevertheless, he agreed to speak with other Senators about this matter.

Submitted by Darrell Cook