

**THE UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
OF CLEVELAND**

2728 Lancashire Road
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106
Phone: 216-932-1898
Fax: 216-932-1516
Email: office@uucleveland.org
www.uucleveland.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.

Barbara Boyd

Choir Director

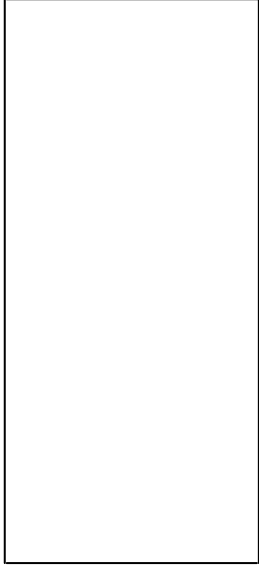
Rev. Peggy C. Clason

Minister Emerita

UUUC Board of Trustees

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

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



UUUC DEADLINES:

Beacon Articles: Deadline for September (Aug. 23)

Order of Service/Announcements:

Wednesday a.m. before the Sunday Service

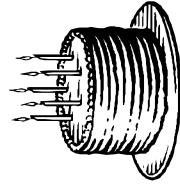
Board Reports: Wednesday a.m. before the Board Meeting

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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

AUGUST

Hannah Klausen	5
Rev. Colin Bossen	7
Stephanie & Brett Cohen anniversary	10
Rob Kleidman, Eric & Rachel Wellman	13
Dana Bjorklund	15
Deanna Burwell, Karin & Paul anniv.	17
Wendy Wills	18
Kathy Rosner	20
Ben Kleidman	22



THE BEACON

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

Volume 61, Issue 2 July 30, 2009

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UPCOMING SERVICE INFORMATION

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

August 2, 11 a.m.

The Zen of Pluralism

*Worship Leaders: Amy Collins, CLL,
Michael Hugill, Marianne Ingalls and Emily Tunson
Musician: Karin Tooley*

Our Living Tradition draws upon many spiritual practices and sources. Over the years we have looked at how Christianity, Transcendentalism and Humanism have impacted Unitarian Universalism. There are a growing number of Buddhist UU's. Today we will look at how Eastern religions such as Zen Buddhism have enriched our religious tradition.

August 9, 11 a.m.

(To Be Announced)

August 16, 2009, 11 a.m.

Question Box Sermon

*Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen
Musician: George Foley*

Colin's sermon for this service will be in response to questions from the congregation. If you have a question about theology, religion, Unitarian Universalism, or something else you would like him to try and answer, please email it to him by Thursday, August 14 at minister@uucleveland.org.

August 23, 2009, 11 a.m.

Magical Thinking

*Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen
Musician: Karin Tooley*

Occasionally life can be interrupted by an experience that seems to transcend the rules of ordinary reality. What do we do when confronted by such an experience? How can such experiences change our lives?

August 30, 2009, 11 a.m.

How Religious Liberals Read the Bible

*Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen
Musician: Karin Tooley*

Traditionally one of the points of tension between religious liberals and fundamentalists is over how religious liberals read the Bible. Liberals tend to insist upon using reason and treating the text as a literary work with many possible readings. Fundamentalists argue that there is only one correct reading of the text. This service will explore how religious liberals have historically read the Bible, how many liberals read the Bible today and how knowledge of the bible can enrich our spiritual lives.

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. Our email address is office@uucleveland.org.

Notes from our Minister

Rev. Bossen is on vacation and study leave until August 13. His column will return in the September Beacon.

Items of Interest

Warm Up Your Soul in February: Experience the Rain Forest and Mayan culture with the Neighborhood UU Congregation of Toronto, Canada! What makes this journey special? Unitarian Universalist Minister Rev. Wayne Walder will lead meditations every day. You'll have many locations to choose from in Belize and Guatemala. Instead of going from one thing to another quickly, you'll pause and have time to soak up the atmosphere. A certified naturalist guide will accompany you on all excursions, pointing out the intriguing flora and fauna. He will also impart his expert knowledge on Mayan architecture and culture. It goes without saying that travelling with Unitarians is always something very special. It'll warm your soul! Interested? Contact Beverly Carr at bgcarr@rogers.com.

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.

August 2009

CG = Covenant Group

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 First Sunday Lunch 12:30 p.m.	3	4	5	6 Shifting Gears 1:30 p.m.	7	8
9 Newcomer Orientation 1-3 p.m.	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Earth-Centered Spirituality 1 p.m.	17	18	19 Board Meeting 7 p.m.	20	21	22 Anna Fritz Memorial Service at First Church 11 a.m.
						29
						28
						27
						26
						25
						24
						23 <i>Beacon Deadline</i>
						31 30 Nature Walk 12:30p.m.

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-peek of the curriculum. This month we present a section on Unitarian resistance to loyalty oaths in the 1950s.

The Levering Act

In 1950, Harold Levering, a California assemblyman from Bel Air, proposed an amendment the state constitution that would require all churches to sign a loyalty oath or lose their tax-exempt status. The demand for a loyalty oath applied to all public employees of the state, but this was the first time in the history of the United States that a government imposed such an oath on a religious group. It was passed into the California State Constitution by popular vote in 1952. Religious institutions had until March of 1954 to decide whether or not they would comply.

Most houses of worship signed the oath. The American Unitarian Association and its legal counsel, in a memo distributed to all California Unitarian Societies on March 15, 1954, recommended that “churches should make the necessary affidavits and thereby retain their rights to tax exemption” but reserve the right to question the constitutionality of the law. This is to say, sign the oath but think about fighting it in court.

Several congregations, however, decided to break from the majority and refused to sign. Among them was the First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles and their minister, Stephen Fritchman. At a special membership meeting on February 21, 1954, the congregation voted 206 to 31 in favor of not signing the declaration. The minutes state:

“The new Levering Declaration. . . is rejected, not for its content primarily (for neither this church nor any religious bodies known to us advocate the use of force or violence or other unlawful means of overthrowing the government), but because we do not propose to be a party to violating the U.S. Constitution...Once the right of the state to invade the church is granted by the signing of this present declaration, the entire issue is lost.”

Fritchman, in his autobiography, states that he was surprised by the vigor and commitment at the Los Angeles congregation exhibited, and he had “refrained from pulpit persuasion” until the motion was passed by the Board. Once passed, he spent the next several years as an outspoken opponent of the law, adding this case to his fight for free speech in the face of government intervention and internal institutional criticism.

Refusing to sign the oath meant that the congregation would incur both the legal costs of the court battle and the costs of paying property taxes until the law was overturned, because, as was clear from the beginning, their tax-exempt status would indeed be revoked. The congregation, committed to this fight, engaged in special fundraising to cover the costs of this endeavor. Alongside several other California congregations of Unitarians, Methodists and Quakers, the fight continued all the way to the Supreme Court until, in 1958, the Levering oath was declared unconstitutional and taxes paid were refunded to the congregation.

The Los Angeles church’s stance was not endorsed by all Unitarians. Fritchman was believed by many to be a Communist agitator, and although the AUA passed a series of statements condemning the government’s infringement upon free speech between 1950 and 1960, the Association also made it clear that ministers were expected to denounce Communism in no uncertain terms. Fritchman’s refusal to publicly do so put him at odds with many of the leading Unitarian voices of the day. The minister of the First Unitarian Church in San Diego wrote to A. Powell Davies and Frederick M. Eliot, expressing his fears that Fritchman’s personal influence “is extending far out beyond his own church and involving many Unitarians willy-nilly in the public eye.” There were concerns from many that the oath was overshadowing all of other Unitarian endeavors, and that, as one letter to the editor of the Christian Register stated, “(the subject of the oath) has been blown up to a degree of prominence and attention out of all proportion to its real importance as compare with other domains of the church . . . is this a church or a political action arena?”

We may be inclined, as Unitarian Universalists, to be proud of the victory at the Supreme Court and the courageous stance of the congregations that risked financial ruin in order to stand up for freedom from government censorship. However we must remember that many respected and admired Unitarians were not willing to put it all on the line for the abstract idea of “free speech,” especially when it pertained to a subject as politically controversial as Communism was at the time.

Reflections

The UUSC Religious Education Committee is working hard to prepare for the 2009-2010 curriculum year and it promises to be even better than last year. Soon we will be coming around to ask for your help to make sure both our children and the congregation at large has a fantastic year of religious education. The lifeblood of the religious education program is our volunteers. Some volunteer commitments are as small as a single Sunday, while some have more responsibilities that go along with them. No matter what type of volunteering you decide to do, the RE Committee works hard to make sure that you can both volunteer and have a rewarding spiritual life at the same time. We are still looking for Nursery volunteers, Covenant Group leaders, and teachers to work with our children. If you are interested or just have questions, please contact me or anyone on the RE Committee, and we’ll be more than happy to answer them.

Thanks,
Nathan Staples
Director of Religious Education

Care Notes

Lois Ruskin has shed her sling, and perhaps has just another month of outpatient therapy. Miriam Grossman has had another series of tests, including swallowing a miniscule camera to try to pinpoint the source of her internal bleeding.

Mary Schoeniger, a former UUSC Administrator, had heart surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. Send cards to her apartment: 850 South Green Road, South Euclid, OH 44121.

Founding Member Jay Jeffery is in the final stages of his cancer. The plan is for consistent, full pain management. He appreciates notes and calls from his friends at the Society. Please call before visiting.

Louisa Horvath is seriously considering a move to Assisted Living.

Joyce Grabner’s biopsy is scheduled for August 5.

Kathy Rosner’s lumpectomy went OK, but the doctor could no longer find the tumor! A second opinion is scheduled at the Cleveland Clinic on July 30.

Love and hugs to all,

Peggy Clason for the Care Team of Marie Nightingale, Jeri Rask, Rachel Webb and Amy Collins.

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 up until 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning.

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' Needs: Help driving and tutoring is still needed for the Refugee Families. Also, if you have outgrown clothing for boys, (ages 4, 8, 9 and 13), it would be appreciated.

Pastoral Care Coverage: While Rev. Bossen is out of town, Rev. Clason, Amy Collins, CLL, and Rev. Kathleen Rolenz, co-minister at West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, will be providing Pastoral Care for the congregation. Their schedule is:

July 26-Aug. 1 - Peggy Clason - 440-255-9573

Aug. 2-Aug. 9 - Amy Collins - 216-739-1928 (home) or 216-410-4985 (cell)

Aug. 10-Aug. 13 - Peggy Clason - 440-255-9573

Lawn Care Volunteers: Many thanks to Lisa Constantino, Marie Nightingale, Brett Cohen and Pat Dillard for mowing the lawn in July! We need a few more good people to volunteer for a slot in August. We have the mower, and the job can be done on Thursday, Friday or Saturday so it looks nice for Sunday. Please call Pat Dillard on her cell 216-225-3866 to schedule your week to help keep our Society looking good!

Board Meeting Now on 3rd Wednesday: The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, August 19.

Circle Suppers: There will be a break during the summer, and Circle Suppers will resume in September.

Earth-Centered Spirituality Group Sun., Aug. 16: The next gathering of the UUSC Earth-Centered Spirituality Group will be 1:00 p.m. at Edgewater Park. Curious about Earth-Centered Spirituality? Have questions? Been practicing an Earth-Centered Spiritual path? Want to share your experiences? We will have discussion/learning/teaching session, followed by drumming on the beach. Pot luck at 1 p.m. — bring a chair or blanket and a brown bag lunch or finger food to share. Discussion at 2 p.m. — bring your experiences and questions. Drumming at 3 p.m. — bring drums if you have them. We'll bring a bag of percussion fun things. Dancing is also encouraged. For more information, please contact Mary Schatzman at maryschatzman@sbcglobal.net or Lainey Warren at hockeyfan631@yahoo.com.

Anna Fritz Memorial Service Sat., Aug. 22: The Memorial Service for Anna Fritz, who lived a life of service and love, will be held Sat., Aug. 22, at 11 a.m. at the First Unitarian Church of Cleveland, 21600 Shaker Blvd., Shaker Heights 44122. Rev. Bossen and Rev. Peggy Clason will co-officiate.

After-Service Nature Walk Sun., Aug. 30: All are welcome to join us at Euclid Creek Reservation, Kelly Picnic Area, which is across from the Ranger Station. For questions ask Peter Dillard or David Schatzman.

Important OMD Fall Events: Mark your calendars for these District events:

Webinar - Committee on Ministry training - August 29

OMD Committee Chairs Web Meeting - September 10

Presidents' Day - Akron - September 12

Webinar - Assessment of Congregational Ministry - September 17

Healthy Congregations 1 - Shaker Heights - September 19

Healthy Congregations 2 - Shaker Heights - October 3

Leadership Conference - Leadership in a Multicultural World - October 10

Healthy Congregations 3 - Shaker Heights - October 17

Webinar - Congregational Website Management - October 24

Healthy Congregations 4 - Shaker Heights - October 31

UUSC Worship Survey

Friends,

The Worship Team needs your input. Please help us by completing a short online survey about expanding worship at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland.

This Spring, the UUSC held several workshops as part of our "Planning for Growth Weekend." One suggestion that emerged from these workshops was the UUSC add a second worship service, with a different format than our usual Sunday morning services.

In response, the Worship Team created a survey, through which we hope to learn whether or not a second service would be beneficial, what types of services we should host, and who is most likely to attend these events.

The survey is approximately 30 questions long, and shouldn't take longer than 10 minutes to complete. You can find the survey by clicking through the link below. If the link seems inactive, try copying the line below into the address line of your web browser:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=aTiG6GS_2f6kG1gqe8tgH_2fgQ_3d_3d

There is a link to the survey available on the home page of the UUSC website. If you have problems reaching the site, please contact Emily Tuzson at river.girl@att.net. Or, you can call her at home at 216-321-9948.

Paper copies of the survey are available through the UUSC Office for those who do not have Internet access.

Thank you so much for your help!

Emily Tuzson

Worship Associate

Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland

More Announcements

Share Your Home, Change the World: Since 1951, Youth For Understanding has helped American families promote peace and understanding by hosting students from around the world. Families select international students to live as family members for the school year. Students come with spending money, insurance, conversational English and an eagerness to experience life in the United States. If you are interested, contact Ann Hoffmann, Northern Ohio Field Director, at 800-872-0200 x 215 or hoffmann@yhu.org.

Our Youth Need Your Help: Our Coming of Age classroom is moving. The high school students will have their own room. Needed most are two gently-used couches for their room. Please contact Anela Forrest at 216-215-0651 or email her at swimming68@hotmail.com if you know of someone who could donate a couch. A financial donation would be great so we could buy them at a second hand store. We would need them by the beginning of the RE year at the end of August. Thank you!

Special Collection

The August 9 Special Collection will benefit The InterReligious Task Force for Latin America. The July 12 Special Collection raised \$92.40 for Reaching Heights. Thank you for your generosity!