



THE BEACON

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

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UPCOMING SERVICE INFORMATION

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

March 13, 2011, 11:00 a.m.

People of the Book: Islam

Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen

Musician: Karin Tooley

We return to our sermon series on the world's religions with a set of three sermons on Islam. This first sermon explores the basic tenets of the faith.

March 27, 2011, 11:00 a.m.

A Heart Full of Hope and a Shoe Full of Rain

Worship Service Leaders: Worship Associates

Musicians: UUSC Choir (Barbara Boyd, Director) and Karin Tooley

The Worship Associates will reflect on various themes inspired by Spring including Rebirth, Renewal and Revolution.

March 19, 2011, 3:00 p.m.

How Much Longer?

A Vigil to Commemorate the 8th Anniversary of the Beginning of the Iraq War

Worship Leaders: Rev. Colin Bossen and the Possibilitarian Puppet Theater

A vigil will begin at the Society and process along Coventry. The names of Iraqi war dead in 2010 will be read.

April 3, 2011, 11:00 a.m.

UUSC Annual Youth Group Service

Worship Leaders: Rev. Colin Bossen and

Nathan Staples, DRE

Musician: Karin Tooley

Each year our youth group creates a service to give you a look at what they are thinking about. This year they have been talking about world religions and it has gotten them to thinking about their own beliefs. Please join us for this fun interactive service to support our youth and to get a glimpse into how they think.

March 20, 2011, 11:00 a.m.

Women in Islam

Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen

Artists-in-Residence: The Possibilitarian Puppet Theater

Musician: Karin Tooley

Our second sermon on Islam will look at the role of women in Islam.

April 10, 2011, 11:00 a.m.

What Does it Mean to be a Member of this Unitarian Universalist Religious Community?

Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen

Musician: Karin Tooley

In March members of the congregation will engage in conversations about what it means to be a member of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland. In this service, Rev. Bossen will draw upon these conversations to uncover the meaning of membership in our congregation.

On Facebook?

If so, check out the Society's Facebook page. A link to it can be found on our website at www.uucleveland.org.

Wheelchair Available

The Society has a wheelchair available for use during congregational events.

Notes from our Minister

The theme of this year's stewardship campaign is Here We Grow! It is a fitting theme for our congregation. Ever since I have been your minister growth has been a major focus of the congregation's energies. Lately though, I've been wondering just how seriously we really take it.

In the last year we have had a lot of success with publicity and outreach. Since May there's been an average of one article about our congregation or essay by me in a local or national publication every month.* This publicity coupled with somewhat regular efforts in tabling at events has netted the Society a steady stream of visitors. Between September 5, 2010 and February 27, 2011 we had a total of 116 visitors. That's an average of almost five visitors a week. During that same time span we had nine people join our congregation. That means that 8% of the people who visit the Society end up joining.

There is a lot of literature out there that suggests that more visitors could join our congregation than do. Peter Morales, the current UUA President, has repeatedly reminded Unitarian Universalists in his sermons and articles that visitors to a congregation are ready to join. They already know about Unitarian Universalism from the internet. They just want to know if they belong in a Unitarian Universalist congregation. Assuming that Morales is right, we should examine why many people do not join after visiting. I suspect that it has something to do with the level of welcome they receive.

Our congregation prides itself in being a warm and welcoming community. And for the most part, I think we are. However, we struggle to extend our welcome in any sort of organized way and I think visitors notice. Most visitors to a congregation decide whether or not to come back based upon the first ten minutes of their visit. Studies show that they will return to visit a second time if they have three interactions with another person within that time span. If they do not then there is a high likelihood that they will not come back.

An easy way to make sure that visitors have at least three personal interactions soon after they walk in our doors is to be well organized in our greeting. This is something with which we have consistently struggled. In theory, any visitor should be greeted by the minister or the worship leader of the day, the downstairs greeter, someone at the Welcome Table and the usher. In practice, this does not always happen. Sometimes greeters are late and don't arrive until shortly before the service starts. Other times greeters get too wrapped up in conversations with friends and don't extend a warm enough welcome to newcomers. This does not create the right impression. Nor does the fact that on several Sundays I have observed visitors standing by themselves after the service during coffee hour. At such moments I doubt they feel particularly welcomed.

Fortunately, there are plenty things we can do to help people feel more welcome. People who are part of the Sunday morning welcome team can make an effort to be on time and a special effort to extend a welcome to visitors. This may mean leaving a conversation with an old friend for later. In the process though it might also mean making a new friend. Additionally, it means making sure that visitors are always greeted during coffee hour as well. People come looking for fellowship. If we want them to return we should extend it to them.

In the coming months our new Membership Coordinator will be working with the Membership Committee to figure out how to better organize the Sunday morning welcome. I am sure she would appreciate your help. Improving our welcome will go a long way to growing our congregation. Some growth literature suggests that having 1 out of every 7 visitors join the congregation is a realistic goal. If we had that ratio of visitors joining the Society starting last September then we would have had 16 new members in the last few months rather than 9. Over the course of a few years that would make a real difference in the growth of our congregation.

love,
Colin

Notes from our Minister

* I published two essays in February: one in Sightings (which we're republishing in this issue of the Beacon) and one in the Huffington Post: (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rev-colin-bossen/an-open-letter-to-religio_b_827750.html).

From Our President

It's official. Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow this Ground Hog Day, so spring should not be far behind. However, the coating snow and ice outside my window, as I write this, says differently.

Either way this month we will start to see the spring flowers push to the surface bringing their vibrant colors and smells. Spring is always a favorite time for me. While I enjoy the quietness of winter spring brings the renewed sounds of life beginning anew. Spring also brings our Annual Stewardship Campaign. This year, along with spring we are honoring the UU Society with our Stewardship theme, **A Place to Grow**. For many of us the Society is our place to ponder, reflect, and grow.

I have been a member of the Society for several years and have come to find this place to fulfill many aspects of my life. Through my time on the Board, the Society has been a place to work, my labor of love. When I join the young adults on our annual retreat the Society provides me with a place to play. On Sunday's the Society is my place to pray and ponder. So, this year when I fill out my Stewardship Card I am going to think about all those pieces that shape my experience and give back in a way that reflects all places in my heart that the Society fulfills. When you fill out your Stewardship Card this year consider what the UU Society brings to your life.

Rachel Webb

Treasurer's Report

As of the end of January 2011, 7/12 (or 58%) of our fiscal year has passed. January's pledge contributions of \$5,500 bring our year-to-date total to \$36,961, representing 56% of the UUSC's annual pledge amount of \$65,594. At this rate, we are on track to easily meet our 2010/11 pledge goal by June 30. Collections in January brought in \$172 in non-pledge contributions to the general fund. The Society also brought in \$1,154 in other income during the month of January.

Karin Tooley
karint@ameritech.net

IAF Core Team Meeting

The next IAF Core Team meeting will be Sunday, March 20th starting at 12:15 p.m. in the minister's office. If you participated in the IAF house meetings or are interested in getting more involved with the IAF, please consider attending. At the meeting we will be developing a turn out plan for the April 7 IAF Issues Convention, electing a chair or co-chair and scheduling a congregational informational meeting about the IAF.

UUSC News/Announcements

Death of William Marwick Hutchison: William (Bill) Marwick Hutchison, 91, resident of Kendal Community, Oberlin, OH died February 23, 2011. He was a long time member of the UUSC dating back to 1939 at 82nd Street, Cleveland, OH, when it was the First Unitarian Church of Cleveland. Over the next 40 years he held almost every position in the congregation from building maintenance to President of the Society, and was respected as the unofficial historian. The Internment is private and a memorial service will be held in Oberlin, OH on a future date.

Blanche Livingston at Montefiore: Society member, Blanche Livingston, is recuperating after an illness at a nursing home in Beachwood and can be contacted by phone at 216-990-2221. Cards can be sent to her at: Montefiore, Room #1101, 1 David Meyers Parkway, Beachwood, OH 44122.

Next Circle Supper – Saturday, March 12: Please join the Sensational 70th Birthday Celebration for Lainey Warren to be held on March 12 at UUSC at 6:00 p.m. If you have questions or want to sign up for supper, contact Ken Nightingale at 216-470-7643, or father.nature@sbcglobal.net.

Next Round of Essential Questions Meetings starts March 13: The next round of Essential Questions on the topic of "What Does it Mean to be a Member of this Unitarian Universalist Religious Community?" are scheduled for Sunday, March 13 and Sunday March 20 immediately following service, and Tuesday, March 15, at 7:00 p.m. Sign-up sheets are located in the back of the Sanctuary. Contact Rev. Bossen if you have any questions (minister@uucleveland.org).

Newcomer Orientation – Sunday, March 13: Our next Newcomer Orientation will be March 13th after service from 1:00 -3:00 p.m. (lunch included). We encourage newcomers to attend and to meet with Rev. Bossen.

Staughton Lynd: Death Penalty RE Forum – March 20 – Postponed: This event has been postponed until a later date.

Earth-Centered Spirituality Gathering – March 20: Join us on Sunday, March 20th, as we celebrate the Spring Equinox. Pot luck at 1:00...ritual at 2:00. For more information, please contact Lainey Warren (hockeyfan631@yahoo.com) or Mary Schatzman (maryschatzman@sbcglobal.net). Details will also appear in the Flame in the next few weeks.

IAF / Greater Cleveland Congregation Meeting – March 22: The next Industrial Area Foundation Greater Cleveland Congregation meeting asking the question: "What one issue, if addressed, can make a significant change for the better in Cuyahoga County?" is Tuesday, March 22, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Nina McLellan (NinaMac15@sbcglobal.net).

Ohio Meadville District Assembly 2011 – March 25-26: "Risk the Adventure" is the theme of Keynote Speaker, Rev. Howard Dana, Senior Minister at the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, PA, for the 2011 OMD Assembly. For more information: www.ohiomeadville.org/annmtg/index.html.

First Sunday Potluck – Sunday, April 3: We will be having a First Sunday Potluck after service on April 3rd downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. If you don't bring a dish, the cost is \$3 per person or \$5 per family. First time guests are free.

Reading to Refugees – Tuesday, April 5: We will be going to Green Road to read to the Bhutanese refugees at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5. If you would like to help, please contact Claire Brugnoletti at clairebrugnoletti@comcast.net or Rev. Bossen at minister@uucleveland.org.

Young Adult Discussion Series – Tuesday, April 12: The next Young Adult Discussion Series at Algebra Tea House in Little Italy will be held at 7:30 p.m. on April 12. The meeting topic is "Islam". Contact Rev. Bossen at minister@uucleveland.org for info.

UUSC Nominating Committee Looking for Board Candidates: The UUSC Nominating Committee is looking for candidates for the UUSC Board of Trustees. We are asking for your help in identifying potential nominees. If you or someone you know is interested in serving on the Board starting in June of 2011 please submit a recommendation form or tell a member of the Nominating Committee. The recommendation forms and submission box are on the table at the back of the sanctuary. The members of the Nominating Committee are Jesse Honsky, Maureen Meslovich, Lois Ruskin, and Elaine Weaver. Please contact Jesse Honsky at 440-488-8273 or jkhonsky@gmail.com.

Free – Two Electric Window Air Conditioners: Two electric window air conditioners free to a good home. Contact Stephanie Sweeton at 216-682-5949 or sweeton6@gmail.com.

Membership Coordinator

Hello! I am Zelda MacGregor, your new Membership Coordinator. I am very excited about working with the congregation and staff of UUSC to help energize and engage members old and new. Please contact me any time with ideas, questions or to volunteer for the Sunday Service Welcoming Committee! You can reach me by phone at 216.640.6180 or email at membership@uucleveland.org.

It has been a pleasure to meet you over the last few weeks, and I look forward to getting to know all of you better.

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 in the Social Hall.

RE-VIEW

Upcoming Youth Service

Make sure to save the date for the Annual UUSC youth service on April 3rd. This service gives our youth an opportunity to express themselves to the congregation and share what it is they've been thinking about during the last year. In previous years the youth have used music, acting, games, puppeteering and much more to get their point across. Make sure you're there on April 3rd to find out what they'll do this year.

Summer Volunteering Opportunities

During the summer the RE program switches gears from a straight curriculum program with several different classes to a single class with stories, crafts, games and single Sunday lessons. During the summer we give our teachers a break but we still need volunteers to help out both with the larger class and with the Nursery. There are still a few more months left in the curriculum year but please consider helping downstairs for two or three Sundays this summer. If we work together we can make sure we have a great RE program!

RE Committee

The RE committee is the group that helps to guide the direction of the RE program and makes sure that it runs smoothly. Individuals on the committee have different roles (such as curriculum, teacher support and communications) that they focus on. The committee has monthly meetings and (with a couple of exceptions) generally doesn't have much work outside of these meetings. In the coming months a few member's positions will be running out and we'll be on the lookout for new members. If you're interested or would like more information please contact DRE Nathan Staples or any member of the RE committee and we'll put your name in for consideration. Thanks!

Nathan Staples
dre@uucleveland.org

UUSins' Eatin' and Talkin' Committee



*Lainey Warren's
Sensational 70th
Birthday Party*



Come to a Circle Supper!

*Come to a special
Circle Supper at the
Society on Saturday,
March 12th to
celebrate Lainey
Warren's
Sensational 70th
Birthday! The party
starts at 6:00 p.m.
RSVP to Ken.*



*"Very funny.
Now, which of
you jokers
chops the wood
and splits the*

Once a month we do semi-potlucks at members' homes. We get to know each other and make friends and talk about everything under the sun. And we eat. We get loud. We laugh a lot. If you're a vegetarian you're in luck. Many of us are too, and the dishes we bring reflect that.

Sound interesting? E-mail or call us for more information. The next one is Saturday, March 12th.

Contact: Ken Nightingale

Phone: 216-470-7643

E-mail: father.nature@sbcglobal.net

March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
* Note: Choir Rehearsal every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.		1 Reading to Refugees 7 pm	2	3 Shifting Gears 1:30 pm Joseph Campbell RT 7:30 pm	4	5
6 1st Sunday Potluck 1 pm	7	8 Young Adult Disc. Group Algebra Tea House 7:30 pm	9	10	11	12 Lainey Warren's 70th Birthday— Circle Supper 6 p.m.
13 Essential Questions 12:30 pm Newcomer Orientation 12:30 pm	14	15 Essential Questions 7 pm	16	17	18	19
20 Essential Questions 12:30 pm	21	22 GCC/IAF Mtg. 7 pm	23	24 Board of Trustees Mtg. 7 pm	25	26
27 <i>Beacon Deadline</i> Stand Up Com. 1 pm Movie Night 5 pm	28	29	30	31	1	2

**THE UNITARIAN
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OF CLEVELAND**

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www.uucleveland.org

Rev. Colin Bossen
Minister
Tues. 9:00 - 11:15 a.m., Wed. 9:00. - 3:15 p.m.
Thurs. 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Shirley Nelson
Administrator/Beacon Editor
Tues. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Wed. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Thurs. 9:30 a.m.- 5:30 p.m.

Amy Collins
Commissioned Lay Leader

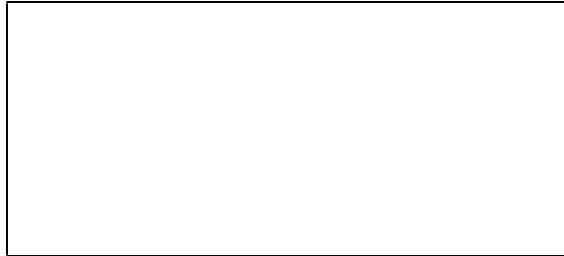
Nathan Staples
Director of Religious Education
Thurs. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and
Sun. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Zelda MacGregor
Membership Coordinator
Thurs. 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

William Shorter
Custodian

Barbara Boyd
Choir Director

Rev. Peggy C. Clason
Minister Emerita



UUSC DEADLINES:

Beacon Articles: Deadline for April is March 27th.

Order of Service/Announcements:

Wednesday a.m. before the Sunday Service

Board Reports: Tuesday 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!!

March

Muriel Senseman	4
Jennifer Forrest Brown	4
Lainey Warren	10



UUSC Board of Trustees

Rachel Webb President
Mary Schatzman Vice President
Beverly Austin Secretary
Karin Tooley Treasurer
Ben Faller
Glenn Solomon
Sarah Thuerk
Elaine Weaver

*Board Meetings are held on the
4th Thursday of the month at
7:00 p.m.*

Immigration and Indigenous Theology

Written by Colin Bossen. Originally published in Sightings, a publication of the Martin Marty Center at the University of Chicago Divinity School.

I did not go to jail expecting to meet a theologian. But jail was where I met Tupac Enrique Acosta. Tupac, like me, was arrested in front of one of the Maricopa County Sheriff's offices for protesting against Arizona's anti-immigrant law SB1070 on July 29, 2010. Unlike me, Tupac had an analysis of the bill's place in history that put it firmly within the context of the ongoing repression of the indigenous peoples of North America.

Tupac, who would probably reject the label theologian, is the leading figure behind the Phoenix-based Nahuacalli, an organization that describes itself as "A Cultural Embassy of the Indigenous Peoples." He is also closely linked with Puente, the grassroots organization behind many protests against SB1070 in Phoenix, and Puente's leader Salvador Reza. Understanding his views on SB1070 illuminates that, for some, the struggle over immigration is about something larger.

In Tupac's view the history of SB1070 does not begin in 2010. It begins in 1492 with Christopher Columbus's arrival in the Western Hemisphere. Columbus's "discovery" of the Americas prompted European political and religious leaders to develop what indigenous activists refer to as the "Christian Doctrine of Discovery." This is the belief that because the lands of the Western Hemisphere were without Christians prior to 1492 they were free for the taking upon "discovery." For activists like Tupac, the issues at stake in SB1070 are not so much political as theological.

Tupac shared his analysis with me as we waited to be processed through the legal system in holding cells and, later, when we were bunkmates in the cell block. More than once our conversations were interrupted when we were moved, it appeared arbitrarily, between cells. They were also interrupted when the Maricopa County Sheriff Joseph Arpaio came into our cell to "talk" with us. Sheriff Arpaio, who is currently under investigation by the United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, runs what he likes to call "America's toughest jail." He is known for his tactics of intimidating and dehumanizing prisoners, including trying to humiliate male prisoners by placing them in pink underwear and pink handcuffs.

Rather than intimidate us, Arpaio served as an unwitting example for our impromptu seminar on the Christian Doctrine of Discovery. Tupac suggested to me that the logical outcome of a legal system grounded in such a doctrine is laws like SB1070 and men like Sheriff Arpaio. SB1070 would not exist without the doctrine. Arpaio exists to enforce it.

As we sat together in jail Tupac traced the history of the Christian Doctrine of Discovery from its origin to its often unacknowledged presence in contemporary debates about immigration. He suggested that the doctrine was first articulated in Pope Alexander VI's 1493 Papal Bull "Inter Caetera" and the 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas between Spain and Portugal. Together these documents created a theological and legal framework that justified the expropriation and division of indigenous lands by Spain and Portugal.

In the view of Tupac and many indigenous legal scholars the framework created to facilitate the seizure of indigenous lands continues to form the core of much of federal property law today. This is particularly true as it relates to indigenous property claims. The indigenous legal scholar Steven Newcomb, for example, has found traces of the Christian Doctrine of Discovery within U.S. Supreme Court cases as recently as 2001.

Tupac believes that the principles of the Christian Doctrine of Discovery are operative in SB1070 as well. As he told me, "the purpose of SB1070 was to consolidate the perceptions of some white Americans around the idea of an America that is white in a continent that belongs to them." In his view, SB1070 is just another attempt to assert non-indigenous dominance over the continent. After all, SB1070 is designed to enforce a border that divides not only the United States and Mexico but the indigenous peoples who belong to the Uto-Aztecan language group. They have been moving back and forth between what is now the U.S. and Mexico long before either country existed. SB1070 criminalizes their traditional freedom of movement.

As Tupac understands it, the struggle against SB1070 is the continuing indigenous struggle against colonialism. As he said in a talk, "When we did that marching... we didn't come to legalize ourselves before the state of Arizona. We came to legalize Arizona... Now, let's get this clear, colonization is illegal... If we're going to legalize Arizona we have to decolonize Arizona." Elsewhere he has written that "SB1070 is not a law." He makes this claim because he believes that the entire framework of laws governing immigration rest upon the Christian Doctrine of Discovery. For him, the Mexican and Central American migrants are indigenous and those who would keep them from coming to the United States are the descendants of colonizers.

Tupac and I were briefly reunited when I travelled back to Arizona to stand trial. After a day-long trial which touched on none of these issues the judge ruled us not guilty. Then Tupac set to work again to educate people about the Christian Doctrine of Discovery and passed around a flyer titled "SB1070 is Not a Law."

Rev. Colin Bossen
minister@uucleveland.org