



THE BEACON

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

Volume 63, Issue 5

November 3, 2011

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UPCOMING SERVICE INFORMATION

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

November 6, 2011, 11:00 a.m.

Without Vision the People Shall Perish

Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen
Musician: Ashley Brooke Toussant

What does it mean to have vision? How can vision help inspire and build our beloved community? Guest musician Ashley Brooke Toussant is an Akron based singer-songwriter. Her first album, *Sweetheart*, was released in September.

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

The Moral Imagination

Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen
Musicians: UUSC Choir, Barbara Boyd, Director, and Karin Tooley
Guest Artist: Rafiki

What is the moral imagination? How can it inspire us in our daily lives and in our struggles for a better world? Where, ultimately, can it lead us?

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

The Promised Land

Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen and Rina Shere, DRE
Musician: Karin Tooley

One of the most enduring visions of a better world is encapsulated in the phrase of the promised land. This vision is often celebrated on Thanksgiving. We will explore this vision in all of its complications during this intergenerational service. Please bring breads and spreads to share for our annual after service Thanksgiving feast.

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

Homophobia and the Christian Fundamentalist

Worship Leader: Rina Shere, DRE
Musician: Karin Tooley

What do we know about the Christian Fundamentalists in our midst? How do we grapple with their "values" which are so different from those of Unitarian Universalists? How can we, as Unitarian Universalists, best serve as allies to the GLBTQI community when they are confronted by hateful religious messages? Rina Shere, UUSC DRE, will offer suggestions for Standing on the Side of Love.

December 4, 2011, 11:00 a.m.

A Feminine Divine

Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen
Musician: Karin Tooley

Over the course of the month of December we will be exploring different understandings of the holy. Our first service of the month will ask us to imagine what happens to our understanding of religion when we imagine God as female instead of male.



NOTES FROM OUR MINISTER

It seems appropriate that our theme for November is vision. Both the Occupy movement that has cropped up across the country and the autumn elections are ultimately about vision. The Occupy movement is an attempt to build and envision a world where profits are not placed before people and where decisions about how society runs are made using participatory democracy rather than delegated to politicians influenced by corporations. This month's ballot issues ask people to think about their visions for the role public employees play in society and the government's role in providing and regulating health care.

In worship this month you will have the opportunity to examine your own vision for a better world. The November 13th worship service will include a meditation and sharing exercise that will ask the question: What do you imagine a better world to look like? We will explore this question in greater depth in the November 15th adult religious education discussion. During that session we will also look at Unitarian Universalism's rich history of working to make such visions a reality.

Finally, we will also be spending time this month envisioning the future for our selves and our congregation. On November 5th after the service there will be a forum looking at where our religious education program has been and where it is going with our new Director of Religious Education and Karen Lobracco, the Ohio Meadville District's Lifespan Religious Education program consultant. And on November 8th I will be leading a young adult discussion at the Gypsy Beans & Baking Company. The focus of the discussion will be on growing into the person you want to become.

I hope that you will take advantage of some of the Society's many offerings this month. They provide you with multiple opportunities to deepen your spiritual life and connect with our community.

love,

Colin

TREASURER'S REPORT

September's pledge contributions of \$4,072 bring our year-to-date total to \$14,532, representing 24% of the UUSC's annual pledge amount of \$61,000. As of the end of September 2011, ¼ (or 25%) of our fiscal year has passed. We are currently making excellent progress on toward our pledge goal for the fiscal year. Collections in September brought in \$713 in non-pledge contributions to the general fund. The Society also brought in \$183 in other income during the month of September.

MOVIE NIGHT

The next Movie Night will be Sunday, November 27, at 5:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Society. The movie will be "Homeland", which follows the inspiring stories of five courageous Native American activists battling to defend their vulnerable land and people against wildly unsafe environmental hazards, including methane gas wells, oil drilling, uranium mining and industrial waste. Filled with beautifully composed images of spectacular landscapes, this documentary features noted activist Winona LaDuke urging viewers to abandon destruction and embrace respect. Movie Night is a chance to brown-bag your supper, watch a good movie in good company, and engage in lively discussion. Newcomers and visitors are welcome.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

A victim of Change may,
Through learning adaptation,
Become a partner of Change.
A victim of Change may,
Through forethought and planning,
Become a shaper of Change.

Demographically, Unitarian Universalist's are some of the most highly-educated and creative people around. That's probably at least partly due to engaging in a religion which, instead of telling us what to believe, requires us to craft our own personal theologies. One of our Principles states that we come together to "encourage each other to spiritual growth". Frequently, our discussions turn to what is wrong: wrong in our society at large, in our politics or economics, in popular media, or anything else. Things will change. But often not in the direction we would like. Our kvetching doesn't do much besides let us feel self-righteous. I find this rather depressing. So I have some recommendations.

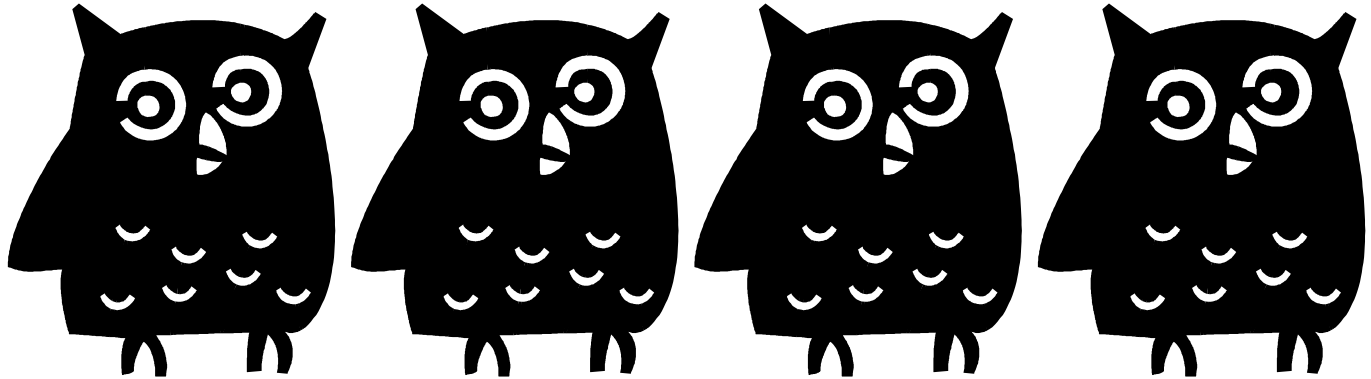
Last year, the Unitarian Universalist Society engaged in visioning, in the form of a Long Range Plan. Much of the plan deals with internal matters like worship and religious education. But part of the plan envisions our congregation being diverse and engaging in the work of putting our values into action. In general, we have a vision of a world where everyone's basic needs would be met – housing, health care, food, clothing, and education. People would be respected and honored for their differences. Disagreements and violations would be dealt with in fair and nonviolent ways, and the natural environment would be preserved. The Quakers tell us that social change has always happened because one person or a few people had a vision and set about to make it happen. We need our intelligence, education, and creativity to figure out how to be effective. I would propose some possibilities.

A really huge proportion of Unitarian Universalist Society members and friends attended the big Greater Cleveland Congregations meeting last June at the Masonic Auditorium. So a lot of you at least generally know what this is about. It is like-minded progressive religious folks who want to make the vision I describe above into reality. Five specific areas have been chosen for work, and working groups meet to explore available resources and what is lacking. Last week I attended a panel discussion on health care. We need lots more involvement, though. We voted as a congregation to join GCC, but we need to invest energy, too.

Each year, in June, Unitarian Universalist's have a General Assembly. Several thousand Unitarian Universalist's converge on a city (different location each year) to conduct business and hold workshops and meetings that are educational and inspiring. Some of the best in worship and music happen at GA. Each congregation gets delegates to the business meetings, based on membership numbers, but others can also attend and participate in a wide variety of activities. This year is somewhat different than ever before. The place is Phoenix, Arizona. Phoenix is an epicenter for immigration issues right now, so the entire assembly this year will focus on Justice issues. If this sounds interesting, and you want to explore the possibility of attending this year, talk to Rev. Bossen or me (Mary Schatzman).

Mary Schatzman

RE-VIEW NOVEMBER 2011



This month Karen LoBracco, our Ohio-Meadville Lifespan Faith Development consultant, is visiting the Society to work with the Religious Education program. She will be meeting with me, Rev. Colin, members of the Religious Education Transition Team, and RE teachers on Saturday, November 5th. The goal of this half-day workshop is to re-examine our current RE programming and develop plans for the future vis a vis the long range plan for the Society. There is a congregation-wide Religious Education Forum scheduled for Sunday, November 6th from 1:00-2:00 p.m. after the potluck. Please review the flyer on the opposite page to learn more about this event. I am also meeting with parents and congregants on an individual basis to learn more about the spiritual development needs of our religious community.

The first two Sundays in November we offer our regular Sunday morning Religious Education classes. The youth group will also be packing and sending care packages to our Unitarian Universalist college students. The third Sunday is a family-friendly multigenerational service to celebrate Thanksgiving. Children of all ages are welcome at this service and we will also provide childcare in the nursery. The Sunday after Thanksgiving is a child-care only morning. We will be setting up our altar for the winter holidays. Children 12 and under are encouraged to participate. Youth should plan on attending the service.

RE Calendar for November 2011

Sunday, November 6 - regular RE classes

Sunday, November 13 - regular RE classes and Rafiki Dance will perform

Sunday, November 20 - Multigenerational Thanksgiving service

Sunday, November 27 - Thanksgiving break. No Religious Education, childcare only. Rina and Sladja will be in the nursery room and Fellowship Hall. Children 12 and under welcome.



RE-VIEW NOVEMBER 2011

Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland hosts a Religious Education Forum with Karen LoBracco,

Program Consultant for Lifespan Faith Development
Ohio Meadville District

Sunday, November 6th

1 p.m.—2 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Join us after the Society luncheon potluck

Where Have We Been? Where Are We Now? Where Are We Going?

Please help us think about where we see our Religious Education program going: What do we want to achieve? What is our potential? What does our program need for the future?



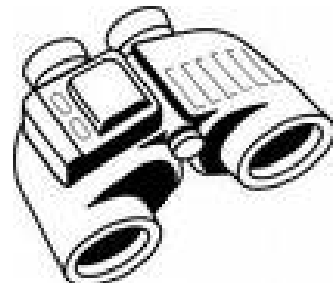
We count on **your** input so we can set goals for the future and then take steps to reach them in the years to come. Parents, teens, RE teachers, newcomers and caring/curious/concerned members of our congregation are invited to this important event.

The Religious Education Transition Team hopes to achieve greater CLARITY and FOCUS so we can concentrate on what is truly important in our mission. We hope to gain a sense of DIRECTION by seeing the possibilities

and knowing which path will be best for us. We want to be in the best position to make GOOD DECISIONs and to create a vibrant Religious Education program at our congregation.

We hope to see you there! Childcare and craft activities are available in the nursery and Fellowship Hall from 1-2 p.m.

For more information contact: Rina Shere, DRE, at rinashere@yahoo.com.



UUSC News / ANNOUNCEMENTS

2011/2012 UUSC Directory and Third Quarter Giving Statements: New directories and third quarter giving statements are available for pick up after service on Sunday, November 6 & 13 (if not picked up statements and directories will be mailed). There is also an electronic copy of the directory available. If you want one, please email office@uucleveland.org for a copy.

First Sunday Potluck—November 6: First Sunday Potluck is after service on November 6th 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.

Young Adult Discussion Group—November 8: Join together with other young adults from the congregation and the community on November 8th at 7:30 p.m. We'll meet at the Gypsy Beans & Baking Company (6425 Detroit Avenue). The topic of discussion will be Envisioning Your Future: How to Become the People We Want to Be.

Membership Committee Meeting - November 10: Want to help the Society grow? Make newcomers feel more welcome? Organize social events? Come join our new Membership Committee. First meeting, Thursday, November 10th at 7:30 p.m.

Lisa Constantino and Elaine Weaver's Going Away Party—November 12: Lisa & Elaine are moving to The Netherlands! Come and share some laughs and fun with them before they leave. The open door, family-friendly open house event will be at 5-10 p.m. in fellowship hall at the Society on November 12th. Refreshments will be served.

Newcomer Orientation—November 13: There will be a Newcomer Orientation held on Sunday, November 13, at 1:00—3:00 p.m. We offer you the opportunity to learn more about our community and to meet Rev. Bossen.

November Adult Religious Education Discussion—November 15: The theme for November is vision. What do you imagine a better world to look like? We will explore this question on Tuesday, November 15th, at 7:30 p.m. at the Society. Sign-up sheets are in the back of the sanctuary.

Greater Cleveland Congregations: We are moving into a season of research and strategy discussion for our issue campaigns and will be convening issue team captains meetings in late October / early November. Teams will discuss what we have learned to date and create a power analysis for the region based on that information. Meeting dates and times are on the bulletin board at the Society. Contact Ari Lipman at ari.lipman@greaterclevelandcongregations.org or Khalilah Worley at khalilah.worley@greaterclevelandcongregations.org for additional information.

UUSC Member D. Lois Ruskin at St. Augustine Manor: Lois Ruskin is in rehabilitation at St. Augustine Manor located at 7801 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44102. She is in room 422.

Death of Peggy Lagodny's Father: UUSC member Peggy Lagodny's father, Richard Thomas Lagodny, passed away peacefully on Friday, October 21st, while sorting through a pile of mail. Services were held on Wednesday, October 26th, at Busch Funeral Home and family and friends celebrated with fond memories and Becker's donuts, his favorite.

Welcome Teams and Chalice Lighter's Needed: The Welcome Teams and Chalice Lighters are significant participants in the Order of Service every Sunday. This is one of the responsibilities of the Membership Coordinator, but with the position being vacant it would be helpful to have several members sign up each week for the Welcome Team and one person for Chalice Lighter. Please contact the office administrator at office@uucleveland.org or 216-932-1898 and indicate when you are available to participate.

2012 Homeless Stand Down: The Homeless Stand Down (HSD) is a two day event for individuals and families facing poverty and homelessness. On day #1 (Sunday, January 22nd) guests enjoy access to social service providers, haircuts, medical screenings, live entertainment, professional portraits, breakfast and lunch, and free winter clothing, personal care kits, bus passes and much more. During day #2 (Saturday, January 28th) the same services (e.g. haircuts, bagged lunches, winter clothing, etc.) are packaged into a CareVan and driven to guests in various shelters and transitional housing sites around Cleveland. For more information contact HandsOn Northeast Ohio at www.HandsOnNEO.org or InterAct Cleveland at www.InterActCleveland.org.

November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Choir Rehearsal Sunday's at 9:30—10:30 am		1	2	3 Shifting Gears 1:30 pm Joseph Campbell RT 7:30 pm	4	5 R.E. Start-up 9 am—1 pm
6 1st Sunday Potluck 1 pm RE Forum—All Cong. 1 pm	7	8 Young Adult Discussion 7:30 pm at Gypsy Beans & Baking Co.	9	10 Membership Com. Meeting 7:30 pm	11	12 Elaine & Lisa's Going Away Party 5-10 pm
13 Newcomer Orientation 1-3 pm	14	15 Adult Religious Ed Forum 7:30 pm	16	17 Board of Trustees Mtg. 7 pm	18	19
20	21	22 GCC Steering Com—7 pm	23	24	25	26
27 <i>Beacon Deadline</i> Movie Night 5 pm	28	29	30			

**THE UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY
OF CLEVELAND**

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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

Rina Shere
Director of Religious Education

Thurs. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Friday 11 a.m.—3 p.m.
Sun. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Position Vacant
Membership Coordinator

Clyde Nelson
Custodian

Barbara Boyd
Choir Director

Rev. Peggy C. Clason
Minister Emerita



UUSC DEADLINES:

Beacon Articles: Deadline for December is November 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!!

November

Diane Spiegler	22
Anela Forrest Brown	26



UUSC Board of Trustees *

Mary Schatzman	President
Melissa Vandergriff	Vice Pres.
Sarah Thuerk	Secretary
Karin Tooley	Treasurer
Linda Coulter	
Ben Faller	
Amy Harmon	
Wendy Wills	

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

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.

UUSC Podcast

Listen to Sunday services online, and more.
Visit: <http://uucleveland.podbean.com>.

Wheelchair Available

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