



THE BEACON

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

Volume 63, Issue 2

August 4, 2011

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UPCOMING SERVICE INFORMATION

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

August 7, 2011, 11:00 a.m.

Question Box Sermon

Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen
Musician: Karin Tooley

Rev. Bossen's annual Question Box sermon will be August 7th. If you have a question about religion, theology, congregational life or anything else you'd like him to try to answer, e-mail him at minister@uucleveland.org by Thursday, August 4th. Alternatively, you may place your question on a slip of paper in the question box on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

August 14, 2011, 11:00 a.m.

Likeness to God

Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen
Musician: George Foley

The 19th century Unitarian William Ellery Channing spoke of each human being containing a "likeness to God." But what does this phrase really mean? And how does this 19th century idea pertain to our lives today?

August 21, 2011, 11:00 a.m.

The Illusion of "Otherness"

Worship Leaders: Amy Collins, CLL and
Worship Associates
Musician: Karin Tooley

Otherness is a construct. It is, ironically, a commonality to our very humanity. It is a disruption in relationship with the people around us that gives us a sense of "otherness." The worship team will explore this assertion and how these disruptions occur in our lives and how we can learn from the experience.

August 28, 2011, 11:00 a.m.

The Gospel of Inclusion

Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen
Musician: Karin Tooley

What is Universalism? Where does it come from? And why are so many non-Unitarian Universalists interested in Universalism today?

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

Strength in Vulnerability

Worship Leader: Rev. Mary Grigolia
Musician: Karin Tooley

As we approach the 10th anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center, Rev. Mary Grigolia will explore how the American psyche has changed in the last 10 years, dynamics of fear, the surprising gift of vulnerability, and how congregations may lead in the emerging world.

September 11, 2011, 11:00 a.m.

Mingling of the Waters

Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen and
Amy Collins, CLL
Musician: Karin Tooley

We invite everyone to bring actual or symbolic waters from places of personal and spiritual significance to our annual ingathering service. During the service we will mingle and bless the waters, which represent the many journeys of exploration we experience before our paths converge in sacred community. Once collected, we use the waters from this service for child dedications and other rites of passage over the year. This year's service will include a commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Notes from our Minister

This column is my third in a three-part series around issues of growth, how the investment portfolio should be used and the mission/purpose of the congregation. My June column (focusing on growth) and my July column (focusing on how the investment portfolio should be used) are available both in the on-line archives of the Beacon and on my blog <http://infidelity.blogsome.com>. In this month's column I explore the two different views of the mission/purpose of the congregation I think are present in our community: congregation as club and congregation as parish.

Congregation as Club

Briefly described, congregation as club is the idea that the congregation exists primarily to serve its existing members. The needs of existing members take precedence over the needs of future generations, newcomers and visitors and the surrounding community. In this model the congregation focuses its energies on providing a social space and pastoral care. Public worship,* social justice and outreach are all secondary to ensuring that existing members are content and feel cared for.

Many people looking for a religious community find it difficult to join a congregation that functions as a club. Decisions are often made informally and power is likely to be held by members with the longest tenure rather than distributed democratically. Congregations that function as clubs are rarely growing congregations.

Congregation as Parish

In contrast, a congregation that functions as a parish exists not only to serve its members but to serve the wider community. Members of the congregation understand themselves as having an obligation to help care for and provide a religious community for not only themselves but the surrounding world. Public worship, social justice and outreach are all integral parts of the congregation's life. The congregation understands itself as having an important religious message and this obligation is called to spread that message. While the needs of the current members are understood to be important, the most important thing in the congregation's life is its mission. Congregations that function as parishes are frequently growing communities, indeed their outward focus encourages to prioritize growth.

Some of the conflicts that exist in our congregation exist because there are some who believe that the congregation should function as a club and others who think it should be more like a parish. It is my belief that when the congregation voted to grow and adopted a new long range plan it committed itself to function as a parish. While I know that not everyone in the congregation holds this view, I have faith that by talking about what we want from and envision for our religious community we can continue to build a congregation that is truly a sanctuary for all.

love,

Colin

*By public worship I mean the congregation's regular worship services. These services are open to the public and frequented by many people who are not members.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY REV. BOSSEN!

From our President

Kindness Eases Change

So far, this has been a productive summer. I am very grateful for the opportunity to have attended General Assembly in Charlotte. I have a lot of material from that to process, and it will appear in a variety of ways over the next year. Since I stayed at a motel quite a distance away (though easily accessible using Charlotte's light rail line), one of the things I quickly noted was that we Unitarian Universalist's can identify each other by our T-shirts and our bumper stickers. There were at least 6 of us at my motel. Another identifier was brought to my attention while I was at Summer Institute. A friend of mine from Ginger Hill Unitarian Universalist said that her adult son, who had grown up Unitarian Universalist but was unconnected at this point, called her from Charlotte, where he was on a business trip, and asked what were all the Unitarian Universalist's doing in Charlotte. It wasn't just the T-shirts and bumper stickers; he said that in restaurants and other public places, there was a noticeable "kindness vibe".

I think this young man is onto something. While participants at General Assembly worked hard at theology and social justice and congregational functioning, there flowed through everything a joy at being together and a sense that while we do not agree on everything, yet we have something vital to live out. This came through not only in big discussions during plenaries, but in those tricky places like registration line glitches and people who couldn't figure out their banner poles and sorting out recycling bins and standing in restroom lines. Of course, singing our excellent songs with 3000 other people along with band accompaniment didn't hurt either.

Next year's General Assembly is to be a "Justice Assembly", and will probably be transformative in the way we as Unitarian Universalist's envision justice and our actions in the world. At the start of the summer, someone asked me what I planned for vacation. When I described General Assembly and Summer Institute, they remarked that this seemed like a lot of Unitarian Universalist stuff. And it is. And that is a really amazing company to keep. And one of our most precious gifts is our kindness vibe.

Mary Schatzman

RE-VIEW

Our teacher search is going well but we're still in need of several teachers to work with our children and youth. If you're not familiar with benefits and responsibilities of being an RE volunteer here's a brief overview. Each class has a three person "teacher team" so you'll regularly work with two other people. Each teacher is only responsible to prepare one lesson a month and to act as a secondary teacher for one additional Sunday a month. Because of this, teaching with our children and youth normally only requires two Sundays a month and the Society can provide you a substitute teacher when your schedule changes or you have a sick day. If you can't commit to teaching twice a month please consider volunteering in our Nursery. Working in our Nursery is only a commitment once every 4 to 6 weeks.

Our RE program is a vital part of what we do at the Society and it can't succeed without your help. Thanks in advance and, as always, please contact me if you have any questions or concerns at dre@uucleveland.org.

Nathan Staples

DENOMINATIONAL BENEFITS

Sometimes we may ask, "Why is the Society a member of the Ohio-Meadville District and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)?"

In addition to a sense of belonging that derives from being a part of a larger movement—the denomination—these larger organizations can provide many benefits to our congregation and we can contribute to their well-being by being on committees and participating in various events that they sponsor.

The District enables us to be involved in its governance at the Annual Meeting held each spring at one of the churches here in Ohio or one in Western Pennsylvania or West Virginia. It also provides through the District Executive the ability for congregations to meet their goals by providing such services as training in fund-raising, strategic planning and extension (growth) to name a few. A variety of workshops and conferences are offered through the District on topics such as Leadership Development, Spirituality, and various youth-centered events. More information is on the District's website: www.ohiomeadville.org.

The UUA helps congregations in ministerial settlement, provides grants and scholarships to Religious Education leaders, RE curriculum development, conferences for various sized churches, consultants to help congregations with Capital Campaigns, annual canvasses, compensation, numerous publications (including the UU WORLD, of course), grants and loans to churches, and a web page: www.uua.org.

Glenn Solomon

UUSC SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Join us as the UUSC celebrates 60 years – its Diamond Anniversary! On Saturday, Sept. 17, plan to attend the celebration at the UUSC from 6-9 p.m., for an evening filled with entertainment, food, friends and reflection on the congregation's rich history. Look for a formal invitation in the mail. Also, plan to attend services on Sunday, Sept. 18, as the Rev. John Corrado will serve as the speaker. Rev. Corrado joined the Unitarian Society of Cleveland in 1960, and served as a Unitarian Universalist minister at four congregations from 1966 until his retirement in 2009. Please join us for this very special service!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

September 25 After Service

The board is calling a special congregational meeting on September 25 to discuss membership of the UU Society of Cleveland in the Greater Cleveland Congregations. This is a new and exciting affiliation for the purpose of joining together for social justice initiatives in an effective manner. In part to provide information about what is happening, and in part to discuss approval of financial commitment, the UUSC Board and the Core Group for GCC are requesting all interested (or at least willing) members to stay after the service for a short meeting on Sunday, September 25.



UUSC News/Announcements

Question Box Sermon—August 7: Rev. Bossen's annual Question Box sermon will be August 7th. If you have a question about religion, theology, congregational life or anything else you'd like him to try to answer, e-mail him at minister@uucleveland.org by Thursday, August 4th. Alternatively, you may place your question on a slip of paper in the question box on the table in the sanctuary.

Movie Night—August 28: Our next Movie Night will be Sunday, August 28 at 5 pm at the Society. The movie will be "Inside Job", an Oscar-winning documentary that presents in comprehensive yet cogent detail the pervasive and deep-rooted corruption that led to the global economic meltdown of 2008. Through unflinching interviews with key financial insiders, politicians, journalists and academics, Ferguson paints a galling portrait of an unfettered financial system run amok—without accountability. Actor Matt Damon narrates. If you have any questions, contact Mary Schatzman at maryschatzman@sbcglobal.net.

First Sunday Potluck—September 4: We will be having a First Sunday Potluck after service on September 4th 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.

Next Circle Supper—September 10: Come to our Circle Suppers and get to know other members of our congregation which are generally held on the second Saturday of each month! These are semi-potlucks held at various hosts' houses in the area. Sign-up sheets are available at Sunday services. Contact Ken Nightingale at father.nature@sbcglobal.net or call 216-470-7643.

Pathway to Membership—September 11: To become a member of UUSC, there are three steps: 1) Attend a Newcomer Orientation. 2) Sign a pledge card. 3) Sign the membership book. The next Newcomer Orientation is September 11. We encourage newcomers to meet with Rev. Bossen.

An Interfaith Remembrance on the 10th Anniversary of September 11: A public Interfaith remembrance and commemoration of 9/11/2001 will be held on Sunday, September 11, starting at 3:30 p.m. Leaders from several faith congregations from Greater Cleveland will participate in the service that will be held in the Atrium of the 200 Public Square Building (formerly the BP building). This is a free public event.

UUSC Banner: Our fine Unitarian Universalist Society banner has been around this year! In the spring, it went to the district annual meeting, then in June it went to GA, and in July it was at Summer Institute. The banner is holding up well. It has a matching bag, for carrying it and its poles, and those who have dealt with it have become aware of 2 problems. The first is a hole at the bottom which now is large enough to allow a pole to fall out. This could be easily repaired. The second is that the drawstring top becomes difficult to carry after several hours. It would be nice if it had a shoulder strap. Someone with a sewing machine could probably fix this. The banner bag is in the cloakroom. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Schatzman at maryschatzman@sbcglobal.net.

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.

Birthday and Anniversary Calendar Updates: There are new members and friends attending the Society since the calendar with birthday's and anniversary's was last updated so that they can be listed in the Beacon. If you think you are among those who have not been listed, please notify the office administrator at office@uucleveland.org with your date(s).

OHIO-MEADVILLE DISTRICT

PHOENIX WITNESS PROJECT

In an effort to support as many people attending the Phoenix Justice Assembly in Phoenix, AZ in June of 2012, the Ohio-Meadville District Board has initiated the Phoenix Witness Project. The purpose of the project is to raise money to support sending youth, young adults and adults to the Justice GA 2012 in Phoenix, AZ in response to their anti-immigration legislation that was passed in spring of 2011. Learn more about this exciting project and the energy around it at www.ohiomeadville.org/news/phoenix.html.

CATALYST TRAINING

The OMD will be offering a multicultural anti-racism training with the Catalyst Group (who helped with training the folks who protested in Phoenix last summer) on October 14-15, 2011. Details and registration will be coming out the middle of August. Save the date for this important training and plan to send several representatives from our congregation.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST LEADERSHIP TEAM INSTITUTE (UULTI)

Interested in expanding your leadership skills for church and beyond? Attend Unitarian Universalist Leadership Team Institute! UULTI has been providing a holistic and experiential learning environment for congregational leaders since 2007. It is not too late to register for the last of the three UULTI's offered this year. UULTI by the Sea meets August 18-21 in Ocean Grove, NJ. Learn more at www.cerguua.org/uulti.

TREASURER'S REPORT

June's pledge contributions of \$3,949 bring our 2010/2011 Fiscal Year total to \$56,995, representing 87% of the UUSC's annual pledge amount of \$65,594. Collections in June brought in \$678 in non-pledge contributions to the general fund. The Society also brought in \$177 in Non-pledge contributions to the general fund during the month of June.



August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Shifting Gears 1:30 pm Joseph Campbell RT 7:30 pm	5	6
7 1st Sunday Potluck 1 pm	8	9	10	11 Board of Trustees Mtg. 7 pm	12	13 Circle Supper 6:30 p.m.
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 <i>Beacon Deadline</i> Movie Night 5 pm	29	30	31			

**THE UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY
OF CLEVELAND**

2728 Lancashire Road
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106
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Email: office@uucleveland.org
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

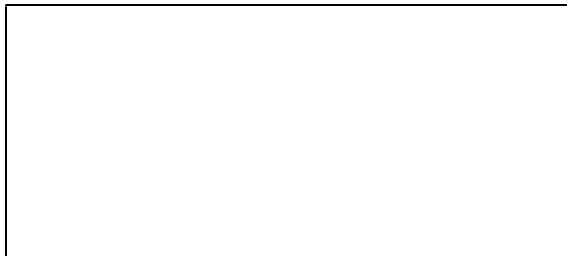
Nathan Staples
Director of Religious Education
Thurs. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and
Sun. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Position Vacant
Membership Coordinator

William Shorter
Custodian

Barbara Boyd
Choir Director

Rev. Peggy C. Clason
Minister Emerita



UUSC DEADLINES:

Beacon Articles: Deadline for September is September 25th.

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!!

August

Hannah Klausen	5
Colin Bossen	7
Shirley Nelson	7
Rob Kleidman	13
Karin Tooley/Paul Minkler—Anniv.	17
Wendy Wills	18



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.