



THE BEACON

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

Volume 63, Issue 5

December 2, 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Service Information</i>	1
<i>Minister's Column</i>	2
<i>UUSC News</i>	3-6
<i>UUSC Calendar</i>	7
<i>Birthdays</i>	8

UPCOMING SERVICE INFORMATION

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

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.

December 21, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Blue Christmas

Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen

Musician: Karin Tooley

The holidays can be a lonely, depressing and "blue" time for those who are alone or grieving. Every year we offer a special evening service for those who find it difficult to celebrate at this time of year. Our service this year will also include a recognition of the winter solstice.

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

love is the every only god (e.e. cummings)

Worship Leaders: Amy Collins, CLL, and the
Worship Associates

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

The worship team will explore Love as a holy, connecting force that transcends the boundaries of politics, religion, racism, sexism and all of the other "-isms" that cause separation and conflict.

December 24, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Traditional Christmas Eve Service

Worship Leaders: Rev. Colin Bossen and
Rina Shere, DRE

Musicians: UUSC Choir Special Ensemble,
Karin Tooley and Amy Collins, CLL

A Traditional Christmas Eve Candle light service, with stories, lessons and carols.

December 18, 2011, 11:00 a.m.

In This Hour

Worship Leaders: Rev. Colin Bossen and
Rina Shere, DRE

Musician: Karin Tooley

Our December intergenerational service will focus on how we can understand and experience the holy in the present. How, amid the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, can we bring the holy into our daily lives and into our families?

December 25, 2011, 11:00 a.m.

Christmas: A Service of Poetry and Reflection

Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen

Musician: Karin Tooley

Our Christmas day service will feature music, chorals and poetry for the holiday season.



NOTES FROM OUR MINISTER

This holiday month we will be exploring the theme of the holy. This is an appropriate theme for this darkest time of the year. The holy can be understood as those numinous things in our lives that are beyond our understanding. For theists or pagans this can be a brush with the divine. For humanists it means standing in awe and wonder of the universe. Whatever it means, the holy is something that we often encounter unexpectedly.

Yet people have gathered in religious communities for thousands of years trying to encounter it. The German theologian Rudolf Otto has written that the holy can 'come sweeping like a gentle tide, pervading the mind with a tranquil mood of deepest worship.' Or it can be 'thrillingly vibrant and resonant, until at last it dies away and the soul resumes its 'profane', non-religious mood of everyday experience.'

This month we seek the holy through a variety of services and religious education programs. Early in the month we'll look at how different definitions of the holy can both expand and limit our perception of it. As the month progresses we will look at the ways we encounter it in our daily lives. Sometimes the holy is like Ezra Pound's poem "In the Station of the Metro."

The apparition of these faces in the crowd;
Petals on a wet, black bough.

Towards the end of the month we will be celebrating the solstice and the holidays of Christmas and Hanukkah. These holidays can offer us the opportunity to encounter the holy in different ways. To celebrate them we will have our traditional Christmas Eve service, a Christmas Day service and our annual Blue Christmas and Solstice service. During our evening services we will light the candles of the menorah.

We celebrate all of these holidays because Unitarian Universalism draws from a variety of sources. Three of the most important of these are Christianity, Judaism and paganism and all three have holidays, or holy days. During this time of year we celebrate our connection to them by celebrating their holidays.

love,
Colin

MOVIE NIGHT

Movie Night in December will be Sunday, Dec. 18, at 5:00 pm at the Society. In light of recent attacks by the Ohio legislature on women's reproductive rights, we will screen "If These Walls Could Talk". This is not a new movie, but is eloquent, and worth watching again. It shows stories of a house, with women at different times, each of whom has an unwanted pregnancy. Beginning with Demi Moore, and including Cher and others, each woman must decide what to do. Brown-bag your supper, and discussion will follow the movie. For questions, see Mary Schatzman (maryschatzman@sbcglobal.net).

TREASURER'S REPORT

October's pledge contributions of \$4,672 bring our year-to-date total to \$19,303, representing 32% of the UUSC's annual pledge amount of \$61,000. As of the end of October 2011, 1/3 (or 33%) of our fiscal year has passed. We are currently making excellent progress on toward our pledge goal for the fiscal year. Collections in October brought in \$406 in non-pledge contributions to the general fund. The Society also brought in \$2,231 in other income during the month of October.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Embrace diversity.
 Unite –
 Or be divided, robbed, ruled,
 By those who see you as prey.
 Embrace diversity
 Or be destroyed.

Sunday afternoon, November 27, we had a forum at the Unitarian Universalist Society which focused on the “Occupy” movement. There was a lot of give and take, and it left us with a lot to think about. And maybe a renewal of hope. Particularly during the past 7 or 8 years, I feel we have become aware that there are very large systems, which seem to be impervious to the democratic process and which are antithetical to the values most Unitarian Universalist’s espouse. Goals of opportunity, environmental sustainability, justice and compassion seem to be further from being achieved, not nearer; but, like the title of Sarah van Gelder’s new book, “This Changes Everything: Occupy Wall Street and the 99% Movement”.

Also at the Unitarian Universalist Society, on November 22 there was a meeting of Greater Cleveland Congregations. This was a meeting to plan a larger event. The issue is program cuts in the Cleveland schools. The actual event is hoped to have about a thousand of us, along with schools CEO’s, teachers’ union leaders, and even Mayor Jackson. Our purpose, besides showing a large positive presence, is to provide a forum to allow the voices of those most impacted to be heard. It will be December 8, which is a Thursday, at 7:00 pm. There are sign-up sheets, and plans to car-pool from the Society. Our congregation should be able to send at least 20 persons.

This time of year, there are a variety of holidays from different traditions, all focused on bringing light to the darkness. I do think we, the Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland, have a light to bring in a perhaps increasingly dark time.

Mary Schatzman
 Board President

GCC ASSEMBLY MEETING—DECEMBER 8

GCC Assembly Meeting: Reverse the Education Cuts!

December 8th at 7:00 p.m.

Greater Cleveland Congregations will gather 850 strong to stand with Cleveland students and parents against the latest round of budget cuts that would eliminate early childhood education, transportation for high school students, summer school, and athletics. We will elevate the voices of students and parents whose lives will be upended by these devastating cuts, call on all sides to reach an agreement that restores funding for these essential programs, and point towards the future where GCC will work to resolve long-term funding problems for our schools.

GCC is a coalition of 40 religious congregations and community organizations committed to working together to make Cuyahoga County a more just and prosperous place. Join us on Thursday, December 8th, at 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Olivet Institutional Baptist Church (8712 Quincy Avenue, Cleveland, OH). Go to www.greaterclevelandcongregations.org for more information.

RE-VIEW DECEMBER 2011



Religious Education Calendar for December 2011

Sunday, December 4 – regular RE classes

Sunday, December 11 – regular RE classes

Sunday, December 18 – Multigenerational Blue Christmas and Winter Solstice service

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas morning service, childcare only

Sunday, January 1 – New Year's Day service, childcare only

This is the time of year when we take stock of our many blessings. We are grateful for our family, friends, pets and the bountiful resources and freedoms we enjoy in America. Many of us have experienced changes in jobs, housing or family situations this year. I know my own family has moved from out of state to temporary housing to a house of our own. Both my husband and I have started new jobs and my children have each attended four different schools this calendar year. I am thankful to be situated in the great town of Cleveland and to have found a loving congregation for worship and fellowship. Please take time this month to share your gratitude with those you love. Blessings for the winter holidays to you and your family.

Rina

Upcoming Adult Religious Education Forums

Sunday, December 18th from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

David Beach, Director of GreenCityBlueLake Institute

Building the House of the Future: Passive House Design at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History

David Beach will be speaking about sustainable building and offering specific examples from the one-of-a-kind PNC SmartHome. Learn how humans build a more sustainable and energy-efficient future. David will offer new ideas about how we design, build and live in our homes in Northeast Ohio.

Sunday, January 29th from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Rina Shere, Director of Religious Education

Living and Losing: Coping with Life Transitions

Rina Shere will facilitate a discussion to help participants explore many types of loss including job loss, changes in personal relationships, changes in health and physical abilities, and the loss of a loved one. How do we understand our losses and how can we draw strength from our faith community? What healing resources can our congregation and staff offer in times of stress and grief? If there is interest, an ongoing support group will be formed.

UUSC LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

UUSC Library and Archives Committee Sees Its Future in the Past

In an effort to preserve the legacy of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland, the Board of Trustees voted at its October meeting for the establishment of a new group to develop and maintain the library and archives of the Society. The UUSC Library and Archives Committee will be led by Steve Doell. The main goals of the committee will be to organize and inventory the collection of historical records, photographs and artifacts and develop a collecting and lending policy for published works currently housed in the Library meeting room.

Anyone interested in getting involved or with questions can contact Steve at 216-381-3308, sdoell@sbcglobal.net. He will begin informal "show and tell" presentations during the coffee, tea and conversation session after services starting December 11.

STEWARDSHIP OF THE EARTH

Communities of Faith are Taking a Leadership Role

Communities of faith are taking a leadership role in the development of renewable energy, such as clean solar. It makes sense. Stewardship of the earth is a responsibility that growing numbers of people—from many faiths—are beginning to share.

For all of our emerging clean energy options, the biggest hurdle is overcoming the sheer habit of "doing things the old way," and the first step toward clearing that hurdle is education—learning more about how we generate and use electricity now, and how we might use the power of the sun to meet our energy needs more cleanly, more efficiently, and in a more positive way for the earth and everyone on it.

Third Sun Solar, based in Athens, Ohio, has built over 300 renewable energy systems in the last 14 years. Our reputation is sterling—we have earned it by providing clean energy, expertly installed, and offering a smooth transition to solar power at any scale.

Solar energy falls right in line with the 7th Principle of Unitarianism: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

Why not take the first step and learn more? Call us today at 740-597-3111 - Third Sun Solar

The Ethical Challenge of Climate Change: Why Don't We Act? December 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Jeremy Bendik-Keymer, Beamer-Schneider Professor in Ethics at Case Western Reserve University, will explain the ethical problem of climate change and lead a discussion about how we can find the wisdom and courage to act to prevent the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. This event is free and open to the public and will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 14th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (1 Wade Oval, Cleveland, OH).

Possibilitarian Puppet Theater New Year's Eve Presentation December 31 at 3:00 p.m.

The Possibilitarian Puppet Theater New Year's Even show starts at 3 p.m. at the Society on Dec. 31st. There will be poetry, music, and lively performances. Details to follow! It's free with donations greatly appreciated. Contact Diana Sette at diana_sette@yahoo.com or 215-771-8287 for more information.

UUSC NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memorial Service for Shelly Fry: A memorial service for Shelly Fry, Elly Fry's mother, will be held Saturday, December 3, at 3:00 p.m. at Southwest Unitarian Universalist Church (6320 Royalton Road, North Royalton, OH). Rev. Chris Neilson and Rev. Bossen will co-officiate the service.

Poinsettias for Sale until December 4: We will be selling poinsettias for \$10. They may be dedicated to or be in memory of someone in your life. The poinsettias will be used to decorate the sanctuary during December. You may take them home after the Christmas Eve Service. If you are interested in buying one, please see Betty Lau or Sharon Cook.

Recycled Ornaments for UUSC Holiday Tree: Bring your cardboard toilet paper and paper towel rolls to services on Sunday, Dec. 4th and Sunday, Dec. 11th. During coffee hour on Dec. 11th we will be making ornaments out of recyclables and decorating our UUSC holiday tree.

First Sunday Potluck – December 4 at 12:30 p.m. First Sunday Potluck is after service on December 4th 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.

Rally and March Downtown Cleveland – December 10 at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, December 10th, is International Human Rights Day. Join us to rally, march, celebrate and protect human rights and the rights of all oppressed and victimized groups in our society. Assembly and music starts on Public Square at 11:30 a.m.; Rally at 12 Noon.; and a march to the Federal Building at 12:30 p.m.

Circle Suppers – December 10 at 6:30 p.m. Circle Suppers will be held on Saturday, December 10th, at various members homes. If you would like to be a Circle Supper host, e-mail Ken Nightingale at father.nature@sbcglobal.net or call 216-470-7643.

Holiday Sip-N-Shop Bazaar – December 11 at 12:30 p.m. You are invited to do your holiday shopping during coffee hour on Dec. 11th following the service. Members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Society will be selling great gift items including hand-crafted items such as cards, jewelry, candles and more! If you would like a table at the bazaar, please contact Amy Collins by phone or e-mail. 10% of all proceeds will be donated to the Unitarian Universalist Society.

Encountering the Holy: December 13 at 7:30 p.m. What is the holy? Where do we find it? And how? The December young adult (18-35) coffee discussion will take up these questions. This month we're meeting at Stone Oven Bakery in Cleveland Heights (2267 Lee Rd.).

Spirituality and Religion: December 20, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. What is the difference between spirituality and religion? How do they impact our understanding of the holy and where we encounter it in our lives? As we prepare for the winter holidays join together with other friends and members of the Society to consider the Unitarian Universalist perspective on these questions.

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.

Are You Missing an Ipod?: Last year an iPod Shuffle with a set of white headphones was discovered in a bag with ornaments while dismantling the wreath. We still have it and if it belongs to you, please call the UUSC office at 216-932-1898 or send an email to office@uucleveland.org.

December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Choir Rehearsal Sunday's at 9:30 am				1 Shifting Gears 1:30 pm Joseph Campbell Round Table 7:30 pm	2	3
4 1st Sunday Potluck 12:30 pm	5	6	7	8	9	10 Circle Suppers 6:30 pm
11 Holiday Sip & Shop Bazaar 12:30 pm	12	13 Encountering the Holy 7:30 pm	14	15 Board of Trustees Mtg. 7 pm	16	17
18 David Beach 12:30 pm Movie Night 5:00 pm	19	20 Spirituality and Religion 7:30 pm	21 Blue Christmas and Winter Solstice 7:00 pm	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelit Service 7:00 pm
25 Merry Christmas 	26	27	28	29	30	31 Possibilitarian Puppet Theatre 3:00 pm

**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. 9:00 - 11:15 a.m., Wed. 9:00. - 3:15 p.m.
Thurs. 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

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.

Shirley Nelson
Administrator/Beacon Editor
Tuesday thru Friday
9 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

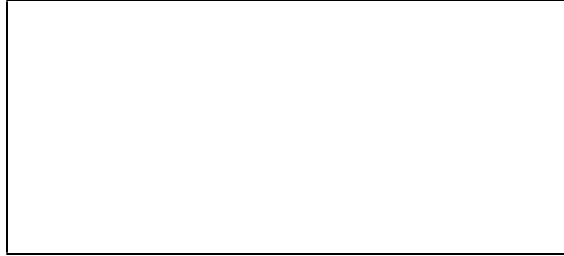
Amy Collins
Commissioned Lay Leader

Position Vacant
Membership Coordinator

Clyde Nelson
Custodian

Barbara Boyd
Choir Director

Rev. Peggy C. Clason
Minister Emerita



UUSC DEADLINES:

Beacon Articles: Deadline for January is January 1st.
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!!

December

Betty Lau	3
Taiesha Collins	3
William Fraser	5
Shirley Skellenger	13
Paul Minkler	20
Valerie McFadden	22
Karin Tooley	30



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.