



THE BEACON

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

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November 10, 2010

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UPCOMING SERVICE INFORMATION

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

November 14, 2010, 11 a.m.

The Lotus Flower

Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen
Musicians: UUSC Choir (Barbara Boyd, Director) and Karin Tooley

Our third service in our year long series on the religions of the world will explore Buddhism. This service will look at how the concept enlightenment can help us deepen spiritual practice.

December 5, 2010, 11 a.m.

The Infinite and the Finite

Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen
Musician: Lawrence Minadeo
Artists-in-Residence:

The Possibilitarian Puppet Theater

We are caught between the finite and the infinite. The time before our births and after our deaths is vast and unimaginable. What can we accomplish in finite lives? Knowing our limits may just open up vistas of the possible.

November 21, 2010, 11 a.m.

Thanksgiving: Abundance

Worship Leaders: Rev. Colin Bossen and Nathan Staples, DRE
Musician: Karin Tooley

This year for our annual intergenerational Thanksgiving service we will take up the theme of abundance. Please bring breads and spreads to share after the service.

December 12, 2010, 11 a.m.

What the Scholar Taught

Worship Leader: Rev. Colin Bossen
Musicians: UUSC Choir (Barbara Boyd, Director) and Karin Tooley

Our fourth service in our year long series on the religions of the world will explore Confucianism. This service will look at how the Confucian concepts of order and duty can enrich our lives.

November 28, 2010, 11 a.m.

Reinventing Advent: Preparation, Hope and Expectation

Worship Leaders: Amy Collins, CLL, Steve Doell, Peggy Lagodny, Valerie McFadden, Walter Nicholes, Marie Finigan-Nightengale, and Pat Solomon
Musician: Karin Tooley

We will reflect on a new focus for Advent, incorporating some of the Pagan calendar themes for this time of year. Let us enter into a time that is an acclamation of faith and belief in continuing life. Let us prepare ourselves, as the light fades and the elements begin to push us toward more internal reflection and activities.

Wheelchair Available

The Society has a wheel chair available for use during congregational events.

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.

Notes from our Minister

The mission of our congregation reads: We are a joyful, welcoming, religious community. We strive to be a sanctuary for all who enter, to reflect the diversity of the local community, and to work toward a more just and sustainable society.

This statement both describes who we are as a community and who we are striving to become. One of the more challenging clauses in our mission statement is the one that reads: "We strive...to reflect the diversity of the local community." Cuyahoga County is about 30% people of color. Cleveland Heights is almost 50% people of color. Yet our congregation, including the children and youth in our religious education program, only contains about 10% people of color. We have a lot of work to do if our congregation's membership is to reflect the diversity of the local community.

One of the ways we will be trying to grow the diversity of our congregation over the next year is by incorporating more diverse elements into our worship services. Between now and June the African American dance company Rafiki will be providing liturgical dance elements for two services and The Possibilitarian Puppet Theater, our Artists-in-Residence, will be participating in three services.

Some of the elements that these groups add to our services may strike some of the members of the congregation as unusual or even unsettling. For some of us, adding more diversity to our worship services means going outside of our comfort zones. For others, the additional diversity will make the services more welcoming and attractive. And for still others the addition of different styles and elements to the service won't affect their experience of the service at all.

No matter what your reaction to the new elements that we will be adding to some services is, I hope that you join me in embracing this period of experimentation. I am hopeful that it will help us set the groundwork for diverse growth.

love,
Colin

Treasurer's Report

In September 2010, the UUSC received \$4,433 in pledge contributions. This brings our year-to-date total to \$11,731 towards our annual pledge amount of \$54,155. Collections in September brought in \$149.50 for special collections and \$118 in non-pledge contributions to the general fund. The Society also brought in \$112 in other income during the month of September.

Karin Tooley
karint@ameritech.net

Special Collections & Donations

October 3 Special Collection: UUA/Association Sunday — \$117.00.

Thank you for your generosity!

From Our President

I wanted to take this month's President's column to thank everyone who helped kick off the secondary stewardship campaign and all who were able to participate in the campaign. With everyone's pledges for 2010-2011, we have come closer to meeting our pledge goal of \$77,000.

Every month as a Board member I see the fantastic results of member stewardship, from keeping the building clean, providing child care during service, our songs being sung by our great choir, managing our community garden, to providing transportation to members. The stewardship of our Society provides a loving community for all to participate and grow spiritually. At this past Board meeting each Board member stated the most important gift they receive from the Society. We all overwhelmingly said the gift we receive is being a part of this community.

So, again, thank you to everyone who participated in the secondary stewardship campaign and to all our volunteers and staff. You are a part of creating a community that is a gift to all who walk through our doors. If you have not had the opportunity to make an additional gift to the campaign there is still time. Pledge cards can be found at the back of the sanctuary. Or, if you are interested in volunteering at the Society, please contact Rev. Bossen or myself.

Thank you and have a great November!

Rachel Webb

Long Range Planning Committee

The Long Range Planning Committee is heading into the home stretch on our quest for a new strategic plan! After meeting with the congregation to form a mission statement, a vision statement, and having several other listening exercises, we came up with 5 congressional goals for the next 5-10 years. We are currently working with other committees to fill in the details about how we will work toward those goals. After that, we'll make financial projections, which will lead us to 3 different strategic plans: the "Ferrari" plan, the "Honda" plan, and the "Hyundai" plan, which the congregation will vote on at our annual meeting in April.

Basically, we'll have 3 plans, mostly the same, but with different targets. One will be extremely ambitious, one will involve steady growth, and one will involve sustaining ourselves just as we are. The congregation gets to decide which of the 3 plans to adopt.

Thank you all for your feedback throughout this process. I'm confident that our new strategic plan will help the UUSC continue our mission for many years to come.

Ben Miladin
bmiladin@gmail.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 in the Social Hall.

UUSC News/Announcements

State Certified Volunteer Medicare Counselor Available: If you are a new enrollee to Medicare or have possible changes to your plan and would like some counseling, contact Gerald Hartman at 216-533-9913. There is no charge for counseling.

A Refugee Family in Need: A newly resettled refugee family from Iraq needs winter clothing and bedding. Children and parents need winter jackets, sweaters, pants, gloves, boots, rugs and heavy blankets. Bring items to the Society or call Allie at 216-870-2966 to pick up items at your home.

Reading to Refugees—First Tuesday of each month: We will be going to Green Road to read to the Bhutanese refugees on the first Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be December 7th. If you would like to help by reading to children, helping with homework (especially math and science), or conversing with the adults, please contact Claire Brugnoletti (clairebrugnoletti@comcast.net), Kelsey Fischer (fischer.kelsey@gmail.com), or Reverend Colin (minister@uucleveland.org).

Young Adult Discussion Series—Second Tuesday of each month: Last month the Society began its Young Adult Discussion Series at Algebra Tea House in Little Italy on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Topics will cover spirituality, politics, current events and the ways they intersect. For more information contact Kelsey Fischer at membership@uucleveland.org or 216-932-1898.

An Evening with Lou and Peter Berryman—Friday, November 12: At 8:00 p.m. Lou and Peter will perform at the Society for an evening of song, satire, and social significance. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. No one turned away for lack of funds. (www.brownpaperticket.com).

Circle Suppers—Saturday, November 13: 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.

Spirit Song Circle—Wednesday, November 17: Do you like to sing? A monthly gathering and spiritual practice group that just might be an antidote for information overload—attuning body, mind, heart and spirit. Facilitated by Rev. Mary Grigolia. For more information call 216-539-3784, or email: mary@marygrigolia.com. Fee: Dana (pay what you choose).

Fabulous Fall Fundraiser—Friday, November 19: Silent Auction & Refreshments at 6:30-8:00 p.m. and Live Auction & Performance at 8:00-9:45 p.m. Featuring "Something Dada", Cleveland's Premiere Improvisational Comedy Company where every show is based on audience suggestions and is completely different. Tickets are \$10. Auction Donor Agreement forms are on the events table in the Sanctuary. For more information call 216-932-1898.

Movie Night—Fourth Sunday of each month: The next Movie Night is Sunday, November 28, at 5:00 pm. The movie will be "The 11th Hour", actor Leonardo DiCaprio's documentary about the environmental crisis. For questions, see or email Mary Schatzman: maryschatzman@sbcglobal.net.

This Is Your Brain on Meditation—Wednesday, December 1: This is a continuation of a six series session. The December 1st topic will be "Carrots and Sticks": Explore the brain's tendencies to get stuck on desire. Share practices to calm the grabbing mind, and stimulate peaceful mind. Fee: Dana (pay what you choose). Facilitated by Rev. Mary Grigolia. For more information call 216-539-3784, or email: mary@marygrigolia.com.

12 Days: A Workshop—Sunday, December 5: Would you like meaningful winter holidays? This two hour workshop introduces you to 12 days, a flexible, up-beat, spiritual practice to complement your holiday traditions. See UUSC website for additional information. Facilitated by Rev. Mary Grigolia. For more information call 216-539-3784, or email: mary@marygrigolia.com. Suggested donation is \$15-\$25 (includes materials).

Earth-Centered Spirituality Gathering—December 19: The next meeting will be on Sunday, December 19th at 6:00 p.m. to celebrate the Winter Solstice. More information to follow as the time draws near. Contact Lainey Warren (hockeyfan631@yahoo.com) or Mary Schatzman for more information (maryschatzman@sbcglobal.net).

RE-VIEW

Each month, the Religious Education (RE) team will give you a glimpse into what goes on in RE. If you miss an inter-generational service, or usually attend service upstairs on Sundays, you may not know too much about all RE offers or how it works.

Re-Cap of Covenant Groups / Small Groups

Our nice crop of groups has started. You can contact the leaders to join, or sign-up on the provided sheets on Sundays, after services.

Bicycling Group (The Cycling Fuuls) - Dana Bjorkland, Linda Coulter: Next meeting Sunday, November 14th, 1-3pm, starting at the Society. Dana and Linda will lead participants in 10-20 mile bike rides, some urban and some on bike paths. Eating will also be a prominent feature. Bicycle transportation to some rides may be necessary. November meeting is an organizing meeting. Come prepared to ride. Helmets are required. Email: danabjorklund@gmail.com or lacoultah@gmail.com.

GBLT Discussion Group - Nate Brown, Ellen Fry: 2nd Sunday of each month: Next meeting Sunday, November 14th at 1pm at the Society. Our extremely popular GBLT discussion group will meet again this year but with brand new topics. All are welcome to attend. Come share in food and conversation of topics important to the gay and lesbian community. Email: thepuppetdude@yahoo.com or fry.ellen@gmail.com.

Stand Up Comedy - Nate Brown: 4th Sunday of each month: Next meeting Sunday, November 28th at 1pm at the Society. Have you ever wanted to know how to write and perform a joke? Come join up and coming comic Nate Brown and learn how to write original jokes and perform them in your own voice. Participants will create a short set of original jokes that they will eventually perform in front of the congregation. Email: thepuppetdude@yahoo.com

Movie Night – Mary Schatzman: 4th Sunday of each month: The themes are a variety of social justice issues. We watch the movie quietly, then have some discussion about it. For this group, no need to sign-up or commit: just join us! Next Movie Night is Sunday, November 28 at 5pm. The movie will be "The 11th Hour", actor Leonardo DiCaprio's documentary about the environmental crisis. This 2007 movie paints a portrait of a planet at risk while also offering some exciting and radical solutions for making life on earth sustainable. It stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Mikhail Gorbachev, as well as featuring local environmental teacher David Orr. For eating while watching, brown-bag turkey sandwiches (or whatever you like). For questions, see or email Mary Schatzman: maryschatzman@sbcglobal.net.

September Mini-Goal: Nursery

We've made great progress: the nursery has been re-painted. The Board allotted money for furniture and toys. Coming during the holiday season: a fun way to help stock the nursery with Caldecott (award-winning) children's books. Watch for it!

November Mini-Goal: Helping More Families Discover Our RE Program

Over the summer, the number of children participating in RE programs has increased by one-third! Introducing families to our Religious Education is a good way to increase overall membership. The RE team is going to work again with you on this, using a method successful in other congregations: asking members if they know families who might like to hear about our RE programs. So, expect that, over the next couple months, someone will ask you if you know anyone. If you have any questions about our mini-goals, please contact our Director of Religious Education, Nathan Staples at dre@uucleveland.org or 216-932-1898.

Submitted by Mariamne Ingalls • mariamne@roadrunner.com • 216-291-3038

Kelsey's Corner

We are nine months into the Society's Outreach Plan. The Outreach Plan was created and approved by the Board in January to help the Society reach the annual growth needed to reach financial sustainability (defined as a net gain of 10 members). Here are some highlights of what the Membership Committee and the congregation have accomplished in the last nine months. For a more detailed report, please see the October Board Report.

Outreach to local media outlets has improved, as staff and Membership Committee members distribute press releases and/or articles on special services and other newsworthy events. The Society was mentioned in the media five times in the last year, exceeding its goal of four mentions a year.

In addition to press releases, the Membership Committee has been creating professional-looking posters for its Sunday Forums, special services, and other events. These are distributed around the community and at local universities by committee members and volunteers.

Tabling efforts have also expanded. This summer, the Society organized a table at the Labor Day Peace Show for the first time. Tabling events have brought visitors in the door and increased the Society's visibility in the community.

The Society has also improved programming for community outreach. This includes targeted outreach to Case students through the Society's first College Outreach Plan. The Society began holding a monthly Young Adult Discussion Group at Algebra Tea House in October, the first of which was attended by two young adults who were new to the Society.

In its first nine months, the Society has seen an 18% increase in visitors to the Society. We hope to see this number continue to rise, as many of the efforts mentioned above will likely result in more visitors and members over time.

Current Membership Committee members are Sara Bossen, Mandy Economos, Kelsey Fischer, Seven Harris and Walter Nicholes. The Membership Committee is currently looking for additional committee members to help expand its outreach efforts. If you are interested in finding out how you can help, please see me or any member of the committee.

Thanks,
Kelsey

Puppet Troupe at Home at UUSC

The Possibilitarian Puppet Theater received a warm welcome to the Society as the new Artists in Residence on Friday, October 29, at the first performance of their yearlong residency, "A Life and Death Cabaret", celebrating Halloween. As Artists in Residence, they will be participating in three worship services and offering a puppet work shop for children and youth, as well as a series of evening performances.

After working as full-time company members with the Bread and Puppet Theater, Daniel McNamara, a Cleveland native, and Diana Sette are continuing their work with the Possibilitarian Puppet Theater which was born out of the Vermont-based Bread and Puppet Theater, a politically radical puppet troupe that has been performing since the 1960's. "[Puppetry] includes the arts in all its forms: Music, Sculpture, Painting, Dance, Poetry, Performing, and even advanced cardboard and garbage engineering technology," says Sette.

Their first participation in worship service will be Sunday, December 5. More information to follow.

November 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Reading to Refugees 7 pm	3 Awakening Your Brain to Meditation 7-8:30 pm	4 Shifting Gears 1:30 p.m. Joseph Campbell Round Table 7:30 pm	5	6
7 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am First Sunday Lunch 12:30 pm Membership Com. 12:30 pm	8	9 Algebra Tea House: Young Adult Discussion Group 7 p.m.	10	11	12 Lou & Peter Berryman Cabaret 8:00 pm	13 Circle Suppers (in home) 6:30 p.m.
14 Choir Reh. 9:30 am Newcomer Orient. 1 pm Cycling Fuuls 1 pm GBLT Discussion Grp. 1 pm	15	16 UU RE Committee Mtg. 7 pm	17 Spirit Song Circle 7-8:30 pm	18 Board of Trustees Mtg. 7 pm	19 Fabulous Fall Fundraiser 6:30 p.m.	20
21 Choir Reh. 9:30 am Prime Timers in Fellowship Hall 3:30—6:30 pm	22	23	24	25 OFFICE CLOSED Thanksgiving Holiday	26 OFFICE CLOSED Thanksgiving Holiday	27
28 <i>Beacon Deadline</i> Choir 9:30 am Stand Up Comedy 1 pm Movie Night 5 pm	29	30	1	2	3	4

**THE UNITARIAN
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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

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

Kelsey Fischer
Membership Coordinator

William Shorter
Custodian

Barbara Boyd
Choir Director

Rev. Peggy C. Clason
Minister Emerita



UUSC DEADLINES:

Beacon Articles: Deadline for December is November 28th

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

Miriam Grossman	14
Diane Spiegler	22
Anela Forrest-Brown	26



UUSC Board of Trustees

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

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