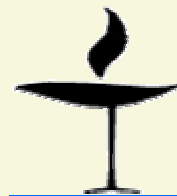


The Steel Chalice

Newsletter of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown, OH
Vol. 64, No. 10 October 2010



Matt's Musings



As you can tell from this newsletter, there's a lot going on here at UUYO! I've even been asked to keep my column short so everything will fit without having to make the type size too small!

It's been a year and a month since I started my ministry with you, and it has been a great year. I've found this to be a kind, welcoming congregation, full of people who genuinely want to work together toward larger ends.

Last Saturday, (September 18) many of the church leadership met with an outside facilitator to review our last year. We found that we are meeting many of the goals we set last year:

- We've grown both in numbers and in energy. The positive, vital feeling at worship and at many other events is palpable. We are also participating in a UUA Growth and Vitality Workshop, which is helping our leadership identify ways we can strengthen congregational life.
- We've developed strong shared ministry in many areas. A great success is the Worship Associates' program, who led compelling worship all summer, easily tripling summer attendance.
- We've increased generosity in both time and money, so that there seems to be more people ready to help in small and large ways; plus, people are giving generously, after making strong pledge commitments during last year's stewardship campaign.
- We've had solid adult education programs with good attendance and will have more. Some are mentioned in this newsletter; look for more in coming weeks.
- We are well on our way toward our All Church Social Justice Project, with three strong proposals

We agreed to extend these five goals into this year; and we've added a sixth, which is to strengthen our children's RE program, led by BeckyAnn Harker, new DRE.

May these goals be beacons in the distance, suggesting but not compelling the direction forward, and may we have the wisdom to trim sail as conditions warrant, so that we may ably head toward that future destination lying always just beyond the horizon.

See you in church! Matt

Our American Roots

Wednesday, October 6, 13, 20, at 7 PM

Many people unfamiliar with Unitarian Universalism are surprised to find out that we have a long history. In America, our history extends to the time of the American Revolution, with some roots extending even to the Pilgrims and Puritans. How did we get from there to here? Using video and other resources, we'll explore this history. This is an ideal class for people new to our church, and long-time UUs will also find it interesting.

Rev. Matt will lead this three-session class. You can attend any sessions or all of them.

Sunday Services -- 11 AM

All are welcome.

October 3: "Fifty Years and Still Going Strong"

Service Leader: Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associate: Kadey Kimpel

Fifty years ago, the Unitarians and the Universalists merged into one association. It's been a good and strong relationship (though maybe we could have come up with a more creative new name than Unitarian Universalist). We'll celebrate this golden anniversary, on this Sunday, which is dedicated to supporting the association and the work we do together with other churches.

October 10: "Unitarian Universalism: a Life Sentence"

Service Leader: Sarah Lown

Worship Associate: Melissa Smith

What is it like growing up Unitarian Universalist? Sometimes we felt like misfits. Other times we were special. This program shares stories about growing up UU in a world of Catholics, Baptists, Episcopalians, Lutherans and Methodists.

October 17: "A Theory of Abundance"

Service Leader: Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associate: Ben Barnes

Is there a connection between an abundant, optimistic attitude toward life and how that life plays out? Some religious traditions suggest the connection is direct; for others it's more complicated. We'll explore how ideas of abundance fit in our own lives. Is there a connection between our hopes and outcome? Do such ideas lead to excess? What of truly "bad times"?

This service is the launch of our stewardship campaign, in which we will be invited to meet and make financial commitments to support the church.

October 24: "Living on the Blue Marble"

Service Leader: Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associate: Margaret Haushalter

Though our world seems very large to us, a different perspective reminds us that it is quite modest, and that life occupies only a thin veneer on its surface. Moreover, we are overusing the few resources within that thin veneer, with the risk of catastrophe looming. How can we live within our environmental means? What are the tradeoffs?

This service follows the Green Leadership conference, on Saturday, in which leaders from many congregations around the district will have explored environmental social justice work.

October 31: "We Are All Future Dead People"

Service Leader: Matt Alspaugh

Worship Associate: Karen O'Malia

One of the surprising attributes of Latin American cultures is the relative comfort with death, especially on November 2, "Día de los Muertos" (Day of the Dead). Sugar skulls and skeletal characters figure prominently, and ancestors are remembered joyfully. You are encouraged to bring a photograph or token "of remembrance" for someone close to you who has died. We will have a brief ceremony to remember them.

Adult Forum—Sundays—9:30 AM

October 3: “The Great Basin”

Lowell and Ellen Satre will talk about their summer in the mountains of Nevada’s Great Basin. A little geography, a little history, a little culture, and slides.

October 10: “Buy Local”

Pat Rosenthal will lead a discussion about jobs for our neighbors, food from our local farmers and producers, and improved health from nutritious food.

October 17: “Barbara Ehrenreich’s *Bright-Sided: How Positive Thinking is Undermining America*”

Peg Tomm will lead a discussion on Barbara’s recent book questioning the value of our culture’s emphasis on positive thinking for solving problems.

October 24:

“Marcellus Shale—What About the Water?”

Energy companies are enthusiastically tapping the Marcellus Shale in neighboring Pennsylvania for huge quantities of natural gas. V&M is expanding its steel mill in Youngstown/Girard to produce pipe for this gas exploitation. But there are major environmental concerns with this drilling process, especially regarding water purity. Jim Converse will lead a discussion on the question: what if we gain natural gas and lose our pure water?

October 31:

“The Supreme Court & the Right to Possess Firearms”

Allen Pierce, Professor of Criminal Justice at YSU, will talk about why the Supreme Court reversed its historical position that the 2nd Amendment to the Constitution did not protect one’s right to possess a fire arm.

Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry consists of six people. We are: Frank Bishop, Diana Burkhart, Roger Jones, Sarah Lown, Marcia Malmer, and Tim Malone. We meet once monthly on the first Wednesday at 6:30 PM. Our purpose is to facilitate the function of any of the other committees/ministries of the Church and to help coordinate the workings of all the committees. To this end, we will be inviting leaders of other committees to join us at one of our meetings to discuss goals and ways that we may help in their achievement.

If you have any ideas that you would like to bring forth, please speak to any of the members of the COM individually, or ask us to set a date when you may meet with the committee as a whole.

News - Members and Friends

Mildred Courtley has moved to an assisted living apartment. Her new address is:

Mildred Courtley
The Heritage at St. Paul’s #324
331 East Jamestown Road
Greenville, PA 16125

Her phone number remains the same.
I’m sure that she would appreciate some cards and notes from her UUYO friends.



Do you know of anyone who is in need of a card or a call? Notify Luanna Jacobs, Chair, Caring Committee at 330.758.4142.

Reflections

The church year is off to a great start. In September, we had two full multi-generational services, so the actual RE curricula will begin in October.

We have some exciting curricula lined up for the children this year. The Young Elementary Group is doing the tried-and-true curriculum called We Believe. It is teaching our younger children about our Seven Principles through stories, songs and activities. They will learn about one Principle each week, and rotate through them three times.

The Intermediate Group will be following a curriculum called Bibleodeon. They will be learning about some of the familiar Bible stories in fun ways. They will use their critical thinking skills to formulate their own thoughts and beliefs about the stories and the lessons the stories are trying to teach.

The children are still looking to find adults who are interested in helping to teach them this year. There are many ways you can help. You can teach, assist the teacher, or watch the really young ones as they play in the Nursery. The more volunteers, the better! Ultimately, we would like to have teachers taking a one-month rotation for the Young Elementary Group, an alternate/assistant teacher for the Intermediate Group, and 4-5 people that can be called on to watch the children in the Nursery (that would work out to only about once a month!) Thanks for all you are willing to do! The children look forward to working with you!

BeckyAnn Harker - email: dre@uuyo.org

Board Happenings

With the beginning of the church year, the Board of Trustees is pleased to welcome BeckyAnn Harker as our new DRE. We look forward to working closely with Becky and wish her well in her new position. In the upcoming months, our church will be undertaking a stewardship campaign, which we hope will allow us to plan for a generous budget in 2011.

This fall, the Board is undertaking two initiatives that will touch the congregation. We are in the process of reviewing and creating policies and procedures that will streamline church operations and provide concrete guidelines for building use, fund raising, personnel matters, and other issues of concern.

We are also excited to announce that we will hold a series of workshops aimed at fostering the growth of leadership skills in our congregation. The workshops are part of a UUA program called Harvest the Power, and will be open to all who want to participate. We will also be recruiting facilitators for the series, so if you thing you are interested as either a facilitator or participant, please let me know.

As always, you can find the full transcript of board meeting minutes on the bulletin board outside the church office. Here's wishing all a pleasant and fellowship-filled church year!

Diane Barnes, Board President.

Building & Grounds Work Party
Saturday, October 16 - 10 AM

Harvest the Power

This fall we will explore our congregation's strength and spiritual development through the UUA's latest personal development curriculum--Harvest the Power.

If you are interested in knowing more about this, please contact Diane Barnes at 330.744.0419 or dbarnes@ysu.edu; or call our minister, Matt Alspaugh, at the church office or minister@uuyo.org.

More information on the curriculum is also available at www.uua.org.

Sunday Presentations

This is just a reminder that the text for Sunday morning presentations are available online at the church's website uuyo.org. Click Recent Sermons.

Women's Alliance Saturday, October 9 - 12:30 PM

We will meet at Antone's at 3551 Belmont Ave.



Coffee House--The Cocoa-Mocha Family Friendly Entertainment



The Welcoming Congregation Committee is sponsoring a Coffee House--"Cocoa-Mocha"--in Channing Hall for all families/friends of our LBG community.

We will meet on Friday, October 15, from 7-10 PM for our "Come Out Dancing" Dance.

Marc Adams' Presentation

At 5:30 PM, Marc Adams, founder of Heartstrong, activist and author of "Understanding Coming Out & Self Acceptance" will give a presentation. Call Marguerite Felice at 330.782.3554 for more information.

Book Discussion Group Wednesday, October 20--7:30 PM

We will discuss Artisan Workers in the Upper South: Petersburg, Virginia, 1820-1865 by Diane Barnes.

In Artisan Workers in the Upper South, Diane Barnes closely examines the relationships between the South's skilled white, free black, and slave workers or mechanics (as they called themselves) and the roles they played in Virginia's emerging market economy in the decades before the Civil War.

Barnes demonstrates that, despite studies that emphasize the backwardness of southern development, modern industry and the institution of slavery proved quite compatible. She rejects the notion of the antebellum South as a semifeudal planter-centered political economy and provides abundant evidence that some areas of the South embraced industrial capitalism and economic modernity as readily as communities in the North.



Dream Group Monday, October 4 - 6-8 PM

This is a chance to explore as a group the insights and messages of our dreams. Bring a dream to share.



If you have questions, contact Liz Hill at liz@lizhill.net.

Stretch & Creative Movement Class Tuesdays--6 - 7:30 PM---Channing Hall

Classes include yoga, stretching, muscle strengthening/toning and creative movement with simple choreography.

Join us and take some time for yourself to focus on posture, breathing and the joy of movement.

Suggested donation to defray costs will be \$20 per month. Call Susan Callen Miracle at 330.759.8215.

Talent Auction Items

Marcia Malmer reminds us of her ongoing offer to do clothing alterations or repairs at a rate of \$10 per hour, paid to the church. Contact her at 330.792.9695.



Ed Goist will be conducting his introduction to wine appreciation class and wine tasting and his introduction to beer appreciation class and beer tasting as Talent Auction items. Both will be held this fall.



Writing Your Life Stories Group

Writing Your Life Stories Group is interested in those wishing to get a start on writing and sharing their life experiences.

This will be a self-led group; writing experience not necessary.

Time/place to be determined as group develops. Call Luanna Jacobs at 330.758.4142 for information.



Be Part of the Worship Team Worship Associates' Meeting October 7 - 5 PM

Worship Associates help create and present our Sunday worship services. As a Worship Associate, you can participate in a wide variety of roles. Some are behind the scenes, researching and selecting readings, even occasional use of film clips and graphics, or chancel decoration. Other roles are out in front, from lighting the chalice, offering readings, to preparing and presenting whole services including the sermon. We're particularly interested in inviting those who've never done this before to join us and grow with us. Youth are especially welcome!

We will plan service themes from November through January. As a Worship Associate, you will have an opportunity to choose which service themes and dates you would like to assist with. If you are new, you can pair with an experienced WA on a service.

Green Leadership Conference -- Saturday, October 23, 2010 - 9 AM - 4 PM

First UU Church of Youngstown, OH

This training is for people who want to make a BIGGER impact. Sponsored by the Ohio-Meadville Leadership Development Team and UU Ministry for Earth. **Keynote Speaker is Dr. David Orr.**

Dr. Orr, is a respected global expert on environmental issues and professor of environmental studies and politics at Oberlin College in Ohio. Leonardo DiCaprio's *The 11th Hour* documentary features Dr. Orr, along with physicist Stephen Hawking, and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Senior member of the advisory committee of the Presidential Climate Action Project, Dr. Orr is a widely-known advocate for earth. He will highlight leadership skills you and your congregation can use now to save our planet.

After an "Ethical Eating" lunch, choose from two workshop tracks:

- Build Green commitment in your congregation: Speakers include Robin Nelson, UUA's Green Sanctuary program leader; Nancy King-Smith, Northeast Ohio leader for UU Ministry For The Earth; and Green congregational leaders.
- Build Green partnerships in your community: Featured in Thomas Friedman's bestseller, *Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution*, Mike Maniates is an environmental science professor at Allegheny College in PA.

Registration Information: Registration fee is \$35 by October 8; \$40 after that. Groups of 3 or more who register **at the same time** save \$5 per person. Some OMD Scholarships are available, contact the district office for details. (Opening the door to Youngstown community people who want to hear Dr. Orr's talk for a \$5 charge.)

Home Hospitality and childcare are available if requested by October 8. We plan to have additional spaces available for the keynote address for congregants and local Youngstown green leaders.

Green Leadership Conference Schedule

- 9:00 Opening words, songs, religious keynote: Rev. Renee Rechotzke & Rev. Matt Alspaugh
- 9:45 Round up of local UU congregation activities
- 10:15 Break and tour of exhibits
- 10:30 David Orr, keynote plus Q&A
- 12:00 Lunch--Ethical eating and tour of exhibits
- 1:00 Leadership Workshops
- 3:00 Break and tour of exhibits
- 3:15 Share/plan next steps
- 3:45 Worship with opening keynote speaker
- 4:00 Finish



October 2010



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
All events are held at the church unless otherwise stated.						
					1	2 Farmers' Market 9 AM
3 UUA Assoc. Sunday Sunday Service 11 AM Adult Forum 9:30 AM	4 Dream Group 6-8 PM	5 S&CM class 6-7:30 PM	6 COM meeting 6:30 PM Our American Roots class - 7 PM	7 Worship Associates' Meeting - 5 PM	8	9 Women's Alliance 12:30 PM--Antone's Treez Please
10 Sunday Service 11 AM Adult Forum 9:30 AM	11	12 Board Meeting 6:30 PM S&CM class 6-7:30 PM	13 Our American Roots class - 7 PM	14	15 Marc Adams 5:30 PM Cocoa Mocha 7-10 PM	16 B&G Work Party 10 AM Dan Gribbin concert 7 PM
17 Sunday Service 11 AM Adult Forum 9:30 AM	18 WPNA meeting 6 PM	19 S&CM class 6-7:30 PM	20 Book Discussion Group 7:30 PM Our American Roots class - 7 PM	21	22	23 OMD Leadership Conference 9 AM - 4 PM
24 Sunday Service 11 AM Adult Forum 9:30 AM	25	26 S&CM class 6-7:30 PM	27	28	29	30
31 Sunday Service 11 AM Adult Forum 9:30 AM						

Treez Please Update



Spring/Summer

We: Got our NEW and IMPROVED website up - treezplease.org (Thanks Lynn Anderson!) Participated in CityScape - planting an elm and straightening a ginkgo in Federal Square (video on website). Planted some new trees on Midlothian Blvd. and replaced a few in Wick Park. Planted two meadows in Brier Hill neighborhood in partnership with Lien Forward, V&M, Jubilee Gardens. Received a \$16,000 WEAN grant for a proposal submitted in March to fund an intern project, creation and implementation of educational workshops and planting 300 trees. Interviewed/hired six TP interns who have been learning about & working on tree planting projects in the Idora Neighborhood, the Oakhill neighborhood & Lincoln Park neighborhood. Weekly get togethers have included a forestry conference, neighborhood surveys, Tree ID, etc.

Summer/Fall

Treez Please Intern Project continues including a trip to some nurseries, attending neighborhood meetings, a Meet and Greet on August 26 where we met with city and other officials and had a dialogue about beginning to form a City Plan for the care, replacement and creation of Urban Forests. We conducted a Tree survey for the entire Lincoln Park Neighborhood. We are now submitting plans to the city, buying and arranging for pick up and storage of over 50 trees, organizing the plantings, etc.

We: Participated in Welcome Week at YSU to generate interest in learning about/volunteering for Treez Please. Hosted children's workshops and were an integral part of the Grey to Green Festival. Submitted letters of support for WEAN Success grant proposals for several upcoming greening projects.

We are Collaborating with Lien Forward on a grant proposal & are planning a fall fundraiser. Details soon. We have been so excited by this Internship project that we want to be able to fund it next year!!! We originally stated that we would hire two interns, but we hired six. We think this is a very important program that needs to be sustainable!

Treez Please Volunteer Opportunities!!

These are the dates for the TP Intern Planting Projects. (Start at 9 AM but are welcome throughout the morning)
Saturday, October 2—Oakhill Kenmore Ave. near St. Patrick's Cathedral
Saturday, October 9—Lincoln Park (The Blvd. down the center of Lincoln Park Blvd.)
Saturday, October 16—Idora Neighborhood - Parkview Ave. (about 2 1/2 blocks down on south side of the street)

Talent Auction Item: The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe

The next Jack Brizzi-sponsored theater party will be at the Kent State Theater's fall production of the award-winning, one-woman show which featured Lily Tomlin in The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe and stars UUYO member Donnagene Palmer

On Friday, October 15, we will meet at Enzo's Restaurant on Elm Rd. for dinner at 6 PM and on to the show at 8 PM at Kent Trumbull. You can bring significant other. Sign-up list in Channing Hall or see Jack or call 330.392.3157.

Tara Dance

Immerse your body, speech and mind in meditation through simple, powerful dance and chanting. The Mandala Dance of the 21 Praises of Tara has been taught all over the world.

Cost: Students \$5, Adults \$10 (per session) Date: Oct. 10
Time: 12-2 PM - Place: Fellows Riverside Gardens
Contact Julie Thomas at jethomas@ysu.edu or 330.941.1735.

A Touch of Musical Magic—Sat., Oct. 16-7 PM

Florida folk troubadour Dan Gribbin will present an evening of song combining his original music with singalong opportunities--folk favorites by James Taylor, Joni Mitchell, Tom Paxton, Paul Simon, Pete Seeger and others. The theme of the evening will be the wonderful effects on our soul and on our community of shared creativity. Come to the Church. Bring your instrument, bring your voice, bring your creative self.

General Assembly----Minneapolis, Minnesota

This past June Jack Brizzi and I attended another wonderful convention of U.U. congregations. This was my 5th and Jack's 20th. The city of Minneapolis is very modern and vibrant with something for everyone. The attractions are numerous, and I only had a chance to document a few which you can view in the photo collage in Channing Hall. Like the previous four G.A.'s, there are certain highlights that stick out for me. One personal one was a chance to visit with two former youth group students of mine, Nick Mason and Erin Lauderman, who are now married with a new baby girl. Nick and Erin are not members of any UU church in the area but are thinking of joining one to give their daughter some liberal religious education. Another big moment for me was being interviewed by the local PBS affiliate for the program "Speaking of Faith" on the topic "What it means to be a Unitarian Universalist." At first I was nervous; but as I thought about answering the question, I realized how important it is for each of us to articulate what we are about since our worldview is not the norm. It's important that we give a clear answer and not confuse ourselves or others. The way I see it, if you profess something, be proud of it.

Now for a few facts about the convention. There were 3868 attendees, 1909 delegates from all 50 states, 2 Canadian provinces, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands. In attendance were also UUs from Mexico, Germany, Transylvania and Hungary, along with a Japanese High Priest, a Buddhist minister from NYC and a Holdeen Organization (Woman's Employment) representative from India.

Apart from the two-day workshop on virtues by minister Guengrich, some other memorable moments were the Ware Lecture given by Wynona Laduke, an American Indian from MINNESOTA who also ran for vice-president with Ralph Nader a few years ago. She had a powerful message about the true history of our nation and the fallacy of Christian discovery doctrine. Ms. Laduke had interesting things to say about the we can insure that our country moves in the right direction to protect the earth and its citizens from unnecessary harm. Someone else who had an urgent message was our president, Peter Morales, who urged UUs to be more welcoming to strangers and to understand that for us to grow as a liberal religion, we must meet people where they are and that their path to Unitarian Universalism may be different than ours; but they are still worthy of that human connection that we are capable of giving them. Basically what Mr. Morales stated is that we ourselves are the main reason we as a denomination have remained small and until we stop insisting on doing things the old way or no way, we will remain nothing more than an insulated social club for ourselves. I, like the president, think we are better than that; and our long history proves this. Peace, Jim Rogers

PS "And of all the plagues with which mankind are cursed ecclesiastic tyranny's the worst." Daniel Defoe

First Unitarian Universalist Church

of Youngstown
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

1105 Elm St.
Youngstown, OH 44505 330-746-3067

Office@uujo.org www.uujo.org

Time Dated Material

Staff:
Rev. Matt Aispough, Consulting Minister
BeckyAnn Harker, Religious Education Director
Diane Thomas, Church Administrator

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LEADERS:

Board Members
Diane Barnes, President
Karen Stangl, Vice President
Joan Bushey, Secretary
Joshua Corrette-Bennett, Treasurer
Larry Wire, Trustee
Tim Raridon, Trustee
Jim Rogers, Trustee
Steve Oravec, Finance Chair

Committee Chairpersons
Martin Berger, Building & Grounds
Luanna Jacobs, Caring
Lowell Sate, Endowment
Betsy Johnquest, Hospitality and Membership
Pat Rosenthal, Nominating
Gerard Kelly & Susie Beiersdorfer, Social Action
Judy Stone & Melissa Smith, Sunday Services
Diana Shaheen, Welcoming Congregation
Margaret Haushalter, Women's Alliance
Karen O'Malia, Worship Associate Coordinator

Mission Statement

Our Mission is to build a diverse and transformative spiritual community, help people live lives of wholeness, and promote justice, peace, and religious freedom.

Unitarian Universalist Association Principles and Purposes

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalists Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

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