

Sunday, June 12, 2005

LOVE UNITES

MY WEAPONS ARE PEACEFUL

MORNING SERVICE -- 11:00 AM

Nancy Boutillier, Service Leader

The focus of this service will be on art, activism and poetry as a spiritual practice. Nancy Boutillier is Chair of the Fellowship's Religious Education committee and teaches in the Sunday School.

All are welcome.

POETRY AS A RESPONSE TO WAR

FELLOWSHIP FORUM -- 9:30 AM

Forum Leader: Nancy Boutillier

The focus of this Forum will be on the work of "Voices In Wartime" and "Arlington West." All are welcome.

SECOND SUNDAY

The Second Sunday collection for June will go to the Mitchell's Plain Math Project (MPMP). To direct a check to MPMP make it out to O.U.U.F. and write "Second Sunday" or "MPMP" on the memo note line. Our Treasurer will send along a consolidated check. Checks to O.U.U.F. without a memo note will go to the Fellowship. Loose cash and change will also go to MPMP unless put in an envelope marked for the Fellowship.

MISSION

The Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship mission is to promote religious freedom with responsibility, to support each other with compassion, and to serve peace with justice.

Love Unites is a local educational action coalition organizing to support family, commitment and caring where it exists in our town, state, and nation. The recent enactment of the so-called "Ohio Marriage Amendment" (Issue 1) throws into question the civil rights and legal status of many couples and families in the state of Ohio. Love Unites is a community group whose mission is to work toward a society in which all committed loving partnerships -- married or unmarried, gay, lesbian and straight -- are given equal status in the eyes of the community and under the law.

The aim of Love Unites is to raise awareness of the harm done to individuals, couples, and entire families when second-class status is conferred upon some relationships/families when the government offers a variety of benefits through marriage while creating discriminatory and narrow definitions of marriage.

Love Unites celebrates diversity and urges others to join in recognizing that America's strength in diversity can only be achieved if differences are truly respected. The Ohio that we hope to build offers "liberty and justice for all."

Love Unites publishes *The Love Letter*, an email feature by Nancy Boutillier <Nboutillier@oberlin.net>.

COVENANT

We the members and friends of the Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship covenant to live together in our quest for truth, love, social justice, and environmental responsibility. In this spirit of caring fellowship, we offer our combined gifts and resources.

Sunday, June 19, 2005

**A LETTER TO MY FATHER:
1942, AN UNEXPECTED FAREWELL
IN COMPIEGNE**

MORNING SERVICE -- 11:00 AM

Mathis Szykowski, Service Leader

Fathering is complex and our relationships with our fathers are not always easy, nor without pain or regret. Mathis Szykowski's father was interned for more than a year at Compiegne before his deportation to a Nazi concentration camp. Mathis, Emeritus Associate Professor of French, has taught many courses at Oberlin College and elsewhere about the Holocaust. Now, to commemorate Father's Day, he will share with us a letter to his father.

All are welcome.

DRUMMING FOR DAD'S DAY

FELLOWSHIP FORUM -- 9:30 AM

Rudd Crawford, Forum Leader

This hour will be a drumming session. Drumming is an ancient way to honor and invite the Ancestors. Everyone is invited to bring their own drums or other percussion instruments. Rudd Crawford is a math teacher who developed a math instruction improvement program in South Africa, and has led Fellowship Forums in the past.

All are welcome.

REFRESHMENTS

If you would enjoy sometimes bringing refreshments on Sunday morning please see Margaret Medina or sign up on the Refreshment Sheet. Likewise if you can help Margaret set up or wash up, please sign the Team Poster. Margaret, because of her work schedule, can only do the actual setup every other week.

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
COMPLETES MINISTRY EVALUATION**

Based on the responses of 25 friends and members, 14 Kendalites, and 12 RE parents, the COM has completed its annual assessment of ministry at OUUF. The response rate was lower than last year, and represents a relatively committed group of people (contributing 4.4 hours/week to OUUF). Thus the results below reflect the opinions of those active in OUUF, but necessarily those who are more tangentially involved.

We asked several questions about each of the 3 parts of our mission: promoting of religious freedom, building compassionate community, and working towards social justice. All three areas were evaluated more highly this year than last year, with social justice showing the greatest improvement. Respondents also indicated a high level of commitment to our mission and covenant, with an average rating of 4.5 (out of 5).

The CLL and DRE were also evaluated quite positively. Barbara is seen as an especially effective service leader, a knowledgeable resource about UU history, and an important part of fulfilling our mission and covenant. The RE program had notable success this year in teaching respect for self and others, providing developmentally appropriate curricula, and making RE a place to which children are eager to go.

A separate questionnaire was provided to those who attend Kendal services, to identify their priorities in a professional minister. Having religiously-informed discussions, building UU community, and feeling connected to OUUF were identified as their highest priorities.

The full report is available online at OUUF.org, or from Cindy Frantz (electronic or paper form).

Sunday, June 26, 2005

GREAT POETRY READ-IN

MORNING SERVICE -- 11:00 AM

Laura Huth and Andy Frantz
Service Leaders

We celebrate our last service of the Fellowship year by sharing terrific poems. OUUFers and friends are invited to share their favorite poems -- serious, funny, seasonal, eternal, spiritual, earthy. Bring poems to share or come to listen and enjoy. All are welcome.

INGATHERING OF IDEAS

FELLOWSHIP FORUM -- 9:30 AM

Megan Schief, Moderator

This forum is the counterpart to the annual poetry read-in. Everyone is encouraged to bring an idea to share, perhaps in the form of a news item, a quote, or your own thoughts. Ideally, it should be something thought-provoking and rather brief. We will take turns sharing these ideas, responding to one another, and discussing topics that emerge. All are welcome.

PROGRAMS FROM THE PEWS

A large and important part of the Sunday morning program is provided by us, the members and friends of OUUF. Do you harbor a potential topic for a sermon or forum? Let's try to realize it! Hymns, readings, music, etc. can be furnished by the Program Committee. Contact Barbara Fuchsman, <bafuchsman.oberlin.net> or 774-1804.

**Agenda for Board Meeting
June 2, 2005 at 7:00 p.m at The
Boys and Girls
Club at 7:00 pm**

Opening Words
Minutes of April Meeting
Treasurer's Report
DRE report
CLL Report

Committee Reports:
Space Committee
Social Action Team
Membership Team
Program Committee

Old Business: Letter to Rod

New Business: Finalize Agenda for
Congregational Meeting June 5th

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

O Dear, O Dear, what happened to our May Birthdays? We hope that you all had wonderful celebrations on your special days, and Darlene apologizes for the computer glitch. Cheers for: Elizabeth Aldrich, Dalin Frantz, Jo Huber, Janet Hutchinson, Chris Martin, David Miller, Eddie Miller, Eric Tucker.

In June we are busting out all over with great birthdays for: Sharron Bittner, Schuyler Coleman, Cindy Frantz, Gus McKee, Emily Rasmussen, Matthew Rasumssen, Colin Styer, Peg Tucker, Charlotte Peters-Vermue, Maya Peters-Vermue. May your birthdays bring you the joys of summer.

FAIR TRADE TEA

Fair Trade Tea is available at \$5.50/box from Cindy Frantz <cindy.frantz@oberlin.edu> or 774-2374.

SUMMER INSTITUTE 2005

The Ohio-Meadville District Summer Insitute will be held July 10-16 at Kenyon College in Gambier, OH. The theme of SI 2005 is *Building Faith: What's in Your Toolbox?* and the theme speaker will be Rabbi David M Horowitz of Akron. For more information check the Institute website at <www.omdsi.org>.

Summer Institute is created by a group of volunteers committed to providing a multi-generational, multi-experiential week with things to do to satisfy every known Unitarian Universalist taste, on a flat campus, with pretty good food and great conversations.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A Meeting of Congregations of the UUA June 23 - 27, 2005 in Fort Worth, Texas

"General Assembly is the coming together of the delegates of our Unitarian Universalist congregations to do the business of the Association: to make real the covenant that binds us. We want to use our time at GA to shape the direction for our future, to witness to our values, and to forge the relationships that are at the heart of our faith. We want to invite you to join us from June 23 to 27 in Fort Worth, Texas. Make your plans now. We need to see you in Fort Worth this June." The Rev. William G. Sinkford, President, UUA

Isn't it too late?

If you haven't yet registered, you may pre-register until June 10 or register onsite in Fort Worth at the same rates. GA registration materials are at <www.uua.org/ga/reg.html>. Adult full-time registration is \$305. The UUA is offering reimbursement of up to \$260 to Congregational Presidents.

By sending its leadership to GA, a congregation makes an investment in itself. GA is an opportunity to give one's congregation a voice in the Association. There are numerous opportunities to learn information that will benefit the delegate and his/her congregation. A myriad of workshops on topics including religious education, growing healthy and relevant congregations, leadership, stewardship and hospitality will be presented. General Assembly business encompasses a wide range of issues from civil liberties and gay rights to peace and racial justice. GA is an opportunity to share ideas and experiences in effective congregational advocacy, organizing, education, service, and public witness as well as participate in the Association's work toward inclusiveness and diversity, multiculturalism, anti-racism and anti-oppression.

Where do I stay?

For housing, first try the GA Housing Bureau at 888+221-9425 or www.uua.org/ga/housing.html. Even if you aren't able to find space in the GA housing block, plenty of affordable housing opportunities remain.

In June 2003, the General Assembly of the UUA selected "Criminal Justice and Prison Reform" as the issue suggested to congregations for two years of study, action, and reflection. The Commission on Social Witness has placed a draft Statement of Conscience on the final agenda of the 2005 General Assembly.

GREEN JOURNAL

CARING COMMITTEE

The April/May issue of *Mother Earth News* contains an article about heat pumps, a home heating and cooling technology that taps the free energy of heat in the air, water or ground, and cut your home heating/cooling bills by up to 70%.

The exact technology that's best for a home depends on local geology, the size of your lot, whether you are retrofitting an existing house or starting afresh while building a new one, and what priority you place on being eco-friendly, energy efficient and cost effective.

The heat pump uses the same physics as a refrigerator, to move heat from one place to another even if the shift is thermally "uphill" from a cooler to a warmer environment (your fridge removes heat from its interior and transfers it to the room it's in). Even cold water, earth or air has a heat content that can be extracted. That takes an expenditure of energy, but the savings over conventional heating and cooling is impressive.

Web resources are plentiful. One place to start is the magazine itself at <www.MotherEarthNews.com>.

The OUUF Caring Committee has been revived.

Members seek to offer limited pastoral care to OUUF members and Kendal UUs, such as visits to UUs in nearby hospitals, and occasional visits to UU shut-ins, including those residing in the Stephens Care Center at Kendal.

We ask your help in making us aware of those who might appreciate such visits.

Limited assistance in offering rides for medical appointments also is offered. The Caring Committee observes birthdays in each issue of the Chalice and sends cards to OUUF members & friends in cases of illness, births, sympathy or other important life events.

If you need help or know of someone in OUUF needing help, please call the OUUF phone number, 440+371-1345, and a member of the Caring Committee will return your call. Members of the committee include Eleanor Helper, LD Moore, Darlene Krato, John Marshall and Joan Webster.

OUUF

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Published by
Oberlin Unitarian
Universalist Fel-
lowship: member,
Unitarian Univers-
alist Association
and Ohio-Meadville
District thereof.

Member: Oberlin Area Cooperating Ministries.
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