

Sunday, May 14, 2006

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
IN POOR COUNTRIES**

FELLOWSHIP FORUM – 9:30 AM
Ed Miller, Forum Leader

Dr. Miller, a member of OUUF for 8 years and a member of the American Holistic Medical Association, will present a slide-show about the deplorable status of reproductive health in financially poor countries. Over 600,000 women die in childbirth each year, 95% preventable with inexpensive interventions. This silent epidemic is an embarrassment to our human race, but the causes of it are multifactorial and daunting. On this Mother's Day we should remind ourselves of the problem and recommit ourselves to being a part of the solution. All are welcome.

**FLOWER CELEBRATION
With Welcome for New Members**

MORNING SERVICE – 11:00 AM
Barbara Fuchsman, Service Leader

Through communion using flowers, the unique UU Flower Communion celebrates awe, purpose and beauty. Between the World Wars, Czech Unitarian leader Rev. Norbert Capek invented the service to be satisfying to people of many different backgrounds and beliefs. New members will be welcomed as a part of this celebration. Barbara Fuchsman is a UU Commissioned Lay Leader in training. **EVERYONE IS INVITED TO BRING A FLOWER!** All are welcome.

SECOND SUNDAY

Second Sunday Collection for May will go to the Boys & Girls Club (BGC). To direct a check to BGC make it out to O.U.U.F. and write "Second Sunday" or "BGC" on the memo line. Our Treasurer will send along a consolidated check. Checks to OUUF without a memo line will go to the Fellowship. Loose change and cash will also go to BGC unless put in an envelope marked for the Fellowship.

Religious Education (continued)

Norbert Capek strongly believed in the worth and dignity of **every** person and this service emulates that belief. Like flowers, none of us are alike yet each has something to add of value. Each created bouquet of flowers forms a unique beauty of their own, more stunning together than perhaps alone. Capek blessed the flowers with these words, (though we may choose differently):

Infinite Spirit of Life, we ask thy blessing on these, thy messengers of fellowship and love. May they remind us, amid diversities of knowledge and of gifts, to be one in desire and affection, and devotion to thy holy will. May they also remind us of the value of comradeship, of doing and sharing alike. May we cherish friendship as one of thy most precious gifts. May we not let awareness of another's talents discourage us, or sully our relationship, but may we realize that, whatever we can do, great or small, the efforts of all of us are needed to do thy work in this world.

After a homily each person then returned to the vessel and withdrew a flower other than the one they brought. This act symbolized a voluntary acceptance of another's differences and beauty.

The Flower Communion honors birth, creativity, life, tolerance, community, individuality and even sacrifice of death with the plucking of the flower from its bed. I am also aware of the unjust death Capek suffered in a Nazi concentration camp, which adds further potency to flower ritual.

Norbert Capek led the first flower communion in Prague on June 2, 1923. Before the US entered the Second World War, his wife, Maja, also an ordained Unitarian minister, led the first American flower communion in Cambridge, Mass. This is a tradition truly unique to Unitarian Universalists, and one celebrated by almost all congregations! *[continued ➔]*

Sunday, May 21, 2006

**CHANGE AND STAGNATION,
PROGRESS AND MISERY**

FELLOWSHIP FORUM – 9:30 AM

Mathis Szykowski, Carol Graham

Mathis Szykowski and Carol Graham have recently returned from their third trip to India. They will reflect upon both the conditions of this great country and how they have been affected personally by their visits there. Mathis and Carol are long-time OUUFers and program presenters. All are welcome.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CELEBRATION

MORNING SERVICE – 11:00 AM

Kim Peters, Nancy Boutilier

Join the children in our religious education program as they share some significant gleanings from their year of studying a wide range of religious traditions. We will also acknowledge the contributions of our RE teachers!! Kim Peters is OUUF Director of Religious Education; Nancy Boutilier is RE Committee Chair. All are welcome.

**ORIGINAL MOTHER'S DAY
PROCLAMATION**

See the last page of *The Chalice*.

LEARN ABOUT US

Curious about Unitarian Universalism? Like to know more about the Oberlin UU Fellowship? Come to orientation gatherings at 12:15 p.m. after the service. **April 30**—UU History with CLL in-training Barbara Fuchsman; **May 7**—about OUUF with Barbara and Board Chair, Jo Huber. These small group meetings will be at the Oberlin Early Childhood Center. They are sponsored by the Membership Team. Please bring a bag lunch. All interested are welcome.

Religious Education (continued)

Please bring a flower and join us as we honor the earth and each other in our Flower Communion on Mother's Day, May 14.

Nameste,
Kim Peters,
Director of Religious Education

**COVENANT GROUP
PROGRAM EXPANDING**

The Covenant Group is dividing into more than one group. Now is a good time to get involved. Everyone is welcome. Interested? Contact group facilitators Barbara Fuchsman or Karina Leppik. In these small discussion groups, build shared understanding, provide and receive support. Would you like to really connect with friends, discuss issues of the day, larger life issues? The group is open and new members are warmly welcomed.

SHAMANIC DRUMMING

Drumming Journeymen meet monthly to journey and share insights. The next meeting will be Friday, May 5, at 8:00 p.m. at the common room at 95 E. Vine Street. Shamanic journeying is a time-honored tool for accessing an altered state of consciousness, much like a dream state, for spiritual guidance and healing. On this particular occasion, the drumming will be recorded. Please contact Carol Wilde for information.

BED & BREAKFAST

B&B hosts are needed for Commencement Weekend (Memorial Day Weekend). If you can help, or if you have questions about being a B&B host, please call the B&B coordinator Jo Huber.

Sunday, May 28, 2006

**TORTURE BY THE U.S.:
CAN WE FACE THE FACTS/**

FELLOWSHIP FORUM -- 9:30 AM

Don Hultquist, Guest Leader

Don Hultquist is an Emeritus Professor from the University of Michigan Medical School and an Affiliate Scholar at Oberlin College, studying therapeutic uses of antioxidants. For the past two years he has worked to form and strengthen Oberlin Community Peace Builders (CPB). Among the CPB projects he personally has initiated is an on-going effort to make more visible the extent to which torture has been incorporated into the foreign policy of our country, with little outcry from its citizenry. All are welcome.

NONVIOLENCE EMPOWERMENT

MORNING SERVICE – 11:00 AM

Karina Leppik, Barbara Fuchsman,
Mathis Szykowski, Megan Shief.

Is violence ever necessary? Sometimes there don't appear to be many other options, and the human tendency to strike out can be overpowering. But there have always been people who don't think that violence is the answer, and on Memorial Day we will explore the tradition of nonviolence. From anti-war protests to conscientious objectors to combating violence in daily life, we will hear stories about nonviolence empowerment. All are welcome.

O.U.U.F MISSION AND COVENANT

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

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 the spirit of caring fellowship, we offer our combined gifts and resources.

MAY KENDAL GATHERING

Discussion of *Welcome to the Ecozoic Era*
by Amy Hassinger

Barbara Fuchsman, moderator

Wednesday, May 17, 4:15 p.m.

Whittier Lounge, Kendal at Oberlin

The feature article in the Spring 2006 issue of *The UU World* offers a new vision of reality, evolution, and the divine. Amy Hassinger describes the work of the husband and wife team Michael Dowd and Connie Barlow, who are spreading the good news that science and religion stand together. In the article discussed in April, Paul Bloom insists that science and religion are antithetical. Do we agree, in light of Dowd and Barlow's work to revision the way we understand the Wonder of Evolution? Copies of the article will be available from Jane Eddy. All are welcome.

CARING COMMITTEE

The OUUF Caring Committee invites members and friends to notify them of significant life events in the personal lives of members & friends, such as hospitalizations, serious illness, assistance in getting medical help, important accomplishments, birthdays, etc. We can be reached at 440+935-3812.

FELLOWSHIP DIRECTORY

Copies of a new Friends' and Members' Directory are available to all who want one. Please contact Virginia Erdy for a copy.

HAPPY HOUR RETURNS AT PRESTIS

on Friday, April 28, at 5:00 p.m. for a nice afternoon/evening with UU friends.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Oberlin UU Fellowship All Congregational Meeting, Friday, April 28, 7:30 P.M. at Oberlin Early Childhood Center. The meeting agenda will include proposals for professional leadership for next year as well as years to come. All informational; no votes. Friends of OUUF welcome! The evening will include refreshments and good conversation.

MAY TRUSTEES' MEETING

Agenda for Board of Trustees Meeting
7:30 p.m. May 3, 2006
Oberlin Early Childhood Center
All Are Welcome
Opening Words
Estimate total meeting time
Approval of April Minutes
Treasurer's Report
Report about duties for volunteer administrator--Virginia Erdy
DRE report
CLL report
Committee on Ministry Report
Nominating Committee Report
Space Committee Report
Report of OMD annual meeting; Highlights of business that might affect OUUF -- L.D. Moore

Old Business:

New Business

- 1) Set budget for 2006-2007 fiscal year to be voted on by congregation at annual meeting.
- 2) Adopt a proposal for hiring professional leadership for coming year to be voted on by the congregation at annual meeting..
- 3) Appoint delegate to UUA General Assembly

Committee reports:

Finance committee report of canvass plans for May 7th.
Membership
Program
Finance

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Green Sanctuary Task Force: usually meets at 7:15 p.m. at Kendal. Check the Sunday Announcements for the May date.

Program Committee: Tues., May 2, at 4:00 p.m. at Megan Schief's.

Religious Education Team: Thurs, May 11, 2-3:30p.m., L.D. Moore's.

AUTO-REPAIR CO-OP

The Auto-Repair Co-op is a project started by the Oberlin Design Initiative that offers discounts on parts and services and free educational Auto Repair Clinics to its members. Membership is available on a sliding scale: \$75/year for middle-and-upper income residents; \$50/year for moderate-income residents; and \$25/year for low-income residents. The educational clinics will be held twice per month on topics ranging from basic maintenance to fixing brakes. Parts and retail items will be available to members at cost, and labor costs will be discounted if members assist with repairs. Initial membership will be limited to 30 people. The contact person for the Co-op is Avery Book, who can be reached at 775-5050 or avery.book@gmail.com.

SOCIAL HOUR

Rescue Margaret from Dumpster diving! During Social (Half) Hour refreshments, please use the Recyclables Container (paper bag) provided next to the Refreshment Table in the Lobby. Many thanks!

HELP OUT, PLEASE

Please sign up to bring food for refreshments, or to bring flowers for the sanctuary. Signup sheets are in the lobby.

OUUF

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Julia Ward Howe was a Unitarian poet and peace activist. Below is a copy of her Mother's Day Proclamation, published in 1870. Mother's Day started as a protest of the carnage of the American Civil War, by mothers who had lost sons in that conflict.

Mothers' Day Proclamation: Julia Ward Howe, Boston, 1870

Arise, then, women of this day! Arise all women who have hearts, whether our baptism be that of water or of fears!

Say firmly: We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience.

We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs. From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says "Disarm, Disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."

Blood does not wipe our dishonor nor violence indicate possession. As men have often forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead.

Let them then solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after their own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God.

In the name of womanhood and of humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality may be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace.