

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTES

Hello! I cannot believe that we are in November and that we have almost completed our first semester of Sunday mornings together. We have had many exciting and thoughtful times together, and both teachers and students have learned much from one another. I also hope that the members of the fellowship have enjoyed the forums that the RE classes have led; they have provided many opportunities for our children and youth to share what they have learned and what is important to them. Thank you all for your continued support.

We will finish the calendar year by working as a large group; we will explore together what the classes have meant to all of us, and we will look for ways to become involved and to involve others in our lives to be more earth-conscious. We will be involved in service projects that will reflect our interest in recycling and keeping our environment clean and green. We welcome the members of the fellowship to join us in our service to the community, and will let you know of the opportunities to work alongside our children and youth as they become available.

The participants in the RE program will also be learning about and sharing with the fellowship the “Guest At Your Table” program. I am looking forward to sharing with the children the history and significance of this UUA program. I am sure that they will want to share what they learn with all of you as well; we look forward to being with you at our Fellowship’s special Bread Service this month. As always, thank you for your continued encouragement of the Fellowship’s RE program; your ideas, thoughts and observations are always welcomed – and please remember, *you* are always welcome to join us Sunday mornings!

Shelly Rasmussen, IDRE

Sunday, November 12, 2006

A SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY

FELLOWSHIP FORUM – 9:30 AM

Virginia Erdy, OUUF Treasurer

Did you know UUs are the lowest contributors to their church compared to most others? Did you know some believe UUism is in danger of extinction? Is UUism mainly an intellectual and social group? If it is, can there be fervor? Can there be personal sacrifice for financial contribution? Can there be generous contributing? Virginia Erdy, a retired high school science teacher, is the Fellowship's Treasurer. All are welcome.

NOT TWO: UUism AND BUDDHISM

MORNING SERVICE – 11:00 AM

Rev Wayne Arnason, Guest Minister

There is a growing interest in Buddhism in UU congregations. How do these two faith traditions differ and how much do they hold in common?

Reverend Wayne Arnason has been the parish co-minister at the West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church since 2000, and has been in parish ministry for thirty years. He currently serves on the UU Buddhist Fellowship Board of Trustees and is a student of Buddhist practice at Zen Mountain Monastery. All are welcome.

SECOND SUNDAY

Second Sunday Collection for September will go to the Santa Elena Project of Accompaniment (SEPA). To direct a check to FP make it out to O.U.U.F. and write "Second Sunday" or "SEPA" 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 SEPA unless put in an envelope marked for the Fellowship.

SILENT AUCTION

Attention: We need volunteers to join the Silent Auction Committee. Jo Huber will chair the committee. Jo has ideas from other congregations and past years, so we have ideas to put together. The Board has not set a date, but we need organizational time. Hopefully, we can have the silent auction in early February. It will be fun to plan and do, so---join the fun!!! Call Jo Huber 774-2062 or sign up at the Fellowship on Sunday mornings.

LIVING THE LIVING TRADITION

On last spring's OUUF program survey, 95% of you said it is important to have programming on social justice issues of current interest. But the Program Committee needs your help. What social justice issues would you like to know more about? Do you have expertise, experience or other resources that would be helpful in bringing about such programming? If so, please contact Barbara Fuchsman, or another member of the Program Committee.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Madeline Geitz, Kerry Langan, Nate Stillwagner, Raymond Stillwagner and Egan Taylor's birthdays open "The Holiday Season". Good Cheer to each of you on your special day.

DRUMMING JOURNEYERS meet monthly to journey and share insights, on the first Friday of the month, Nov. 3, 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. The altered state is achieved by listening to a rapid drumbeat, approximately 4 beats per second. Please contact Carol Wilde (774-9089 or <cwildeflower@aol.com>) for information about this group.

CLL NOTES

Finally, I am sitting at my computer this wet afternoon, Sunday, October 22. What an eventful weekend this has been! Peggy Clason's service this morning was wonderful—a true smash hit celebrating the “what how, where, when and who of the Unitarian Universalist religion.” Right away, people asked her if they might have a copy of her sermon, and she has agreed to send me a copy. I am especially happy because, in spite of an excellent turnout, a good many of us who often attend were not able to be there due to illness or long-planned travels. Now, if you let me know you would like a copy, I will be sure you have one.

This morning was particularly joyful for me because at the beginning of the service Peggy, who is a member of the Ohio Meadville District's Commissioned Lay Leader (CLL) Committee, announced to the Fellowship that, the day before, I had passed my interview with the committee and am now a full fledged CLL. We will explore what this commitment means when we make a mutual covenant on November 5. In the meantime --What a Perfect Day for a fun potluck! Thank you, Kelly Harris, for getting potlucks going again.

And Heads Up, Everyone, the next potluck will be for breakfast on the Sunday after Thanksgiving before Andy Frantz's Music Sharing Service. That promises to be another special day.

To return to the CLL Committee, I thought you might be interested to know more about this committee and the Ohio Meadville District (OMD). The Unitarian Universalist Association is divided into regional Districts that provide services to the congregations within their districts. The Ohio Meadville District includes 46 congregations in Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and western New York. The district's business is managed by an elected Board of Trustees. If you are curious about the district, they have an excellent Website <http://omd.uua.org/>. Important OMD committees include the CLL, Lifespan Faith Development, Social Justice, Young Adults, and LREDA.

Yesterday, I was interviewed by five people, the chairperson, the Rev. Susan Ritchie from Lewis Center, Ohio, and representatives from Youngstown, Columbus, Southwest UU Church in Berea, and Peggy from eastern Cleveland. They wanted to know a lot about what we have been doing here at Oberlin in the past two years. They were especially encouraging of my work with the Membership Team and my Interfaith work with the Oberlin Area Cooperating Ministries here in Oberlin. They were excited to learn about the Fellowship's efforts to become a Green Sanctuary congregation and a Welcoming Congregation. Clearly, they believe we will gain from actions we take out into the community. Elizabeth Aldrich's Green column this month is telling about things the Fellowship is already doing. Let's put on our thinking caps for new projects and keep up the good work.

Barbara Fuchsman, Commission Lay Leader

Sunday, November 19, 2006

**MERCURY IN THE ENVIRONMENT
AND IN YOUR FOOD**

FELLOWSHIP FORUM – 9:30 AM

Matthew Elrod, Guest Speaker

Methylmercury is a dangerous compound building up in sea life we like to eat. Mercury is especially dangerous to pregnant women and young children. Oceana, an environmental organization, has organized a Seafood Campaign to give people the facts about how to protect their families from mercury and to ask them to take action to help get that information out to others. The Green Sanctuary Task Force will be showing the Oceana DVD "Mercury, Seafood and You" and has invited Associate Professor of Chemistry Matthew Elrod to provide a broader perspective on mercury in the environment and to help answer questions provoked by the video. Matt, who studies atmospheric pollutants, teaches "Chemistry and the Environment" at Oberlin College. All are welcome.

**IN PRAISE OF BREAD:
CELEBRATION FOR THE SUNDAY
BEFORE THANKSGIVING**

MORNING SERVICE – 11:00 AM

Barbara Fuchsman, Shelly Rasmussen

This is the Fellowship's annual celebration of the gifts of the Earth, an intergenerational observance of the season of the Thanksgiving holiday. Everyone is invited to bring bread to share. The Sunday School children will enjoy celebrating thankfulness for Earth's bounty with people of all ages. We will remember Meister Eckhart's teaching, "Bread is not given just so that we can eat of it, but so that we can recognize that others do not have bread and thereby give them of our portion." All are welcome.

FRONT DOOR PLEASE

With a few exceptions, all people are asked to enter through the front doors of the Oberlin Early Childhood Center. The two back doors to OECC will no longer be propped open. This will help with the efficiency of heating and cooling systems. The only time the other back door will be open is when we need access to the storage locker to get and put back chairs and other furniture used for our services.

NOVEMBER KENDAL GATHERING

EVENSONG: LOOKING AT FEAR

Wednesday, November 8, 4:15 p.m.

Whittier Lounge, Kendal at Oberlin

Barbara Fuchsman, service leader

In an Evensong service, participants share thoughts, experiences, doubts, and beliefs by listening closely to one another without judgement. Listening--a way to show respect and grow in love--is at the heart of Evensong. The format seems especially suited to considering *fear*, an emotion we would prefer to deny but know we are much better off facing directly. Barbara is UU Commissioned Lay Leader for the Oberlin Fellowship. All are welcome.

Note: The date of the Gathering has had to be moved up a week because of a scheduling conflict at Kendal.

HELP NEEDED

Please sign up to bring food for the Social (Half-)Hour, or to bring flowers for the sanctuary, on Sunday morning. Sign-up sheets are posted in the lobby.

Sunday, November 26, 2006

POTLUCK BREAKFAST

FELLOWSHIP FORUM -- 9:30 AM

Kelly Harris, Organizer

Ever wish you had time for a big breakfast on Sunday morning before rushing off to the forum? Do you skip the forum so you have the time to eat? Well, join us November 26 at 9:30 am for a breakfast potluck! Please bring a dish to share, a place setting and a smile. This time of fellowship is a great occasion to meet new people and get to know each other better. All are welcome.

MUSIC SHARING SERVICE

MORNING SERVICE -- 11:00 AM

Andy Frantz, Leader

This service is designed to be a relaxing experience that lets us celebrate life through music. It will revolve around music that people in the congregation bring to share. Everyone's input is encouraged. Think of a song or a piece of music that you consider to be spiritual or has significance for you. If you are willing to play such a piece of music, or have a recording to share, please contact Andy Frantz by Thanksgiving to help him plan. Last-minute additions are also possible but less convenient.

Andy Frantz has been a member of OUUF since moving to Oberlin 4 years ago. He is a singer and the leader of the occasional OUUF choir.

All are welcome.

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.

COVENANT GROUP

Looking for companionship? Would you like to connect with friends, discuss issues of the day, larger life issues? In this small discussion group, build shared understanding, provide and receive support.

Right now, one group is meeting each month on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons at 1:15 p.m. New members are warmly welcomed. We would like to start a group to meet on Sunday evening, but are still looking for people to fill out the group. If you would like to meet Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. or would like more information, please contact coordinator Barbara Fuchsman (774-1804). All are welcome!

Next meeting dates are Tuesday, November 14 and Tuesday, November 26, at 1:15 pm. Gathering places will be announced in the Sunday Announcements.

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.

COVENANT

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

OUUF

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