



## **RE Notes**

As I write this, I am reflecting on what the holidays have meant to me. As a child, Christmas meant traveling to downtown Cleveland on the train (rapid transit in those days). My entire family would walk through Public Square, looking at the display windows at Halle's and Higbee's Department Stores. The smell of freshly roasted nuts would be blowing out of Petersen's Nut House. Our trip wouldn't be complete until my Mom or Dad gave me and my sisters \$10.00 to go into the Twigbee Shop; this was my first experience of being a consumer. I would choose gifts (all reasonably priced) for my parents, my grandmothers and my sisters. I learned about Christmas through the specials on TV each year: "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer", "Santa Claus is Coming to Town", "The Year Without a Santa Claus", and "The Charlie Brown Christmas". They were my education about Christmas, and they were pretty incomplete.

It wasn't until I got older and started attending church with friends that I realized that there was an aspect to Christmas that had nothing to do with shopping or buying gifts for people, or clay figures moving and singing snappy songs. I learned the story of the birth of Jesus, and also learned the stories of the Christmas tree, Hanukkah, and the winter Solstice. My family talks about and celebrates aspects of all of these stories every year. They have become our holiday story, along with a few events that are unique to our home. My kids would tell you that it isn't Christmas time until I make my 15 pounds of fudge to give away to family and friends, or until the tree is put up with all of the ornaments (including the special pickle ornament), or until they have had to listen to me sing along with Barbra Streisand's version of "Jingle Bells" at least 10 times, full voice.

I am so glad that we have spent this fall talking about the Unitarian Universalist principles with our children during our RE time. There are so many things that people

associate with the holidays that UU's practice every day of the year if they keep the principles in mind. I hope that you will join us at our holiday service on December 16th. We are planning a very special service in which we will celebrate the holidays and our UU principles.

I hope that your holidays and New Year are everything you would like them to be. May you and those you love have many special times together. I have enjoyed working with your children this fall, and I look forward to 2008 and the exciting things that will be happening with our RE classes this spring.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Shelly Rasmussen  
Director of Religious Education

## **SHAMANIC DRUMMING**

Drumming journeyers meet the first Friday of the month at participants' homes to journey and share insights. 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 attained by listening to a drumbeat of some 4 beats per second, inducing theta waves in the brain. Please contact Carol Wilde for more information about this group.

## **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, December 9, 2007**

**EXPLORING CLASS AND RACE:  
ABLEISM**

FELLOWSHIP FORUM – 9:30 AM  
The Class and Race Team

Ableism can be defined as prejudiced and discriminatory attitudes and behaviors directed at people with physical, emotional or intellectual disabilities. The Race and Class Team will focus on the experience of people with disabilities and, using case studies and role play, suggest language and etiquette helpful for interacting with disabled people. Based on the curriculum “Weaving the Fabric of Diversity,” this forum will ask us to share our experiences, thoughts and feelings about disability issues. Since time is limited, the Team will focus only on mobility, vision, and hearing, offering ways to welcome persons with disabilities into full participation in our congregation. All are welcome.

**EXPLORING CLASS AND RACE:  
ABLEISM**

MORNING SERVICE – 11:00 AM  
The Class and Race Team

Rooted in assumptions about the “norm” for the human condition, ableism says, “I’m okay, you’re not okay.” Throughout history people with disabilities have been killed, isolated, tortured, and misused in many cultures. Yet over time every person will come to experience a disability or will know someone with a significant disability. During the service, the Class and Race Team will ponder what it means to be disabled and share both positive and negative experiences of their own. We will be asked to consider the question: “How readily accessible IS our congregation?” All are welcome.

**“SECOND” SUNDAY**

December collection will go to Oberlin Community Services. To direct a check to OCS make it out to O.U.U.F. and write “Second Sunday” or “OCS” on the memo line. Our Treasurer will send along a consolidated check. Checks to O.U.U.F. without a memo line or with the memo “pledge” will go to the Fellowship. Loose cash and change will also go to OCS unless in an envelope marked for O.U.U.F.

**HOLIDAY HELPING HANDS WITH  
OBERLIN COMMUNITY SERVICES**

The past years OUUF have been generous supporters of Oberlin Community Services’ (OCS) efforts to assist needy Oberlin families assist their children in holiday gift giving. Once again we will “adopt” two families, purchase needed and fun items for them to be distributed by OCS. On Sunday, December 2, we will hold a special collection to fund this local community service. Please give generously. The tentative date to shop will be Wed. Dec. 5 in the evening. Please contact Laura Huth or Kim Peters if you are interested or would like further information. Many thanks and happy holidays!

**BED AND BREAKFAST**

Please consider becoming a B&B host. B&B’s contribute to OUUF income, and Jo Huber has had to turn away many requests for lack of OUUF hosts. Clean sheets and continental breakfast are usually all that’s required, and sometimes not even the latter so College parents can eat with their children later. Contact Jo to sign up.

## CLL NOTES

### Meditation for December

“Now winter comes, in labored breath misting the morning, frost sparkling on the pier. Exposed now, the birds make no pretense of shyness, smothering the feeders, fueling against the cold. ... So let me breathe good fresh air and wrap my coat around me.

“And let our hearts warm to smells and smiles of winter. Let us hold hands against the cold and sing carols to season winter with merriment. And with hopeful hearts, let Christmas be received.”  
(by Elizabeth Tarbox)

Well, here at the Fellowship, the month of November is ending on a high note of thanks, indeed. Our Celebration in Praise of the Ancient Domestic Art of Bread-making was—I’ll go ahead and say it—it was a blast! Now, the first week of December we hope everyone will take advantage of at least one of the opportunities to meet the Rev. Cynthia Heilman, whom the Search Committee is hoping will be hired by the Board to be our new minister. The schedule is printed elsewhere in this newsletter. Remember, the December 2 forum, service, and the tea at Jo Huber’s at 4 o’clock are all open to everyone interested, as is the Family Fun Night on Saturday evening, Dec. 8, to be held at OECC. Also, remember that the meaning of a team as opposed to a committee is—you can be part of the team for a specific project and not feel guilty and be considered a full member of the team. So if you have been involved in any part of the different Social Justice Teams’ various works, please do come on Tuesday evening to Frantz’s to talk with Cynthia about subjects close to her heart.

This holiday season is leading us once again toward a new year. At the same time, we at OUUF are beginning what we hope will be a period of transition to a whole new episode in the life of the Fellowship. Times of transition are exciting, but they are also complex and can be difficult. As we enter into the darkest part of the year, we need time for quiet thought, for contemplation.

We need to think about what is really important to us. We need to prepare our spirits, our inner most selves, for whatever lies ahead, both this month and in the coming year.

However, it looks like a lot of bustle is in store. I am joining the UU minister Bruce T. Marshall and wishing all of us a complicated holiday season. In “A Complicated Christmas,” he writes,

“I wish for you this year a complicated Christmas. Not the Christmases of simple joys and warm memories that we feel obligated to strive for, but a season in which there is room for the complexities that occur during this time.

“A season of complicated memories, of happiness and pain, of comfort and loss, of disappointment and fulfillment. ...

“A season of stories and songs about which we have complicated feelings. Some fill us with the warmth of nostalgia, some make us cringe with discomfort, and some bring messages of truth and hope that we still yearn to hear.

“A season of light that brings us to see more intensely the shadows of our lives. A season of hope that underscores how far we still must travel to realize these dreams.”

One of the jobs of our religion is to help us see complications while bringing messages of truth and hope. As we travel through this month together, let us all remember to keep patience with one another, and to keep good cheer. May the mystery of darkness, the gladness of returning light, the joy of new birth be with us all. Cheers!

Barbara A. Fuchsman,  
Commissioned Lay Leader

**Sunday, December 16, 2007**

### **SIMPLIFYING THE HOLIDAYS**

FELLOWSHIP FORUM – 9:30 AM

Cindy Frantz, Speaker

Most of us finish the Holiday season swearing we'll keep it simpler next year. Get a jump on that goal by learning and sharing strategies that focus on the real meaning of the holidays. Cindy Frantz is Associate Professor of Psychology at Oberlin College. All are welcome.

### **THE HOLIDAYS AND OUR UU PRINCIPLES**

MORNING SERVICE – 11:00 AM

Shelly Rasmussen, Mary McKee, Kim Peters, Megan Schief, Cindy Frantz and the students in the RE program

This special service will celebrate holidays known throughout the world and our Unitarian Universalist principles. Through music, stories and drama, we will explore holidays and how our UU principles can help us live the concepts of love, concern for others and hope all year long.

**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.

#### **PRINT YOUR OWN NEWSLETTER?**

If you got this newsletter with a postage stamp on it, you have an alternative if you have email, can open a Word attachment, and have printer capability. If you'd like to print your own CHALICE, notify Cal Frye at [webmaster@ouuf.org](mailto:webmaster@ouuf.org) to switch you to electronic delivery.

## **DECEMBER KENDAL GATHERING**

### **EMBRACING THE LEGACY: AFRICAN AMERICANS AND HUMANISM**

Wednesday, December 5, 4:15 pm  
Whittier Lounge, Kendal at Oberlin  
Rev. Cynthia Heilman, speaker

Religion, and the Christian tradition in particular, has played a major role in shaping the lives of African Americans in the U.S. Many individuals found in it a sense of belonging, means of survival, and advancement in a society marked by racism. Numerous cultural, educational, medical, and social service institutions owe their existence in whole or in part to the Black Church. Yet, there are many who have declined to understand their life, the African American experience, and American life in general through this lens. It is Cynthia's intent to lift up the lives of several African American humanists and their contribution to our wider culture. All are welcome.

### **OHIO-MEADVILLE DISTRICT**

Beth Casebolt from the Bellaire Congregation has been hired as the administrator of the District, replacing Mary Huffman who retired this fall. Beth has served on the OMD Board and the OMD Lifespan Faith Development Committee. She is a Credentialed Religious Educator at the Associate Level, an OWL trainer, and the webmaster for the district and more. She will work half time as District Administrator and will maintain the District Office in her home in St. Clairsville.

### **DISTRICT DOINGS**

The quarterly newsletter of the District will be sent to you by e-mail or in the U.S. Mail. A limited number hard copies are sent to us by U.S. Mail and will be available on Sundays. If you are not receiving own copy by e-mail or U.S. Mail and want to, please contact L.D. Moore.

## FROM L.D. MOORE

I feel honored to have been part of the Ministerial Search Committee along with Barbara Fuchsman, Eleanor Helper, and Stephanie Gibson and I am sure I can speak for the Committee that we are excited at the prospect of the Rev. Cynthia Heilman being our minister. And we look forward to members and friends getting the chance to also get to know this wonderful person during candidating week. If she is hired by the Board of Trustees, we believe she will bring new dimensions to a shared ministry with the Fellowship and the community.

That it is intended to be a shared ministry, means simply that we will be called to continue our own work, our own ministries. The Social Justice groups will continue to have their challenges and opportunities, their ministries. The new Class and Race group is considering some serious anti-oppression work about which you will be hearing more. Our Life Span Faith Development programs (including the children's religious education, covenant groups and shamanic drumming programs) will continue to enrich our individual and corporate lives. The Kendal UU's will plow ahead as always living full lives. And the Membership Committee is planning to continue its very important work.

As every day is a new beginning, so is every year, and so is every new development of our wonderful Fellowship.

I wish for us all the best beginnings!

L.D. Moore, Chair, OUUF Board

## GREEN JOURNAL

The First Annual Alternative Gift Fair will be held at Oberlin College's Student Union Building from 11:00am-1:30pm on December 4 and 5 and December 11 and 12. The idea of alternative gifting is simple: most of us do NOT need more Things. We need a more just and healthy world. Yet the Holiday Machine makes us feel as if we have to give our loved ones Things, even if they don't need them. An Alternative Gift Fair makes it easy for people to give holiday gifts that reflect their values, and our true needs as a society, without mindlessly feeding into an over-consumptive culture. The Alternative Gift Fair gives you the opportunity to give a gift of a good work, rather than a sweater or a tie. You will be able to make donations to area non-profits (such as Community Action To Save Strays, SEPA, Oberlin GED Program, Mitchell's Plains Math Project). An attractive gift card will announce your gift to the recipient. You can also purchase goods that help support non-profits and/or their goals (for example, fair trade coffee, compact fluorescent light bulbs, handmade textiles).

The Green Sanctuary Team's emphasis for this month is partly shaped by monthly projects posed for the Oberlin community by ICE, the Interfaith Committee for the Environment. ICE is hoping that by bringing small, doable tasks to the community each month, more people will become involved in helping to improve our global environment. Each participating church has an ICE poster for each project. They, and the Fellowship's Green Team, hope everyone in the Fellowship who joins in the projects in some way will sign the appropriate posters. Look for our Alternative Gift Giving poster in the lobby, and add your name when you give an alternative gift of some kind.

**Sunday, December 23, 2007**

**HOLIDAY BREAKFAST WITH YULE  
GIFT EXCHANGE**

FELLOWSHIP FORUM – 9:30 AM

In place of the forum, we will celebrate the holidays with fun and fellowship. If possible, please bring a dish to share, your own place setting, and a wrapped gift. The gift can be a fun, sad, interesting, silly, or serious used book or CD. Bring it wrapped, we'll all choose something, and you'll be able to trade. All are welcome!

**YULE CELEBRATION**

MORNING SERVICE – 11:00 AM

This holiday service will feature intergenerational live music. While honoring the life and work of Jesus, we will celebrate the winter solstice and the promise of coming light by bringing light into darkness. All are welcome.

**MEMBER BIO SKETCH**

RANDY KNAVEL

Who is that man greeting you at OUUF each Sunday Morning.? He was born in Windber, Pa., in the heart of Coal Country and raised as a Lutheran. In 1965 while he was teaching Geology at Bowling Green University, in Ohio, he happened to hear a Unitarian Universalist Minister on a radio station out of Toledo and he continued to listen to him while he taught at Bowling Green and Firelands. Upon a move to Shaker Heights with his wife Eileen, who is of the Jewish faith, he joined the UU church there and the whole family attended including their two children Randolph and Kelly. Later they moved to Vermillion and Randy attended the UU fellowship in Sandusky. Lucky for us he decided to try our fellowship about 4 years ago. Besides being that smiling face on Sunday Mornings he is our "unofficial party chairperson"

Randy worked for twenty seven years for G.A.B. Insurance Claims Management and he and Eileen enjoy seeing their Painsville grandchildren, whose father is an attorney, and their daughter's children who reside in the state of Georgia. They have four girls and one boy between them.

Of course Randy certainly supports OHIO, but if the football team had to lose he was delighted that his old neighbor, Don Zook, is the coach of the at Illinois !!

**OBERLIN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP  
CANDIDATING WEEK SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, December 1      4:30 PM Discussion and Dinner with Board, COM,  
professional staff, Committee/team chairs  
Presti's of Oberlin Restaurant, 551 W. Lorain St. (Rte. 511)**

**Cynthia is invited to stay Overnight with Jo Huber**

**Sunday, December 2    9:30 AM Forum "An Introduction To The Circle Process"**

**11:00 AM Service "On Getting Justice"**

**Lunch with the COM**

**4:00 PM Meet the Minister Tea, Jo Huber's**

The Covenant Group will bring the refreshments  
(open to all members & friends)

**Tuesday, Dec. 4            5:30 PM Dinner with Pagans & Buddhists (bring vegan dishes)  
at Barbara Fuchsman's.**

**7:30 PM Meeting with the Social Justice Teams  
at Cindy and Andy Frantz's**

**Wednesday, Dec. 5        1:30 noon Meet with the Membership Team  
Oberlin Public Library**

**4:15 PM Kendal Gathering,  
"Embracing The Legacy: African Americans And Humanism"**

**Whittier Lounge, Kendal**

**5: 15 PM Dinner at Kendal**

**7:00 PM RE Committee at Kendal**

**Saturday, Dec. 8            5:30 PM FAMILY FUN NIGHT AT OECC  
Potluck with pizza from Search Team budget**

**Sunday, Dec. 9            12:15 PM Fellowship Board meeting**

**Sunday, December 30, 2007**

**O.U.U.F. WILL NOT HOLD  
SUNDAY SCHOOL OR  
FELLOWSHIP FORUM  
THIS SUNDAY**

**REMEMBRANCES**

MORNING SERVICE – 11:00 AM

Lisette and David Burwasser

Minor Christmas customs of the British Isles give us a hint of how Yule was celebrated in much older days. Join us for a meditative journey to an earlier day, and share with us your stories of the Solstice holidays. All are welcome.

**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.

**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 GROUPS -- LOOKING  
FOR COMPANIONSHIP?**

Would you like to connect with friends, discuss issues of the day, larger life issues? In these small discussion groups, build shared understanding, provide and receive support. Groups are open and new members are warmly welcomed. October is a good time to come aboard. If you would like to know more about these small group ministry gatherings, please contact facilitator, Barbara Fuchsman. If you need child care in order to come, please contact Barbara to arrange for the group to support the cost.

There are two covenant groups. One meets Wednesday afternoons at 1:15 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. A second group meets the second and fourth Sundays of the month, at 7:15 p.m. The covenant groups meet at people's homes, so contact Barbara to find out where. The next meeting of the Wednesday group will be **December 12**; the next meeting of the Sunday evening group will be **December 16**. All are welcome!

# OUUF

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L.D. Moore. Vice Chair: Eleanor Helper. Secretary:  
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