



## **MINISTER'S MESSAGE**

### **Thank You!**

I'd like to express my thanks to the Board of Trustees for their affirmative vote regarding my candidacy, and also to the Search Committee for providing me with an excellent comprehensive introduction to the Fellowship. During the candidating week I experienced the Fellowship's vision and passion in an even more substantial way, i.e., meeting many of you in person. I thoroughly enjoyed myself, and I consider it a privilege to say "Yes" to becoming your friend and partner in ministry.

On the evening of Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, I met with members from the Board of Trustees and Search Committee and signed the Letter of Agreement and Covenant of Ministerial Services. I commit myself to working in a collegial and honest manner with not only the leadership of the Fellowship, but with all of its members and friends as well. One task that I plan to take up shortly after I begin in January is to visit with each member and friend of the Fellowship over tea or a meal. By doing this I hope to place names with faces, and more importantly hear the many stories behind the faces.

While the Board continues to locate a working space for me when I am in town, I will make myself available in the Oberlin Library and other such venues that lend themselves to light conversation, and of course WiFi. In addition to speaking on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month, for the first two months I hope to be in town about twice a week, e.g. learning my way around, meeting with you, initial committee meetings, making other important contacts.

I believe in the OUUF; its mission, what it is now and what it is becoming. Together we can continue to nourish its growth in spirit and size, and its impact in the greater Oberlin area. I'm looking forward to getting to know each of you. If

you'd like to contact me, you can do so at:  
1464 Colburn Street, Toledo 43609;

Peace,  
Rev. Cynthia D. Heilman

## **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.

## **COVENANT**

We, the members and friends of the OUUF, 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 OUUF mission is to promote religious freedom with responsibility, to support each other with compassion, and to serve peace with justice.

**Sunday, January 13, 2008**

**THE WORK OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
UNITARIANS AND UNIVERSALISTS**

FELLOWSHIP FORUM – 9:30 AM

Reverend Cynthia Heilman

ICUU (the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists) is a network of Unitarian, Universalist and Unitarian Universalist organizations. Member groups come from 23 countries and many more are being organized around the world. Every other year representatives meet as a council to decide on program priorities for the coming years and to develop stronger ties for mutual aid and support. This forum will explore the history and current projects of this organization of which the UUA is a member. All are welcome.

**MANY LIVES, ONE VISION**

MORNING SERVICE – 11:00 AM

Reverend Cynthia Heilman

Our Fellowship is home to many personalities, perspectives, gifts, and desires. All these things inform who we are and where we can go. For more than 50 years we have not only discerned and crafted our shared vision, but also practiced it in very concrete ways here in Oberlin and beyond. We have much to be proud of. And supported by all of our diversity we still we continue to dream of more ways in which we can celebrate the goodness of this world, participate in its healing, and provide for a better future for everyone. This sermon will discuss the fact that it is not enough to want a better future. We must take the time to envision how we want things to turn out, and to transmit that vision by every conceivable means to every available audience. All are welcome.

**SECOND SUNDAY**

January collection will go to UU Service Committee. To direct a check to UUSC make it out to O.U.U.F. and write “Second Sunday” or “UUSC” 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 UUSC unless in an envelope marked for O.U.U.F.

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
SERVICE COMMITTEE**

UUSC is our denomination’s primary social justice arm. Its website states:

“Through a potent combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots organizations, UUSC supports programs and policies that promote [workers' rights](#), advance the [human right to water](#), defend [civil liberties](#), and preserve the rights of those affected by [humanitarian crises](#). UUSC relies on the support of people just like you to make our programs work.”

More information may be found on the UUSC Website: [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org)

**BED AND BREAKFAST**

Please consider becoming a Bed & Breakfast 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.

**Religious Education Notes**  
January 2008

Hello All!

I hope that your 2008 has started well, and that you are back into the routine of our lives after the holiday hustle and bustle. We are once again moving forward with our Sunday School program, Exploring the Principles. We are working this month on principle three (acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations) and principle four (a free and responsible search for truth and meaning). As we work with these principles, there are some questions that we will be encouraging the children to think about, and I would like you to consider them as well. Your child may ask what you think about them, and I would encourage you to discuss them with our child.

- Why do we always talk about famous "UU's"
- As a UU, can you believe anything that you want?
- Who tells UU's what to believe?
- What do I say when someone asks me "What do UU's believe?"
- Do UU's pray?

These are just a few of the questions that we have been addressing during our classes. We do encourage the children to think about these questions and talk about them with the people that are important to them. I hope that your children have talked about our classes and their experiences learning about the principles with their families. I would encourage parents to talk to their children about the principles – your children are very thoughtful and are a joy to work with.

I would also like to remind parents that as we move through winter, please dress your child for the weather. If it is not snowing, raining, or below 20 degrees, the children will most likely go outside during the service – please bring them to Sunday

School prepared for the weather. Thank you.

Shelly Rasmussen  
Director of Religious Education

**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. 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 meetings of the Wednesday group in January will be **January 9 and 23**; the meetings of the Sunday evening group in January will be **January 13 and 27**.

**WAYSIDE WISDOM**

No duties. I don't have to be profound. I don't have to be artistically perfect. Or sublime. Or edifying.

I just wander... And now the music of the worlds transforms me.

Czeslaw Milosz

**Sunday, January 20, 2008**

**CONSIDERING  
MARTIN LUTHER KING ANEW**

FELLOWSHIP FORUM – 9:30 AM

Barbara Fuchsman and LD Moore

Barbara Fuchsman and L.D. Moore will lead an open discussion of this important holiday, Dr King's birthday. Aspects of Dr. King's history and some of his writings that are not commonly known will be sources for reflection and comment. Ideas and materials inspired by the programs honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. held in Oberlin during the previous week will be welcomed. All are welcome.

**CELEBRATION AND INSTALLATION  
SERVICE FOR THE REV.  
CYNTHIA DELPHINE HEILMAN**

MORNING SERVICE – 11:00 AM

Barbara Fuchsman and L.D. Moore

Barbara Fuchsman, Commissioned Lay Leader and L.D. Moore, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees will moderate this celebration of the beginning of Rev. Heilman's half-time ministry to the Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, an historic event in the 47 year history of the Fellowship. The Rev. Joan Van Beceleare, District Executive of the Ohio Meadville District of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations and the Rev. Kathleen Rolenz, Co-minister for the West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, along with others from the Fellowship, will participate. There will be readings and music and a coffee hour reception after-wards. All are welcome.

**MEMBERSHIP BIOGRAPY:  
MEGAN SCHIEF**

Megan and her identical twin, Edie, were a New Year's present for their parents arriving on the second day of the year. Both girls were born with cataracts, but that has not stopped our Megan from having an active life. For her first 22 years she lived in Lorain and Cleveland before moving to Buffalo, New York, where she obtained her B.A. and did a year of graduate work. She taught at SUNY Buffalo Women's Studies program for three years and developed one of the courses. From 1972 -78 she worked as a Crises Intervention specialist while intervening in suicidal behavior that touched both sexes and all ages.

She had been raised as a Roman Catholic and was active in a church in the Orchard Park area of the city. She decided to leave Buffalo when her partnership dissolved and she also began to have thoughts about her religious beliefs. Today, she considers herself as a "Spiritual Humanist". Nature and animal rights are very important to her. When she found Oberlin she knew that she had found a home. A year later she found our fellowship and knew she belonged here. She has been active with the Social Justice team and through the Welcoming Congregation team has helped to find GLBT. In the greater community she is on the Board of Directors of Hot Meals and CAATS. In 2000 she ceased working and applied for her disability pension, but that sure does not mean that she is not on the go!!! She is proud that she will have just turned 70 years old when you receive this CHALICE.

“The only devils in the world are the ones running around in our own hearts. That is where the battle must be fought.”

–Mahatma Gandhi.

## CLL NOTES

### Meditation for January

“The first day of January is another day dawning. The sun rising as the sun always rises, the earth moving in its rhythms, with or without our calendars to name a certain day as the day of new beginning, separating the old from the new. So it is: everything is the same,... Yet also we stand at a threshold, the new year something truly new, still unformed, leaving a stunning power in our hands; What shall we do with this great gift of Time, this year? ... The new year can be new ground for the seeds of our dreams. Let us take the step forward together, onto new ground, planting our dreams well, faithfully, and in joy.”  
(by Kathleen McTigue)

The new year may or may not mark a substantial new beginning in each of our lives. However, this year, this new year marks a true new beginning for the Fellowship. For the first time in Fellowship history, a half-time minister, Cynthia Heilman, begins her ministry January 1.

It has been good for the Fellowship to be without a minister for a while after enjoying ministerial leadership for over ten years. Most of our committees are stronger as a result. We have had to make things happen together, and we have taken time to find out more about ourselves as a congregation. Now, we are ready again for the fresh insights and energy Cynthia is bringing.

Right now, we are still getting to know each other. The dynamics of our congregation is changing and many of us, perhaps all of us, are on our best behavior. Of course, this pleasant period cannot last. Every group at the time of new change goes through stages. We are in the forming stage now, once again. Inevitably, old disagreements and new conflicts will arise. The important test of any group is how it meets and deals with storming. I believe we will work through our differences this time because Cynthia's strong expertise in processes to use to work through conflict will help us to find and build upon common

ground. I am looking forward to new adventures.

Happy New Year, Each and All! As Kathleen McTigue urges, “Let us [step] forward together, onto new ground, planting our dreams well, faithfully, and in joy.”

Cheers,

Barbara A. Fuchsman  
Commissioned Lay Leader

## THE UU NIAGARA EXPERIENCE

Hear the roar! Feel the mist! See the mighty Falls! July 20-23, 2008.

Come experience the wonder of Niagara Falls including some great educational opportunities while being taken care of like royalty. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four day UU Niagara Experience which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective, even safely riding beneath a tethered balloon.

Spend four days with us exploring the rich historical and natural wonders around the Falls. For information visit the UUCN website:

<http://www.uunex.net/>  
Email: [uunex@yahoo.com](mailto:uunex@yahoo.com)  
Telephone : (716) 745-7149 or  
(716) 791-4453

**Sunday, January 27, 2008**

**ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF  
ENERGY FOR THE CITY OF  
OBERLIN**

FELLOWSHIP FORUM – 9:30 AM

Dr. Floyd Ramp, Guest Speaker

The general acceptance that gases that humans put into the atmosphere affects global warming has prompted a variety of responses. The warming effect of carbon dioxide, chiefly from burning coal, has been addressed in different ways in various parts of the world. Germany has concentrated on solar energy and biogas, France chose the nuclear option long ago, our Pacific Northwest has effectively combined wind and water power, and both here and in Florida landfill waste is being turned into a source of power. This is a personal preview of what may be coming from the City-College study now in progress. All are welcome.

Dr. Floyd Ramp, a retired research chemist, learned through a variety of experiences, the necessity of looking at problems initially in a broad context. Details are meaningful only when measured against basic assumptions. Participation in the Rio Conference reinforced the necessity to address this issue and confirmed the opposition of the coal industry.

**HOW TO LISTEN  
EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE ALREADY  
MADE UP YOUR MIND**

MORNING SERVICE – 11:00 AM

Reverend Cynthia Heilman

One of my favorite movies is “A Raisin in the Sun”, by Lorraine Hansberry. It is the story of an African American family living in Chicago during the 1950’s. The arrival of the pension check for \$10,000 stirs up controversy in the Younger home; a storm that fuels long-standing generational disagreements, but then gives way to patient, artful listening by everyone involved. This sermon will discuss the wisdom in allowing ourselves to become more sensitized to the consciousness of another person, the surrounding circumstance, and the open spaces of our own positions. All are welcome.

**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

### START UP EVENTS

What wisdom there is to be found in this time of the year! In the life of a community, a congregation, and in our own individual lives there is deep wisdom in setting aside time to be mindful of and to celebrate generosity, to celebrate and honor the cycles of life. When we take that time and people give of themselves magic does happen, and I observed it on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> while attending to the forum led by Cindy Frantz, listening to the deep beauty of the oboe duet prologue, and observing the children lively giving of themselves in the skit during the service. This giving of themselves... such richness!

This time of year can be a time of anticipation or hope for, sometimes and not infrequently in desperation, of new beginnings. But what an auspicious time of year it is to begin blending our lives and ministries with those of Rev. Cynthia Heilman! We couldn't have planned it better!

While this can be a rich time of the year, there are other wisdoms. The Settlement Handbook offers to the Search Committee (Barbara Fuchsman, Stephanie Gibson, Eleanor Helper, and myself) the advice to take time to keep in touch with all the things that you find satisfying about being part of your congregation: sing in the choir, help teach in the Sunday school, spend time with friends, attend a meditation group, don't allow yourself to become merely a "task" UU person, keep in touch with your family or partner and then have a party to celebrate the end of "your hard work." Well, we have not YET had that party. We are also advised to remember that our specific responsibility as a Search Committee has ended. It not up to us exclusively to make the new minister a success. Our obligation to support our minister is no greater than any other member's.

We are, however, starting to plan for a variety of start up activities such as a service/installation probably akin to what was done to celebrate Shelly Rasmussen's hiring as our DRE and to celebrate the commissioning of Barbara Fuchsman as a Commissioned Lay Leader. There will be other work to do including searching for or working to get office and meeting space. And most probably there will be a facilitated re-treat for the entire congregation (or as many as can be get there), facilitated quite possibly by the Rev. Joan Van Beceleare, District Executive of the Ohio Meadville District of the UUA. Joan has already provided valuable service to the Fellowship as well as to the District. And we will continue with the regular work of the congregation and working various projects, we will continue our work and let's not forget the advice from Molly Ivins to have fun while doing it.

### UU UNIVERSITY

...is a gathering just before General Assembly of congregational leaders of all kinds. If you are going to GA, and want to increase your knowledge and ability to serve your congregation, UU University is for you. Noon Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> to 12:30 pm Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. Keynote speaker is Nick Carter, President of Andover Newton Theological School.

Check <[uaa.org/events/uuuniversity](http://uaa.org/events/uuuniversity)>.

## **GREEN JOURNAL**

The Green Sanctuary Team's emphasis for January is shaped by the monthly project posed for the Oberlin community by the Interfaith Committee for the Environment (ICE). One of the program activities to be completed by OUUF to earn certification as a Green Sanctuary congregation is our on-going collaboration with ICE, addressing issues of environmental justice in our community. ICE brings small, doable tasks to the community each month in an effort to involve more people in helping to improve our global environment. Each participating church has an ICE poster for each project. We ask everyone in the Fellowship who joins in the projects in some way to sign the appropriate posters. Look for our Alternative Fuels poster in the lobby, and add your name when you participate in this month's effort. How can you be involved? Many of you are familiar with Sam Merrett's work with alternative fuels. You could fill up your auto tank with biofuel or ethanol at his Full Circle Fuels on South Main St. Or you could write letters to the editor or attend Oberlin council meetings to support the "anti-coal" efforts. Although the plan to purchase power from a new coal-fired power plant in southern Ohio (rather than pursue alternative fuel sources) was approved by council, the authorization to do so could still be revoked up until March 2008.

## **WOOSTER, OH UU CHURCH NAMED BREAKTHROUGH CONGREGATION**

The UUA's Growth Team has chosen the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County (UUFWC, Wooster, OH) as a 2008 BreakThrough Congregation, the first from the Ohio-Meadville District. UUFWC was chosen, in part, for its practice of radical hospitality and steady growth. In the past 10 years UUFWC has grown from 64 to over 150 members. Many have commented on their friendly web site and welcoming parking lot with large signs marking reserved places for Sunday Visitors. Visitors are welcomed by trained Greeters, and families with children are taken on a tour of the RE classes. The Membership Committee hosts a number of events designed to help long-term members and new folks get to know one another. The 20-member choir serves as an ambassador to smaller UU congregations in the area and to events such as the annual community Martin Luther King, Jr. service. Their Coffeeshouse events and annual Madrigal Dinner are focused on outreach to the community. The congregation has been experimenting with different outreach methods to the local college campus student body.

UUFWC will be recognized at the 2008 UUA General Assembly.

# OUUF

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