

Sunday, May 11, 2008

MOTHER'S DAY

FELLOWSHIP FORUM – 9:30 AM

Laura Huth, Leader

Join us for a new Mother's Day tradition, the sharing of "letters from and to Moms." A variety of mothers and others will share their sentiments about their children or about their moms on this very special day. You will also have a chance to share a favorite story about your Mom. All are welcome.

ON FLOWERS AND TOSSED SALADS

MORNING SERVICE – 11:00 AM

Reverend Cynthia Heilman

For this service we will observe the Flower Communion. Members and friends of the congregation are encouraged to bring a flower that will be gathered into a common vase symbolizing our common life together even as we are different in many ways. Also, we will invite those persons who have expressed a desire to join our Fellowship to sign the membership book. The sermon will focus on the joys and challenges of creating sustainable community within highly diverse settings. All are welcome.

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.

SECOND SUNDAY

May collection will go to the Community Action To Save Strays (CATSS). To direct a check to CATSS make it out to O.U.U.F. and write "Second Sunday" or "CATSS" 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 CATSS unless in an envelope marked for O.U.U.F.

CATSS seeks to reduce the population of homeless cats in our community. Volunteers, including several from OUUF, use the Trap Neuter Return method on feral cat colonies in order to prevent births of unwanted cats. Kittens, if found, are socialized so that they can be adopted into caring homes. All cats are tested for common feline diseases.

SUMMER INSTITUTE

Planning for the Ohio-Meadville District Summer Institute 2008 at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, is in full swing. Theme speaker Meg Barnhouse is set to wow the Unitarian Universalist crowds that are expected to converge on tiny Gambier, Ohio, from July 13-19. This year, in a push to make SI a "greener" event and to help our budget, we will be posting the Summer Institute brochure on www.OMDSI.org and on www.ohiomeadville.org. If you are willing to read the brochure online and not get the expensive paper copy via snail mail this year please e-mail us at omdsi2008@gmail.com

RE Notes
May, 2007
Shelly Rasmussen, DRE

Hello All,

It's hard to believe our year is almost over. We have spent the last nine months exploring the Unitarian Universalist principles with the children. We are currently discussing principle seven:

Respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are all a part. We are looking forward to spending this month focusing on the environment and the roles that each of us play in our world. We are also looking forward to the special summer session that we are planning for the month of June. Each Sunday in June, from 9:30 – 10:30am, we will be out and about with the participants, engaging in such activities as dumpster diving, learning what a carbon footprint is and how we can decrease ours, and how to make our homes more eco-conscious. It is going to be an active time, and we invite you and your children to join us!

As I have looked through resources for this year's curriculum, I have come across things that have touched me, including a poem that was written by a 13 year old girl from Africa. I think that her words represent the understanding of other people that we have been working toward with the children all year. I think it is so important for our children to realize that although there are many children around the globe that my look different than they do or live differently than they do, that they do have things in common. I invite you to ask our children what they have learned this year in our Sunday School time. I'm sure the children will have much to tell you.

**I am from
by Isatsu C.**

I am from the mall
From shirts, pants, sweaters,

and sneakers.
I am from a world with
compassion for animals.
They too have a voice and rights.
I am from a fair and free world
From worshiping as I like
At our First Parish UU Church.

I am from a continent
with a tropical climate
Containing jungles and Serengeti
with many wild animals.
People live in grass huts
and are poor.

I am also from a bloody war
Suffering as I see
loved ones dying.
I am from a court to dribble
To shoot into a basket and score!

I am from a rainbow family
From Caucasian
to African American and Kazakh
to Chinese American.
We are all equal but are unique
In our own and special ways.

I am from the world of books
With R.L. Stine and
J.K. Rowling as the stars.
Sitting in a chair
with a book in my arm,
I'll read, and read,
and read some more.
I am from pencils and pens
With several sheets
of paper with words
As the pens and pencils
move vigorously.

I am from the only planet
that supports life
Made mostly of water
for us to survive.
I am from a world
I hope will one day.

Sunday, May 18, 2008

LET'S KEEP TALKING

FELLOWSHIP FORUM – 9:30 AM

The Class and Race Team

In each of our lives, class and race cannot be compartmentalized. They interact with one another and help shape our value systems. However, these powerful factors are often taboo, and thus kept hidden. Consequently, when the Class and Race Team made space to share experiences surrounding such powerful issues, one hour of discussion was certainly not enough. In this forum, we will keep talking. We will discuss the impact class and race have upon us as individuals and how both shape the American economic and political system. We will examine who is hurt by classist and racist attitudes and practices along with how we can create change now.

“Valuing diversity is the work of a lifetime.” Come join us in this work. All are welcome.

OUR UU PRINCIPLES

MORNING SERVICE – 11:00 AM

Children and teachers of the Religious Education program

Join the children, youth and teachers of the religious education program as they share with you their perceptions and thoughts on the year's exploration of the Unitarian Universalist seven principles in RE. All are welcome.

GREEN JOURNAL

"Invest in the Environment" is the May 2008 topic for the Interfaith Committee for the Environment (ICE) and the focus of our ongoing congregational effort to earn certification as a Green Sanctuary.

How can you "invest"?

1. Use your tax rebate to improve energy efficiency at home or within the community.
2. Participate in county-wide pride day, cleanup and planting. Remember: Oberlin's Pride Day takes place on Saturday, May 17.
3. Practice permaculture -- the design of sustainable human habitats. Choosing permaculture and other organic gardening techniques lowers energy requirements for landscaping and uses local materials and plants.

Each participating church in ICE has a 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 "Invest in the Environment" poster in the lobby and add your name when you participate in this month's effort.

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 of 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.

CLL NOTES

Meditation for April **“Blessing” by Donna Hebert**

May all Eastern breezes bless you,
Lift your spirits make them fly.
May the Southern sun shine on you.
Warm your heart and help you try.

May the Western waters cleanse you.
Washing over all you feel.
Northern earth be yours to stand in.
Ground you so you know what’s real.

Over all be strength and beauty,
Food and friends and music fine.
Work your love and pleasant duty,
Love to make your spirit shine.

All of these I wish upon you,
Multiply them three times three.
Draw a circle all around you,
And forever blessed be.

This beautiful blessing has been set to music arranged by Sandi Peaslee and published in *Earth and Spirit Songbook: An Anthology of Songs Celebrating Earth and Peace* compiled and edited by Jim Scott as part of the Seventh Principle Project (now Ministry for the Earth). When Jim was here, we bought several copies for the Fellowship. It is a great collection both of old favorites and new songs, so we will have new musical pleasures to share soon. This will be a helpful new resource as we live out being a Green Sanctuary congregation.

I have a couple of housekeeping items as we move into May. In consultation with Rev. Heilman, the Program Committee decided to change the layout of the orders of service and announcements. We have received many positive comments. Please notice that all the transitory events and dates are now in the pink announcement sheet that has now become what we hope will be a helpful resource for us all. If we take the sheets home, we will have a quick answer to

that old question—“what is coming, when?”
“Oh, right.”

Returning to Green Sanctuary subjects, the Interfaith Committee for the Environment (ICE) was deeply involved in persuading City Council members to vote against committing the City to depend on coal for its most important source of electricity for the next forty years. Many ICE members are now helping to identify alternate sources of energy that the City will be able to depend on. Conservation is also a very important strategy, and in coming months there will be much more information to come on this topic. With so much effort devoted to energy, the poster for March never appeared, although an excellent article about conserving water by the Rev. Brian Wilbert was published in The Oberlin News Tribune. However, a beautiful poster for April is now up on the Green Sanctuary bulletin board. If you attended the Peace Potluck and learned about greener ways of cleaning, or if you use them or make a start at trying them out, please do sign this poster. Jim Scott tells me that the person certifying congregations as Green Sanctuaries IS demanding, so we will need to show evidence that a good portion of our congregation is participating.

May is a special month when many of our efforts through the church year are coming to fruition. Since this means we are all exceptionally busy, we need all the strength we can find. Spring brings out the pagan side of my nature. I am reminded once again that after I am long gone, the Earth will still be renewing herself. For me, Spring is a time of optimism, of hope. So I bring you this blessing—do read it again. Then, “Draw a circle all around you, And forever blessed be.”

Cheers,

Barbara A. Fuchsman,
Commissioned Lay Leader

Sunday, May 25, 2008

**VEGANISM AND
THE SEVENTH UU PRINCIPLE**

FELLOWSHIP FORUM – 9:30 AM

Reverend Cynthia Heilman

No meat. No fish. No dairy. No animal by-products. This forum will explore humanity's dependence on animals as a primary food and commercial source, and the dilemma it creates for all creation. All are welcome.

SO, HERE'S TO LIFE

MORNING SERVICE – 11:00 AM

Reverend Cynthia Heilman

Summer is on its way! Regardless if we are able to set aside time to go on a vacation away from our home, or take a week off from our job and mill around the house, summer is a time for re-creation and relaxation. How do you make warm summer nights with family and friends linger on? How do you live knowing that vacations, picnics, and hours spent doing nothing in particular will come to an end? This sermon will focus finding and making meaning in our lives regardless of the temperature or any other condition.

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 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. For information, 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 1:30 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 May will be **May 14** and **May 28**; the meetings of the Sunday evening group will be **May 11** and **May 25**.

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 24th to 12:30 pm Wednesday, June 25th. Keynote speaker is Nick Carter, President of Andover Newton Theological School.

Check www.uua.org/events/uuuniversity.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

A goodly number of us in the States approach the issue of food as a no brainer. Usually our pantries are full. If not, we just pick up and go to the market; either around the corner or what amounts to a 10 minute car ride. More often than not we can find what we want, or a substitute item that works just fine. In no time flat our carts are filled with everything on our list plus a few others that fall into the "Uhm. I think I'll try this". When we get to the cash register, more than likely we can pay for what we've selected with either cash, check, credit card and the occasional coupon. To be sure, we grimace and suck our teeth when we see the total. And this is followed by a comment on the rising price of cereal and laundry detergent. In the end we pay our bill, vowing to find a more reasonable store and reduce our impulse shopping. We've made it through another week, not persuaded if our dismay and protest could ever made a difference.

We heard in the news last week of the food crisis, that has been building over the last 18 months, affecting Brazil, Africa, and other countries due to a combination of factors, including increased demand from fast-growing countries such as China and India, rising production costs like the price of fuel, shrinking resources such as the availability of land and water, and sharply increased speculative trading of all globally traded

commodities. Other reasons that have been proffered are rising import/export taxes and the price of fertilizer. We've been confronted with this same scenario in years past, and we are still at a loss to know if our dismay and protest could ever make a difference.

A part of the solution to this dilemma, which invariably affects every person on the planet, is what the more industrialized nations do, e.g. what the US House does with the Farm Bill, and England and Canada's influence on the US to donate its grains received from farmers in developing nations directly to nearby countries in need. Another part of the solution is one that will not immediately affect the food crisis, but will nevertheless teach subsequent generations what to do with our dollars, to our bodies, and to the earth:

- (1) buy locally
- (2) eat in seasonjoin a CSA
- (3) make bold steps in reducing your personal carbon "footprint"
- (4) recycle, and,
- (5) support agencies that make micro loans, and businesses that conduct trade in developing countries, not simply aid

There surely are other steps that we can take, but these are a way to begin...to work for strategic sustainable change and growth.

Peace,
Cynthia

OOUF

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MEMBER PROFILE: PEG SCHULTZ

We welcome Peg Schultz to our community and fellowship. Born in Chicago, she spent her early years with many moves within the states of Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania and Connecticut. When it was time for her to attend college she wanted to return to the Middle West and she loved music, so Oberlin College filled her requirements. Upon graduation she moved to Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan to receive a Master's in psychology. Her first employment was in Princeton, New Jersey, with Educational Testing Services' College Boards program. It was there that she met her husband, Douglas, who was also a psychologist, and the next move was to Abington and then to State College, Pennsylvania, where Douglas taught at the University; then back to the Philadelphia area where Douglas was doing research and their two daughters were born. Their next move was to the Cleveland area, where Peggy was employed by the city school system as a school psychologist and her husband taught at Case Western Reserve University. Now, Peg and her three siblings were the grandchildren of two Presbyterian ministers, but when they became adults three of them became Unitarian Universalists and one an Episcopalian. Peg, her husband and the two daughters became members of First Unitarian Church of Cleveland in Shaker Heights, where she knew Nan Swaja and her family. Upon her husband's retirement, they moved to Pittsboro, North Carolina in the Research Triangle area; she continued to work for ten more years in the Durham city schools and at the University of North Carolina. While in that area she was also active in the Community Food Bank but not a church. Peg moved to Kendal at Oberlin in October of 2007. She knew the community, and one of her daughters and her family live in Streetsboro. This move appealed to her since she knew she did not want to live in the Los Angeles area of California where her other daughter resides. Do hope you all have the opportunity to meet Peg, who is with us at the Fellowship almost every Sunday morning as well as the monthly Kendal service.