

The
DISCOVERER
March 11, 2012

The Discoverer is prepared by
Olwen Firestone, Newsletter Editor.
Please send items to her at
olwfire@yahoo.com.
The deadline for inclusion
in the next issue is
Sunday, March 25, 6:00pm

WORSHIP SERVICES

March Theme: Brokenness

March 18, 2012, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

“Broken Lives: What I’ve Learned From Homeless People”

JAM Offering Vernal Equinox Song 73

March 25, 2012, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Suzan McCrystal

“Becoming Sanctuary”

April Theme: Restoration

April 1, 2012, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

“Jesus of Moscow: Can We Ever Restore What ‘Really Happened?’”

(You might want to read or re-read the Jesus sections of Master and Margarita by the Russian writer Mikhail Bulgakov, or watch the Russian film of the novel on the internet, if you have access to it.)

► Hearing assisted devices, large print hymnals, and a few copies (in large print) of Sunday's readings and sermons are available at the rear of the Worship Center. Copies of CDs of our worship services will become available again for sale at the bookstore. Audio and text of recent services can also be found on the church website.

"Getting to Know UU" meets Sunday mornings in Slowter Lounge, following each service. Anyone interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and about the First UU Church of Columbus is welcome.

Wednesday, March 14, 2012

8:00a UU Food Co-op
 9:00a Collage Breakfast
 10:00a Collage as an Art Form
 1:00p Archives Organizing
 6:30p The Artist's Way
 7:00p Lively Writing; Memoir Writing
 7:00p Personnel Committee
 7:00p Small Group Ministry Steering Team
 7:30p Men's Spirituality
 7:30p Women's Spirituality; Yoga

Thursday, March 15, 2012

9:30a Improvisational Dance
 6:00p Multicultural Families
 7:00p Community & Questioning
 7:00p Path to Membership (part 1)
 7:00p Communications Committee
 7:00p What's So Dangerous About Art?
 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 16, 2012

12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission
 4:00p Self Defense for Girls
 Friday – Sunday OMD Youth

Saturday, March 17, 2012

8:30a Zen Meditation
 11:00a Sound Team
 1:00p Immigration as a Moral Issue

Sunday, March 18, 2012

8:30a Leadership Development Committee
 8:45a Breakfast
 9:15 & 11:00a Worship Service
 10:30a & 12:15p Getting to Know UU
 12:30p Strategic Planning
 1:00p Wellspring; Youth Grp; Garden Club; BREAD

Monday, March 19, 2012

7:00p UU Dance Fellowship

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

9:30a Archives Organizing
 1:30p Library Team
 6:30p Peace Pals Choir Rehearsal
 7:00p Rising Voices Choir; Stewardship Committee
 7:00p Zen Meditation; Book Bites
 7:30p Finance Committee
 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

5:00p Campfire Girls and Boys
 6:30p The Artist's Way
 7:00p Gay Straight Alliance; Membership Team
 7:00p Poverty Alleviation & Women's Health
 7:00p The Devil is in the Details
 7:30p Men's Spirituality
 7:30p Women's Spirituality; Yoga

Thursday, March 22, 2012

9:30a Improvisational Dance
 11:00a Senior Gathering
 7:00p Expressive Collage
 7:00p What's So Dangerous About Art?
 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 23, 2012

4:00p Self Defense for Girls

Saturday, March 24, 2012

8:30a Zen Meditation
 11:00a Easy Movement Class
 12:00p Move to Amend
 1:00p Yoga Workshop
 7:30p Motown Sing-along

Sunday, March 25, 2012

8:45a Breakfast
 9:15a & 11:00a Worship Service
 10:30a & 12:15p Getting to Know UU
 12:30p Open Forum about First UU Constitution
 2:00p PFLAG
 4:00p Community Drumming Circle
 5:30p Soulful Sundown Service
 6:00p Bridge Group (499-2434)

Monday, March 26, 2012

6:30a JAM (Justice Action Ministry)
 7:00p Funeral Consumers Alliance
 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

9:30a Archives Organizing; Newsletter Folding
 1:00p Cancer Support Group
 6:30p Peace Pals Choir Rehearsal
 7:00p Rising Voices Choir; Goddesses in Training
 7:00p Zen Meditation; Being Atheist or Agnostic
 7:00p Wellspring (offsite); Zen Meditation
 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

1:00p Archives Organizing
 6:30p The Artist's Way
 7:00p Lively Writing; Board of Trustees
 7:00p BREAD Network Organizing
 7:30p Men's Spirituality
 7:30p Women's Spirituality; Yoga

COVENANT GROUPS – Rev. Meter, 267-4946 ext.23
FOCUUS (ages 18-35) meets Tuesdays at OSU, 7:30p
ESOL meets MWF at 9:30a (F: Conversation Class)

The Discoverer - Next issue - Sunday, March 25
Deadline: 1:00p - Hard copy in yellow folder (office)
6:00p - e-mail articles to olwfire@yahoo.com

LINKS

The other day I realized that I hadn't turned my calendars over to March. But when the sun came out and I noticed I didn't need a jacket, I realized that even this most mild of winters was making room for the coming of spring.

I don't know about you, but as long as I can remember, the first days of warmer spring-like weather get me daydreaming about hitting the open road and writing a best-selling modern version of Steinbeck's *Travels with Charlie*. Environmental and economic considerations aside, the dream of an extended road trip to see what remains of the American character is one that stays with me, even after I made the trip from California to upstate New York in July of 2007 in a little black heat trap of a car without air conditioning. But then I had a destination and a set time to be there. To wander would be a luxury.

All of which to say why I was so surprised to read in a recent *New York Times* article about young adults choosing to stay in their hometowns. The piece quotes John Della Volpe, a researcher at Harvard's Institute of Politics, "I spoke with a kid from Columbus, Ohio, who dreamed of being a high school teacher. When he found out he'd have to move to Arizona or the Sunbelt, he took a job in a Columbus tire factory."

That alone sounds like an economic indicator to me, but that's not what Della Volpe was finding. His research is showing that our youth and young adults are simply choosing to stay in place as a matter of course, even delaying getting their driver's licenses.

Once again, I'm forced to realize that I'm not as young as I used to be. But this time, I have to admit that I'm quite happy about it. Give me the open road....

in peace,



Rev. Eric Meter

CHURCH NEWS

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS The Board of Trustees will be hosting one more open forum to share information about the upcoming vote at the June Annual Meeting on the proposed amendments to our First UU Constitution. A red-lined version of the proposed amended Constitution can be found on the church website: firstuucolumbus.org. The changes reflect the work of a task force and the attention of your current Board, and are designed to bring the Constitution up-to-date with how the church currently operates, and to set forth and/or clarify procedures for unlikely scenarios: going out of business, dismissing called ministers, removing Board members. The changes were carefully thought out by the task force, and reviewed, discussed, and revised by the Board throughout the fall of 2011.

Please join Board members on Sunday, March 25, 12:30-2:00 pm. The Board has prepared an explanatory overview of the proposed amendments to present at the Open Forum. If you have questions about the proposed amendments, but are unable to attend the Open Forum, please contact Tim Hooks, Chair, Board of Trustees. Thank you.

GREETERS One of the most rewarding and important volunteer jobs at First UU is to be a Greeter at the Sunday services. If you can commit to one Sunday a month - your choice of service - please call Paula Egbert at 614-890-5511 or e-mail at Egbert@realtor.com.

SUMMER SERVICES First UU has a commitment to lay-led summer services, and the Worship Committee would like to invite you to consider being a part. **The Worship Committee is now soliciting proposals from anyone who would like to lead a service this summer**, including delivering the sermon. Proposals are due May 1. To obtain a proposal form, or for any questions, call Judith McDowell, 261-0043.

ART SHOWS Please take time to enjoy the newest art exhibition in the Gallery: "**On Seeing**," photography by Sydney Schardt, on view all March and April.

- and -

Calling UU members Plan to enter our annual All Members Show in May and June. All media. Your more recent works. This show is for adults. More info coming. Debbsyc@yahoo.com for questions.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY Wednesdays, 7:30pm
We celebrate Women's History Month
March 14 Women's Music - All
March 21 Women We Admire - All
March 28 Talking Circle - All
Jeanni Ray at 985-6176 or email jeanniray@gmail.com

BOOKBITES Meets March 20 in Slowter Lounge from 7 to 9 pm. Theme for March is **Irish authors**. Questions? Call Kathleen Boston 262-4025.

MISSING! A dark green tablecloth purchased and used by the BUUkstore (1 of 3) went missing in February. If you spot the little rascal caught up with other tablecloths or something, please send him on home into the Bookstore mail slot in the volunteer room. Thanks! -
-- Jim Davenport, BUUkstore Manager



Register now at
<http://www.uua.org/ga/registration/index.shtml> for this year's UUA
General Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona on June 20-24.

Sharpening On Site

Will Be in the SYC Parking Lot on

Tuesday-Wednesday, March 20-21

12 noon – 3:30 p.m.

Bring Your

Knives, Scissors, Garden Tools, Shovels, etc.

Questions: SYC – 267-0254

SCHOLARSHIPS are available for participation.

The Leadership Development Committee (LDC) is able to award partial scholarships for conference expenses for First UU members to attend workshops promoting leadership development and participation in UU events. Applications are being accepted for these four activities in 2012: OSU Kirwan Institute's *Transforming Race: Visions of Change* on March 15-17 in Columbus; *Ohio-Meadville District Assembly* on March 23-24 in Meadville, PA; *UU General Assembly* on June 20-24 in Phoenix, AZ; and the *UU Leadership Team Institute* on July 8-14 at Kenyon College in Gambier, OH. For more information, please contact Fujio Hayashi (hayashi@alum.mit.edu) or Mary Lou MacDonald (lulu42@columbus.rr.com).

CICT Shared Housing - Community in Challenging Times (CICT) is updating our list of folks who would like to share housing with others. Please indicate whether you have a place to share or are looking for a place to live. You can supply basic demographics/requirements if you like. We'll share information with potential matches as we are able. Contact Deb McGuire for more information and to discuss your situation, preferences and desire for confidentiality (if any), 614-571-4663, HomesColumbus@gmail.com



The **Soulful Sundown Service design team is looking for musicians** willing to play in a "pick up" band once a month. Any and all instruments are welcome. You would not be committing to play every month, only as needed, willing, and able. If you have any questions, or are interested in helping out in this way, contact Ben Iten: theitens@gmail.com.

FOOD PANTRY We are now collecting for our Easter/Spring food boxes with ham and fixings for the families. You may bring your donations to the Social Justice Table: vegetables, dressing, yams and anything else you might want to donate!

Please continue to bring in peanut butter, chunky soups, stews, raisins (six pack), dried pinto beans, cornmeal and rice. Clean aluminum pop and beer cans help raise funds.

YWCA FAMILY CENTER It has been awhile since you have heard from me because, due to scheduling confusions (on the YWCA's side, not ours), we did not serve dinner at the YWCA Family Center in December or January. We are now back in the swing of things.

In February we managed to pull off serving a great dinner with only three volunteers. Candyce Walchesky did the shopping. Thank you so much Candyce! Christine Smithies came in to wash dishes. She is definitely a pro dish washer now! Jim Conlan did it all! He prepped, cooked, served and chipped in to put away dishes. Three cheers for Jim!

The young woman in charge of the kitchen at the center that night told me, after Jim and Christine left, that she was so impressed with how our team got along and how smoothly the night ran. She was very appreciative and amazed. I let her know it is easy to work with others when you truly like them and like what you are doing.

If you are interested in joining our team of volunteers, please contact me at mccutcheoncathy@yahoo.com.

Very Gratefully Yours, Cathy



BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity)—First UU's local interfaith social justice organization

1. If there is an abandoned house(s) in your neighborhood, send **photos**, a description of the property(ies), i.e., **address, years vacant** (if known), and the **impact on the neighborhood**, to alexanderholtzman@gmail.com, BREAD organizer, Neighborhood Blight Committee, by Wednesday, March 21. The committee will call for action on the properties at the April 16 BREAD Rally, which Franklin County Treasurer Ed Leonard and Joel Teaford, Executive Director of Franklin County's Land Bank, have both agreed to attend.

2. Attend a First UU Justice Ministry Network meeting at church on either **Sunday, March 18, 1:00 p.m. or Wednesday, March 28, 6:45 p.m.** to learn how little or

how much you can do to help BREAD make systemic change in Franklin County to keep kids in school, reduce juvenile recidivism, improve the jobs outlook, get vacant houses rehabilitated or demolished, and get more people out of the emergency room and into medical homes.

3. Come to the important meetings below:

· **Saturday, March 31, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**, the Franklin County Restorative Justice Summit (Reservation required – contact Alice Rathburn, alice37@insight.rr.com, 895-2109 or the BREAD office, 220-9363.

· **Monday, April 16, 7:00 p.m. – BREAD Rally**

Monday, May 7, 6:45 p.m. – BREAD Nehemiah Action (the BIG one; First UU goal – 300 attendees; BREAD goal – 3,500)

CARING CORNER

We send healing thoughts to **Cheryl Peterson** who fell and broke her ankle last week and is now recuperating at Whetstone Care Center.

Our deepest condolences to **Karen Thimmes** whose sister Laurie died after a five year struggle with cancer. A memorial service will be held at the church on April 1.

Happy Birthday to **Don Jones** who will celebrate his 89th birthday on March 15. Our congratulations also on having his work included in an exhibit of Art and Therapy at the Columbus Museum of Art.

Congratulations to **Jeannie Sperling and Sam Kiner** on the birth of their third grandson; and to **Megan, Fred and big brother Hudson Garbe**, who welcomed baby Nadia on January 21. Please keep the family in your thoughts as the baby weighed 4 lbs 14 oz at birth.

We send caring thoughts to **Tina Spencer and her father**. Her father's town in Kentucky was devastated by a tornado last week. Friday morning, he had a heart attack and will have surgery soon.

We offer our condolences to **Stephanie and Tom Rottmayer** on the death of Tom's mother Vivian; to **Jennifer Bosveld**, whose son Chris Groce died February 27; and to **Adele Stratton** whose closest friend, Marty Jones, died last week.

Words on Music

by **Tony McDonald, Music Director**

Come and join in at the **Mostly Motown Sing-along, Saturday, March 24 at 7:30 pm**. Sing along with the original hits of your favorite Motown groups – The Supremes, The Temptations, The Miracles, Steve Wonder, Marvin Gaye and more – plus other great R&B singers – James Brown, Ray Charles, Aretha, etc. No admission, lyrics provided, and fun guaranteed. Bring friends.

From the Archives

The 40th Anniversary Celebration, Part I

Back in 1843 the Germans of the South Side of Columbus were dissatisfied with the practices of the Lutheran churches in the neighborhood. Quite a few of the members left the churches and organized the first really liberal church in Columbus which is still in existence, calling it the German Independent Protestant church of Columbus...now the Scottwood Community Church. In 1914 Rev. John F. Meyer, who was a member minister of the Unitarian Association, came to the church. The church then agreed to affiliate itself with the Association, and did so for 26 years. (*Historian: However it was not considered a Unitarian church.*)

In 1939, when Rev. Meyer resigned as minister, the members who remained decided to withdraw from the A.U.A. and elected a retired Methodist minister. Quite a few of us left at that time.

Rev. Meyer then wrote to Rev. Lon Ray Call telling him he thought that there was a real need for a Unitarian church in Columbus. Rev. Call then came to Columbus and arranged a meeting with Rev. Meyer, Norma Sanger, and Rev. Matheny, but Rev. Matheny chose not to attend.

In March of 1940, Florence Baer of the Department of Church Extension came to discuss the formation of a church with some interested people in Columbus. This first meeting was held one night at the Southern Hotel. As its first activity, the group organized a series of (sic) Sunday evenings at Fort Hayes Hotel for which it secured such speakers as Rev. Lon Ray Call, Dr. Dilworth Lupton, Rev. Walton Cole, Rev. Robert Hoagland, and Dr. Clinton Lee Scott.

On June 27, 1950, following a visit from George David, the group organized The First Unitarian Church of Columbus with 18 charter members. It adopted a constitution with this statement of purpose: "In the love of truth and the spirit of Jesus we unite for the worship of God and the service of man." Three sections of the constitution directly affected its relation to the A.U.A.: 1) It shall be affiliated with the A.U.A. 2) All property of the church shall be the property of the congregation collectively; and 3) if it should cease to function as a Unitarian church, any property it may possess and any endowments it may hold shall revert to the A.U.A. Whenever a vacancy exists in the pulpit of the church, the committee shall nominate a candidate who has the endorsement and recommendations of the proper officials of the A.U.A.

The church elected Allen J. Wilson, president; Dorothy Burgess, vice president; Norma Sanger, Secretary; and Mark Bowen, treasurer. Among the charter members, beside these four, were Rev. and Mrs. Meyer, Olga Zapp, John and Alma Warye, William and Nellie Green, Mrs. Barbara Gray, More Bruno Schreiber, Mrs. Rosa Bausch, and Margaret Bausch. *(to be continued)*

The above is a piece written by charter member Margaret Bausch, former historian, which she presented at the 40th anniversary celebration (1980). -- Linda Thompson, Historian



Fostering Love and Connection with the Web of All Existence

Our 7th Principle (Respect for the web of all existence of which we are a part) is usually shortened for children to "caring for our planet earth." It is so much broader than that, encompassing our relational existence with fellow human beings, other sentient creatures, as well as the fragile system that we all form. It is not, however, deeper than our connection with the planet earth, I don't think.

The early years of development, many child development theorists believe, are the time when we develop our love for nature, our reverence for it. It is in the preschool and primary years that the sense of wonder referred to in our 1st Source (Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life) grows strong.

It seems to me that it is therefore basic to religious education for preschool and kindergarten children to give them many opportunities to develop a deep love and reverence for nature. We offer the Web of Life curriculum every year for our kindergarteners and we offer a nature-based curriculum every other year for our preschoolers.

We also schedule four Justice Sundays each year for that age that treat the whole family to several different experiences in and with nature. On **Sunday, March 25 at 10:30am, both the 9:15 and the 11 preschool will meet at Highbanks MetroPark.** They will return to the area of Highbanks they experienced last fall to see what changes spring has brought, what the promise is for future change.

The group is led by the naturalists at the park. Meet at the Nature Center at 9466 Columbus Pike (US Rt 23 N) Lewis Center. It is a few miles north of the church on High Street. The Nature Center offers a choice of indoor and outdoor experiences, depending on the weather.

May all be well, Jolinda

Religious Education Program

Four, Count 'Em, Four Opportunities for Youth Musicians to Perform We have such musical talent among our youth that it stuns me. Here are four ways they can be a part of exciting events during March, April and May:

Perform with the Soulful Sundown Pick Up Band – Contact Ben Iten, Campus Chaplain, theitens@gmail.com. Soulful Sundown is a worship service at First UU that is offered the last Sunday of each month through May at 5:30 pm. It is usually music-focused, often using a live band that plays a variety of popular music. Ben is excited about the opportunity of including youth musicians.

Tony McDonald, our Music Director, says: “The Music Program has three (3) big events for young people coming up in April/May in which I hope you'll want to participate. They are:

Youth Talent Show – Saturday, April 28, 7:30 pm

Youth-led service – Sunday morning, April 29 (both services)

Youth choir for the Nehemiah Action BREAD meeting - Monday, May 7, 7:00 pm

The first two have happened before. This will be the third year of the **Youth Talent Show** and it would great to have those who have performed last year return again, along with other new acts. The **Youth-led service** is a longer tradition, but this year we want lots of music from our young people as part of the service. In fact, it would be cool for some of those who performed in the Talent Show to do their piece again on Sunday morning.

The **Youth Choir for the BREAD** meeting is new this year. The Nehemiah Action meeting is the big one downtown with over 3000 people attending. Young people from many churches will be joining together for this choir of over 100. I will be one of the choir directors along with Debra Martin from another church. We are planning to sing “Lean On Me” and “We Shall Overcome,” both from our hymnal. “We Shall Overcome” will be in several languages. There is one rehearsal for the BREAD choir on **Monday, April 30 at 7pm at Christ the King Church at 2777 E. Livingston**. All of you from First UU who are participating will need to get together with me before then so that we can learn our music. (That rehearsal TBA according to your schedules.)

I know it will be a busy time with everything coming together at once, but I hope many of you will get involved in the above events. It will be exciting and lots of fun. So **please send me an email if you are interested** in all or any of these activities at: musicdirector@firstuucolumbus.org (be sure to say which ones), or call me at 614-327-8854. Then mark your calendars and make big plans. They will all be great experiences.

Justice Sunday for Elementary Features Spells Against Bullying, March 25 Don't miss Justice Sunday in March when we all gather to see how we can use the spells in Harry Potter to remember what to do to deal with bullies and make schools and neighborhoods safer for all kids. Each Justice Sunday this year we work with the Enlightened Hippogriffs who use Harry Potter themes to do justice. You can find out more about the Enlightened Hippogriffs at their FaceBook group.

Multi-Age and Adult Programs

The Devil is in the Details, Wednesday, March 21, 7 PM Prof. John Friedman presents a profusely illustrated talk about the devil in the late Middle Ages and early Renaissance in Western Europe. While the devil was of interest to moralists and theologians throughout Medieval times, only at the end of the Middle Ages and the beginnings of the Renaissance did this image begin to resonate with artists and the general population. Fear of the devil and correspondingly, highly visual renditions of him and his threat to mankind became common and he took his place in the general trend towards centralized royal and ecclesiastical government and control of populations through fear and intimidation. This talk will explore the different solutions artists took to the problem of representing an abstraction of such complexity.

Three Sessions Left for Popular Philosophy of Art Series Thursdays, 7pm *What's So Dangerous About Art; What's So Sacred About Art*

March 15: Tolstoy and his idea that the true purpose of art is to infect the viewer with the most spiritually evolved emotions of the age so that the human spirit can progress.

March 22: Classical Indian art theory teaches that art gives rise to emotionally flavored bliss. Should art promote the Hindu goals of life: right action, pleasure, wealth, and spiritual freedom?

March 29: Should we live our lives as works of art? Classical Japanese art theory teaches that art expresses principles of Zen Buddhism. Zen art shocks the viewer into a moment of calm where thinking stops and knowing fills the gap, thus helping us transcend ego, and promoting mindfulness.

Attend one session or all. Dr. Susan Josephson was a professor of philosophy at the Columbus College of Art and Design for 39 years, teaching classes in the philosophy of visual art and the philosophy of media.

Getting the Most From Your Digital Camera, every other Thursday, beginning March 22

Tom Pegan provides valuable guidance to help develop an understanding of the basics of digital photography so you will be able to take photographs you will be proud of. Sessions will cover digital photography basics; photographing places, people, and pets; and how to process your photos on the computer for maximum effect. The final session will be a "gallery night" to showcase each participant's hard work.

Help Support Justice Work and Multi-Generational Leadership at First UU We have four high school youth and a seminarian taking the High School Justice Trip this year to our Justice General Assembly in Phoenix. These young people are already leaders among youth in our congregation, in interfaith youth work and in our district. At General Assembly they will develop further bringing leadership skills that will help us to have an even more vibrant, multi-generational justice ministry here. The connections they form at the gathering of all the member congregations in the UUA and the perspective of Unitarian Universalism as an international religious movement will help nourish their identity as UU's and their leadership within the movement.

What a bargain! Just write your check of any size to First UU and put "Justice Trip donation" in the memo line. Mail it to the church or drop it in the collection basket on Sunday.

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May all be well,
Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education
First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus
www.firstuucolumbus.org; JolindaS@firstuucolumbus.org
614-267-4946, ext 28

Rev. Mark Belletini, Senior Minister
Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister
Rev. Carol Brody, Minister Emerita
Rev. Wendy Fish, Minister Emerita
Dick Dawson, Chaplain
Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education
Deb McGuire, Staff Secretary/RE Assistant
Tony McDonald, Music Director
Brandon Moss, Chalice Choir Director
Cheridy Keller, Choir Director
Nathan Hamm, Pianist

Marian Garcia, Office Manager
Stephanie Rottmayer, SYC Director
Joe Voltolini, Bookkeeper
Don Hippensteel, Church Sexton
Naoko Kobayashi, Facilities Assistant
Cathy Hausmann, Facilities Assistant
Tim Hooks, Chair, Board of Trustees
Brian Hagemann, Church Administrator
Jenifer Bojanowski, Lead Toddler Room Teacher
Olwen Firestone, Newsletter Editor
Ben Iten, Campus Chaplain

First UU Church of Columbus is not responsible for the use, by others, of personal information published in the *Discoverer*



AUCTION NEWS

South Pacific - Some Enchanted Auction!!!! To put on an event of this magnitude needs many persons - some who do double and triple duty. It was indeed an enchanted evening. I would like to begin with thanking our intrepid committee: Cathy O'Neil Co-Chair/Silent Auction; Paula Hook, Silent Auction Deputy/Set-Up for Sunday Sales; Jim Pinkham, Website, Coordinator of Computer Sales/Brochure; Danya Furda, Brochure/Proofer Coordinator/Live Auction Slide Show; Jennifer Johnson, Fantastic Volunteer Coordinator (new this year - we are so happy); Decoration High Priestess, Marylou MacDonald; Kitty Durham Jones, Bake Sale Coordinator; Cathy Elkins, Bar Maven; Susan Hayashi, Everybody's Assistant; and Paul Delphia, World's Best Auctioneer.

Hats off to our outstanding Chef, Ellin Ray, and super sous chefs Becky Wolff and Chris Hardin, who served as liaisons to the committee, and to Sue Griffin who makes and sells jam for the auction every year. The rest of the volunteers seems like a cast of thousands, without whom we could not pull this off - the many jobs they did were: catalogue proofers, staffing the computer checkout auction night, set designers, bake sale sellers, Friday and Saturday set-up crew(s), Event Ticket Takers and Sellers, Silent Auction Monitors, Silent Auction Cleanup, Event Cleanup Crew, Kitchen Crew, Child Care, Bartenders, Silent Auction Setup, and the providers of the Coffee/Tea Service.

I want to thank our outstanding professional staff for their support and cheering us on and all the intangibles: Rev. Mark Belletini, Rev. Eric Meter, and Jolinda Stephens; our Church Administrator Brian Hagemann for all of his behind the scenes efforts, including the music for the slide show and poster; Joe Voltolini, our mild mannered Bookkeeper; Marian Garcia, Deb McGuire, Naoko Kobayashi, Cathy Hausmann, and Don Hippensteel for their assistance.

In no particular order our cadre of outstanding volunteers: Vickie Steiner, Jim Davenport, Dennis Read, Ellen Anderson, Barb Avery, Carole Wilhelm, Olwen Firestone, Caroline Rayner, Kathleen Fowler, Cathy Johnson, Brent Johnson, Lauren Custis, Scott Robinson, Vanda Hughes, Ruth Vandersall, Katie Swett, Barb Pratzner, Kathleen Boston, Diane Boston, Carol Fisher, Joan Matyskella, Paul Steffen, Luke Steffen, Laurie Weltlin, Norm Maschner, Allison Katz, Bill Echols, Rick Kritzer, Bill Keating, Tina Thonnings, Gail Hall, Bruce Reed, Patricia Reed, Jeannie Sperling, Michael Wiedenbein, Ruby Linhan, Tom Beerman, Marilyn Beerman, Jim Conlan, Carl Faulstich, Dan Baer, Elaine Fujimura, Ruth Gerhold, Mary Wolff, Sharon Oliver, Joanne Lowenstein, Karen Townsend, Pat Larson, Don Rice, Peggy McKee, David Krohn, Elaine Peterson, Gretchen Curtis, Pat Hoffman, Sue Engle, Melanie Boyd, Steve Abbott, Nancy McDonald, Oliver Jones, Gus Roussi, Shane Roussi, Mitch Gross, Charlie Christian, Eve Catus, Bob Papps, Sandy Coen, Kaitlyn Maywhoor, Julie Henderson, Rowan Henderson, Tanya Rable-Collins, Gianna Collins, Karen Torvik, Ross Torvik, Sam Roscigno, Eliza Steffen, Susie Mesler-Evans, Helene Roussi, Denise Deschenes, Jan Fleming, Joe Heimlich, Judy Fettman, Paul McGowan, Frank Phillips, Ken Treadway, Courtney Chapman, Jim Bailey, Ken Burke, Karen Burke, Dave MacDonald, Laurie Lowenstein, and Jenny McLaughlin.

If I have omitted someone or spelled your name wrong, please let me know, so I can acknowledge that in a future newsletter. Just a pitch for considering joining the committee - we work hard, but we play hard, too! Another group of volunteers who need to be acknowledged are all our bakers, preparers of side dishes, ticket buyers, and auction bidders!

We are very close to our magic number of \$27,400.00 in net profits for the church - We still have a few sales to conclude - plus we will be set up for the last time this Sunday, March 18. (I will do a list of items still available in the next newsletter.) Lots of meals and more spots, excursions, camping/antique trip to Indiana, game nights, and other items too numerous to mention here.

Thanks for a wonderful nine years as your Auction Chair/Co-Chair. Please provide your support to our incoming Chair, Danya Furda. Also, thank you to Kitty D. Jones who is retiring as Bake Sale Chair. She is being succeeded by Peggy McKee, who is also seeking a Co-Chair.

-- Jo Anne St. Clair

I mentioned the play "Next Fall" in my last column, a play by Geoffrey Nauffts that ran on Broadway for a time, and was nominated for a Tony. Steven Anderson, with whom I spent some time talking this last week, directs the CATCO-Phoenix productions. He has arranged for \$10 off ticket prices for the first ten folks from our congregation who wish to get tickets for the play on Friday night, March 23. (We kept on going back and forth as to whether the 30th or the 23rd was better, and I think I got this right, but I may have been confused. Ask. When you make reservations, use the code Unitarian, by the way, which signifies the discount.) I myself will probably go either next Sunday to the matinee, or on a Thursday evening. In any case, any play that involves conversations between atheists and conservative Christians, deals with the realities of same-sex love and different-sex love, and upholds the deeper meanings of family seems to be right in the neighborhood.

I will be in Florida to preach at West Palm Beach over the weekend of March 23-24, but will be gone a few days longer, since if I went just on the weekend, I would have had to pay over \$800 for the privilege of preaching at the church where our Columbus snowbirds Sarah and Henry Tate spend their winters. I will enjoy two days of R and R, I confess.

Those of you who are in church leadership positions...have you ever thought of grooming an apprentice to learn your leadership skills? Allowing you the privilege of REFLECTING on your leadership skills and questions with someone else. It's a good idea I think. This is one of the ideas that came up from my study trip at the Senior Ministers of Large UU Congregations conference in freezing California...when it was 70 F. here, it was 38 F. there. The palm trees were shivering.

This Thursday and Friday Eric and I will be attending some sessions at the Kirwin Institute, a remarkable treasure in Columbus for the study of American racialization. We can never learn enough about this.

Remember that Passover, the Seder, is coming up on Saturday, April 7, at 6:30pm. Communion in the Socinian style of our Polish ancestors will be Thursday, April 5, at 6:30pm. And the Flower Ceremony is held on Easter Sunday at both celebrations. Please bring a cut flower for every member of your party for the common vase(s). Spring is on its way.

Blessings,



Rev. Mark Belletini

The Inner Flame

by Turkish poet Nazim Hikmet c. 1950

(The poet wrote this while in prison, condemned for his radical poetry. It was published much later)

Today is Sunday.

For the first time they took me out into the sun today.

And for the first time in my life

I was aghast that the sky is so far away, so blue,

so vast. I stood there. No motion at all.

Then I sat down on the ground, in respectful devotion,
leaning my back against a white wall.

Who cares about the currents with which I yearn to roll?

Or about conflict, or freedom, or even my family?

The soil, the sun, and me...

How happy I am!