

The
DISCOVERER
Volume 72, #79, August 31, 2008

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WORSHIP SERVICES

September 7, 2008 - 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

“Rare, Sacred: The Water Ceremony

*First Year Cycle: Hospitality. Teacher Dedication. Intergenerational service.
Rev. Belletini, Rev. Meter and Jolinda Stephens will take part.*

September 14, 2008 – 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

“Outside the Tent Flap”

New Board of Trustees members and committee chairpersons will be officially installed. A reception will follow each service.

September 21, 2008 – 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Eric Meter

“Religious Truth and Responsible Speech: A Morality Tale”

Social Justice Offering

► **Getting to Know UU** meets Sunday mornings in Slowter Lounge after each Worship Service.

Wednesday, September 3, 2008

1:00p Archives Organizing
7:30p Men's Spirituality
8:00p Women's Spirituality

Thursday, September 4, 2008

9:30a Improvisational Dance
7:30p Chalice (11:00 A.M.) Choir
7:30p Writing for Life (open group)

Friday, September 5, 2008

12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission
6:30p First Friday Potluck
7:30p First Friday Programs

Saturday, September 6, 2008

8:30a Zen Meditation
9:30a Memorial Garden Workday

Sunday, September 7, 2008

9:00a Worship Service/Sunday School
10:15a Getting to Know UU
11:00a Worship Service/Sunday School
12:15p Getting to Know UU
12:45p YASC

1:00p 8th Grade OWL Parents

1:00p BREAD

1:30p Bluegrass Jam

5:30p Vegan Cooking Class

Monday, September 8, 2008

7:00p UU Social Dance; Grief and Loss
7:00p Program Council; InfoTech
7:00p Adult Enrichment Programs

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

10:00a Archives Organizing
1:00p Cancer Support Groups
5:30p Tuesday Night Supper (until 7pm)
6:15p Peace Pals Choir
7:00p Rising Voices Choir; Zen Meditation
7:00p UU Bible School
7:30p Men's Spirituality
7:45p Spirit of Life Choir

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

1:00p Archives Organizing
7:00p Memoir Writing Group
7:00p COA Orientation Rehearsal
7:30p Men's Spirituality; 10/17 Committee
8:00p Women's Spirituality

Thursday, September 11, 2008

9:30a Improvisational Dance
7:00p Soul Collage
7:30p Chalice Choir

Friday, September 12, 2008

9:45a Covenant Group Curriculum Team

Saturday, September 13, 2008

8:30a Zen Meditation and Orientation
9:00a Archives
9:30a COA Orientation/Opening Ceremony

Sunday, September 14, 2008

9:00a Worship Service/Sunday School
10:15a Getting to Know UU
11:00a Worship Service/Sunday School
12:15p Getting to Know UU

12:45p Sunday Forum

1:00p Nominating Committee

1:00p Pastoral Team

Monday, September 14, 2008

11:00a UU Handcrafts and Book Society
6:00p COA Team; Building Committee
7:00p UU Social Dance; Executive Com.
7:00p Sunday School Committee
7:00p BREAD Team

Tuesday, September 15, 2008

9:00a Newsletter folding
10:00a Archives Organizing
1:00p Cancer Support Groups
5:00p Memoir Writing
5:30p Tuesday Night Supper (until 7pm)
6:15p Peace Pals Choir
7:00p Book Bites; Rising Voices Choir
7:00p Covenant Group Training
7:00p Stewardship Com.; Zen Meditation
7:30p Finance Committee
7:45p Spirit of Life Choir

Wednesday, September 16, 2008

1:00p Archives Organizing
7:00p Membership Committee
7:00p UFETA Film
7:30p Men's Spirituality
8:00p Women's Spirituality

7:30p Thursdays, FOCUS meets in the OSU Campus area. Call 447-8407.

The next issue of *The Discoverer*: **Sunday, September 14. Deadline: 1:00pm** – hard copy in the yellow folder in the church office; or **6:00pm** – e-mail olwfire@yahoo.com.

In the previous newsletter I said I would explain the title of this column. Here goes:

It was the last full day of my sabbatical month in South Africa in 2003. I was at a bookstore in Cape Town, making a last minute raid to discover titles I might not find back in the States, when I came across a novel by Nuruddin Farah titled simply *Links*. Farah's writing is an hypnotic treatment of human resilience under nightmarish conditions. He tells the story of a Somali expatriate from New York who returns to his homeland in order to face ghosts from his family's past. I didn't know then that Farah once lived in Cape Town while in exile from his native Somalia. Only later did I learn that he would be among those seen as deserving of a Nobel Prize.

It was the title that first grabbed my attention. All through the month I had been experiencing links of one sort or another. A passing comment by a fellow traveler led to a stay at the only black-owned B&B in Soweto which led to an invitation to preach in the pulpit of the Rev. Paul Messiah (I kid you not) the next morning.

Perhaps the reality of travel helped make clear the connections we talk so much about. The influences and opportunities that have brought us to our current place in life are, of course, immeasurable. The ties that bind us to one another are just as thick.

If religion means to bind together, then what we as a religious community are about is to lift up the links that give our lives the meaning we strive for.

I didn't know what whirlwind I would encounter when I first opened Farah's book. I didn't know that the story would leave me stretched, perplexed and awestruck. Hopefully most our encounters at church will be a bit more gentle than a Farah novel. But if we are willing to be open to them, they promise to stretch us no less.

 Eric Meter

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Highlights of the August 27th meeting of the Board. Full minutes will be posted on the Bulletin Board in the Window Hallway after correction and approval at the 9/24 meeting.

- Highlights of written staff report by Mark Belletini: - Jolinda is returning to work cautiously. In her absence, Julie Henderson, Katie Swett, Lori Jones, and others are keeping the program going. - The Teacher's Retreat on August 24 was attended by over 40 teachers - Michael and other staff are working on building security - Infotech is working to improve our website - Michael is helping with the Interfaith Summit on Immigration Reform - Eric is still settling in, but is hard at work with Coming of Age, Covenant Group Steering team, Membership Committee, and others. He will lead worship at the Labor Day retreat. - Meg Barnhouse will preach here on 10/12; she is willing to do a fundraising concert that weekend. Mark would like this to benefit Jolinda, who is in serious medical debt due to the gap in insurance coverage between jobs

- Treasurer Frank Phillips reports that we may finish the past fiscal year slightly in the black, perhaps around \$2000.

- Tom Baillieul and Judy Houston presented a proposal to establish a Green Team. There is a group of people interested in participating, and the focus of the first year will be primarily research. The Executive Committee will bring this back to the Board for approval in September.

- The Board nominated Laurel Hallman and Peter Morales for UUA president.

- Board Reps to the *Governance Documents Committee* will be Chas Williams and Bob Gordon (ex officio.)

- Kate Power reported that the *Ad Hoc Committee on Church Name* is preparing a

program for the **September 27th Fellowship Dinner** (*see below*).

- Debra Boyd is coordinating Association Sunday, the annual UUA fundraiser on 10/26 26. Collection plates will be donated.
 - David Easter and Patricia Boughton reported on UU Leadership Training Institute. Leslie Armstrong, Judy Fettman, and Jolinda Stephens also attended.
 - The Executive Committee will discuss a liaison to the Music Committee.
 - David Easter presented a brief exercise on the spiritual aspect of leadership.
- Bob Gordon, Board Secretary

CHURCH NAME *The Ad Hoc Committee on Church Name* is conducting a discussion with the First UU congregation about what we call ourselves. The committee is committed to objectivity; we will take no position, but rather explore the will of the congregation. We intend to hear your views and report back to the Board what we heard.

The discussion will take place in the various church committees, both formal and informal venues within the church, and as a part of the program at the September 27th Fellowship Dinner. We look forward to receiving your input.

A background paper has been developed to aid you in your thinking and discussion. Copies will be available for handout at the Fellowship Dinner.

-- John Dickinson, Michael Bethel, Carole Pruiksmas and Marguerite Turnbull, Ad Hoc Committee on Church Name

COVENANT GROUPS are welcoming new members for this church year. There are several ways you can register: online at firstuucolumbus.org, or at the registration table in Fellowship Hall after services on **September 7 and 14**, or you can pick up a registration form by the Covenant Group poster in the gallery. Registration will end

on September 17. Groups will begin meeting the first week of October. You will be contacted about your group's first meeting at the end of September. Questions? Please contact Jeannie Sperling, 431-7235.

<p>FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK DINNER <i>Saturday, September 27, 2008. 6:30pm</i></p>

HOUSEKEEPING In an effort to keep our building looking clean and less cluttered the lost-and-found boxes have been relocated to the floor of the coatroom. Please check there for any misplaced items. Also, please check out the coats and jackets that have been left in the coatroom. You have until September 8 to claim your items before they move on to other happy homes. Thank you

PICNIC Time: Sunday, September 14 at 1:00pm. Place: The Whetstone Open Shelter (to the south of the parking lot, west of the Park of Roses). I will be bringing plates, cups, and silverware. Bring your own favorite dish. Hope for a beautiful fall day! Please forward this to any UUs in the area. - James Brown

NEW GROUP The UU Handcrafts and Book Society will meet Mondays at 11:00am in Slowter Lounge, starting **September 15**. We'll knit, spin, scrapbook, crochet, draw, sew etc – and discuss books. Bring your project along; we'll choose a book at the first meeting to get us started. We'll also discuss handcrafting for public service. Please bring a lunch for yourself. Contact Stephanie Mesler-Evans at 614-622-7081, or meslerevans@gmail.com.

WEBSITE UPGRADES COMING Many of us have ideas about how we could improve our electronic first impression, as well as other important things our website could do for our church community. We'll need more than web CMS experts -- we'd

like to hear all points of view. Your imagination, writing and editing skills, photography, graphic design or other skills might be just what we need! Please contact Kevin O'Neil infotech@firstuucolumbus.org and/or come to a kickoff meeting at church on **Monday September 8** at 7pm.

MUSIC NEWS The Music Committee needs four new people to replace members who will rotate off the committee next year. The committee reviews and produces the special events and activities of the Music Department. Committee members do not have to be musicians or choir members. The committee meets once a month. Interested parties may contact Tony McDonald, Music Director, at 267-4946 ext 32, or Musicdirector@firstuucolumbus.org.

All four choirs are starting up again. The first rehearsal for the Peace Pals, Rising Voices, and Spirit of Life choirs will be **Tuesday, September 9**.

Please contact Elizabeth Woodhouse, Woodhouse.8@osu.edu.

The choir formerly known as First UU Choir is now called Chalice Choir. It began rehearsals August 28, but new members can still join by coming to rehearsal on **Thursday, September 4 at 7:30pm**. For more information, please contact Doug O'Neal at rdohio@gmail.com

♪ The next **Sing-along** will be on Saturday, **September 20, 7:00pm** in the Worship Center. We will sing selections from our hymnal, familiar and otherwise. Rev. Mark Belletini will be on hand to bring history and insight to the hymns. Come and join us – no musical experience necessary.

UU BOOKSTORE The Sunday sermons are being recorded in both digital and tape format. CD and tape copies are available at the bookstore the Sunday following a sermon. The sermons will also be available on line. Watch for that announcement.

SPIRIT OF LIFE, SPIRIT OF LOVE: a program to celebrate Rev. Mark Belletini's 10th anniversary as our Senior Minister. On **Friday, October 17, starting at 7:00pm**, we will have an evening of toasts, music, and fellowship. Please join us. There will be a reception in Fellowship Hall following the program. Child care will be provided.

COFFEE HOUR HELP We still need people to help with the 9:00 am (1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays) and 11:00am (5th Sundays). About eight more people are needed. We usually have two people per service, and we only ask that you sign-up for once a month. It is a great way to meet people and to get involved with the church with very little external time commitment. If you are interested in learning more please call Charlie Haldeman at 326-2695, or e-mail him at haldeman.5@osu.edu. We really need the help so please step forward and be part of the solution. Thanks.

DIRECTORIES First UU directories are available in the front office (on the printer stand to the right of the door to the Senior Minister's office) for church Members and Friends only. The directory is reprinted approximately every two months. You may pick one up during office hours, Monday through Friday, 9am-5pm, or Sunday after the services. -- Marian Garcia

YOGA CLASS Begins **Wednesday, September 24, 7:30 - 9:00** in Fellowship Hall. Classic Integral Yoga school; introduction and explanation of poses; breathing practices and deep relaxation. Beginners and advancing yogis. \$10 donation suggested for First UU. Come to all six classes or drop in. Bring yoga mat or towel and a lap blanket. Wear comfortable loose-fitting clothing. - Linda Weigelt, RYT. certified Integral Yoga teacher, 397-7296.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

IMMIGRATION REFORM *The Midwest Interfaith Immigration Summit* is a two day conference that will provide faith-based leaders and advocates with the tools they need to educate and mobilize their communities in support of fair and humane immigration reform. The Summit will be held in Columbus at Fort Rapids Resort on ***September 10 and 11***. Topics include Local and State issues; Raids, Detention and Justice; Moving from Education to Advocacy; and Lobbying your Representative. Registration is \$120 for both days, \$95 for students. A limited number of scholarships are available from the Social Justice Committee. Scholarship recipients will be expected to serve as lead persons for continuing the work of the summit at our church, including exploring options to serve as a Sanctuary Church. For more information and to register, please visit <http://www.hias.org/midwest-interfaith-immigration-summit>. To request scholarship consideration, please contact Social Justice Committee Chair, Karin Grant at ankgrant@netscape.net.

Immigration Prayer Vigil *September 10 at 5pm*

A prayer vigil will be held at the West Plaza of the Ohio Statehouse to demonstrate the support and unity of people of many faiths who desire to work toward immigration reform. There is no cost to attend. Rev. Mark Belletini is planning to attend the vigil. This is an excellent opportunity for you to be involved in a national issue that is co-sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association's Washington office.



Nineteen First UUs had a wonderful time and an excellent dinner at BREAD's Support Drive Victory Dinner on August 25. BREAD commended First UU for having the largest turnout at the Action Meeting in May and for its member support drive success. We learned that 1) both BREAD's Corporate and Member support drives are on track together, to provide more than half of BREAD's budget for the coming year; 2) Judge Reece is working to add a judge, whose work would be dedicated to an expanded Drug Court; and 3) the payday lending battle is not yet over.

A big thank you to Elinor and Chad Alger, Marcy Baird, Rev. Mark Belletini, Peggy Carr, Sally Baker, Edith Reed, Bob Rice, and Pei-Hsing and Tien-Hsing Wu, the most recent investors in BREAD's work for justice in central Ohio. We have now met our goal of \$10,000 with 83 investors at the following levels: five Thomas Starr King Circle of Justice (\$500 or more); seven Susan B. Anthony Tent of Equity (\$300-\$499); six Hosea Ballou House of Hope (\$200-\$299); 25 Clara Barton Caravan of Compassion (\$100-\$199); and 40 James Reeb Embracers of Equality (up to \$99). You too can further BREAD's justice work with your financial support. Our goal is \$12,000. Just make out a tax-deductible check to BREAD (not First UU) and mail/bring it to the church in an envelope marked BREAD. Information/questions: Alice Rathburn, alice37@insight.rr.com (895-2109) or the BREAD website, <http://www.breadcolumbus.org/>

ATHENS COUNTY/APPALACHIA MINISTRY The shelves are empty...new clients every week. Many of the food pantries in Southeast Ohio are either closed or have no food. It is like the Great Depression down there.

Ralph Waldo Emerson says, "Helping others will lift your spirits. You can't help others without helping yourself." Please donate food or money to this outreach ministry in an area where 40% of the children go to bed hungry every night. It will indeed lift your spirits.

Remember: \$10 will buy a small bag of food; \$25 a large bag. Stop by the Social Justice Table on Sunday morning with your contribution. And thanks to all who are already participating regularly. Your help is greatly appreciated. – Jacques Angelino

UFETA (UUs for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) invites everyone to a special evening with Eleni Vlachos who will present a screening of her film *Seeing Through the Fence*, on **September 17, 7pm**. Eleni is currently touring the country due to the tremendous response she has received to her documentary which explores the cruelty inherent in modern factory farms and the

difficulty of sustaining the typical American diet. Q&A session will follow the screening. Donations will be accepted.

-- Jack Wisniewski, 975-5411

CARING CORNER

We wish a belated Happy Birthday to **Gladys Wayt** who celebrated her 91st birthday on August 21.

A speedy recovery to **Judith McDowell** who was hospitalized for several days with a leg infection.

Our sympathy to **Frank Phillips** whose mother died recently.

The celebration of the life of **Jean Levinson** was held on Saturday, August 23. Many thanks to Alisha Kuempel, Linda Miller, Gordon Miller, Erica Scurr, Ginny Szabo and Linda Weigelt for their participation in greeting and assisting with the reception for Jean which followed the service.

-- Jo-E. Miller and Carole Wilhelm,
Coordinators

First Friday Is For Everyone!

The beginning of the church year is a great time to begin a tradition of joining the First UU community for a potluck supper (homecooked or "pickup" on the way from work) at **6:30pm** followed by entertainment and education for all ages at **7:30pm** on the first Friday of each month.

Don't miss this **Friday, September 5**. Two of the program choices: 1) David Maywhoor, member of the Social Justice Committee, will lead a lively discussion on: ***What does it mean to green our church and our world? The issues of climate change and other environmental concerns***; 2) Steve Kraynak will show a video on a fascinating and controversial topic: ***The Wilderness Journey: The Struggle for Black Empowerment and Racial Justice Within the UU, 1967-70***.

The Interdependent Web Redux

In Boston, while teaching Unitarian Universalist history to the UU Musicians' Network (our Doug O'Neal attending!), I chanced on Sunday to be riding the "T" (their subway/elevated train) on the Red Line which takes you from downtown Boston to Cambridge, where Harvard is. I was going to have dinner in Cambridge with my friend Kim.

The car was one of six on this train, and it was crowded. It felt less like Sunday afternoon, and more like Friday afternoon at rush hour. I had a seat, but the car was packed with standing riders. Sardines. About ten minutes into the ride, I noted the profile of the grade school-aged young man standing in front of me. I thought, "Gosh, he almost looks like Sam from First UU Columbus." Similar hair color. He turned a bit. It was Sam! And Allegra, and Susan Roscigno, their mother. Dad Vinnie was attending a conference in Boston and the rest were doing some sightseeing.

What are the chances that on one particular August day in Boston, on a public train system with many lines, with many trains each day on each line, with many cars in each train, l-o-n-g cars, folks from First UU Columbus would be so near each other?

We were completely amazed and surprised. We didn't recognize each other for the first ten minutes because we were not expecting or looking for each other. We were lost in other thoughts. I suppose it's what Jesus was talking about when he said, "It's when you seek that you'll find." It's rare to find without seeking. You have to expect what you want to see in advance, in other words. It certainly gave me lots to think about as we prepare to look at our vision and mission statement this fall. Will we "see" justice, compassion and honesty unless we first intend to see them? We could just stumble upon them, I suppose, but what are the chances of that?

Remember: Water Ceremony Ingathering this week. Two services, 9 and 11, September 7. Get information about the water to me by Friday, September 5, at the VERY LATEST!

This year I am starting a Three Year Cycle of monthly sermon "over-arching" themes. I hope to have a pamphlet out to explain all that within a week or two.

And how are your warm welcomes to Jolinda and Eric coming along?



Rev. Mark Belletini

Rev. Mark Belletini, Senior Minister
Rev. Eric Meter, Consulting Minister
Rev. Carol Brody, Minister Emerita
Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education
Lori Jones, RE Assistant
Stephanie Rottmayer, SYC Director
Tony McDonald, Music Director
Doug O'Neal/Elizabeth Woodhouse, Choir Directors
Nathan Hamm, Pianist/Accompanist
David Easter, Chair, Board of Trustees

Michael Brennan, Church Administrator
Marian Garcia, Administrative Assistant
Joe Voltolini, Bookkeeper
Deb McGuire, Staff Secretary
Don Hippensteel, Events Coordinator
Naoko Kobayashi, Facilities Assistant
Cathy Hausmann, Facilities Assistant
Bob Graffagnino, Co-Webmaster
Kevin O'Neil, Co-Webmaster
Olwen Firestone, Newsletter Editor

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Across the Generations

Although most of us hate proselytizing, we are a religion of “converts.” The statistics I’ve seen indicate that about 90% of us were not raised Unitarian Universalist. If we were growing by leaps and bounds, that would be great news. The fact is that our growth is in the low single digit percentile. That means that we are only holding on to about 10% of our children.

One of the main factors leading to our loss of our young adults is believed to be the divisions we create by age within our congregations. So “multi-generational” is the watchword these days. And, I couldn’t agree more! Having age-keyed programming is very important. We all need classes and other programming that meets our needs and many of our needs are keyed to our stage in life.

We also need the stimulus and fellowship of many ages. That’s why including children in our worship is so important. It’s why First Fridays have such an important potential (see page 7). And, it’s why we need Sunday School volunteers from across the spectrum of adults in the congregation.

I’m not going to try to fool you here. ***Sunday School really needs YOU.*** This week we will have to close at least one class unless we get the volunteers to fill the roster now! Because I am so new, it is hard for me to know who to call on. It’s been suggested that I call all the parents and urge them to step up to their responsibilities and volunteer. It has always been my practice, however, to recruit 50% of Sunday School volunteers from the non-parent ranks. From young adults without children, from empty nesters and grandparents who miss their children and grandchildren and from all those people who never had children.

I do that not just because Sunday School needs them but because they need Sunday School and the UU movement needs children and elders who come to know each other, who witness the growth and change in each other and who value and care for each other. This is the start of creating Beloved Community – valuing and companioning those in our community who are not just like us.

Joyfully,

Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education

Our Children Need YOU!

We still need teachers for several of our classes with younger children. If you’ve never taught in Sunday School before, let me assure you that you will get support.

- A teaching team to work with, learn from and share the responsibilities with.
- Detailed lesson plans that make facilitating a class easy.
- Support from the RE staff – training, supplies, suggestions and support on Sunday morning from the DRE or Sunday Supervisor.

You will also get satisfaction, hugs, new points of view, a better understanding of Unitarian Universalism, a deeper spiritual life, new friends, and priceless questions, observations and even jokes. Who could ask for a better deal?

Here's where we need the most help:

9 am - 4-5 Fellowship (preschool play group) – This is the group most in danger of being closed.
9 am - 3rd to 6th grade
11 am - 1st Grade
11 am - 2nd Grade
11 am - 3rd Grade

To volunteer, call the RE Office (ext 28) or email dre@firstuucolumbus.org.

Get Your New Fall Adult Enrichment Brochure

Sign up for great classes now. The brochures and the sign-up forms are at the Information Area next to the kitchen. Here's a couple of great classes coming up soon:

- * **Vegan Cooking & Conversation**, 1st of four monthly classes, Sunday 9/7, 5:30 pm in the kitchen. Call Barbie or Megan Luna at 449-7791 today to register.
- * **UU Bible School**, monthly, Tuesdays, beginning 9/9 at 7 pm in room 9.

The brochure is full of great classes and events that cover many areas from theology and scripture to personal development and creativity.

Sunday School News

Next Sunday, September 7, we will worship together for our **Ingathering and Water Ceremony**. After the story children in elementary school will gather in Fellowship Hall for an active worship experience that will include making rain. Then they will rejoin their families in the Worship Center for the Water Ceremony at 9 am and 11 am.

Next week is the first of a series of dedications in the Worship Service that honor the leadership of the church. We begin with Religious Education on September 7. If you are a volunteer in Sunday School or Adult Enrichment Programs, please be present for this ceremony.

A Sunday School Open House follows each service on September 7. Come learn more about what the new Sunday School year holds for your family and don't forget to register. We want to be prepared for your children. *The new Sunday School year begins September 14.*

DATES TO REMEMBER

8th Grade OWL Parent Orientation is at 1:00 pm on **September 7**.

9th Grade Coming of Age Orientation and Opening Ceremony is Saturday, **September 13** from 9:30 to 11am.

Orientation for Senior High OWL is **September 21**.