

The  
**DISCOVERER**  
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THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
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### WORSHIP SERVICES

**March 22, 2009 - 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.**

**Rev. Mark Belletini**

#### **Chorale Celebration: Fauré's Requiem**

*Sung by the Chalice Choir for both services. No sermon. Readings.*

**March 29, 2009 - 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.**

**Rev. Mark Belletini**

#### **"Temples of the Heart"**

*Celebration Sunday. Rev. Belletini will be joined by Gini Courter, UUA Moderator.*

#### ***April Theme: Restoration***

**April 5, 2009 - 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.**

**Rev. Meter and Rev. Belletini**

#### **"Restoration"**

*A Palm Sunday sermon.*

**Special Spring Holiday Celebrations: See *Markings* on back page.**



**What Worship Service times are best for you? Let your voice be heard! See page 4.**

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

**Wednesday, March 18, 2009**

1:00p Archives Organizing  
5:00p Artist's Way  
7:00p Membership Com.; UU Humanists  
7:30p Men's Spirituality  
8:00p Women's Spirituality

**Thursday, March 19, 2009**

9:30a Improvisational Dance  
6:00p Communications Committee  
6:00p Dance practice  
6:45p NVC Practice (call 740-369-8356)  
7:15p Book Discussion (*White Like Me*)  
7:30p Chalice (11:00 A.M.) Choir

**Friday, March 20, 2009**

9:00a UU Food Co-op  
12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission  
7:00p (M)other Tour Play  
7:30p All Soles Contra Dance

**Saturday, March 21, 2009**

8:30a Zen Meditation  
9:00a (M)other Tour Workshop  
2:00p Book Tour  
7:00p Camerata Chamber Music Concert

**Sunday, March 22, 2009**

8:30a Breakfast  
9:00a/11:00a Worship Service/Sunday School  
10:15a/12:15a Getting to Know UU  
12:45p Conflict as Opportunity; YASC  
1:00p Mission/Vision  
1:30p UU History  
2:00p PFLAG  
6:00p Bridge Club

**Monday, March 23, 2009**

11:00a UU Handcrafts & Book Society  
7:00p UU Social Dance; Hard Times Group

**Tuesday, March 24, 2009**

10:00a Archives Organizing  
11:00a Senior Gathering  
1:00p Cancer Support Groups  
5:30p Tuesday Night Supper (until 7:00p)  
6:00p Administrator Search Committee  
6:15p Peace Pals Choir  
7:00p Atheist-Agnostic/Science  
7:00p Zen Meditation; Rising Voices Choir  
7:30p Men's Spirituality  
7:45p Spirit of Life Choir

**Wednesday, March 25, 2009**

1:00p Archives Organizing  
5:00p Artist's Way

7:00p Memoir Writing Group  
7:00p Board of Trustees  
7:30p Hatha Yoga; Men's Spirituality  
8:00p Women's Spirituality

**Thursday, March 26, 2009**

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

**Friday, March 27, 2009**

6:00p Youth Overnight  
7:00p Other Friday Film Series  
7:00p Turn the World Around

**Saturday, March 28, 2009**

8:30a Zen Meditation  
9:00a Healthy Children Healthy Planet  
10:00a Memorial Garden Workday  
7:00p Reception for Gini Courter

**Sunday, March 29, 2009**

***Celebration Sunday***

8:30a Breakfast  
9:00a/11:00a Worship Service/Sunday School  
10:15a/12:15a Getting to Know UU  
1:00p UU Artists; Artists Reception

**Monday, March 30, 2009**

11:00a UU Handcrafts/Book Society  
7:00p UU Social Dance

**Tuesday, March 31, 2009**

9:00a Newsletter folding  
10:00a Archives Organizing  
1:00p Cancer Support Groups  
5:30p Tuesday Night Supper (until 7:00p)  
6:00p Administrator Search Committee  
6:15p Peace Pals Choir  
7:00p Rising Voices Choir; Zen Meditation  
7:45p Spirit of Life Choir

**Wednesday, April 1, 2009**

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

***7:30p Wednesdays, FOCUS meets in the OSU Campus area. Call 330-805-0207.***

The next issue of *The Discoverer*: **Sunday, March 29, 2009**. Deadline: **1:00pm** – hard copy in the church office; or **6:00pm** – e-mail copy to [olwfire@yahoo.com](mailto:olwfire@yahoo.com).

The other day I returned from a week off in which I joined a family gathering to celebrate my mother's birthday. And while the time to rejuvenate was good, in many ways the return was better.

I consulted with a couple planning their wedding in the morning after getting back. Then Dick Dawson and I met with two people to complete their training as Pastoral Team members. (Yes, we schedule make up classes here at First UU. Folks deserve to be well supported when we ask them to join in the work of our congregation.)

Finally Donna Jarrell and Gretchen Faulstich joined me in driving to the St John's UU Church in Cincinnati for their annual Transylvanian Dinner. While we are just linking up with our partner church in Bolon, Transylvania, St John's has been partnered with the Unitarians in Naradzentslaszlo for quite a while. In fact, this was their 15th annual Transylvanian Dinner.

Let me offer the briefest possible history lesson: there have been Unitarians in Transylvania since the middle of the 16th Century. While they are ethnic Hungarians, after the World War I Transylvania was given to Romania. Since the fall of Nicolae Ceausescu's regime in 1989, partnerships have been formed between the Unitarian churches there and an increasing number of our congregations here in the States.

Now, in another coincidence that proves just how small the world can be, the minister of Naradszentlaszlo also happens to serve another small village nearby. And that church was partnered with the congregation I served in California for ten years. So I was able to visit with Mihaly and his wife Rosza, while picking up pointers on how to keep a partnership so vital for so long. It was a great way to get back in the swing of things.

In peace,



Rev. Eric Meter

**ANNUAL BUDGET DRIVE Stewardship Snippets** - Short, sweet and spiced with spirit!

Are you familiar with the Gospel story of the widow's portion? The Rabbi Jesus is observing wealthy men making their contributions to the Temple, and notices a widow putting her last two coins in the donation box. The widow has given the greater gift the Rabbi points out, for she has given all she has to give, while the rich men had given only a portion of their wealth.

This is a story I had almost forgotten until, as a steward for the annual budget drive, I shared it with a member who began to apologize for her inability to give more. "But yours is the widow's portion," I said, repeating the story. She found it so comforting that I was deeply touched and doubly rewarded for my service as a steward.

Ours is a faith of relationship and commitment. One of the commitments we make as members is to financially support our ministries of worship, caring, growing and serving. Giving what we can, even if that amount is not all that we want to give, reaffirms our commitment to be in relationship with our fellow members. The widow's portion I accepted that day remains the most meaningful and valued gift I have received as your steward.

If you have not yet handed in your financial commitment, please do so. If a one-time contribution of record, giving what you can afford to give at this time, is your most responsible choice, it will be received with sincere gratitude and the same willingness to accept additional gifts that we extend to all our members and friends.

-- Carole Pruiksma, Stewardship Committee

**What Worship Service times are best for you? Make sure your voice is heard...**

The Program Council is considering what worship and Sunday School times would be best for the whole congregation. Be sure to let them know what times are best for you and your family. Please complete the two-minute survey at <http://tinyurl.com/am9cmn> or look for a copy at the table in Fellowship Hall. YOUR input is important!

**EARLY BIRD BREAKFAST Now Being Served!** Join us for fun, food and fellowship before the 9:00 service. We will be serving a simple breakfast (eggs or oatmeal or you get the idea) starting at 8:30 in rooms A & B outside the kitchen. This is an experiment from now until the beginning of the single service summer schedule. If we deem it a success, we will be putting together a team for next year. So, please give feedback and join the fun. A free-will donation of \$2 per adult and \$1 per child is requested. For more information, contact Debra Boyd [debra\\_boyd@columbus.rr.com](mailto:debra_boyd@columbus.rr.com) or 353-0505.

**CONCERT** 🎵 On *Saturday, March 21 at 7:00pm* there will be a concert at First UU by the woodwind quintet Columbus Camerata. The ensemble received a grant from the Great Columbus Arts Council to present this concert as part of the Neighborhood Arts program. The concert, which is sponsored locally by First UU Music, a supporting organization for the grant, will feature music of many cultures, and a world premiere of a piece by Music Director, Tony McDonald. The concert is free and open to the public. Reception follows. Make your plans now.  
-- Tony McDonald

**"CONNECTING: First UU Members, Art and Spirit,"** March 9-May 3. Come and view the newest art show. Thirty-three First UU artists have 57 works hanging in the

Gallery, Worship Center, Fellowship Hall and the hallways. Look for the horses, people, flowers, landscapes, abstracts and kinetic art! We are a talented congregation.

Join us for an *Artists' Reception* on **Sunday, March 29, 12:45-2:00 pm**. We will be walking and talking about the individual pieces. Questions about purchases can be made to Deb Baillieul 447-1223 or [debbsyc@yahoo.com](mailto:debbsyc@yahoo.com).

**E-MAIL ADDRESSES** If you have an e-mail address, yet receive communication from the church in regular mail, we may not have your e-mail address. Please give Marian, 267-4946, your e-mail address if you are not receiving regular e-mails from the church. It saves postage to do our correspondence electronically. Thank you.

**WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY** 7:00pm  
March 18 - "We Did It Our Way";  
March 25 - We'll talk about us. Celebrating Women's History Month.

**ALL SOLES CONTRA DANCE** Friday, March 20, 7:30pm, Fellowship Hall. New dancers welcome; no partner needed. Toronto caller Bev Bernbaum joins Michigan band Scalar Scallawags for an evening of live music with flavors of Celtic, world and old time. Hammered dulcimer, piano, flute, guitar, bongos and bodran will fill the air. All dances are taught with humor and creativity. Cost: \$7; under 25, \$4. Childcare provided for the very youngest. Note: No *All Soles* dance in April.

**DEALING WITH CONFLICT** *Conflict as Opportunity* will be offered on Sunday, **March 22, 12:45-3:30**. Starting with a discussion of "Things that Bug Me," participants in small groups will discuss strategies of how to deal with common scenarios that come up in the church, including dealing with problem behaviors,

poor communication, and escalation of conflict. Focus will be on how to constructively de-escalate and resolve conflict situations. Lunch, childcare, transportation provided. Contact Karen Dawson (facilitator), 459-0787.

**SENIOR GATHERING Tuesday March 24, 10:45 until 1:15pm.** As with the December gathering, seniors are invited to gather in Fellowship Hall at 10:45 for informal conversation. David MacDonald will play his flute at that time. Mark and Eric will do a service in the Worship Center at 11:15, followed by a lunch served by the Pastoral Team. Transportation will be furnished for those who need it. Please contact the church office (267-4946) or Dick Dawson (563-4855) to let us know you are coming, request transportation, or get additional information.

**HEALTHY CHILDREN, HEALTHY PLANET** (\$25 book) Book purchase and details at intro session on March 28, 10:00am. Register by March 20, at the Adult Enrichment Programs (AEP) table.

**VOLUNTARY SIMPLICITY** (\$25 book) Book purchase and details at April 4 intro session, 10:00am. Register by March 27 at the AEP table or call the church office.

**SEDER** Please set aside **April 10** for the annual Seder. More information will follow. Call Carole Pruiksma if you would like to help with the preparations, 801-1830.

**HELP WANTED!** The Adult Enrichment Program is still looking for new people interested in serving on the Adult Enrichment Committee. Contact Judy Fettman, judyfet375@aol.com or Jolinda Stephens, JolindaS@firstuucolumbus.org.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS** Eve Catus, Claire Kolb, Susan Hayashi, Fujio Hayashi, James Conlan, Pat Hoffman, Julie Huhigg, John Huhigg, Brian Hagemann.

**(M)OTHER, a One-Woman  
Performance**

**7:00 p.m., Friday, March 20**  
and

**A Rehearsal for Activism  
Workshop**

**9:00 am to noon, Saturday, March 21**

***SOCIAL JUSTICE***

**HARD TIMES TASK FORCE** The task force that is forming within First UU (see Rev. Belletini's *Markings* column in the February 15 issue) to help members of our community navigate successfully through the "Hard Times" that are affecting us today, and will affect us more in the future, is planning a number of programs that will be announced as they are developed.

Contact Michael Greenman (614-898-5825 or mgreenma@columbus.rr.com) if you have additional suggestions or would like to participate with us in building community to help us all through the difficult times ahead!

**APPALACHIA MINISTRY** Thanks to all the scarf makers and afghan knitters. This handmade winter wear really shows the concern our church members have for those less fortunate in Southeast Ohio. All was greatly appreciated.

We are going to be filling Easter boxes for the food pantry in Mineral. We need green beans, corn, yams, jello—and money for hams. All donations will be welcome at the Social Justice Table in Fellowship Hall.  
- Jacques Angelino

**WARM UP APPALACHIA Afghan Knitting Bee** on the first and third Sundays of April at 12:45 to 2:30 pm in Slowter Lounge. Call Gretchen Curtis at 734-1214 or see her at church on Sunday.



• **Payday Lending:** Are the lenders finding loopholes in the legislation BREAD helped to get passed to reduce the interest rate they could charge from 391% to 28%? You bet! Is BREAD monitoring the situation and working to get legislation passed to close those loopholes? Of course!

• **Health Care:** The infant mortality rate among African Americans in Franklin County is 15.4 per 1000 live births, as bad as many third world countries. Statistics show that women who don't get primary health care themselves are less likely to avail their children of health care programs like SCHIP. Is BREAD working to get more neighborhood health centers in Franklin County to alleviate this problem? You bet!

Help BREAD get local public officials to work with BREAD for justice by bringing your entire family to the Monday, May 4 Action Meeting at Veterans Memorial (Registration: 6:15pm; Program: 7-8:30pm; childcare for ages 3-7).

All BREAD congregations are working toward a turnout of their average worship attendance (including children) to this once-a-year meeting. Let's have at least 300 First UU family members, friends, neighbors, and colleagues at Vets Memorial on May 4 (a little over half of our average worship attendance including Sunday School). Contact Alice Rathburn at [alice37@insight.rr.com](mailto:alice37@insight.rr.com), 895-2109, or 563-0536 for information about BREAD ([www.breadcolumbus.org](http://www.breadcolumbus.org)), First UU's BREAD Team, and/or our congregation's BREAD Justice Ministry Network.

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## CARING CORNER

Our thoughts are with **Marylou MacDonald** who will have thyroid surgery at Riverside Hospital on Thursday, March 19; and with **Beth Peterson**, who will undergo a biopsy surgery Friday, March 27.

We send our sympathy to Eunice Lovejoy and the family on the death of **Albert Lovejoy** on Sunday, March 8, in Arizona. Al was an active member of our church for many years and was a Professor of Sociology at Otterbein College prior to his retirement and move to Prescott, AZ.

**WANTED:** People who enjoy people, people who care about others. The Caring Table could use a few more volunteers to help out Sunday mornings, either first or second service. You will be able to attend the service of your choice. You will be a valuable part of this service of the Caring Committee. Please contact Jane Reisman for info at 237-3572 or [jnreisman@aol.com](mailto:jnreisman@aol.com).

**FIVE WISHES** If you, a family member or other loved one haven't yet clarified your wishes around end-of-life health care, or have yet to communicate those wishes to other loved ones, mark your calendars now. Our Pastoral Team and Caring Committee are jointly sponsoring a workshop using a process called **Five Wishes**, on **Sunday, April 19, 12:30 - 3:00 pm** in the Worship Center. More details to come.

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## DENOMINATIONAL CONCERNS

**OMD ASSEMBLY** It isn't too late to register for District Assembly to be held March 27 and 28 at the First Unitarian Church of Cleveland in Shaker Heights. There is a Candidates Forum on Friday evening for the UUA President (election at the upcoming General Assembly in June). On Saturday, Michael Durall, a nationally

known UU consultant, will be addressing *Extravagant Generosity*. This is a great way to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and get to know other people in our district ([www.ohiomeadville.org/annmtg/districtassembly.html](http://www.ohiomeadville.org/annmtg/districtassembly.html)). Debra Boyd will be driving up on Friday (leaving by 2pm) and returning on Saturday night late. If you want a ride, please contact her at [debra\\_boyd@columbus.rr.com](mailto:debra_boyd@columbus.rr.com).

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA 09) June 24-28 in Salt Lake City:** This GA is full of opportunities. Learn about church governance, generosity, social justice, life-span religious education and more. Be part of electing our next President of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Participate in modifying Article 2, our principles and purposes. Flights are less than \$300. Early Registration (until the end of April) is \$300 (scholarships and volunteer opportunities are available).

A group of congregants will be staying at a hostel (less than 1.2 miles from the convention center). Housing for June 22 - 28 is available for \$120 for the week. This would cover all of your lodging costs for GA (including going to Salt Lake two days early if you are volunteering or want to sight see). You would be sharing a room with no

more than three other people from our congregation. Bathrooms are dorm style.. More information can be found about GA at <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly>. Contact Debra Boyd about housing options at [debra\\_boyd@columbus.rr.com](mailto:debra_boyd@columbus.rr.com)

**Special Note:** UU University Changes! The success of UU University has led to changes this year to make it even more available to all General Assembly participants. This year, the programming will be included during GA, and all GA participants will be able to attend at no extra cost. Once again there will be several different tracks to match participant's interest areas. For details about this year's presenters and tracks, visit [www.uua.org/generalassembly/uuuniversity](http://www.uua.org/generalassembly/uuuniversity)

**WHALE-COAST ALASKA 09** The Whale-Coast Alaska registration deadline has been extended to April 15! Five Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our program featuring UU homestays, Native Alaskan culture, bears, whales, and other wildlife. Visit [www.whalecoastak.org](http://www.whalecoastak.org), email [dfrey@whalecoastak.org](mailto:dfrey@whalecoastak.org), or call 907-322-4966. Alaska UUs would love to share our awe-inspiring state with you!

### Green Tip

Plastic shopping bags are Environmental Enemy Number 1. Americans throw away 100 billion polyethylene plastic bags each year, equating to over 36 million barrels of oil used in their manufacture. Aside from clogging landfills, these nearly indestructible pieces of plastic kill millions of birds, sea turtles, marine mammals, and even domestic livestock every year.

The answer? Stop taking plastic bags when you shop. Keep a few cloth shopping bags in your car and take them into the store with you. They're completely washable, and with reasonable care, a cloth bag can last you 10 – 15 years (replacing over 1,000 plastic bags). Now that's smart.  
-- First UU Ad Hoc Green Team

Let's face it. We have the most amazing Auction Committee of any church in our Association! How that Worship Center is transformed into a model of the Universe with the bridge of the Enterprise and a café of interplanetary food in so short a time, only to be returned to its ordinary lovely Worship Center self in so short a time, is nothing less than wonderful. I sent a copy of the catalogue to my sister and my folks, and they were dumbfounded by the detail, the quality, and the sheer fun of it. Photos of Eric Meter wearing his Mr. Spock Vulcan ears will not go on the Internet, I promise, but it's tempting because it conveys the fun of the night so well. And to top it all off, we raised close to \$30,000 in a time of recession.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find the names of all involved in the planning and creation of this stunning and fun event. I invite you to thank as many of them as you can, personally, when you see them on Sunday, or during the week. Like a well-oiled machine, they worked together with remarkable economy, and that by itself is exemplary in this competitive world. Many thanks.

Please be sure to come hear the Fauré Requiem this Sunday, March 22 (both services) by our Chalice Choir. No sermon, but a few moving readings appropriate to a Requiem.

In two weeks, when our budget drive is hopefully concluded (have you told us yes or no yet to help us responsibly plan for next year? No matter how little or great, we need all members and friends to co-create the life of this congregation, as is reasonably possible in these tougher times.) Gini Courter, the Moderator of our whole Unitarian Universalist Association and a dynamic speaker confirms the luck of this congregation by coming to speak and help us celebrate what we have accomplished for next year's budget. You will not be disappointed. I just heard her recently at the installation of a colleague and she blew my socks off.

**Holiday notes: Up and coming**

A simple communion ceremony based on the practice of our Socinian (16<sup>th</sup> century Polish Unitarian) ancestors from 6:30pm to 7:30pm before Chalice Choir practice on the Thursday before Easter, **April 9**.

The Passover seder supper will be conducted on the following day, **April 10** at 6:30pm. This is a full supper plus beautiful ritual which celebrates our Jewish heritage with joy. More next newsletter.

And for those of you who are new, please remember to bring in a cut flower for every member of your party on Easter Sunday, April 12. This is for our beautiful Easter Flower Ceremony.



Rev. Mark Belletini

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Rev. Mark Belletini, Senior Minister  
Rev. Eric Meter, Consulting Minister  
Rev. Carol Brody, Minister Emerita  
Rev. Wendy Fish, Minister Emerita  
Dick Dawson, Chaplain  
Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education  
Stephanie Rottmayer, SYC Director  
Tony McDonald, Music Director  
Doug O'Neal/Elizabeth Woodhouse, Choir Directors  
Nathan Hamm, Pianist/Accompanist

Marian Garcia, Administrative Assistant  
Deb McGuire, Staff Secretary/RE Assistant  
Joe Voltolini, Bookkeeper  
Don Hippensteel, Events Coordinator  
Naoko Kobayashi, Facilities Assistant  
Cathy Hausmann, Facilities Assistant  
David Easter, Chair, Board of Trustees  
Bob Graffagnino, Co-Webmaster  
Kevin O'Neil, Co-Webmaster  
Olwen Firestone, Newsletter Editor

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## **Faith Development for All Ages**

### **Celebrating the Earth and Cycles: Turn the World Around**

One thing I particularly love about our worship services is that they are grounded in the reality of the cycles of nature. The references to what is going on around us in and upon the earth seem to be foundational to all else. And, that's as it should be for Unitarian Universalists. This grounding springs from our Transcendentalist roots perhaps. And these are roots we need to claim and to adapt to our own needs in this time. Never have we needed rituals and ceremonies that help us reverence the earth that gives us life more than now. It is important that we also encourage this reverence in our children.

The Neo-pagans have eight holy days each year. Please join me for celebrations, based loosely on these holidays, which honor the earth and are child-friendly but not child-centered. We will use story, myth, music, ritual, readings and dance from around the world to help us feel our connection with, and our dependence on, the earth. The first holiday, Ostara or the Vernal Equinox actually occurs on March 22 but we will not be able to celebrate the holiday until Friday, March 27 at 7 pm. Please join us and bring something for the altar - something that represents something important you want us to know about you.

If you would like to help create these celebrations, please email me at [dre@firstuucolumbus.org](mailto:dre@firstuucolumbus.org)

It's important to pay attention to other cycles in our lives. As I complete my first cycle of the church year, please join me for three hours on **Saturday, April 4, including a great lunch, from 11 am to 2 pm** for my DRE Start-up. It is a fairly new, but now standard, practice and the second step in the four-step Covenanting for Excellence in Religious Education. First UU took the first step with the thoughtful conduct of the search process. Now we need to take the next step together. We have made a good beginning on our own. Now we need to bring in a facilitator and discover from one another what we need to know to work together effectively. What do you expect of me? I also have expectations of you. Do you know what they are? This is for everyone. Old, young, parents or not, taking AEP classes or not. Sign up at the in Fellowship Hall to make sure we have lunch for you. It will be great to see you there.

-- Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education

**Check out the Parents' Blog**  
**[www.firstuuparents.blogspot.com](http://www.firstuuparents.blogspot.com)**

**Sign up for Peace Camp Now** Peace Camp registration forms are available at the Sunday School Information Table near the kitchen. This is a very popular summer event for almost first graders through almost sixth graders. So, be sure to get your reservation in before we open it to those outside First UU. Dates: August 3-7 for those entering 1st to 3rd grade and August 10-14 for those entering 4th to 6th grades.

**Coming Up...an exciting weekend (March 20, 21) at First UU:**

**1) Friday, March 20 at 7:00pm: (M)other: *The Play***, Actress, professor and founder of Mothers Acting Up will present a challenging and sometimes humorous exploration of what it takes to make us truly care about all the children of the world. She will also offer us an

opportunity to take action to make the environment safer for children. Four-minute preview at <http://www.mothersactingup.org/video/mothertour.html>

**2) Saturday, March 21, 9 to noon: (M)other: A Rehearsal for Action workshop**, Make your activism for children more effective using theater techniques. Call the church to register.

**3) Saturday, March 21 at 2 pm:** British author Imran Ahmad grew up in an immigrant Muslim household in England. He shares his experiences and insights, some poignant, many hilarious in an insightful talk at First UU at the beginning of his US tour. His book, available through Simply Living, is *Unimagined: A Muslim Boy Meets the West*. He will be available to sign your copy.

**Enter your child's art in the First UU Young Artists Show:** The walls of our entrance area and Worship Center feature some of Columbus' best art each month. And, here's a chance for our youngest artists - from preschool to high school - to be featured. If you do photography, drawings, paintings, collage, fiber art, sculpture or beading, enter a piece in the show. The deadline is May 1, 2009 - plenty of time to complete a new project. Entry forms are available at the Sunday School Information Table each Sunday. For more information, or for help with mounting or matting your piece, contact Deb Baillieul.

**Tuesday Nights at First UU** have lots to offer First UU families. There are the children's choirs and the 9 am choir, as well as a wonderful inexpensive meal offered. From 7 to 9pm we have childcare for the many committee meetings and classes.

Every Tuesday night there is **Zen Meditation**. Orientation to enter the group is the second Saturday of each month. The third Tuesday Suzan McCrystal invites you to explore the sermon themes more deeply in **Roots and Wings**. How do this month's sermons relate to your life? The third Tuesday also brings **Book Bites**. The fourth Tuesday features the **Atheist/Agnostic** group.

And on Wednesdays...you can join Integral Yoga at any time. It meets at 7pm every week, except the third Wednesday. Registration is required. It is led by Linda Weigelt, RYT Certified Integral Yoga teacher.

**Adult Class Information** The new Spring Session Catalog is available at the AEP Table NOW! Register for any Adult Enrichment Program event at the AEP Table each Sunday in the AB area across from Fellowship Hall or online at [www.firstuucolumbus.org](http://www.firstuucolumbus.org). Scroll to the bottom of the home page for the link. Further information from Jolinda Stephens - 267-4946, ext 28. Childcare is available for all AEP classes with one week notice. Arrange that through the Administrative Assistant, Marian Garcia, at 267-4946 ext 21.

**Inward Journey of Spiritual and Identity Development...Attention Youth and Young Adults of Color** If you are 15 to 30 years old and identify as a person of color (persons of Native American, Asian, Arab, Latino/a, African descent, trans-racially adopted, bi-racial, multiracial and international) you may be interested in this all-day FREE event May 16 from 10 to 6 in Montclair, NJ. Lunch and dinner are included.

If you've ever thought: How can I bring my total self to Unitarian Universalism? this event is for you.

The flyer is here: [http://uumetrony.org/events/YaYa\\_InwardJourney.pdf](http://uumetrony.org/events/YaYa_InwardJourney.pdf)

*If you need help finding a ride or have questions, let me know. 614-267-4946, ext. 28.*

## MID-YEAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING REPORT

Board Chair David Easter outlined the events of the first half of the church year, and thanked the many members and friends who have spearheaded a host of new and ongoing church initiatives. There will be three key personnel searches in the next few months: a children's and 9 a.m. choir director, a church administrator, and a permanent minister. He also said a new draft of the mission/vision statement will be unveiled at the Celebration Sunday service on March 29. The final version will then be voted on at the June 14 Annual Membership Meeting. He encouraged members to offer their input during this process.

Rev. Mark Belletini reported on the state of our church so far this year in many important areas. He said that our newly hired professional staff members, Rev. Eric Meter and DRE Jolinda Stephens, have already made major contributions to our church, bringing energy and fresh insights. Describing our church as a "healthy congregation," Mark praised the hard work and commitment of the Board and of our Chaplain, Dick Dawson, as well as the contributions of Michael Greenman. Mark highlighted the need for a volunteer coordinator, someone to organize the library, and suggested the possibility of mentoring interns for ministry.

Treasurer Frank Phillips and Finance Committee Chair Tim Hooks reported on the revisions to the budget in light of decreased pledge income and other factors. The Board passed a revised budget on January 23 with \$37,000 in adjustments.

Gretchen Faulstich reported that we are in the process of establishing a Partner Church relationship with a congregation in Bolon, Transylvania. We'll be hearing more soon on this initiative as it unfolds. Tom Baillieul reported on the activities of the Ad Hoc Green Team, and stated that the Board is considering making the Green Team a permanent standing committee. The Green Team is pursuing many projects that will make the church more green and energy efficient, and is in the running for a \$10,000 grant to create a rain garden on our property.

John Dickinson reported that the Ad Hoc Committee on Church Name has been collecting feedback from the congregation on the issue of our church name. The committee is compiling the many responses from interviews and forums to be compiled in a report to the congregation. Tony Skrabak reported that the proposed revisions to the UUA Purposes and Principles can be viewed on the UUA website. He said that while there is no change to the actual purposes and principles, new language elaborating on them will be assessed by delegates at this year's UUA General Assembly. Charlie Haldeman reported that the Ad Hoc Committee on Safe Congregation has been conducting a wide-ranging assessment of our policies and procedures in all areas of church safety. The result of this assessment will be a comprehensive new policy.

Music Director Tony McDonald reported that the search for a new 9 a.m. and children's choir director is underway; Jim Pinkham invited participation in the upcoming auction; and Gretchen Faulstich and Carole Pruiksma reported on stewardship and the annual budget drive, which will culminate at the March 29 Celebration Sunday service. Members who had not already done so were encouraged to get their pledges in soon. Patricia Boughton and Brian Hageman thanked everyone involved in the new website design and presented it to the congregation. They announced that it will be up and running within a month.

Rev. Daniel Budd of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Cleveland described the search process for hiring a new permanent minister. He detailed the qualifications of the search committee members and asked that we engage in soul searching to determine our needs in a new minister. He will serve as our district consultant throughout the search process.

--Judy Houston, Secretary, Board of Trustees

## AUCTION WRAP-UP

Well, it was a spectacular evening - and you did "bid as you have never bid before"! To date, our expenses are \$1803.56 and our net is \$29,558.99, an amazing feat in these economic times. To all our donors and purchasers, we say a heartfelt "thank you." And also many thanks to our professional auctioneer, Paul Delphia.

These events do not run themselves - they rely on the work and talent of many people. My thanks to my co-chair, Silent Auction Goddess, Cathy O'Neil; Bar Maven, Cathy Elkins; Decorations Guru, Marylou MacDonald; Artistic Consultant, Sandy Aska; Assistant Deputy Warden for the Silent Auction, Paula Hook; Bake Sale Supreme, Kitty Durham Jones; Robin Kimbrell; Terry LeMaster; Danya Furda and Jim Pinkham, our extraordinary Brochure and Computer team. A special thanks to Carl Faulstich for his weeks of entering "after sales" for the Auction. And our wonderful chefs were Ellin Ray and Becky Wolff.

Special thanks to the following who helped with setup, cleanup, bar tending, silent auction, decorations, and cooking: Mike Bethel, Rick Kritzer, David Krohn, Frank Phillips, Oliver Jones, Mike Shifrin, Tina Gratitude, Ruth Gerhold, Heather Myers Pierson, Charlie, Margaret, and Kate Haldeman, David MacDonald, Karen Townsend, Olwen Firestone, Eve Catus, Rose Baker, Adrienne Novak (set up food table), Don Hippensteel, Beth Witte, Kathleen Boston, Jack Wisniewski, Gretchen Faulstich, Sue Engle (thanks for all that money counting), Hans Kohles, Gail Hall, Kurt Maxwell, Dennis Rankin, Bob Graffagnino, Linda Houton, Sarah Jordan, Henry McNabb, Katie Swett, Eliza Steffen, Holly Adams, Jan Fleming, Joe Heimlich, Caroline Rayner, Kay Gaskill, Hap Baer, Suzanne Koebel, Paul Vierow, Bob Papps, Linda Royalty, Carole Wilhelm, Evonne McNabb, Kelsey Pierson, Parker Hoppens, Dexter McNabb, Delaney Myers, Ellie Hall, Rain Maxwell, Steve Conley, ticket takers Vickie Steiner, Jim Davenport and Susan Closson, and to my longtime friend, Eve Moredoch Stacey from Columbia, SC. (If I have left anyone out, please forgive me and let me know so you can be thanked publicly.)

As you can see, it takes many persons to put on this major event. Please consider joining our Merry Band for next year. It's a lot of fun, and we generate needed funds for First UU.

-- Jo Anne St. Clair, 2009 Auction Committee

P.S. You have one more week to make that last purchase!