

The
DISCOVERER
Volume 73, #37, March 13, 2011

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THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
Of COLUMBUS
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WORSHIP SERVICES

March Theme: Diversity and Difference

March 20, 2011 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Suzan McCrystal

“Reflections on *A House for Hope*”
Social Justice Offering Spring Equinox #73

March 27, 2011 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

“How Not to Be Afraid of What is Different”

April Theme: Freedom

April 3, 2011 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

“Not a Present”

► "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 16, 2011

8:00a UU Food Co-op
 5:00p Campfire Girls and Boys
 6:00p Movement (formerly Dance) Choir Group
 7:00p Membership Committee; UU Humanists
 7:00p Covenant Group Steering Team
 7:30p Yoga
 8:00p Women's Spirituality

Thursday, March 17, 2011

9:30a Improvisational Dance
 7:00p Artist's Way (co-ed); Communications Com.
 7:30p Chalice Choir; A House of Hope

Friday, March 18, 2011

12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission
 7:00p Origins of Religious Thought
 7:30p Menu for the Future

Saturday, March 19, 2011

8:30a Zen Meditation
 11:00a Sound team
 3:00p Settlers 30-Something
 6:30p SYC Auction

Sunday, March 20, 2011

8:45a Breakfast
 9:15/11:00a Worship Service; Sunday School
 10:15a Choir Warmup
 10:30a/12:15p Getting to Know UU
 11:00a Coming of Age
 12:30p Strategic Planning
 1:00p Youth Group; Prehistoric Goddess Study
 6:30p Partners/Duplicate Bridge (499-2434)

Monday, March 21, 2011

6:00p Social Justice/RDTF
 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship; Building Committee

Tuesday, March 22, 2011

9:30a Archives Organizing
 10:00a Artist's Way for Women
 1:00p Cancer Support (please contact
 eschof1835@columbus.rr.com)
 5:45p Tuesday Supper (until 7:00p)
 6:30p Peace Pals Choir
 7:00p Zen Meditation; Rising Voices Choir
 7:00p Atheist or Agnostic; Goddesses in Training
 7:30p Men's Spirituality
 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

1:00p Archives Organizing
 6:00p Movement Choir Rehearsal
 7:00p Memoir Writing Group; Board of Trustees
 7:30p Yoga
 8:00p Women's Spirituality

Thursday, March 24, 2011

9:30a Improvisational Dance
 10:45a Senior Gathering
 6:45p UU Animal Ministry
 7:00p Expressive Collage; Artist's Way (co-ed)
 7:00p RE Council
 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal; A House for Hope

Friday, March 25, 2011

6:30p GSA Potluck
 7:00p Origins of Religious Thought
 7:30p Singalong; Menu for the Future

Saturday, March 26, 2011

8:30a Zen Meditation
 11:00a Improvisational Dance II
 6:00p Baby Shower for James and Laurie Brown

Sunday, March 27, 2011

8:45a Breakfast; Leadership Development
 9:15/11:00a Worship Service; Sunday School
 10:15a Choir Warmup
 10:30a/12:45p Getting to Know UU
 11:00a Coming of Age
 12:30p Worship Coordinators Training; Gardening Club
 1:00p UU Visual Artists
 1:30p Wellspring
 2:00p PFLAG Panel Discussion
 6:00p Bridge Group (499-2434)
 7:00p Big History

Monday, March 28, 2011

6:00p Info Tech (offsite)
 7:00p Funeral Consumers Alliance; UU Dance Fellowship
 7:30p GLBT Book Discussion

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

9:30p Archives; Newsletter Folding
 1:00p Cancer Support Group (see March 22 entry)
 5:45p Tuesday Supper (until 7:00p)
 6:30p Peace Pals Choir
 7:00p Zen Meditation; Administrative Council
 7:00p Rising Voices Choir
 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

1:00p Archives Organizing
 6:00p Movement Choir Rehearsal
 7:00p Community and Questing
 7:00p Shared Housing Panel/Class
 7:30p Yoga
 8:00p Women's Spirituality

*ESOL meets MWF at 9:30a; FOCUUS (ages 18-35)
 meets on Mondays at OSU, 7:30p; 513-910-6449*

**The Discoverer - Next Issue - Sunday, March 27
 Deadline: 1:00p - Hard Copy in yellow folder
 6:00p - e-mail copy to olwfire@yahoo.com**

As I write this column, the news from Japan is both heart-rending and very much in flux. Problems exist at four nuclear power plants there. I can only hope that, by the time you are reading this, the situation there has begun to stabilize. What I am sure of, is that the people of Japan, to the best of their ability, are coming together in extraordinary ways to face the devastation created by the recent earthquake and tsunami.

I have always been inspired when people of good will come together in common cause. And it is because of this, in part, that, on each of the last three Tuesdays, you could find me, among quite a few others from First UU, at the Ohio Statehouse. We were there to lend support to public sector workers from around the state who had come to rally against Senate Bill 5.

This is the first time I can recall protesting alongside policemen and women. In years past I've participated in rallies at which members of the police, charged with crowd control, were less than friendly to those protesting. I have witnessed verbal harassment from members of the police force. Others, as you know, have experienced much worse. How much better it feels now, to be standing in solidarity with policemen and women, firemen and teachers as they rally to keep their collective bargaining rights.

It would be easy to be hopeless about the situations both here among our working families and in the tsunami ravaged areas of Japan. Still, I find hope whenever people come together, realizing that, in a fundamental way, we are all in this together. I only wish claiming that awareness came more readily in times that were not marked by tragedy.

May balms be found in Sendai, and may voices closer to home be heard.

in peace,



Rev. Eric Meter

CHURCH NEWS

Board Highlights, February 23, 2011 Board meeting

Treasurer's Report: (Debra Boyd) Pledge collection rate is up. Auction did well. Pledge dollars from new members are strong, as is Path to Membership program.

Staff report: Mark preparing for service with RDTF. Excited about all the work being done on personnel. Eric working with group meeting with Columbus Schools on truancy. Elected VP of OMD UU minister's chapter. Co-taught Pastoral Team training with Dick Dawson. Jolinda addressed UUA board about importance of continuing and funding justice work. Completed last major item to become a credentialed

religious educator at master level. Reached a milestone in multi-year planning to identify core-curriculum for adults. Brian: Will attend large church conference. Administrative Council will meet next week. Facilities update: looking at structural beam in courtyard with contractors. Furnaces: looking for new HVAC contractor. Roofers will come soon to repair leaks.

Organization Chart (Judy Kleen) Reviewed revised draft of organization chart and gave feedback. Judy will update and refer to "committee" flowchart (currently on website).

Update from Commissioned Lay Leader: Dick Dawson Dick is certified from OMD to be a commissioned lay leader for three years; certification will expire soon; discussed with Board renewal of certification. New certification agreement should be prepared, reviewed and voted on at March Board meeting so it can be submitted to OMD CLL prior to their April 30 meeting. Dick's work includes: general pastoral work; weekly meetings with Mark and Eric; hospital visits; individual pastoral work; available after both services for people to talk to; Dick has spent many hours helping people with nursing homes, hospitals, etc., often 10 hours a week. Oversees Pastoral Team of 35 members. Ministry to older seniors – presence and services for older seniors; works with Caring Committee; co-facilitates Healing Journey.

Board approved the following Strategic Planning Committee Members:

Dennis Rankin, Chair; Jeff Boughton, Secretary; Jim Conlan; Bob Letcher; Sarah Graffagnino; Anita Bucknam; Doug Rossiter. Two more members needed. Will identify initial terms of members; eventually all members will have staggered three-year terms.

Strategic Planning Committee Charter changes: Composition of committee – Members increased from seven to nine; three members will be Board members.

Next steps: Make updates and send to Governance Documents, put in newsletter, Board vote.

Board Goals – Formal Statements

- a) Address safety concerns – (Brian) Brian and Leslie have been reviewing. Have some documentation and Brian will be putting some processes in place.
- b) Social Justice alignment (Sarah) Beth and Sarah will be meeting with David Maywhoor to start discussions about moving Social Justice from second collection once a month to part of church's budget. This would be a three year plan.
- c) Explore ways to increase revenues (Patricia). Change wording to "increased sense of Stewardship" regarding congregation finances. Moving toward doing Annual Budget Drive as a face-to-face "ask." Have 20 stewards who will meet with four members each.
- d) Strategic Planning – in process (Doug and Anita)

e) All Board members present did Appreciative Inquiry questions and were invited to make their annual pledges.

Our CERG application was not accepted but we are encouraged to apply next year and also to use OMD resources.

The minutes were taken and respectfully submitted by Patricia Boughton for Beth Jewell

SOMETHING NEW Have you noticed the Welcome sign above the Greeters' stand? It is intended to help visitors find the stand when the Gallery is crowded. The sign was designed by Sandy Aska. It matches colors in the Gallery, the overhead signage, and the Schedule of Events notice in the office window. Please recognize Sandy for her valuable service!

SUMMER SERVICES The Worship Committee is asking for proposals from anyone who wishes to lead a Sunday Worship Service this summer. The proposal forms are available from Judith McDowell (jmcd011675@aol.com) or Kathleen Fowler (KathleenClarkFowler@gmail.com). Deadline for submission is April 15, You will be notified by May 1 if your proposal has been accepted.

BABY SHOWER for James and Laurie Brown. Potluck **6:00pm, Saturday, March 26**. They are registered at Babies R Us, but since they are traveling to India to meet the stork, cash gifts are also appreciated. RSVP to Donna Jarrell at jarrell.donna@gmail.com. Cake, drinks, and party favors provided. Please bring a dish to share. All are welcome.



UU ATHEIST & AGNOSTIC CIRCLE Allowing our relationships with nature to be mapped across time, from the big bang that created the sun, to the cosmic processes that created the earth, to the rains that created its oceans --yes, to the microbes in the water and in the soil, leading to the evolution of the other species of plants and animals -- leads us to educate our sense of gratitude by becoming aware of our own sources. At the same time, we can sensitize ourselves to the vast impersonal forces and processes that make us possible. In other words, we need not be grateful to any being for our place in nature, even though we are grateful for it. Glimpsing the larger picture means sensing that we humans have evolved in relation to all of this. We belong to it. Taken together, the universe, the solar system, and the natural and physical environment have created and continue to support -- us. - Ronald Aronson, "Living Without God"

BIG HISTORY Sunday, March 27, 7pm - Big History: The History of the Universe from the Big Bang to DNA Join Wanda Hambrick and Pat Marida at this ongoing series of two half-hour video lectures by Professor David Christian, San Diego State University. *Big History*, Dr. Christian's life's work, weaves a single story from a variety of scholarly disciplines. #44 *The World that the Modern Revolution Made* and #45 *Human History and the Biosphere*. **Sunday, April 10, 7pm - Finale!** The final three half-hour video lectures: #46 *The Next 100 Years*, #47 *The Next Millennium and the Remote Future* and #48 *Big History—Humans and the Cosmos* will be shown.

FUNERAL CONSUMERS ALLIANCE OF CENTRAL OHIO (FCACO) Are you a member of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio (formerly known as the Memorial Society)? Do you have questions about what your membership means? Do you have questions about how you might be able to help spread the word about the important information we make available? Do you need help filling out your forms? Come and give some support to the volunteers who keep this organization growing. Perhaps you are just curious about us. There is no obligation to join if you attend.

Since we became a 501(c)(3) public charitable organization our emphasis has been on public education of the rights of funeral purchasers. Buying a funeral can be difficult and stressful. Get the up-to-date information you need, whether or not you decide to use one of our cooperating funeral directors.

Come to our monthly, informative meeting and bring a friend who could benefit from knowing about our work. Our open meeting is held monthly (4th Monday) in Room 8 at the church, 7:00 pm). Next meeting is March 28, and the presenter is Phyllis Byard. For further information, contact Phyllis Byard at 846-2747 .

GARDENING CLUB will meet on *Sunday, March 27 at 12:30 p.m.* following the second service. During our brown bag lunch, we'll chat about: tips on starting plants from seeds, how to save seeds from plants for the next growing season, a church-wide plant swap in May, and firm up plans for a road trip to Schnormeijer Gardens in June. Please bring a "this caught my eye" to start our meeting. Anyone having a gardening interest is warmly invited to attend. Contacts: Pam Hussein 725-4640, Anita Bucknam 310-6210 and Chris Hardin 707-8997.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY Wednesdays, at 8:00pm (**time change to 7:30pm in April**).
March 16 – Irish Women” (Jeanni Ray); March 23 - Let's talk of Spring (all); March 30 – Ordinary Women Live Extraordinary Lives (all); April 6 – Birthdays, Poetry (all)

GLBTQ & ALLIES BOOK GROUP *Monday, March 28, 7:30-9:30.* We'll discuss Joan Roughgarden's thought-provoking book *Evolution's Rainbow: Diversity, Gender, and Sexuality in Nature and People.*

The book group is open to all, regardless of orientation or gender expression. Also, as each book stands alone, participants may attend this session, regardless of whether they attended previous ones. Contact Caroline Rayner (crayner@columbus.rr.com or 447-1167).

FIRST FRIDAY April 1, 2011

National Poetry Month – all poets and all poetry lovers are asked to bring poetry to share.

-- Jeanni Ray, 985-6176

PHOTOS NEEDED Do you have candid shots of various church gatherings and activities which we could use in our church photo directory? Please e-mail .jpg pictures with pertinent info to Mary Rogers, mr Rogers8456@aol.com or call her at 214-7540, no later than March 21.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

SPANOHIO A meeting of the Columbus chapter of SPANOhio will be held **Tuesday, March 22** at the Whetstone Library meeting room at 7pm. After an update on the pending legislation in Vermont to establish a single payer plan, we will view the DVD "Sick Around the World." Contact: Alice Faryna: 442-9310

PANTRY SUGGESTIONS Did you know that the Mineral OH pantry in Athens County/Appalachia is the only one of the five pantries in the county that has never run out of food? Those of you who donate food or money should take a bow! And this pantry allows recipients to receive a food box every month rather than the 60 days required in the other four. Yes, you all make a difference, a huge difference, in this poorest county in the state. Please continue to bring in food (peanut butter, dried pinto beans etc.), children's books, and blankets.

Your clean empty aluminum cans help to finance our project. All donations are tax deductible. Just ask Jacques for a receipt. Jacques is also available to help organize meaningful, age-appropriate community service activities for groups and individuals, and for speaking engagements (no fee).

CARING CORNER

We send best wishes to **Don Jones**, celebrating his 88th birthday on Tuesday, March 15.

Congratulations to **Will Smith and Shuan'te Jones** on the birth of Gerald William Smith, on March 2 at Grant Hospital. Congratulations also to young Gerald's great-aunt, **Doris Oursler**.

Congratulations to **Linda Weigelt** on receiving her certification in Cardiac Medical Yoga Teacher Training at the Sivanda Ashram Retreat in Nassau in the Bahamas.

We send caring thoughts to **Beth Greenfield** who is at the Whetstone Care Center for rehab.

We offer our sympathy to the **McGuire family**: Michael, Deb, Meggie and Kati. Michael's mother -- Pat McGuire -- died March 5 after a brief illness.

CARING TABLE We are in need of volunteers to sit at the Caring Table on Sunday mornings. This is a wonderful way to meet people and to serve this important part of life at First UU. It's a once a month commitment for first or second service, and you won't miss the service. Please contact Jane Reisman, jnreisman@aol.com, or Ohma Willette, ohmawi@gmail.com, for more information.

BIRTHDAYS The Caring Committee made a policy change at its March meeting. Beginning at age 85, rather than 90, members and friends will have their birthdays announced and recognized (with their approval) each year. Please contact Carole Wilhelm at 889-1182 if you are close to 80, as we want to recognize you also. Belated Happy Birthday to Tex Kohles and Bill Simons who were 88 and 86, respectively, last month.



Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter. M.L. King Jr.

First UU BREAD Justice Network Members were commissioned by Rev. Mark Belletini on Sunday, March 13. These members will contact *you* for the BREAD Nehemiah Action Meeting at Veterans Memorial on **Monday, May 2, 2011**, 6:45 p.m. BREAD will be asking one or more public officials for a partial solution to the problem of *Crime and Violence in Franklin County*. Just think of the impact BREAD would have if Veterans Memorial were completely filled on May 2! The larger the number attending, the greater influence BREAD has! Expect a call from a network member soon.

Laura Adams	Jane Larson	Joe Pierce
Deb Baillieul	Karen Lewis	Jim Pinkham
Tom Baillieul	Steve Lefevre	Alice Rathburn
Rev. Carol Brody	Steve Loeb	Ron Rathburn
Susan Closson	Marge Lynd	Bob Rice
Chris Collins	Marylou MacDonald	Doug Rossiter
Denise Deschenes	David MacDonald	Stephanie Rottmayer
David Easter	David Maywhoor	Linda Royalty
Cathy Elkins	Deb McGuire	Pat Snyder
Alice Faryna	Marla McMichael-Liston	Jolinda Stephens
Carol Fisher	Rev. Eric Meter	Gini Szabo
Bill Fullarton	Bill Miller	Madelon Timmons
Danya Furda	Patti Monroe	Wesley Thompson
Susan Gorman	Susan Musik	Faith Van Horne
Don Hippensteel	Lauri Nandyal	Fred Vierow
Pat Hoffman	Jane Parnes	Marilyn Webster
Beth Jewell	John Perry	Kirstina (Kat) Whitford
Annie Kiser	Bill Persi	Robert Ziegler

For more information about BREAD, see www.breadcolumbus.org; or contact Alice Rathburn at 895-2109; 563-0536, or alice37@insight.rr.com.

REPORT FROM THE LIBRARY TEAM

Since July 2010, a small band of people has been working to renovate the church library and make it user friendly. We are not there yet but here is what has happened to date:

The shelves have been thoroughly scoured for out-dated, non-related and other non-essential materials. What remains is a collection that will include: World Religions, Unitarian Universalist Authors and History, Philosophy, Human Development and UU Organizational and Development books. Also, special collections such as Pastoral and Caring materials, as well as study material for ministerial students, will be available.

We are developing policies and procedures for library usage and these will be posted when ready. A computer has been donated (thank you Brian), and software will be obtained to catalog the collection and any new materials added. When the cataloging is complete, the books will be ready for circulation.

We have submitted a request for budget funds to add to the collection in the future. The walls have received a fresh coat of paint, and art work will be hung soon. Bargain furniture such as a desk and chair has been put in place for the computer, which will have an internet connection and be available for search of the Columbus Metropolitan Library holdings and other research.

When this renovation is complete, we will hold a party and you are all invited! The Library Team - Kathleen Boston, Paula Hook, Florence Jain, Jeanne Slasor and Susan Vierow.



Is Shared Housing for You?

Have you ever had roommates or housemates? Would you consider sharing your home with someone? Are you looking for shared housing? AEP is planning a program on **Wednesday, March 30, 7:00pm** to educate the First UU community about shared housing. If you're interested in attending such an event, or if you have some expertise and would like to help plan it, contact Deb McGuire, 614-571-4663 or homescolumbus@gmail.com



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Rev. John E. Evans and the First Unitarian Church 1956 - 1963 Part I

Rev. Evans came in January, 1956, as guest preacher and candidate. On Tuesday evening, January 17, the congregation voted to call him as minister and he and his family arrived in Columbus on March 1. Before his arrival he had already been interviewed for an article in the Columbus Citizen entitled "Unitarians Reject the Conventional Creeds; Individuals Must Seek Truth for Themselves."

He was born in Iowa in 1917 and received his Divinity Degree from Harvard in 1952. During WWII he served in the U.S. Navy for four years as Small Craft Commander, Officer and Navigator. For several years he worked outside the Ministry, teaching history, and serving as librarian at Emerson College in Boston. He served as minister of the Pittsburgh Northside Unitarian Church 1949 - 1952. After that he worked in the Detroit and Highland Park Public Libraries and in 1956 came to Columbus.

Rev. Evans was minister during a busy period for the church. The congregation bought land on W. Weisheimer and then raised the money to build and dedicate a new church.

An article in the Columbus Citizen-Journal (Oct. 10, 1960) tells of two of "Columbus' leading young liberal ministers-- one a Methodist, the other a Unitarian..." These two ministers "appealed for the triumph of reason and truth over passion and bigotry in the *Religion in Politics* issue Sunday." Religion of a presidential candidate was an issue since John F. Kennedy, a Catholic, was running. (A president's religion seems to be a topic of great interest again today.)

During his tenure, the Unitarians and the Universalists voted to merge or consolidate the two groups. He sent a letter to each member asking for their opinions and vote.

To be continued. -- Linda Thompson, Historian

At our February 13 services, the congregation entered into covenant with our first Faith Development Associates. I wrote about this in the last newsletter but a lot of it had to be edited for space. This represents a profound change in the way we organize all of religious education and I really want to share it with you.

You may wonder what Faith Development Associates (FDA) are. Sunday School FDAs commit to three years of supporting teachers and children and youth, and to take at least one class in their area of ministry and an anti-racism class. They come together monthly to share their personal joys and concerns and what's going on with their ministry.

Our third FDA is **Marla McMichael-Liston** (at 11:00am) who is getting to know the families and teachers in the elementary program. If your children attend at 11, stop and talk to Marla. You will probably remember Marla for her wonderful choir solos. She has been backup in supervising Sunday School and serves on the Sunday School Committee. Marla has two children in Sunday School - Madie and Gabe.

We plan to have Faith Development Associates in our growing adult program by the end of the year. Currently I'm looking for a Faith Development Associate for our young families and for the Sunday School programs for 6th grade and up. In adult programming we'd love to have a Faith Development Associate to bring very special events to First UU and another to concentrate on multi-age multi-cultural programming.

By the end of the year our Sunday School Committee will be disbanded. We plan to recruit a Sunday School Ambassador's group, composed of influential members of the congregation who will act as informal ambassadors and advocates for our Sunday School program and for families. If you want to be a part of this exciting ministry, please email me at jolindas@firstuucolumbus.org

First UU supports a **Campfire** club. Here's a report from Campfire Leader, Mary McMichael-Liston:
The club is growing. We currently have 8 boys and girls, from first to fifth grades actively involved in the club. We have been learning about working together, leadership, and all the "business activities" of creating/running a club. The kids have created a covenant for how everyone is to be treated, laid out consequences for those who break the covenant, named the club, created a job list for each meeting, and are creating a club banner. They are very enthusiastic and excited to be in charge!

Expert on talking to children about race will be in *Race to Justice* class

Dr. Jeane Copenhaver, OSU professor in the School of Teaching and Learning, will be in the *Race to Justice* classroom often during the next six weeks. She is gathering information to assist her in formulating her next research proposal which she expects will include the role that religious institutions play in the development of ideas about race. She will not gather individual information. She is looking for overall impressions.

The *Race to Justice* teachers and I are excited about this opportunity. Jeane will be able to provide feedback to the teachers as they move through the preparation of a video about racial attitudes. In addition, she has volunteered to work with me on a class for parents about talking with your children about race. She is best known for the extensive mentions of her work in *NurtureShock* in the chapter titled "Why White Parents Don't Talk About Race."

You can find her cv here: <http://ehe.osu.edu/edtl/faculty/copenhaver-johnsonjeane.htm>

And her article "Talking to Children About Race" here:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.amazeworks.org%2Fresources%2FTalkingtoChildrenAboutRace.pdf>

Please call me at the church, ext 28, if you have questions about this.

Broaden your teen's experience and leadership skills

CIFY is looking for interfaith bridge-building UU Youth ages 13-19! We know you are out there! Columbus InterFaith Youth are busy with preparations for work projects around town focusing on their chosen theme for 2011--Hunger. They have Muslim, Jewish, UU, Christian, Hindu and Questioning youth coming together on the second and fourth Sunday afternoons throughout the year between 2 and 4pm. This group was "born" at First UU. This is a great way to broaden your teen's experience and leadership skills. Upcoming projects include: YES! (Youth Empowerment and Skills) training; Hunger in Ohio; Lunch sack packing for the Open Shelter; and the 2nd Annual "Spruce Up the Near Eastside."

Quick ways to make Sunday School Spectacular

1. Make Holi even greater this year. Kids are already asking for it. Holi, sometimes called the Holiday of Colors, is an Indian spring holiday celebrated by all the major religions in India. We celebrate it more than a month late to correspond more closely to the reality of spring here. Last year we had body smearing with finger paints, face painting, dancing to Indian music with scarves ankle deep in flower petals and storytelling. Had the weather been better we would have had squirt guns with children's water paint. We need people to lead all of these activities.
2. Lead the PreK/K groups in Justice Sunday. The suggestion is that they visit the bison at Battelle Darby Creek and go creeking there the next week.
3. Work with our Justice Sunday Coordinators for Children and Youth and a Spanish-speaking Catholic Parish. On those two Sundays in May we would like to join with a Catholic Parish that we met at the Feast Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe. We will need adults, as well as youth, to plan the events. Particularly consider this if you speak Spanish, but don't rule it out if it interests you

May all be well.

Jolinda
Jolinda Stephens
Director of Religious Education
First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus
614-267-4946, ext

ADULT ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

UU Visual Artists will hold its monthly meeting on *Sunday, March 27 at 1:00 pm*. The discussion topic is *Matting, Hanging, and Framing*. And be sure to tour the current show, *Process and Product*, art by Jo and John Dickinson. This show will be on display through April.

GLBTQ & ALLIES Book Group *Monday, March 28, 7:30-9:30*. We'll discuss Joan Roughgarden's thought-provoking book *Evolution's Rainbow: Diversity, Gender, and Sexuality in Nature and People*. Contact Caroline Rayner (crayner@columbus.rr.com or 447-1167).

"A House for Hope" Join Rev. Susan McCrystal and Rev. Eric Meter in an exploration of our theological and spiritual heritage, *Thursdays at 7:30pm*.

Origins of Religious Thought What is this phenomenon called religion that finds expression in only one species on our planet? How did it come to be? And why does religion continue to be such a dominant force in the 21st century? *Fridays, March 11, 18, and 25, 7:00 pm*.

A weekly **Walking in Nature** group begins *Friday, March 25, at 9:30am*. Meet in the Nature Center parking lot at Highbanks Metro Park. Come and celebrate spring with a one hour walk for exercise and an appreciation of nature, the changing seasons, and the web of life. Contact Erica Scurr at escurr@juno.com or 740-549-1518.

I want to thank John Dickinson for donating the painting “Roots Hold Me Close,” now hanging in Slower Lounge. The title and composition reflect the line in the hymn *Spirit of Life*. It also helps those of us, worn out by a long winter, to see the colorful, electric beauty in the bare bark and roots of a late winter tree, unadorned by ice or snow, without the contrast of a single crocus. John’s painting does what good art often does...invite us to see what’s right there in front of us...as if for the first time. Jo and John Dickinson’s show provides us with a whole company of such invitations. I hope you will take them up on their offer.

The state of the arts around this congregation leaves me grateful all the time. The gifts of the art shows, the creative music on Sunday and during concerts, the Movement Choir, the choirs, the skits of our children...it’s amazing.

On the weekend of the March 25-27, not only will our congregation be helping to host the district meeting at St. Clairsville, OH, but my good friend Rev. Nate Walker will be in for the meeting from Philadelphia. You may have read about his conversation with Monsanto in the *UU World*. Some of you will remember him as my wonderful young colleague who brought me into the twenty-first century by buying me an iPhone. What a great joy his visit will be! He will join us on Sunday during the service...I promised him he could do something...so we’ll see.

The Spring comes...and now is. Welcome the day with gladness and greet the morning with praise.
(adapted from the Liturgy of Matins in the manner of the congregation of Abraxas.)



Rev. Mark Belletini

The Inner Flame – Wendell Berry. 1980

Through the weeks of deep snow
we walked above the ground
on fallen sky, as though we did
not come of root and leaf,
as though we had only air and weather
for our difficult home.

But now, as March warms,
and the rivulets run like birdsong
on the slopes, and the branches of light
sing in the hills, slowly
we return to the earth.

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 Administrator
Stephanie Rottmayer, SYC Director
Joe Voltolini, Bookkeeper
Don Hippensteel, Events Coordinator
Naoko Kobayashi, Facilities Assistant
Cathy Hausmann, Facilities Assistant
Rich Humenick, Chair, Board of Trustees
Brian Hagemann, Church Administrator
Jessica Winters, Lead Toddler Room Teacher
Olwen Firestone, Newsletter Editor
