

The
DISCOVERER
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THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
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WORSHIP SERVICES

May Theme: Community

June 12, 2011 10:00 A.M

Rev. Mark Belletini

The Story of our Story (GLBTQ Sunday)

The service will be followed by a "mini potluck," First UU Library Open House and Annual Meeting at 12 noon.

June 19, 2011 10:00 A.M.

Michael Dobson

"Standing at the Young Adult Gap Nine Years Later"

June 26, 2011 10:00 A.M.

Wes Thompson

"Obstacles to Action"

► "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, June 8, 2011

8:00a UU Food Co-op
 1:00p Archives Organizing
 6:00p Zen in the Workplace
 6:30p Life Stories
 7:00p Memoir Writing Group
 7:30p Women's Spirituality; Personnel Committee
 7:30p American Poetry

Thursday, June 9, 2011

9:30a Improvisational Dance
 6:30p GSA Marriage Equality Phone Bank
 7:00p Expressive Collage
 7:00p Building & Grounds; RE Council
 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal

Friday, June 10, 2011

7:00p Junior High Youth Group Overnight

Saturday, June 11, 2011

8:30a Zen Meditation
 11:00a Improvisational Dance II
 3:00p Settlers 30-Somethings

Sunday, June 12, 2011

8:45a Leadership Development Committee
 10:00a Worship Service; All Ages Sunday School
 11:15a Mini-Potluck
 11:30a Getting to Know UU
 12:00p ANNUAL MEETING
 12:45p Mindfulness Group
 1:00p Green Team

Monday, June 13, 2011

7:00p UU Dance Fellowship; Executive Committee
 7:00p Adult Enrichment Programs
 7:00p Gay Straight Alliance

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

9:30a Archives Organizing
 1:00p Cancer Support Group
 6:45p UU Animal Ministry
 7:00p Zen Meditation; Social Committee
 7:00p UU Bible School; Administrative Council
 7:30p Men's Spirituality

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

1:00p Archives Organizing
 5:00p Campfire Girls and Boys
 6:00p Zen in the Workplace
 6:30p Life Stories
 7:00p Covenant Group Steering Committee
 7:00p Membership Committee
 7:00p UU Humanists
 7:30p Women's Spirituality
 7:30p American Poetry

Thursday, June 16, 2011

9:30a Improvisational Dance
 6:30p GSA Phone Bank
 7:00p Communications Committee
 7:00p Small Group Ministry Steering Team
 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal

Friday, June 17, 2011

12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission
 7:00p GSA Potluck
 10:00p Young Adults Overnight

Saturday, June 18, 2011

8:30a Zen Meditation
 9:00a Path to Membership
 11:00 Sound Team
 7:30p All Soles Contra Dance

Sunday, June 19, 2011

8:30a Strategic Planning
 10:00a Worship Service; All Ages Sunday School
 11:30a Getting to Know UU
 11:30a Youth Group; Gardening Club
 1:30p Wellspring

Monday, June 20, 2011

7:00p UU Dance Fellowship

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

9:30a Archives; Newsletter Folding
 1:00p Cancer Support Group
 5:45p Solstice Celebration
 7:00p Zen Meditation; Sound Techs
 7:00p Stewardship Committee; Book Bites
 7:30p Finance Committee

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

1:00p Archives Organizing
 6:00p Zen in the Workplace
 6:30p Life Stories
 7:30p Women's Spirituality; American Poetry

***FOCUUS (ages 18-35) meets on Mondays at OSU,
 7:30p***

**The Discoverer - Next issue - Sunday, June 19
 Deadline: 12:00p - Hard copy in yellow folder
 6:00p - e-mail articles to
 marian@firstuucolumbus.org (one time only change).**

Every few days, over the last several weeks, I've logged on to a web cam overlooking Washington Square Park in Manhattan's Greenwich Village.

The view is from a window on the 12th floor office of the president of New York University, and in the foreground is a large bird's nest. The nest belongs to a red-tailed hawk named Violet.

There, on May 6, well after experts in such matters thought such a thing was plausible, a hatchling broke free of her (or his) egg. Pip, the baby hawk (whose name was chosen in a contest), had entered the world.

Since then, I and hundreds of others have watched as Violet feeds Pip, and recently Pip has been straying farther and farther from the nest. I'll be the first to admit that this is an odd form of entertainment, but I haven't been able to let a week go by without checking on Pip's progress. You can see for yourself at www.livestream.com/nytnestcam.

Of course this has taken place in the final weeks of our own Coming of Age program, which concluded last Sunday. Our youth are high school freshmen, not hatchling hawks, but the truth is that all of us, at whatever age, are continually coming into our own. So, let me once again offer my heartfelt thanks to our COA youth (Carrah-Anne Aldridge, Chris Blake, Katie Carey, Rachel Eldridge, Ellie Hall, Parker Hoppens, Selina Mamone, Dexter McNabb, Delaney Meyers, Allegra Roscigno, Shane Roussi and Helena Rudoff).

Of course, I didn't lead the program by myself. Nothing would be further from the truth. Our mentors this year were Barbara Avery, Pat Hoffman, Trish Hulz, Niki Hanselman, Beth Jewell, David Krohn, Kim Landsbergen, Ruby Linhan, John McCrystal, Carey McDonald, Michael McGuire and Linda Weigelt. And hat's off to the rest of their teaching team this year: Casey Best, Andy Campbell and Sherri Stubbs.

I also want to offer my gratitude to all the COA parents. You showed great faith by sharing your youth with us. Thank you. Being with these young men and women, as they come to greater clarity on who they are and how they want to live as religious people, is an honor.

May these youth, like little Pip, fly wide and long.

in peace,



Rev. Eric Meter

► The Leadership Development Committee would like to remind everyone that **Annual Meeting** will be on **Sunday, June 12, at noon**. Your presence makes a difference and we want your input as we'll have elections for 2011-12 Board of Trustees members, Leadership Development Committee and Moderator. There are five candidates for four Board positions and now seven candidates for four committee positions as one of the committee candidates, Linda Hart withdrew her nomination. There is one candidate for the Moderator position. In addition to the slate of candidates proposed by the Committee, please note that anyone can nominate a church member to these positions by a petition in writing, signed by 10 or more members of the church, submitted to the Board Secretary, Beth Jewell, by Thursday, June 9.

UUAM SERIES The UUAM (Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry) will be offering a summer reading discussion series focused on the bond between human and non-human animals. Please call Lisa Daris at 208-6381 if you are interested in joining our discussion.

GTBQ & ALLIES BOOK GROUP Our next regular meeting will be held on **Monday, June 27, 7:30-9:30pm**. We'll discuss the written and movie versions of *Angels in America*.

The book group is open to all, regardless of orientation or gender expression. Contact Caroline Rayner (crayner@columbus.rr.com or 447-1167).

SUMMER ART Who am I? Ages 1 to 100. This will be self portraits of church members. Make your self portrait based on what you like to do/what you believe/what you look like/what you love. It does not have to look like you (although this is welcomed). This art includes 2-D, 3-D, and words (poetry in large print). All works must be framed with a wire for hanging. This is open to adults and children. One to two pieces per artist. The show will be July 1- August 28. **Take-in dates are Sunday, June 26, 11-12 and Monday, June 27, 5-6 pm.** If you wish to participate please email Deb Baillieul, debbsyc@yahoo.com, 614-447-1223

CAMPING at Delaware State Park , **Friday, June 17-Sunday, June 19** - Join other UU families and friends for weekend of camping - tent or trailer. Enjoy communal meals, hiking, swimming or just relaxing. About \$32 if you share a site. Find us on Facebook: First UU Columbus Camping, or contact Patricia Boughton, patkap@wowway.com or 860-1164.

BOOKBITES We'll meet on **June 21** in Slowter Lounge from **7 to 9pm** to continue our reading "Around the World." The new topic is ***Any country in Central Asia***. - Kathleen Boston, 262-4025.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY Wednesdays at 7:30pm
BIG NEWS: Women's Spirituality turns 20 this month, making it the longest running group at First UU!
June 8 – Vacations – Where to go? Where to go? (all);
June 15 – Summer/Flag Day (all); June 22 – We Have Something to Say (all); June 29 – Happy Birthday to us (all). If you have been a member, or just want to join us, come – but RSVP to Jeanni at 985-6176 or e-mail JeanniRay@gmail.com by 6/27. We will have a party!

SOCIAL JUSTICE

PARADE "March with Pride in Pride!" The annual Columbus Pride parade is **Saturday, June 18**. The First UU GLBTQs and their allies have a tradition of marching in the parade. This year, the GSA will have a booth in Goodale Park. On Friday evening, June 17, the GSA will host a potluck in Fellowship Hall starting at 6:30pm. In addition to food and fellowship, we will make signs for the parade and welcome UU youth from across the state who are coming to Columbus for the parade. Please sign up to march and volunteer at the GSA table in Fellowship Hall after the service, or contact Bob Rice, bricejr@gmail.com.



Following the 2,900-strong Nehemiah Action, BREAD's Crime and Violence Committee (C&VC) finally received the University of Cincinnati's Center for Criminal Justice Research's report, *Evaluation of the Franklin County Juvenile Probation Department*. The assessment, requested by the probation department, corroborated and added to research done by BREAD's C&VC:

- The probation department scored in the "ineffective" range on the Evidence-Based Correctional Program Checklist (12.5%) and 0% in the categories of Evidence-Based Practices and Quality Assurance (p. 53, Figure 1).
- Ten referral agencies were assessed and, overall, scored in the "needs improvement range" (53.1%) although most scored well in terms of leadership and staff. Three of the agencies were determined to be "ineffective" (pp. iv, v).
- The probation department "is lacking a formalized process, e.g., for assessing the risk and needs of all youth placed on probation."

BREAD's C&VC has met with Public Defender Yeura Venters and County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien, both of

whom committed to sending the Juvenile Court their recommendation, in writing, that the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) be implemented and utilized with all concerned. They also invited BREAD to be a member of the Community Advisory Committee of the Juvenile Justice Community Planning Initiative.

A meeting with Municipal Court Judge Paul Herbert is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7 re: adopting the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) for criminal cases.

For further information about BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity), go to www.breadcolumbus.org, call or e-mail Alice Rathburn, 895-2109, alice37@insight.rr.com, or contact another member of First UU's BREAD team

YWCA FAMILY CENTER 4th Friday Taco and Brownie Dinner

It has been awhile since I have written about the YWCA Family Center Dinner. We are still going strong. One night we tried to decide how long our church has been providing dinner for the families there. If I am not mistaken, Karen Lewis began with Thanksgiving dinner in 2005. This means that, for almost six years, dedicated volunteers have been generously giving of their time and energy to help feed some very deserving families.

The people who shopped and prepped and cooked and served and washed dishes this month were Candyce Walchesky, Susie Gilbert, Jim Conlan, Christine and Elena Smithies, Cariann and Sherri Stubbs, Margaret and Charlie Haldeman. Others who have volunteered in recent months are Holly Borghese, Holly and Cliff Adams and kids, Barbie Luna, plus David and Martha Morr. These precious individuals are greatly appreciated, not only for their work, but for their friendly attitudes. I was just told this past month, by an employee of the center, that our group is one of the most friendly and welcoming groups that come to the center.

If you would like to join us, please send me an email at mccutcheoncathy@yahoo.com. We would love to include you, plus the more hands helping, the merrier!

Very Gratefully Yours, Cathy

CARING CORNER

We send our best wishes to **Reverend Joel Miller**, son of Gordon and Jo-E. Miller. He will be moving from Buffalo, NY to Corvallis, OR for a two year Interim Minister position effective August 15.

Congratulations to **Dylan York** on her graduation from Linworth A/P; and to Jacob Sun, exchange student with **Al and Phyllis South**, who graduated from Bishop Watterson High School. Jacob is from Beijing, China. He will be returning to Columbus in the fall to reside with Al and Phyllis and begin college at Columbus State. He plans to study engineering.

Congratulations to **Debra Boyd**, recently named Executive Director of the Worthington Food Pantry and Resource Center; and to **Phyllis and Al South**, proud grandparents of their fourth grandchild.

We send caring thoughts to **Dick Dawson**, our First UU Chaplain, who is recovering at home, following a four day hospital stay to undergo testing for colon related

issues and fatigue; and to **Dee Keller**, one of our choir directors, who will undergo elective surgery June 10.

GRADUATING? Please tell us if someone in your family is graduating this year. Either fill out a *Joys and Sorrows* form found on First UU web site at firstuucolumbus.org, or contact Jane Reisman at jnreisman@aol.com.

All
www.1stuuSundaySchool.blogspot.com
Ages

www.firstuuparent.blogspot.com

Faith
for
Development

In the Borderlands with First UU Young Adults

This morning we honored our twelve 9th grade Coming of Age graduates. They have spent a year coming to know themselves, their values, their beliefs, and Unitarian Universalism much better. This morning and last night at the celebration we got a peak at the result of all that work. Every year it is inspiring. Every year adults come away with a feeling that the world may end up in better hands than our own. We come away with hope and with a celebration of all that Sunday School, and being surrounded with this amazing community, bring to children, families and the world.

I am always proud. I am proud of the work I do guiding faith development for all ages in Unitarian Universalist congregations, and Coming of Age is one of the proudest moments for me. There are quieter proud moments that often come at this time of year when I catch up with young adults home for the summer for a few days, and find how they are putting the values that they honed in UU Sunday School to work in the world.

Dylan York is home from her high school Walkabout Year. She spent the spring working with *No More Death (NMD)*, a Unitarian Universalist ministry in Arizona and Nogales, Mexico. She made trips into the desert to provide lifesaving water, food and medical supplies to migrants making the dangerous desert crossing. She provided training and support for the week-long volunteers doing the same, and she worked at the Nogales border providing direct aid to those being deported, and documenting abuses. One of the most common abuses of our immigration system is called lateral repatriation. It means that family members are released through separate ports, many miles apart, often without their cell phones. Even children are sometimes victims of this vicious practice.

Dylan is not First UU's only young adult to volunteer with NMD. Lydia Delphia, in college in Tucson, has been working with NMD for two years. Here are two First UUsers who are living our values in situations that are physically hard, and sometimes even dangerous, to bring about change, to weight the moral arc of the universe a bit more toward justice. What better testimony to the work that we do at First UU in supporting our children and youth?

Dylan, together with Steve Palm-Houser, who has been reporting on immigration issues for the past year, will present a two-session seminar on *No More Deaths* and immigration practices Tuesday nights, **July 19 and 26 at 7:00 pm**. They may be joined by Lydia. It will feature, in addition to first hand experiences, a summary of a report on documentation of abusive practices at the border. The report will be released early in July. All – of any age – are welcome. Please don't miss this opportunity to hear from, and celebrate, First UUsers who are doing justice.

May all be well, Jolinda,

Jolinda Stephens, First UU Director of Religious Education, 614-267-4946, ext 28

Religious Education

Summer Sunday School All children, ages 3 through grade 5, gather together each Sunday at 10:00am throughout the summer for a curriculum based on the book, *Keepers of the Earth*, which includes Native American stories and nature activities, including lots of outside time. Cindy Dillard is the Summer Sunday Coordinator. She is seeking helpers for the group. Please contact her at cynthia.dillard6@gmail.com or 614-846-0912).

Groups Gathering for Fun, Social Action and Fellowship:

The Campfire Group will continue through the summer on the first and third Wednesdays at 5 pm. New elementary aged children are always welcome. Contact Mary McMichael-Liston for more information: maryml@topproducer.com

Harry Potter Fans: Help organize Columbus' own *Dumbledore's Army*. Meet with Lynne Bieber on Sunday, July 10, following Sunday School, if you're interested in doing the planning for a fun, exciting, way to do social action. This is a multi-age group that will involve many ages of leadership. Children and adults are encouraged to participate in the planning. Right now Lynne is gathering only those interested in planning. Watch for the beginning of the Columbus *Dumbledore's Army* next fall. Lynne's email is lynnebieber@gmail.com.

Another group in the forming stages is the **Multicultural Families Group**. Ka Wa Berman emphasizes that this group is for all families: "Every family has a unique culture and I want to start by sharing our struggles of raising kids in a multicultural environment." She wants to begin to flesh out the plan for the group with the help of other families. Please contact her if you want to participate in the brainstorming and planning. For many years First UU had a very successful multiracial family group that forged lasting friendships for kids and adults and was formative for everyone. Help bring back this form of community. Email Ka Wa at ka_wa_berman@yahoo.com.

Complete Sunday School calendars are at the Sunday School Information Table or on the **Parents' Blog** at www.firstuuparents.blogspot.com.

Opportunities in Sunday School next Fall: Have fun with our youngest - hug babies, play with toddlers and explore the world with preschoolers. Work on month-long projects with elementary kids.

PEACE CAMP—A LEGACY IN THE MAKING (part one)

July 18-22, 2005 was a remarkable week for our church—marking a subtle change in what we offer our children, how we enlist the talents and energies of our adults, and how we reach out to the children (and families) in the broader community. That week was the debut of Peace Camp. In its first year, Peace Camp only had a one-week session, from 9:30am-12:00 noon. It had 20 campers, K-5th grade, with three volunteer adults. Campers divided into "River People," "Forest People," and "Mountain People." They explored "Peace, Understanding and Futuristic Fun," focusing on self-image, conflict, alike/different, what is peace, and creating the peaceful future. They participated in games and songs, building environments, reading, and snack. And they left after this brief time together with maybe a new friend, but certainly with a heightened sense of justice, and the knowledge that what they think and do really can matter. Tune in next time as we continue the story of PEACE CAMP—A LEGACY IN THE MAKING. And if you can't wait until the next installment, contact Cindy Dillard at: cynthia.dillard6@gmail.com 614-846-0912) Namaste, Cindy

This summer's Peace Camp is scheduled for the first two weeks of August.

Adult Enrichment Programs (AEP)

Zen in the Workplace Wednesdays, June 8, 15, 22, 6pm

We're spiritual at First Unitarian Universalist services, and we're spiritual in our quiet spots in our homes, or in nature. But what about at work? *Yeah, right*, you might be thinking, *my work environment is about as spiritual as a can of butter beans*. But Marica Menter, the author of *Office Sutras*, proposes that it's exactly because of the imperfections and frustrations that your job may have that it is a holy place. In this four-week course we'll look for ways to observe our divinity in the workplace. We'll read her very accessible and fun chapters outside of class, and in meetings discuss questions she presents in her text. You can order the book on the internet from anywhere between 75 cents and \$15. Register on line at our home page - www.firstuucolumbus.org - or on Sundays at the AEP Table.

Facilitator: **Julie Grawemeyer**

American Contemporary Poetry Wednesdays, June 8, 15 and 22, 7:30 pm

In the reprise of last year's popular class, facilitator Julie Grawemeyer offers a look at contemporary American poets. The study will debunk stereotypes, challenge us to read good writing, and will include internet resources. Julie is currently working on a translation of a book about the French playwright Jean Genet. Register online at our home page - www.firstuucolumbus.org - or at the AEP Table.

Summer Solstice Celebration: Elemental Peace Ritual for Healing of the Earth, June 21, 5:45pm

Gather for meditation, movement, and chants from the many cultures of the earth to honor the indigenous wisdom that has sprung from the earth, water, fire and air across the planet over the ages. No experience is necessary.

► Leadership Development Committee Report

The following names have been placed in nomination for the positions of Moderator, Board of Trustees and Leadership Development Committee. *Voting will take place at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 12, 12 noon.*

MODERATOR (one to be elected)

Michael Greenman A UU since 1974 and member of First UU since 1999, I have held a number of responsible positions in the four churches I have joined: Membership, Social Justice, Denominational Connections Chair, and Board Member (Vice-Chair and Chair). I had a three-year term as a member of the Board of the *UU's for a Just Economic Community* and am an active member in a number of other committees. I've initiated many community-building programs in each capacity. I retired at the end of 2010 after an international career in business and third world development organizations, living in 10 countries and learning several languages. If chosen, I will devote the same level of competence and dedication to the responsibilities of Moderator.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (four to be elected for three year terms)

Daniel Baer I am retired. I worked for Liebert Corporation for twenty-nine years, my last position being Vice President of Technical Marketing. I have been a member of First UU since 1996, and a resident of the central Ohio area since 1969. Over the years, I have served on the Board of Directors of several non-profit organizations: Simply Living (as treasurer), St. Andrew Presbyterian Church (as treasurer), and Ohio Central Savings and Loan (which was a credit union when I joined the Board). First UU means so much to me. It has given, and continues to give, a richness to my life. My reason for applying for a position on the First UU Board of Trustees, is that I'd like to give something back.

Bob Parks I've been a member of First UU since 2000. I'm a former Lutheran pastor (ELCA) who found in Unitarian Universalism an inclusiveness unlike anything I've observed elsewhere! I'm married to Susan and between us we have five children and seven grandchildren. In my 'former life' as a Lutheran, I had experience in various areas of lay leadership and attended seminary in my forties, receiving a Master of Divinity degree. I've been a parish pastor, a hospital chaplain, and am currently working in the mental health field at Netcare. At First UU, I have served on the Committee on Church Ministry and the Racial Diversity Task Force. I have preached and led worship here and would like to be on the Board of First UU to further my service to the church.

William (Bill) Keating I currently serve on the Pastoral Team, have volunteered at the Auction by tending bar, and continue to help with housing and legal issues at CommUUnity Fairs. In the past, I have served on several charity and church boards and committees throughout the Midwest. I am a semi-retired attorney having practiced corporate and telecommunications law as well as litigation. I am married to Nancy McDonald-Kenworthy, a long time church member. My interests include cycling and writing (including fiction, nonfiction and poetry). I hope to continue to serve our church by contributing my time and experience as a Board member.

Chuck Wolfe I have been a member of First UU since 1989 and have served as Pledge chair, BUUkstore manager, co-chair of the original First UU Auction, co-chair of the committee that developed our present endowment program, a Coming of Age Mentor, and organizer of raft/canoe trips. I currently serve on the Caring Committee. I have an extensive professional background in non-profit management, fund raising, volunteering and leadership. Using these skills, I want to continue to serve First UU in any way I can. I ask that you consider me as a candidate for the Board of Trustees as someone who cares deeply about this church and who will work toward building an even more sacred place for all.

Continued on next page

Phyllis Byard My husband, Paul, and I have been Unitarian-(Universalists) for over 40 years. We recommitted our membership about 10 years ago and have been singing in the Chalice Choir since. I was on search committees for Choir Directors and Music Director positions. First UU is my home away from home and my extended family. My formal education was in Music and Secondary Ed. I have taught piano and voice privately. My volunteer work includes music organizations, the Funeral Consumers Alliance (part of the Caring Committee), and the annual Fund Raising Committee this year. I look forward to working with the dedicated and like-minded people who surround me at First UU to continue the forward movement and growth of this church community.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (four to be elected for two year terms)

Eric Conrad My wife, Anne Gilliland, and I have been members of First UU for two years and currently help with the Caring Cards table. From the 1970s until the early 1990s, I was actively involved in the First Unitarian Church of Dayton, Ohio. There, I served at various times as its newsletter editor and the Board of Trustees, Sunday Services chairman and Board President. I was one of the charter members of their small choir. I have been a delegate to the UUA GA and attended Ohio Valley District assemblies. I moved to Columbus in 1993 to pursue my PhD in mathematics at OSU and became a lecturer. In my spare time, I am secretary for the Columbus Sacred Harp Singers, a shape note singing group.

Laurie Weltlin I have been a member of First UU for seven years. I have three years of involvement with the Coming of Age class as a mentor and a teacher. I have been involved with the Membership Committee in the past, and currently am a mentor to 2011 Path to Membership participants. I have enjoyed "behind the scenes" work including Stewardship, Auction and other church events. Professionally, for the last 16 years I have been an advocate, meeting the nutritional needs for people living with HIV/AIDS in the community through Project Open Hand program with Life Care Alliance. I would welcome the chance to serve on this committee, giving of my time to this special spiritual community.

Peggy McKee I attended UU Churches in NYC and Ithaca, NY, but it wasn't until January, 2009, that I found the fit I couldn't refuse at First UU of Columbus, and happily became involved right away. I have been singing in the Chalice Choir, volunteering at the Annual Auction, and co-sponsoring an Auction "Murder Mystery Dinner." My experience includes over 20 years in higher-education administration at NYU Law School and Cornell University, where I was also on the Cornell Joint Assembly. I have been associate director of the Ithaca Breast Cancer Alliance and I attended "Leadership Tompkins," a year-long leadership development program. I have volunteered in many capacities, including four boards. I would be honored to bring my energy and experience to the Leadership Development Committee.

MaryLou MacDonald With over 30 years in the business of finding and matching folks up with either their known interests, or selling them on a new and different volunteer opportunity, I believe I could be of some help on the Leadership Development Committee. Sharing talent/skill is a win-win situation in my book and First UU is a great place to be involved. My professional background includes that of volunteer coordinator for a 1500 member church as well as WOSU-TV's Auction fund-raiser and membership director of a trade association. As a member of First UU with husband Dave since 1990, I have worked on various events and committees including the Auction, Stewardship/Development, Nominating, and the Ad Hoc Committee for Sponsorship of Suzan McCrystal for the ministry.

Pat Larson I have been a member of First UU since the summer of 1971. I have taught Sunday School in the K/1 program and currently help in the preschool room. I serve on the Greeting Committee, Caring Committee, and am also a Pastoral Team member. I have previously served a term on the Nominating Committee. I am a participant in the Movement Choir, Improvisational Dance I & II classes, Circle Suppers and help prepare food for many church events. My profession is Speech Pathology and I have worked in Ohio schools for 36 years.

Gretchen Curtis As a member of First UU since moving to Columbus in 2005, I have served on the Adult Education Committee, coordinated the children's Sunday story time for several years, and provided leadership for the Social Justice Committee's Appalachian afghan/blanket project for three years. I have participated in First UU Art Shows and my partner, Ben Blee, and I have donated dinners for the Annual Auction. Prior to 2005, I was a UU in Denver, Colorado for 26 years. I served as the Director of Education at the Children's Hospital of Denver for 25 years. For the past four years I was the Director of Education at Lakeside, the historic Chautauqua on Lake Erie, coordinating 200 seminars each summer.

Jay Poroda I moved to Columbus in 2004 and immediately found a religious home at First UU. I have a M.Ed. in Instructional Leadership from California University of PA. I am a high school administrator and also work as a diversity trainer where I provide staff development on diversity issues for schools and public safety organizations across the State. Since 2006 I have served on the Board of Trustees of Stonewall Columbus, Central Ohio's only LGBT Community Center.

First UU Church Labor Day Retreat

Mark your calendar and plan to join us September 3-5 for the 17th annual intergenerational Labor Day Retreat in the **beautiful Hocking Hills**. Workshops, swimming, worship, fellowship, community, nature, hiking and relaxation. Check out the Labor Day Retreat table in Fellowship Hall or contact

Deb McGuire: 799-8625 (homescolumbus@gmail.com),
Julie Pinsonneault: 447-8407 (pinsonneault.2@osu.edu), or
Beth Jewell: 847-6141, 847-6141 (jewell_beth@att.net)

*Please don't leave yourself out because of the cost! We have camperships available.
Contact Beth, Julie or Deb for more info.*

Second Rain Garden at First UU Church

A new **rain garden** has been proposed for the First UU Church as part of the West Weisheimer Road Storm Water System. It would be located between the two driveways along Weisheimer Road.

The city would pay for construction costs. However, maintenance of the rain garden, would be the responsibility of the church. Construction would take place in 2012.

The rain garden would capture water runoff from West Weisheimer Rd., east of the church. This would allow the water to percolate into the ground water, remove pollutants, and keep heavy runoff from flowing into the Olentangy River. The church Green Team and the Building and Grounds Committee have given tentative approval to the plans.

Some medium-sized trees would be removed. Those trees have yellow tape on them. The city has offered to replace them elsewhere on the property. The church sign would be removed and replaced nearer the main entrance at our expense. Please take a look at a copy of the plans on an easel in the Gallery. Comments would be appreciated.

--Dave Richter, chair, B&G

Thank You

A special thank you to the following volunteers who staffed the church office in the front office in my absence:

- Wesley Thompson
- Sandy Coen
- Sue Vierow

Knowing the office was in such good hands helped me to enjoy a relaxing vacation.

--Marian Garcia, First UU Office Administrator

This will be the last *Markings* I will offer in a while. I will be at GA the last week in June, entertain friends from California and Texas early in July, and visit my mother mid month for a while. I may visit California early in August. From next Sunday (June 12) until General Assembly, I will be on Study Leave, meaning I will be finally filing the tsunami of papers, books, articles and letters that come my way during the year, and which form an unstable Manhattan of Information on my desk. I'll try not to act crabby, as I take on this fantastic sorting work, for which evolution's billions of years failed to develop even one lobe in my brain well suited to the task.

Remember, especially those of you who are new to the congregation, to bring back a vial of water from someplace that has touched you during the year, especially during the summer, for our water ceremony on the second Sunday in September.

I saw my friend Alec (who will one day earn a Tony on Broadway, I am convinced) star as Dionysus in Euripides' play *Bakkhai*, which was performed in a local gay bar that hosts a local theater company. Although the aggravating noise of the hail on the tin roof and fury of the thunderstorm added unexpected counterpoint to the play, what really wowed me was the relevance of theater which premiered in 405 BCE to our own days. The play deftly uplifts themes of authority (governance and party loyalty), vengeance (Bin Laden), religion (pentacostals like Rod Parsley vs. atheists like Christopher Hitchens vs. congregations like ours that teach Our Whole Lives, a comprehensive sexuality curriculum that our religious way supports) and violence (almost any block-buster movie, any meat-packing plant, or a huge number of video games).

In that vein, I hope to reap a spiritual harvest from seeing *The Flowering Tree*, a John Adams opera premiering in Cincinnati this summer.

Remember that our Annual Meeting and my last preaching service for some weeks will be next Sunday, June 12. I am craving a bit of down time after that. Blessings...



Rev. Mark Belletini

The Inner Flame (for Pride Month)

Mothers, tell your children: be quick, you must be strong. Life is full of wonder, love is never wrong. Remember how they taught you, how much of it was fear. Refuse to hand it down - the legacy stops here. ~ Melissa Etheridge, "Silent Legacy," Yes I Am, 1993

Love is all we have, the only way that each can help the other. ~ Euripides Orestes 408 BCE

ARNOLD: You want to be a part of my life? I'm not editing out the parts you don't like.

Harvey Fierstein Torchsong Trilogy 1988

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
