

The
DISCOVERER
January 29, 2012

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THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
OF COLUMBUS

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PUBLISHED BI-WEEKLY

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WORSHIP SERVICES

February Theme: Love

February 5, 2012, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Jay Leach

“... the infinite enlargement... of the heart”

A quote from Emerson's "Self reliance. Rev. James C.(Jay) Leach is Senior Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte, NC. Don't miss the Mid-Year Congregational Meeting following the 11:00A.M. Service.

February 12, 2012, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.m.

Rev. Mark Belletini

“Love and The Tree of Life”

Teacher Thanksgiving

February 19, 2012, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

“How Things Have Changed: The New Friendship”

JAM (Justice Action Ministry) offering

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

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

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

- 10:00a Collage as an Art Form
- 1:00a Archives Org.
- 5:00p Campfire Girls and Boys
- 6:00p Dance Choir
- 7:00p Open Forum for Midyear Meeting
- 7:15p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality; Yoga

Thursday, February 2, 2012

- 9:30a Improvisational Dance
- 7:00p Community & Questioning; Knitters' Circle
- 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 3, 2012

- 12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission
- 6:30p First Friday Potluck
- 7:30p Open Forum for Midyear Meeting
- 7:30p Film: *Taking Root*; Multicultural Families

Saturday, February 4, 2012

- 8:30a Zen Meditation
- 1:00p Immigration as a Moral Issue

Sunday, February 5, 2012

- 8:30a Leadership Development Committee
- 8:45a Breakfast
- 9:15 & 11:00a Worship Service
- 10:30a & 12:15p Getting to Know UU
- 12:30p **Mid Year Congregational Meeting**
- 4:00p "Freedom to Love" Planning Meeting

Monday, February 6, 2012

- 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship
- 7:00p Program Council
- 7:30p Healing Journey

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

- 9:30a Archives Organizing
- 6:30p Peace Pals Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00p Rising Voices Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00p Caring Committee
- 7:35p Worship Committee
- 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

- 10:00a Collage as an Art Form
- 1:00p Archives Organizing
- 7:00p Memoir Writing; Personnel Committee
- 7:00p Small Group Ministry Steering Team
- 7:00p Lively Writing
- 7:15p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality; Yoga

Thursday, February 9, 2012

- 9:30a Improvisational Dance
- 6:30p Auction Workshop
- 7:00p Building & Grounds Committee

- 7:00p Expressive Collage
- 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 10, 2012

- 7:30p All Soles Contra Dance

Saturday, February 11, 2012

- 8:30a Zen Meditation; Stewardship Training
- 11:00a Easy Movement Class
- 11:00a Parents of Infants & Toddlers
- 1:00p Immigration as a Moral Issue
- 5:00p Drumming Circle
- 7:30p Adults Talent Show

Sunday, February 12, 2012

- 8:45a Breakfast
- 9:15 & 11:00a Worship Service
- 10:30 & 12:15a Getting to Know UU
- 12:30p Enlightened Hippogriffs
- 12:45p Auction Committee
- 1:00p Committee on Shared Ministry
- 1:00p Green Team; Journey of the Universe
- 4:00p Freedom to Love, Freedom to Marry...

Monday, February 13, 2012

- 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship; Executive Committee
- 7:00p Adult Enrichment Committee
- 7:30p Healing Journey

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

- 9:30a Archives Organizing; Newsletter Folding
- 1:00p Cancer Support Group
- 6:30p Peace Pals Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00p Rising Voices Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00p Zen Meditation; Social Committee
- 7:00p This Month in Science
- 7:00p Animal Ministry; Wellspring (off site)
- 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

- 8:00a UU Food Co-op
- 9:00a Auction Setup
- 10:00a Collage as an Art Form
- 1:00p Archives Organizing
- 5:00p Campfire Girls and Boys
- 7:00a Gay Straight Alliance; Membership Team
- 7:15p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality; Yoga

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

The Discoverer - Next issue - Sunday, February 12
Deadline: 1:00p - Hard copy in yellow folder (office)
6:00p - e-mail articles to olwfire@yahoo.com

LINKS

Last autumn I mentioned a list that my predecessor, the Rev. Wendy Fish, kept of folks in the congregation who were willing to be a resource for others facing a medical condition which they had faced or lived with.

The list helped us provide another level of support for those among us facing a challenging diagnosis (which is most, if not all of us, at some point or other).

While Wendy had diligently kept the list, and I had added to it in my time with you, the list was getting out-of-date, so our Chaplain, Dick Dawson, and I decided it was time to start anew.

Since then many of you let us know of medical problems you have faced, or continue to live with. Thanks to all of you who did so. That said, we are still looking for submissions, from both women and men, who have had heart problems, breast or other forms of cancer, or Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.

We can't promise that everyone putting their name forward will be contacted, but an up-to-date list of those who are willing to talk about their experience with the health condition they have lived with will be invaluable to others in our community who may find themselves facing something similar down the line.

Thanks again,



Rev. Eric Meter

CHURCH NEWS

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR I really want to encourage you to attend the Midyear Congregational Meeting on **February 5, 2012**, following the 11 A.M. service. The Board has been busy, and we will be asking for your ratification of our work. Several items are scheduled for a vote, and they are indeed important.

First, as you know, the Social Justice Committee has undergone some radical improvements in the last year; for starters they changed their name to JAM – Justice Action Ministry. (See JAM article on page 9.)

The Board, as a sign of the church's commitment to our mission and to social justice, also offers the following proposal for a vote that represents a change in how we fund JAM: *That the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus fund Justice Action Ministry (JAM), beginning in fiscal year 2012-2013, with a regular line item in the annual budget, equal to 2% of budgeted pledges (specifically, two percent of budget line 4000-1210 Pledge Payments Operating MINUS budget line 4000-1230 Uncollectible Pledges). Further, that the second collection on third Sundays be discontinued at the end of the 2011-2012 fiscal year.*

This change reflects both the mission of our church and our commitment, as a whole church, to social justice. JAM will continue to provide reports of the transformative social justice that we as a church support.

And finally, we intend to vote on a revised constitution. The revised version, showing changes, can be found on the church website

<http://www.firstuucolumbus.org>. The changes reflect the work of a task force created last year, and the attention from your current Board. The changes are designed to bring the document up-to-date with how the church currently operates. Changes also include clarity on procedures for unlikely scenarios – going out of business, dismissing ministers, etc. The changes were carefully thought out, and I, along with the Board, believe them to be in the best interests of this church.

There will be an open forum on **Wednesday, February 1, 2012, 7-9pm**, to field questions and discussion you may have on the items coming to a vote at the meeting on February 5..

Final request – bring a little food to share at the Congregational Meeting on February 5. We look forward to your participation at the meeting!

-- Tim Hooks, Board Chair

BOOK EXCHANGE It is time for another **Bring One Take One** adventure at the bUUKstore. On **February 12**, bring those books you have read and exchange them for other titles that intrigue you. (No money involved). All left over books find a home at either the Marysville Women's Reformatory or the OSU Thrift Shop where income from items sold provides student tuition assistance. – Kathleen Boston

HEALING JOURNEY Are you experiencing grief due to the loss of a family member or other loved one, a job loss, or the pain of another unwelcome life transition? If so, the Healing Journey may be for you. We share our stories, and learn how much we have in common with others who also know the experience of loss. The group will meet from **7:30 to 9pm on Monday nights, February 6 through March 12**. For further information and to register, please call Rev. Eric at 267-4946 x23.

PARENTS OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS The next gathering is on Saturday, February 11, from 11am to 1:00pm. Contact Nancy Powlick for more information. lpowlick@columbus.rr.com

BOOKBITES Meets **February 21** from **7 to 9pm** in Slowter Lounge. The February topic is "**Passion.**" Questions? Call Kathleen Boston 262-4025b

SCHOLARSHIPS are available for participation

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

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY Wednesdays, 7:30pm

February 15 Love songs (bring favorite love song) - all
February 22 LOVE (more than a feeling) - all
February 29 Passion - Liz James and Jeanni Ray
Jeanni Ray at 985-6176 or email jeanniray@gmail.com

South Pacific

2012 AUCTION February 18

"South Pacific – Some Enchanted Auction"

It's just around the corner! Thank you to everyone who has entered items - the catalogs should be available at church on February 5. If you still have items - please continue to enter them - we always have an addendum.



Sue Griffin will be selling her Homemade Jams and Jellies on Auction night for \$5.00 with all proceeds on behalf of the Auction - low sugar variety: raspberry, blackberry, strawberry, etc.

We have three exciting vacation offerings this year - something to look forward to in our Midwestern winter. Plus lots of great dinners, unique furniture and services.

Please remember to sign up for childcare if you will need that to attend the Auction. Cost is \$5.00 for children over 10 who will be eating dinner - under 10 are free. Only two more Sundays to get your tickets at the \$12.00 rate. On the night of Auction they are \$15.00. Tickets are not available through the church office.

We are also asking people to donate side dishes for the Auction dinner - this helps us keep the ticket prices low! - Jo Anne St. Clair Auction Co-Chair, 268-1923, joastclair@aol.com

JUSTICE ACTION MINISTRY

SYC REGISTRATION Materials are now available for the School for Young Children 2012-13 school year. Processing of applications will begin on **February 17, 2012 at 3:15pm**. Currently enrolled students, children of church members, and children from SYC alumni families receive priority consideration as long as their applications are received by that date and time.

SYC offers part-time classes for children aged 2 ½ through 5. If you have a child who will be 2 years of age by June 30, 2012, or older, and are interested in enrolling your child, we urge you to act promptly, since we usually fill up quickly.

Information and registration materials can be downloaded from SYC's website: www.sycolumbus.org, or you can call the school office, 267-0254.

APPALACHIA PANTRY The *Feed My Sheep* food pantry is in need of peanut butter, chunky soups, stews, and chili, blankets and children's books. (Aluminum cans are needed, too, to raise funds;.)

Thanks to all who donated to the food boxes with turkeys for 229 families at Thanksgiving, and hams for 263 families at Christmas. Thanks to Barb Fredin, Russell Hippensteel, Jackie and Jacques Angelino, Linda Royalty, Linda Thompson and others who donated the turkeys. Thanks also to Karin Erickson, Russell Evans, Janine Bourdo, Jane Young, and Meredith Farmer.

Special thanks to all of Santas helpers who made Christmas possible for 15+ children: Helena and Jackson Rudolf, Carianne Stubbs, Jeanne Slazor, Rich Fowler, LaVaughn Morgraff, Sherri Stubbs, Chris Hardin, Rev. Kathleen Fowler Barb Fisher, Nick Casto, Anne Casto, Jeanni Ray, Karen and David Richter, Mark Rudoff, Nancy Nehring, Roger Cole, Jackie Angelino, Katie Swett, Jacques Angelino, and others.

Thanks to Nick Casto, Lucia Grunden, Madie and Gabe McMichael-Liston, Evelyn Stuntz and Audrey Boughten for the beautifully decorated bags of bean soup mix.

Seventy-three First UU children have now been to help at the Mineral food pantry, including five new ones: Lucia, Willow, Liam, Lee and Gray. More adults have worked hard too: Lynne, Paul, Cat, Rachel and Jeanne bring the number making the trip to 81. Thanks to all. Now is the time to reserve **your** date to go to Mineral! Please stop by at the Social Justice Table.

– Jacques Angelino



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

· **Neighborhood Blight:** Slow progress is being made on establishing a Franklin County Land Bank. County Treasurer Ed Leonard presented findings to Columbus City Council, January 5 and will be to the County Commission in February.

· **Crime and Violence:** Stakeholders’ summit on Restorative Justice, Saturday, March 31, 9 am – 1 pm, Rhema Christian Center; co-sponsors: BREAD, Supreme Court Justice Yvette McGee Brown, Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O’Brien, and Public Defender Yeura Venters. Restorative justice emphasizes repairing the harm caused by crime. For more information, go to <http://www.restorativejustice.org/university-classroom>.

· **Health Care:** Meeting scheduled Monday, January 30, with the Directors of Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Medicaid, and the CEO of the Columbus Neighborhood Health Centers with the goal of getting chronic emergency room users on Medicaid into primary care with local federally qualified health centers.

· **Jobs Research Committee (some findings):** Only half of all new jobs in Columbus are created through small businesses as opposed to two-thirds nationally (Columbus Small Business Association). Columbus 16th of 16 comparable cities in creation of small businesses (Community Research Partners).

Our BREAD committees are working to make a difference in these areas, but change isn’t made easily. Plan to attend the important meetings below:

· Sunday, March 18, 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday, March 28, 6:30 p.m. – First UU’s BREAD Justice Ministry Network organizing meetings (Attend one)

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

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

For additional information go to

<http://www.breadcolumbus.org/> and/or contact Alice Rathburn, 895-2109, 563-0536, or alice37@insight.rr.com.

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CARING CORNER

Our caring thoughts are with: **Mitch Gross** scheduled for neck surgery on January 30; **Anne Gilliland**, who will have thyroid surgery on Thursday, February 2; and **Bob and Carol Aldridge and the Forbes family** Bob’s niece’s 3-month-old son, Lincoln Forbes, has been diagnosed with Ocular Albinism, a lack of pigmentation in the eyes. He will likely be legally blind for life

A speedy recovery to **Mike Shiffrin** at home recovering from surgery following an accident at his job; and **Dick Dawson** who had hernia repair surgery January 23.

Caring Committee wishes to thank: 1) **Teena Price and her friend Chris** (not Hardin) for their help in dressing tables and setting up Room 6 on Sunday, December 18, when the Caring Committee sponsored a coffee and tea room with candles and self-serve beverages for the reception following the Choir Concert and 2) **Carole Wilhelm, Nancy Powlick, Pat Larson, and Jeanne Sperling and Steve Davis** for their help with the committee-sponsored Red Cross Blood Drive on December 21. Twenty-seven persons in need of blood were positively affected. Thanks also to Laura Pappas our contact with the Franklin County Red Cross, who provided a birthday cake commemorating the life of Clara Barton, founder of the Red Cross and a Universalist. – Chris Hardin

Words on Music 

by **Tony McDonald, Music Director**

Support your fellow members at the first ever **Talent Show for Adults** on **Saturday, February 11 at 7:30 pm** in the Worship Center. There will be lots of music, plus spoken word, poetry, even stand up. It promises to be a lot of fun and very entertaining. No admission. Note: the Youth Talent Show will happen too, on April 28.

CICT – Winter Fair Serves our “Community”



On Sunday, January 15, Fellowship Hall was “a-buzz” with people – both members and visitors – visiting tables staffed by experts in various fields, offering information on available services of interest to many in these “Challenging Times”!

- Cathy Elkins and Alice Faryna handed out health cards with “What Can You Do?” about: High Cholesterol, Osteoporosis, COPD, Hypertension and a number of other ailments. Medicare advice was also available. A family looking for a food referral stopped by. With the help of Jacques Angelino, they were provided with what they needed!
- Jessica Renwick of the Ohio Benefit Bank advised on using their free service to file state and federal tax returns, as well as a series of other services.
- Carol Fleming and Fujio Hayashi handled the jobs table: our “Jobs Listserv” provides almost daily information to subscribers on available jobs, networking opportunities and job training in the Central Ohio area. Both Carol and Fujio have experience with unemployment. This led to heart-to-heart discussions, and a sense of sharing common concerns. Several members have obtained jobs in recent months, at least partially as a result of the listserv information. (We’ll have an article on this in a future Discoverer)
- Michael Greenman shared information about the *Care and Share Time Bank*, a service-bartering program that has almost 70 members who offer and receive services for which they pay with “time credits” they earn by working on First UU work days, attending training sessions, and providing services to others. Rides to the airport, and help with computers as well as sewing, cooking and yard work are favorite services exchanged. We registered five new members.
- Linda Miller covered the “Neighborhood Network,” a “People Helping People” network within our UU Community, which helps with services and equipment offered by, and received by, members (medical and other), temporary emergency assistance with transportation, errands, meals, visits, pet care and child care. Several visitors signed up as volunteers, and others asked about “co-housing” possibilities.
- Deb McGuire provided information on options to foreclosure. We also are developing “home sharing”: a possible solution for individuals seeking or offering short or long term housing.
- Mary Cunnyngham and Carol Fisher spoke of *Simply Living* programs and services. They estimated about 15 people stopped by and took literature.

Our thanks to the volunteers who “staffed” the tables!! Those interested in the “Community in Challenging Times” services, please contact Michael Greenman at 614-898-5825 or mgreenman@wowway.com. The catalog is available for download from the First UU web site: <http://firstuucolumbus.org/our-community/community-in-challenging-times>.

Your Extra Airline Miles and the Future of Unitarian Universalism



The number of members of UU congregations is significantly smaller than it was 50 years ago when we merged, and much smaller than 100 years ago. One of the most important reasons for that is the fact that our children stop attending church, and most don't ever return. While that is also true for the mainline Protestant denominations from which we emerged - they lose about 50% of their youth as they become adults - we lose at least 80% (an improvement over the last ten years from 90%).

There are many reasons for this. One is that our congregations are rarely arranged for the schedules and preferences of young adults. I went to our first Sunday evening worship (*Soulful Sundown*) last night, and talked with a young woman who had decided to check out a UU congregation for the first time by attending *Soulful Sundown*. She wanted to find out about us; our home page listed a Sunday evening service, which fit her schedule better. Experts in religion have listed ten or so items that people in their 20's and 30's are looking for in their formal religious connections, and eight of them are the core of who we are. Where we fall down are in the very practical areas.

By the way, *Soulful Sundown* was engaging. It featured a video on mirror neurons, one of my favorite topics, after all. It was emotionally and spiritually satisfying - the live band with meaningful music, the extended time to greet during the service, the gathering afterward - all contributed. And it was comfortable with couches and soft chairs.

But what on earth does any of this have to do with your languishing airmiles? Another major reason our youth don't stay into adulthood is that we don't do a good job of helping youth understand that Unitarian Universalism is a worldwide religion, an international movement. Their experience is that they are the only kid in their school who is UU. Their religion has separated them from their peers all their lives. It seems confined to a few people in their local congregation.

The High School Justice Trip this year to our General Assembly in Phoenix, AZ to join 4000 other UUs can burst though these feelings and give our high school youth a vastly expanded experience of connection to a world religion. And you can help with your airmiles. **Board member Betsy Duckworth is coordinating travel for the trip and has narrowed**

the possible flights to Continental Airlines. If you have OnePass, MilePass or Mileage Plus frequent flyer miles, please donate some miles to the trip. Betsy Duckworth will be happy to make the arrangements. Email sduckwor@columbus.rr.com.

May all be well, Jolinda

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

Religious Education Activities

New High School Sunday School Class Begins: Interfaith Leadership Sunday, February 5 at 11am. Don't miss the start of this exciting opportunity to meet with youth groups from other faiths and work together on a service project that explores shared values. You'll explore the needs of our community and work with other youth groups to give help where it's needed. With the other groups you'll learn to share your faith and learn more about theirs, as well as learn leadership skills with diverse groups. And, you'll have fun.

Work with the Theme of Love with Elementary Groups: Each month we use the same theme the ministers use in worship for our elementary Sunday School groups. Adults from the congregation take turns leading workshops that help children experience and reflect on the theme, the questions it raises and our UU traditions of Principles and Sources. Join the fun. Sign up at the Sunday School Table today to explore "Love," the theme for February, or "Brokenness," the theme for March, through dance, drama, science, arts and crafts, games or your special skill or interest.

Of Note: New Deadline for Commitment to Justice Trip: February 23: Contact Jolinda Stephens or Eric Meter with your questions. If you have a high schooler in your family and aren't receiving the Justice Trip newsletter, email jolindas@firstuucolumbus.org

Adult and Multi-Age Programming

Community and Questioning: *Thursdays, February 2 and 16; March 1 and 15, 7pm.* Open to everyone, the group is especially designed for those new to First UU. Engage in deep listening and sharing on the following topics: *Spiritual Experience and the Concept of the Christ; Concept of the Divine; Our purpose, individually and as a congregation; How we grieve, personally and as a congregation*

Two Opportunities to Explore Immigration: 1) Immigration as a Moral Issue: Saturdays, February 3 to March 10, 1pm. Join this study group to explore immigration, including history, policy, geopolitical and economic drivers and the lived reality of immigrants. Not a class for wusses; certainly a class for those who want to know what all the UU fuss is about. We will vary a bit from the UU-designed curriculum to include a local expert on refugees, a UU initiative for comprehensive immigration reform and slavery in the food industry. The curriculum is on line and there is homework. <http://uaa.org/immigration/moral/guide/index.shtml>. **2) One of the National Leaders in UU Multicultural Ministries presents: Immigrant Voices: creating a new history through spoken word March 9, pm.** Often the voices of the marginalized are silent in telling their own history. Demographics can be mere statistics absent these voices. Together those gathered will give voice to immigrants, as they have written their own stories. It helps us enmesh ourselves in the truth, beyond the statistics. The words of immigrants shift our perception of history and a new reality emerges. UU leader Paula Cole Jones and Kendall Rene Jones create an encounter to discover the untold truths of immigration history in the United States. Paula Cole Jones is a Management Consultant with over twenty years of experience in designing and facilitating workshops and dialogues for leaders and organizations, including hundreds of UU congregations, district and national trainings. She is the editor of *Encounters: poems about race ethnicity and identity*.

Lively Writing, 6 classes on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 7, starting February 8 This class will offer some work in the personal essay. Its aims are clarity, simplicity, and wit in writing. Along with the personal essay we will examine some traditional forms of the familiar letter and also keep a journal that will serve a place to develop material for the essay. Led by professor of English, John Friedman; johannes@raex.com

What's So Dangerous About Art? What's So Sacred About Art?

5 sessions, Thursdays, 7pm starting March 1 – Join philosophy professor and artist Susan Josephson to explore art as seen through the ages through the eyes of philosophers, theologians, artists and you. Join the provocative conversation.

The Devil is in the Details Wednesday, March 21, 7 pm - Prof. John Friedman presents a profusely illustrated talk about the devil in the late Middle Ages and early Renaissance in Western Europe

Jolinda Stephens, jolindast@gmail.com

Another week of crazy weather with wet-cold wind one day, and spring-like balm the next. The poor weather forecasters must have given in by now and are throwing darts to predict the following day. The weather app on my phone has changed hour by hour the last few days...predictions of snow piling up one minute and yet sunshine comes streaming outside in a wide blue sky.

The AUUCTION is coming up on the February 18, and every year I am flabbergasted by how amazing the "sets" are, the grandness of the vision, the elegance of the organization. *Some Enchanted Evening* sounds like a bit of sunshine in this rather gray winter. It's not too late to offer services and objects to enrich the auction although you may not be in the main catalogue, but the supplement. It's always one of the most fun events of the year for most people.

The midyear meeting on February 5 is important, and this year, downright exciting. We are looking at constitutional changes that are both congruent with how we actually do things, and which set us on a clearer organizational path. There are choices as to the direction which our Justice Action Ministry will lead us...this requires a vote....and the leaders in the church have been imagining a new way to invest in how we practice our principles in the area of justice work. How do we let our mission and vision shape how we serve the world around us? Please go to the JAM newsletter on our church website and look up the four suggested justice goals for the next two years.

There are informational and question sessions this coming Wednesday, February 1 at 7pm, and at First Friday (February 3) at the end of the week, and hopefully you might attend one or the other.

Ray Nandyal and I will be on the radio this Thursday from 11-12am on the Ann Fisher "All Sides" Show on WOSU to talk about our interfaith event on February 12 at 4pm, our rededication and solidarity Ceremony for couples, *Freedom to Love, Freedom to Marry* both mixed gender and same gender...a renewal of vows, so to speak.

Lots going on around here. Thank goodness the mild winter, strange as it is, is letting it all flow pretty smoothly.

Blessings,



Rev. Mark Belletini

The Inner Flame - Quentin Crisp (played by John Hurt)- *An Englishman in New York*, a film, 2009 - Words copied down from the film by Tom Pegan. (Thanks)

Persistence is your greatest weapon.
It is in the nature of barriers that they fall.
Do not seek to become like your opponents.
You have the burden, and the great joy of being outsiders.
Every day you live is a kind of triumph.
This you should cling onto.
Neither look forward, where there is doubt,
Nor backward, where there is regret.
Look inward and ask:
Not if there is anything outside that you want,
But rather if there is anything inside that you have not yet unpacked.



FREEDOM TO LOVE, FREEDOM TO MARRY

You are Invited!!!

Ray Nandyal and Bob Rice request your presence at the **Freedom to Love, Freedom Marry Service and Ceremony** on **February 12th**, Sunday at First UU. The service will start at **4:00 pm**. This is an interfaith, community-centered celebration of marriage. This invitation is extended to every member and friend of First UU Church as well as your friends and relatives in the community. You are invited to attend with your life partner, alone, or with a group of friends.

You will participate in a service that is part public witness and in part a rededication service for couples. Couples who have made either a private or public commitment to one another, irrespective of the gender(s) of the couple and the 'legal' status of the commitment, will publicly reaffirm their vows.

We are gathering together to show solidarity for the right of all people to marry! This service will allow every person to reaffirm their belief that the right to marriage extends beyond the opposite-sex union proscribed in the state of Ohio.

Rev. Mark Belletini will officiate and will be attended by clergy from other local congregations. A reception will follow the conclusion of the service.

(Freedom to Love, Freedom to Marry is sponsored by JAM, the GSA, Stonewall, North UU, Equality Ohio, BRAVO, a host of members of the church, and many local vendors)



At the Midyear Congregational Meeting on February 5, our Justice Action Ministry (JAM) will present a slate of four justice areas. Out of the four, the congregation will **vote for two to focus on** to pool our time and effort during the next two years. These will be in addition to our commitments to BREAD and UUSC. Individuals are encouraged to work on the justice area of their choice, whether it is one of the chosen two or not. The four justice areas are

Poverty Alleviation, Women's Health including reproductive choice, LGBT Equality and Interfaith work:

Poverty Alleviation: The face of a poor person in the U.S. is a single parent who works full time, but still cannot afford to pay for food, rent, childcare, medical bills, and the costs of transportation to work. If we choose this justice area, we promise to work together to affect public policy and systemic change and pitch in with direct service when possible.

Women's Health: On a medical website that lists health issues, there are 19 for Men – and 57 for Women, a large portion of which are during a woman's reproductive years, from menstruation through menopause. Through advocacy for women's health and reproductive choice, we can make a big difference in maternal and child mortality and morbidity rates and health care costs for society at large.

LGBT Equality: Working for LGBT equality is central to the continuing defense of individual liberty in America against the onslaught of the religious right. Join First UU's Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) in being a congregational catalyst for LGBTQ social justice issues, such as working for marriage equality and prevention of teen suicides and bullying.

Interfaith Work: Interfaith work involves getting together with people of diverse religions, learning about the faith that sustains them, establishing friendships, sharing worship spaces, and breaking bread together. It also involves engaging with our interfaith friends in the work of justice which is a core value of all religions. Peace in the world begins with peace in Columbus!

If you have any questions, please contact Ray Nandyal at RNANDYAL2000@YAHOO.com or 614-594-3230.

CIRCLE SUPPERS 2012

Do you like good food and good conversation? Do you get cabin fever during the winter months? Do you wish you could meet more First UU members and friends?

Circle Suppers is a series of informal adult dinner parties hosted by fellow UU members or friends in their homes. The host(s) provide(s) the main course with guests providing the rest of the meal. This year's dinners are scheduled for Saturdays, February 25, March 31 & April 28 2012. All begin at 7:15 pm.

To participate:

- complete the registration form below including your email address (if you have one)
- leave the form at the **Circle Suppers** table in Fellowship Hall after Sunday services on January 22, 29 or February 5; OR mail it to Cathy O'Neil, 432 Acton Road, Columbus, OH 43214.

DEADLINE: February 6, 2012

A list of participants, alternates and dinner assignments will be emailed or mailed by February 13. If you have any questions, contact Cathy O'Neil at 614-267-4975 or croneil@columbus.rr.com

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CIRCLE SUPPERS 2012 REGISTRATION

Name and Address (**please print clearly**) _____

Home phone number _____ Email address _____

1. Please register me (**check one**):

- (a) _____ individually;
- (b) _____ together with (your spouse, partner or friend; give the person's name and also their address and phone number if different from yours _____)
- (c) _____ as an alternate (you will not be scheduled for any dinners but will be put on a list of alternates to be called by the hostess/host in case of cancellations).

2. Please indicate your hosting preference (**check (a) or (b)**):

- (a) _____ I/we CAN host a dinner for up to (**check one**) _____ 6 or _____ 8 or _____ 10 people, but CANNOT host on (**check all that apply**) _____ 2/25/11; _____ 3/31/11; _____ 4/28/11.
- (b) _____ I/we cannot host a dinner at all but would like to participate.

Please note: We will make every effort to accommodate those who are unable to host a dinner but if we do not have enough hosts, those who are unable to host may be put on the list of alternates

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
Tim Hooks, Chair, Board of Trustees
Brian Hagemann, Church Administrator
Jenifer Bojanowski, Lead Toddler Room Teacher
Olwen Firestone, Newsletter Editor
Ben Iten, Campus Chaplain

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