

The
DISCOVERER
February 12, 2012

The Discoverer is prepared by
Olwen Firestone,
Newsletter Editor.
Please send items to her at
olwfire@yahoo.com.
The deadline for inclusion in
the next issue is
Sunday, February 26, 6:00pm.

WORSHIP SERVICES

February Theme: Love

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

February 26, 2012, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Kathleen Fowler

Reflections on This Year’s *Common Read*
Eboo Patel’s “Acts of Faith”

March Theme: Brokenness

March 4, 2012, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Eric Meter

“Remembering Josseline”

► 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 15, 2012

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

Thursday, February 16, 2012

9:00a Auction Setup
 9:30a Improvisational Dance
 7:00p Community & Questioning
 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 17, 2012

12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission
 7:00p Youth Group

Saturday, February 18, 2012

8:30a Zen Meditation; Stewardship Training
 9:00a Path to Membership
 12:00p Move to Amend
 1:00p Immigration as a Moral Issue
 5:30p AUUCTION

Sunday, February 19, 2012

8:45a Breakfast
 9:15 & 11:00a Worship Service
 10:30a & 12:15p Getting to Know UU
 12:30p Film & Discussion ("Economics of Happiness")
 12:30p Strategic Planning
 1:00p Garden Club; Wellspring; Youth Group

Monday, February 20, 2012

All Day – Office Closed for Presidents Day
 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship; BREAD Team
 7:30p Healing Journey

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

9:30a Archives Organizing
 1:30p Library Team
 6:30p Peace Pals Choir Rehearsal
 7:00p Book Bites; Stewardship Committee
 7:00p Rising Voices Choir Rehearsal
 7:00p Zen Meditation
 7:30p Finance Committee
 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 22, 2012

10:00a Collage as an Art Form
 1:00p Archives Organizing
 7:00p Board of Trustees; Lively Writing
 7:15p Men's Spirituality
 7:30p Women's Spirituality; Yoga

Thursday, February 23, 2012

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

Saturday, February 25, 2012

8:30a Zen Meditation
 11:00a Easy Movement Class
 1:00p Immigration as a Moral Issue
 7:00p SYC Auction

Sunday, February 26, 2012

8:00a Leadership Development Committee
 8:45a Breakfast
 9:15a & 11:00a Worship Service
 10:30a & 12:15p Getting to Know UU
 12:30p Pastoral team Meeting
 2:00p PFLAG Meeting
 2:30p "Freedom to Love" Wrap-up
 4:00p Community Drumming Circle
 5:30p Soulful Sundown Service
 6:00p Bridge Group (499-2434)

Monday, February 27, 2012

6:30p JAM
 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship
 7:00p Funeral Consumers Alliance
 7:30p Healing Journey

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

9:30a Archives Organizing; Newsletter Folding
 1:00p Cancer Support Group
 6:30p Peace Pals Choir Rehearsal
 7:00p Being an Atheist or Agnostic
 7:00p Rising Voices Choir Rehearsal
 7:00p Zen Meditation; Goddesses in Training
 7:00p Wellspring (off site)
 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

10:00a Collage as an Art Form
 1:00p Archives Organizing
 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)
(no ESOL meeting February 15)

The Discoverer - Next issue - Sunday, February 26
Deadline: 1:00pm: Hard copy in yellow folder (office)
6:00pm: e-mail articles to olwfire@yahoo.com

LINKS

“Finally!” That was the common refrain I heard from more than a handful of young adults following the January 29th debut of the *Soulful Sundown* worship service here at First UU.

The service itself was exactly as it was billed, and then some. The band that Ben Iten, our chaplain to FOCUUS the UU campus ministry at OSU, put together was fabulous. The video representation of a short talk by Jeremy Rifkin amazed me, in both its cleverness and clarity. And I don't know of anyone among the 60 or so of us there who went away disappointed. For a first effort, with little rehearsal time, we couldn't have asked for more.

But all that is not what I most want to talk to you about. What I want to talk about was what Ben told me after I mentioned to him that, for whatever reason, the thing I appreciated most in the service was the way he and the other band members stood up on stage watching the Jeremy Rifkin video play on the screen overhead. Each was turned to it. Each gave it their full attention for the full 11 minutes it ran. No one took a break. They participated throughout, and their attention helped direct the rest of us to do the same. Of course the engaging nature of the video didn't hurt.

What I didn't know then was that each member of the band except Ben is an evangelical Christian. They played for us for free, volunteering their time as a ministry to us.

Wow. That gave me pause. I'm left humbled and ever more appreciative of what I already thought was a great service.

Join me next time. At this point, there are two more Soulful Sundown services planned, for **February 26** and **March 25**. I hope to see you there.

Oh, before I forget it, the video animation of Rifkin's talk *RSA Animate - The Empathic Civilisation* (yes, using the British spelling) can be found on YouTube. It's well worth a look.

Eric

Rev. Eric Meter

CHURCH NEWS

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR...Big thanks to everyone who attended and participated in the Mid-Year Meeting! It is always great to get together for discussion. In case you were not there, let me summarize a couple of the items we voted on and passed. First, we voted on the JAM themes for the coming two years. The congregation opted to focus on these two:

Poverty Alleviation: The face of a poor person in the United States is a single parent who works full time, but

still cannot afford to pay for food, rent, child care, medical bills, and the costs of transportation to work. If we choose this justice area, we promise to intentionally work together to affect public policy and pitch in 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 health, we can decrease maternal and child mortality and morbidity rates and health care costs for society at large.

Also we passed the proposal below. This changes how JAM is funded. It will now be a regular part of the budget instead of relying on the second collection on the third Sunday.

Proposal: 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 *ever increasing* 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 will continue to provide opportunities for participation in social justice.*

The vote to make changes to the Constitution did not come up. That has been postponed to our Annual June meeting. Look for announcements on upcoming meetings to provide further details about the changes and a chance to discuss further. Thanks, and, as always, feel free to contact me with your great ideas on how to make this church even better!

-- Tim Hooks, Board Chair

FY 13 BUDGET REQUESTS The Mid-year Congregational Meeting has passed, and some funding discussions have been resolved. Now it is time to begin working on next year's budget.

The Finance Committee would like to have all budget requests for the next budget, FY 13, as well as any endowment requests, by *the end of Wednesday, February 29.*

Please make every effort to submit your requests electronically to finance@firstuucols.org, or to david.douglass@hotmail.com. Written requests will also be accepted, and may be left in the Finance Chair's mailbox in the Volunteer Workroom next to the Church Office.

SUNDAY FORUM February 19 at 12:30 pm

The Economics of Happiness is a remarkable, dynamic one-hour long film that vividly documents the impact of economic globalization on our communities and then portrays "localization" as a vibrant, viable alternative. 'Going local' is a powerful strategy to help repair our fractured world – our ecosystems, our societies and ourselves. And far from the old institutions of power, people are starting to forge a life-affirming future. The film features Vandana Shiva, Bill McKibben, David Korten, Michael Shuman, Juliet Schor, Richard Heinberg, among others. Q&A discussion to follow. For more info, contact Carol Fisher at fisherbaer@earthlink.net, or 343-0493

GREETERS & NAME BADGES From the Membership Team: Would you like to be a Greeter? One of the most rewarding and important volunteer jobs at First UU is to be a Greeter at the Sunday services. If you would like to help make our church truly "welcoming," and can commit to one Sunday a month - your choice of service - please call Paula Egbert at 614-890-5511 or e-mail at Egbert@realtor.com. Thanks

One way to help make us a more welcoming church, is to wear name badges. No matter how famous you are, there are some people who still don't know you! If you need a name badge, sign up at the Greeters stand. Badges will be ready for pickup within two weeks.

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.

SUMMER SERVICES Have you ever wanted to give a sermon at First UU? Plans are underway for this summer's lay-led services. Join the Worship Committee on Saturday, April 14, 9-12. If you cannot be there, contact Judith McDowell, 261-0043, or jdthmcdowell@gmail.com. Submissions due by May 1.



GARDEN CLUB February 19, 1:00pm. Bring your seed catalogues. Let's chat about garden tours for the coming year.

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

ASKING AND OFFERING Thanks to JAM for sharing part of their bulletin board in the Window Hallway, we now have a place for members and friends to post what things and services we have to offer, And also a place to say what we need. People have already started using it!

Appreciation is also due to the Communications Committee for setting up the board and being willing to maintain it.

Having this opportunity should help our church increase sharing and build community.

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).

FCACO The Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio, a non-profit organization serving the area since 1953, will present its monthly informational meeting on Monday evening, **February 27 at 7:00 pm** in Room 8. This organization was started at the church as the "Memorial Society" by some very forward looking people, and continues to help the general public. We are a non-profit, non-denominational organization, and we provide information about end-of-life issues, including discussion of funerals and cremations, "green" burials, as well as information on the information and documents needed at the time of death. Open and free to the public. Learn how to save thousands of dollars when purchasing end-of-life services. Get the information you need! Free literature will be available. Bring friends and neighbors. Even if you have already made your plans, your participation can spread vital information to the community at large. Call Phyllis Byard at 614-846-2747 for more information. Help us and help yourself.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY Wednesdays, 7:30pm

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 – 5:30 pm
\$15 at the door



“South Pacific – Some Enchanted Auction”

Silent Auction
Dinner
Live Auction

Enjoy the FUN – Help raise the FUNDS!

Jo Anne St. Clair Auction Co-Chair, 268-1923,
joastclare@aol.com

JOURNEY OF THE UNIVERSE will be shown again on Sunday, March 4, in Room 8 at 1:00pm. Reservations are necessary. Please call 433-0363.

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.syccolumbus.org, or you can call the school office, 267-0254.

JUSTICE ACTION MINISTRY

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS Please continue to bring in peanut butter, chunky soups, stews, blankets, warm

clothes, etc. for the Feed My Sheep pantry in Athens County. Clean aluminum cans help raise funds. Please bring all items to the table in Fellowship Hall.



Plan to attend these important meetings:

- 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)

CARING CORNER

We wish a happy birthday to **Jeanne Hammond** and **Jackie Angelino**. Jeanne celebrated her 92nd birthday on Monday, February 6; Jackie celebrated her 98th on Thursday, February 9. Also a Happy Birthday to **Suzan McCrystal** who celebrates hers on February 17.

We send best wishes to **Nina Lewis** who has accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Social Work with Ohio University-Chillicothe beginning in Spring quarter.

We wish **Ron Rathburn** a speedy recovery from last week's eye surgery.

We extend a heartfelt sympathy to: **Julie Duhigg**, **Kevin** and **Cathy O'Neil**, and **Wolfgang Salazar**. Julie's cousin Charles Duhigg died recently after a struggle with cancer; Cathy O'Neil's father died Friday, February 3; and Wolfgang's mother died unexpectedly at his home on Friday, February 10.

► **CARING COMMITTEE WORKSHOP March 4, 1-3pm**. This year's topic will be **Increasing Awareness of Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorders**. All are welcome. Contact Chris Hardin, 707-8997, chardin123@att.net for more information.

MOVE TO AMEND – CENTRAL OHIO

First UU members at “Occupy the Courts” About 10 to 15 members of First UU Church participated on Friday, January 20 in “Occupy the Courts,” a demonstration organized by *Move to Amend – Central Ohio*, a sub-committee of JAM. This non-partisan group is seeking to support a national effort to amend our U.S. Constitution to declare that “Corporations are not Persons” and that “money is not speech.” In high teens temperatures under a grey sky, about 120 people from Columbus and as far away as Athens, demonstrated at the J. P. Kinneary Federal District Courthouse to draw attention to the fact that *Citizens United v. the FEC*, which the Supreme Court passed two years ago on January 21, 2010,

has single handedly weakened our democracy by giving corporations the right to spend unlimited funds on advertising for or against any candidate in any election.

Similar demonstrations on January 20, in over 130 cities around the country, including at the Supreme Court, pointed out that it is the courts that have given corporations the right to call on the constitution and its amendments as “persons” to obtain the decisions they need to optimize their profits, often at the expense of the environment, our communities, our jobs and our health. They have obtained, by judicial decisions, the rights that “We the People” obtained through our constitution and its (often hard fought) amendments.

Speakers at the event included four candidates for Ohio congressional seats and leaders of several area non-profits. Typical signs declared that: “I’ll believe that corporations are persons when ... one of them gives their life for our country” or “...is actually held responsible for its actions”!

This movement is growing around the nation with over 10 cities having already passed resolutions declaring that corporations are not persons. The Supreme Court of the State of Montana has made that same declaration.

Anyone interested in participating in this activity is invited to contact Michael Greenman, 614-898-5825 or mgreenman@wowway.com. “Move to Amend” meets once a month at First UU Church. See our FaceBook page for details - Michael Greenman



The Only Unitarian Universalist Hello. My name is Leigh Duckworth, and I have attended the First UU Church almost all of my 17 years. I attend Olentangy Liberty High School, a school of almost 1,500 kids. I am the only Unitarian at my school.

One of the greater challenges in being the only Unitarian Universalist in school, besides trying to explain our beliefs, is the feeling that we are so small. Even my World Religions teacher this year had never heard of my church.

I come here for a sense of community and, to be honest, to be with other youth like me. We're a small group but a tight one. Which is why I'm looking forward to the Youth Justice Trip to GA where - I've been told - I will have the chance to meet hundreds of youth like me. I cannot imagine a gathering of thousands of Unitarians in one place but hopefully I will get a chance to go and see for myself just how large a church we really are. I want to connect with other UU youth. I want to feel a part of a larger community and to celebrate our beliefs. And not to have to explain who I am, and why I am this way. I'll be with kids just like me.

We need your help to make this trip possible for our high schoolers. You can help in two ways. Donate to the Justice Trip Fund. Just mail a check to Justice Trip Fund, First UU, 93 W Weisheimer Rd, Columbus OH 43214 or drop it in the collection plate on Sunday morning with "Justice Trip" in the memo line. And you can donate frequent flyer miles with Continental Airlines or United. If you have OnePass, MilePass or Mileage Plus frequent flyer miles, Betsy Duckworth will be happy to make the arrangements. Email sduckwor@columbus.rr.com

Religious Education Activities

Deadline for High School Justice Trip February 23: New scholarship sources We need to pull together our dorm reservations for March 1, so we must have your email commitment to participate in the trip, plus your down payment of \$50 by February 23. Make out checks to First UU with Justice Trip payment and teen's name in the memo line. Our **next meeting is February 19 following Sunday School.** We will be filling out applications for scholarships with the UUA and the district, signing the membership book for those who want to be members and have a chance of being a delegate. There will be more information about costs and we'll plan our next fundraising events. In addition to Rev. Eric and Jolinda, our two sponsors, who are committed to participate if we have enough youth signed up, are David Easter and Tina Thonnings. Our ratio is three teens to every one adult.

Get In On the Project Planning for the High School Class Join a great bunch of high school kids at 11:00am each Sunday to plan and do a service project with other faith groups. Meet new kids and plan a project together, have fun, learn more about leadership of diverse groups and do good in the world.

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.

Adult and Multi-Age Programming

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 in an exploration of art as seen down through the ages through the eyes of philosophers, theologians, artists and you. The provocative conversations include:

March 1: The power of art in relation to the sacred, and why people have found it dangerous. Why have religions banned representational art?

March 8: The Neo-Platonic view that art is central to religion and artists are religious leaders. Is beauty good?

March 15: Tolstoy and his idea that the true purpose of art is to infect the viewer with the most spiritually evolved emotions of the age so that the human spirit can progress.

March 22: Classical Indian art theory teaches that art gives rise to emotionally flavored bliss. Should art promote the Hindu goals of life: right action, pleasure, wealth, and spiritual freedom?

March 29: Should we live our lives as works of art? Classical Japanese art theory teaches that art expresses principles of Zen Buddhism. Zen art shocks the viewer into a moment of calm where thinking stops and knowing fills the gap, thus helping us transcend ego, and promoting mindfulness. Dr. Susan Josephson was a professor of philosophy at the Columbus College of Art and Design for 39 years, teaching philosophy of visual art and the philosophy of media.

The Devil Is in the Details *Wednesday, March 21, 7pm.* Join Prof. John Friedman for an illustrated talk about the devil in the late Middle Ages and early Renaissance in Western Europe. Unlike the more abstract modern or theological concept of the devil, the late medieval and early Renaissance devil was highly visual and took many forms. The "talk" will include examples of the different solutions artists developed to the problem of representing an abstraction of such complexity. John Friedman is Professor Emeritus of English and Medieval Studies at the University of Illinois of Urbana-Champaign.

Immigrant Voices: Creating a New History Through Spoken Word *Friday, March 9, 7 pm.* Join national anti-oppression leader Paula Cole Jones for an evening of interactive exploration of our immigrant history and present as volunteers bring the voices of immigrants to life and we build a timeline together. 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. Ms. Jones' is a Unitarian Universalist with two decades of experience in consulting on anti-oppression, including hundreds of UU congregational, district and national trainings. She is the editor of *Encounters: poems about race ethnicity and identity*. Arrive early, if you would like to be a voice in the spoken word part of the workshop.

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

Jolinda Stephens, jolindast@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education, 267-4946 ext 28

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

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Not all of you were at the service where my dear friend Jay Leach preached, on the first Sunday in February. I, myself, thought it was a terrific sermon, well crafted. And I was especially thrilled that he talked about Hamedah Hasan, a woman whom his wonderful wife Melissa profiled in a film she made. For those who were there, I wanted to fill you in on what happened the Tuesday after he preached. (The honorarium we gave him features in the plane-ticket part of this story...I thought you might want to know.) From Jay: I write with the incredibly long-awaited, incredibly wonderful news that this very morning my beloved partner was waiting as her dear sister Hamedah Hasan was released from the Federal "Corrections" Complex in Victorville, California, at the completion of an egregiously long, outrageously unjust sentence. At very long last, they had their first embrace outside the walls of a prison. Melissa enjoyed a couple of hours with Hamedah before taking her to the airport, site of the attached photograph. I was actually able to talk with BOTH of them in transit, an incredible experience. Hamedah should now be in Portland, Oregon reunited with her three daughters after *eighteen* years. Her new life there begins now. (That was 18 years for a non-violent drug crime. MLB)

I don't have the words to express how incredibly proud I am of Melissa and her long years of tireless advocacy that helped make this day possible. She is an idealist, a woman who believes she can change the world. Today, more than ever, I believe her.

As for me, I finally seem to be moving closer to health after three doctor visits. At least today I am breathing better, my lungs not hurting or straining. I AM dealing with the emotions about my son Tony moving to Cleveland in two weeks, following his partner who was offered a truly terrific position at the venerable Cleveland Clinic. It's hit me hard, but I guess now we will have to become the Skype Champs of this quadrant of the galaxy. At the end of the month I will be in California for a week at the annual Senior Ministers of Large UU Congregations conference in Santa Barbara, preceded by my annual dinner (I cook) for my cousin Sergio and his household and friends on Academy Award night, a delightful tradition in my life.

Cheers... After I get back, I am preaching the stewardship sermon, like Jay did here, up at West Shore UU Church in Cleveland. (Now, if my sermon can only be as great as Jay's...)

Blessings,



Rev. Mark Belletini

The Inner Flame e.e. cummings *Collected Poems 1962-1964* This is the full poem, the first line of which I quoted at the Interfaith Renewal and Solidarity Ceremony---yeah, It's difficult, but not too much I think. Cummings was the son of a Unitarian minister.

be of love (a little)
More careful
Than of everything
guard her perhaps only
A trifle less
(merely beyond how very)
closely than
Nothing, remember love by frequent
anguish (imagine
Her least never with most
memory) give entirely each
Forever its freedom
(Dare until a flower,
understanding sizelessly sunlight
Open what thousandth why and
discover laughing)