

The Discoverer

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus, June 3, 2012

MARKINGS

Rev. Mark Belletini

I'm leaving for General Assembly on June 18, and will be gone a week with many other members of our congregation. My column will return in August.

Mark

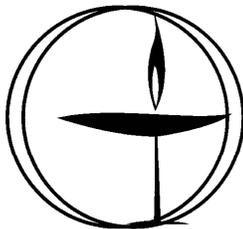
The Inner Flame

Life

by Juan Ramon Jimenez, 1995

What I used to regard as glory shutting me out
was a door opening
toward just this clarity:
an unknown country.

nothing can destroy it, this road of doorways,
opening, one after the other
always toward reality:
Life incalculable.



CHURCH NEWS

BOOKBITES Meets June 19 in Slowter Lounge from 7 to 9 pm. New topic: *Yiddish authors*.
Call Kathleen Boston, 262-4025, with questions.

YOUR LIBRARY NEWS Thanks to the Hollander Library Endowment Fund, a dozen new books have been purchased and are on the shelves. The Library Team invites you to browse, check out books and enjoy your library. In addition to the new books, the following people have donated books this year: Cindy Dillard, Rich Humenick, Ray Nandyal, Mary Rogers, Carole Wilhelm and Rev. Eric Meter's Wellspring Class. Thank you!

CONNECT TO OUR COMMUNITY Through

dancing! No Partner needed! Whether you are new to First UU or a longtime member, you may find **contra dancing** a great way to deepen your connection within our community. In a church community the size of First UU, it can be daunting for new members to explore the smaller groups that allow us to connect to each other's lives meaningfully. One such established group (celebrating its 10th anniversary dancing together in Fellowship Hall) is the **All Soles Contra Dance**, by mission welcoming to new dancers from age eight to eighty, coming together one weekend evening a month to learn this highly social, centuries-old American folk dance tradition dating back to English country dancing in the 1700s. No experience is required (each dance is taught, then prompted by a caller); no partner is needed (we exchange partners after each dance and enjoy asking new people to dance); smiles abound, laughter is guaranteed, and the live music is high-energy and sure to get you moving with shared joy.

Where else can you get great exercise, meet friendly, welcoming people of ALL ages and backgrounds, learn a new skill sure to challenge your brain and your body, plus enjoy live music with talented folk musicians playing fiddle, banjo, piano, guitar, mandolin, hammered dulcimer, and much more!

NEXT ALL SOLES CONTRA DANCE: Saturday, June 16 briefing session at 7:30 for **all new dancers**; evening contra dance from 8:00 to 10:30pm. Live music by ContraBand, a hugely talented southern Ohio band, with popular caller Gaye Fifer of Pittsburgh leading the evening program. Cost is \$7; \$4 for age 12-24; under 12 free. Childcare (for those too young to join the dancing) is offered by an SYC teacher in a nearby playroom; home baked snacks are brought by dancers for the shared-snack table; please bring your own refillable water bottle and dress in lightweight clothing with clean shoes that "slip a bit" on the wooden dance floor. More info and links about contra dance are at:

firstuucolumbus.org/AllSoles or call Kate Power at 614-430-9027 or email her at kate@powerkate.com

DON'T MISS THEM! Many other interesting events, sponsored by Adult Education Programs are described in the section FAITH DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL AGES.

JUSTICE ACTION MINISTRY

PLAN FOR PRIDE! Columbus Pride 2012 is June 16. The GSA is sponsoring a *Pride Potluck and Sign Making Event* for Friday, June 15 at 6:30 pm at the church. Please sign up at the GSA table in Fellowship Hall for:

1. the Potluck
2. to march in the Parade
3. to participate in carpooling to the parade
4. to host the UU table in Goodale Park (2 hour shifts)

Standing on the Side of Love (SSL) T-shirts. Youth sizes (S-L), Women's Sizes (S-L) and Men's sizes (S-4XL) are available at services (on the piano in Fellowship Hall) on June 10 and 17. Contact Bob Rice, bricejr@gmail.com to reserve your shirt.

BRIDGE BUILDERS Justice Action Ministry (JAM) has named Ray and Lauri Nandyal "Bridge-Builders of the Month" for June, but this phrase doesn't begin to capture the impact that Ray and Lauri have made on social justice work in Central Ohio. It would be closer to the truth to say that Lauri and Ray have been the bridge-builders of the past three years.

From the formation of the Racial Diversity Task Force in 2009, to its joining with the Social Justice Committee to form Justice Action Ministry last year, Ray and Lauri have worked tirelessly to build bridges between religious and social progressives in our community.

Through organizing public witness actions, service projects, and the simple act of sharing a meal, Lauri and Ray have brought people together across apparent barriers of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, and economic circumstances.

On Sunday, June 10, please join us to celebrate Lauri and Ray's friendship and inspiring leadership, and to wish them well as they relocate to Cincinnati this month. We will honor them at the **10:00 a.m.** worship service, and gather in Fellowship Hall after the service for a luncheon (with cake, of course) at **11:15 a.m.**

CARE & SHARE TIME BANK The next meeting of the Care and Share Time Bank will be *Sunday, June 17 at 6:00 pm*. We will begin with a potluck and announcements, then we will have a presentation on how to build your own rain barrel. Questions? Contact Michael Greenman, 898-5825.

DENOMINATIONAL CONCERNS

SUMMER INSTITUTE Don't miss this year's S.I. The theme is **Reboot Your Theology: Exploring Our Connections** - with theme speaker Rev. Meg Riley. July 8-14, 2012 at Kenyon College in Gambier, OH. Brochures are now available in the Volunteer Workroom, or you can download it as a pdf at omdsi.org.

CARING CORNER

Welcome to **Violet Elaine Carey**, daughter of Karen Morr and Mark Carey, and sister of Katie. There was a Naming Ceremony for her on May 27.

Congratulations to: **Maureen Metcalf**, who was honored by the 2012 International Book Awards for writing *The Innovative Leadership Fieldbook*; and **Caitlin Marie Davis**, daughter of Oliver and Kitty Jones, who was selected by *Teach for America* as a 7th grade math teacher.

Happy Birthday to **Rev. Mark**. He will celebrate his birthday on Saturday, June 16.

Congratulations, Students:

Mark Chen-Keenan, son of Barry Keenan and stepson of Karen Keenan, received his MBA from the Wharton School of Business at the University of PA.

Anna Sarah Fechter, daughter of Amy Thompson and Stephen Fechter, graduated from Bexley High School. She will attend DePaul University in Chicago this fall on a Deans' Scholarship.

Natalie Hardin, Christine Hardin's daughter, graduated from Dublin Coffman High School. She will be attending OSU, with a focus on the pre-Med program.

Alex Hughes, son of Vanda Hughes, is graduating with a degree in forestry, fisheries and wildlife at OSU. His specialty is Ornithology

Meggie McGuire, daughter of Deb and Michael McGuire, graduated with honors, from Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT. She majored in Anthropology.

A speedy recovery to former member **Jan Spangler**, who had hip replacement surgery recently. She is now recuperating in a rehabilitation facility near her daughter, in Maryland.

Our healing thoughts go to **Rachel Reeder**, who fractured her wrist in a biking accident and needed surgery. She is doing well, recovering at home.

Our sympathy to **Katie Carey** on the death of her much loved cat, Toulouse.

LINKS

Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister

Last time around, my column was roughly twice as long as usual. This column will be shorter.

If you consider yourself a deep thinker who still wonders what it means to be a spiritual, let alone religious, person, I urge you to consider taking part in our Wellspring Program. Next year will be our third year offering Wellspring, a group that meets to reflect on a comprehensive selection of readings on the history of belief and theologies from around the world. We use spiritual direction, daily spiritual practice to aid our reflections on those readings and the events of our lives.

As I've said before, while I've heard Wellspring billed as "covenant groups on steroids," I think it is better described as Coming of Age for adults. If this sounds intriguing to you, please contact me as soon as possible. I need to know how many facilitators we'll need by early

June. Our Wellspring group(s) for next year will start with an orientation retreat on Saturday, September 15. Groups will then meet twice a month through May 2013.

And, having mentioned Coming of Age, I want to thank once more my fellow adult leaders in the congregation's COA program for its ninth grade youth. Sherri Stubbs and Casey Best have been on board for the last two years. Last summer Niki Hanselman and John Grinstead joined the team. These four very different people have the uncanny ability to give their best without stepping on each other's toes. They are some of the most trustworthy, wise and simply fun-loving people I've ever had the privilege to work with. My gratitude to each of them is more than I can say.

In peace,

Eric

FAITH DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL AGES

Jolinda Stephens, Religious Education Director

Letter to the Congregation:

I wish it were possible to move First UU to Seattle, or to persuade all my family to move to Columbus. That not being possible, the 2012-13 church year will be my last at First UU. The trip to Transylvania with the youth in June 2013 will likely be my last task here (and what a final task!).

Since you invited me to Columbus as your DRE, several things have changed in my family life, which is centered in the Seattle area. My grandson married and now I have two great grandchildren. My younger daughter relocated to Seattle, and now has a job with Microsoft that will keep her in the Seattle area for at least four years. As she specializes in international tax, who knows where she will live next – Hong Kong, France, India? My granddaughter will graduate from high school next year and is set to go to an in-state college. After that, she may also move away. The pull to spend irreplaceable time with my family is very strong.

It is also time for me to semi-retire. Sixty hour weeks are not easy any more. I love what we are doing together. It is exciting, often exhilarating and even more often deeply satisfying and moving. My colleagues are amazing to work with – inspiring and inspired, scholarly and fun...words fail me.

As we go forward into this new year I will look to all of you to work with me to complete tasks and place things in order so that a new DRE has a good foundation that will support her/his new ideas and gifts. The Sunday School program has grown over the last five years from 185 to about 250. That necessitates changes in how we do Sunday School in and of itself. We have a new ministry with young adults and that will re-shape our adult religious education. Join me in making this transition one that strengthens and brings the many elements of First UU into closer collaboration.

May all be well, Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education



Religious Education --- Upcoming Events and Classes

Thursday, June 7, 7 pm – Rev. Susan Ritchie and the Doctrine of Discovery As our city observes the 200th anniversary, and our General Assembly prepares to take a stand on the doctrine crafted 500 years ago to give spiritual and legal support for explorers like Columbus, social historian, UU minister and UUA Trustee Rev. Susan Ritchie takes on the Doctrine of Christian Discovery. Why should we care? Those papal bulls that declared some humans inferior still form the basis of national and international law. Why should you attend? Rev. Ritchie's history-with-humor is unparalleled.

Our partners in the immigrant justice communities have requested that we pass a resolution this year at General Assembly calling on the Obama administration to repudiate the doctrine in our foreign policy.

Parents of Infants and Toddlers The next gathering is scheduled for second **Saturday, June 9** from 11am to 1pm in the Toddler Room and playground. Please join us to meet other families. If you'd like more information, please contact Nancy Powlick at lpowlick@columbus.rr.com

Happiness Is June's "Month in Science" Topic: If you're happy and you know it, what's your secret?

June 12, 7pm. Researchers have uncovered plenty of factors, from genes to personal characteristics to life choices, that seem to coincide with happiness and its longer-lasting cousin, well-being. Here are a few you might have some control over. Get culture; get a pet; be grateful and altruistic; have sex; and don't obsess about being happy. Come learn more.



Meet Best-Selling Author Imran Ahmad, Friday, June 15 at 7:30pm. "Islam and the West: a personal journey" is a deliciously funny and insightful evening. His memoir, which is on the must-read lists of colleges and Oprah, as well as the *New York Journal of Books*, explores, with both wit and honesty, his struggles growing up in London in a traditional Pakistani family. Mike Faith, CEO of Headsets.com said of his talk: "Islam and the West, global politics, modern history, international relations, Homeland Security, even Shakespeare and spirituality, all woven by a master storyteller, into a spell-binding narrative, that gave many of us fresh perspective."

Say "Thank You and Farewell" to Cindy Dillard Sunday, June 17, following the service. Cindy has been a very important part of First UU for many years. She has served on the Religious Education staff, led the teaching team for 8th grade OWL, developed and led the PeaceCamp, and coordinated the Summer Sunday School for several years. She also found time to organize the annual Passover Seder. She will be missed. This is your chance to honor her and send her to her next adventure with your best wishes.

Summer Solstice Elemental Peace Ritual, Wednesday, June 20, 7pm in Fellowship Hall. As the sun reaches its zenith, gather for meditation, movement and chants from the many cultures of the earth, honoring indigenous wisdom that has sprung from the earth, water, fire and air over the ages. No previous experience needed. The ritual was created by senior Sufi teacher Murshid Saadi Neil Douglas-Klotz, led by Sheikha Munira Elizabeth Reed. Co-sponsored by First UU Faith Development and The Shalem Center.

Gaming for Peace in PeaceCamp First Two Weeks in August. To the excellent foundation in personal peace-making that we've always offered, we add justice-making - one week-long role play game, and skills for building justice at school and dealing with bullies. We will join with children and youth in our larger community to explore ways to create and be a part of Beloved Community. Each week PeaceKids will work on one justice project throughout the week. While the goals are serious, PeaceKids can expect lots of games, art, dance, skits and hanging out. Find out more at registration - at the Sunday School Table or online: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6L59H9P>.

Be a Part of the Sunday School Experience That Supports the Becoming of Our Amazing Youth

Many of you attended the Coming of Age service on June 3, and were amazed at the breadth and depth of the Coming of Age graduates and the Bridging young adults. Many adults in this congregation looked on with special pride because they helped foster that depth and breadth in Sunday School. Come be a part of the wondrous transformation. Check out the volunteer page on our website: <http://firstuucolumbus.org/children/volunteer-opportunities> and then volunteer at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZFXQXYK>.

Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education,
www.firstuucolumbus.org; JolindaS@firstuucolumbus.org, 614-267-4946, ext 28

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION

MODERATOR (one year term; one to be elected) Michael Greenman

FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES (3 year term, 4 to be elected) David C. Douglass; John McCrystal; Dennis Rankin, Jo Anne St. Clair

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (2 year term; 4 to be elected)

Debra Boyd I have served on our congregation's Board and served two different times as Treasurer. I have been involved in a number of projects including the drafting of our mission, the introduction of Wellspring to the congregation, and Rev Eric Meter's installation. I have served our Ohio Meadville District as the Compensation Consultant, Secretary to the Board and Vice President of the Board. I am currently serving on the General Assembly Planning Committee.

Thom Pegan I joined First UU of Columbus around 1990. I quickly became immersed with committees including Worship, Communications, Church Council, Covenant, and Interweave, and was a Trustee for a brief stint. I crashed and burned, spent 40 days in the desert, and now I am back. When I re-enlisted earlier this year, I vowed that I would not just "join again," but also would be more purposeful in the giving of my talents, treasure and time in helping this church accomplish its missions and visions. Being a member of the Leadership Development Committee feels like a perfect fit.

Mia Hall (LDC) I have only recently become an official member of First UU, having been a warm friend since 2009. I am currently a member of the Chalice Choir, and serve on the Adult Enrichment Program committee. Previously, I've been a member of the UU Church in Corpus Christi, active in their choir, and helped establish a covenant group. I am a newly licensed Professional Counselor, an educator, and am working to complete my doctorate in Counselor Education and Supervision. My husband, son (who is in the Peace Pals children's choir) and I enjoy being a part of First UU; and I look forward to extending my service-orientation to our community.

Paula Hook As a lifetime UU, First UU Columbus is my fourth stop along the spiritual journey. During 20+ years of membership in Columbus, I have been elected to the Board and as Moderator. I've also served on many groups (Governance, Finance, Ministry, Councils) and assisted with various takes (Auction, receptions, Senior lunches, Order of Service and the Library). I've learned at several OMD conferences and chaired its Personnel Committee. In addition, one Large Church Conference and two General Assemblies have provided much inspiration and knowledge.

Tony L. Rice I have been a member of First UU for several years. I'm in the choir, have served on the Gay Straight Alliance, and have been a co-facilitator and facilitator for covenant groups. Also I am a member of the Covenant Group Steering Committee. Volunteer work includes having served on a variety of community and organizational boards and committees both in Columbus and Springfield. Professionally, I am in Information Technology as part of the team managing a Data Center for a major banking concern. I have also been a Leadership Development Training Facilitator.

Jeannie Sperling I was a member of a Unitarian Church in New York as a child. My spiritual path took many twists and turns until I joined First UU five years ago. I served on Membership Committee and have been part of Neighborhood Network since then. I served on the Covenant Group Steering Team representing our group at Program Council and assumed the position of chair for one year. I also chaired a committee to plan the farewell celebration for our past Associate Minister, Rev. Wendy Fish. I have enjoyed helping with our Annual Auction in food preparation, serving, decorations and check-in. After 28 years as a teacher in the primary classroom, I assumed the role of coordinator for staff development and special education for the another eight years.

Amy Kay Watson I have been a member of First UU since January 2011. I am a professional leadership trainer and change facilitator. I attended two of the *Harvest the Power* workshops at First UU and participated in Community and Questing in early 2011 as well as a covenant group since last fall. I joined BREAD this spring to support JAM and the systemic health of our community. I've been working under the LDC since the fall to develop the start of a leadership training series called the *Art of Developing Meaningful Conversation* and hosted the May 19 workshop at church.

Susan Williams First UU has been part of my life for 35 years. Early on I was involved in Religious Education, teaching and working on curriculum. For seven years I was on staff as a religious educator recruiting and training volunteers while observing leadership in action. More recent service includes *Stewardship* and *Membership* (as Path to Membership Coordinator). I have attended Large Church Conferences, General Assemblies, Leadership School, and read church "how-to" books for enjoyment. I wish to support First UU's transition from recruiting leaders with talents and skills to helping all lay members develop skills to support our mission.

FIRST UU ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 10, 12:00 Noon

Vote on:

Amended Constitution; Budget

Elect:

**Board of Trustees Members;
Leadership Development Committee Members
Moderator**

Childcare Available

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MODERATOR (one year term; one to be elected))

Michael Greenman

FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES (3 year term, 4 to be elected)

David C. Douglass, John McCrystal, Dennis Rankin, Jo Anne St. Clair

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (2 year term; 4 to be elected)

Debra Boyd, Thom Pegan, Mia Hall, Paula Hook, Tony Rice, Jeannie Sperling, Amy Kay Watson, Susan Williams

Rev. Mark Belletini, Senior Minister
Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister
Rev. Carol Brody, Minister Emerita
Rev. Wendy Fish, Minister Emerita
Dick Dawson, Chaplain
Ben Iten, Campus Chaplain
Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education
Tony McDonald, Music Director
Brandon Moss, Chalice Choir Director
Cheridy Keller, Choir Director
Nathan Hamm, Pianist

Marian Garcia, Office Manager
Stephanie Rottmayer, SYC Director
Brian Hagemann, Church Administrator
Joe Voltolini, Bookkeeper
Deb McGuire, Staff Secretary/RE Assistant
Jenifer Bojanowski, Lead Toddler Room Teacher
Don Hippensteel, Sexton
Naoko Kobayashi, Facilities Assistant
Cathy Hausmann, Facilities Assistant
Tim Hooks, Chair, Board of Trustees
Olwen Firestone, Newsletter Editor

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The
DISCOVERER
June 3, 2012

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PUBLISHED BI-WEEKLY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

WORSHIP SERVICES

June 10, 2012, 10:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

“The Natural Theology of Getting Married”

GLBT Pride; a tribute and good bye to the Nandyals; the Annual Congregational Meeting

June 17, 2012, 10:00 A.M.

Stephanie Rottmayer

The staff of our School for Young Children presents this service.

June 24, 2012, 10:00 A.M.

Wesley Thompson

“Commitment in the Face of Uncertain Outcomes”

Wesley is one of First UU’s current seminary students.

►Hearing assisted devices, large print hymnals, and a few copies (in large print) of the Sunday readings and sermon 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.

CALENDAR June 6 – June 20, 2012

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

- 8:00a UU Food Co-op
- 1:00p Archives Organizing
- 5:00p Campfire Girls and Boys
- 7:30p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality

Thursday, June 7, 2012

- 9:30a Improvisational Dance
- 7:00p Doctrine of Discovery (Rev. Susan Ritchie)
- 7:30p Healing Journey

Friday, June 8, 2012

- 7:00p Youth Group

Saturday, June 9, 2012

- 8:30a Zen Meditation
- 9:45a Zen Meditation Orientation
- 11:00a Parents of Infants and Toddlers

Sunday, June 10, 2012

- 9:00a Leadership Development Committee
- 10:00a Worship Service
- 12:00p ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, June 11, 2012

- 7:00p Adult Enrichment Committee
- 7:00p Executive Committee
- 7:00p Personnel Committee
- 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

- 9:30a Archives Organizing
- 1:00p Cancer Support Group
- 7:00p Social Committee
- 7:00p This Month in Science
- 7:00p UU Animal Ministry
- 7:00p Zen Meditation

Wednesday, June 13, 2012

- 1:00p Archives Organizing
- 7:00p Memoir Writing
- 7:00p Small Group Ministry Steering team
- 7:30p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality

Thursday, June 14, 2012

- 9:30a Improvisational Dance
- 7:00p Building & Grounds Committee
- 7:00p Expressive Collage

Friday, June 15, 2012

- 12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission
- 4:00p GSA Pride Poster Making & Potluck
- 7:00p Imran Ahmad Presentation

Saturday, June 16, 2012

- 8:30a Zen Meditation
- 11:00a Easy Movement Class
- 11:00a Sound Team
- 12:00p Move to Amend Central Ohio
- 7:30p All Soles Contra Dance

Sunday, June 17, 2012

- 10:00a Worship Service
- 11:15a Share the Care Pastoral Group
- 11:30a Strategic Planning
- 11:45p Garden Club
- 12:00p Youth Group
- 6:00p Time Bank Meeting

Monday, June 18, 2012

- 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship
- 7:00p BREAD Team

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

- 9:30a Archives Organizing
- 9:30a Newsletter Folding
- 7:00p Book Bites
- 7:00p Zen Meditation
- 7:00p Stewardship Committee
- 7:30p Finance Committee

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

- 5:00p Campfire Girls and Boys
- 7:00p Gay Straight Alliance
- 7:00p Membership Team
- 7:00p Solstice Peace Ritual
- 7:30p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality

COVENANT GROUPS – Rev. Meter, 267-4946, ext. 23

Please Note:

**The Discoverer – Next Issue – Sunday, June 17
Deadline: 12:00p –Hard copy in office, yellow folder
6:00p – email articles to office@firstuucolumbus.org.**

Thanks With this issue of the Discoverer, I will be retiring as Editor. **Many, many thanks** to those who honored me at the June 3 service with words and gifts and applause – and special thanks to the Tuesday morning newsletter “folding crew” who donated the beautiful flowers for the chancel in my name: Suse Collis, Sue Griffin, Wanda Hambrick, Jo-E. Miller, Karen Richter, Jeanne Slasor, Sue Vierow and Sarah Wurdlow -- Olwen Firestone