



THE

DRUMMER

February 2011

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the South Hills

SUNDAY SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

"I think of a hero as someone who understands the degree of responsibility that comes with his freedom." —Bob Dylan

January 30, 9:00 & 11:30 am

Which Face In the Mirror

Led by Rev. Jay Abernathy, Interim Minister

Amartya Sen is a mathematician, economist, and philosopher—and has many more identities, too. He uses this awareness of our many personal identities to make a compelling appeal for tolerance. Tolerance is a clumsy concept in many ways, but it is absolutely necessary for modern life.

February 20, 9:00 & 11:30 am

Crete and Creativity

Led by Rev. Jay Abernathy, Interim Minister

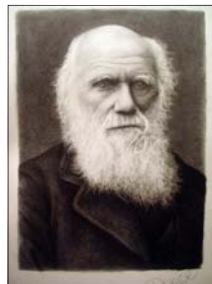
On my second sabbatical, Eileen and I visited Crete, and I learned a few lessons about religion and life. The children will be with us at the beginning of each service to learn about the rite of initiation into adulthood for both boys and girls in this ancient culture, 1000 years before Greece's prominence.



February 6, 9:00 & 11:30 am

Darwin's Great Gift

Led by Rev. Jay Abernathy, Interim Minister



Charles Darwin's theory of evolution gave us a dynamic and progressive vision of the universe. That vision replaced the ancient world's static vision, which imagined perfection as a universe that never changed. Darwin's was not the first vision of a dynamic universe, but by addressing the critical creation of humanity's place in the universe, it focused attention as no other statement had.

February 27, 9:00 & 11:30 am

Compassion and Curiosity

Led by Rev. Jay Abernathy, Interim Minister

For about 100 years, beginning in the late 1800's, humanism played an increasing role in Unitarian thought. However, the two World Wars and the Depression did much to damage humanism, just as they damaged traditional religious thought. One of our great humanist ministers had a suggestion: we should follow the star of compassion as fervently as we follow the star of scientific and intellectual curiosity.



February 13, 9:00 & 11:30 am

RE Sunday: UU Heroes

Led by Rev. Jay Abernathy, Interim Minister, with Cheryl Kelley, Director of Religious Education

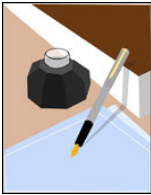
Please join us this Sunday to hear about the fascinating people who have contributed to Unitarian Universalism. The children of our Religious Education program are going to talk about UU Heroes, both past and present, including Randy Pausch, Malvina Reynolds, Theodore Parker, Meg Barnhouse, and others. In addition, we are going to hear more about the UUA program *Standing on the Side of Love*. Service includes a brief homily from the minister.

Please see page 6 for more information about the UUA program Standing on the Side of Love. On page 5, a new column from the Social Action Committee explains how we all can "step forward and step it up" when it comes to social action. One way is to sign a Valentine's petition at the Standing on the Side of Love website that shows your commitment to full equality for LGBT people.

Musical heroes abound at Sunnyhill, and they will be out in full force to make this RE Sunday extra special. Though the line-up of performers may change between now and the 13th, coordinator Marina Lauer says the following musicians will be in attendance: Madeleine and Simon Mortimer, Claire and Elliot Pullen, Evan and Elise Reichenfeld, Ava and Emma Graham, Grant and Erik Rauterkus, and Madeline, Lily and Sophie Lauer. Marina hopes musical members of the Youth Group—Sean Sullivan, Colin Burns, and Sam Hedin—will be able to participate.

SUNNYHILL MISSION STATEMENT

"Our mission is to foster intellectual and spiritual growth by upholding a free search for truth within a liberal religious setting. In a warm, intimate, and diverse environment, we support one another on our lifelong journeys and through the transitions in our lives. Committed to Unitarian Universalist principles, we seek to build a just and compassionate community both within and beyond Sunnyhill."



JAYWALKING

by the Rev. Jay Abernathy, Interim Minister

Shortly after I began my second year of theological school in Toronto, I learned I had a stomach ulcer. Back in those days, the initial response was to drink plenty of milk, avoid acidic foods, and lower stress. Of course the concept of graduate school without stress is fine in principle but has infrequently been put into practice.

I lived in an apartment about six blocks from my college and no more than twelve from any class. Of course I walked—parking near the university, or anywhere in Toronto, being about as easy and cheap as going to the moon. After Christmas I extended this “walking cure” to include a late night jaunt. Winter temps were often below zero at night, and I’m convinced the winds in Toronto blow straight down from the North Pole!

One important point about Toronto made all this walking possible (usually an hour or more, seldom ending before midnight). Toronto was, and is, safe. There is so little crime there that an American simply cannot believe it. When I was in seminary (1969-72) there was one year when the murder rate was in single digits. There were fewer than ten murders in this city of 5,000,000 people: Toronto is Canada’s largest city and the fifth largest city on the continent.

It is not that Canadians did not drink or get into fights (bars will be bars). The culture, however, is not one that supports outrageous acts of violence. Further, there are strict gun control laws. Most fights are with fists—and an occasional chair or other available tool. No, Canadians can get into fights; that is not the

point. The point is that the culture did not support or encourage physical violence as a *common* reaction. I am sure that Pittsburgh police would be amazed at the low number of domestic violence cases in Toronto, which has a vastly more diverse population than Pittsburgh.

So I walked, and gradually my stomach problems eased. I still have a cranky stomach. I do not walk as much as I once did. (Ghillie, like all Cairns, would never allow an hour’s walk.) I lived in the midst of Toronto’s bustle: my walks were along city streets where some shops (not just bars) were open until midnight. Of course, that was then, and I doubt that Yonge Street is as vibrant a place as it was in the late Sixties.

Perhaps I should revise my New Year’s resolutions to include more walking. —Jay

UPDATE: MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE



On January 9 the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) ended the search for a settled minister in 2011. As of that date, we had no applicants who matched our congregation’s needs well enough to bring in as pre-candidates.

We received the Ministerial Records of only eight applicants. Of these, three had previous experience in a settled ministry. One of the three looked promising, but withdrew to focus on other opportunities. The other two with experience had issues that raised red flags with the MSC. The other applicants either were not a good match or withdrew.

At that point, we felt it unlikely that we would obtain three applicants who could be good matches within the timeline needed to complete the search in the spring of 2011. (Three is the minimum number suggested for pre-candidates, to allow for clarifying comparisons.) Realistically, even if more applicants were to come forward, there would not be sufficient time to accomplish needed tasks.

The MSC invested a huge amount of time and effort in the search. We are disappointed that the search did not yield the right match. However, the only failure would have been to recommend a candidate who was not a good match.

The MSC thanks the congregation and the Board for their faith in us. Although we were unable to find a match for our wonderful church, we acquired much information about ourselves through the congregational survey, compilation of our ministerial record and ministerial packet, meetings and workshops with reps of the OMD and UUA, sessions focusing on respectful communication and behavior interviewing, as well as the experience of working together as a Committee.

Your MSC—

—Alan, Chetan, Gary, Jean, Louise, Patty, and Sibyl



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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

by Cheryl Kelley, Director of Religious Education

As the Director of Religious Education, I learn so much from the RE curriculum, our RE teachers, and our RE students. On February 13 we will celebrate RE Sunday, and this is the perfect day for us all to learn more about our religious heritage by listening to the children who will speak during the service. The theme for RE Sunday is *UU Heroes*.

Who are UU heroes? They are people who demonstrate the UU principles through their actions. Here's a preview of some UU heroes we will learn about at the 9:00 service:

- Malvina Reynolds—American folk/blues singer-songwriter and political activist. (She wrote *Little Boxes*, one of my favorite songs.)
- Randy Pausch—a CMU professor who co-authored *The Last Lecture* while struggling with cancer.
- *Standing on the Side of Love*, a UUA-sponsored program with its roots in the struggle for full equality for LGBT people.

If you're going to the 11:30 service you will learn about

- Theodore Parker, a UU Minister during the Civil War.
- Contemporary UU hero Meg Barnhouse, a UU minister, author, and lecturer.
- And more!

At both services you will be treated to music performed by some of the RE children.

In peace.

—Cheryl



Here's an essay that I really like, written by living UU hero Meg Barnhouse. Enjoy!

—Cheryl

Samaritan

Like most of America, I have been watching images of war and natural disaster on my television. I try to imagine New Orleans right after Katrina hit: The music has fallen silent, the kitchens are still and sour instead of bustling and fragrant. People of the streets look stunned. I try to imagine spending two days with my tall teenage sons in a shelter where we have no water, no food. We hear babies crying with hunger and see drunks without their drink, addicts without their fix, mentally unstable people without their medicine, and everyone reaching their breaking point, reverting to their street behaviors. The veneer of civilization is cracking. No one knows when it will end. We're all aching to know when help will come and why it hasn't arrived already.

Sometimes I try to imagine my family as really poor, trying to live on minimum wage. Every day is a crisis. I think I would give up after a week of the kind of life that some people wake up to every morning. I can't stretch my life experience far enough to subtract not only my car but my in-home washer and dryer, my bug-free house, my good foundation of health and dental care, my trust-inspiring, white female face. What would life be without these? I meet people at church, in my town, who know the answer. I watch as they reach out to the government, to me, and I struggle to open my heart to all that suffering, to look it full in the face and grieve with them and yet keep going forward with my life.

I think of the parable of the Good Samaritan, a story I was raised on. The good man on the road passes a stranger who has been beaten and robbed and left in a ditch. He helps him, gets him a place to stay and food and clothes. That's how I'm supposed to be. But what if there

was a stranger in the ditch every time the Samaritan walked that road? What if there were ten? A hundred? Every time? What would he do then? The need is overwhelming.

I don't know what to do. I don't know how to think about this. It's all I can do not to look away. Sometimes I write a check. Sometimes when I shop for toiletries, I add extra into the cart for donations. The people in my church help all the time, gathering food and daily essentials for the school near us.

It's one step at a time, one thing after another, deciding every day whether to look and help or look away. I don't blame people for wanting to rest, to look away for a time. You can only be on the front lines for a short while, then you have to drop back and let others take your place. I feel strong right now, but who knows how long it will last? I do what I can.

There are so many heroes in a time of disaster. But there are also people who help by doing small things often, even in ordinary times. I think of the words of Adrienne Rich in the back of my church's hymnbook: My heart is moved by all I cannot save: So much has been destroyed I have to cast my lot with those who, age after age, Per-versely, with no extraordinary power, reconstitute the world.

—Meg Barnhouse

From *Did I say That Out Loud? Musings From A Questioning Soul* published in 2006 by Skinner House



UNDERSTANDING THE RESULTS OF THE MINISTERIAL SEARCH

The Ministerial Search Committee and the Board met to discuss lessons learned from our search and to discuss next steps. It is helpful to look at reasons behind the light response to our ministerial call. While a number of factors were likely in play for individual ministers, a possible negative is our physical space and the challenges it brings.

Our space limitations have far-reaching consequences such as the uncertainty of what option the congregation will choose to address the issue, the need for two Sunday services, and, significantly, the likelihood of a need for a capital campaign. In addition, a minister wants to know he/she can grow the congregation and our space hampers our ability to do that.

Other factors important to potential candidates may have been below-average pledge levels, high friend-to-member ratio, and knowing that our congregation is recovering from a rift.

The very good news is that we are making excellent progress on decisions about our space, on increasing our pledge average, and on growing in many interesting and energetic ways. And we have Rev. Jay for another year at least.

Let's keep up the energy and be ready for our next search. Everyone

CHIPS FROM THE BOARD

The Board met for the first time in the new year on January 10. All Board members were present. Representatives of the Ministerial Search Committee were in attendance to report on their progress. The Committee recommended terminating the search for a settled minister in 2011 due to a lack of qualified applicants remaining in the process and insufficient time to receive further applicants for the 2011 pre-candidating schedule. The Board regretfully accepted the Committee's recommendation and thanked its members for their significant time and work on this project. Other options for ministry in the near future are under immediate consideration.

The Board discussed the increase in pledges following the December budget meeting. The pledge total increased by approximately \$15,000 due to the congregation's desire to fund both staff pay increases and the Capital Expense fund which enables the UUCSH to meet its emergency expenses. The Board passed a motion to use the proceeds from the sale of

owns this: pitch in as you are able, meet your pledge for the year, and join in building an amazing congregation.

—MSC and the Sunnyhill Board

fair trade items to support the congregation's social action activities, in particular our membership in the Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network. Additionally, a draft policy detailing Board member roles and responsibilities was revised and adopted.

The Board reviewed the high number of leadership vacancies which are expected soon by our committees. Charlie Cook is nearing his term limit and a new Treasurer must be elected. Additionally, chairs are needed for the Canvass, Grounds and Gardens, Adult Programs and Caring Committees. Board members will meet during the month to discuss long range planning, the building feasibility study and options for ministry in the near term.

—Dorothy Burns,
Board Secretary

Note: Board meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. Members are welcome to attend. The agenda provides for Public Comment from 7:15 to 7:30 p.m. Request the Board agenda and minutes from Elizabeth Mortimer, Administrator, in person or online (admin@sunnyhill.org) or from Dorothy Burns, Secretary (board@sunnyhill.org).

The next meeting will be February 14, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Pumpkin Room.

DECEMBER AND YEAR END 2010 TREASURER'S REPORT

SUMMARY

As of the end of 2010, pledge income was approximately \$7500 below budget, but total income was only \$4600 below budget due to higher than expected cash contributions and fundraising income. Expenses were approximately \$2300 above budget, and the net income for the year was a negative \$6900.

Since the end of the year, however, \$3190 in additional 2010 pledge payments were received resulting in improved 2010 results: pledge income of approximately \$4310 below budget, total income \$1410 below budget, and net income for the year a negative \$3710 .

DIRECTED INCOME AND EXPENSES

The total of cash flow through the directed accounts was a very impressive \$37,593, which included funds for the designated offering, building feasibility study, tractor, visioning, and building maintenance.

BALANCE SHEET

Our low total equity of \$25,700 is only slightly higher than our average monthly expenses and is a long term financial concern. A policy needs to be established regarding the selection and use of funds should our total equity become less than current expenses. This is, of course, a situation we definitely do not want. None the

less, a policy should be in place.

Approximately \$32,200 had been received in pre-paid 2011 pledge contributions which will be uniformly distributed monthly in 2011 as pledge income.

2011 BUDGET

The 2011 budget approved by the congregation includes 5% staff raises and additions to the capital expense budget; neither of which were included in the draft budget but were made possible by increases in pledges received during and after the congregational meeting on December 19.

—Charlie Cook,
Treasurer

THE ACTION PLAN HELPING YOU STEP FORWARD AND STEP IT UP



Introducing “The Action Plan,” a new monthly column in the *Drummer* devoted to social action and timely ways to step forward and step it up.

forward and step it up.

Join the Momentum

Social action, by its very definition, requires *action*. Writing a check. Calling your legislators. Marching for a cause. Organizing with other faiths. Even working directly with those who need a louder voice in the face of injustice. If you’re inspired by any of these definitions of *social action*, Sunnyhill wants to help you take action.

Already, many members of our church are devoting countless hours to social causes in keeping with our UU Principles. Many others want to join in but don’t know where to start.

Through *The Action Plan*, we hope to connect you with social action at Sunnyhill, at other UU churches, at neighboring South Hills churches, and throughout the Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network (PIIN).

So stay tuned, stay informed, and take action for whatever cause matters to you.

Make a Plan

February 14th is National “Standing On the Side of Love” Day

To learn what you can do as part of this important UUA initiative, visit <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/national-standing-on-the-side-of-love-day-2011/>. Sign the petition for full equality for LGBT people, attend a SSL event, send a SSL valentine or e-card and more.

Share the Love

Sunnyhill did. The UU Service Committee’s 2010

Guest at Your Table program **earned more than \$1,600**, helping us connect more closely to our UU principles by supporting universal human rights.



—Social Action Committee



SUNNYHILL IS ON FACEBOOK!



The Communications Committee is pleased to announce the launch of Sunnyhill’s official Facebook page, UU Church of the South Hills (Sunnyhill). If you are a Facebook user, search for “Sunnyhill” and you will find us. Click “Like” at the top of the page. That’s all you need to do—items posted to the Sunnyhill page will now show up in your News Feed.

We are excited about this latest addition to our growing list of communications channels available to Sunnyhill members and friends. Those of you already on Facebook know how great it is for keeping up with your friends, and we think having a church page will bring our community together in new and wonderful ways. It’s also a great “reminder engine” for upcoming events, and the place to go to catch the very lat-

est information about events going on at Sunnyhill. This will give everyone a place to post photos taken at church events, and to post links and share information of interest to the community.

This will also give us another “linkable” item to share with others who may not know about Sunnyhill yet, but might be looking for just the right community for themselves and their kids. If they like what they see on Facebook, they might just come for a visit on Sunday.

We’re sure everyone will want the page to be fun, spontaneous, and valuable, with a minimum of policing. We are cautiously optimistic. But like everything in the Wild Wild Web, the pace is fast and the enter key easy to hit, so the Communications Committee drafted some common-sense guidelines for use of the Sunnyhill page (see below).

We’ll be sending out more reminders in *The Beat!* soon and using Facebook tools to ramp up our “fan base,” but we wanted to give you a heads up in *The Drummer* first. Enjoy the page and let us know what you think!

—Peter Swartwout, representing the Communications Committee
(commgroup@sunnyhill.org)

Commonsense Guidelines For Use of the Sunnyhill Facebook Page

- First and foremost, when posting, remember the UU Principles and our Promises to each other.
- Keep content centered around Sunnyhill events or items of interest to our community. Your vacation photos or an ad for your business should go on your personal page.
- Please use positive and uplifting language; this is not a forum for complaints. See #1.
- Upload respectful and well-chosen photos and videos. Always receive permission from parents before posting photos that include children. We think it’s a good idea to receive permission from adults included in photos, too.
- In photo captions, only use first names.
- Do not “tag” kids (ever) or adults (without permission) in photos. When you tag a person, the image will automatically be available on that person’s personal Facebook page.
- Share the page with your friends. You never know what will bring someone in that red door!

UUA'S *STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE*: HOW WE CAN ALL BE UU SUPERHEROES

Public rhetoric in the United States has become increasingly polarized and even violent. In the aftermath of recent tragedies, such as the shooting in Tucson, many within our congregation and our community at large have felt a need to respond in some meaningful way—but how? When faced with intolerance and even hatred, how should we fight back? Please take a moment to check out *Standing on the Side of Love* at www.standinonthesideoflove.org. This is a program that allows all who join to be UU superheroes.

—Jennifer Narang

Update Your Contact Information

If your contact information changes, please notify the church administrator at admin@sunnyhill.org or 412-561-6277. The administrator updates addresses once monthly.

Copies of *UU World*

Please recycle your copy by placing it in the folder marked *Membership* in the hallway.

DESIGNATED OFFERING CAN BE A FAMILY AFFAIR

The 2011 designated offering is off to a great start with the first three months and several later months already scheduled. In the Winter edition of *UU World* there is a section for families. One article in particular, "How to Empower a Giving Child," drew my attention. The article points out that service to others fosters empathy, compassion, and understanding. It also creates confident, responsible, leaders.

The article goes on to note the steps parents can take to engage their children in service opportunities. In brief, families should research available service opportunities, choose one, and turn "teachable moments" into "actionable opportunities." Eureka! This simple process helps parents identify a designated offering that is perfect for empowering a giving child.

The Pullens were the first to sponsor a designated offering as a family,

From the website:

Standing on the Side of Love is a public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression. It is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association and all are welcomed to join.

The message "standing on the side of love" emerged as a rallying point for people of faith in Massachusetts during their early efforts for fully inclusive marriage, and later during the fight against Proposition 8 in California.

The *Standing on the Side of Love* Campaign was inspired by the 2008 shooting at Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, which was targeted because they are welcoming to LGBT people and have a liberal stance on many issues.

The Knoxville Community responded with an outpouring of love that inspired the leadership at the Unitarian Universalist Association to launch a campaign that would harness love's power to challenge exclusion, oppression and violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, race, religion, or any other identity.

and Claire wrote beautifully about her family's wonderful, shared experience in the December 2010 *Drummer*.

Their experience encouraged me to ask other families if it would interest them to sponsor an offering as a family. The response has been wonderful! Now I would like to invite every Sunnyhill family to give thought to proposing a designated offering. If you think your family would like to propose an offering, please contact me, and I will direct you to our UUCSH web page where you can find the form to fill out.

The only criteria for the offering is that it be a noble charity that is local, national, or international and does not benefit anyone at Sunnyhill. You will be scheduled for one of the remaining months of this year.

Adults—please consider proposing an offering with a friend or partner.

—Patty Williams,
Designated Offering Coordinator

STRIKE UP THE BAND! OUR NEW SOUND SYSTEM DEBUTS IN MARCH

A team met last month to work out the remaining issues with the sound system. By the end of March, you can expect that:

- The speaker on the left side of the room will be stationed on a beautiful wooden shelf.
- The system will be housed in a beautiful, locked wooden cabinet located at the end of the radiator cabinet on the front left side of the room. There will be an external ¼-inch jack for plugging in an instrument or the like.
- The volume controls in the dining room and upstairs study will be replaced. A white dot will indicate the correct setting for both.
- The system will be rewired.

Our grateful thanks to the Sound Squad: Michael Hennessey, Scott Smith, Clint Bennett, and Bob Lee for an amazing amount of work—time and talent—in accomplishing all of these tasks.

Now it's our responsibility to keep the sound system healthy and happy. Here are some *Do's* and *Don'ts* we must all follow:

- **DON'T** touch the sound system between now and March.
- **DO** contact a member of the Sound Squad—Michael, Scott, Clint, or Bob—if you need any assistance with the sound system for an event, program, or activity.
- **DO** contact Rev. Jay if no one on the Sound Squad is available when you need assistance. Rev. Jay can provide assistance.
- **DO** plan ahead if you know you'll need to use the system.

—Margaret Hamstead



FEBRUARY DESIGNATED OFFERING: UMOJA ARTS PROJECT BRINGING THE SOUNDS OF MUSIC TO TANZANIA, EAST AFRICA

Our Designated Offering will be collected on Sunday, February 13, and is for the Umoja Arts Project, a music school in Tanzania, East Africa, which brings music to the local community through education, performance, exhibition, and outreach. Their aim in creating these programs is to support the creative and intellectual development of people through the building of a sustainable economy for the arts in Tanzania.

The director of Umoja is Liza Barley, daughter of Kiki Barley, who is the former music director of Allegheny UU Church and the director and founder of Pittsburgh Music Academy (PMA). Many of our Sunnyhill children, youth, and adults attend music lessons or teach at PMA where Umoja is their sister music school.

Umoja offers classes in music and dance that draw from local and international styles and traditions. Umoja's goal is to provide educational opportunities to anyone interested, regardless of socioeconomic background. As Umoja has an income-based fee schedule, it relies on outside funding to remain sustainable. Umoja presently offers music

courses in violin, viola, cello, guitar, piano, voice, mixed instrumental and vocal ensembles, and traditional Tanzanian and pan-African drumming, singing, and dancing.

Umoja believes that the arts can enrich society. The outreach programs aim to take on a number of community-based arts initiatives that will make this belief a reality in Tanzania. Through Umoja's collaboration with other Arusha-based organizations, we host workshops and trainings centered around the arts and education. Umoja also offers educational scholarships to a growing number of Tanzanians interested in music and dance. Through outreach work, Umoja hopes to create ways for the arts to have a strong and positive impact on educational, social, and economic development in Tanzania.

Please go to the Umoja website www.umoja-arts.com for more information. Umoja Arts Project is an incorporated non-profit in the United States of America and a non-profit company limited by guarantee under the name of Umoja Music School, Ltd. in the United Republic of Tanzania, East Africa.

If you would like to make a designated offering to Umoja, please make your check out to UUCSH and write Umoja in the memo line. You can return your check to Sunnyhill in one of two ways: you can put the check in the collection basket at either service on February 13, or you can mail to the church with

Attention: Umoja on the envelope.

The February Designated Offering is sponsored by Madeleine, Simon, Lucinda, and Elizabeth Mortimer who are all students at the Pittsburgh Music Academy, which is Umoja's sister school. Mark Mortimer is the enthusiastic cheerleader for all sponsors.



NEWS FROM THE OMD

District Assembly

Please join us on March 25-26, 2011, at Ohio University's Eastern Campus to celebrate being UUs through *Radical Hospitality*. This is a chance for congregational leaders and ministers to meet, network, ask questions, provide input on the direction of the district and gather resources and information on a variety of topics and programs through workshops, the keynote address and The Marketplace. It is an opportunity for education, leadership development and networking in a stimulating UU setting. Don't miss this chance for your congregation to have your voice heard, gain knowledge and collect new resources. Go to <http://www.ohiomeadville.org/annmtg/index.html> for more information and registration.

Winter Institute

The 11th Annual Winter Institute will take place at Salt Fork State Park near Cambridge, OH February 18-21, 2011. This relaxing and stress free weekend is a gathering for UUs of all ages. There are outdoor activities like sledding, hiking, and cross country skiing. For those who choose to stay in their slippers, there is a beautiful lodge with cozy corners and fireplaces. The pool and hot tub are a wintertime treat. There are fellow UUs ready to play board games or to join in the community jigsaw puzzle. We have wonderful community worship services and great conversations. To learn more and register, please visit the **OMDWI** page.



Youth Events

- **Social Action Conference** ~ March 18-20, 2011 ~ First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh, PA
- **All Age Spring Conference** ~ April 29-May 1, 2011 ~ First Unitarian Church of Cleveland, Shaker Hts, OH
- To keep up with Youth News from the UUA subscribe to their monthly newsletter. Go to: <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/youth/news/index.shtml>
- The young adults of the district are having a CabinCon March 11-13, 2011 at Valley View Cabins in Sugar Grove, OH (Hocking Valley Area). Anyone 18-35 is invited to participate. Visit www.ohiomeadville.org/conference/yacabincon.html for details and registration.

SUNNYHILL STUFF-N-SUCH



Sean Sullivan (center) rocks out with Chad Smith of the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

2010-11 Sunnyhill Book Group

The Book Group meets on the third Monday of each month at Sunnyhill, at 7:30. Please direct questions to Dean Hazelton.

- Feb 21, *The Gone Away World* by Nick Harkaway
- Mar 21, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston
- Apr 18, *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen
- May 16, *I Curse the River of Time* by Per Petterson
- Jun 20, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by H Lee

Habitat for Humanity

New dates for the Sunnyhill Habitat for Humanity Work Group, Washington County, are set. Let me know if you would like to sign up: February 19, March 26, May 21, and June 25 from about 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Lunch is provided.

—Beth Hedin

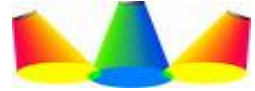
Downtowners' Lunch Group

We meet the **4th Thursday** of each month. The February lunch is Thursday, February 24. The time is 11:45 to 12:45. We would like to invite any Sunnyhiller to join us, whether you work downtown or not. Watch **The Beat!** for the restaurant of the month. If you would like to join us (and we would love to have you), please contact me by Tuesday, February 22.

—Franziska Lang

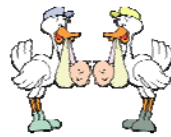


The Stewardship Spotlight Shines on . . .



- ☺ Francie Marais—she purged and reorganized the files of the church office.
- ☺ John Armstrong—he shoveled the exit paths from the building.
- ☺ Lee Young—she wrapped-up a fabulous canvass campaign that exceeded our goal for 2011. Way to go, Lee!
- ☺ Randy Bellamy—for donating an office chair to the church.
- ☺ The Ministerial Search Committee—for hours and hours of hard work and dedication to this church and congregation.

From the Caring Committee



Keegan Keane—new nephew for Katie and Paul Keane—was born on January 10,

2011, in Charlotte, NC. Keegan is baby #4 in his family, and though he had a rough start in the NICU, he is now at home and doing very well. Keegan's mom, dad, and siblings are also doing well.



Bennett Anderson Lee was born to Mother Samantha and Father Joshua Lee on January 10, 2011, at 1:10 p.m. Bennett joined the

world at a healthy 9 lb-10 oz and 19.5 inches long. Everyone is doing wonderfully and happy to be a new family. Bennett joins Grandpa & Grandma Lee's other grandchildren, Shanti and Jack, who are some of our cheerful RE students.

Work with the UU-UNO



Youth Envoy Coordinator Position

The UU-UNO is seeking a Youth Envoy Coordinator to manage high school aged youth engagement with the envoy program and the UU-UNO.

Since the UU-UNO was founded in 1962, UU envoys of all ages have been working to ensure that their UU congregations' voices are represented at the United Nations. Through their work with the UU-UNO, UU envoys have been tremendously successful at influencing UN policy to promote global justice and promoting UN and international awareness in their congregations.

This is a Part Time Fellowship (20 hrs a wk) \$1,000/month Stipend.

For more information about UU-UNO and this part time fellowship, please go to www.un-uno.org.

SUNNYHILL STUFF-N-SUCH CONTINUED

Cancellation Policies for Winter

It's Sunday morning. It's two degrees outside. It's snowing. The news is telling people to stay indoors. But you've really been looking forward to this Sunday service's topic. . . . Hmmmm. What do you do? PJ's and cocoa or bundle up and brave the weather to drive or walk to Sunnyhill?

Here at UUCSH, our number one priority is keeping our congregation, staff, visitors, and others safe. Some situations beyond our control (weather) prompt us to cancel Sunday services because we think this is in the best interest of the entire Sunnyhill family.

Here's what to do if the weather report suggests Snowpocalypse or a distant cousin has arrived in Pittsburgh:

1. Use your best judgment: if the news is telling folks to remain at home and you question the safety of the roads, please stay at home!
2. If church leadership chooses to cancel services, this decision will be made by 8:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. There are a number of ways to check this:
 - * Phone the church at 412-561-6277. Our outgoing message will state if services are cancelled
 - * Check the homepage of our website www.sunnyhill.org (be aware that if there is a power outage this may not be possible)
 - * Check for closings on KDKA and WPXI
 - * If possible, a sign will be posted on the church's front door
3. See #1

Wishing all of you a healthy and safe winter!

—Sunnyhill Staff



Gratitude:

You Can Never Have Too Much

I awoke this morning thankful to see another day.

If we take the time, we all can think of things to be thankful for, but do we?

The more we express our gratitude, even to just ourselves, the better our attitude will be toward all circumstances in life. A recent article in *Scientific American Mind* states that showing gratitude can increase your own happiness by as much as 25%.

When you open your eyes in the morning, remember that there are those who thought they would receive the gift of a new day but did not.

So many of us actually live in abundance, but without the keen sense of gratitude that concept may not be clear. I look at what I consider basic needs to initiate my barometer of abundance. Take clean drinking water for instance. For most of us, when we are thirsty, we need only turn on the water in a sink to quench our thirst. Food is a basic need. Just think of how much food we throw away and waste while over 33 million people starve to death each year.

When you awaken to that precious new day, are you in a bed, with sheets, blankets and pillows? Did you have new pajamas to put on before you climbed in the night before? Did you even think about the security you have in your house or the fact that you have heat to keep you warm while you dream? Many of these comforts go unnoticed by us while others sleep in refugee tents for decades.

I have proclaimed this my year of gratitude. Every day I strive to remember all that is good in my life. When I take the time and intensify my senses, the gifts in life are overwhelming.

I challenge each of you to do some brain training and find all you have to be thankful for each day. The world will be a better place for each of our efforts.

More Gratitude = Better Attitude

—Julie Ann Sullivan

NEW REALITY CALLS FOR NEW APPROACH

When Rev. Jay and I met in late summer, he suggested that Membership Committee offer Pathway newcomer-orientation classes monthly rather than three times yearly. I immediately saw the wisdom of this. Visitors would be able to find out more quickly if UUCSH meets their needs. UUCSH would be able to offer a structured small-group "connecting" experience sooner rather than later. For those class attendees who decide to become members, joining opportunities could occur more often, and UUCSH would benefit from ongoing admission of new members. Although all logic pointed toward accepting Jay's idea, I hesitated. The committee did not have the people to effect the new concept. Only two of us have experience facilitating the current orientation class.

What did the committee learn through the fall? Not just the wisdom of Jay's proposal but the necessity of it. As we tried to schedule membership activities, we learned that people's schedules seem to have jumped into the next orbit in the atomic struc-

ture of busy-ness. Getting people together in the same room at the same time for two hours is just about impossible. If we don't offer more orientation opportunities, we will not meet visitors' needs or UUCSH's.

The current challenge for Membership Committee is to develop dynamic facilitation teams that will enable UUCSH to offer an orientation class on the last Sunday of each month, more or less. Getting to know folks is always fun, but no one should be obligated to volunteer to facilitate more than two or three times yearly. So we need at least four folks to step up. Could one of those people be you?

Please speak with me if you are interested. Sit in on the next orientation class, to see how it works. You may have some ideas that will help us improve the class. We UUs pride ourselves on being able to change, and this change in our procedures is one we need to make.

—Toni Murray,
Chair, Membership Committee

STAY INVOLVED: FEBRUARY CALENDAR

(VIEW THE CALENDAR LIVE AND UP-TO-THE-MINUTE AT <http://sunnyhill.org/calendar/calendar.html>)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 10:30am - Sun Svc @ Main Room	27	28 9:30am - Morning Meditation @ 9:30am - stwship mta 10am - Staff mta @ DRE office 1:15pm - Ch Circle-Maria L @ Rm	29	30	31	1 8pm - offsite-S@8 dinner
2 9am - Sun Svc @ Main Room 11:30am - Sun Svc @ Main Room 12:30pm - Flowers @ Main Room 1pm - Young Adults @ Study	3 7pm - Communications Meeting	4 9:30am - Morning Meditation @ 10am - Staff mta @ DRE office 6:30pm - Caring Committee Mtg	5 7pm - BFG @ Rm 15	6 7pm - Ch Circle Fac Mtg @ Study	7 7:30pm - First Friday Discussion	8
9 9am - Sun Svc @ Main Room 11:30am - Sun Svc @ Main Room	10 7pm - Board Meeting @ Rm 15 7pm - Ch Circle @ Study	11 9:30am - Morning Meditation @ 10am - Staff mta @ DRE office	12	13	14 7:30pm - Vegetarian Dinner @	15
16 9am - Sun Svc @ Main Room 11:30am - Sun Svc @ Main Room 1pm - Young Adults @ Study 7:30pm - Quaker Worship @	17 7:30pm - Book Group @ Rm 15	18 9:30am - Morning Meditation @ 10am - Staff mta @ DRE office 1:15pm - Ch Circle-Maria L @ Rm 7:15pm - Membership Comm Mtg	19	20 6:30pm - Sun Svc Comm Mtg @	21	22
23 9am - Sun Svc @ Main Room 11:30am - Sun Svc @ Main Room 12:30pm - BFG Workshop @ Main	24 7pm - Ch Circle @ Study 7pm - Communications Meeting	25 9:30am - Morning Meditation @ 10am - Staff mta @ DRE office 1:15pm - Ch Circle-Maria L @ Rm	26	27	28	29
30 9am - Sun Svc @ Main Room 10am - Pathway class @ Rm 15 11:30am - Sun Svc @ Main Room 7pm - Spiritways @ Main Room	31 7pm - Communications Mtg	1 9:30am - Morning Meditation @ 10am - Staff mta @ DRE office	2	3	4 7:30pm - First Friday Discussion	5 11am - ?private rental? @ main 8pm - offsite-S@8 dinner

FEBRUARY GREET-N-EAT SHEET

Date	9 a.m. Ushers	9 a.m. Coffee Hosts	9 a.m. RE Snack
2/6/2011	Jennifer & Scott Manley	Tanya & Chetan Chothani	Reichenfeld
2/13/2011	Bob Souders & Alan James	Toni Murray & Debbie Baird	Kathie Maloney
2/20/2011	Amy & Bruce Kent	Jean McQuillin & Louise Machinist	Kent
2/27/2011	Uneva & Carl Price	Patty & George Williams	Malia Bennett
Date	11:30 a.m. Ushers	11:30 a.m. Coffee Hosts	11:30 a.m. RE Snack
2/6/2011	Carl Johnson & Deborah Landen	Tammy & Dave Dunn	Ernest
2/13/2011	Katy & John Vernacchia	Ron Smutny & Sarah Yourd	LouAnn McBride
2/20/2011	Carolyn Corry & Nina Balsamo	George Yeckel & Butch Ford	Vivian Aro
2/27/2011	Carrilee & John Hemington	Stephanie Romero & Jeannette Patsakis	Farb/Anderson

Date	LIFECRAFT OPPORTUNITIES IN FEBRUARY					
2/6/2011	Adult Choir		Crewel Intentions	Science & Spirituality	Meditation	Chalice Club
2/13/2011	Adult Choir	Poetry		Current Events	Meditation	Chalice Club
2/20/2011	Adult Choir	Spiritways		Emerson Group		Chalice Club
2/27/2011	Adult Choir	Teachers Meeting		Current Events		Chalice Club

SUNNYHILL PRESENTS
BLUES DEVILS



BLUES DEVILS - LIVE
COMMUNITY CONCERT
FEBRUARY 12, 2011 • 8 - 10 PM @ SUNNYHILL
1240 WASHINGTON RD MT. LEBANON

**CONTRIBUTE WHAT YOUR PURSE CAN BEAR...
THERE WILL BE PIE....**

**ENTRANCE \$ =
WHAT U CAN AFFORD
\$5 A SLICE OF PIE**

The Blues Devils are a group of musicians with day jobs looking to pay ahead and help others with their fund raising efforts. We offer live entertainment at no cost to your organization.

BOOK DISCUSSION LED BY REV. JAY BEGINS IN FEBRUARY

Interim minister Jay Abernathy will lead a four-week discussion of the book *A Chosen Faith: An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism* by John A. Buehrens and Forrest Church. Those interested in joining the discussion should send an email to Elizabeth at admin@sunnyhill.org. Enrollment is not limited, but Rev. Jay would like an idea of who and how many plan to attend. There are 10 copies of the latest edition of *A Chosen Faith* available for purchase from Elizabeth during her office hours. The price is \$15. Additional books can be ordered, but the price will be \$20 per book unless the quantity ordered qualifies for a volume discount. Bottom line: sign up and purchase a book ASAP!

The first meeting will be Wednesday, February 16, at 7:00pm at Sunnyhill (room to be announced). At the first meeting, the group will cover the introduction to the book and the first chapter. There will be a short presentation followed by questions, comments, and short editorials. Subsequent meetings will be at 7:00pm on Wednesday, February 23; Wednesday, March 2; and Wednesday, March 9.

From the Editor's Laptop

The RE kids are studying UU heroes, and on RE Sunday, they will teach us about some of these heroes. In this issue of *The Drummer*, when I had a hole to fill, I popped in pictures of some cartoon heroes from my childhood: Underdog, Mighty Mouse, and Rocky and Bullwinkle

My stepdaughter Becky, the oldest of our four children, is one of my heroes. She knows that I am going to write about her heroic adventures, and I promised her my prose would be lean and spare and not at all purple. So let me tell you how one young woman singlehandedly brought retail merchandising giant Urban Outfitters (UO) to its knees, quaking in terror as Becky brandished her metaphorical sword. (That was just a little purple.)

While shopping at a UO store in December 2003, Becky noticed a series of t-shirts about loving particular girls. There was an "Everyone Loves an Irish Girl" tee and an "Everyone Loves an Italian Girl" tee. Becky was interested in purchasing the "Everyone Loves a Jewish Girl" t-shirt.

Then Becky studied the artwork on each t-shirt. Irish girl: hearts and shamrocks. Italian girl: hearts and pizza. Jewish girl: hearts, shopping bags, and dollar signs.

Becky did not buy the t-shirt, but she did initiate an email exchange with UO:

12/15/2003. From Becky to UO: I was shopping in your Urban Outfitters store located at the Galleria in Houston (TX) when I noticed the "Everyone Loves A Jewish Girl" t-shirt. On closer inspection, I realized that adorning the shirt were tiny pictures invoking the stereotype of Jews as money centered, money grubbing, etc. This shirt is offensive and perpetuates a stereotype that is unnecessary and irresponsible. I urge you to discontinue the sale of this t-shirt and to use better judgment in your product selection. One would have hoped that the lawsuit against Abercrombie and Fitch pertaining to racist slogans on t-shirts would have made the consumer's message clear—we will not tolerate racism and we will not support any organization that does.

12/18/2003. From UO to Becky: We apologize for offending you with our "Everyone Loves a Jewish Girl" t-shirt. Please understand that we do not buy items to provoke controversy or to inten-

tionally offend. Assortment choices are based on our historic selling patterns. While this item may be distasteful to some, the overwhelming majority of our customers have voted positively. We appreciate your concerns and will forward your comments to our buyers and the company's Director of Stores for their consideration. Our customers' opinions are welcomed and greatly appreciated.

12/19/2003. From Becky to UO. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do forward my note to your buyers and Director of Stores. I would appreciate their awareness of this subject. I have also forwarded your note to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and local synagogues.

1/5/2004. To Becky from the ADL: Thank you for sending your e-mail to the ADL about the Urban Outfitters t-shirts that proclaim, "Everyone Loves a Jewish Girl." We have investigated the matter and determined that the t-shirts are manufactured by Urban Renewal, of which Urban Outfitters is the parent company, and that they are part of a line of t-shirts that include "Everyone Loves an Italian Girl," and others. We understand and appreciate your concerns about the characterization of Jewish girls on the t-shirt, and we will continue to investigate the matter. As soon as our investigation concludes, we will determine how the ADL might respond.

1/9/2004. To Becky from the ADL: We were pleased to see a news release [see below] from our National Office today, commending Urban Outfitters for removing the "Everybody Loves a Jewish Girl" t-shirt from their line. We thought that might interest you.

I am reminded of the Tin Man in the *Wizard of Oz* when I think about UO: if they only had a brain. In 2005, the company was once more brought to task for tees that read "New Mexico: Cleaner Than Regular Mexico."

I want to believe that at least one decision-maker at UO voiced concern about associating Jewish girls with dollar signs and shopping bags. If that one person exists, then I applaud his or her heroism.

Imagine a world in which marketers and product developers choose to be cute, clever, *and* socially responsible.

Sometimes—whether we are an individual, a family, a congregation, or a corporation—we have to be the still, small voice in a very loud world. We also must listen for that voice when others speak. Most importantly, we need to believe that if we continue to speak, over time we will be heard.

We can build a new church, hire a new minister, and set up a Facebook page—but all this would mean nothing without the still, small voices that together form a chorus here at Sunnyhill.

Becky spoke up, and her voice was heard. A few years later, other voices spoke up, and they, too, were heard.

In the act of giving voice, we become heroes.

Speak up. Find your voice. Choose to be a hero.

And carefully study t-shirts before you buy.

Take care.

—Janie



ADL Welcomes Urban Outfitters' Decision to Discontinue Production of Offensive T-Shirt

Philadelphia, PA, January 9, 2004 ... The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) today commended Urban Outfitters, Inc. for its decision to discontinue production of a t-shirt that perpetuates an ethnic stereotype of Jews.

The clothing item, part of a line of ethnic t-shirts, featured the language EVERYONE LOVES A JEWISH GIRL surrounded by dollar signs. The League wrote to Urban Outfitters, Inc. President Richard Hayne on January 6 to complain that the shirt reinforced a negative association between Jews and money and, as such, perpetuated an offensive stereotype.

Urban Outfitters, Inc. has reported that it chose to take this action because of both internal and external concerns and out of respect for the sensitivity of the Jewish community. It has also stated that future production of the shirt will not contain the dollar signs or any other graphic elements or embellishments.

The League expressed its gratitude and appreciation to Urban Outfitters, Inc. for this action showing sensitivity to its clients and to the Jewish community. The League also offered its assistance to the company in the future and expressed that it hopes that this experience, combined with another recent controversy surrounding an Urban Outfitters product that reinforced stereotypes, has served to sensitize the company to the sensibilities of its customer base and all ethnic groups.

The Anti-Defamation League, founded in 1913, is the world's leading organization fighting anti-Semitism through programs and services that counteract hatred, prejudice and bigotry.

Interim Minister:
The Rev. Jay Abernathy
412-561-6277

Office Hrs: M to Th, 9:30 a.m. to noon
Please phone first or make appointment.

Director of Religious Education:
Cheryl Kelley
412-561-6277

Office Hrs: M, W, 9:00 a.m. to noon
and by appointment

Congregational Administrator:
Elizabeth Mortimer
412-561-6277

Office Hrs: M, W, Th, 9:00 a.m. to
2:00 p.m. and by appointment

Music Director:
Carol Karl

Please see Sunnyhill directory for home
phone and email

Contact Sunnyhill:
412-561-6277 or
admin@sunnyhill.org

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(caring@sunnyhill.org)

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Harold Behar

Unitarian Universalist Church of the South Hills
1240 Washington Road
Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away." Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*, 1854