

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

January 30, 2011

Sunday Community Worship Services

Community Worship Services and Children's Religious Exploration begin each Sunday at 11:00am. Child care is available.

February 6 at 11:00 AM

"Mary Daly: The Feminist Voice"

The Rev. Denise Tracy

Mary Daly was my professor in the 1970's. She, more than any other woman articulated the need for change in all religious institutions. For this she had to fight constantly for her job, for her voice to be heard and for others to understand that she fought for the equality of women and girls.

February 13 at 11:00 AM

"The Mysteries of Ministry"

This June I will celebrate the 37th Anniversary of my Ordination. What I will try to speak about is what the ministry is all about. The other part of the sermon will be what is helpful for you as a congregation to know - what minister's find helpful.

February 20 at 11:00 AM

"Unitarian Universalist Mysticism"

The Rev. Denise Tracy

Many of us have heard about Humanist, Christian and Jewish U-Uism. There is another viewpoint...that of the mystic.

Our Mission: St. John's is committed to creating a safe and caring community, working for peace and social justice, and celebrating beliefs that respect freedom of thought.

Interim Minister

the Rev. Denise Tracy

Minister Emerita

the Rev. Annie Foerster

Minister of Music

Dr. Catherine Roma

Assoc. Director of Music

Rachel Kramer

Director of

Religious Exploration

Elizabeth Wilson

Caretaker

Tim Johnson

Office Administrator

Mary Jo (Josie) Arens

Church Office

513-961-1938

office@stjohnsuu.org

Church Office Hours

Mon-Fri 7:30am to 2pm

Church Website

www.stjohnsuu.org

e-News Submissions

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Newsletter Submissions

reporter@stjohnsuu.org

Newsletter Email List

reportermail@stjohnsuu.org

Next Newsletter Deadline

February 10, 2011 at 5pm

Minister's Musings

from Rev. Denise Tracy



Dear Friends,

On Sunday, Feb 6th, St John's is hosting a musical event honoring Dr. Susan Montauk. The Cincinnati Men's Chorus, Muse and our own St John's choir will each sing three numbers and then we will close with all three choirs singing together.

There is in honor of Susan a garden in the planning stages. It will be located behind the McMicken Collaborative, which provides healthcare for the Homeless. Human Nature, an Architectural and Landscape Design Firm, has collaborated with Susan in the garden's design, which combines a fountain from Susan and Stan's yard, a Japanese meditation garden and a green growing garden. Human Nature's work was donated at no cost.

The Board has graciously given the use of our building at no cost for this occasion.. At the concert, the design for the garden will be unveiled. The concert will have a free will offering to raise money to benefit the garden. If all you can afford is a little or if you can afford more, our combined efforts will support this lovely space near Findlay Market for people to sit and be nourished.

Susan is an avid gardener and has lived a life of service to the people of greater Cincinnati. She worked with the homeless when no one else would. She provided medical care to AIDS patients before any cause of the disease was known. She has modeled for all of us, how to live with serious illness and still have a life of meaning and love.

If you cannot make the concert, you may give a check made out to either Cincinnati Healthcare Network or St John's...in either case, earmark your check for Susan's garden. We have a line item in St John's budget. If we can collect \$2,000.00 we will buy one of the five benches and have our name somewhere in the garden.

Your presence at the concert will mean more than anything.

Blessings,

Denise

Your Interim Minister

Rev. Denise Tracy's Schedule and Contact Number

Private line at church 513-961-1994

Office Hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9:00am to noon, or by appointment

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Music Vivace in Two Parts



Part I: ST JOHN'S MUSIC SERIES

Willow Morning performs in the next concert of the St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church music series.

Willow Morning is a band of three talented women. Jamie Fóta is a singer, songwriter and guitarist, most often compared with Mary Chapin Carpenter. Ty Chanson is a singer, songwriter and 12-string guitarist who has been described as "Anne Murray and Joni Mitchell rolled into Meg Christian." Marcia Gallas is a talented drummer and percussionist who rounds out Willow Morning's magical sound.

The concert will be at St. John's at 8 pm on **Saturday, February 5.**

Tickets are available at the door or by calling (513) 961-1938.

- St. John's Music Series Season Ticket - \$60
- Single Concert Ticket - \$15 (includes one adult and one child 17 or under)
- Single Student Ticket - \$10
- Single Youth Ticket - \$5 (youth 12 and under)

Tickets can also be purchased online at:
<http://store.stjohnsuu.org/merchant2/merchant.mvc>

More information about the band can be found online at: www.willowmorning.com

Part II: CALL OUT TO INTERESTED SINGERS

The month of April will be full of choral music: you'll hear several anthems on **April 3**, our Choral Sunday service is on the **10th** and on Easter (the **24th**) we will celebrate Alleluias.

The programming this spring is about the environment, rain, rainforests, how our [human] treatment causes the earth to shake; we'll sing in Spanish with "Cloudburst" and "La Lluvia." We'll celebrate earth's beauty and bounty, and how we must take action to preserve our literal World House, the place we love and all call our home.

For Easter, we'll sing Handel's "Halleluja" Chorus, Randall Thompson's well-known "Alleluia" and two more contemporary settings of the beautiful praise-word Alleluia.

On Sunday, February 6th we'll sing "Beloved Presence" by the late and great Kay Gardner, UU, lesbian, feminist composer from Maine. We have other wonderful choral music planned.

Don't hesitate to come join our choral community, whether for Sunday Service singing or for the April 10th celebration of our 7th UU Principle. We welcome you. Our sole requirement: that you be able to match a pitch! (and that you want to work and play with a wonderful band of UU choristers).

Thank you,
Cathy

⊕pportunities & Invitations

MARTIANS' MEETING

A newly organized group of men will meet to discuss literature, starting with Graham Greene's "The Quiet American" at 7:30 pm **February 13** in the first floor Common Room at 500 Lafayette (use drive at #440 just past N. Cliff). Contact Richard Hadden if interested in joining in discussions on the second Sunday of each month.

-Howard Tolley

ARE YOU TIRED OF THIS WEATHER?

Join us at the Mt. Storm Park at 7:35am on Wednesday, **February 2**. We will watch the sun rise and determine whether the GROUNDHOG will be frightened back underground by his shadow (6 more weeks of winter!) or will stay out of hibernation (end of winter soon) After a brief ceremony we will share a potluck breakfast at church. If you need an excuse slip for being late to work or school, one will be given to you.

-Melanie Marsh

Adult RE

Lighting the Lamp:

Exploring the Psyche/Eros Myth

Tues. **Feb. 1** will be the first of this **six-session** class, going from 7-8:30 p.m. downstairs in the Gandhi Room. Through readings and discussion, the group will explore what the myth of Psyche and Eros has to teach each person individually. Pamela Wilz, the leader, can take a few more persons if you still want to join the class, so contact her right away. [Ed note: Pam Wilz comes highly recommended by attendees of the Sunday Morning Forum.]

-Adult Religious Education Committee

WHAT'S NEW in the LIBRARY?



1) *Summits of God-Life: Samadhi and Siddhi* by Sri Chimnoy, 1999 - questions and answers from this noted Yogi who has spent his life fostering individual and global harmony.

2) *Restoring Faith: America's Religious Leaders Answer Terrorism with Hope*, Forrest Church, ed., 2001 - Sunday sermons delivered by the leaders of all faiths as people stunned by 9/11 sought comfort and guidance from their religious leader.

3) *The Seven Spiritual Laws for Parents: Guiding Your Children to Success...* by Deepak Chopra, 1997

These are three among many books that have been arriving at the library. Take a moment of two to browse, maybe before or after church service or when you have a meeting at church. The library is at the end of the hall downstairs. Sign out any book you would like to read on the clipboard there. Sign it back in when you return it.

Donations of books are still being accepted.

-Ethel Ingalls



7th-8th GRADE CLASS HELPERS NEEDED!!

Several of our junior high teachers are heading for sunny vacations in February and March, necessitating a need for classroom helpers. This class has recently switched to a really fun curriculum called *Popcorn Theology*. As the name suggests, the class watches a brief excerpt from a movie followed by activities/discussions based on the theme/issue the film was conveying. Helpers are just that—helpers. . .no prep needed. . .just show up, participate and lend a hand in the class where needed. Contact Elizabeth Wilson or Melanie Malaviya if you are willing to spare an hour of your time!

GOT MOVIES?

In order to contain costs for the new *Popcorn Theology* curriculum being used in the junior high class, I am seeking donations of the following movies: "Back to the Future," "Star Trek Generations," "Forrest Gump," "Star Trek V: The Final Frontier," "Bowling for Columbine," "Hotel Rwanda," "Dances with Wolves," "Willow," "Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring," and "Hoosier." If you have any of these movies and/or are willing to purchase a copy as an in-kind donation, please contact the DRE, Elizabeth Wilson. Thanks!

SUNDAY MORNING FORUMS

Forums are held at 10am on Sunday morning.

Feb. 6 - I Have A Dream: The Whole Speech - We have all heard the "I Have a Dream" quote, but have you ever heard all that Martin Luther King said that day in front of the Lincoln Monument? The "Dream" portion of the speech was only a small part. We will listen to a recording of the actual speech. Discussion to follow.

Feb. 13 - Standing On The Side of Love - we will share stories of those who have taken a stand for love when presented with injustice or discrimination. Bring your own stories of those you admire for their willingness to stand for love. Can't think of a story offhand? Check out the book "Common Fire" or "They Dare To Speak Out" in St. John's library to find one that touches your heart.



Donate

ENGRAVED BRICK PAVERS FOR OUR MEMORIAL GARDEN

St. John's is in the process of creating a Memorial Garden. The garden will honor the living and deceased members of families and friends whom we wish to remember in our thoughts and prayers. The garden is anticipated to be completed by this coming May. It will include a patio surfaced with engraved brick pavers. During the next few weeks members and friends are invited to order and purchase pavers for engraving. Brochures and engraving forms are available in the Haehnle Room at Church. For more info contact Steve Roth.

Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati

MARCC ANNUAL MEETING AND SUPPER

8 February 2011

5:30-8:30 p.m. ~ \$15.00/person

At

St. Mark AME Zion Church, 9208 Daly Road
Cincinnati, OH 45231

Fair Immigration Policy

With Guest Speaker

Steve Driehaus

First District U.S. Congressman 2009-11

Ohio State Representative 2001-2009

Mr. Driehaus will give a local, state and national perspective on Immigration Reform. As a US Congressman, he supported the Dream Act and also intervened in the local immigration case of Bernard Pastor, a graduate of Reading High School.

In November, MARCC Delegates overwhelmingly communicated their concern over immigration. This is your chance to hear someone knowledgeable in public policy about immigration, familiar with the immigration issues faced by his constituency daily and what is needed to achieve fair immigration policy.

Your participation is critical. The more delegates understand about the context of immigration reform and what barriers need to be removed at all levels of government, the clearer our role will be in how to address our coalition of Judicatories' Immigration concern.

- Parking is available on both sides of the church
- Please R.S.V.P. the MARCC Office by February 4th – either email to marcc@fuse.net or call us at 513.721.4843
- **For further information about UU involvement in MARCC**, contact Mary Jean (MJ) Pierson of Heritage UU Church, at MJPIer0410@aol.com.

Among ourselves

NEWS from the SETTLED MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE

You may be wondering what we're doing these days when we're not standing around wearing "Search Committee" tags. It may not look like it, but we are busier than ever.

We have studied the Ministerial Records of over twenty interested Ministers, exchanged packets with eleven of these Ministers, and interviewed seven (all but one on Skype).

We are now moving into a critical phase of the search process. We have selected four "pre-candidates" for the position of settled minister of our church. Starting next week, we will get to know these Ministers in depth through meeting each of them in person for additional interviews, informal talks, and hearing each give a sermon at a "neutral pulpit." We will be evaluating these Ministers in light of the ministerial attributes that you, the congregation, set out in our congregational survey, cottage meetings, and helpful conversations.

We are very optimistic about our short list. The congregation's support in this process has helped us stay on target and we are looking forward to the day, hopefully within two months, when we can announce our final choice.

-Jack Sherman

WINTER NEWS from the BOARD



Projects approved from the Endowment Funds by the Fund Trustees, after recommendation from the Board were:

- Sound System (\$2000),
- Wells Room renovations (\$1600).
- Rosa Parks Room renovations (\$5,000, after asbestos floor concern is addressed),
- Phase One of the Haehnle Hall lobby renovation (\$20,000).

This was the first time we followed a new process allowing for groups in the congregation to design and propose projects, and gather support from a significant number of congregation members before the Board recommended the project for approval to the Fund Trustees.

Decision was made to hold a split-the-plate collection in support of the new Harmony UU group in Mason, Ohio. The church has been given money from several families to construct a Memorial Garden in front of the church.

We have allocated a portion of each board meeting this church year to discussing how we might improve the way our organization is run. Dan Hotchkiss' book *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership* has been very helpful.

The Board has accepted the resignation of Krysta December as Property Council Director after 2 1/2 years of service in this position.

-Carol Fencl, Secretary to the Board

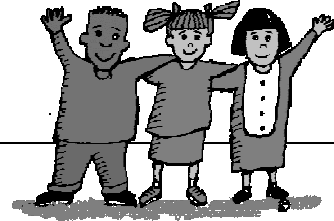
SNOW SHOVELERS NEEDED!



Would you like to help make St. John's a safer place during the cold weather months? Join the snow shoveling crew. Contact Pete Asman for details. Thank you!

RE-flecti⊕ns

By Elizabeth Wilson
St. John's Director of Religious Exploration



Siiiiigh. . . between all of the special activities related to the holiday season and the start of the OWL program, the last two months have been super hectic. Our family schedule over these last two months has been equally chaotic. I know many (if not most) of you struggle with these same issues—balancing work, children, aging parents, health crises, etc. Our non-stop, technology driven society makes it even harder for us to stop, breathe, and enjoy some much-needed quiet time. A few weeks ago a congregant came to me after having an epiphanous moment during a worship service. Struggling with issues in her own life, she thought others might be feeling some strain as well and she is very interested in starting a support group for parents. What a great idea! We'll be meeting soon to flesh out a draft plan. I won't be leading this group—I expect it will be led by those who choose to be members of it—but I have offered my support in the way of providing suggestions for resources, etc. Stay tuned for further info ... I expect to have an announcement soon regarding the first meeting of this group!

Help Needed in Junior High Class

Our 7th-8th grade class is in need of class helpers and movie donations. See the “ads” elsewhere in this issue of *The Reporter* if you think you can help!

Reminder—Official Church Nametags are Ready!

Rick Prairie has completed official church nametags for all of the children and youth in our church. Encourage your kids to look for their nametag on the kiosk—and wear it!! If your child cannot locate their nametag, see me!

Upcoming Schedule

February 4-5: OWL Gathering #4 at Northern Hills UU Church, Fri night & Sat. morn.

February 6: First Sunday for grades PreK-8th.

February 13: RE Teacher workshop and potluck lunch, 12:30-2:00pm.

February 13: OWL Gathering #5 at Northern Hills, 1:00-5:30pm.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU. . .to my OWL Gathering #3 helpers—Pete Asman, Melinda Borrero-Smith, Kim Durr, Amy Fletcher, Gary Hudson, Stan Loeb, Milena Nelson, Mary Lynne Schuster, Kathleen Smythe, and Dave Wilson.

Got suggestions? Send me an email (youthre@stjohnsuu.org) or give me a call (961-1940). I want your kids to enjoy their RE experience and your feedback matters!! My office hours are T/W/Th 9:00am - 1:30pm.

St. John's Church Calendar

Sunday, January 30

12:15pm YRUU Clothing Sale
12:30pm Leader Identification Meeting
1:00pm Women's Retreat (reservation required)
4:00pm Adult RE Dreams for Women

Monday, January 31

7:00pm Articulating Your UU Faith

Tuesday, February 1

7:00am Groundhog Day Celebration/Breakfast
10:00am Yoga
7:00pm Tuesday Night Ladies Coming Out Group
7:00pm YADA
7:00pm Adult RE Lighting the Lamp
7:00pm Book Group (Nina)

Wednesday, February 2

7:00pm Chalice Group Darner
7:00pm Membership

Thursday, February 3

10:00am Meditation
6:00pm Music Committee Meeting
6:00pm Tai Chi
7:00pm Choir

Friday, February 4

6:30pm OWL Gathering #4a

Saturday, February 5

7:30am OWL Gathering #4b
9:00am Dream Group
10:30am Nominating Committee
8:00pm Music Series Concert - WILLOW GROUP

Sunday, February 6

10:00am Sunday Morning Forum – I Have a Dream
11:00am RE First Sunday
12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)
3:00pm BENEFIT CONCERT
for Dr. Susan Montauk's Garden
4:00pm Adult RE Dreams for Women
6:00pm Men's Group

Monday, February 7

7:00pm Articulating Your UU Faith
7:00pm Fund Trustees

Tuesday, February 8

10:00am Yoga
5:30pm MARCC Annual Meeting - Immigration
7:00pm Tuesday Night Ladies Coming Out Group
7:00pm Adult RE Lighting the Lamp
7:00pm Chalice Group - Strong

Wednesday, February 9

10:00am Cook for Partner Church Dinner
10:00am Chalice Group Hadden
2:00pm Board Executive Meeting
7:00pm Chalice Group McDonough

Thursday, February 10

10:00am Meditation
5:00pm REPORTER DEADLINE
(Times New Roman font preferred!)
6:00pm Tai Chi
7:00pm Choir

Friday, February 11

6:00pm Cook for Dinner & Set up

Saturday, February 12

9:00am Set up / prepare for PC Dinner
10:30am Chalice Group (Nunn)
10:30am Nominating Committee
6:00pm PARTNER CHURCH DINNER

Sunday, February 13

10:00am Sunday Morning Forum –
Standing on the Side of Love
12:15pm Mystery Pals (during coffee hour)
12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)
12:30pm RE Meetings
12:30pm Haehnle Design Team in Lincoln Room
1:00pm OWL Gathering #5
4:00pm Adult RE Dreams for Women
7:30pm Men's Martian Meeting

Monday, February 14

7:00pm Articulating Your UU Faith

Tuesday, February 15

7:00pm Adult RE Lighting the Lamp

Wednesday, February 16

1:30pm Memorial Garden Meeting
6:30pm Board Meeting

Thought f the Week

Looks like what drives me crazy
Don't have no effect on you--
But I'm gonna keep on at it
Till it drives you crazy, too.



- *Langston Hughes, born February 1, 1902*