

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

February 27, 2011

Sunday Community Worship Services

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

March 6 at 11:00 AM

"Islam, A Universal Word"

Ashraf Traboulsi, Ph.D.

Dr Traboulsi, Quranic Studies teacher and active guide with the Islamic Center of Cincinnati, will share with us the fuller and wider meaning of the word "Islam" and the religion that goes by that name.

March 13 at 11:00 AM

"Prayer"

The Rev. Denise Tracy

Many people think that when we become Unitarian Universalist we must give up prayer. Do we? What might prayer look like from a liberal religious perspective?

March 20 at 11:00 AM

"Living a Generous Life"

The Rev. Denise Tracy

How might we build a life based upon generosity and what might the gift of this perspective be?

March 27 at 11:00 AM

"Two Ways to See the World"

The Rev. Denise Tracy

Cats and Dogs, Women and Men ... Some pairs are opposites. Come with a sense of humor. My plan is to laugh and lead you into an hour filled with fun and joy.

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

enews@stjohnsuu.org

Newsletter Submissions

reporter@stjohnsuu.org

Newsletter Email List

reportermail@stjohnsuu.org

Next Newsletter Deadline

March 10, 2011 at 5pm

Minister's Musings

from Rev. Denise Tracy



Dear Friends,

At the retreat on The Spirituality of Women's Friendships, 50 women in small groups created some ideas for the gifts of friendship. I thought their ideas might be useful to others. Here is a compilation of the two workshops listings of the important qualities of friendship.

- Acceptance and openness--- both are the key to quality and lasting friendships
- Supportive, encouraging and shared values are also important
- Being fully present, attentive listening skills
- Having empathy for the other
- The level of giving needs to be reciprocal (not out of balance over the years)
- Mutual honesty without judgment is key
- Deepest friendships sometimes happen as a result in times of transition
- Keeping confidences is a must
- Acceptance of differences in beliefs and feelings
- The longer the friendship, the less need for explanations
- Friendships adjust with changes in location or situation
- Great friendships have a certain degree of chemistry
- Sisters, aunts and childhood friends can last for our whole lives
- For others without families, our friends become family
- Often we become friends because we are in the same stage of life/situation
- With really good friends, the conversation never stops. If we haven't seen one another in years, it is as if it was only yesterday.
- Sometimes our friendships happen because of shared interests and grow from there.

George Elliot said this: "Friendship is the comfort, the inexpressible comfort, of feeling safe with a person having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words, but pouring it out just as they are, chaff and grain together, certain that a faithful, friendly hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping and with a breath of comfort, blow the rest away."

May your lives be filled with the blessings of friendship.

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

PAGE 2 *The Reporter* February 27, 2011

Opportunities & Invitations



ST JOHN'S MUSIC SERIES 2010-2011

Adult RE

Sign-up for Adult Religious Education Classes

Registration is held the next two Sundays (Feb. 27 & March 6) after church for spring classes. See Reporter insert at the end of Reporter for classes.

GREAT DECISIONS TOPICS

(No registration required)

This group meets on Sundays after church to view a dvd and discuss significant world events. Drop-ins are welcome. Feel free to bring a bag lunch.

Rebuilding Haiti – March 6

The January 2010 earthquake that devastated Haiti struck a country already suffering from widespread poverty and underdevelopment. Did this natural disaster inadvertently provide an opportunity for reassessment and planning a new Haiti? With presidential elections looming in early 2011, what can new leadership bring to restore the country?

U.S. National Security – March

13 U.S. national security priorities were expanded after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, to include waging war in Iraq and Afghanistan, tightening border security, pursuing cyber threats, halting nuclear proliferation and attempting to snuff out homegrown terrorism. How has the U.S. national security agenda evolved since 9/11? In what ways will this agenda shape the American way of life in the future?

-Adult Religious Education Committee

Our next concert will be “An Evening of Art Songs” with **Nate Bick, tenor**, accompanied by **Ingrid Keller, piano**, at 8 p.m. **Saturday, March 5**. The concert will be presented at St. John’s, located at 320 Resor Avenue in Clifton:

Tenor **Nathan Bick** performs a wide variety of concert, opera, and musical theatre repertoire, at the Indianapolis Opera, Carnegie Hall and the Opera Aegean in Greece. With double master’s degrees in arts administration and business from CCM, he serves as the executive director for VAE: Cincinnati’s Vocal Arts Ensemble.

Pianist **Ingrid Keller** has received numerous performance prizes and honors including first place in the MTNA East Central Division in 2004. In 2008, she participated in the Kennedy Center’s Conservatory Project representing the Jacobs School of Music. She has been the resident coach/accompanist for Indianapolis Opera’s Young Artist Program and is an active recitalist, collaborative artist, and teacher and is a doctoral candidate at Indiana University.

Both musicians are graduates of Indiana University’s Jacobs School of Music.

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>

FRIENDS OF SZENTLASZLO HAPPENINGS

We are happy to report to everyone that this year's **Partner Church Dinner** was another big success. Over 125 people were seated for the event with over 95 volunteers including 17 youth helping in many ways. Will Wagner and the Modern Groove Quintet were a big hit. We estimate that this year's dinner will net about \$1,950 which will be sent to our partner congregation in Nyaradszentlaszlo, Romania. Thank you to everyone who attended the dinner and/or helped with its preparation, serving and cleanup. Photos of the dinner are posted in the lobby. A second set of prints will be out on Sunday and is available for the taking.

Our next **Friends soup and bread luncheon** is scheduled for **March 13th** immediately after the Sunday service. We still need a couple of soup makers and some people to help with set up, clean up and serving the meal. If you can help out, contact Tom or Mary Darner or sign up on the bulletin board just outside Krolfifer Hall.

Plans for **St. John's Pilgrimage To Transylvania** from **May 23rd to June 4th** continue. It looks like there will be six of us going this year.

The next **Friends meeting** is **Mon, March 7** at 6:30 pm at the church.

The Friends of Szentlaszlo

SUNDAY MORNING FORUMS

Forums are held at 10am on Sunday morning.

March 6 - Hearing Impairment Affects Everyone - Linda Fowler speaks from personal experience. President of the local chapter of Hearing Loss Assn. of America, she will talk about the increase of hearing loss in the young, laugh with us at some of the situations she has encountered, while helping us learn to recognize hearing loss and how to help those with a hearing loss. Come and learn the insights she brings. This forum is sponsored by Adult RE and the Caring Circle..

March 13 - Tour of St. Johns UU Church Building - Bill Luerssen will conduct a tour of all three levels of the building and acquaint us with the history of the building and the changes it has gone through. The tour will start in Krolfifer and will occur during the usual forum time, 10 to 10:45 AM.

March 27 – Immigration Reform: What's the Rush?

Thank you to Steve Roth, Linda Linker, Marcia Schoeni and Rev. Tracy, members of the Memorial Garden committee, for a super presentation at our forum last week.
– Ethel Ingalls

LAFs DINNER OUT

Lively After Fifty first dinner out this year will be on **Friday, Mar 11**, 6:30 pm, at the Corinthian restaurant on Jefferson Ave. in Clifton. Please reserve your spot with Ted Chism. LAFs is a social group open to all St. Johns members and friends over age fifty. We look forward to being with you.

Chism

- Ted

Among ourselves

NEWS from the SETTLED MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE

Two pre-candidating weekends completed, and two to go.

Two ministerial pre-candidates (one with spouse) have each visited us for activities which have included meals together, tours of the church and the city, discussions and interviews, and out of town sermons at neutral pulpits. These visits have given our committee the opportunity to learn more about our four pre-candidates, both professionally and personally. Likewise, our pre-candidates have had the opportunity to learn more about St. John's.

Our final two pre-candidates and their spouses will visit this weekend and next.
- Jack Sherman

St John's supports community UU

Thank you! Thank you! The fifth Sunday collection dedicated to the New Harmony Unitarian Universalist Church in Mason was \$931.81. Thank you to everyone for your generosity.
- Denise Tracy

Church-Wide Workshop CREATING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY

Last year Bill Decker, our Interim Minister's husband, led a session for us to consider the power of listening. This year he returns and will lead a similar training where we will reflect upon creating a culture of generosity. The whole church is invited. If you need a sitter to attend, let Denise or Josie know and childcare will be arranged.

Please attend either

- **Sat March 12th**, 9:00am-11:30am **OR**
- **Sun March 13th**, 1:00-3:30pm

Childcare available – please notify Josie or Denise in advance.

MEMORIAL GARDEN NEWS



St John's will dedicate a new memorial garden on **June 12, 2011**. Part of the garden will be a terrace of 800 bricks, 100 of which can be inscribed with the names of members both living and dead. This is an opportunity to inscribe your own name to show your support and commitment, or someone else's to be honored forever on the property at St John's.

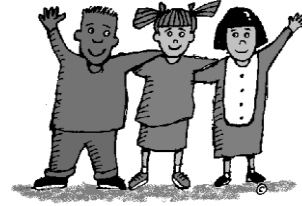
The cost to inscribe a whole brick is \$100. Alternatively, you can give \$35 to pay for one line or one name on a brick to share with two other people. Some folks have very generously given extra money to have names of people important to St. John's included. We will have a sub group working on this piece of the project.

DEADLINE to order bricks is **March 20th**. To order, pick up a form in the Haehnle Room at St John's; or check the website at www.stjohnsuu.org for a downloadable version. For any remaining questions, EMail Steve Roth or office@stjohnsuu.org. This will be a lovely place on the grounds to meditate and remember and honor.

RE-flecti⊕ns

By Elizabeth Wilson

St. John's Director of Religious Exploration



Thanks so much, everyone, for your kind messages as I recuperate from surgery. I confess I was a bit optimistic about recovery (imagine that!). I'm getting close to being able to drive again and I expect to return to my regular church office hours this week. Honest!

Quieter time spent working at home has allowed me the opportunity to reflect on our RE program and get to some much-needed reading. I'm incredibly proud of the service projects all of our classes have done (and continue with) over these last few months. I think doing "real work" of their own choosing is the most effective way of teaching our children and youth how to live our UU Principles. But the joy of caring for others shouldn't end on Sundays! The focus of the family section in the Winter 2010 edition of *UU World* offered some great strategies on empowering even very young children to care and act. Here's a summary of "How to Empower a Giving Child" that might be useful for your own family service projects:

LOOK for service opportunities every family member can participate in.

DECIDE together.

TURN "teachable moments" into "actionable opportunities."

LOOK beneath a problem's surface.

READ "The Power of Half" by Kevin Salwen and Hannah Salwen (a father and daughter).

To learn more see https://www.uua.org/documents/uuworlD/families/10_winter.pdf.

Speaking of helping others. . .

The junior high class service project—a book collection drive benefitting Pleasant Ridge Montessori—continues. Share our UU love of learning and literature with elementary school kids. New or gently used books suitable for children in PreK-6th grades are being collected. See the specially marked box in Krolfifer (near the west wall). For more information, check the February 13 issue of *The Reporter*.

Wells Room Update

YRUU is heading for the finish with their renovations on the Wells Room. Big changes are in progress! Stay tuned to Enews and *The Reporter* for announcements regarding an Open House in March!

Upcoming Schedule

St John's RE:

Ongoing: Jr High book collection drive

March 6: First Sunday—with Nina Tolley

March 20: All-church birthday party!

OWL city-wide:

March 6: OWL Gathering #7 at First UU, 1:00-5:30pm.

March 13: OWL Gathering #8 at Heritage UU, 1:00-5:30pm.

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 Tu/Wed/Thu from 9:00am-1:30pm.

St. John's Church Calendar

Sunday, February 27

3:00pm Special Board Meeting(tentative)

Tuesday, March 1

10:00am Yoga

5:00pm Rehearsal Choral Series (time TBA)

7:00pm Tues Night Ladies Coming Out Group

7:00pm YADA

7:00pm Adult RE Lighting the Lamp

7:00pm Book Group (Nina)

Wednesday, March 2

7:00pm Chalice Group Darner

7:00pm Membership

Thursday, March 3

10:00am Meditation

6:00pm Music Committee Meeting

6:00pm Tai Chi

7:00pm Choir

Saturday, March 5

10:30am Nominating Com

3:00pm Rehearsal in Sanctuary

8:00pm Music Series Concert-Nate Bick Tenor

Sunday, March 6

10:00am Sun AM Forum - Hearing Impairment

11:00am RE First Sunday

11:00am Deadline to Sign Membership Book
to vote on 6/5

12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)

12:30pm TOWN HALL MTG

1:00pm OWL Gathering #7

1:00pm Great Decisions

6:00pm Men's Group

Tuesday, March 8

10:00am Yoga

12:00pm Hang St. John's Art from Members

7:00pm Tues Night Ladies Coming Out Group

7:00pm Adult RE Lighting the Lamp

7:00pm Chalice Group - Strong

Wednesday, March 9

10:00am Chalice Group Hadden

2:00pm Board Executive Meeting

7:00pm Chalice Group McDonough

Thursday, March 10

10:00am Meditation

5:30pm REPORTER DEADLINE

6:00pm Tai Chi

7:00pm Choir

Saturday, March 12

9:00am Stewardship Training

10:30am Chalice Group (Nunn)

10:30am Nominating Committee

Sunday, March 13

9:30am Leadership Development Committee

10:00am Sun AM Forum - Tour of St. Johns

12:15pm Friends Luncheon

12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)

12:30pm Adult RE Registration & bookstore

1:00pm OWL Gathering #8

1:00pm Stewardship Training

1:00pm Great Decisions

7:30pm Men's Martian Meeting

Monday, March 14

7:00pm Adult RE - Death of Josseline

Tuesday, March 15

8:30am Staff Meeting

10:00am Yoga

7:00pm Tuesday Night Ladies Coming Out Group

7:00pm Book Group *Alex and Me* (adult RE)

7:00pm YADA

Wednesday, March 16

6:30pm Board Meeting

Thursday, March 17

10:00am Meditation

6:00pm Tai Chi

7:00pm Choir

Friday, March 18

6:30pm OWL Gathering #9 overnight

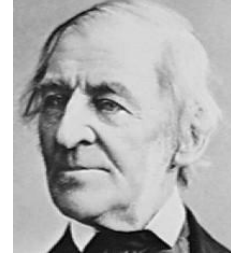
7:00pm Food for Thought Potluck

Saturday, March 19

» 2:00pm OWL Gathering #9 overnight ends

10:00am Chalice Group Facilitators

Thought of the Week



What lies behind us, and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Adult Religious Education Spring 2010-2011 Classes

Our purpose is to provide a program of religious growth and learning that meets the needs of adult members and friends. We have attempted to offer a variety of experiences on different days. This brochure lists the details of the classes this spring. The cost of all classes is covered by general church funding.

Registration is normally done at the Adult RE table after church on Feb. 27 & March 6. Individuals may also contact either AdultRE@stjohnsuu.org, or the listed teacher for the course.

Please do not delay signing up for a class. Classes may be cancelled if sufficient registration is not received one week in advance .

The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona Borderlands

Book required

Register

This book by Margaret Regan presents a series of intimate stories from immigrants, activists, human rights workers, and border patrol. Through their stories, we'll explore the ethical, moral, and spiritual challenges presented by the complexities. We will use the UUA Study Guide to focus our discussion for this series.

Leaders: Carol Fencil and Marty Harrington

Monday evenings, March 14 – 28 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Food for Thought

Drop-In

Bimonthly series of thought-provoking sessions learning about the food industry.

Leaders: Bo Wachendorf & Greg Terhune

Fri. March 18 The Botany of Desire 7 p.m. Potluck 7:30 p.m. Movie

Friday, May 20 Big Night Same as above

Accessible

Great Decisions

Drop-In Text helpful

Get informed about current hot topics around the world by reading the Great Decisions articles and participating in lively discussions with others.. You do NOT need to be present for all weeks to participate. Each session will have a DVD panel of experts to introduce the topic. If you didn't preorder, the text may be purchased from the Foreign Policy Association.

Leaders: Dick Fencil and Don Fanniin

Accessible most sessions

Sunday afternoons, March 6 – April 24 1 - 2:30 p.m., 8 sessions,

Immigration Movie – Farmingville

Registration helpful

With Mexican immigrants standing on street corners waiting for jobs, the citizens of suburban Farmingville Long Island wonder if their town is being taken over by outsiders. Monday evening, April 4 7 – 8:30 p.m. .

Accessible

On the Same Page - Alex and Me

Register

This book chosen by the Cincinnati Public Library, is being discussed all across the city. It tells the story of a remarkable parrot and the scientist who worked with him, stretching our ideas of animal intelligence.

Leader: Deb Combs

Tuesday evening March 15 7-8:30 p.m.

Taking Charge of Your Future: Planning for Long Term Care Needs.

Discussion focusing on what plans we have made for our future and learn from what others are considering.

Leaders: Ann Schuur and Nina Tolley, professionals in the field

Register

Thurs. afternoon May 12 1 – 3 p.m.

Accessible

Talking to Strangers – Spiritual Hospitality

Register

Spiritual Hospitality is a practice meant to make you comfortable with yourself so you are able to welcome in others. Mindful communication is the foundation of the practice.

This workshop will take you on a look inward and suggest some daily practices so you are more comfortable meeting and talking to people you don't know at St, John's or anywhere!

Leader: Karolyn Schalk – Former instructor of Communication at Penn State University

Tuesday evenings. Choose either Tues. March 29 OR Tues. April 19 7 - 8:45 p.m.

Other programs for adults:

Forums – Sunday morning before church 10 – 10:45 in Krolfifer – topic varies

Meditation – Thursdays 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Second floor Contact Nina Tolley

Tai Chi – Thursdays 6-6:50 p.m. Krolfifer. Contact Rev. Denise Tracy