

# THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

October 31, 2010

## Sunday Community Worship Services

---

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

**Sunday, November 7, at 11:00am**

### *"Shadows and Light: Leaning Toward Winter"*

Guest speaker Diane Wright

Join Diane on the birthday of singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell. We'll be using her lyrics as a point of departure for considering the Unitarian principle of interdependence.

**Sunday, November 14, at 11:00am**

### *"Psalm 23"*

the Rev. Denise Tracy

This Psalm is read at almost every funeral and memorial service. What does it actually say? What might it mean for us?

**Sunday, November 21, at 11:00am**

### *"A Traditional Thanksgiving Service"*

the Rev. Denise Tracy

This is an Intergenerational Service. There will be stories and music for all. After church the 5th and 6th grade classes are holding a World Service Bazaar selling goods to raise money for a local, national and global charity. Come and do your holiday shopping early.

### **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**

Monday-Friday

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**

Thursday Nov 11 at 5pm

# *Minister's Musings*

---

from Rev. Denise Tracy



Dear Friends,

The past few weeks have been a blur. Four deaths, which resulted in three memorial services, one burial and another memorial service to go. All in ten days. One person said, "I have been at St John's for over 25 years and we have never had so many deaths."

First, I want to thank the Caring Circle for the three receptions following the Briese, Sessum and Altekruse services. I want to thank everyone who brought food and helped set up, usher or clean up.

The memorial service for John Fine will be Nov 21 at 2:00pm. If you are attending, please let us know. (Call the Office) We will need desserts and beverages.

Second, We have been given \$1,000 to begin a memorial garden. This would be a simple quiet place for a bench, a cultivated area for the Interment or spreading of ashes and then a patio of bricks which could be inscribed with people's names. We could then have a place for meditation and quiet to think of those who have died. The place is set aside, the Board has approved the idea and I am now looking for two people to help me define this a bit more.

Third, As I have moved through the life of St John's, it is clear that our congregation is on the side of aging. Probably one third of the church is over the age of 65. It could be more or less, but The Caring Circle is holding a workshop on Nov 18th from 1-3pm on options and resources for those who wish to be self responsible stewards and think about their own aging process. Please do consider attending, even if you think you know everything...all it takes is a simple fall or an unexpected diagnosis and the surprises begin. I believe that knowledge is power...

Thank for all you do and for all we do for and are to one another...

Blessings,  
***Denise***  
Your Interim Minister

---

**Rev. Denise Tracy's Schedule and Contact Numbers:** cell 847-431-8282, private line at church 513-961-1994. Office Hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9:00am to noon, or by appointment.

# pportunities & Invitations

---

## **COA helps older adults stay independent at home**

*Home.* As we age, that's where we all want to stay for as long as we can. But when you or a loved one needs help, sorting through all the options can be confusing. You can get the right answers from the Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio (COA).

For nearly 40 years, COA has provided expert, compassionate service to older adults and their caregivers and families. Programs and services include free or low-cost home care, meals, transportation, home modification, caregiver support, access to information and resources, help with long-term care planning, and more.

Join us for an informative presentation about Council on Aging's programs and services, **Thurs, Nov. 18**, at 1:00 pm. in Krolfifer. For more information about COA, call (513) 721-1025 or visit [www.help4seniors.org](http://www.help4seniors.org). For more information about this presentation talk to anybody in the Caring Circle. Please do join us. *-Nina Tolley*

## **Talking to Strangers – Spiritual Hospitality**

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 - Before entering the corporate world she was an Instructor of Public Speaking and Interpersonal Communication at Penn State University.

**Tuesday evening, Nov. 9, 7:00 - 8:45 p.m.**  
If you haven't preregistered, please feel free to contact Karolyn and plan to attend.

*-Adult Religious Education Committee*

## **Coming Soon. . .**

### **“WORLD SERVICE BAZAAR!”**

Our 5th-6th grade RE class is sponsoring our first ever “World Service Bazaar” on **Sunday, November 21** in Krolfifer during coffee hour. With help from our minister, Rev. Denise Tracy, and her traveling friends, there will be elegant jewelry, purses, soaps, hand creams and scarves from Africa, China, Indonesia and Guatemala available for purchase. Our children are researching local, national and global charities that will benefit from this true “world” sale. Be the first to wear a lovely bracelet from Guatemala, beaded with our UUA chalice! Be seen at your chalice group wearing pretty earrings from Africa. Smell ever-so-nice at potlucks because you have bathed in scented soaps from Indonesia. Dispense with your holiday shopping right in Krolfifer Hall!

*-Elizabeth Wilson*

## **LAFs DINNER OUT Nov 12**

LAFs (Lively After Fifty) will be dining at Suzie Wong's on Madison, a highly recommended Asian restaurant. Meet us there at 6:30pm, Fri Nov 12.

LAFs is a social group for St. Johners and friends who admit to being at least 50, but we would never make you show your ID. RSVP by Nov 11. *-Jan Hay*

## **Become Certified/Recertified in CPR and AED**

Sally Larson, through the Cincinnati American Red Cross, will offer a free CPR/AED class Sat, Nov 20, 9AM- 4PM to St. John's members and friends. After this all day course you'll be certified, or recertified, in CPR and using the Automatic Electronic Defibrillator (AED) located in Haehnle Hall. The church's AED can potentially restart the heart after a heart attack.

RSVP required by Nov 4 to Cliff Shisler.

## **MARCC Fall Planning Conference**

**Thurs, Nov 18, 5:00-9:30pm**

\$12 for Dinner and optional tour of mosque.

Location: Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati  
8092 Plantation Dr, West Chester, OH 45069.

MARCC is the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati – a coalition of local religious groups that choose to work together on a few, agreed-upon, local social concerns to make life better for people in metropolitan Cincinnati.

Conference will include presentations and voting on plans for social justice; and will also be honoring Pat Clifford, former Executive Director of The Drop In Center. Visit the website [MARCCOnline.com](http://MARCCOnline.com) for more information.

RSVP by November 12, to the MARCC office at (513) 721-4843 or [marcc@fuse.net](mailto:marcc@fuse.net); or to MJ Pierson, UU Council Representative, member of Heritage UU Church.

MJ is particularly hoping for a good Unitarian turnout for this session.

## **Art Show**

Long time friend and member Amy Burton will be presenting her photo etching art works entitled "The Stir of The Wind, Rustles with Every Step," in November and December.

## **GO Game group forming**

Due to positive response from a YRUU overnight, Frank Meyer is forming a Go game group at St. John's! What is Go? It's a fascinating board game that originated in China more than 3000 years ago. It can be enjoyed by kids (as young as 5) and adults alike. It's said that the simple rules of Go can be learned in minutes but take a lifetime to master. Come to the Wells room (upstairs) on Sun, **Nov 7**—bring a sack lunch. Games will begin at 1:00pm. For more info, contact Frank Meyer..

PAGE 4 The Reporter October 31, 2010

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT:**

### **Potluck & Movie Night**

Please join us in Kroffifer for the next in our series of thought provoking evenings learning about the food industry. We'll start with a potluck at 7:00 on Friday, **November 19**. Please bring a dish to share (preferably one that contains local and/or organic ingredients). Beginning at 7:30 we will be showing the award-winning documentary "Super Size Me."

*-Bo Wachendorf*

## **Goddess Gathering**

Join other St. John's women at the November meeting of the Goddess Gathering on Wednesday, **Nov. 17** at 6:30 pm. We're meeting at Biagio's Bistro, 308 Ludlow Avenue in Clifton. Good appetizers, soups, salads, sandwiches, and Italian pasta entrees plus desserts. See menu at website: [www.biagiosbistro.net](http://www.biagiosbistro.net) Your hostess for this meeting is Mary Darner. Please RSVP to her before November 14.

## **Pakistan Flood Relief Fund**

St. John's has received thank you letters from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) for our donations to the Pakistan Flood Relief Fund gifts totaling \$861.00. If you still wish to donate to this fund, please visit [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org) and click on the picture on the left labeled "Pakistan Give Now." There you will find directions for donating online, or by check.

*Carol Fencl, Board Secretary*

## **In Memoriam**

St John's lost a beloved long-time friend and member, John Fine, on October 25. We have scheduled a memorial service at St John's for Sun, **Nov 21**, at 2:00 PM.

## Among ourselves

---

### Trick-or-Treat for Unicef

Donations from this Halloween fundraiser will be due on Sunday, **November 7**. Place your collection boxes in the basket near the RE message board in Haehnle.

### WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOUR IDEAS AND COMMENTS!

This year's **Partner Church Dinner** will be held on February 12<sup>th</sup> with a bad weather make-up date of February 19<sup>th</sup>. With the Indian food menu being such a success late year, we will be repeating the Indian theme with some new twists. As we plan for the dinner, it would be most timely now if we could hear your ideas about how to improve any and all aspects of the dinner, volunteer roles, menu, dinner set-up, food preparation and clean-up. We are aware that the length of the dinner (6:30 PM to 9:00 PM) makes it difficult for young children of a wide range of ages to handle the time even when food and a special program are provided in the RE area. As such, we are considering having the dinner for older children and adults only. We request your comments on this issue. We anticipate the price of tickets, which covers a musical program and sit down dinner, to be a few dollars higher, but not more than \$20 if bought before February 1. We are looking at costs right now to set that price. As always there will be scholarships available since the goal is to have the dinner accessible to everyone. We invite your comments and ideas on these issues and any others of concern to you. Please submit your comments to Mary Darner. So mark your calendars now for **February 12<sup>th</sup>** and be ready to join the many St. Joiners' who help make this once a year event such a success.

*-Mary Darner, the Friends of Szentlaszlo*

### WE STILL NEED HELPERS FOR OUR SOUP & BREAD LUNCHEONS

Please check the soup and bread luncheon sign up poster at church this week and help fill in those blanks where help is still needed. If you can't help with the Sunday, November 14 luncheon, consider signing up for one of the luncheons later on in the church year. St. John's members and friends have always been very generous in supporting these luncheons which benefit our partner Unitarian congregation in Romania. So sign up now and do your part!

*-Tom Darner, the Friends of Szentlaszlo*

### ST. JOHN'S BOARD

Board Decisions:

- To have a plate collection for Association Sunday on Oct. 31.
- To follow the DRE recommended plan for Evacuation of the Church School classes.
- To accept the donation from the family of Pete Altekruise toward the start of a Memorial Garden in front of the church.

Board Discussions:

- The status of the special project proposals that will be submitted for the use of our income from the endowment funds during this church year. (Note: all proposals are due on Nov. 15, with 51 signatures of support. Persons may support more than one proposal if they think it is worthy.)
- Possible methods of handling the resignation of Church Treasurer, Judy Buxton, as of Jan 1.

*-Carol Fencl, Board Secretary*

### Next Reporter Deadline

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, we will be postponing the Reporter that would ordinarily come out Nov 27 for 1 week. That means that our next reporter will cover activities through Dec 5 - which means that you need to send us your notices through Dec 5 by our next deadline, Nov 11. Thanks!

*- the editors*



# RE-flections

By Elizabeth Wilson

Director of Religious Exploration

Many of you will be reading this on the official publication date, Sunday, October 31—aka **Halloween**. Contrary to popular belief (and what we witness in stores this time of year!) Halloween is not just about costumes and candy. Samhain, as this holiday is known to pagans, is a time of remembering loved ones who have died. During the worship service on Halloween/Samhain, we'll have the opportunity to contribute to an "altar of remembrance" and Rev. Tracy and I will talk about death and dying in the *Time for the Young at Heart*. I think it is fortuitous, given the recent deaths at St. John's, that Halloween/Samhain falls on a Sunday this year. It allows us the opportunity to speak about a sensitive issue. I hope you will follow up our talk with discussions of your own beliefs about death with your children. Death can be an overwhelming subject for many, especially young children. Our children need to know it's okay to ask questions—and also that we adults might not always have the answers. It's important for them to know that real love and good memories never die—and that knowledge will, hopefully, carry them through the difficult times they encounter in life.

## Ronald McDonald House Tour & Lunch Scheduled!

Hooray. . . we have a date! On *Saturday, November 13 at 10:00am*, we will tour the Ronald McDonald House adjacent to Cincinnati Children's Hospital. (Plan to meet in the St. John's parking lot at 9:40.) We will be donating our pop-tabs collection at this time, too. Following the tour, interested folks can meet together for lunch at a local McDonald's. Rev. Tracy will lead one group and I will lead a second group. Additional chaperones/drivers will be needed. This is a great opportunity for our children and youth to see firsthand what their contributions mean! If interested, please contact me ASAP, as tour groups are limited. Send me an email at [youthre@stjohnsuu.org](mailto:youthre@stjohnsuu.org) or see the sign-up sheet on the back of the RE message board in Haehnle.

## Special Guests for First Sunday in November!

On Sunday, November 7, we are pleased to welcome special guests to our First Sunday program in Krolfifer—Ted Chism and his service dog, Dermot. Ted & Dermot will share their stories with us. (There may also be a little reminiscing about Ted's former service dog, Sparky, who was a much-loved member of our community.) If your child/youth is allergic to dogs, please let me know and I'll make sure they are seated at a comfortable distance from Dermot. Service dog etiquette will be discussed—so "handling" the dog will not be an issue!

**Trick-or-Treat for Unicef.** Please place your collection boxes in the basket near the RE message board on Sunday, November 7.

**2010-11 RE Registration.** Registration forms can be found in each RE classroom, on the RE bulletin board downstairs, and from the DRE.

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU** to Stan Loeb & Bill Luerssen for all their handiwork in the RE area. . .to recent RE greeters Kathleen Smythe, Edie Holder, and Cindy Oakenfull. . .and to all of the parents who attended OWL Parent Orientations!

## Important Upcoming RE Dates—Mark Your Calendars!

### Sunday, Nov. 7:

- First Sunday in Krolfifer with Ted Chism & Dermot.
- Turn in *Trick-or-Treat for Unicef* collection boxes.
- OWL 2010-11 registrations due.

**Saturday, Nov. 13:** Ronald McDonald House tour & lunch, 9:40am at St. John's.

**Sunday, Nov. 21:** World Service Bazaar in Krolfifer during coffee hour (hosted by our 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade class).

**Every Sunday in November:** Voices of Variety rehearsal, from 12:15-12:45pm in Rosa Parks.

Got suggestions? Send me an email ([youthre@stjohnsuu.org](mailto: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, October 31

4:00pm Breaking Free Women of Spirit  
6:00pm Search Committee

## Monday, November 1

7:00pm Immigration Myths

## Tuesday, November 2

10:00am Yoga  
7:00pm Speaking Peace  
7:00pm YADA  
7:00pm Book Group (Nina)

## Wednesday, November 3

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

## Thursday, November 4

10:00am Meditation  
5:00pm CONTACT CENTER DINNER  
6:00pm Music Committee Meeting  
6:00pm NO TAI CHI  
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

## Saturday, November 6

3:00pm YRUU Scarf Making and Movie

## Sunday, November 7

<p><b>Fall Back –</b> <b>Daylight Savings Time ends 2:00 AM.</b></p>
--

10:00am Sunday Morning Forum  
11:00am RE First Sunday  
12:15pm Voices of Variety Rehearsal  
4:00pm Breaking Free Women of Spirit  
6:00pm Search Committee

## Monday, November 8

7:00pm Immigration Myths

## Tuesday, November 9

10:00am Yoga  
7:00pm OWL Planning Committee Meeting  
7:00pm Speaking Peace  
7:00pm Chalice Group - Strong  
7:00pm Talking To Strangers

## Wednesday, November 10

10:00am Chalice Group Hadden  
7:00pm Chalice Group McDonough

## Thursday, November 11

10:00am Meditation  
5:00pm REPORTER Deadline  
6:00pm Tai Chi  
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

## Friday, November 12

6:00pm Music Series MUSE

## Saturday, November 13

8:00pm MUSE Music Series Concert

## Sunday, November 14

10:00am Sunday Morning Forum  
11:00am YRUU in Krolfifer  
12:15pm Voices of Variety Rehearsal  
12:30pm Friends Luncheon  
12:30pm REPORTER Collating  
3:00pm Choral Series Concert  
4:00pm Breaking Free at Hammond North  
6:00pm Search Committee

## Monday, November 15

7:00pm Chalice Group (Luerssen)  
7:00pm Immigration Myths

## Sunday, November 21

2:00pm John Fine Memorial Service

## Sunday Morning Forums

**10 AM each Sunday** in Krolfifer hall. No registration required.

**Nov. 7 - Diwali Celebration** - Prasanna Malaviya will tell us some of the history of Diwali, how it is celebrated in India and how it is celebrated by Hindus here in the US. Learn more about this joyful celebration and what we can learn from this old tradition.

**Nov 14 - Ronald McDonald House** - We have all heard of the Ronald McDonald House and we are about to learn more. The young people in the RE department are touring the RMcDHouse on the Saturday before this forum and this forum is when we adults get a chance to get our questions answered.

– Ethel Ingalls

# Thought of the Week

---

“I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble.”

*- Helen Keller*