

THRESHOLD



Towson Unitarian Universalist Church

A Welcoming Congregation

www.towsonuuc.org

Lutherville, Maryland

May 2009

Upcoming Services

This month's worship theme is dedicated to the flowering of new beginnings from the birth of a baby to a revitalized association of UU congregations; from the general origins of creativity to the effect on the spirit to the origins of creativity. We will also celebrate the one year anniversary of our beautiful TUUC memorial garden. -- Rev. Clare

May 3, 2009

11:00 AM at First Unitarian Church of Baltimore

Union Sunday - A Religion for Our Time

Why is this Sunday different from all other Sundays? On the first Sunday of May, we return to worship at First Unitarian Church of Baltimore, located at the corner of Charles and Franklin. This is "Union Sunday," a time when we gather with Unitarian Universalists around the region to remember the Baltimore sermon, defining American Unitarianism, preached by The Rev. William Ellery Channing at First Church in 1819. Times have changed dramatically. What might a religion for our time look like? How can we bring the innovative spirit of Channing to our world? The Rev. Peter Morales, a candidate for the presidency of the UUA, will present his vision for a revitalized Unitarian Universalism.

May 10, 2009

9:30 and 11:15 AM

Annual Flower Communion Sunday – Messenger Of Love

Rev. Clare Petersberger, Joyce Duncan, director of Youth Religious Education, The Bald Mountain Bluegrass Band, and the TUUC Choir

As is our custom on Mother's Day, today we celebrate Flower Communion. The Rev. Norbert Capek created this communion utilizing the symbol of flowers as messengers of love. Please bring a flower representing yourself. You will take home a flower brought by another. And we will reflect on messengers of love---from those who mothered us to those whose example and teachings continue to help us bloom. Children will be upstairs for a story for all ages and then return to class.

May 17, 2009

9:30 and 11:15 AM

What We Play Is Life

Rev. Clare Petersberger, Spice Kleinmann, Marianna Mujica, and other friends of TUUC Friday Night Concerts

Louis Armstrong said, "All music is folk music. I ain't never heard no horse sing a song." Ben Harper said, "I grew up listening to spiritual music...Blind Willie Johnson and folk." Mark Knopfler said, "My idea of heaven is a place where the Tyne meets the Delta, where folk music meets the blues." And Plato said, "Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything." This morning, we explore all these thoughts while hearing folk, blues, swing, classic rock, and jazz. Tish Michaels "won" this worship service at the TUUC service auction that we might all experience the joy, experienced by all ages, at TUUC Friday night concerts!

May 24, 2009

10:30 AM – One Service

In The Beginning ... Creativity

Joseph Gascho, TUUC Music Director and friends

Creativity is important in the working and living of all human beings, and according to theologian Gordon Kaufman, creativity is nothing less than God. His book, "In the beginning ... Creativity" is the inspiration for this service, and TUUC members of diverse walks of life will share their experiences with this fascinating and serendipitous process.

May 31, 2009

9:30 and 11:15 AM

In Memory Of Those We Love Who Loved Us

Rev. Clare Petersberger. The TUUC Caring Committee, and loved ones of those whose names grace our TUUC Memorial Garden

Music: Joseph Gascho, piano and the TUUC Choir

A year ago, we dedicated our beautiful TUUC Memorial Garden. Members of the Caring Committee suggested that in honor of this anniversary, we celebrate the importance of being dedicated to an important project. They also suggested sharing the stories of the lives of those whose names are on the plaques. In this service of memory and of hope, we shall do just that. For the two are intertwined as we ponder what gives our lives meaning and what we hope our own legacy will be.

Clare's Colloquoy

Rev. Clare Petersberger



In February, several TUUC members went to Annapolis to join fellow citizens in Equality Maryland's Lobby Day for marriage equality and gender identity anti-discrimination legislation. In speaking about the civil to marry, we spoke about how history would one day stand on the side of love. We pointed to how Massachusetts and Connecticut had moved to support marriage equality. We hoped our legislators would help to make that history. They responded that the vote by the majority of California voters to ban gay marriage suggested otherwise. They were not prepared to support anything more than civil unions.

Last month, an Iowa district court ruled that same-sex couples should be allowed to marry, based on the state constitution's guarantee of equal treatment. Vermont legislators voted to allow same-sex marriage in their state beginning September 1. And the District of Columbia is leaning toward recognizing same sex marriages performed in other states. So we shall return to Annapolis in February to speak to the need for equal marriage rights for same-sex couples.

Maryland did make some progress on legislation protecting the rights of domestic partners. The House of Delegates and Senate passed legislation to exempt individuals from the inheritance tax paid on primary residences after the death of a domestic partner. Extending healthcare and other benefits to state employees' domestic partners and dependent children in the 2010 fiscal year budget was approved by the General Assembly. In the face of hard economic times, this was a courageous decision that deserves our support.

However, a bill died in committee that would have allowed employees to take leave under the FMLA to care for additional family members, including domestic partners and children. Economic anxieties clearly played a role in this decision.

Most disappointing of all, the Senate refused to act on legislation to ban discrimination against citizens on the basis of gender identity. Discrimination against transgendered people in Maryland is a reality. We need anti-discrimination legislation to right this wrong.

We hear that marriage equality is a divisive religious issue. But it need not be. The state could protect the rights of gays and lesbians to marry without forcing any faith tradition to perform weddings that go against their beliefs. As it stands, I argued that the state is currently discriminating against my faith tradition. Unitarian Universalists have been officiating at services of union for close to thirty years. And yet UU clergy cannot sign marriage licenses for these couples. Why? Our legislators did not have an answer. Nor do they have a compelling reason why discrimination against transgendered people should be condoned. So while we can celebrate the legislation passed to protect domestic partners and their families, we still have much work ahead of us. It is good to have the support of this caring faith community.

Board of Directors

By Linda Talley, president



The following statement from the Board's policy manual guides the trustees as they assemble each month to conduct the business of the Church: Working on behalf of the congregation the Board of Trustees will ensure that TUUC will make the best use of its resources to accomplish its vision, mission and covenant and to further the Church's ministry.

At their April 14th meeting, the trustees:

- Received the monthly update on the church's operating budget. Treasurer Paul Konka reported that we are still showing a modest surplus of income over expenses and recommended that we pay our fair share third quarter dues to the Joseph Priestley District and the Unitarian Universalist Association as stipulated in the budget approved by the congregation for this church year.
- Learned that the All. Together. Now. Stewardship campaign has resulted in 207 pledges totaling \$280,000 to date; approximately 40 households have not yet responded. Current estimates point to a substantial drop in our pledge commitments for 2009-2010, which we all recognize reflects the economic difficulties and uncertainty faced by many in our midst.
- Discussed the potential repercussions of the budget shortfall for next year and provided guidance to the budget committee concerning the decisions to be made. The committee is charged with developing a proposed 2009-2010 budget for the trustees' review at their May 12 meeting. Once the board has approved the budget proposal the information is mailed to all TUUC members for their review prior to the congregational meeting on June 7.
- Heard from Reverend Clare about the requirements associated with serving as a field experience site for a ministerial student from a nearby seminary. Given the anticipated pressures on the operating budget for the coming church year we may not be able to further consider this request.
- Continued their review of board policies.

The next meeting of the board will be Tuesday, May 12 at 7:30 PM and will focus on review of the proposed budget for 2009-2010 and preparations for the annual congregational meeting on June 7.

Operations Team

By Catherine Morris, President-elect/Operations Team Leader



09-10 BUDGET

As Linda reported, the OTeam worked through the budget one more time, looking for places to cut expenses without sacrificing our programs. The Council budgets were sent to the Board for their consideration in aligning our revenues and expenses for the coming year. We have some very important value judgments to make in working with the 15% decline in revenue. We look forward to hearing what you think should be our priorities at the Congregational Conversation on Sunday, April 26th between services.

PROCEDURES MANUAL

One of the jobs of the OTeam is to review and update TUUC procedures manual each year. So in addition to focusing on ways to tighten our belts on the budget, we talked about how strong the coffee should be. Yes, for those of you who like strong coffee, you'll be glad to know that someone had your interests in mind when they recommended that we change instructions for the hospitality volunteers to use a "heaping" scoop of coffee. The procedures manual governs just about every aspect of TUUC's day-to-day operations from the responsibility of the ushers and child care providers to the role of each Committee and Council Head. Much thought and discussion goes into changes that are needed from year to year.

NEW OFFICE COPIER

Our copier is five years old, at the end of its service contract, and beyond its life expectancy in terms of the number of copies it is designed to handle. Repairs are becoming more frequent. Mona did an excellent job of looking at our options for a replacement copier and bargaining for the best price. The OTeam reviewed the bids and has submitted a recommendation to the Board to replace the copier as soon as possible if the budget allows.

Join us for our next meeting on Tues., May 5th, 7:30 PM, in Room 5 at the church.

Youth Religious Exploration

By Joyce Duncan, director of Youth Religious Exploration

As most of you know, our YRE program is made possible by family participation. We are changing our RE registration process to include a new parent participation contract. This includes many more options for using your gifts to enhance the YRE programming at TUUC.



NEW PROCEDURES FOR YRE REGISTRATION

The YRE Committee is busy planning for next year. We will have some great new on-line curricula from UUA to help provide our children the best RE experience possible. To assist us, please look for the **new registration form** that will be available Sunday, April 26, both at church, on the website, and in parent weekly emails. The new form will give **every family** the opportunity to contribute to our cooperative RE program. (Yes, even parents of middle and high schoolers!) Please remember to bring back your fully completed forms by **Sunday, May 10 or 17** when fabulous tchotchkes that you won't want to miss will be available as thank yous!

Signing up in Spring helps the RE committee to plan classes and find the right number of teachers. Remember that all children downstairs (from birth through high school) need to be registered. We especially need to know who is using the nursery so that it is adequately funded so please register even if your child is too young for a "class."

OUR THEME FOR 2009/10 YEAR IS TOOLBOX OF FAITH: THE NEXT 50 YEARS

Highlights of the new year include celebrating TUUC's 50th anniversary year, continuing the children's worship started this year (short worships designed for a targeted age group and held before RE classes start) and continuing to deepen YRE's commitment to working with the TUUC Social Action Committee and Green Sanctuaries. Possible projects for 2009/10 include the No Turning Away project that tackles homelessness; Pennies for Peace, a fund-raiser and educational project for the Central Asia Institute founded by Greg Mortensen, author of *Three Cups of Tea*; and a project that allows elementary age children to learn and help Habitat for Humanity. YRE will also be participating in the celebrations planned for TUUC's 50th anniversary. Additions to the high school program include monthly meetings for social action and socializing to link the 9th grade with the 10th-12th graders and a four-session bridging program for high school seniors.

TEACHER RECRUITMENT

Please consider teaching this coming year to have a close up view of all the exciting projects that will be happening. Contact any member of the YRE Committee or Joyce if you have questions about teaching. As you know, we have three or more teachers for each class, so that all teachers can also attend services and get weeks off. We will be having an information fair on May 17 when we hope you will stop by our table to check out new curricula and programs.

SUMMER PROGRAM

Multiage classes will be provided on June 14 and 21. The rest of the summer will have childcare only and busy boxes will be provided for children who wish to attend the service with their parents. Parents may check the website of Threshold to make sure for that Sunday topic is child-friendly.

CALENDAR FOR MAY AND JUNE

May 3 Union Sunday at First Unitarian Church of Baltimore
Spring Party for Eastside Shelter 1:30-3:30 PM

May 10 Mother's Day/Flower Communion Story for All Ages
Thank you gifts for registrations available

May 17 Thank you gifts for registrations available; RE Information Fair

May 24 Memorial Day One service only at 10:30 AM; No RE; childcare for up to age 8

May 31 Two services; RE classes

June 7 Youth Religious Exploration Sunday (will include Teacher and OWL Recognition)
YRE end of year bagel party after each service

June 14 Multiage summer program 10:30 AM only

June 21 Multiage summer program 10:30 AM only

Congratulations to Joyce

We are pleased to inform you, as Board President 2009/2010, that your congregation's religious educator, Joyce Duncan, has been accepted into the UUA Religious Education Credentialing Program. Joyce is seeking status in the program as a Credentialed Religious Educator. Her tentative program completion date is April, 2011.

The goal of the Religious Education Credentialing program is to strengthen Unitarian Universalist religious education in the congregation and the wider Association. We believe this goal will be achieved through the development and professionalization of religious educators. The Religious Education Credentialing Program will help to nurture the call to religious education as a profession,

provide a comprehensive path for up-to-date professional development, and articulate and uphold professional standards and guidelines.

To qualify for achievement of the Credentialed Religious Educator status, a candidate must submit documentation of academic (Bachelor degree or equivalent), practical training (110 hours) and professional experience, complete the requirements of a reading list, submit a statement that demonstrates the ability to articulate a personal religious philosophy or theology and a preferred pedagogy, submit recommendations from persons familiar with the participant's professional achievement, and submit a portfolio that reflects learning and professional accomplishment over 21 competency areas deemed critical for excellence in religious education leadership at the Credentialed Level. These competency areas include: anti-oppression, anti-racism, and multicultural diversity, right relations and professional ethics (including safe congregations), human and faith development, religious education resources, volunteer and conflict management, group leadership and small group ministry, learning theories and teaching methods, worship for all ages, stewardship, world religions and Jewish and Christian heritages, and history and philosophy of religious education, among others. One way that Joyce will demonstrate competency in these areas will be through a portfolio that includes, for each competency area: work samples; documentation of and reflection on academic courses, trainings, independent studies, leadership experiences in and beyond the congregation; an annotated bibliography beyond the required reading list; and a statement of scope of knowledge of the subject.

Also, a candidate must establish a relationship with a mentor through the LREDA Mentoring Program and meet (in person or by telephone) approximately monthly with the mentor while in the Religious Education Credentialing Program. Participants must have their portfolio and application materials approved (including equivalency claims) by the UUA Religious Education Credentialing Committee (RECC), as well as a ¾ hour-long presentation to and examination by the RECC. To achieve and retain their program status, all candidates and credentialed religious educators must adhere to the rules and policies established by the RECC.

We hope that you will support and celebrate Joyce as she undertakes this significant achievement, and that your congregation will be further enriched by her leadership in religious education.

Adult Religious Education

GARDASIL AND HPV VACCINATION: UNDERSTANDING THE RISKS

Friday, May 15, 2009 from 7:30 to 9 PM

Facilitators: Barbara Loe Fisher, Director of the National Vaccine Information Center; Emily Tarsell, LCPC, Member of TUUC ; Jennifer Monti, MD, public health practitioner

Learn more about Gardasil and the proposed mandatory vaccination of young women against HPV; what are the facts and what are the risks. The panelists include a national leader on vaccination risk

management, a mother and a public health practitioner. Some 20 states are moving to make Gardasil a mandatory vaccine for all middle and high school girls and young women. Come and learn more about this new intervention and what questions you need to ask for your daughters. Please register so we know the projected attendance. Call 410.825.6045 or email chruchoffice@towsonuuc.org.

ARE PROGRAM SURVEY

Take a few minutes to fill in the short program survey so we can get on with our planning for curriculum and speakers for next year ! We appreciate your ideas and suggestions but we would also appreciate your energy--we are looking for a few more people to serve on the ARE Committee for next year --planning session in May and then we meet again beginning in August. It involves a commitment of one hour for 7 meetings a year....think it over and see if you have some time and talent to assist with this vital program at TUUC ! Contact Karen ORourke, ARE Chair.

Music Notes

By Joseph Gascho, Music Director

The TUUC Choir will heartily welcome any sopranos or altos to join us for the last several weeks of the church year! Please contact music committee chair Judi Clague or music director Joseph Gascho with questions.

April's been an amazing month of music – our African music service with all those drums and the choir, the excerpts from the Prince of Egypt and Godspell on Easter and the Columbia UU jazz ensemble on April 26. I'm also looking forward to a lot of great music on May 17 as Tish Michel puts together some exciting things. In the interest of keeping things balanced, I've decided to refocus the Arts Sunday on May 24, featuring creativity as it relates to many fields of human activity, not just the arts. I'm hoping to create a unique service for many people to share experiences, and to make some spontaneous group creations with the congregation.

As always, I value your input and ideas, please feel free to contact me. We especially welcome new singers to the choir, and instrumentalists of all styles, as well.



Caring Committee

BIRTHDAYS!

See our birthday poster in the lobby? As each month comes by, all folks having a birthday in that month may sign it. The Caring Committee would like everyone's special day to be noted by friends and acquaintances. (No need to tell the year!)

USE DESIGNATED PARKING SPACES RESPONSIBLY

A request to our fellow church-goers: please do not use the disabled parking spaces unless you are truly in need. There are not enough spaces for church goers who have walking difficulties, but we are working to add more. Also, the reserved parking space has been purchased by a church member at the auction, and she is often not able to use it because someone else has parked there. She has a handicap tag, as well, and has, on occasion, had to forego attending church because she can't find a parking spot.

THANKS

Susan Seim would like to thank the church community for support of our family after the loss of Susan's mom and Eli and Henry's grandmother.

Stewardship Update **By Jason Braspenickx, chair**

All. Together. Now.

I want to thank the congregation for the more than 210 pledges we have received, which total more than \$280000 for our Stewardship Campaign. All. Together. Now. we have worked together to ensure that our next church year will be a strong one despite the economic challenges that face our community and our country. However, we still need to hear from about 40 pledging units who pledged last year. If you have not had the opportunity to send in your pledge, we really do need to hear from you as soon as possible so that we can assemble our budget for the 2009-10 church year.

To that end, I ask that you participate in our town hall meeting for the budget being held on Sunday, April 26, between services. We need to make some difficult decisions as we face a year in which we will have about \$25000 less to work with in 2009-10 than we have this year due to the decrease in our pledges. We will need everyone who has not made their pledge for this year to fulfill their promise so that we can balance our budget for this year of \$400000. Next year, we will only have about \$375000 for our budget, so some things will need to be cut from what is being spent this year. The Budget Planning Committee of Linda Talley, Paul Konka, Catherine Morris, Marilyn Maze, Karin Symonds, and myself are asking you for your assistance in determining what can be cut and what needs to be preserved so that we can function as a cohesive church community. The committee is desperately trying to avoid having to make personnel cuts that the UUA, JPD, and our other UU churches have been forced to make. Your input will really be meaningful in helping us to cope with these challenging economic times.

To those who have pledged for next year and will make themselves heard on April 26, I thank you for your commitment to TUUC.

Outreach Council
Bill & Salli Ward, co-chairs

FEEDING THE HUNGRY, THE NEED IS GREAT!

The Assistance Center of Towson Churches -ACTC is experiencing a huge increase in the number of people asking for the "homeless bags" that are handed out. This is food for people who have no way to heat and serve the food given to them. Please think of those less fortunate when you go to the grocery store, and throw in some extra cans of vegetables to be put in the food baskets every Sunday. Many hungry stomachs will thank you.

CASSEROLES FOR OUR DAILY BREAD ARE DUE BY MAY 30TH.

You can make or buy a casseroles and bring to TUUC anytime before 8:30am on Sat. May 30th. There are two large freezers in the closet near the choir risers. Recipes and pans are available on the counter in the foyer. Please help!

ALTERNATIVE GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE FOR MOTHERS' DAY

Does your mom have more "stuff" than she needs? Would making a donation to help those less fortunate bring a smile to her face? Stop by the table in the foyer between services to see some beautiful cards that will make any mother proud, and do a "good deed" at the same time.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

TUUC volunteers were there to help on the first week of the United Churches Habitat project. But we particularly need volunteers on during the week for the remainder of April to begin rehab work on the rowhouse on Ward St. in Baltimore.

Volunteers can sign up to work on a first-come, first-served basis Tues. through Fri. TUUC also has been assigned 4 volunteer slots on Saturday, May 16th and Jun 27th. Volunteers from any church can work on Sat., May 30th and June 13th. Every Sat. there are 2 volunteer slots open on a first-come, first-served basis. You must register on-line at <http://www.chesapeakehfh.org/> or call Jayna Powell at Chesapeake Habitat for Humanity (410-366-1250) to volunteer. Please contact Catherine Morris (see directory for contact information) for more information.

A BUSY MONTH FOR BANNER READING CLUB



On Monday, March 30, three volunteers from the UU Congregation of Columbia arranged an Easter egg hunt, egg and cake decorating, cake and ice cream, topped off by take-home Easter baskets filled with personal hygiene items. On April 1, organizer Lillian Drumgold asked spelling and geography questions. The reward for a correct answer was the choice of an egg containing a number matched to a prize. Following spring break, AmeriCorp volunteers introduced students to the history and activities of the

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and sponsored an art activity--painting jars to be used for collecting donations during the March for the Animals. And on April 17, Banner's other organizer, Eric Imhof, got the Art Club students involved in turning soil for the garden, decorating flower pots, and starting seedlings indoors. We'll be trying to involve both Reading and Art Club students in the gardening activities. The Green Sanctuary Committee would have been pleased to see the introductory discussion comparing the route food takes from commercial farm to table in contrast to our own gardens to our tables. Contact Betty Lou Anderson if you would like to volunteer.

Green Sanctuary Committee

By Carel Hedlund, chair

TUUC Is An Accredited Green Sanctuary! You may remember that, back in January, the Congregation voted to submit TUUC's accreditation application to become a Green Sanctuary. Based on the work the congregation has done over the past 2+ years, the UUA recognized TUUC as an Accredited Green Sanctuary at the end of March. Here is some of what the UUA said in their recognition letter:

"You have succeeded in integrating the Green Sanctuary program goals into the ongoing life of your congregation through the many projects you have carried out. Your application offers strong evidence of the positive environmental consciousness that has developed in your congregation, resulting in new behaviors and new lifestyle choices by members individually and by the congregation as a whole. You now have a great foundation for continuing action in the future. We were especially inspired your idea to plant a seed rather than light a candle, going beyond the Green Sanctuary Program requirements and doing additional projects, and your engagement in the Congregational Study Action Issue (CSAI) on Ethical Eating."

Thanks to everyone in the congregation for supporting the work we have done thus far. But the work is not done - it is just part on an on-going process as we continue to "green" TUUC, help our members to green their lives, and to work in the wider community to foster economic justice for all.

Upcoming events

GAME NIGHT

SAVE THE DATE! The Tuesday evening Chalice Circle group ("Naked Mole Rats") will be hosting a family game night on Saturday, May 16, at TUUC from 7 PM to 11 PM. All kinds of games will be available for kids of all ages. 50/50 Raffles will be held all night. The cost of admission is an appetizer.

EVENING BOOK GROUP – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1 @ 7:30 PM

The Evening Book Group will meet to discuss *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga. This darkly comic novel, winner of the Man Booker Prize, tells the story of the transformation of the narrator from an honest, hardworking boy growing up in rural India to a determined killer, with a sardonic voice and acute observations of the social order that are both winning and unsettling. All are welcome! On May 6, we'll meet to discuss *Dreams From My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance* by Barack Obama. Please call Mike Robinson at number in directory if you have any questions.

ANITA GREGORY BOOK GROUP – TUESDAY, MAY 5 @ 2 PM

Join us for *Dewey the Library Cat* by Vicki Myron, a New York Times best seller. This is an amazing true story about a lovable cat. Come join us for a good discussion.

TREASURE HUNT MAY 30TH - GO FOR THE GOLD!

Mark your calendars for May 30th, and get ready for an event of Olympic proportions—the TUUC Treasure Hunt. What's the hunt? It's a race that starts at church and finishes at a mystery dinner destination which involves puzzle solving, team building and tons-o-fun! This year it's leaner and greener with more affordable pricing and less driving! So round up some friends (or ask the Treasure Hunt planners for help putting a team together) and register in the lobby, or by contacting Amy and **Greg Koren**, or by emailing treasurehunt@towsonuuc.org. This year's Treasure Hunt planners are **Noah Parker** and **Ann Ciekot**.

Wider Connections

ETHICAL INVESTING

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ) is urging UU's to reserve Saturday, May 9, 9 am to 5 pm at All Souls Unitarian in Washington, DC for "Money, Values and Impact: A Conference on Ethical Investing for UU Congregations." Join nationally prominent UU leaders and socially responsible investing experts to explore how your congregation can do well by doing good. Learn about opportunities to help build a more "green" and just economy while making sound financial moves in difficult times. Explore investment vehicles, exemplary practices and policies, and strategy options. Equip yourself with the knowledge and resources needed to align your congregation's financial management practices with Unitarian Universalist social and environmental justice principles. Come away with new tools and insights about how to enhance your congregation's financial standing and justice ministries. Workshops will be geared to meet the needs of participants who want to know the basics as well as to those who want more intermediate-to-advanced discussion and information. For more information and registration, go to www.jpduua.org.

FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (UUSJ)

Save the date! Help your congregation move forward on issues of environmental justice, non-violent communication, group service trips near and far, and ethical eating. Presentations and sharing of best practices on these will take place at the UUs for Social Justice gathering, Saturday, May 30, from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Washington Ethical Society (near DC/Silver Spring line). A UUSJ board meeting will follow the programming.

FAMILY GET-A-WAYS AT MURRAY GROVE – GET BACK TO SIMPLICITY!

Enjoy a mini-vacation at your Mid-Atlantic UU retreat center in the peaceful NJ Pine Barrens, on the site where Universalism began: available mid-weeks; comfortable and affordable; fun: pool (in season), athletic fields, nature walks, barbeques, fire circle; near beaches, boardwalks, Six Flags, canoeing, restaurants and park For more information go to murraygrove.org or call 609-693-5558.

Among ourselves

Mary-Ellen Haitfield-Wolfe defended her PhD dissertation at Johns Hopkins on March 31 and is now Dr. Mary-Ellen Haitfield-Wolfe! CONGRATULATIONS Mary Ellen!

The 6th Edition of **Bill Reichel's** book *Reichel's Care of the Elderly* was released for publication in February under Cambridge University Press. The 1st Edition was published in 1978. Bill is currently an Affiliated Scholar, Center for Clinical Bioethics, Georgetown University School of Medicine. He is Past President of the American Geriatrics Society, and in 2007, he was named one of five Pioneers in Geriatric Medicine. One of the more than 80 contributors to the book is also a TUUC member, Len Proctor, who co-authored the chapter "Ear, Nose and Throat Problems in the Elderly".

A bridging ceremony was held on April 19 during the second service for our five high school seniors -- **Max Koren, C.J. Cassisi, Nathan Shane, Ben Mackey and Josh Brynes**. These young men should make us all proud that that the UU religious education we provided and our church home has played a part in the terrific human beings that they are.



(left to right – Nathan Shane, Ben Mackey, CJ Casissi. Not shown Max Koren and Josh Brynes.)

Book Nook

OUR FIRST EVER BOOK NOOK COOK BOOK SALE

May 10th - Mothers' Day. The only stipulation is that cook books must be in very good to excellent condition, (no signs of heavy use, please). You can bring books in during the week as well as on forthcoming Sundays, in boxes or bags with your name & contact info so we can thank you. To avoid any implication of sexism on the choice of date, we suggest to Mothers that this is a great opportunity to buy gifts for Father's Day!

COOK BOOK RAFFLE

These unique books will be raffled off on Sunday May 10. Raffle tickets and the cookbooks will be on sale for \$1.00 in the Lobby each Sunday through May 10 when the winner will be declared. Tickets can also be bought at the office during the week. All Book Nook proceeds, currently at \$1,950 for this church year, are re-gifted to TUUC.

The Unitarian Universalist Cookbook of MEATS including Seafood & Pastry

(1969): 1,000 Favorite Recipes both American and 'Foreign', submitted by UU Women. Make taste buds tingle with 'Unbounded Zeal', 'Poulet Du Cloister', 'Bell Telephone Spareribs' and the ever-popular 'Liver Pudding'.

The Cranks Vegetarian Recipe Book'

(1982) Cranks, sadly now closed, was one of the first, and definitely the most popular Vegetarian restaurant in Swinging London. Special favorites include Carrot Mayonnaise and Bread & Butter Pudding

Liberal Servings #2

(1997) The 2nd volume of favorite recipes submitted by TUUCers. Every one a 'Yum'!

Prime Towson Location for Lease

Please help us rent our church during unoccupied times. Approximately 4900 square feet of space available for lease. It is perfect for a pre-school or other non-profit educational or service related program for children or adults. There is a small playground on the premises which will be receiving new playground equipment and new landscaping in the near future. We have an area of picnic tables and an outdoor grill in our Grove which may be used as well for outside activities.

Please contact 410-825-6045 for more details or visit our website at www.towsonuuc.org.

MAY 2009 Calendar <http://my.calendars.net/towsonuuc>

May 1	Friday	Men's Breakfast Group 8:30 AM Caring Committee 10 AM
May 3	Sunday	UNION SUNDAY – TUUC CLOSED
May 4	Monday	Chalice Circle 3 PM Meditation Group 7:15 PM Chalice Circle 7:30 PM
May 5	Tuesday	Anita Gregory Book Group 2 PM Operations Team Meeting 7:30 PM Chalice Circle 7:30 PM
May 6	Wednesday	ARE Committee Meeting 7 PM
May 7	Thursday	Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Chalice Circle 7:30 PM
May 9	Saturday	Chalice Circle End of Year Picnic 5 PM
May 10	Sunday	Gallery Unicorn Reception 2 PM Book Nook Cookbook Sale
May 11	Monday	Meditation Group 7:15 PM
May 12	Tuesday	Board Meeting 7:30 PM
May 13	Wednesday	Improv Group 7 PM
May 14	Thursday	Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM YRE Committee Meeting 7:30 PM
May 15	Friday	Men's Breakfast Group 8:30 AM ARE Program 7 PM
May 16	Saturday	Game Night 6:30 PM
May 17	Sunday	Social Action Committee 10:30 AM
May 18	Monday	Chalice Circle 3 PM Meditation Group 7:15 PM Chalice Circle 7:30 PM
May 19	Tuesday	Chalice Circle 7:30 PM
May 20	Wednesday	Worship Program Associates 7 PM ARE Program 7:30 PM
May 21	Thursday	Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Chalice Circle 7:30 PM
May 22	Friday	House Concert 7 PM
May 24	Sunday	ONE SERVICE @ 10:30 AM 4 th at 4 Storytelling 4 PM
May 25	Monday	MEMORIAL DAY – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
May 26	Tuesday	PFLAG 7:30 PM
May 27	Wednesday	Women's Breakfast Group 8:30 AM
May 28	Thursday	Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM
May 30	Saturday	Treasure Hunt 1 PM

Our Minister

Reverend Clare L. Petersberger
revclare@towsonuuc.org

Our Leadership

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