

# THE THRESHOLD



## Towson Unitarian Universalist Church

A Welcoming Congregation

[www.towsonuuc.org](http://www.towsonuuc.org)

Lutherville, Maryland

October 2011

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# Upcoming Services

**October 2**

**9:30 and 11:15 AM**

***Your Jonah Has Cooked Long Enough In The Whale!***

**Rev. Clare Petersberger, Joyce Duncan, Joseph Gascho, The TUUC Choir**

We are in the midst of the Jewish High Holy Days. Next Friday, Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement will be observed. The Book of Jonah will be read in synagogues. Why Jonah? What can we learn from this reluctant prophet about repentance and redemption in our own lives?

**October 9**

**9:30 and 11:15 AM**

***The Economy And Faith***

**Rev. Clare Petersberger**

The headlines for the past several months have been filled with news about the economy: the 9% of Americans who cannot find jobs; the delay in cutting our national budget deficit; the proposed Buffet tax on the American millionaires. Implicit in these conversations is the understanding that budgets are moral documents reflecting our deepest values; that the unemployment rate is not just about numbers, but about human beings; and that our current tax system is not serving the common good. How might our Unitarian Universalist values inform our understanding of the current economic crisis?

**October 16**

**9:30 and 11:15 AM**

**Worship Associate's Sunday**

***In Praise of Paganism***

**Tara McIntyre and Karyn Marsh**

**October 23**

**9:30 and 11:15 AM**

***Stone Soup: Putting Our Faith In Action***

**Rev. Clare Petersberger and TUUC's Social Action Committee**

This morning, in honor of our social action ministry, we will share the story of "Stone Soup." How will we make soup from a stone, a pot, and some water? The magic will happen if you bring a potato, or a carrot, or a stick of celery, or a cabbage. Also, a second collection will be taken to support our social action ministry in the coming year. Plan to stay for a lunch of stone soup, hosted by TUUC's Social Action Committee, after reflecting on how, by putting our faith in action, and serving the wider community, we discover spiritual nourishment.

**October 30**

**9:30 and 11:15 AM**

***Life: When You Know There's Not Much Left***

**Rev. Clare Petersberger**

This is the week when our ancestors remembered the dead and sought to divine the future. They believed that during these days at the end of October and the beginning of November, the veil between the world of the living and the world of the dead was thinnest and could be crossed. In July, Dudley Clendinen wrote an editorial about living with Lou Gehrig's disease. His story is a reminder that we always live between life and death. Facing his limits, Clendinen identified what gives his life purpose, his reasons for being. In so doing, he invites us to do the same.

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## Clare's Colloquy

### **Rev. Clare Petersberger**



For those who could not attend our September 11<sup>th</sup> worship services, we closed by sharing cards upon which we had written or drawn what sustains us through the shaking of the foundations. And we sang "We are building a new way, growing stronger every day."

We are, indeed, building a new way, at TUUC. We have renovated our downstairs space in order to welcome The Auburn School. Heartfelt thanks to Mike Robinson, who first interviewed the Auburn School; to Melissa Reuland who carried this project forward and learned more about permits than she ever wanted to know; to Kevin Mayhew, our contractor, extraordinaire, and his round-the-clock crew; to Mickie Grover, Joyce Duncan and Joe Ellis for their vision, muscles, and plain hard work; and to the Board of Directors—especially to Marilyn Maze and Paul Konka—for their leadership to fund and their oversight on the completion of this project!

Part of building a new way is learning, or re-learning, to share. This summer, my two-year-old nephew delighted in the story of four bears, who each sat on their own chairs, until a big brown bear arrived and gave them a stare! Then they had to figure out how to adjust to having only four chairs for five bears. Here at TUUC, we, too, are going through a time of adjustment as we build a new way. After the September 18<sup>th</sup> worship service, one member of the Coming Of Age class lamented that the chairs in the classroom were too small. This was because they were for our 9:30 pre-school class. I assured this student that we are working on getting larger, padded chairs, for downstairs. For their part, the 27 Youth Group students are thrilled to have more couches in a new and larger space! Like the five bears, we are building a new way through our choice to share.

The worship services in October reflect our desire to build, together, in a new way from honoring the Jewish New Year, to celebrating our ability to make a new community by putting our faith in action. Whether you participate in the first daytime Chalice Circle in many years or in the orientation program for new and prospective members; whether you are teaching in our Youth Religious Exploration program or singing with the Choir for the first time; whether the changing season draws you to TUUC to rake or to Washington DC for the October 6<sup>th</sup> rally for progressives, may you, too, "feel stronger every day" because at TUUC, we are truly building a new way.

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## President's Missive

### **Melissa Reuland**



For many of us, completing our list of tasks can seem never-ending. This is why it is so important to acknowledge when we can check something off our list! We can officially check off getting a new rental—we passed all of the inspections with flying colors and welcomed Auburn School for their first say on September 12<sup>th</sup>. This was a true collaboration between staff, skilled crew and TUUC volunteers.

The Board met on September 15<sup>th</sup> to review our goals for this year so we can continue the trend of checking things off our list! We plan to focus our energies on several of the goals from the strategic plan: increasing our memberships' growth and diversity; establishing safe congregations' policies; and developing a path to lay leadership. Each board member is being asked to take the lead on one initiative for the year and we will report to you on our ongoing progress in this publication, and at Congregational Meetings and Congregational Conversations (yet to be scheduled).

For now, we enjoy the crisp air, the (mostly) dry conditions and the promises of fall. I will be busy squiring my children to and from various field hockey practices and games, traveling out of state a bit for work, and enjoying the community we all share at TUUC. Please never hesitate to contact me with any questions—my email is always open!

## Youth Religious Exploration

**Joyce Duncan, director**



**Classes have started in our newly renovated rooms!** Teachers and children are getting to know each other. Remember that regular attendance will greatly help your child to become part of his or her class and part of our church community. Stay in touch by talking to teachers and checking email updates regularly. Some children jump right in; other may show resistance to church attendance if this is new to your family. Think about why church is important for you and your family so that you will be ready when your child asks! Another good strategy is to plan a simple social event with another family; going out for lunch or visiting a playground after church are easy ways for children and adults to get to know each other without stress.

**New ARE class on Hebrew Bible** Teachers appreciated the insight gained into the Hebrew Bible gained at the teacher training and requested time for more in-depth learning on this topic. Rev. Clare and I will be suggesting possible dates so we can offer this to those who are teaching YRE classes and any other interested members and friends.

**Thank you!** I thank all the teachers and YRE Committee members who attended and helped with the teacher orientation and the first day of YRE. Many of those same folks, plus other TUUCers, helped us prepare the downstairs area after all the changes due to construction. A lot of work was accomplished in a very short time—thanks again!

We are planning **our annual YRE car wash fundraiser for Sunday, October 9**. Children and teens in most classes wash cars for a small donation during both church services. Please help us out that day by parking near the YRE entrance only if you would like your car washed. If not, we invite you to park on the other side. More details and reminders will come near the day of the event.

### **Halloween Party alert!**

The Korens are taking a well-deserved break this year from planning the Halloween party. We thank them for so many years of awesome parties with games and fun for TUUC members and friends of all ages. If you would like to help this tradition continue, please volunteer to help make it happen. Please contact the office with your name and best ways to be reached.

## Notes



**Joseph Gascho, music director**



Oct 2: TUUC Choir and Joseph Gascho, piano

Oct 9: TBA

Oct 16: Spice Kleinmann, voice and guitar; Joseph Gascho, piano

Oct 23: TUUC Choir and Joseph Gascho, piano

Oct 30: Joseph Gascho, piano and friends

Although we had to postpone our opening hymn sing service due to a hurricane, the rest of September has had some wonderful music-making. Special thanks to Naomi Sinn for her wonderful singing and the choir's beautiful participation in the 9/11 service. It was really a memorable day. By

the time you read this, we will have welcomed the playing of Robin Wilson, along with RE Director Joyce Duncan on fiddle and her husband Tom Zeller on guitar, for the September 25<sup>th</sup> service.

I've enjoyed meeting some new people after services and look forward to some new faces in choir this year. Please touch base with me if you interested to try out singing or playing another instrument. I'm finally putting in some time on the music we recorded last fall. Thanks to Andy Peterson's expertise and hard work, and with Paul Azzam helping on the graphic design front, we hope to release this awesome CD before the holidays.

Speaking of CDs, I just finished recording my own solo CD last month, and look forward to having that finished as soon as possible, too. Thanks to many of you who helped back that project on [www.kickstarter.com](http://www.kickstarter.com)!

It's going to be a busy fall for me—I have concerts at the Smithsonian and in New York, along with playing for Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* and a contemporary music concert at the University of Maryland. I'm also producing a recording at the Library of Congress for the Folger Consort, which should be a lot of fun.

Our special music service will be Sunday, November 13, focusing on "The Sacred Bridge," connections between traditional Jewish and Christian music.

As always, I enjoying hearing you sing Sunday mornings and encourage you to keep doing it more and more!

## Words, Words, Words

**Mickie Grover, church administrator**



Even if something is left undone,  
everyone must take time to sit still and watch the leaves turn.  
– Elizabeth Lawrence

Ah! Fall! I do not like hot weather and breathe a sigh of relief when October looms on the horizon—despite the allergies that appear with the autumnal equinox.

I don't mind winter and snow except for the fact that Baltimore City does not plow my street—not once last year and not once during the record blizzards of the year before. I don't hold out hope for this winter. Spring is lovely but promises the heat to come. Did I mention that I do not like hot weather?

Fall is the time we face various new beginnings. For example, the new church year begins and schools open. This year at TUUC we have both. The Building Inspector, the Fire Marshall, the Health Inspector, and the Board of Education—in that order—signed-off on our downstairs construction. YES! Auburn School opened for classes on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

We will all face adjustments as the downstairs is now occupied from 8 AM to 6 PM, Monday through Friday. TUUC has entered into a lease with the Auburn School and as members, friends, and representatives of TUUC we are bound by that agreement as are all the Auburn School people.

In addition, we at TUUC are called to uphold our principles even within and beyond the strictures of a legal agreement. I'm sure you all have the seven principles on the tip of your tongue, but while all of them have relevance in this situation I will just mention the first two: *The inherent worth and dignity of every person*; and *Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations*. Those should get us through any perceived or real conflicts that arise in this new situation. (Really, I think the first covers almost every situation in life, but that's, as they say, just me.)

Now to shift from the theoretical to the practical: The downstairs space is, in effect, off-limits during the week, from 8 – 6. If you are here during that time, enter through the front door. If you are here during that time, please use the facilities (I love euphemisms) in the office—the downstairs bathrooms

are for the use of Auburn staff and students from 8 – 6, Monday – Friday. If you need to have access to the RE space during the lease hours, please contact me or Joyce Duncan so we can arrange it.

Auburn School will put away its “stuff” on Friday night. TUUC will put it back on Sunday night. The storage closets have been divided in half—TUUC has the left-hand side and Auburn the right. We will have meetings downstairs during the week and, of course, on weekends—please respect Auburn’s property. Do not use their belongings. If you move furniture, put it back. Please clean-up after meetings.

As I’ve said to anyone who’s asked (and as a warning I will here mention *The Ancient Mariner*—my favorite poem when I was fifteen) the first few weeks or even months will be a bumpy ride. (From Coleridge to Betty Davis in a single sentence—such are the vagaries of my monkey mind.) Sharing space always poses problems. Margi Hoffman, Head of School, and I meet once a week to discuss any issues that arise. If you have any suggestions, or problems, please contact me.

And now for something completely different (Coleridge, Betty Davis, and now Monty Python—when will it end?)—and rather more somber.

As much as I love the fall with its changing palette and cooler days and nights, it is a time of endings and death. In northern climes the last of the harvests are gathered, houses are “snugged” (as we said in my childhood New England) for the coming winter, and at the end of October and the beginning of November we “celebrate” our mortality with Halloween, the Day of the Dead, All Souls Day. — My father died on a long ago October day and, inadvertently, we held the funeral on Halloween—was that totally appropriate or totally inappropriate? My father would have appreciated it in any case.

This September my partner Kathryn’s mother died and we have been rather caught up in all the details that a death entails. Agnes was ninety-six and had been “failing” for some time. She died in hospice care and for that we are grateful. She was loving to me and for that I am grateful.

We found out recently that two of our friends from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura (our first UU church) died. And here, at TUUC on October 8<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the life of our dear Jay Cherry who always made me smile—and usually laugh—when he dropped by the office.

So today, on a lovely, gray fall day with the leaves just beginning to turn colors according to their kind, I say to you *memento mori*. Whatever else you have to do, “take time to sit still and watch the leaves turn.” What could be more important?

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## Wise Gardening & Pest Management

### *Louise Harmony*



For September’s Work Party, two people came. Recommendation: It may be time to consider hiring contractors to do the regular maintenance, IF enthusiasm for garden maintenance is waning. **Weed management is essential to keep the church grounds looking good.** I will send recommendations to Jason and Melissa.

Thank you Betty Lou Anderson and Tom Farrell. Betty and I weeded the front right bed and some of the pachysandra bed and Tom blew leaves and debris off the driveway.

The erosion control measure I thought might work for the front right bed, seems to be working well. With all the rain we had, there was only a little mud on the right side of the sidewalk leading to the downstairs entrance. I removed the mud.

The pachysandra bed is full of weeds again. It appears that there is not enough volunteer energy to keep this bed up. I recommend taking out the bed and replacing it with terracing down the hill. The terraces would have crushed rock over landscape cloth and IF (repeat if) any plants were planted on the terraced hill, they would be spaced so there was 6-8 feet between each plant when it MATURES. Best to have no plants as plants take maintenance. Maintenance would consist of spraying Round

Up on any weed that poked its head above the stone. Crushed stone comes in all different colors, depending on how much money you want to spend.

Melissa Rueland, President of TUUC, has given me the go ahead to remove the leaning tree in the pachysandra bed, the limb of the tree that is overhanging the playground, the dead limbs of the weeping Cherry tree in the front right bed, and the partially cut limb of the Sycamore tree in the circle near the church entrance. I will be following up on this as soon as I have time. Estimate for removing the leaning tree in the pachysandra bed was about \$700 last February.

Jason Hauf is in the process of designing an Accident Incident Reporting System. This task is in process.

The Green Sanctuary Committee has OK'd a \$200 expense to have the forest part of the church property evaluated by a Forester, who will produce a report telling us how to best manage the forest (Woodland Assessment). This evaluation is the first step in figuring out if the church qualifies for state and/or federal money to help manage the forest. Three people from the Green Sanctuary Committee (Carel Hedlund, Maxine Saunders and Janet Schollenberger) and I attended the two hour workshop "Managing Invasive Plants in your Woods", facilitated by Craig Highfield of Forestry for the Bay. The State Forester presenter mentioned that the Woodlands Assessment could also include information about how to manage our land to protect the stream that runs to the reservoir. This will be a multi-year project that will evolve as more information is gathered.

In terms of grounds, we are a church on the move!!

## Upcoming Events

### Evening Book Group – Wednesday, October 5, 7:30 PM

We'll meet to discuss *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett. Set in the Amazon, a pharmaceutical researcher sets off to find a former mentor, and along the way must face her own disappointments and regrets, along with the jungle's unforgiving humidity and insects. "*State of Wonder* is a world unto itself, where unlikely beauty stands beside unimaginable loss. It is a tale that leads the reader into the very heart of darkness, and then shows us what lies on the other side" (Amazon). For November 2nd, we'll be discussing *Let the Great World Spin: A Novel* by Colum McCann. Contact Carel Hedlund (info in directory) if any questions.

### "Tuesday Night Angels" – Sunday, October 9, 3 PM

TUUC will be presenting "Tuesday Night Angels", a benefit for the Maryland Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure®, on Sunday, October 9 at 3 PM in the main hall of TUUC. "Tuesday Night Angels" is a dramatic presentation of the writings of a breast cancer group, who discovered the power of their own voices within the cancer experience through creative writing, journaling and theater. Suggested donation of \$15.

### Philosophy Bites – Monday, October 10, 7:30 PM

Philosophy Bites monthly meeting is October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at the home of PB facilitator Peter Talley (431 Old Trail in Rodgers Forge near Towson University). Discussions this fall center on Harvard University professor Michael Sandel's lecture series on "Justice"—an introduction to moral and political philosophy. Come and discover why hundreds of students pack Harvard's lecture hall for this course. Newcomers are welcome. Peter's contact information is in the TUUC directory.

## **What Does It Mean To Be A Unitarian Universalist?**

**Wednesdays, October 12 to November 16, 7:30-9 PM**

*Led by Rev. Clare Petersberger and TUUC Member Jan Chapin*

This curriculum, from the Unitarian Universalist Association, helps newcomers and long-timers probe the breadth and depth of our faith tradition. Topics to be explored include:

- Theology and Worship
- Where Do We Come From? Unitarian Universalist Roots
- How We Grow in Faith—Philosophy of Religious Education
- Social Justice Philosophy and Practice
- How Are Decisions Made? Governance and Polity
- Membership

If you would like to participate, please register with the church office so we know how many handouts to prepare.

## **Aging Together Group – Tuesday, October 18, 1 PM**

The Aging Together group will meet at the church at 1 PM on Tuesday, October 18. The topic for discussion is "Influences in our lives: past and present". All are welcome. Call Joan Kolobielski, listed in the directory, if you have questions or suggestions.

## **TUUC Singles Potluck – Saturday, October 22, 6 PM**

Saturday, October 22 at 6 PM. Come join us for food, fun and friendship. Our host for the event will be Joseph Whitehill. To RSVP and to get directions, call Joe. He is listed in the church directory.

## **Blood Drive – Saturday, November 5**

Working with the American Red Cross, we've scheduled Saturday, November 5, 2011 for the next TUUC Blood Drive. Our last three blood drives were very successful, with nearly 100 participants, and it would be wonderful to continue to have such good participation from our members and friends. With November 5<sup>th</sup> coming up fast, please check your calendar and consider donating blood at our drive. We'll soon set up our appointment sign-up sheet in the church lobby, so please look for it and stop by and pick an appointment time between 9 AM and 3 PM. Please contact Barry Marsh if you'd like to help organize the drive. Give the Gift of Life - Give Blood!

## **Gallery Unicorn**

Gallery Unicorn is pleased to present "Painting Perspectives", featuring Elizabeth Burin, Elizabeth Cadwalader and Linda Offit. The artists are members of the Women's Artist Forum. The exhibition will run through October 23.

# TUUC's People to People Auction – Saturday, November 19!



TUUC's People to People Auction is Saturday, November 19. The Auction is TUUC's annual fundraiser to provide income for special project expenses, outside the normal operating budget. Proceeds from recent auctions have upgraded the sound system, given us new front doors and paid for the new playground.

Many of the Auction donations give TUUC members and friends a wonderful chance to get to know one another by sharing meals at purchased suppers, spending time together on hikes or bikes, or just settling in for a night of bridge or board games. It's all meant to be fun and to raise some extra dollars for TUUC.

Auction evening starts with a potluck supper at 5 PM. Bring food to share, enjoy a meal and browse the sign-up and silent auction items. You'll want to check out this year's new "Buy It Now" table. Get your bidding paddle ready for the live auction which starts at 6:30 PM. A special children's auction will be held at 6:15 PM and child-care will be provided for the evening.

Donations are being solicited now and items are needed for the voice auction, sign-up events and the ever popular treasure tables of the silent auction. Please stop by the Auction table in the foyer after Sunday services; click [HERE](#) to visit the TUUC website to fill out a donation form; or answer the phone when a fellow TUUC member calls to ask for your support. The deadline for donations is October 23. Auction booklets will be distributed to all TUUC households by the first week of November.

The success of the TUUC Auction depends on all of us participating in some way. So make a donation and then plan to join in the fun on Saturday, November 19. Don't miss it!

## Renovations & Congregational Finances

By Marilyn Maze, Treasurer

At the special meeting of the congregation on August 14, the congregation approved a motion to allow the church to borrow up to \$150,000 to pay off the existing mortgage and pay for the renovations which made our RE area safer, gave us disability-accessible bathrooms, and enabled us to earn an Educational Institution Permit so that we can now rent to a school. At the same meeting, the congregation agreed to accept loans from members in increments of \$10,000 at 4.5% interest rate for 8 years. Long-term members remembered an earlier time (1962) when the purchase of the first parcel of land was financed using a similar process at the same interest rate.

According to the published procedure, we planned to accept one increment from each volunteer before accepting additional increments from anyone. On the deadline one week later, we had received 15 offers and we believed we needed \$140,000. So 14 members each lent \$10,000 and one member agreed to be a backup lender. Our previous mortgage, which had only two years left, was paid off for \$23,500.

We are very grateful for the confidence of the members who invested in TUUC. It is difficult to know if they are sacrificing for the church, or making a sound financial investment. While 4.5% interest is very modest, in these times of wild stock market fluctuations, it has some appeal. But a couple of years from now, it may not sound so attractive. Over the eight year life of this loan, we will spend just under \$37,000 on interest. Clearly, the church saved a great deal by borrowing from members. The only other offer we received was for 8.5% interest (a cost of \$63,500 for interest) and the bank was

considering charging us 6.5% plus points. For the church, this loan is equivalent to a mortgage and the Board takes it just as seriously as a bank loan.

The Educational Institute Permit allowed the Auburn School to open on September 12, and the school is now paying us \$48,000 a year in rent. We have spent most of the \$140,000, but we still have one more wall to build for our RE program and some other minor issues to address. We are optimistic that we can cover these additional needs without asking for the last \$10,000 increment. This loan will cost TUUC \$21,000 a year in principal and interest, (compared to our previous \$12,500 annual mortgage payments). We are looking forward to a long relationship with the Auburn School, but the Educational Institution Permit will allow us to rent to another school if the Auburn School outgrows our space.

Thank you to everyone who made this important step possible.

## Green Sanctuary Committee

Pre-orders for mini fair trade chocolate bars for Halloween will be taken through October 2. Look for the order form in the lobby during coffee hour to place an order, or contact Samantha Saalfield at the email in the directory. \$5 for 25 pieces, \$4 for each additional 25. Additional chocolate may be available to purchase in the weeks before Halloween, for those who have not placed orders.

The campaign for offshore wind power in Maryland continues, focusing on specific Maryland lawmakers who may be pivotal for winning approval of the necessary legislation. Go to <http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org> or contact [keith@chesapeakeclimate.org](mailto:keith@chesapeakeclimate.org) for information about volunteering with the Chesapeake Climate Action Network.

We are still looking for members who are interested in improving their homes' energy efficiency. One of the Green Sanctuary members, trained by Chesapeake Covenant group, will come into your home and suggest steps you can take to make your home more efficient. This effort is being funded by a grant from the Baltimore Office of Sustainability, so we are particularly looking for members who live in Baltimore City. However, we would be happy to help interested County residents as well! If you, or someone you know, are interested, please contact Samantha Saalfield and we'll add you to the list!

Contact Samantha Saalfield if you would like to be added to the Green Sanctuary email list. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, October 9, and the next fair trade coffee sale (\$12/pound) will be October 16.

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## Outreach Council

***Salli Ward, council head***



### Feeding the Hungry

October has a 5th Saturday, so TUUC has promised to deliver AT LEAST 60 casseroles to feed the many hungry men, women and children that come daily to Our Daily Bread. YOU are needed to make a difference! Please sign up to make a casserole from the many recipes on the counter, buy a party-size Stouffer's Mac&Cheese casserole, or donate \$10 for a casserole to be purchased in your name. The sign-up poster, pans, and recipes are on the counter in the foyer. Frozen casseroles are due at TUUC

by 8:30 AM on Saturday, October 29. Your casserole(s) can be brought in ahead of time and stored in the freezers in the closet near the choir area. Thanks for all YOU do to make a difference in our community.

## **Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake –TUUC**

Our Vision: A world in which everyone has a decent place to live. <http://habitat Chesapeake.org>

**Construction on Saturday October 29:** TUUC has committed to send four volunteers for finishing work in a Jefferson Street house. No skills required and heavy work will not be involved. Minimum age to volunteer is 16.

### **Building on Faith Weekend–October 22-23**

A chance for Habitat's faith partners to meet, work side by side, learn about what each other is doing and CELEBRATE! 200 faith partners of all ages are expected to attend.

TUUC is participating for a half-day of volunteering and learning at the Habitat Headquarters in Arbutus. Sign up and indicate your best time slot—Saturday AM or PM or Sunday PM—and we will commit to the most popular time.

Youth Service Saturday/Sunday - Youth ages 5-15 will participate in hands-on learning about advocacy, service and fundraising training at the Habitat headquarters.

Assembling Habitat Kits - All participants and faith partners are invited to collect items for the kits and bring them either morning.

Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake Warehouse & Offices - We always need re-organizing and this is the perfect opportunity!

A sign-up sheet will be available between services or contact Shelia Malenski, TUUC's Habitat coordinator; her info is in the TUUC directory.

## **UUSJ 2011 Awards Benefit Gala – October 23, 5:30 PM**

La Panetteria  
4921 Cordell Avenue  
Bethesda, MD 20814

Appetizers and a three-course-dinner. Free parking. Contact Rev. Cyn Snavely at [info@uusj.org](mailto:info@uusj.org) or 301-588-1951. Tickets are \$75.00. The Fourth Annual Social Justice Awards Benefit Gala feeds the UUSJ Collaborative Fund, another way to meeting our goal of increasing the frequency, impact and visibility of UU collaborative efforts in the region. The UUSJ Collaborative Fund is a grant program promoting cooperation to enhance the impact of social justice endeavors among congregations, organizations and individuals.

## **Banner Reading Club Begins Fall Session September 12**

The fall session of the after-school Reading Club began September 12. Children, ages 5-12, come to the Banner Neighborhood Community Corporation Center at 2900 E. Fayette Street in Baltimore City from 3-4:45 PM on Mondays and Wednesdays for a snack, homework help and/or reading, journal writing, and games. Periodically, on days off from school, students take special trips. Volunteers are needed Monday and/or Wednesday. If you have some special talent that you would like to share with students such as leading songs, storytelling, etc. please let us know. Contact Betty Lou Anderson or [socialaction@towsonuuc.org](mailto:socialaction@towsonuuc.org) if you can help.

## **ACTC (Assistance Center of Towson Churches) Report**

First and most important—Thanks for your continuing donations!

ACTC continues to be very busy. There are increased requests for food and rent and utility assistance. On the bright side donations are increasing. Ukazoo Used Books in Towson has offered a free book for every three cans of food. ACTC has received ten big boxes of canned food thus far.

This is the time of the year that I ask for volunteers to help at the center and/or to help pack lunch bags for the homeless at church once a month. Volunteers bring the food and help pack the bags. If you are interested in helping with either of these things please call me. I will give you information and get you started. –Sue Shankroff

## Celebrate Community Service – Sunday, October 23

*“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”* Mahatma Gandhi  
Join us on Sunday October 23 as TUUC celebrates community service, demonstrating how feeding others feeds our souls. We will share the story of Stone Soup. Please bring vegetables or herbs as we will make and share soup at both services. Canned goods are welcome. TUUC members will inspire us with stories of hope through service. We will have a special collection to fund our many ongoing projects.

In order to better serve our congregation and our community we ask that you take a brief online survey to share your thoughts and ideas about how TUUC can help make the world a better place. We value your input, please click on this link to participate:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Z6XVN65>

## 7th Annual Racial Justice Conference: Weaving Our Stories of Change

### Where:

Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington  
4444 Arlington Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22204



[Driving Directions](#)

### When:

Friday October 14, 2011 at 6:30 PM EDT  
-to-  
Saturday October 15, 2011 at 4:00 PM EDT  
[Add to my calendar](#)

### Greetings!

You're invited to register for the 7th Annual Racial Justice Conference: Weaving Our Stories of Change - The Journey to Multi-racial, Multi-cultural, Multi-generational Community.

There will be music, celebration and programming for all ages!

We hope you'll join us!

[Get More Information](#)

[Register Now!](#)

[I can't make it](#)

# OCTOBER 2011 Calendar

<http://my.calendars.net/towsonuuc>

Oct 2	Sun	Worship Service	9:30 & 11:15 AM
		Social Action Committee	10:45 AM
		Open Discussion Group	12:30 PM
Oct 3	Mon	Handel Choir	6 PM
		Mindful Way Meditation Group	7 PM
		12 Step Program	7 PM
Oct 4	Tue	Anita Gregory Book Group	2 PM
		Operations Team	7:30 PM
Oct 5	Wed	Improv Group	7 PM
		Evening Book Group	7:30 PM
Oct 6	Thu	Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
Oct 7	Fri	Men's Breakfast	8:30 AM
Oct 8	Sat	Cherry Memorial Service	11 AM
Oct 9	Sun	Worship Service	9:30 & 11:15 AM
		Open Discussion Group	12:30 PM
		Komen Fundraiser	3 PM
Oct 10	Mon	Handel Choir	6 PM
		Mindful Way Meditation Group	7 PM
		12 Step Program	7 PM
Oct 12	Wed	Improv Group	7 PM
		New Member Orientation Class	7:30 PM
Oct 13	Thu	Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
Oct 14	Fri	Handel Choir	6 PM
Oct 15	Sat	Work Party	9 AM – 12 Noon
		House Concert	6 PM
Oct 16	Sun	Worship Service	9:30 & 11:15 AM
		Social Action Committee	10:45 AM
		Open Discussion Group	12:30 PM
Oct 17	Mon	Handel Choir	6 PM
		Mindful Way Meditation Group	7 PM
		12 Step Program	7 PM
Oct 18	Tue	Aging Together	1 PM
Oct 19	Wed	Improv Group	7 PM
		Worship Program Associates	7:30 PM
		New Member Orientation Class	7:30 PM
Oct 20	Thu	Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
Oct 21	Fri	Men's Breakfast Group	8:30 AM
Oct 23	Sun	Worship Service	9:30 & 11:15 AM
		Open Discussion Group	12:30 PM
Oct 24	Mon	Handel Choir	6 PM
		Mindful Way Meditation Group	7 PM
		12 Step Program	7 PM
Oct 25	Tue	PFLAG	7 PM
Oct 26	Wed	Women's Breakfast Group	8:30 AM
		Improv Group	7 PM
		New Member Orientation Class	7:30 PM
Oct 27	Thu	Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
Oct 30	Sun	Worship Service	9:30 & 11:15 AM
		Open Discussion Group	12:30 PM
		Gallery Unicorn Reception	2 – 4 PM
Oct 31	Mon	Handel Choir	6 PM
		Mindful Way Meditation Group	7 PM
		12 Step Program	7 PM

# TOWSON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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Website: [www.towsonuuc.org](http://www.towsonuuc.org)

Office Hours: Mon - Fri, 10 AM - 3 PM

Sat-Sun: Closed

The *Threshold* is published monthly.

Reporter/Correspondent: Linda Talley

Editor: Al Peabody

Submissions for the ***Threshold***: send by  
Midnight on the third Sunday of the month to:

[threshold@towsonuuc.org](mailto:threshold@towsonuuc.org)

## Our Minister

Reverend Clare L. Petersberger

[revclare@towsonuuc.org](mailto:revclare@towsonuuc.org)

## Our Leadership

Board of Trustees:

President: Melissa Reuland

President-Elect: vacant

Treasurer: Marilyn Maze

Secretary: Francie Weeks

Members-at-Large:

Aynsley Hamel

Carel Hedlund

Max Mutchler

Kim Peabody

Operations Team:

Chair: Paul Konka

Communications Council: Al Peabody

Finance Council: Paul Konka

House and Grounds Council: Jason Hauf

Inner Life Council: Faith Miller

Outreach Council: Salli Ward

Religious Education Council: Robin Sinn

Sunday Services Council, Tara McIntyre

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