



# THRESHOLD

**Towson Unitarian Universalist Church**  
A Welcoming Congregation

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

**Lutherville, Maryland**

**February 2010**

## Upcoming Services

**February 7, 2010**

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

### Temperance

**Rev. Clare Petersberger and Vinnie DeMarco**

**Music: Choir and Joseph Gascho, both services**



What instigated, and who lead, The Temperance Movement of the 19<sup>th</sup> century? What is the rationale behind the proposal to increase the tax on alcohol in Maryland? And what spiritual meanings might the word "temperance" hold for Unitarian Universalists today?



**February 14, 2010**

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

### Love Love Love

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Continues ...**

**Nick Page**

**Music: Joseph Gascho, piano, both services**

Why is this Sunday different from all other Sundays? Not only is it Valentine's Day, but Nick Page, a Boston based composer/author, whose sings at UU General Assemblies have brought the house down on several occasions, will be in our pulpit! His Valentine's Day theme, LOVE LOVE LOVE will weave Nick's original songs as well as beloved songs by the Beatles to celebrate love, particularly as it pertains to the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism. This will be a family service that all ages will love love love!

Nick is a fantastic song leader! He conducted the 600 member Chicago Children's Choir for three years. He believes that there should be no separation between the talented and the untalented! He works with children

who have an inborn love of singing. And he works with adults who lost their love of singing a long time ago. And he works with talented singers! He has studied Black Gospel, Jewish liturgical music, South African Mbube choral style, jazz, and pop. He leads simple sing-alongs in Hebrew, Arabic, Italian, Spanish, German, Zulu, and Italian. Today, he will be delivering a sermon “in song” with our help! Rev. Clare participated in Nick’s workshops at the UUA General Assembly. She stopped lip-synching and actually sang unselfconsciously. You will too! Bring your whole family and invite your neighborhood!

**February 21, 2010**

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

**Change**

**The TUUC Youth Group**



The youth group will be contemplating the meaning of change in our lives and in the world. They will touch on issues of how a small change in one life can radiate out into the world and trigger an avalanche of greater changes and how the changes in our world around us impact us in a personal way.

**February 28, 2010**

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

**“You’ll Be Known  
Make The**



**As Those Who Can  
Community**

**Liveable Again”**

**Rev. Clare Petersberger and Jayna E. Powell, Faith Relations Coordinator for  
Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake  
Music: Choir and Joseph Gascho, both services**

For the past four weeks, students in our religious exploration ministry have been learning about Habitat For Humanity. This morning, they shall share what they have discovered about restoring, renovating and rebuilding. And we shall ponder the meanings of home and of community.

## Clare's Colloquy

*Rev. Clare Petersberger*



In December, President Obama shared with the Norwegian Nobel Committee (and the world) his reasons for deciding to send more American troops to Afghanistan. He began with an exploration of “just war theory” and ended with “the imperatives of a just peace.”

Some in our religious community thought President Obama was slow to make “the only” decision. Others were hopeful that, given his pledge to withdraw troops from Iraq, he might make a different decision. And some were simply resigned. Unitarian Universalists are not “hawks” in that we, too, study “just war theory” and understand war to be a last resort when diplomatic solutions fail. But neither are we “doves.” Unlike the Quakers and Mennonites, who have a long religious history of refusing to engage in war, Unitarian Universalists do not have a statement of conscience on Pacifism. Over five of my colleagues serve as military chaplains.

When I heard that Larry Smith, a member of TUUC, had volunteered to be deployed to Afghanistan for a sixth month tour of duty, beginning in February, I asked him if he would be willing to share with the wider community why he had made this decision. Larry sent the letter below to articulate his values and how he is living them. He is an inspiration.

Though we may not be of one mind, philosophically, on the relationship of war and peace, we are one in supporting those who serve in the military, those who have served, and their families. You are invited to a reception, in Larry's honor, following the second service on January 31 to thank him for his decision to serve our country, to thank him for his decision to serve us, and to wish him a safe and successful tour of duty.

### WHY ME, WHY NOW?

The Soviet Union's 1979-89 effort to protect a portion of its sphere of influence killed over a million Afghans, wounded or disabled an additional 3 million, and displaced some 5 million. Soon after the Soviets pulled out, our seemingly interminable Cold War “coincidentally” ended. America rejoiced over its superior economic system and its cleverness at subverting the Soviet's Afghan effort through robust covert support to the Mujahideen.

While we pondered how to spend our “peace dividend” an ominous phoenix arose from Afghanistan's desolation. Newly united Islamic fundamentalists who we had championed for a decade took their win over a world superpower as a sign from Allah that the time had at last come for Muslims to regain their former lands and return to their once exalted station in the order of things. This belief manifested itself as the Taliban, and they swept across Afghanistan during the 1990's, leaving prior standards of personal liberty, especially for women, obliterated in their wake.

Elsewhere, a “perfect storm” of fundamentalist unrest gained strength as booming western economies enriched authoritarian oil regimes who invariably repressed all opposition save the religious leaders – doing that was a bit problematic. Eventually, ambitious and extremely affluent “second-tier” emirates united with fundamentalist mullahs and legions of recently indoctrinated foot soldiers to form organizations seemingly capable of realizing the fundamentalists’ new world vision. In those countries, an entire generation of tolerant Muslims was lost.

Islam’s identity crisis hit full stride by the late 1990’s and the ideological fascists who hoped to turn the clocks back to the seventh century weren’t going to let an amoral West, non-believers, Jews, or half-hearted Muslims stand in their way. A growing sect of rich – and idle – Muslim men now had an exalted life purpose along with the resources to pursue it. Many poured millions of dollars into fundamentalist *madrassas* (religious schools) while others funded ideological training camps in their new found homeland—Afghanistan.

After 9-11-01, U.S. decision makers charged with our safety deemed it wise to first unseat an evil, megalomaniacal regime in Iraq with over \$7 trillion dollars worth of oil at its disposal before re-focusing its efforts upon Afghanistan. They believed Saddam – a fellow Sunni – would materially support the Taliban and Al Qaeda the way we supported their predecessors against the Soviets – perhaps to the same effect. Reasonable people can disagree on that decision, but I for one am glad he’s gone; and, at least for now, Iraq’s democracy seems to be functioning at least as well – or better – than ours...

Once a major exporter of dried fruits, nuts and exotic crops such as pomegranates, Afghanistan now instead supplies the world with poppies for opium. The Taliban needs a robust opium trade to fund its operations and, after three decades of nearly constant instability and violence, the farmers who once raised those valuable crops are either dead or gone. In 2008, the U.S. military began sending agribusiness units to Afghanistan. They now work in 14 of the nation's 34 provinces, trying to improve fertilization, pest control and water management practices, while bringing new ideas to Afghanistan’s farmers.

And while some of our units do indeed kill or capture part of that aforementioned lost generation, other military units build schools and still others train Afghanistan’s security forces. The overwhelming majority of our operations focus on peace-making through nation building. If our troops come home, all that support comes to an end.

After five years of active involvement in this world struggle at the Pentagon, I’ve come to fervently believe in the rightness of our cause. I’ve been happy to support it at home and am now eager to take my experience and skills closer to the front. In the past, I never imagined I would seek out a forward deployment because of my duty to be there for my son and my family. Over time however, I came to see an urgency in solving things now, while the challenge is manageable and achievable, rather than seeing my son go off 15 or so years from now to counter an enemy and fundamentalist culture many times more formidable.

And therein lays the reasoning behind all military intervention and sacrifice: we deploy our troops whenever delaying such action will lead to the need for a greater subsequent effort. We sacrifice blood and treasure now in order to prevent greater losses of life and treasure later on. We avoid conflicts when we can; but when we can’t, we don’t. And when we know what we’re doing is right, we’re hopeful. And it’s from within this hope that we find our courage.

The “luck of the draw” has imbued me with physical, emotional, and intellectual skills useful in high stress crises. To not apply them now when they’re clearly needed would be a difficult thing for me to reconcile. It really goes back to that old adage: “If not now, when?; If not you, who?” Well, it’s now... and it’s me... Will it be dangerous? Probably. But if I ignore this responsibility – which I believe is rightly mine to bear – a small portion of the “real me” will perish. Clearly, preserving this identified portion of my integrity brings risk upon the whole... But at the end of the day, I cannot not do this and still be the person I think I am ... and want to be. It’s ultimately part of my effort to achieve the whole “life well-lived” thing. Wish me luck! So it’s all good, and I’ll see you in August!

Yours truly,  
Larry

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## Board of Trustees

*Catherine Morris, chair*



### 50th Anniversary Thank You

The Board deeply appreciates all the work of the 50th Anniversary Committee in planning and executing a wonderful celebration on Jan. 10th. Thanks to **Jay Cherry** and **Nola Stuart** for serving as Honorary Co-Chairs. Kudos to Committee co-chairs, **Marcia Reinke** and **Marilyn Maze**, for their leadership, and to committee members **Lois Hybl**, **Carol Maccini**, **Mimi Marks**, and **Linda Talley** for their contributions. **Anne Lee**, **Joan Kolobielski** and **Hazel Talbott**, founding members of TUUC, also helped make the event a real tribute to our rich history. And there is more to come in the next few months!

### Financial Report

**Paul Konka**, TUUC treasurer, reported that total income through December was \$209,563.26 (62% of budgeted); total expenses were \$179,662.03 (49.8% of budgeted). Paul cautioned that pledge income may be higher than usual because of end-of-the-year donations, and we are likely to see a lull in pledge income during January and February. Paul and others also reminded the Board that the 2009-2010 income, even if fulfilled, will require using \$23,000 of our cash reserves to meet the deficit.

### Furlough Decision

The Trustees used this latest information about the budget to discuss the proposed furlough. We decided to use most of the \$6,045 Pehr Challenge funds to decrease the furlough from two weeks to one week, with the remaining \$1,000 going into general operating funds. While the Trustees acknowledged that we did not follow the policies for fundraising which would have required approval by the Finance Council and Operations Team or Board to use the fundraising challenge for staff salaries, we wanted to honor the generosity and intent of the donors.

The Trustees agreed, however, that any additional special funds raised this year will go toward the general operating fund to help us meet our overall expenses and to avoid using more than the planned \$23,000 in cash reserves. Our financial choices next year will be even more challenging because we no longer have the option to dip deeper into cash reserves to meet the gap between income and expenses.

## Church Closure

The Church will be closed and the staff furloughed the week of June 13th -19th

## Stewardship Campaign

This year we will be trying to meet one-on-one with as many members and friends as possible during the stewardship campaign. Please consider meeting with a visiting steward to talk about what you value at TUUC and learn more about ways we can grow together over the coming year.

Next Meeting of the Trustees will be Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome.

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## Operations Team

*Mike Robinson, chair*

As the O-team begins to shepherd the budget development process for TUUC, we are reminded repeatedly of the varied interests and skills of our members and friends in our Sunday services and the many initiatives that are taking place within and without our walls. The council heads are now asking committees to project their plans for the next church year. The reality is that it will take a collective “charge” and significantly increased financial support primarily through the upcoming stewardship campaign (taking place in March) for the church to be able to provide money support for our organizational activities. Just a reminder that auction proceeds are generally to be used for non-budget line items such repairing the leak in our roof which has dripped into Reverend Clare’s office. Just a reminder that all plans for fundraising must be formalized through the “fundraising proposal” form (copies found in the president-elect’s mail slot). The forms are to be submitted to the supervising council head who will, in turn, submit the plan to the O-team for review and approval. Another reminder is that our church home should enhance our communal planning, dialogue and fellowship. To accomplish this, we must maintain our “open minds” and “loving hearts”. Thus, your thoughts and comments are always welcome. Please consider leaving written messages in the appropriate council mail slot.



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## Notes

*Joseph Gascho, music director*

At the time of writing this, it's Tuesday Jan 19 and I'm sitting in the office of my in-law's home in Dalin, Taiwan. We're in the middle of a two week trip here, and it's been really enjoyable so far. Since we left the capitol city Taipei a few days ago, I've seen less than a handful of Caucasian people and no one taller than me, both of which are new points of perspective.



I've eaten some great and exciting food - some of the best sushi I've ever had, a vegetarian dinner at a restaurant that grows almost all its own fruits and vegetables, the infamous stinky tofu, pig's blood on a stick, and lunch at a restaurant that only serves goose (we tried to go for dinner the night before, but they were completely sold out by 7pm!) Elena's dad is the chief of internal medicine at a large Buddhist hospital here, so we've also eaten at the staff cafeteria, where everyone supplies their own bowls, mugs and chopsticks and washes them in the very long rows of sinks afterwards. I'm trying to learn some Mandarin, but it's going very slowly.

It was great to leave after the high notes of the 50th anniversary service and banquet on January 10. I was really proud of the job the choir did in learning and singing the piece that I wrote, and I hope we'll be able to sing it again sometime in the future. Thanks to **Janet Byers** and **Alta Haywood** and others who are filling in for me these several weeks. I look forward to being back soon and making some good music together.

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## Worshipping as a Multi-generational Community at TUUC

*Rev. Clare Petersberger*

Since the beginning of the New Year, we have begun worship as the multi-generational community that we are. Now, after three weeks, some are questioning why. So here are three reasons:

### 1) For our students

Because we have two equivalent worship services, our students have experienced worship, at most, once-a-month. Our Youth Group has experienced worship once a year ... when they've conducted the service! The result is that our children and youth graduate out of the Religious Exploration ministry with minimal experience of Unitarian Universalist worship and the assumption that there's nothing in it for them. This becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. We lose our children. They do not seek out a Unitarian Universalist congregation when they go to college or even afterwards. We cannot afford to lose our children.

### 2) For adult members and friends

For years we, at TUUC, have lamented the "upstairs/downstairs" syndrome. It feels like we have "two" congregations at each worship service. By joining together, for ten minutes, at the beginning of worship, we have the opportunity to begin to regularly see and interact with people in this community of all ages that we might not otherwise. We can learn from each other. And as anyone who has been in worship for the past three weeks knows, a "Yes!", or a laugh, or a spontaneous song from one of our students can give us hope for the week to come.

### 3) For TUUC

We've slightly altered our worship service. Now, we begin with lighting candles of care and concern to symbolize the different places from which we've come. Most Sundays, the opening words will be followed by a responsive chalice lighting and then a hymn to sing out students. This liturgy (literally, the work of the people) gives everyone an opportunity to participate and assume leadership. If you or your children, would like to offer your gifts of music for the Prelude, please speak with **Joe Gascho**. If you have words of wisdom you would like included as opening words, please speak with **Rev. Clare**. If you would like to be "A Keeper Of The Flame," and deliver the Chalice Lighting, please speak with **Aynsley Hamel**. If you have a suggestion for a theme that would speak to you or your children, please speak with **Rev. Clare**.

These changes in how we begin worship are an experiment. We're going to see how it feels to worship as a multi-generational community until May. There will be bumps along the way (like when Rev. Clare included too many readings at the start of worship on January 17<sup>th</sup> and RE classes lost ten minutes.)

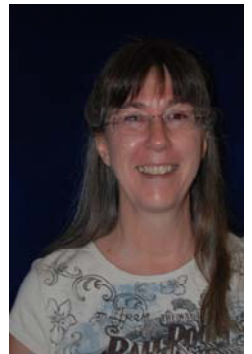
And no one has any illusions that 10 minutes of worship 40 times a year is going to create life-long UU's. But it's a start. We want our students to know about our Unitarian Universalist way in religion in both religious exploration classes and also in our collective worship life. Worship literally means "to ascribe worth." We want our students to know how we do that! We want them to know that they are a valued part of our religious community. And as adults, we need their energy, enthusiasm, ideas, inspiration, leadership, and hope!

So let's see what good things we can collectively make happen at the start of worship in the next few months! As always, I welcome your ideas, your talents, and your goodwill.

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## Youth Religious Exploration

*Joyce Duncan, director*



### **Celebrate Past, Present, and Future RE!**

In honor of our anniversary year, the YRE ministry would like to invite all past, present, and future RE teachers to come down and share a bagel and snacks with us on Sunday, February 28, between the services. We hope you can join us to thank all those who have shared their time and talent to nurture future UU leaders.

### **Friday FUUsion!**

Join fellow students in grades 6-9 for check-in, games, movies and worship on Friday, February 12, 7 - 9:30 PM. Come to hang out with friends and explore what it is to be a UU. If you are interested in either attending or becoming a parent volunteer, please contact **Jane Beatty** at information in directory.

### **Think UU Summer Camps!**

Time to start planning for summer! Please check out links to UU Mid-Atlantic Conference, also known as UUMAC ([www.uumac.org/pdf/UUMAC\\_2010\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.uumac.org/pdf/UUMAC_2010_brochure.pdf)) if you would like to know more about spending a week with other UUs in multigenerational community. Youth and adult programming, all meals included, scholarships available. Another option is Ferry Beach UU Camp. .Ferry Beach has programs for families and sleep-away camps for children, teens, and adults. [www.ferrybeach.org/programs/conferences.html](http://www.ferrybeach.org/programs/conferences.html). Please ask Joyce for more info.

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## Providing Relief for Haiti

During the January 17<sup>th</sup> worship service, we took a second collection for the work of The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee in Haiti. Some people did not have their checkbooks and requested printed information.

So please know The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee had partnerships with grassroots organizations in Haiti before the earthquake. Now, its Program Director is providing training to medical teams providing emergency response on the ground. The UUSC is working to get support to impromptu groups, at the neighborhood level, engaged in setting up shelters.

Longer term, the UUSC is sending an assessment mission to reach survivors who are on the margins of the relief and recovery efforts including child domestic workers and women who work in the informal economy. The work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is to complement efforts of large aid agencies like the Red Cross by supporting those who were marginalized before the earthquake struck.

If you would like to support the work of the UUSC, please know your donation will help reach those survivors at greatest risk of being overlooked in the weeks and months to come.

Donations to the relief fund can be made through [www.uusc.org/haitiearthquake](http://www.uusc.org/haitiearthquake)

or by mailing checks payable to UUSC/UUA Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund

UUSC  
P.O. Box 844001  
Boston, MA 02284-4001

Thank you for your generosity!

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## Adult Religious Education

**“Building The World We Dream About”**

**February 26, March 26, April 30, and May 21, from 7:30 to 9:00 PM.**

**Facilitated by Rev. Clare**

This new curriculum from the UUA about multi-culturalism is designed as a monthly, year-long exploration of issues of individual and group identity as well as how social systems unnecessarily divide and oppress the human family. We hope that what we learn as a result of these discussions will help our congregation develop the courage to live out our conviction to build a world where every person’s inherent worth is honored.

## **Philosophy Bites - "Reinhold Niebuhr"**

**February 3, 10, and 17 from 7:30 to 9:00 PM**

**Facilitated by Peter Talley and Rev. Clare**

Philosophy Bites will expand its role in the New Year by joining with our minister **Clare Petersberger** in a three-part investigation (the first three Wednesdays of February) of the theologian and philosopher Reinhold Niebuhr. Niebuhr's legacy has received a good deal of press attention since President Obama's Nobel Peace Prize speech and our first discussion will focus on the influence of Niebuhr on the president.

Discussion One - Obama's Theologian Reinhold Niebuhr

Discussion Two - Moral Man and Immoral Society

Discussion Three –Niebuhr's influence on Unitarian Universalism

## **"2012 The Odyssey Armageddon is Not What it Used to Be"**

**Film, Discussion and Light Lunch**

**March 14 from 12:30 to 2:30 PM**

**Facilitated by Karen O'Rourke**

We shall view and discuss this film by Sharon Rose. It is a welcome alternative to the Hollywood version about the Mayan Calendar that ends December 21, 2012. This film brings together science, mysticism, and common sense.

## **"Why In The Name Of God?"**

**March 24 and 31 from 7:30 to 9:00 PM**

**Facilitated by Rob Canosa and Rev. Clare**

Many Humanists wonder, "Where does the human need to believe in the transcendent come from? What purpose does it serve in individual and communal lives?" We shall discuss a March 4, 2007 article in the New York Times about the research Scott Atran has done in response to these questions and what he has discovered.

## **"Women In The Bible"**

**May 1, 10 AM to 3 PM.**

**A light lunch will be provided.**

**Facilitated by Rev. Karen O'Rourke and Rev. Clare**

This is a continuation of our 2009 exploration of women in the Bible. There are more than you might guess! And we have much to learn from their stories!

## Finance Council

*Jason Braspennickx, chair*



The Finance Council has organized our Stewardship Campaign for the 2010-11 church year. The theme of the campaign is "The Next 50" to honor our 50th anniversary and to celebrate what we hope to be a successful next 50 years for our beloved church community.

The Stewardship Committee is hoping to meet one on one with as many members and friends as possible to discuss making a financial contribution to the church so that TUUC can fulfill its mission within our church community and to the wider world. To do this, we need as many volunteers as possible to conduct the one on one meetings. Training will be provided by Joan Priest, facilitator for the Joseph Priestley District, in late January for those interested in helping with the campaign. Please let me know if you are interested in helping the committee conduct these meetings with our members and friends. Also, the committee realizes that there are some members and friends who may be uncomfortable discussing their financial commitments to the church with other members. If you do not wish to meet one on one with one of our visiting stewards, please let me know as well. Our goal with the Stewardship Campaign is 100% participation from members and friends in making a financial commitment so that we can balance our budget, maintain or increase our current level of staffing, provide quality programming for our members and friends through our various committees, provide outreach to our surrounding community, and maintain our commitment to fair share dues for our regional district and national association.

Many thanks go to Paul Azzam, Jason Braspennickx, Catherine Morris, Mike Robinson, Rick Bader, Janet Kuperstein, Reverend Clare Petersberger, Joyce Duncan, Patty Smith, Sue Shankroff, and Paul Konka for helping organize this year's Stewardship Campaign.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Upcoming Events

### **Be Included in the Memories**

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee will be publishing a special book, containing pictures of our events this year, historic information and comments from our founders and ministers. Most important of all, we want it to include a picture of every member and friend of TUUC. To accomplish this and stay within budget, we have contracted with Olin Mills, the photographers who have done our prior directories to take the pictures on March 11, 12 and 13 and April 13 and 14. We will be making appointments for the picture taking between and after Sunday services through February 7. Please stop by and sign up so that we won't have to hunt you down via telephone. The number of pages in this special book which TUUC will receive free depends on the number of pictures taken. Although Olin Mills will, of course, want you to buy a picture, a purchase is not required for the page allowance. Be part of the memories of our splendid 50th year.



## **Sunday, February 14, 2010: Nick Page Music Sunday**

Nick Page, a talented leader who draws music out of ordinary people (yes, even our congregation can sing), will be with us for a very special service on Love this Valentine's Day.

## **Saturday April 24 and Sunday, April 25, 2010: Imagine the Future**

Reverend Bill Schultz, who was UUA President from 1985 to 1993 and head of Amnesty International USA from 1994 to 2006, will be with us this weekend to inspire us for the future. Saturday evening Rev Schultz will join a Q & A session, with light refreshments. Sunday, Rev. Schultz will deliver the sermon. In order to turn the church over to Music in the Great Hall at 1PM, services are scheduled for 9AM and 10:45, with a reception between services.

## **Sunday, May 16, 2010: Endowment Presentation**

The Endowment Committee and experts from the Joseph Priestly District will lead us in focusing on the financial future of our church.

## **Sunday, June 6, 2010, Annual Meeting**

The photo directories will be available at this final event of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

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# **Social Action Committee**

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

Please remember the hungry when you do your grocery shopping. Canned goods, especially, vegetables, stews, peanut butter, and more are in GREAT need. Your generosity is appreciated.

## **Our Daily Bread**

Thanks to all who provided casseroles for the soup kitchen in January. Our next month to donate at least 60 will be May.

## **Habitat for Humanity**

Do you want to make a difference in the community? Would you like to help people realize their dream of having their own home? Volunteers are needed. Habitat would definitely love to host a group of 10 on a Wednesday, Thursday, or Sat. Contact **Spice Kleinmann**, phone/email in the directory to volunteers. Looking to focus in on about 3 days in March and beyond. Come February, we will be building in Pigtown, Brooklyn, and McElderry Park areas.

## **Alternative Gift Cards**

Alternative Gift Cards will be sold in the lobby between services on Sunday, February 7 and 14. All occasion cards as well as Valentines for that special someone will be available. Your purchase will warm the heart of the recipient while your donation of at least \$5 per card will be used to help those in need.

## Eastern Resource Center

The HUGE donation of items which you have given to the guests at the Eastside Shelter has been delivered and welcomed with many smiles and "thank yous". The shelves were so bare of these items before your gifts arrived. When people first arrive at the shelter, they often arrive with no belongings except what they are wearing, so personal items become necessities. The babies and toddlers "say" a special thanks for all the diapers! And as a reminder - the needs at the shelter continue all year long.

## Santa's Workshop at Banner Reading Club

Thanks again to TUUC members and friends for your generous contributions to the Santa's Workshop at Banner Neighborhoods on December 21. After a snack of peanut butter and apples, clementines, cupcakes and juice, students took turns spending their "dollars" earned by attendance and good behavior to "buy" gifts for their families. Volunteers helped students wrap and label their gifts. In the picture, community organizer Lillian Drumgold is surveying some of the gifts just before the shopping began.



Regular Monday and Wednesday 3-4:45 pm Reading Club sessions began again on January 11. Contact Betty Lou Anderson or Lois Hybl if you would like to volunteer.

## After Copenhagen: How Should UU's Take Action

On Saturday, February 6, 2010 from 8:50 AM till 12:35 PM, Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice Baltimore –Washington– Northern Virginia Region will sponsor the program, "After Copenhagen: How Should Our Chesapeake Region UU Community Take Action?" at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax 2709 Hunter Mill Road Oakton, VA 22124 Directions: <http://www.uucf.org/content/get-directions-uucf> The plenary speaker will be Mike Tidwell, founder and director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network. Tidwell's most recent documentary film – "We Are All Smith Islanders" – vividly depicts the dangers of global warming in Maryland, Virginia, and D.C. After the plenary, four workshops will be held in two time slots. Participants can attend two workshops. The workshops are "Addressing Climate Change in the Chesapeake" with Mike Tidwell and local UUs or "How to Further Ethical Eating" with a panel of local UUs and "Preparing for Life After Peak Oil" with Jackson Harper of UU Ministry for Earth or "Resources and Possibilities for Earth Day Programs and Actions" with a panel of local UUs. A free will offering for Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice will be taken. Please register to attend at [info@uusj.org](mailto:info@uusj.org) or 301-588-1951 or at Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice 8605 Cameron St. Suite 200 Silver Spring, MD 20910 Please give your name, congregation, email and phone number. Please note if you would like to carpool with others registered from your area. We will try to connect you. Please also let us know if you need to be picked up and dropped off at the Vienna Metro station. We will make the arrangements. Register by Monday, February 1.

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## Upcoming Events

### ANITA GREGORY BOOK GROUP – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 @ 2 PM

Old Filth by Jane Gardem will bring immense pleasure to those who treasure fiction that is intelligent, witty, sophisticated and a quality encountered all too rarely in adult culture.

### EVENING BOOK GROUP – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3 @ 7:30 PM

Michael Ondaatje's *In the Skin of a Lion*. Set in Toronto in the 1920s and '30s, this love story and mystery presents a "haunting tale of passion, privilege and biting physical labor, of men and women moved by compassion and driven by the power of dreams." All are welcome! Please call Mike Robinson at his number in the directory if you have any questions.

### TUUC FRIDAY CONCERT SERIES – FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Enjoy this classic rock band and be prepared to dance while having a delightful evening! Tranzfusion has been together for about a quarter of a century and has a current set list exceeding 200 classics including over 20 Rolling Stones tunes. Whether they are playing Aerosmith, Cream, the Doors, Beatles, Hendrix, Jethro Tull, Moody Blues, the Police, Tom Petty, Zeppelin or ZZ Top - they all sound just like the original recordings. The potluck dinner starts at 7 PM and the concert begins at 7:30 PM. Send in advance payment for you and any guests you would like to bring; please send a check (made payable to TUUC with "Friday Concert" listed in the memo line) for \$15 per person. If you prefer, you and your guests may pay \$20 per person at the door. [www.tranzfusionband.com](http://www.tranzfusionband.com)

### AGING TOGETHER – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 @ 12 NOON

The Aging Together Group will next meet at TUUC on Tuesday, February 15th at Noon. Please bring a bag lunch and drinks will be provided. Allan Thorn will lead a discussion on "The Gift of Aging: Contributions and Participation, " and Joan Kolobielski will present some resources. Call or email Joan with questions. As always, all interested are encouraged to come.

### MOVIE NIGHT "BABEL" – FEBRUARY 12 @ 7:15 PM

Potluck begins at 6 PM. Join us for a movie about fate and circumstances in an interconnected world starring Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett. Sponsored by one our Chalice Circles. Popcorn provided.

# FEBRUARY 2010 Calendar <http://my.calendars.net/towsonuuc>

Feb 1	Mon	Handel Choir Rehearsal	6 – 10:15 PM
		Mindful Way Meditation Group	7 PM
		12 Step Meditation Program	7 PM
		Chalice Circle	7:30 PM
Feb 2	Tue	Anita Gregory Book Group	2 PM
		Rainbow Youth Alliance	7:30 PM
		Drumming Circle	7:30 PM
		Chalice Circle	7:30 PM
		Operations Team Meeting	7:30 PM
Feb 3	Wed	Improv Group	7 PM
		Evening Book Group	7:30 PM
		ARE Program	7:30 PM
Feb 4	Thu	Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
Feb 5	Fri	Men's Breakfast Group	8:30 AM
		Caring Committee	10 AM
		TUUC House Concert	7 PM
Feb 7	Sun	COM Event	TBA!
		Nursery Fundraiser	Between/after services
Feb 8	Mon	Handel Choir Rehearsal	6 – 10:15 PM
		Mindful Way Meditation Group	7 PM
		12 Step Meditation Program	7 PM
Feb 9	Tue	Board of Trustees Meeting	7 PM
Feb 10	Wed	Handel Choir Rehearsal	6 – 10:15 PM
		Improv Group	7 PM
		Chalice Circle Facilitators Meeting	7:30 PM
		ARE Program	7:30 PM
Feb 11	Thu	Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
Feb 12	Fri	All Church Movie Night	6 PM
		Friday Night Youth Drop-In	6 PM
Feb 13	Sat	Work Party	9 AM
Feb 14	Sun	Nick Page Music Sunday	9:30 & 11:15 AM
		ACTC	10:30 AM
Feb 15	Mon	Handel Choir Rehearsal	6 – 10:15 PM
		Mindful Way Meditation Group	7 PM
		12 Step Meditation Program	7 PM
		Chalice Circle	7:30 PM
Feb 16	Tue	Aging Together	Noon
		Drumming Circle	7:30 PM
		Chalice Circle	7:30 PM
		Rainbow Youth Alliance	7:30 PM
Feb 17	Wed	Improv Group	7 PM
		ARE Program	7:30 PM
Feb 18	Thu	Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
		Chalice Circle	7:30 PM
Feb 19	Fri	Men's Breakfast Group	8:30 AM
Feb 20	Sat	Work Party	9 AM
Feb 22	Mon	Handel Choir Rehearsal	6 – 10:15 PM
		Mindful Way Meditation Group	7 PM
		12 Step Meditation Program	7 PM
Feb 23	Tue	PFLAG	7 PM
Feb 24	Wed	Women's Breakfast Group	8:30 AM
Feb 25	Thu	Choir Rehearsal	7:30 PM
Feb 26	Fri	ARE	7:30 PM
Feb 27	Sat	Dinners at Home	TBA
Feb 28	Sun	Green Sanctuary Committee	10:30 AM
		Unicorn Gallery Reception	2 PM

TOWSON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
1710 Dulaney Valley Road  
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Phone: 410-825-6045  
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Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

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midnight on the third Sunday of the month to:  
[news@towsonuuc.org](mailto:news@towsonuuc.org).

Dated Mailing: Please Expedite  
Mailing Date: January 22, 2010

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### Our Minister

Reverend Clare L. Petersberger  
[revclare@towsonuuc.org](mailto:revclare@towsonuuc.org)

### Our Leadership

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### Our Staff

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