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## Sunday Program and Service Leader Schedule

### 5 July

9:00—Adult R. E.—video series on world religions: Buddhism  
 10:40—**Janet & Norm Horofker**, “A National Perspective on Unitarian Universalism...from Salt Lake City to Columbus.”  
 Service Leader—**Paul Lee**, Opener—**Chris Nix**, Closer—**Paul Lee**  
 Greeters—**Marge Hall & Don Nahley**

### 12 July

9:00—Adult R. E.—video series on world religions: Buddhism  
 10:40—**Ken Sizemore** a guitarist/folk singer will present a musical program: “Songs of Justice, Equity, and Compassion—the Second Principle.”  
 Service Leader—**Mona Crawford**, Opener—**Paul Lee**, Closer—**Barry White**  
 Greeters—**Ann Newland & Mark Berger**

### 19 July

9:00—Adult R. E.—video series on world religions: Buddhism  
 10:40—**Ed Wilson**, will present a sermon entitled, “Our Practice of Tolerance.”  
 Service Leader—**Barry White**, Opener—**Barry White** Closer—**Rick Spradlin**  
 Greeters—**Tanya Davis & Nancy Awtrey**

### 26 July

9:00—Adult R. E.—video series on world religions: Buddhism  
 10:40—**Kaffie Sledge—TBA**  
 Service Leader—**Ed Wilson**, Opener—**Rick Spradlin**, Closer—**Pat Hart**  
 Greeters—**Mona Crawford & Barry White**

### Happy Birthday:

- |         |                  |         |                   |
|---------|------------------|---------|-------------------|
| 3 July  | Karen Spradlin   | 8 July  | Huguette May      |
| 8 July  | Kayla Horofker   | 12 July | Nathaniel Lippitt |
| 15 July | Austin Gregory   | 24 July | Marta Horofker    |
| 25 July | Ernestine Mathis | 26 July | Leah Slaughter    |

### Water Communion Bill Edwards

Either the first or second Sunday in September we will hold our First Water Communion at the UU Fellowship of Columbus. This will be an intergenerational service. We ask our youth to take part in the service. Collect a small amount of water from one or two of your sojourns this summer and bring the water to pour into a communion bowl on First Water Communion Sunday. It doesn't matter how near or far you travel, collect some for our communion service. Wikipedia has a short article about the Water Communion.

**Friday Night Movie for 31 July is “Flock of Dodos.”** The following synopsis is taken from The Internet Movie Database. Though writer/director Randy Olson is a self-proclaimed evolutionist, this film truly does treat both sides of the issue with respect. Olson is from Kansas, where the Intelligent Design controversy was born, and interviews all the major names in Intelligent Design (John Calvert, Michael Behe, and Jack Cashill to name a few). The genius in Olson's movie is in never settling into a "PBS-style" science documentary. The frame of the film never gets weighted down by boring science lectures or obfuscating intellectuals. The film, instead, hangs it's hat on hilarious dodo animations, slick graphic sequences, and a humorous yet honest approach to the whole topic. "Flock of Dodos" will truly have people on both sides of the issue quoting the film in the theater lobby. *Written by [Alberto Camus](#)*

## President's Notes from Board Meeting on June 16, 2009

1. The next Friday night movie on June 26 will be "Milk." The movie for July 31 will be "Flock of Dodos" (Rick Spradlin's suggestion). Popcorn and soft drinks will be available. Attendees are invited to remain after the movie for discussion.
2. Rental of building - The Board rejected an offer from the New Life In Messiah Fellowship to rent our building on Sunday evenings from 4:00 to 9:00 PM for \$100 per week.
3. Work day on Saturday, May 23, 2009 - Projects accomplished included putting up our new sign, fixing the dimmer switch in our meeting room, and painting of the outside of the kitchen door. (Rick Spradlin was the coordinator for "Work Day.")
4. Southland Universalist Leadership Experience is scheduled July 19-24, at The Mountain; pay \$800 by July 1. (See <http://www.uusouthland.org/> for more information.)
5. Job Descriptions - Board members (other than Trustees) and committee chairs are requested to provide a written description of their positions, duties, and procedures not later than the end of June 2009. The purpose is to define responsibilities and insure that successors understand clearly what is expected of the various positions within our Fellowship. The written descriptions will eventually be published in a handbook available to all members. Of course, we expect to build on these initial written descriptions and continue to make improvements in procedures. (Repeat item.)
4. Treasurer's Report:
  - (a) We reimbursed Norm Horofker \$84.50 for flowers for Laura Oswalt (\$62.01 for floral arrangement for funeral; \$22.50 for hydrangea planted in her memory in front of UU Fellowship Hall).
  - (b) We have requested payment of a promissory note by The Mountain (\$5,000 principal and \$2,300 interest). We expect payment at the end of July 2009. Upon receipt, the money will be placed in Reserve Fund until further direction.
  - (c) UUA General Assembly - Norm and Janet will attend and represent our Congregation in Salt Lake City June 24 - June 28, 2009. The Board authorized payment of their registration fee in the amount of \$545.00. (See <http://uua.org/events/generalassembly/index.shtml> for more information.)
  - (d) Board previously authorized purchase and installation of lights for our new sign. We will likely need to plant some bushes to protect the lights from being run over by cars parking in front of our building.
  - (e) Profit and loss report: We had income of \$2,745.00 in May 2009; our expenses were \$3,531.93; thus, we were "in the red" in the amount of \$786.93 during May. Unusual expenses included \$750 for non-minister speakers and \$205.00 for speaker travel (average speaker expenses are usually about \$400.00 per month). Also in May we made our quarterly dues payment to UUA in the amount of \$588.00. For the months January through May 2009, however, we were "in the red" only \$23.97. (Check with our administrator, Brenda Stevens, to review the entire Treasurer's Report.)
5. Finance Committee:
  - (a) Committee will meet before next scheduled Board meeting and will make recommendations to the Board as to any changes in the budget for the next six months. Specifically, the Board recognized a need for setting aside funds for training and conferences so we can get full benefit from our membership in UUA.
  - (b) Letters will be sent to members in June showing the amounts paid pursuant to their pledges.
6. Program Committee: (a) Ed Wilson is the program chairman for the month of July; (b) John Studstill is the program chairman for August; he plans a theme of "War and Peace"; (c) A "water service" is planned sometime soon; we need to remind members to bring samples of water from vacations, etc. (d) Bill Edwards, our Program Committee Chairman, is still looking for program chairmen for the months of September, November, and December 2009 (some of those weeks have already been scheduled, so the job may be easier than you think!).
7. Religious Education: We began our twelve-week study of Buddhism on June 7. We meet at 9:15 AM each Sunday prior to the main service at 10:40. Outlines for the first four lectures have already been distributed via e-mail. This study program each Sunday includes a video lecture by a nationally recognized professor followed by a group discussion. Rick Spradlin moderates the discussions.
8. Pastoral Care: P.D. Lal is at home recovering from recent heart surgery.
9. Social Action: For a trial period of three months, beginning June 20, the Board approved the Social Action Committee's proposal to donate all funds collected on the third Sunday each month to a charitable cause, except for funds identified as pledge funds, i.e., part of the amounts pledged to be given by the member at the beginning of the year. The funds intended as a pledge can be placed in a separate envelope or identified by a notation on the check. The fact that the collection will be given to a charity will be clearly explained prior to taking up the collection (repeat item).
10. Attendance: Our attendance has shown a steady upward trend during the first half of this year. Average attendance at Sunday services was only 33 during the first quarter of the year; however, average attendance in May was 40. We regret to report, however, that Audni Miller, Bob

Gross, and Marc Saphir have moved or in the process of moving from Columbus. We will miss these folks!

11. Long Range Planning: Norm Horofker plans another meeting on Saturday, July 18, 2009.

12. Sponsorship of Norm Horofker: Norm is presently in his second year of seminary training at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, in preparation for the UU Ministry. One of the hoops that a candidate for UU Ministry is required to pass through is to be sponsored by a congregation. Sponsorship simply means that the congregation is willing to state that they believe that the candidate would potentially make a good UU minister. The Board unanimously agreed to sponsor Norm.

\*Members may contact our administrator, Brenda Stevens, to obtain a copy of the official minutes for this meeting.

## **Saturday July 18 Dinner at the Fellowship** by Norm Horofker

Saturday July 18 at 6:30 PM at the Fellowship we will be hosting our quarterly "Long Range Planning Dinner Socials." These evenings provide the opportunity for a delightful dinner with friends combined with the opportunity to discuss and help shape the future of the Columbus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Your committee would appreciate the attendance of as many members and friends to as possible, so mark your calendar now and watch for more details.

As a result of earlier meetings we have completely revamped the way we welcome visitors and new members and we have established a building committee that has been busy gathering information on options for facilities that could better meet our needs, including parking.

## **Giving Away the Plate** by Norm Horofker

Most of our members would like the Columbus Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to be known in the community as a generous group of people. Toward that end the Board recently agreed to a trial of an idea that has become very popular among UU congregations.

The third Sunday of each month we will take up collection as usual during the service. On this special Sunday each month, all money collected that is not specifically identified as part of a pledge to fund the Fellowship will be given away to a worthwhile charitable cause in the community. The cause will be identified in advance by the Social Action Committee and that committee is open to suggestions from Fellowship members for worthy causes.

It has been the experience of other congregations who have started this process that not only are we able to give more money on behalf of our Fellowship to community causes, but the total contribution through pledges increases. It has been proven in other congregations that people enjoy and support being part of a generous religious community.

We initiated the process on Sunday June 21. Without any advance publicity we raised \$112.00 that was donated to the Open Door in Columbus. Our Fellowship has been working to develop a relationship with the Open Door, which is one of the longest established and most respected social agencies in Columbus working with underprivileged children and the homeless. Reverend Kim Jenkins the director of the Open Door has spoken at our Fellowship. She graciously received this special gift and said that she would use the money to make a positive difference in the life of a client at the Open Door.

We hope that you will enthusiastically support this new initiative by putting a little extra in the plate on the third Sunday of each month.

## **Unitarian History**

Julia Ward Howe was born on May 27, 1819 and died on October 17, 1910. During her lifetime she was famous as poet, essayist, lecturer, reformer and biographer. She worked to end slavery, helped to initiate the women's movement in many states, and organized for international peace. Her religious affiliation during a part of her life was Episcopalian, later she became a Unitarian Christian. She is mostly known as the author of the Battle Hymn of the Republic. The song was written after a visit to a Union Army camp in Virginia. There, she heard men singing the song which had been sung by North and South, one in admiration of John Brown, one in celebration of his death: "John Brown's body lies a'mouldering in his grave." It was originally published as a poem in *Atlantic Monthly* in February 1862. She believed in a personal loving God who cared about affairs of humanity, and she believed in a Christ who had taught a way of acting, a pattern of behavior, that humans should follow. She was a religious radical who did not see her belief as the only route to salvation, she, like many others of her generation had come to believe that religion was a matter of "deed, not creed." This short bio of was taken from the web-site About.com and was written by John Johnson Lewis.

Articulating your UU Faith—Responses from participants—Adult RE by Brenda Stevens

The following are responses from participants of the Adult RE class, articulating your UU Faith. The focus of the curriculum was on the articulation and practice of how and what to say to others not familiar with UU. Many of us struggle to describe our religion adequately to others. So what is this Unitarian Universalism.

**It is an open philosophy that allows different points of view about spirituality and religion.**

Unitarian Universalists believe: “If there is a God, there is only one (that is what makes us Unitarian) and if there is a Heaven, we are all going there (that is what makes us Universalists).

**It is a place where all are welcome, regardless of beliefs and backgrounds. Where there is no dogma to be recited and spiritual growth is an ongoing exploration of all types of sources. Where democracy is highly valued and ideas are discussed openly and no one is made to feel they are not a part of an open and caring environment. It is where all people are treated with dignity and respect.**

UU is a denomination that celebrates the enquiring mind and the generous heart.

**UU is a religious organization made up of people from various religious backgrounds, who are connected by a core of seven principles rather than by accepting an institutional dogma or creed. Instead of having just one accepted source for religious guidance, we have six. Each person is encouraged to develop his or her own personal creed and they support others in the effort to find their own. UU's are encouraged to embrace diversity and to ask other members questions about their personal spiritual beliefs. UU's are stimulated to read, study and share their own beliefs since that is a way of continuing to grow in one's own beliefs and to understand and accept others. UU's believe in the democratic process in decision-making in their local fellowship and in the national association. We believe in taking actions that will make the community a more just place to live and to make the environment safer and more enjoyable for our children.**

It is the denomination that teaches the fragile art of religious hospitality.

**Unitarian Universalism is a community of people who share the belief of the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and the importance of our personal behavior of “love thy neighbor as thyself”. And who share the desire to freely search and discuss truth and meaning in our lives, and learn how to improve our relationships and activities toward the goal of peace, liberty, and justice for all in this God-given world.**

It is a community where people of all faiths and backgrounds come together to search for spiritual truth. Individuals are free to express their opinions and to be themselves! There is no creed required. We do have seven principles which most Unitarians accept.

**It is a religious denomination that has its roots in our 3000 year old Judeo-Christian past that takes into account the scientific discoveries of today and reaches toward the timeless mysteries of life.**

Unitarian Universalism is a multi-faith denomination which accomplishes the unique task of honoring different religious beliefs within one affirming community.

**On Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, a program was presented by the participants of the RE class and the question was asked of the congregation, “So What Is This Unitarian Universalism? Here are some of their answers:**

Unitarian Universalists are a group of people who believe that unanswered questions are far better and less dangerous than unquestioned answers.

**I am a UU because it is a great faith and a venerable American tradition. UUs value reason, tolerance and freedom, not blind acceptance of any dogma or creed. We believe in the perfect ability of people and strive to be good citizens of the world.**

UU is about a liberal faith with diverse beliefs. UU is about deeds, not creeds. UU is about acceptance and tolerance of other religions. It is a fellowship where you can develop your own spirituality and your beliefs will be accepted and honored by others.

**This is an accepting community that emphasizes that each individual must find the answers to the big questions for themselves while supporting everyone on their journey.**

I can just say my experiences during the whole of my membership have been satisfying, wholesome and in stark contrast to my past experience; upbringing and family contact. Our UU members are all interesting, loving, accepting people and a joy to be with.

**The Unitarian Universalist religion means different things to different Unitarians. All congregations are not alike; some are more spiritual and have more of the ritualistic trappings of mainstay Christian churches, but cling to the Unitarian position of one God and not a holy Trinity. Some congregations are more humanistic in their approach and do not favor being “churchy”. The Unitarians I know subscribe to the UU Principals, are people of character and are compassionate, and are not that way because they are afraid of the supernatural consequences of not being that way.**

UU is an association of free thinkers of many stripes and persuasions. It acknowledges it does not have all the answers and welcomes and assists those of us who continue to search. It does not impose on us any dogma or creed, or require us to believe something just because someone said so. It encourages us to use our own minds and reason to search for the meaning of it all.

**We should introduce ourselves proudly as a religious denomination.**

Unitarian Universalist feel that we learn from all faith traditions, that the bible is not the only source for religious beliefs. We strive to keep an open mind, listen to others, and practice the freedom of religion.

## Joys and Concerns

**Departure:** Being a military town, our Fellowship experiences many departures from our congregation. It is sad to note that Marc and Michelle Saphir are relocating to Montevideo, Uruguay. In an e-mail they said thank you for making them feel at home in Columbus. They offer a place to stay if anyone in the Fellowship makes it that far south. They sent contact information so we can stay in touch. saphirm@hotmail.com and michelleport01@hotmail.com. Phone numbers are Marc: 520-227-0104, Michelle: 786-365-1425 Also Marc’s mailing address is MAJ Marc Saphir, Us Embassy Montevideo, Unit 4506, APO AA 34035

**Car Needed:** Chris and Ann Newland report that their daughter, Eliza is in need of good used car. She has been saving for many years and is ready to purchase a car. If anyone in the fellowship has any information about a good used car, preferably a Honda, contact Eliza Newland at 706-340-3625

**UU Picnic at John and Chris Nix’s** Everyone had a great time on June 14 at John and Chris Nix’s house. There was plenty of good food and conversation. The children in attendance had a fun time swimming in the pool. The fellowship extends a heartfelt thank you for hosting the gathering.

