

JAN/FEB
2011

THE LEAF

The Newsletter of the First Universalist Church of New Madison, Ohio, a Unitarian Universalist Congregation

RICHARD'S REFLECTIONS — from Rev. Richard Venus

Unitarian Universalists are often criticized for having no creed by which to base their religious behavior or worship. There is some merit in such a criticism, but I offer these words from a recent book by Sam Keen, *In the Absence of God*: “To be authentically religious is not to affirm any one creed or to have unwavering faith in a transcendent God. It is to be passionately concerned with the meaning of existence, and to linger with questions of origin, destination, and purpose, not because they are answerable but because we are swept up by our cultural myths when we cease to ask these questions.”

We UUs often get asked, “What do you believe anyway?” and we find ourselves stammering about believing whatever we want, which is not really the case. It is true we have no creed, but each of us has beliefs, arrived at through the many experiences of living and based on the Purposes and Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

As we sit in church and look around we will find that there is no one set of beliefs that fit all, but each of us has come to our beliefs out of the experiences that have shaped and informed our life. That is not the same as saying we can believe anything we want, but rather our beliefs are grounded in the truths that we have come to from daily living as well as our reading of sacred texts and texts not sacred at all. They are also based on our awareness that to love one's neighbor is fundamental to how we live.

Dr. Keen adds, “The proper task of religion is to remind us that, in spite of the tragic aspect of life that must feed on other life in order to survive, we should tread reverently on the earth and be compassionate to all sentient beings. We may not be able to speak convincingly about the transcendent God of traditional religion or of a kingdom of heaven beyond history, but we are not left without witnesses to the sacred.”

It is the sacredness of life to which we are drawn and it is that which we seek. How we speak of God or no-God reflects our search for the sacred. I am grateful to this Congregation that allows my search and everyone's search to be accepted and affirmed. I believe, while we have no creed, we are about the “proper task of religion.”

Richard V.

SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 A.M.

- JAN 2** Richard Venus
Winter Waiting Holds Promise
- JAN 9** Mary Reaman
Do We Still Need Propets?
- JAN 16** Richard Venus
Dare to Love the World
- JAN 23** Richard Venus
Living in the Gap
- JAN 30** Richard Venus
The God We Need
- FEB 6** Richard Venus
Our Missteps on Race
- FEB 13** Nancy Bowen
Rated E for Erotic
- FEB 20** Derek Parker
TBA
- FEB 27** Richard Venus
The Transforming Power of Love

UPCOMING EVENTS

FISH Offering

Jan. 2 and Feb. 6.

Food 'n' Friendship

Jan. 2 and Feb. 6, lunch
at Fort Black Buffet.

Board Meetings

Jan. 18 (no Feb. meeting),
7 p.m. at the church.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

From the President

Taking Things for Granted

Sometimes we take for granted the things we have exposure to every week. Our Music Department (Lloyd Ketring, Roberta Feltman, Margaret Schryver) who are at our Service every week happens to be one of these pleasures that I enjoy but also take for granted. I'm sure the planning and practice is more involved than anyone realizes. The most important aspect of their music is that they are not playing for themselves but for us. So the next Sunday you are at church enjoying the music, reflect on all the work we tend to take for granted.

— Fred Meyer

Building and Grounds

Plans for 2011

In 2011 we are making plans to try to accomplish several projects. These projects are needed to help protect our church from outside weather conditions that over time will affect the building.

- 1.) Repair the deteriorated mortar above the stone sills on the back wall of the bell tower. Also enclose the wooden area on the back side of bell tower with new bricks to truly enclose the entire bell tower for good. This needs to be done. We will contact Randy

Byrd, who did all the other bell tower work for us through the years.

Estimated cost *not sure yet, but several thousand.*

- 2.) Stain the entire front ramp in the same color it currently is.
Estimated cost **\$75**
- 3.) Coat all three flat roofs with silver-colored fiber roofing paint. We will handle doing that project ourselves.
Estimated cost **\$100**
- 4.) Patch with concrete some areas on the front stone wall along the sidewalk. Also do some needed mortar brick pointing on different areas of the outside church walls. We will handle doing the projects ourselves.
Estimated cost **TBD**

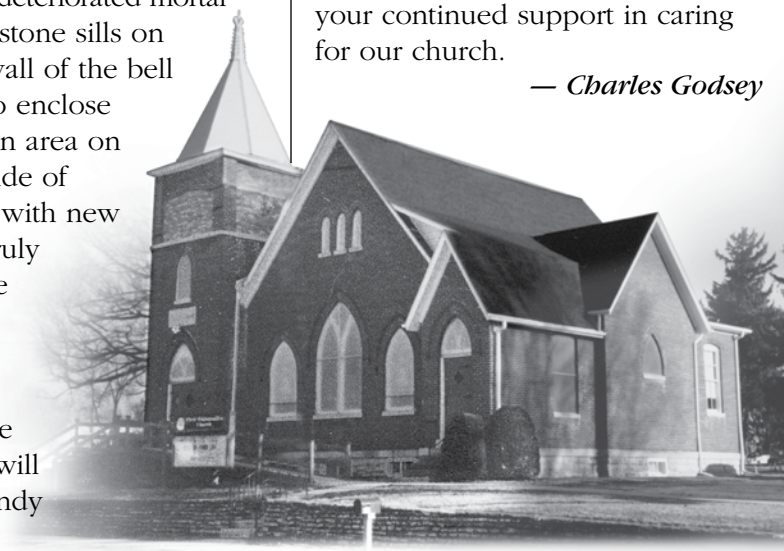
In closing, I wish to emphasize again to our church members that money can be donated any time to the capital fund, no matter what week or month of the year. Our church operating funds continue to decrease yearly. Thank you all for your continued support in caring for our church.

— Charles Godsey

Music Committee

Harvest Sounds, First Universalist's tenth benefit concert, was presented November 7, 2010. The beneficiary receiving 100% of the proceeds was The Darke County Shelter From Violence Inc. Annie Sonner, Coordinator/Victim Advocate of the Shelter, gratefully accepted the proceeds of over \$600. Performing at the concert was the First Universalist Trio featuring Lloyd Ketring, Margaret Schryver, and Roberta Feltman. Fourteen year old Brooke Netzley presented vocal solos and joined the Trio for *Jesus Loves Me*. Closing the program was the TB&J Trio, consisting of pianist Terri Fryman, drummer Brad Hare and Jane Tester on bass, playing music we know and enjoy. *Harvest Sounds* was once again a great success on a beautiful November day.

The Music Committee volunteered, and the church agreed, to present a service of carols and holiday music to celebrate the Christmas season. We opened our Advent season with song and celebration on Sunday, December 5. Everyone joined the traditional singing of Ruth Lyons' *Let's Light the Christmas Tree*, while the tall, beautifully decorated tree seemed to magically light up for Christmas 2010. Our Trio presented special numbers, and Carillon music added to the joy and spirit of the morning. Scriptural, traditional and responsive readings by Rev. Richard Venus and the Congregation created a special feeling of Christmas. During the service we practiced *Melchior, Caspar, Balthazar* to present on Christmas Eve. With





music, three wise men, and readings, we were reminded of the Christmas “pageants” of our childhood. The three kings – Melchior by David Feltman, Caspar by Kenny Baker, Balthazar by Dick Brooks – and narrator Rev. Venus, told the story of the three kings who were looking for the newborn babe in Bethlehem. They were assisted in their search by innkeeper Christel Brooks and shepherd Julie Mancy. The short portrayal was presented on Christmas Eve as part of the service of carols, candlelight and music. Adding to the sacred feeling of the evening were readings, circling of the dimly lit sanctuary and lighting of candles while singing *Silent Night*. The Carillon music of *O Holy Night* completed the beautiful evening service. On December 19, setting the proper mood for a blessed Christmas, Rick and Hillary Wagner, Richard Venus, granddaughter Misa and her friend Hannah presented a special gift to the church of musical offerings on flutes and stringed instruments.

Music plans for the coming year include going to Sinclair Community College to hear Margaret Schryver, our flutist/piccoloist perform as part of the Sinclair Wind Symphony (woodwinds, brass and percussion instruments) which presents selections covering a wide variety of musical styles of traditional and contemporary sounds. As a date for Food ‘n Friendship Sunday, we have chosen to attend the Wind Symphony/Concert Band/Youth Wind Ensemble concert, Sunday afternoon, May 1 at 2:00 p.m. All are invited to join the First Universalist crowd as we proudly

watch and listen to “our” Margaret perform. As for the “Food” part of Food ‘n Friendship, we suggest having evening dinner at The Spaghetti Warehouse, 36 West Fifth Street, Dayton.

Another big plan for 2011 is our eleventh benefit concert. *Harvest Sounds* will be presented November 6, with artists and beneficiary to be announced at a later date. It’s not too early to mark your calendar! Watch *The Leaf* for more announcements from your Music Committee. We’ll keep you informed!

— Roberta Feltman

Sinclair Concert Schedule 2011

Several of you have attended the concerts of the Wind Symphony and Concert Band at Sinclair Community College (of which I am a member) and you’ve asked me to post the performance schedule for the coming year. These concerts, free of charge, are held in the Theater in Building 2 on Sinclair’s campus in downtown Dayton. Enjoy and hope to see you there!

— Margaret Schryver

March 6 — 2:00 p.m.

— **Wind Symphony, Concert Band, Youth Wind Ensemble**

— *With guest composer/conductor David Schaeffer*

March 15 — 7:30 p.m.

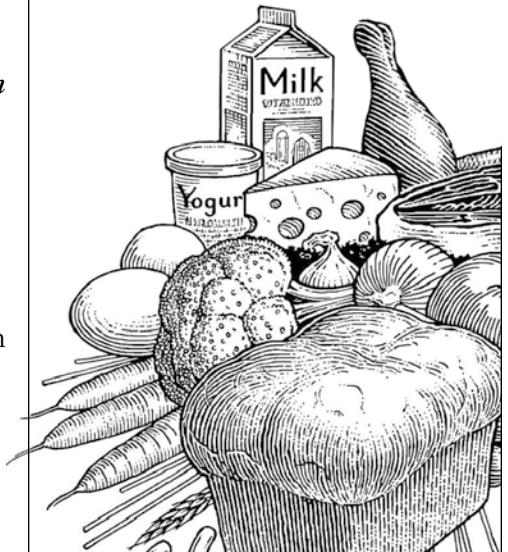
— **Concert Band**

May 1 — 2:00 p.m.

— **Wind Symphony, Concert Band, Youth Wind Ensemble**

FISH in 2010

The FISH Choice Pantry thanks everyone for their donations in 2010. They use this money to restock the shelves and to provide perishables to families. In 2009 FISH serviced 2,375 families and in 2010 that number rose to 2,709 families. First Universalist donated bags of drygoods as well as a total of \$903.10 in 2010. We will continue with FISH in the coming year. You all are helping to make a difference in our community.



BY THE NUMBERS

Our little Congregation gave a stunning \$903 to FISH in 2010 — an average of \$75 per month, plus the food and household items we donated!

OUTREACH REPORT

Our Church membership has been very busy and very generous during the year 2010, as evidenced by the following Outreach Committee report. We all should be very proud of our donations.

December/January —

Recycled Greeting Card Program

1700 Cards were collected for the project and sent to St. Jude's Ranch for Children. The fronts of the cards are recycled by the children, making new cards which are then sold for \$10 per package. The funds are used to benefit the children through programs and services. Cards can be purchased through their website http://www.stjudesranch.org/online_store.php, or by calling 877-977-7572, or by writing to St. Jude's Ranch for Children, Attn: Donor Office, P.O. Box 60100, Boulder City, NV 89006.

January —

Haiti Earthquake Relief Effort A total of \$1245 was raised, including \$500 from Church funds, and sent to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee for the Earthquake stricken country. Jeff Feltman donated copies of his beautiful drawing of Jacmel to donors who contributed \$25 or more.

February/March —

Valentine for Mexico

Our church helps the *Children Without* organization break the cycle of poverty in Mexico by supplying aid in the form of scholarships and monetary donations to purchase school supplies, afterschool enrichment programs, and other educational efforts for the impoverished children of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico in conjunction

with the Rotary Club of Puerto Vallarta. We presented \$551 to the organization this year, which (through a matching fund) purchased two scholarships for Hector and Marya who we've been sponsoring.

May/June —

Cell Phones for Soldiers

Fifteen cell phones were collected and taken to Oliver-Floyd Funeral Home, the local collection center for this national project. The phones were then sent for recycling. Funds derived from the recycling were used to purchase phone cards for our troops overseas so they can phone home.

July/August —

Brukner Nature Center Wish List

Cash in the amount of \$20 and a \$50 gift card along with many items such as bleach, trash bags, cotton balls, light bulbs, cracked corn, sunflower seed, nectar concentrate, suet, kitten chow, feeding dish, thermometers, markers, Ivory soap, and pine bedding were collected and donated to Brukner Nature Center for use in efforts to support, rehabilitate and preserve wildlife.

August —

Gulf Oil Spill Wildlife Rescue

Twenty-eight bottles of Dawn dish washing liquid, a total of 5.4 gallons, was collected and donated through Brukner Nature Center for the rescue of wildlife caught up in the Gulf of Mexico oil spill disaster.

October —

Mentoring Program

Julie Mancy and Margaret Schryver are finalizing our Mentoring Project with Judge Julie Monnin. Judge Monnin was our guest speaker for

the October 31st service, which was followed by a Congregational meeting to brief everyone on the topics of our Mentoring Program. Dede Wissman volunteered to be our coordinator for this project.

December —

Mitten Tree

We collected 27 pairs of mittens and gloves which were donated to Head Start for needy children.



Outreach Projects for 2011

All year —

Recycled Greeting Card Program

Dave Feltman suggests the recycled card program run continuously, but that we make our mailing of the cards to St. Jude's annually during the first week of February. In St. Jude's program information, they note that they currently have an increased need for both Birthday and Thank You card submissions. Also, they cannot accept Hallmark, Disney or American Greetings cards due to copyright restrictions.

Spring —

Scholarships for Mexico

The Outreach Committee would like to sponsor this project again this year. For the past two years we have sponsored two children, and we'd like to help them finish their education, compliments of First Universalist Church. For each \$250 collected, a matching amount from *Children Without* will provide the \$500 necessary to continue another year's education.

— *Kenny Baker*

FINANCIAL REPORT

	YEAR TO DATE			ANNUAL	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE	LAST YEAR	BUDGET
Income:					
Pledges	11,675.00	13,700.00	(2,025.00)	13,485.00	25,700.00
Plate	1,117.00	1,517.00	(400.00)	1,436.91	3,100.00
Lottery	176.50	231.00	(54.50)	230.50	445.00
Memorial Fund	25.00	-	-	25.00	-
Building & Property Fund	78.50	-	78.50	26.50	-
Community Outreach Fund	150.00	-	150.00	-	-
Easter Offering	-	-	-	-	520.00
Christmas Offering	1,430.00	1,400.00	30.00	1,295.00	1,400.00
Candlelight Service	145.00	125.00	20.00	127.00	125.00
Interest	1.53	-	1.53	2.86	-
Miscellaneous	1,084.60	-	1,084.60	1,162.06	-
Total Income	15,358.13	16,473.00	(1,114.87)	17,090.83	30,790.00
Expenses:					
Minister Salary	9,874.98	9,876.00	(1.02)	9,874.98	19,752.00
Social Security	612.26	612.00	0.26	612.26	1,224.00
Medicare	143.22	144.00	(0.78)	143.22	288.00
Minister Professional Expense	4,192.52	4,194.00	(1.48)	3,916.68	8,526.00
Guest Speakers	1,950.00	2,800.00	(850.00)	1,950.00	5,600.00
Electric & Gas	791.17	869.00	(77.83)	900.64	2,900.00
Water, Sewer & Refuse	495.00	495.00	-	495.00	990.00
Telephone	249.30	252.00	(2.70)	245.22	504.00
Insurance	548.00	548.00	-	529.00	1,096.00
Office Expense	56.00	127.00	(71.00)	175.83	400.00
Leaf Expense	107.95	140.00	(32.05)	-	280.00
UUA Dues	-	-	-	-	250.00
Heartland District Dues	241.50	241.50	-	230.00	483.00
Repairs & Supplies	4,631.93	3,261.00	1,370.93	331.64	3,479.00
Publicity & Advertising	48.00	-	48.00	312.00	125.00
Miscellaneous	1,101.60	-	1,101.60	1,162.06	-
Total Expense	25,043.43	23,559.50	1,483.93	20,878.53	45,897.00
Increase (Decrease) from Church Operations	(9,685.30)	(7,086.50)	(2,598.80)	(3,787.70)	(15,107.00)
Mutual Fund Dividends & Distributions	371.39	-	371.39	1,020.46	-
Mutual Fund Market Price Fluctuation	4,190.07	-	4,190.07	7,493.11	-
Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balances	(5,123.84)	(7,086.50)	1,962.66	4,725.87	(15,107.00)

From the Treasurer — Lloyd Ketring

Guest at Your Table Collection

Our total collection for 2010's GAYT is \$467.00. Thank you for your continued generosity to this important worldwide humanitarian effort sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. For 70 years, the UUSC has been

a leading voice for social justice, thanks to donors like you.

Past GAYT totals from our church:

2009.....	\$779.06
2008.....	\$635.23
2007.....	\$664.70
2006.....	\$687.00

Holiday Collections

The total collected for our annual Christmas Offering was \$1,930. The Candlelight Service offering was an additional \$145. Your support of this church will be felt throughout the coming year. Thank you for all of your help.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH — FEBRUARY

“We must work passionately and indefatigably to bridge the gulf between our scientific progress and our moral progress,” wrote Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. “One of the great problems of mankind is that we suffer from a poverty of the spirit which stands in glaring contrast to our scientific and technological abundance. The richer we have become materially, the poorer we have become morally and spiritually.

Every man lives in two realms, the internal and the external. The internal is that realm of spiritual ends expressed in art, literature, morals, and religion. The external is that complex of devices, techniques, mechanism, and instrumentalities by means of which we live. Our problem today is that we have allowed the internal to become lost in the external. We have allowed the means by which we live to outdistance the ends for which we live.”

These words were spoken more than 40 years ago. Dr. King speaks of the human condition in a way that goes beyond race relations to the underlying problems that are reflected in recent years. He reminds us that the ends to which many of our religious and political leaders would have us go are shortsighted. They ignore the spiritual and focus on material gain. Ironically, his words speak as much to us today, perhaps even more, than when he so profoundly uttered them. This is one of many reasons it is important to lift up Black History Month, not simply as a reminder of the plight of many

African-Americans, but also of the many truths Dr. King spoke that we need to hear about our living of these days.



—Richard Venus

‘T WAS THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAY REVEALED — *Monday December 6, 2010*

And there went out a decree that the First UUs should gather to celebrate. To celebrate the holiday season. They came from far and near, bringing gifts and tidings of great joy. There were gifts of food to share and it was good, very good. And lo the tastes were both traditional, and nouvelle. • When all present were sated, gifts were exchanged with great glee, for they too were of great variety and seemingly varying value. Lo, the gift of local wine changed hands many times, as did the dormant amaryllis. Yet, the spirit of the season was felt by all. Greed was overcome by the spirit of giving. • Then with eagerness they did play a game. It was called bingo, and there were many winners. Gifts selected by the wisepeople (you know who you are) rewarded the jubilant winners. The competition was fierce, yet there was also kindness and shared laughter. As the evening was ending, there was a touch of sadness for those who could not come to the festivity, but there was hope for their attending next season. • The UUs dispersed with more laughter, and the pleasure of the evening glowing in their hearts.

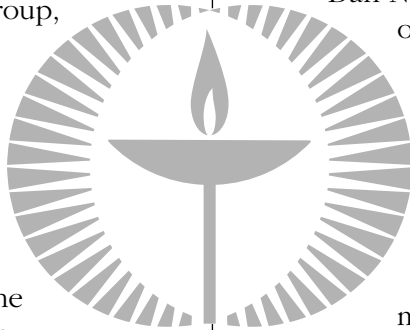
—Dede Wissman

CATCHING UP

A New Church Starting Up

Former Roman Catholics and a group of Unitarian Universalists have been meeting since last Fall to discuss the creation of a new UU Congregation in the area around I-70 and I-75. The group, which numbers between 45-60, has also met for worship on Sunday afternoons in the Yogi Center in Dayton. They have named themselves the Tree of Life Unitarian Universalist Congregation and will begin meeting again in February at 10 a.m. for Service.

The Tree of Life Congregation has been led by Mary Reaman, our guest speaker January 9. She was the lay leader of the St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church. When it closed in 2006, she gathered a number of its members and formed a new church.



Last summer a group of Unitarian Universalists began informal discussions regarding a new UU church that would serve those primarily north of I-70. The Rev. Chuck Thomas and I, Hillary Wagner,

Dan Narigon (who some of you met in church on January 9), and others were part of that effort.

Mr. Narigon is the leader of this effort, while Mary and I serve as consulting ministers.

The Tree of Life members and the UUs have been in contact with the leadership of the Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and Heartland District Executive Lisa Presley as part of the new church's planning process.

Another step is to invite First Universalist Church of New Madison to be a sponsoring church for this new Congregation. Our president,

Fred Meyer, has attended one of the new church's planning meetings and has been kept abreast of its progress.

I invite any and all of you to attend one of their services or the planning meetings. They will be announced in future issues of *The Leaf*.

—Richard Venus

Thanks for Your Concern

I appreciate all the expressions of concern that I have received in regard to my mother's (Rita Braeunig) illness. This has been a very difficult time for Mom and the rest of our family, and it means a lot to know that I have the support of my First Universalist friends. Mom knows that you are keeping her in your thoughts by lighting a candle for her at Service, and it means a lot to her.

This issue of *The Leaf* is so late because of the demands on my time as a result of many trips to Sandusky to be with Mom. I appreciate your understanding. In the box below, I've posted the due dates for articles for upcoming issues. The March/April issue will be a small "catch-up" issue and then I hope to be back on schedule for the rest of the year.

—Margaret Schryver

QUOTABLE QUOTE

“I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality...I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.”

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

ISSUE	ARTICLES DUE
MAR/APR	March 1
MAY/JUNE	April 17
JULY/AUG	June 19

Send submissions to Margaret Schryver (mschryver@hafenbrack.com).

A STORY OF HOPE

A sick little boy needed your help. *A few months ago I brought in a plea for help from a former co-worker (David Bowman and his wife Colleen) for his son Jude who is still undiagnosed, yet suffering, from a terrible disease. The family was trying to launch a letter-writing campaign to "The Ellen Show" to gain national attention by appearing on the program in the hopes that medical professionals would respond with cases similar to Jude's, and a diagnosis and cure could be found. First Universalist generously participated in the letter-writing campaign. Here is a recent followup message from Colleen.*

Dear Friends and Family,

Over the past few weeks, my sister Katie has received many inquiries about the progress of the letter writing campaign she organized in an effort to find help for my son Jude. I wanted to give a quick update to all of you who supported our family in this campaign.

First and foremost, I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for taking the time to help our family. When this campaign started, many of you didn't know us at all, yet you still took the time to send a letter to raise awareness for Jude's cause. We will continue to pay forward your generosity.

I recently had the opportunity to read many of the email messages that were sent to my sister. To say I am touched by your kindness and words of encouragement does not begin to explain what your letters mean to me. I am deeply grateful for all of your support, which continues to be a source of hope and inspiration for our family.

As for the letter writing campaign, we were overwhelmed by the enormous response it generated.

Channel 22 (Dayton) picked up Jude's story and featured it on the evening news, sharing his struggle with people all across the Dayton area. In the weeks that followed, thousands of letters were sent to *The Ellen Show* and countless people reached out to offer us suggestions for help and extend wishes of support. Unfortunately, we have not received any response from *The Ellen Show*. We have made numerous attempts to follow up with representatives of the show, but have heard nothing. While we are disappointed with the lack of a response, we understand that the show has no responsibility to answer our requests. Thus, in the days and weeks ahead, we will begin to shift our attention elsewhere as we persist in the fight to find answers for Jude.

With regard to Jude's medical condition, we continue to work very closely with our pediatrician in search of medical explanations to Jude's condition. We have sent information to 17 hospitals, hoping to pique the interest of a neurologist who may have seen or heard about a condition like this. We

have not made any breakthroughs yet, but we have made some new connections that we hope will be helpful. We are also working with Occupation and Physical Therapists to ensure Jude's motor skills and coordination do not suffer or regress further as result of these episodes. We continue to research conditions and treatment options everyday.

As for Jude, he has good days and bad days. At times he appears to be a perfectly normal, rambunctious little boy, and yet his condition frequently turns without notice. Within seconds he can go from playing and being silly to collapsing and losing the ability to process simple thoughts. He is strong and brave and continues to inspire *us* to be strong and brave. He never complains about his condition and certainly doesn't feel sorry for himself. He is an amazing little boy who is sure to do incredible things with his life.

As I have said many times, the fact that so many of you were willing to stand with us in our fight provided a hope that came at a time when we needed it most. Thank you all for your support.

Sincerely,

Colleen Bowman
Colleen Bowman — Jude's Mom



GETTING TO KNOW YOU — PAT LIPPS

Pat Lipps lives alone, but I don't believe she is lonely. Her husband Joe died almost two years ago, but she continues to reflect on their life together and enjoy remembrances of their 61+ years together.

She especially remembers how they met and how they disagreed about almost everything. She remembers how she went to a dance in Greenville and Joe, recently returned from being a radio operator in the war, asked her to dance. Then he asked her out and then for an airplane ride in Richmond. It was her grandmother, with whom Pat lived, who first fell in love with Joe and when he came to pick Pat up for a date would talk with him for hours.

Pat was born in 1925, the oldest of three brothers and a sister, who lives in Greenville. Jimmy became a bank president, but early in life contracted Leukemia and died. Dick, she reports was red-haired and ornery. Earl, the youngest boy, died of cancer. She has few good feelings about her father, who her mother divorced when Pat was in grade school. "He wasn't a nice man at all," she said.

Joe changed her life. They would go to his house for dinner and he would cook — he made great spaghetti, a skill he learned well in the Navy. "He was quite the cook, better than I was, but he wouldn't do any baking," she said. "That's what he learned in the service."

It is clear that Joe was her life, even though she says they fought from the first they met. "I can't imagine being married that long," she said. "We had so many disagreements

I'm surprised it lasted that long." Joe spent many hours at the church and Pat added, "One summer I thought I'd never see him."

They had three girls; Paula was the first, then Nan (Fritchie) and Linda (Searls). She and Joe moved to New Madison after the girls were born and she decided to take them to church. The minister, Ray Michael, invited her to come and after two Sundays she asked Joe to attend, and "he never missed a Sunday after that," Pat said.

They became good friends with the Michaels, regularly spending Friday evenings playing cards and, as one can imagine, laughing until tears came down. The Lipps and the Michaels regularly took extended trips together. "One I liked the best was when we traveled out West," Pat said.

"Ray was good with the girls," she added, then noted that he presided over the wedding ceremony for each of them.

Pat never finished high school, but instead went to work in a plant in Troy, Ohio, that made airplane gliders, then left for a factory job in Greenville, "Until I got pregnant with Paula." She spent many of the next years raising the girls, but finally went back to work. She took a job babysitting for a friend in

Richmond, who after Pat's first day, announced she was quitting her job and would Pat like to have it. When she reported to Joe that she had a job he said "No. you're not going." To which she replied, "I'll tell you about it when I get home tomorrow." She spent nine years at the Richmond Woolworth's and worked there until it closed. "I really liked that job," she said.

“Joe and I moved to New Madison after the girls were born, and I decided to take them to church. After two Sundays I asked Joe to attend and he never missed a Sunday after that.”

— Pat Lipps, about her husband Joe

They must have liked her too. She began behind three counters, then was asked to keep all the counters organized and then worked at the cash register. "They kept adding jobs to me," she reports. Finally, "The boss came to me and asked me to be in charge of half the store. I said no until he said I wouldn't have to work Sundays." She had several bosses. "If a little man came as boss, beware," she said. "If he was taller he

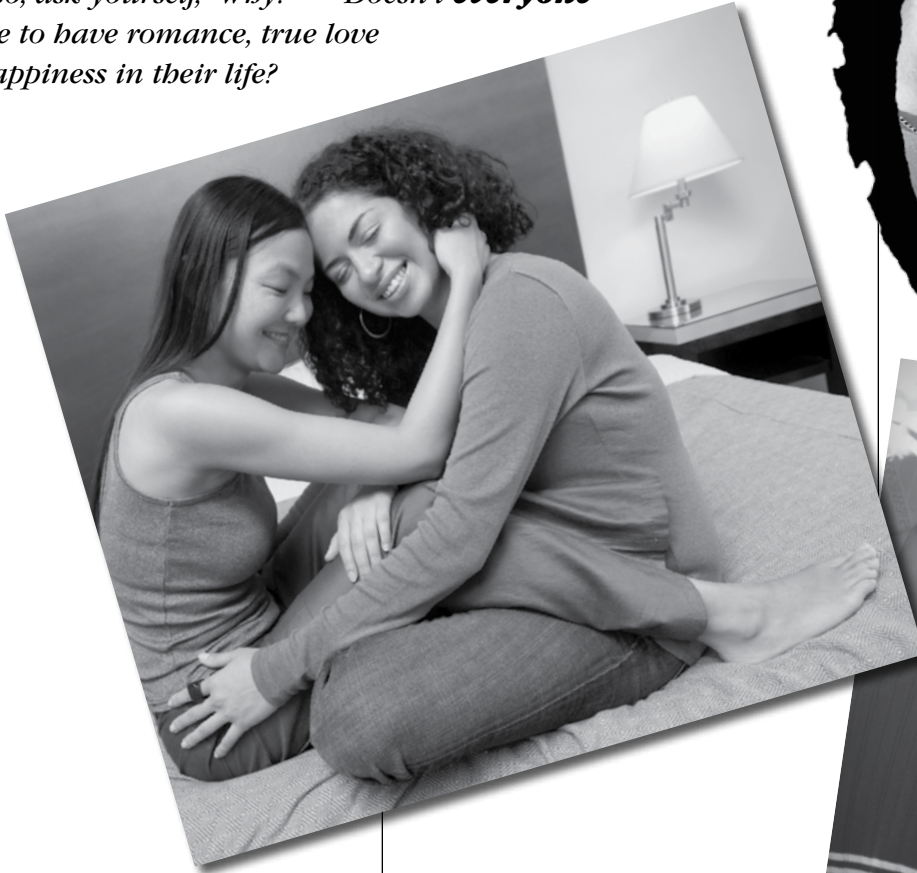
was more understanding. It took me a while to learn that because we had several bosses."

There is no question that Pat and Joe had a very special marriage around which they built their life together. "Our evenings often began in the kitchen," Pat said. "Joe would come and stand there. 'I just want to watch ya,' he'd say, and he'd come over and kiss me. It wasn't like him."

— Richard Venus

STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE

Do these pictures bother you? *Hopefully not, but if so, ask yourself, “Why?” — Doesn’t **everyone** deserve to have romance, true love and happiness in their life?*



“Standing on the Side of Love” Day — February 14

As UUs, we have chosen to affirm and promote a set of principles, one of which is “to respect and believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every human being.”

The second annual “Standing on the Side of Love” (SSL) Day is February 14th, a day that has been traditionally set aside to celebrate romance and love as “Valentine’s Day.” The Unitarian Universalist Association wants to take that tradition two steps further — FIRST, to re-imagine Valentine’s Day as a holiday of love and acceptance for *everyone*, not just heterosexual

couples. In all of the world’s religions, love is upheld as a central tenet, and SSL seeks to harness the unifying and transformative power of love to stop oppression. SECOND, the UUA has set aside SSL Day as an opportunity to honor and support courageous love — that is, to publicly (or personally) recognize individuals who exemplify the values of inclusion, diversity, community and equality through their actions in support of the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender (GLBT) segment of our society. Do you know someone like this? Are you one of these unsung heroes yourself? I’ll share a couple of examples with you...

I remember a tall, lanky, shy young man who many years ago played tuba in the Bands at Sinclair Community College. He and I never spoke much beyond just saying “hi” at rehearsals. I thought he was just another one of those quirky yet really talented musicians that I’ve run across during my many years in the Band. His name was Harold Taylor. Harold eventually left the

Band, as most graduating music majors do. Then, just a few years ago a tall, lanky, not-so-shy red-haired woman showed up in the Band — and, boy, could she play tuba! Her name was Helena Taylor. It wasn't too long before I learned that my assumption was correct: indeed Helena was one-and-the-same — Harold Taylor. She had a sex change operation and is now living her life as the woman who spent so many years trapped inside the identity of Harold. I admire the courage it took for her to commit to her true identity, and to go

through such a physical and mental ordeal, emerging as Helena. But what I really

admire most is the fact that *she came back to the very same community* and the very same musical circle that she previously associated with as Harold. The risk of ridicule, discrimination, bullying, and perhaps retaliation that Helena took is *extraordinary*. She truly exemplifies "Standing on the Side of Love." The last I heard of Helena, she was moving out to California to pursue a career in commercial musical composition. Well, "*You go, GIRL!!!*"

A second story I'd like to share is remarkable to me because of the time period in which it happened. I'm a real fan of old silent movies, and recently came across this story. Few, if any, movie-goers today would know who William Haines was. In 1930 he was the top male box office star, in company previously

held by the likes of Rudolph Valentino (who was gay) and John Gilbert (who was not). What made William Haines different from the many other gay actors of that time was that he lived his life *openly* gay. He didn't hide his relationship with his lover, Jimmy Shields — yet in those days the studios would do everything possible to keep "scandalous" information of this kind from the public. Studio executives cared only about the box-office revenue their major stars guaranteed rather than about the welfare and happiness of the stars themselves.

Louis B. Mayer (head of MGM studio and one of the most powerful men in Hollywood) called Mr.

Haines into his office and told him that he had to end his relationship with Jimmy and marry a starlet in a hugely-hyped public ceremony, or he no longer had a job. Mr. Haines, without hesitation, refused to betray his partner and walked out. The final irony was that Mr. Haines was highly supported by many in the Hollywood community and he went on to become one of the most wealthy and successful interior designers in California — decorating many homes of the rich and famous personalities there. And, as for his relationship with Jimmy — William Haines' longtime close friend Joan Crawford said it best, "They're the happiest married couple in all of Hollywood!" Their union lasted 50 years until Haines' death in 1973. William Haines and Jimmy Shields stood on the side of *their* love and

chose that path over fame and a highly successful, lucrative film career during a time that was far more homophobic than today. I find that to be very courageous.

It is timely that amid the UUA's "Standing on the Side of Love" campaign, the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law finally succeeded in December 2010. The repeal (65 to 31 vote) means that members of the United States Military who happen to be gay or lesbian will soon no longer be required to serve in silence, or with an ongoing sense of non-acceptance by their military family as well as by their country. Military training to apply the new law will begin in February and will move quickly. President Obama said in his January State of the Union speech that the repeal of the 17-year-old ban will be finalized in 2011. Our American military will be practicing the first principle of Unitarian Universalism — "to honor the inherent worth and dignity of every person" — by including gays and lesbians. During the debate surrounding the repeal, Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) passionately stated, "I don't care who you love... if you love this country enough to risk your life, you shouldn't have to hide who you are!" *I agree.*

— *Margaret Schryver*

SOURCES:

- *Beth F. Coxe (Rogue Valley UU Fellowship, Ashland, Oregon) — letter.*
- *UUA.org*
- *IMDB.com*
- *Dan Furmansky, Campaign Manager, Standing on the Side of Love — letter.*



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF
LOVE

CELEBRATIONS

January Birthdays

- 2 Steve Moeckel
- 8 Maureen Wissman
- 9 Cecil Beers
- 9 Chelsea Lucas
- 10 Lisa Feltman Spring
- 15 Lyle Baker
- 16 Jeffrey Feltman
- 18 Roger Cassity
- 19 Derek Lucas
- 26 Lyn Baker

January Anniversaries

- 4 Steve & Marion Moeckel

February Birthdays

- 8 Sue Searls
- 12 Claire Brooks Williams
- 13 Harley Ketring
- 15 Bonnie Behee
- 15 Margaret Buccicone
- 20 Dolly Lewis
- 24 Dan Lucas
- 27 Kevin Behee
- 28 Doyle Burns



QUOTABLE QUOTE

“An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.”

— *Martin Luther King, Jr.*