

East Suburban Unitarian Universalist Church



Sunday Services - 10:30 AM
Religious Education - 10:30 AM

Telephone
(724) 327-5872

Now in our new home at
4326 Sardis Road, Murrysville!

Website
<http://www.esuuc.org>

Volume 41 No. 7

February, 2004

Editor, Andy Manhardt
newsletter@esuuc.org

ESUUC Forum

Wednesday, March 3, 7:30 PM “*Inside The Bush White House*”

The Forum Steering Committee will present an evening program at the church on Wednesday, March 3, especially designed to attract people from surrounding communities.

At this kick-off for our series on the 2004 Presidential Election, we will discuss the recent best seller by Ron Suskind, "The Price of Loyalty" which "exposes" the inside functioning of the Bush White House from the perspective of former U. S. Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill.

SAVE THE DATE-----READ THE BOOK-----INVITE YOUR FRIENDS.

ESUUC Sunday Services

Sunday, February 1, 10:30 AM- “*The African American Soul*”

February is African American History Month. In observance of that, **Dr. Waun** will present another musical program using spirituals to reflect on African American spirituality, especially that of the slave.

Sunday, February 8, 10:30 AM “*The Gender Knot*”

This service will be led by member Maureen McHugh, a social psychologist and gender specialist, and is based on the book, *The Gender Knot* by Allan Johnson, a sociologist at Hartford College. His book is acclaimed because he describes patriarchy in terms we can understand, and shows both men and women how to participate in changing gender inequalities. Like a knitter, Johnson works to untangle the knot of patriarchy by gently shaking the entire skein until all the threads are loosened, and each of the threads is analytically clear. In advance of Valentine's Day, McHugh will follow the thread of adult (heterosexual) romantic relationships, and examine how our relationships are impacted by our cultural legacy of male domination.

Sunday, February 15, 10:30 AM- “*Haunted by the little boxes*”

The President of the Pittsburgh Transsexual Support Group (a UU!) has graciously agreed to share her family experience, good and bad. With this she will provide personal insight into the importance of family, friends and congregation accepting and welcoming transgender as well as its gay and

lesbian members. Please join us for this special Valentine's Day program to help us expand our definition of love.

Sunday February 22, 10:30 AM- *“Henry David Thoreau”*

UU history often traces one of its roots to the Transcendentalists of New England, and particularly to Ralph Waldo Emerson. This service, led by Brien Palmer, will focus on another--and perhaps even more influential--member of this group: Henry David Thoreau. Thoreau was brilliant, independent, original, difficult, poetic, nature-loving, outspokenly political, stubborn, and insightful--clearly a UU. Come hear how this person influenced literature, social justice, philosophy, Mahatmas Gandhi, environmentalism, nonviolence, Martin Luther King, and some of the core UU principles.

Sunday February 29, 10:30 AM-

“Contemporary Philosophy and the Meaning of Life: Existentialist Spirituality”

Contemporary philosophers question the ability of human beings to grasp absolute truths regarding values and meaning. The existentialists, in particular, move the emphasis for finding meaning away from absolutes to the choices and perspectives of the individual. This talk will investigate the ways in which existentialists make sense of meaning and spirituality in an ambiguous world. Presented by Dr. Bill Pamerleau, Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg.

Sunday, March 7, 10:30 AM- *“I, The Crone”*

March is "Women's History Month". In recognition of this, Dr. Waun will offer a program on the "crone". Is this third face of the “mother” archetype to be celebrated or eschewed? As Dr. Waun celebrates her own passage into crone-hood in March, she will reflect on the meaning and role of the crone today and in times past.

Religious Education News

Class Schedule:

Date Nursery

2/1 Merritt

2/8 Gayle

2/15 TBD

2/22 TBD

2/29 TBD

Date Lower Elementry

2/1 Kids Attend First Part of the Service Today

Planning for Fathers Day

Intergenerational Service

2/8 A Time to Say I love You - Valentine's Day

Marianne Jew

2/15 A Time to Celebrate Victory Over Discrimination - Purim

Lew Ruffing

2/22 A Time to Help Others - Lent

Kathy Begg

2/29 A Time to Be Free From Slavery

Kathy Ruffing

Date Upper Elementry

2/1 Kids Attend First Part of the Service Today

Planning for Fathers Day

Intergenerational Service

2/8 Theodore Parker - Part 1

Laurie Montgomery

2/15 Theodore Parker - Part 2

Laurie Montgomery

2/22 Human Rights, The Story of Errold D. Collymore - Part 1

Karen Katilius

2/29 Human Rights, The Story of Errold D. Collymore - Part 2

Karen Katilius

Date	Middle School	2/15	Visit to a Carpatho Russian Orthodox Church
2/1	Preparation for Movie Night Leona Dunnnett	2/22	Discussion of the Golden Rule - Rules to Live by - of Various Faiths Leona Dunnnett
2/8	Eastern Orthodox - Liturgy, Ritual, & Symbol Cathy Serventi	2/29	Kids will attend the service

History Minute

2/22 Brendan Straw
2/29 Zea Zingarelli

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

A huge thank you goes out to Bill and Helen Kavalkovich for donating a VCR to the RE program. This is WONDERFUL! Thank you for your kind donation. Without you, we would have no alternative movie available for kids on movie nights, and now we will! Please be sure to thank Bill and Helen in person when you see them.

Movie Night/Pizza Dinner/Coming of Age Fundraiser

We will have our next movie night/ pizza dinner/COA Fundraiser on Friday Feb 20. Pizza dinner will include pizza, salad, dessert and beverage. Cost will be \$5 for kids, \$10 for adults, or \$25 for a family. We will be showing two movies:

"Dogma":

2 hrs. 10 min. The latest battle in the eternal war between Good and Evil has come to New Jersey in the late, late 20th Century. In what can only be deemed a comedy parable, two renegade fallen angels attempt to jerry-rig the entire cosmological system -- unless a rag-tag group of humans can stop faith. Bethany, the heroine of DOGMA, is a woman who feels her prayers haven't been answered when, out of nowhere, a heralding angel appears in her bedroom and declares her the potential savior of humanity. This abrupt meeting sets her off on an extraordinary journey of mystery, comedy and suspense as she is transported to a fantastical world of celestial characters and spirited adventure. Along the way she will meet up with a heaven-sent messenger, an apostle with a 2,000 year old beef, a hotheaded demon, a heavenly Muse and two unlikely Prophets known as Jay and Silent Bob as they each discover the power of their own individual faith.

MPAA Rating: R for strong language including sex-related dialogue, violence, crude humor and some drug content.

and

Finding Nemo - Rated G.

Doors open at 6:00PM for pizza and we plan to start the movies around 8:00. We had so many more kids attend last time than expected that we have made formal arrangements for their supervision this time around. The COA kids, and volunteer parents, will be keeping a watchful eye and have planned some games to keep the kids entertained as well.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for a night of fun, good conversation and an interesting movie selection!

Mosque Visit

On Sunday Jan. 18 our COA class visited the Islamic Center in Oakland. We met with Dalia Mogahed, the centers outreach coordinator and the President of their congregation, who took the time to answer many of our questions and explain the basics of Islam to us. I think we all came away with a lot of food for thought.

We could easily have stayed all day and barely scratched the surface!

We also attended a prayer service - very different from what we are used to in Western Culture.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about Islam, Dalia will soon be teaching a class on the Contemporary Muslim World. Here are the details:

The Contemporary Muslim World

Instructor: Dalia Mogahed

6 Thursdays

Feb 12-Mar 18

7-9pm

Islamic Center of Pittsburgh, Oakland

Fee: \$85 (A \$5 materials fee is payable to the instructor at the first class.)

We have also been invited to attend the **Ladies Coffee Hour**:

We are a group of women from different backgrounds living in the Pittsburgh area who get together every 2nd Sunday of the month (3PM-5PM) at the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh (4100 Bigelow Blvd in Oakland). Our goal is to break down cultural barriers and foster better understanding between people of different backgrounds.

Please Join US! To join our mailing list to receive reminders and other information email:
Pitt_LadiesCafe-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

If anyone is interested in attending, please let me know. I would like to make it down there once in a while too!

Visit to an Orthodox Church

On Sunday, Feb. 15, the COA class will be visiting a Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church.

Adult Religious Education

Chalice Circles

We are still looking for suggestions/interest in chalice circles. Please let us know if you are interested in starting these up again, topics you would be interested in, and whether or not you would be willing to lead the circle. This is not something we anticipate doing right away. Right now we are just trying to gauge interest and identify topics - then we'll try to find leaders, if the interest is there.

Suggestions so far are for a Knitting Circle and a Book discussion group. Re the Book discussion group, would anyone be interested in starting a book club?

Please get back to us with thoughts/suggestions at your earliest. You can e-mail us at nikitatude@earthlink.net or slip a note in the Adult RE suggestion box at church and mark it Chalice Circle.

Evensong

Thank you to Nancy Fitzgerald and Andy Manhardt for leading this wonderful Adult RE program. The first meeting was on Jan. 19, and although we could not attend, we understand there was a good turnout. Yeah! If you have any questions on the program, please contact Nancy or Andy direct.

Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network

“cbco”—congregation based community organizing

Have you noticed reference to cbco’s in The UU World magazine? Did you know that Pittsburgh may be the only area in the country where all Unitarian Universalist churches are members of the local cbco? For Pittsburgh that’s 5 churches—Allegheny, First, North Hills, South Hills and (ta dah!) East Suburban—as members of PIIN, Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network. Now that we know more about what PIIN can mean, ESC is looking to energize a core team in our congregation. A handful of us have chosen **Get Out the Vote** for our first issue area. That brings together the UUA, PIIN and hopefully ESC’s interest to make an impact on participation in our democracy through voting. We’re floating a goal for 100% of our congregation members to vote in the November election. Want to help plan some outreach? Exchange Ideas? Contribute? Let the ideas bubble till Wed, Feb. 18th at 7:30 pm when we’ll gather at the church to decide what comes next. You’re invited.

A Banquet is Coming—And YOU Are Invited!

You are invited to the first Annual Banquet of Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network (PIIN) at 6pm. on Saturday, March 20 at the Omni William Penn Hotel. This will be a gala affair with several hundred people in attendance to celebrate the great work that PIIN has been doing in our region. Our church is a member of PIIN and has participated in its exciting public action meetings and events over the past two years. Wouldn’t it be fun to have a full table (10 people) from our church?

In addition to the banquet, there are other ways to participate, in order to make this banquet a big success:

1. Your business can purchase an advertisement for the 8 ½ X 11 Program Book (full page \$500, ½ page \$300, ¼ page \$175, 1/8 page \$125). These ads can be for a business or individual, and can be in honor or memory of someone. Please submit camera-ready copy by February 20.
2. You can purchase one or more banquet tickets for people who cannot afford them. Banquet tickets are \$35 each.
3. You can make a donation for recognition in the Program Book (Donor is \$100 or more, Patron is \$25-\$99, Friend is \$5-\$24). Anonymous gifts are also welcome.

If you would like to participate in any of these ways, please contact Nancy Fitzgerald 412-731-2994 nmfitzge@nb.net or Rev. Waun 412-731-2834 revmom@pitt.edu.

Thank you for joining in this important interfaith, interracial urban/suburban effort to translate our faith-based moral and ethical values into powerful actions that will provide systemic changes for justice and equality in our region!

Choir Notes

Those who have ears, let them listen; those who have voices, let them sing! Our next choir practice is on Sunday, February 1 at 9:30AM for singing a special selection in worship that day. Our next scheduled singing dates are March 7 and April 4, with practices at 9:30AM on March 7, March 14 and April 4. Please join us!

Recycling Program

Although Murrysville has a recycling program as part of their garbage collection, we do not participate because we have a private hauler. We are trying to set up a recycling program for the church so we can live our belief that we should be socially responsible. The program would require that someone take our collected recyclable materials to a recycling center once a week. A member has already volunteered to donate containers for the program.

If you are interested in helping to set up or participate in the program,
please contact Marianne Jew (mxj@alltel.net or 724-325-1548).

Rummage Sale

There will be a rummage sale at the church on March 27 Sponsored by the Aesthetics Committee. Start saving your contributions now!

Drumming Workshop With Jim Donovan Of Rusted Root:

We are happy to announce that Jim Donovan of Rusted Root will hold a drumming workshop at ESUUC on FEBRUARY 29th from 12:30 to 2:30 in the church sanctuary.

This is for beginners or intermediate drummers who want to learn some rhythms or just have fun! JIM PROVIDES ALL THE DRUMS, so if you don't own a drum you can still participate. All are welcome, this is open to the community, so bring a friend. The price is \$20.00 ahead of time sent to:

Karen Katilius, 3464 Treeline Drive, Murrysville, PA, 15668 or \$25.00 at the door.

Two hours of fun and relaxation! Come and join us!

Any questions e mail me at Karenlgerard@aol.com or call me at 724-327-6321.

Adult Drumming Circle

There will be an adult drumming circle on February 8th and 22nd in the sanctuary at 7:30 PM. All are welcome!

Dr. Barry Bittman of the Mind-Body Wellness Center has done the world's first research into the health benefits of group recreational music-making. He looked into a very specific area of immune function called cell mediated immunity. These are the cells that fight cancer and virally infected cells. The Natural Killer cells. He set up rigid scientific protocol and was able to demonstrate for the first time that one hour of group drumming increased Natural Killer cell activity -- meaning the killing power of these cells. These cells are part of the innate immune system. This is one benefit of drumming .(taken from article from points of light magazine)

Another benefit of drumming is the feeling of community. We drum creatively in community. We all feel great after drumming, it can be meditative or just plain fun, either way you walk away feeling great! Join Us! Any questions call Karen Katilius or Kathy Ruffing!

Refreshments

"Coffee and Conversation" is an integral part of Sundays at ESUUC. This time honored ritual takes place after every Sunday service and consists of coffee and other beverages, as well as a snack. Snacks are provided by congregational members and friends on a rotating basis, and the list of names is posted in each monthly newsletter. The duties of the assigned refreshment person(s) include setting up the coffee and hot water for tea and cocoa, setting out plates, cups, napkins, plastic cutlery and the food, as well as cleaning up when everyone is finished.

Feb. 1 Leona and Tom Dunnett
Feb. 8 Nancy Fitzgerald
Feb. 15 Alan Halperin
Feb. 22 Maryanne Jew
Feb. 29 Gerard and Karen Katilius

If the Sunday assigned to you is inconvenient, please try to switch with another person on the list. Feel free to call me with questions. Maria Luczkow (724) 327-3352.

District And National UU News

Annual Winter Institute- Feb. 13-16, Salt Fork State Park, Cambridge, OH. This relaxing and schedule free weekend is a gathering for UU's of all ages, with frosty outdoor activities like sledding, hiking, cross country skiing, board games or sharing music by the fireplace, or enjoying the pool and hot tub. Check-in Friday after 3:00 PM. Stay 1, 2 or 3 nights. Call Sam or Kathryn Hens-Greco to get registration details. (Hotel rates.)

16th Annual Men's Retreat- March 5-7, Sandscree Retreat Center near Wheeling, WV. Led by The Rev. Daniel Budd from Cleveland, the theme is "The Importance of Poetry in Men's Lives" based on the book *The Rag and Bone Shop of the Heart* (Robert Bly). Cost is \$150—a great deal, considering the sumptuous meals and accommodations. Contact Bill Kroesser to register 304-744-3114 or Bill_Kroesser@hotmail.com

Young Adult Round Table- March 13, 7PM and overnight in the Marietta, OH church. Subject: "Tell Us a Story." If you are a young adult ages 18-35, contact Michael Dobson at anansi92276@aol.com for details. Sounds like fun!

UU Consultation on Urban Social Justice Ministries March 18-21, Boston Convention Center. Conference on Urban Ministries features Professor John A. Powell keynoter, workshops, presentations and participatory activities. Contact: Parisa Parsa 510-459-5762 for details, or visit www.urbandisciples.org.

UU's For Social Justice- <http://www.uusforsocialjustice.org> – One of the Actions of Immediate Witness passed at the 2003 General Assembly calls for Congressional support for the Depleted Uranium Munitions Study Act of 2003 (H.R. 1483). You can show your support by purchasing a **bumper sticker**: "Support Our Troops –Stop Using Depleted Uranium" Visit the website for details

Congregational Committees

Council of Chairs Meeting

A Council of Chairs Meeting will be held at 12:15 (after service) on Sunday, February 8. Chairs and/or a representative from each committee (and subcommittee) are asked to come. The Council serves to

coordinate the activities of the committees and the Church through information exchange and planning. Committees are invited to share their plans for the next several months. Chairs will be briefed on the retreat, plans for the annual canvas, the Committee on Ministry's plans to conduct a church survey, and a ESUUC handbook.

Current Committees

Committee - Chair

Aesthetics - Jane Longdon
Building and Facilities - Lew Ruffing
Caring and Concerns - Maria Luczkow
Committee on Ministry - Ginny Connolly Manhardt
Finance - Cathy Serventi
Landscaping - Sue Mallick
Membership - Brien Palmer
PIIN - Nancy Fitzgerald
Religious Education Committee - Ken Noble
Signs and Symbols - Leona Dunnett
Social Enrichment
Drumming - Karen Katilius
Sunday Programs / Celebrations - Kate Codd-Palmer, Jean Robl
Welcoming Congregation - Chris Priano

Committee Calendar

Feb. 1 Welcoming Congregation 12:00
At the Church
Feb. 5 Board of Trustees - 7:15 PM
at the Church
Feb 8 Committee on Ministry - 7:30 PM
at the Church
Feb. 18 PIIN Meeting - 7:30 PM at the
Church

Aesthetics Committee

Rummage Sale

The Aesthetics Committee will sponsor a Rummage sale on Saturday, March 27 to raise funds for improvements to the sanctuary.

Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, February 22 at 12:15 PM to present the Aesthetics Committee's recommendations for the sanctuary décor. A vote will be taken no later than 1:15 PM to on the plans for the improvement and decoration of the sanctuary as well as to approve the expenditure of funds the committee will raise to purchase a tapestry for the wall behind the podium designed by Adrienne Heinrich. Official notification of the meeting will be mailed to the members that includes the proposed resolutions to be voted on. A sketch of the proposed tapestry and the plans for the overall décor prepared by architect, Norman Harai (a former member of our congregation) are on display at the rear of the sanctuary for inspection.

At our next meeting Feb. 15 the committee will develop the panel to present segments.

Information Management Committee

Gift acknowledgements

In the spirit of understanding everything that goes into making our church work we're going to start acknowledging (non-monetary) gifts to the congregation. If you (especially committee Chairs) know of someone that belongs on this list please let Cathy S (treasurer@esuuc.org). No item is too small.

- *Filing cabinet and other supplies for the Church workday - Lew Ruffing
- Christmas Eve banner sign - Rev. Renee Waun
- Christmas Eve candles - Rev. Renee Waun
- Printer -
- Holiday Wreath - Sue Mallick, The Ruffings, Cathy Serventi and Gene Wilson, and other contributors(sorry...we



Pastor's Column

by Rev. Renee Waun

The Valentine Month

Recently my computer completely crashed and I lost all of my email files and my entire address book. When I think about losing those several hundred email addresses, I am saddened. Not so much because of the practical implications of having to reconstruct the entire collection from scratch, but because each of those addresses represented a person; someone with whom I had at least some level of relationship. Each time I scrolled down through the names, I would—for a brief moment—be reminded again of what my connection was with that person. It would be a reason to think about them and sometimes to send good thoughts and positive energy. I imagine there are certain names I will never see again, unless they happen to have some reason to email me.

A friend who teaches the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator said to me, "Only an "F" ["feeling type"] would grieve over a computer address book!"

That may be true, but it did point out to me how important my relationships are—even distant ones. In this "Valentine" month, I think more about the centrality of love and relationship in my spiritual journey. How about you? What is at the "heart" of your spiritual walk? Or, do ever think about it much? I invite you to spend some time getting to know that deeper part of yourself, and finding out what makes it tick.

And meanwhile, this strong preferenced "feeling" type is going to learn more about backing up critical data on her computer.

See you in church!



mUUsings from the President

by Gerard Katilius

We've just celebrated the oldest of all the holidays, first observed in Babylon about 4000 years ago. A tradition of this season is the making of New Year's resolutions, and in 2004 I invite you to resolve to learn about something new through East Suburban Unitarian-Universalist Church. Learning is important, because it is the single most effective way to address fear.

"Fear leads to anger, anger leads to hate, and hate leads to suffering." *Yoda*

This morning our Coming of Age youth and their mentors visited the Islamic mosque in Oakland. It was a wonderful experience, and the woman hosting our group was eloquent and very open. We learned a lot about Muslim beliefs, including the conditions under which non-believers are destined for hell-fire. We learned about this in an objective way, and I truly believe most of us attending have little fear of Muslims, and less of experiencing the Islamic hell-fire.

We sometimes offer Sunday programs where individuals can learn by seeing, hearing and talking with individuals representing groups that most of us know little about. Sunday, February 15th is one of these! The President of the Pittsburgh Transsexual Support Group (PTSG) has graciously agreed to tell about her family experience, good and bad. With this she wishes to provide an understanding of the importance of family, friends and congregation accepting and welcoming transgender as well as its gay and lesbian members.

I liked this extract from the sermon a UU minister in Nashville gave a couple of years ago on Valentine's Day: "Reading and hearing the voices of people who are transgender has truly opened my heart in ways I didn't expect. I feel a little bit of fear falling away. I feel the beginning of more radical openness to others. I feel parts of myself coming back to life. As I open myself to the possibility of compassion and love for people who are different from me (and not so different), my own capacity to feel love and compassion for myself expands."

Each of us is on a path of growing, learning and changing, and it is great to be on this path with you.

Newsletter Deadlines

The newsletter deadline for the February Newsletter will be February 15. Please Email me with your articles at manhardt@adelphia.net or call me at (412) 373-3668 and leave a message with your news, stories, and other information.

Andy Manhardt, editor

Calendar

(Sunday Services and Forums are listed on the first page)

Sunday February 1	Choir Practice, 9:30 AM at the church
Sunday February 1	Welcoming Congregation Committee, 12:00 Noon at the Church
Monday February 2	Judy Shepard Speaks IUP, 7:30PM
Monday February 2	Evensong #3, 7:30 PM at the Church
Monday February 2	Committee on Ministry Meeting , 7:30 PM at the Church
Thursday February 5	ESUUC Board of Trustees Meeting, 7:15 PM at the Church
Sunday February 8	12:15 Council of Chairs Meeting, 12:15 PM at the Church
Sunday February 8	Adult Drumming Circle, 7:30 PM at the Church
Sunday, February 15	Coming of Age Mentors and Candidates, 9:00 AM at the Church
Wednesday February 18	PIIN Meeting at the Church – 7:30 PM
Friday February 20	Pizza and a Movie Night – 6:30 PM at the Church
Sunday, February 22	Adult Drumming Circle, 7:30 PM at the Church
Monday February 23	Evensong #5, 7:30 PM at the Church
Sunday	Drum workshop with Rusted Root, 7:00 PM at the Church

