

# East Suburban Unitarian Universalist Church



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

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## *ESUUC Sunday Services*

**Sunday, February 1, 10:30 am** – “*Imbolc*” – Join us as the congregation celebrates the Celtic holiday of Imbolc. Rev. Waun will be in Uganda this week.

**Sunday, February 8, 10:30 am** – “*Brothers’ Brother Foundation, a local charity that acts globally.*”— Karen Dempsey, a vice-president of the foundation, will speak about this charity and the good works it does from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. Forbes Magazine rates this as one of the most efficient charities. In these times of financial stress, we want to choose our charities with special care.

**Sunday, February 15, 10:30 am** – “*Green Home Series*”— ESUUC member George Ratliff will discuss Green Electricity.

**Sunday, February 22, 10:30 am** – “*La Amistad*”— In possibly the most famous of slave-ship mutinies, 53 Africans revolted against their captors and commandeered the ship transporting them to the United States. But even that heroic effort wasn’t enough to guarantee their freedom. **Brenda Shiring** describes both the mutiny itself, and the subsequent legal battle between those who would enslave the Africans and those who defended their right to be free.

**Sunday, March 1, 10:30am** – “*Picture This*”— Dr. Waun will bring a rich commentary about her recent trip to Uganda using visual media and other mementos from the school she helped to found there. The congregation of ESUUC has been a supportive partner in this adventure for the past four years, so you will want to get this first hand report.



## *Pastor's Column: Black History Month*

*by Rev. Renee Waun*

February is Black History Month, and I feel as if I'm experiencing it from both directions this year. As you read this, I will be in Africa, where the historical roots of most American blacks began. Each time I come here I see more connections between the indigenous African culture and some of the traits that have carried over into the black community in the U.S., such as (often) a natural talent for music, drumming and dancing.

At the same time, Barack Obama is widely celebrated as the first black President of the United States (I'm allowing for the fact that some folks want to say he's really biracial). The people I meet in Africa are really thrilled with our new President, and they would like to claim some kind of kinship with him, no matter how remote.

This month, black history will have reached a new milestone and watershed moment with the first black family having moved into the White House. The real thrill for me is to be alive during these historic years and savor the fact that this is one formative aspect of black history that I'm am witnessing with my own eyes. A hundred years from now students will open their history books to 2009 and read about how the world was changed forever by this extraordinary event. Black History Month will never be the same for me. How about you?

### *Treasurer's Report*

**By: Chris Priano**

Liquid assets, 7/1/08: \$ 4,311.14

Liquid assets, 12/31/08: \$ 12,165.73

Increase (decrease) in liquid assets: \$ 7,854.59

Net inflows: \$ 7,854.59

Prepaid mortgage funds, 12/31/08: \$12,327.08

Mortgage principal balance, 12/31/08: \$ 31,005.82

(Note: at the recommendation of the Finance Committee, I'm no longer including the prepaid mortgage money within liquid assets. I'll continue to present it as an informational item instead.)

No, we didn't just realize an unexpected windfall. We saw our checking account balance jump thanks to those of you who got caught up on your pledge in time for the end of the 2008 tax-year. We're now sitting at about 53.6% of current fiscal year pledges paid.

The timing couldn't have been better, cash flow-wise. During December, we incurred a \$1,300 expense to have the line replaced from the gas meter into the back of the church building. The pipe was corroded just above the frost line and Dominion Peoples had warned us that it was only a matter of time before we'd have

to replace it. Fortunately, this expense was offset by just over \$900 that was left over from last year's service auction proceeds. As a result, the board had discretion to approve the expenditure of the remaining roughly \$400, thus avoiding the need for a congregational vote. Make no mistake about it: fundraisers help! We owe special thanks to John Graham and Mary Kukura-Straw for working with the plumber, Bob Susich, to schedule and complete this very critical repair.

On January 15, I e-mailed (or snail-mailed) members and friends a summary of their contributions to ESUUC during 2008.

## *Religious Education*

### **Class Schedule for February:**

#### Elementary

Feb. 1	Children's Chapel	Julia Begg
8	The Temptations of Jesus	Wendy Noe
15	Mary and Martha	Natalie Mendik
22	Service Project	Kate Begg and Tabitha Riggio

#### Middle

Feb. 1	Children's Chapel	Julia Begg
8	David and Goliath	Gayle Pamerleau
15	Job	Marianne Jew
22	Service Project	Kate Begg and Tabitha Riggio

#### COA

Feb. 1	Children's Chapel	Julia Begg
8	Hinduism	Dan Begg
15	Hinduism	Mary Kukura-Straw
22	Service Project	Kate Begg and Tabitha Riggio

## *Caring and Concerns*

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” - Leo Buscaglia

### Happy Birthday!

Sydney Dunnett	Rayna Faigen
Daniel Katilius	Bob Robl

*As a Community, we share our positive energies to help those who are having difficult times...*

Melissa Alcorn Ferry for her mother-in-law who had hip replacement surgery

Rayna Faigen for the continued GI problems

Drake Dunnett for his bout with Mono

Mary Kukura Straw for her mother for a lump in the other breast

Mary Warwick for the beginning of tax season

All those in the Gaza Strip that humanitarian needs are met

*Congratulations:*

Tabitha Riggio has received the “Most Outstanding Project Seed Award”  
Rayna Faigen for attaining Honor Roll  
Barack Obama, our new Commander In Chief

*Condolences and Remembrances:*

Susan Goodis in memory of her mother Marilyn Goodis  
Jane Longdon for the loss of a dear UU friend, Ruth Thomas  
Alison Daigle for the loss of her Great Aunt  
Let us also remember all those who have passed in wars and while fighting for peace and liberty

“Life is not a brief candle... It is a splendid torch that must be made to burn as brightly as possible before it is handed on to the next generation.”

Each month, we will post this column for birthdays, anniversaries, honors, illnesses, or memorials.  
Please contact Susan Goodis at [Caring@ESUUC.org](mailto:Caring@ESUUC.org) or call 412-609-1232 with events you wish to have included in our newsletter. Thank-you.

## *Sunday Refreshments*

One of the most popular Unitarian traditions is the social hour after each service. At ESUUC, each adult member (or couple) takes a turn bringing refreshments. It works out, on average, to about one turn per person/couple per year. We also have Sharing Sundays, on which anyone who desires can bring in a goody or goodies to share.

To ensure fairness, we assign each adult member/couple a date on which to bring refreshments. These don't have to be homemade or fancy; store-bought treats work well, too. If you haven't brought refreshments before, or are unfamiliar with how things are set up, you may want to come in the weekend before your turn to see how it's done. There are also instructions in the kitchen on how to use the coffeemaker and hot water pot. If you are still confused, or need assistance, contact Brenda Shiring at [brennyren@yahoo.com](mailto:brennyren@yahoo.com) or 724-334-1507. If I'm at the service and you want a hand, just come and get me. The only thing I WON'T do is let you off the hook – we need your participation to keep this fun tradition alive (and everybody fed)! If the week you're assigned doesn't work for your schedule, please switch with someone else for that month.

Feb. 1	Kathy Ruffing
Feb. 8	David Schwartz
Feb. 15	John Shea
Feb. 22	John and Judy Graham

March 1	April Soule
March 8	Mary Warwick
March 15	Kate & Mark Zingarelli
March 22	Melissa Alcorn-Ferry
March 29	Merritt Bailey

## *Green News*

By: THE GREEN QUEEN

For those of you who missed the Living Green service on the 18th, the focus of the service was Green Living in and Around Your Home. We discussed the three R's of being Green at home and shared a variety of easy ways to transition to a more eco-friendly life. To assist in that transition, I've collected a listing of websites for helpful green living tips and information.

**To REDUCE try:**

**energystar.gov** - EPA & Dept. of Energy's website for finding energy efficient appliances, building materials & other resources.

**epa.gov** - issues, laws, regulations and resources for being environmentally friendly.

**energysavers.gov** - on-line energy audit w/ helpful energy saving tips

**dsireusa.org** - info. on tax credits for energy efficient appliances/equipment

**greendimes.com** , **junkbusters.com** , & **exuberance.com** - to reduce your weekly junk mail deliveries.

**spinnery.com** - eco friendly yarns from local & organic sources

**To REUSE try:** **wrapmat.com** - reusable sandwich wraps - eliminates the need for sandwich bags or plastic wrap!

**freecycle.com** - become a member and find someone with items you need or needs items you don't want and find someone with items you need or needs items you don't want anymore.

**To RECYCLE try:** **recycline.com** - a line of household products made from recycled #5 plastic also a recycler of Britta water filters.

**charitablerecycling.com** or **wirelessrecycling.com** - will recycle your old cell phone to a charitable organization of your choosing.

**earth911.org** - info. on recycling, buying "green" products and eco friendly tips.

**Other Earth Friendly websites:**

**maggiespureland.com** - soap from trees for your family's laundry

**simplybiodegradable.com** - biodegradable products for your home.

**vivaterra.com** - environmentally friendly gifts, clothing and home decor.

**treesforachange.com** - give the gift of a tree to be planted in a Nat'l Forest.

The next service in the Living Green series will be on **green electricity** (in February) and our service in March will focus on **Being Green Inside and Out** - what you put on and in your body can harm not only you but the environment.

Until then, even a small change makes a big difference.

## *Chai Tea Sale*

Enjoy the spicy flavor of chai tea and the sweet feeling of helping a good cause after service on February 22, when Brenda Shiring sells instant chai tea mix to benefit our Relay for Life team. Each jar of the mix makes eight mugs of the tasty treat, and may be purchased for \$4.

The tea mix was donated to (and prepared for) “UUs for the Cure” by Genevieve Chirton, Brenda’s sister and a member of Harrisburg UU Church. Proceeds will pay the balance of our team’s registration fee for the Murrysville Relay for Life, which raises money for cancer research and for assisting those who are fighting cancer. Any additional revenues will also be donated to the Relay.

## *Spiritual Retreat*

From 8 p.m. Friday March 6 to 2 p.m. Sunday March 8th  
 Spend a centering weekend at a beautiful retreat center in Western PA engaging in and learning about a variety of spiritual practices with fellow Unitarian Universalists. Workshop practice sessions will be scheduled throughout the weekend. For more information, contact Mary Warwick at [mc\\_warwick@hotmail.com](mailto:mc_warwick@hotmail.com) or (724) 327-3092.

## *Ugandan News*

Hanan Bulime, the Director of the Ugandan school Rev. Waun is visiting has worked hard to prepare for her trip there this month. He hired a brass band to march all around the surrounding area playing lively music and passing out flyers to announce the distribution ceremony for the mosquito nets. Their original goal was 1000 nets to protect the school children, their families, teachers and villagers. Lots of people contributed money for the nets, plus other folks who visited the AgainstMalaria.com website to buy nets designated for Uganda (but not specifically Hanan’s School) had their money added to Hanan’s total. So they ended up with around 1600 nets; enough to protect 3200 people!!

Rev. Waun and her 2 volunteers took four large suitcases full of clothing for the school children who live at the school. Most of those children have few clothes beyond their school uniform, so these items were much needed and appreciated. They also took two more One Laptop Per Child laptops and one IBM laptop (Rev. Waun’s old one), plus assorted electrical supplies to network them.

All in all, they have quite a To-Do list while they are there and Rev. Waun will be eager to share her experience when she returns. Thanks to all who contributed toward the net project as well as used clothing for the children!

## *Congregational Committees*

### **Committee – Chair (email)**

Aesthetics – Jean Robl and Maureen Lilly	Membership – Marylyn Devlin
Building and Facilities – John Graham	Music – Alan Halperin
Caring & Concerns – Susan Goodis	Religious Education – Kate Zingarelli
Committee on Ministry – Gayle Pamerleau	Signs and Symbols – Leona Dunnett
Community – Brenda Shiring	Social Enrichment – open
Drumming – Bill Dunham ( <a href="mailto:drumming@esuuc.org">drumming@esuuc.org</a> )	Sunday Programs/Celebrations – Mary
Finance – Chris Priano	Kukura-Straw
Landscaping – Laurie Montgomery	Welcoming Congregation – Matt Mathis

## *Newsletter Deadlines*

March 2009 newsletter deadline: **February 15<sup>th</sup>**.

Please email your articles to [newsletter@esuuc.org](mailto:newsletter@esuuc.org) or call Mary Warwick (724) 327-3092 and leave a message with your news, stories, and other information.

## *Get the Weekly Email News*

If you would like to receive a weekly email that includes items not in the newsletter and reminders of upcoming events for the week, please send an email from the address you would like subscribed to **esuuc\_news@esuuc.org**. You can also send a message to that address if you would like it included in the weekly email announcement to the congregation.

## *Calendar*

Saturday, January 31

10:00am [OWL \(5th&6th\) Parent & Child Orientation](#)

Sunday, February 1

9:30am [Choir Rehearsal for today's Service](#)

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

12:00pm [Program Committee](#)

Wednesday, February 4

1:00pm [Wednesday Book Club](#)

Sunday, February 8

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

12:30pm [OWL \(5th&6th\) - TENTATIVE](#)

Sunday, February 15

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

12:00pm [CoA Candidate-Mentor meeting](#)

11:00pm [Newsletter Deadline](#)

Wednesday, February 18

1:00pm [Current Events Group](#)

Sunday, February 22

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

12:00pm [Adult RE: "Thank God for Evolution"](#)

12:30pm [OWL \(5th&6th\) - TENTATIVE](#)

Sunday, March 1

9:30am [Choir Rehearsal for today's Service](#)

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

12:00pm [Program Committee](#)

12:30pm [OWL \(5th&6th\) - TENTATIVE](#)

Wednesday, March 4

1:00pm [Wednesday Book Club](#)

Sunday, March 8

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

Sunday, March 15

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

12:00pm [CoA Candidate-Mentor meeting](#)

12:30pm [OWL \(5th&6th\) - TENTATIVE](#)

11:00pm [Newsletter Deadline](#)

Wednesday, March 18

1:00pm [Current Events Group](#)

Sunday, March 22

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

12:30pm [OWL \(5th&6th\) - TENTATIVE](#)

Sunday, March 29

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

Wednesday, April 1

1:00pm [Wednesday Book Club](#)

Sunday, April 5

9:30am [Choir Rehearsal for today's Service](#)

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

12:00pm [Program Committee](#)

12:30pm [OWL \(5th&6th\) - Not GOOD \(returning from travel\)](#)

Wednesday, April 8

10:00am [OWL \(5th&6th\) - Possible](#)

Sunday, April 12

10:30am [Sunday Service](#)

Wednesday, April 15

1:00pm [Current Events Group](#)

Friday, April 17

All day [Spring YAC Meeting \(tentative\)](#)

Saturday, April 18

All day [Spring YAC Meeting \(tentative\)](#)

10:00am [OWL \(5th&6th\) - TENTATIVE](#)