



The UU Circle

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists of Fallston



You Are Welcome Here!

March 2010

A Month of Sundays

Sunday Services and Sunday School at 11:00 AM, 1127 Old Fallston Road, Fallston, MD (410-877-3773)

SUNDAY SERVICES

Mar 7 "Covenant"- Rev. Lyn Cox

Our bonds as a community are built from the materials of covenant, mutual agreements about our lived experience together. Uniting under covenants rather than a creed or a hierarchical authority is a gift from the Jewish sources of our UU tradition. Covenants require trust and respect, and don't mix well with coercion. They are living frameworks, open to change and to forgiveness.

Mar 14 "Empire and Individuals: Scenes and Stories from Israel/Palestine" - Dorothy Thormaehlen

Hearing about "the wall" in Israel is different from seeing "the wall" and yet even more different (and difficult) is hearing and witnessing first hand the effects of "the wall" and other oppressive measures of the Israeli government on Palestinians and their lives. Giving a voice to the Palestinians that is different from that often found in distorted media images is important for UU's when considering issues of social justice.

Mar 21 "Navigating the Narrow Places" - Rev. Lyn Cox

The Jewish holiday of Passover is a festival of liberation. The central story of the Exodus and seasonal spiritual practices encourage reflection on all kinds of freedom, both personal and political. Looking at the Passover story metaphorically, we may discover insight about our own "stuck" places and how to navigate our way out of them.

Mar 28 "The Eighth Day of Creation" – Rev. Mark Hoelter

In this month when Lyn Cox is focusing on Jewish influences on Unitarian Universalism, we'll add a little "midrash," as the rabbis call it, to the traditional story of creation. In musical terms, it's about "blue notes," the "back beat" and all that jazz. In life it's about sweet nothings, small and large. It's THE answer to the spiritual question, "How do I get my sacred mojo back."

Our Happenings

Mar 6 UUF Social Group "Ethnic Dinner" at Café Italia Rescheduled– 4pm: Restaurant located just off
Saturday 152 on Pleasantville Rd across from Rite Aid. Please call sign up or call at Dee 410-692-5983.

Mar 7 "Credo" - 1-3pm: Rev. Lyn's six-session course for participants to articulate a spiritual path for themselves
& 21 with a credo (an individual statement of belief).
Sunday

Mar 13 Board of Trustees Meeting – 1:30pm: All are welcome to attend.
Saturday

Mar 13 **Homeless Shelter Support:** Contact Paul or Maureen North for volunteer opportunities.
Saturday

Mar 13 **Drum for Peace – 7pm:** All ages are welcome to the drumming circle and extra drums and other instruments are usually available for general use.
Saturday

Mar 28 **Meeting on “Spring Tea ” Fund Raiser for Circle of Hope– 12:45pm:** All volunteers needed to attend.
Sunday

Welcome New Members

Welcome our new members who joined after the Path to Membership orientation.

John Seay
Larry Williams
Richard Zyne

Community Outreach

CIRCLE OF HOPE

Neighbors in Need

Our only request for help this past month came from a family with an eviction notice. The mother, who works as a school bus driver, is supporting four children. She normally keeps the family afloat financially - but just barely. A couple of unexpected expenses occurred in the past couple of months and there just was not enough money to cover all of the February rent. We were able to send \$50 that added to the amounts she had raised by calling several other churches. The total amount satisfied the outstanding debt to the landlord and the sheriff did not have all of her possessions carried out onto the sidewalk. What a demoralizing experience that would have been.

Homeless Shelter at Riverside

Since our membership has grown, we have increased our contribution to \$35 each month. This covers our share of the cost of supplies used on the 13th of each month at the shelter by the Unitarian Universalists volunteers from Churchville and Fallston when preparing and serving meals.

Minister and Board President's Columns

MINISTER'S COLUMN

Our theme for the month, "Teaching in Legends" comes from the fourth source of Unitarian Universalism, specifically Jewish teachings that call us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Next month, we'll follow up with Christian teachings, the other half of source #4.

Looking at the old stories is not always easy, especially if we first learned them under difficult circumstances. The way some of these stories have been used may make us want to abandon religious literature altogether. Then again, Unitarian Universalists are a determined, curious people. We do not give up easily where there is wisdom and cultural understanding to be found.

The legends of the Hebrew Bible and Jewish folk traditions are rich with many layers of meaning. As a member of an interfaith family and having had some involvement with a Jewish congregation, my understanding is that playing with those layers of meaning is very much part of the tradition. Some interpretations of the legends, perhaps even the surface level, won't be relevant to our own time and place. Nevertheless, we may still find fresh insights by taking another look at the old stories.

This month, let's gather up the courage to reinterpret old stories. This isn't limited to traditional religious stories. Let's reinterpret the stories we tell about ourselves and our communities, our limits and our gifts. Perhaps there are hidden talents within us and among us that are waiting to be discovered. Let's invite fresh wisdom by loving our neighbors and ourselves.

- *Reverend Lyn Cox*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings all!

Have you had enough of the snow yet? Well the weather hasn't kept our busy beavers at church down. The budget committee has started planning the budget for next year, the nominating committee is gearing up for the nominations for next year's board. The membership committee has held a Path to Membership and is compiling the data from your information sheets. A meeting has been held for the fundraiser tea. I'm sure there's lots more going on that I've forgotten. It's obvious that we don't need to wait for spring to get going. I'm exciting about all the activity and I hope it inspires you to get involved too.

Your board president,

- *Alison Elliott*