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March 2011 Newsletter

From my bedroom window, I can look out and just barely make out the home of Rev. Carol Brody. Exactly twenty five years ago on the second Sunday in March, Rev. Brody, who was our District Executive at the time, conducted the very first official worship service of the North Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

Sometimes our Unitarian Universalist world feels small to me. After all, I see the same faces almost everywhere I go, and wow, there Rev. Brody is right out the window. On the other side, ours is a religion of "Come inners" ---most of our people have not been UUs for life. I am thinking that the number of people who remember Gene and Carl Nielsen-our founders, after whom the Nielsen House is named - is actually probably pretty small now.

So in honor of our twenty fifth anniversary, I have asked three persons (Gordon Bixel, Diane Mattox, and Michael Butler) who know the earliest days of our congregation to share some memories for us during worship on March 13. And then for our 25th Anniversary Ingathering weekend (Sept.10-11, 2011), we're going to have a PARTY. Details a still underway, but spreadable rumors include music from Traci Acquara and Wade Jones' jazz quartet, and food and celebratory beverages on the grounds.

Happy Anniversary to all!

--Rev. Susan

Community Supported Agriculture Returns to NUUC

President's Message

This is my last contribution to Northern Lights as president of the board. The last year has presented us all with many challenges. However, it has also provided proof (once again) of what a wonderful community this is. I will never forget the generosity of this congregation in helping us meet the budget shortfall after the stewardship campaign.

This year has also given me an opportunity to see and understand the amount of time, energy and talent that the members of NUUC regularly give to make the church run and to make it the wonderful place that it is. I cannot list everyone who has given something of themselves to help NUUC this year; the list would simply be too long. However, I want to thank all of you for your generosity, your talents, and your commitment.

I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to serve this community and look forward to serving it as best I can in the future.

With gratitude,

Nina Webb-Lawton

Music Notes

Here's a quick look at the music the NUUC Choir is preparing for worship services in March:

March 6: "You'll Never Walk Alone" from the musical *Carnegie*



Jumping Spider CSA is seeking members for the 2011 growing season. What is CSA and why should you join? Community Supported Agriculture is a direct way to connect to a local and sustainable food source. As a CSA member, you receive a weekly share of the fresh, nutritious produce available seasonally from our 2 acre vegetable garden in Ashley, Ohio. As a consumer, you make many choices every day. By joining a CSA, you choose to keep your food dollars in the local economy, support a healthy and sustainable method of food production and enable a farm family to subsist on the fruits of their labor. For \$615 per season, a share in Jumping Spider CSA provides enough freshly harvested and nutritiously delicious vegetables for an average family. For example, a week's harvest in spring may include 1-1/2 pounds of asparagus, 3/4 pounds of lettuce mix, and a bunch of radishes. A week's harvest in summer may include a bunch of Swiss chard, 2 zucchini, a pound of green beans, 6 pounds of tomatoes, a pint of cherry tomatoes, and a bunch of basil. A week's harvest in fall may include a bunch of onions, 2 heads of lettuce, four red bell peppers, and 2 winter squash. Vegetables vary with the season, and with local rainfall and growing conditions. Your investment in Jumping Spider CSA contributes to operating costs such as seeds, irrigation, soil amendments, equipment, fuel and labor. In return, you share the risks and bounty of the growing season with our family. Deliveries are made weekly right to NUUC on Sunday mornings. Join us! Interested? Contact Paul and Sarah Etheridge at JumpingSpiderCSA@gmail.com or call 740 747- 0389. If you are interested in sharing a share with another NUUC family, contact Rev. Ritchie at RevRitchie@aol.com and she will try to partner you up.

Red Lake Reservation Update

We kicked off the Red Lake Nation Project in January. As you may recall, we are working with registered art

Carousel

March 13: "Hope" with words by Emily Dickinson

March 20: "Elijah Rock"

March 27: "Stars I Shall Find"

Music Sunday is May 22.

It's not too early to begin thinking about music you would like to perform at this service. Vocalists and instrumentalists of all ages are invited to participate. Contact Music Director Marlene Hartzler for more information at marlenemetz@yahoo.com

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Upcoming Events

Fair Trade Sale. The Social Action Committee will hold its monthly Fair Trade Sale after the service on the second Sunday of the month. Your purchase of fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate supports economic justice in coffee-growing communities.

See Brandy or Paul Montgomery for more info (brandy.montgomery@gmail.com)

Congregational Meeting. Your Board of Trustees has called an Annual Meeting for immediately after service on Sunday, March 13 for the purpose of recognizing outgoing Board members and voting on the 2011 nominees to the Board and to the Nominating Committee. All are welcome to attend, although only NUUC Members may vote. Laura Howe and Marty Keith have been nominated for the Board.

News Bites

therapist Donna Hrabcakova who visited us last August and spoke of her work on the Red Lake Nation Reservation. Donna told the story of life on the reservation and her work with The International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers www.grandmotherscouncil.com. We're happy to report that Donna will be returning to speak with us again on May 29. (Also see January 2011 NUUC newsletter for more details)

The Red Lake Indian Reservation is located in the northern Minnesota counties of Beltrami and Clearwater, approximately 30 miles north of Bemidji. There are four districts within the reservation which include Red Lake, Redby, Ponemah and Little Rock. Clearwater is the poorest county where the average household income is \$12,000.00 per year and it is not unusual for 7-10 people to live in a home with 2 bedrooms.

We continue to solicit donations of gift cards and journals. Our Loose Change collection in January was earmarked to help the Ojibwa youth of Red Lake Nation. In addition to continuing to collect journals and gift cards, we are now doing an outreach to collect undergarments for the girls (bras and underwear). As we previously mentioned, some girls will not come to school because they do not have the right bra size. Donna has also suggested we could buy bras in various sizes (34, 36, 38, 40, and 42 B, C and D) and that feminine hygiene products are needed as well. The students live a good hour from town and both the distance and extreme weather conditions in this northern region make trips into town limited.

If you purchase any items mentioned above, please bring them to church and place them in the designated box in Fellowship Hall. We will send them along to Donna to distribute to the students. We will continue to collect journals and gift cards too. If you prefer, write a check on any Sunday and drop it in the offering basket (make it out to NUUC with "Red Lake Nation project" in the memo line). If you need additional information please contact Yvonne Clippinger at yclippin@columbus.rr.com or Diane Mattox at dimattox@gmail.com

Thank you,

Yvonne

Adult Enrichment Class

Service Auction: Thanks to everyone who participated in our annual NUUC Service Auction on December 12. If you need to follow up on any items you purchased or need to coordinate delivery of your item to those who bought your offering, see the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall--both a "Buyers" Report and a "Sellers" Report are posted there. Or, contact Jeri Dill in the office for an electronic version nuucjdill@aol.com .

The NUUC Directory of Members and Friends was updated in November, 2010 and was distributed via e-mail to save printing and postage. The next update is anticipated in early April 2011. You can receive an electronic or paper copy at any time upon request; please contact Jeri Dill at nuucjdill@aol.com or 740-657-8081, ext. 1, noting whether you want to receive via e-mail or get a printed copy (please note whether you are able to pick it up at church to save postage or you need it mailed to you.) Help us keep the directory information current--please notify Jeri if your address, phone, or e-mail information needs updating (submission deadline for April printing is March 30.)

UUA asks that we learn about immigration. The Unitarian Universalist Association has asked all of us to read Margaret Regan's powerful book on the human cost of immigration policy, *The Death of Josseline*. After service on March 27, Rev. Ritchie will gather all who have read the book together in discussion at 11:45am at the front of the sanctuary. During worship on April 10 she will present the themes of greatest concern arising from that conversation.



NUUC is pleased to offer the following Adult Education class for this Spring; see sign-up sheets on the bulletin board to register. Child care will be offered upon request. For questions concerning these offerings, contact Rev. Susan Ritchie at 740-657-8081, ext. 2 or RevRitchie@aol.com

UU Theology. What and how do UUs believe about God, evil, human nature, the nature of truth, and just about everything else all packed into one workshop (we will schedule more follow up sessions if there is a demand)! Offered by Rev. Ritchie, **Sunday, April 10, 12-1:30PM**, Nielsen House (sign up by Sunday, April 3).

Orientation to Our Congregation

If you would like to learn more about UU or join the congregation, be sure to sign up for the next "Orientation to our Congregation" session Sunday, March 20 from 12:00pm-1:30pm. Rev. Susan Ritchie and a Membership Committee rep. will explain the denomination's (and our congregation's) history and the meaning of membership. Babysitter service available upon request. New and recently joined members will be recognized during service Sunday, March 27. If you would like to join the congregation on or prior to this day, let Rev. Ritchie know - RevRitchie@aol.com or 740-657-8081.

Volunteers Wanted

Refreshments: One NUUC tradition that carries on week to week is coffee, cookies, and conversation after services. A very special thank you to all of you who have taken a turn at setting up and clean-up after our weekly refreshment tasks this year. The process is easy--all you have to do is follow instructions that are already posted in the kitchen on where everything is and how to make coffee. And then clean up after and put things back. Everything is provided for you. (But, feel free to try out a new cookie recipe or bring a dessert left from



Projects for the Homeless



Colder weather continues to bear down upon us...so please remember this project the next time you clean out your linen, bathroom or clothes closets...

Sleeping Bag Project: If you have used (but stain-free) towels and washcloths that you would like to get rid of, please consider donating them to "Share" for their use in making sleeping bags for the homeless. (Other items that are needed are fabric, blankets, and men's ties.) Donation is easy- just give to Lynn Foreman at service any Sunday morning. (If you can't find her, you may leave the items on the white desk in the corner of Fellowship Hall with a note marked "for Share project.") Right now there is an urgent need to make more sleeping bags-see the website below for info about how to help with the assembly.

Personal Care and Clothing: "Share" has also sent out appeals for help with toiletry and personal care items and warm men's clothes in good, clean condition. Toiletry items especially needed are: new or gently used washcloths/towels; toothpaste/brushes; *men's deodorant; disposable razors; *men's socks; safety pins; sewing kits (Dollar Tree has great name brand health items!). There is also a great need for Men's jeans, long johns and sweat pants. They need fleeces and sweat shirts too....heavy winter coats are always needed.*

try out a new cookie recipe or bring a dessert left from a meeting or family function!) We are currently scheduling through April-see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for available dates, or please contact Teri Cornell at imuuteri@yahoo.com or 614-891-59.

All Eligible Blood Donors: Mark Your Calendar for June 6, 2011

Whenever the Red Cross calls, most conscientious blood donors respond. As you no doubt know, you can donate whole blood every 56 days. NUUC will hold our annual Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, June 6 from 2-8pm. We want your blood given at NUUC. There have been times in the past that I have not been able to donate blood at NUUC because I have given at another location within 56 days. So if the Red Cross calls you for a donation, and you want to give at NUUC, don't schedule an appointment to give after April 15 (tax day, an easy way to remember) and reserve June 6 to give the gift of life at NUUC. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters. In the meantime, if you have questions contact NUUC coordinator John Rodeheffer (740-369-9659 or email: jrodeheffer@insight.rr.com).

Social Action: The NUUC Social Action Committee typically meets the first Sunday of the month, after service, in Nielsen House. For more information please feel free to attend a committee meeting or talk to any member of your Social Action Committee. Contact Chair Tracy Steinbrenner at tracystein@att.net for questions and to confirm the next meeting date. Won't you join us?

Loose Change Update

Your Social Action Committee will continue its "Loose Change" project in 2011 by collecting your loose coins during the worship service on Sunday, February 13, as it has on the second Sunday of each month throughout the past several years. The Loose Change collections for February and March will benefit the annual "Guest At Your Table" project (see article elsewhere in this newsletter for more details about GAYT). The February Loose Change collection totaled \$117.95. Additional deserving recipients of our monthly Loose Change collections are always under discussion. For questions regarding the "Loose Change" project or to suggest a recipient, contact Chair Tracy Steinbrenner at tracystein@att.net or any member of your Social Action Committee.

(* Please note women on the streets usually wear men's clothing because it's warmer, and will use men's toiletry items, but men won't use women's)

If you can help in any way.....clean your closets and drawers and ask friends! Place items in labeled box on desk in Fellowship Hall any time.

Our local Share Coordinator continues to let us know how much our donations are needed and appreciated.

For more information about either of the above projects, visit www.Shareyourbest.us or contact NUUC Coordinator Lynn Foreman sbgmacb@hotmail.com or 740-513-4876.

Guest at Your Table

During this past month, members of our congregation have been welcoming figurative guests at their tables, thinking about injustices and crises suffered by other people around the world and putting aside monetary donations that the UUSC will use to help these people. As organizer of this campaign, I want to thank you for your attention and help. I would like to have all donations turned in by March 6, if possible. The UUSC suggests that you fill in the side of your Guest at Your Table box, or write a check equal to the amount of money you've collected in the box. Checks are best made out to "UUSC," with "NUUC"-- or "North Unitarian Universalist Congregation"-- on the memo line. I will be reporting to you the total amount we raised to help the UUSC with their causes (which will also include the February and March "Loose Change" offerings-see article elsewhere in this month's newsletter). Again, thank you so much!

Marty Keith
martykeith@frontier.com

Work for Marriage Equality

North UU Congregation is working with First UU Church of Columbus to help Marriage Equality Rhode Island (MERI) pass their equal marriage rights for same sex couples. By helping Rhode Island pass their same sex marriage campaign, you can help Ohio pass rights for our GLBT community. As more states extend rights to the GLBT community it will have an impact on Ohio lawmakers. First UU Church (93 West Weisheimer Road, Columbus, 614-267-4946) will be hosting phone banks from 10:30am -1:00pm once a month for the next 4 months. The next phone bank effort is planned for Saturday March 5 (a phone bank training session will take place from 10:30-11:00am, and lunch will be provided). To participate in the phone bank, a cell phone is needed, along with a laptop computer. By logging into the MERI website, their name appears on caller ID's (not your name or number) when making calls. If you don't have a laptop computer but would like to participate in the events, there are a few computers available upon request. For future dates and times, please see upcoming NUUC Sunday orders of Service. For questions please contact Tracy Steinbrenner 614-885-0324 tracystein@att.net or Lyn Herron 614-519-5378 ohiolyn@aol.com of your Social Action Committee.

