



December 2012

Staff and Board Reports

[Susan Ritchie, Minister](#)
[Lily Shahar Kunning, DRE](#)
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Board/Committee Happenings

Social Action:
[Join the SAC!](#)
[Charity Giving Report](#)

Fair Trade sale:
Dec 9

Board of Trustees:
next meeting:
Dec 8, 9 AM
[Meeting Minutes](#)
Congregational Meeting to Approve Budget
Dec. 16 after worship

Upcoming Worship:

[Click here for upcoming worship topics!](#)

Join the UUJO (UU Justice Network of Ohio)

UU Justice Ohio (UUJO) offers social justice activists an exciting new opportunity to unite in an effective network coordinating liberal religious advocacy in our local communities, the state, and beyond. UUJO will facilitate

We hope that your Thanksgiving was contemplative, joyous and filled with reminders of all you have to be thankful for. Looking ahead to December, there are wonderful holidays in our future!

RevElations!

By Rev. Susan Ritchie

Do you automatically start to cringe when someone offers to explain to yo some "real" "reason for the season?" How about it if were done "UU" style? Or even better, what if it were a way of learning the essential components of our religious tradition?

I am hoping you might join me (Tuesday Dec. 18, 7 - 8:30 PM) for a break in holiday madness with some hot chocolate, cookies, and a look at the basic principles of UU history and theology through the lens of the winter holidays. From early trends in European Unitarianism that allow for multi-religious/Jewish observances such as Hannukah in our congregations, to the liberal religious reactions to American Puritanism that led to our modern Christmas celebrations, to the fascinating connections between the Unitarian Universalist Association and Kwanzaa, you'll never see the holidays the same!

And I hope you will join us this year for our annual Christmas Eve observance, with candlelight and lovely music, Dec. 24 at 7:00 PM (cookies and punch to follow, because, of course, what we need will be more sugar, for sure!). See below to for this year's information about our annual custom of adopting a family for the holidays.

Talk about the reason for the season: another annual tradition in our congregation is the December congregational meeting to approve our 2013 budget! We'll do that after worship at Dec. 16. And a special thanks here to all who participated in this year's Stewardship Drive and made a pledge of financial support for next year. We had a modest but meaningful increase in our total that will likely translate into a fairly easy discussion.

To Life!
Susan

REcognition

By Lily Shahar Kunning, Director of Religious Education

Wow, has the semester flown! With the coming of December, we have only a few weeks left of "fall RE"! This semester has been a fun but somewhat chaotic one. Permanent classrooms have not yet been assigned for our RE classes, and that means a last minute shuffle and set up for our RE teacher volunteers every week. I hope to remedy that soon.

collaboration between our congregations as well as partnerships with other Ohio social justice organizations promoting social, economic, environmental and racial justice that fosters the dignity of all, through education and by organizing concrete action and public witness with and on behalf of marginalized groups and individuals.

[An online form](#) is provided for individuals to register as members. to receive periodic UUJO news updates, to identify issues of interest, and to volunteer time. All 41 Ohio Congregations have also been asked to join UUJO by [formally designating an individual liaison](#) here.

For more information, visit the [UUJO website](#).

Living Our Faith: Deeds not Creeds!

Social justice work has historically been an integral part of Unitarian Universalism. In the NUUC covenant, we pledge "to serve humanity" and one of our congregation's proposed core values is to "focus on social justice, equality passions, and community outreach."

Through our Social Action Committee, our congregation has contributed generously to a variety of social causes including Guest at Our Table, the school supply drive, and Montana de Luz. Individual members of the congregation also participate in many social action projects independent of the church such as the summer lunch program at a local school and the Nepal mission.

However, participation in SAC meetings as well as activities such as the Pride Parade or Crop Walk has been very limited this year. If you are interested in becoming involved in revitalizing the Social Action Committee, please contact [Pam Patsch](#) or [Tracy Steinbrenner](#). Additionally, There is a **Social Action Survey** we'd like you to fill out in the Fellowship Hall. Please take one at your next opportunity!

Why have we not assigned permanent classrooms? My original vision of moving all children to Nielsen got waylaid for several reasons: First, we had to ensure that the nursery and all three classes would have two adults- since the nursery depends on having two Chalice Children teachers in the Fellowship Hall, we often had to move Explorers over to the Fellowship Hall when they needed to do combined activities with Chalice Children. Second, there was a permitting snafu with the local authorities (they did not have a copy of our permit, but we did- so we are all good there!). Then we started talking about changing class age ranges and adding a class for 4th-6th graders, which would affect where students would be placed.

We (the RE Committee) have not sorted it all out yet- and we want to do it right the first time (hence the delay)This is why we are still doing a temporary placement from week to week based on attendance.

So far: the changes to the Children's and Youth Program have been this:

1. A new RE Committee: The members are: Lily Shahar Kunning (chair), Jayna McDaniels-Browning, Julianna Nemeth, Bryan Hartzler, and Jen Aultman.
2. Curriculum: I have been writing the curriculum used in the class rooms and will continue doing so for the rest of the year. I made a commitment to the teacher-volunteers that the only thing they need to bring is snacks, that I would provide all books and supplies for the lesson plans.
3. Busy Bags: I bought myriad items spanning several age levels and Ms. Mahusky-Petras sewed the bags that are now available in the Sanctuary.
4. OWL Program: The OWL program is being run through the end of February for 7th grade and up once more, taught by Paul Montgomery, Lily Shahar Kunning, Tony Marconi, Lyn Herron, Maria Calderone, Kyle Yaggi, and Eileen Watters.
5. In September, we had a meeting of parents, teachers, and interested parties about the RE program for the first time. About 25 were in attendance. I was thrilled to get such a great turnout and hear your hopes and concerns about the RE Program- both where it is, where it has been, and where it is headed. I hope to have another in the spring.

In the new year:

1. The RE Committee will forward safety policy recommendations to the board for approval. We are studying the CDC recommendations as well as assessing what is feasible in this congregation.
2. We will assign permanent rooms to the classes and nursery.
3. We will start an arts, performance, and social action curricula- exploring UU identity, people's history, and social justice through creative expression and action.
4. You will see me more frequently taking part in worship and see a few more multigenerational worship services.

As always, I am happy to hear from you!
Lily

Brown Bag Books

Brown Bag Books met last Tuesday for a Discussion of *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson. It was the consensus of the group that this book was interesting and well written about a time period that I personally did not know a lot about. It gave a vivid portrait of Berlin during the first years of Hitler's reign, brought to life through the stories of William Dodd, who in 1933 became America's first ambassador to Germany, and his scandalously carefree daughter, Martha.

Brown Bag Books met last Tuesday to review *The Age of Miracles*, by Karen Thompson Walker. This book is the coming-of-age story of young Julia, whose world is thrown into upheaval when it is discovered that the Earth's rotation has suddenly begun to slow, posing a catastrophic threat to all life. We mostly felt that the ideas were interesting, but not well developed.

Books to be reviewed will be as follows:

December:
An Invisible Thread by Laura Schroff
January:
Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight by Alexandra Fuller
February:
The Lost Continent: Travels in Small Town America by Bill Bryson

So reserve your books and mark your calendars for the Third Tuesday of each month. We meet at noon at the Highbanks Metro Park Nature Center for a discussion of the current book, and then we've been doing a short walk after. Come as you can... we have a good time!

Happy Reading,
Ruth

**Harvest the Power:
Adult Enrichment
Opportunity!**

Music Notes

By Marlene Metz Hartzler, Music Director

December is perhaps the most fun and the most challenging month for church musicians. There is so much good Christmas music and yet so little time to share it. My job as a choir director this month is to see how much music we can work into every worship service. The choir is working on four favorites this holiday season, and many instrumentalists will be involved too.

Adding to the holiday joy, a quartet of kids from our congregation- Wes McCallister, Noella Morse, Galen Morse, and Rosemary Hartzler- will be playing "O Christmas Tree" on recorders December 2. The flute trio of Darlene Tschudy, Karen Hedden, and John Rodeheffer will play three carols on December 9. On December 23, the NUUC Recorder ensemble will be joined by soprano Lauren Richards for a 16th century Advent motet.

The NUUC Choir will be taking the show on the road for a concert at Willow Brook in Delaware on Saturday, December 15. We will be performing a concert for Tom and Joan MacLaughlin and friends. The program will feature Christmas carols and the repertoire we are singing for December worship services, though I'd be glad to add some other pieces too. If you would like to sing with the choir for this special event, if you are an instrumentalist with a Christmas song under your fingers, or if you would like to visit with the MacLaughlins as part of the audience, please ask me for all the details.

It's a busy month, so here's the recap:

December 2: The choir will sing "Promise of Light," a sparkling song that speaks of the hope for warmth, a theme all the winter holidays share. The Miniature Recorder Quartet (see above) will provide the musical benediction for this youth-centered service.

December 9: Christmas carols will be featured when a flute trio plays three favorites and the choir sings "Celtic Carol."

December 16: "Out of the Orient" is back from a long hiatus, though it is perhaps the most requested song from our holiday repertoire.

December 23: Both the title of the sermon and the musical interlude will be "Home for the Holidays." The NUUC Recorder Ensemble and soloist Lauren Richards will perform "Sweet Was the Song" written in 1560.

Christmas Eve Service: The choir will sing selections from December worship services plus the Recorder Ensemble will perform.

Musically yours,
Marlene Hartzler

Treasurer's Report, October 2012

By Koraleen Stavish, Board Treasurer

Outlined below is a summary of the financial report presented to members of your Finance Committee and Board of Trustees for the month of October, 2012:

| Actual \$ Received and Paid | Budget (Planned Receipts and Payments) |
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Many Unitarian Universalists experience a deepening commitment to their faith and congregation as a call to accept a position of leadership-as a lay worship leader, a leader of children or youth or a member of a task force, committee or governing board. Harvest the Power provides leadership skill development that goes hand-in-hand with faith development. The program helps lay leaders grow in spirit as they grow as leaders. The focus of these sessions will be to strengthen UU identity, and help individuals to discover and resonate with our stories, symbols, and practices. To be conducted by NUUC President Laura Howe each of the four Sundays in January, from 5:00PM- 8:00 PM, dinner break included (dinner provided the first session). Sign up by signing the form on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall, or by emailing RevRitchie@aol.com, or howe_l@yahoo.com

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1. October

2012 Pledge Offerings 9,097 11,539

Non-Pledge Offerings 794 0

Special Collection 5,663 0

Rental Revenue 160 167

Ways and Means - Fundraising 2,783 561

Total October Income 18,507 12,267

Total October Expenses 12,054 12,479

1. Year-to-Date

2011 Pledge Offerings 3,282 0

2012 Pledge Offerings 103,313 115,392

Special Collection 5,663 0

Non-Pledge Offerings 7,048 0

Rental Revenue 1,208 1,667

Ways and Means-Fundraising 6,720 5,613

Total YTD Income 127,234 122,671

Total YTD Expenses 124,100 124,787

Loose Change & Charity Giving Report

Hurricane Sandy Relief: During the month of December, the Social Action Committee will be collecting money for relief efforts for our fellow UU's on the east coast who have been affected by Hurricane Sandy. We are coordinating this effort through the CERG UU Disaster Relief Fund so please make out your checks to NUUC with CERG disaster relief in the memo line. CERG stands for Central East Regional Group and is a cooperative of four districts of the Unitarian Universalist Association who share resources and staff to better serve our congregations.

According to the CERG website, "the initial efforts will be to provide the basics needed for people who have been displaced or in need of emergency support to cope with the aftermath of the storm. Additional funds will be used to assist congregations in rebuilding damage when their insurance is not adequate to cover the repairs. After all needs are met, if there are funds left over, it will be maintained for future CERG regional relief efforts."

As of the end of November, NUUC has collected \$863.25. We will continue to keep you updated on the amount collected through the month of December. You can view the amount on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. If you have questions please contact [Yvonne Clippinger](#) or any member of the Social Action Committee.

You can go to the [CERG website](#) for further details as well.

Holiday Family: We have adopted a military family through Operation Homefront this year for our Holiday Families. They live in Columbus with their three girls, ages 4, 6, and 14. Husband has been deployed twice since their wedding in 2005. They have requested the gifts be wrapped, so anyone who has extra wrapping paper, bows, ribbon, and tape, please drop them off at NUUC.

After 12/9, check out the holiday tree, created by our kids in Religious Education. Upon the ornaments are the individual gift suggestions. Please choose a gift you'd like to purchase and remove the ornament so we don't have duplicates. When we run out of ornaments with gift suggestions, there will also be a list of clothing sizes for the girls available. Let's help make this family's holiday very special and thank them all for their sacrifices during their husband and father's two deployments. Bright Blessings!

Empty Bowls: Empty Bowls means just one thing, some is going hungry in our community. Not just from the lack of food but because there is no food in their homes and their dinner plates are empty. 35% of those helped by Mid-Ohio Foodbank are under the age of 18. 7% are over the age of 65. The average family size served is 2.8, with an average income of \$1000 a month. The average poverty level income for a family 3 in 2009 was \$1,526. Knowing these statistic reinforced why our congregation precipitation in Empty Bowls is so important. With the many generous gifts to the Mid-Ohio Foodbank our congregation raised \$1003 from our Empty Bowls event. Your Social Action Committee would like to thank everyone, from those who made the soups, to setting up, serving, cleaning after the event, and for the financial support. Thank you again for the allowing this year to be a success for Empty Bowls. For more information about the Mid-Ohio Foodbank, [click here](#).

Board Minutes, November 2012

Attendees: Jeff Hill, Kim Poderys, Mary Ann Wojton, Laura Howe, Nina Webb- Lawton, Marty Keith, Susan Ritchie, Koralleen Stavish, Nathan Morse

Absent: We were all here!

1. Chalice Lighting by Laura Howe

Quorum Check: Yes

2. Acceptance of minutes of previous board meeting

* Nina moved to accept minutes from October, Marty seconded, minutes were accepted.

3. Treasurer's report

* Income category Misc. is the special collection taken at the end of September (collection + match = \$5,663)

* Next year's budget should have an expense line for fundraising/ways & means.

4. Minister's Report

* Stewardship campaign trending upward, but 30% is currently outstanding. Campaign completed early December.

* Nursery and Chalice Children are still in congregational hall. Move to Nielson House is still under discussion.

5. Old Business

* Proposed Lease: Congregant would like to rent space in Nielson House for business purpose. There is no firm commitment from congregant at this time, so the board continues to discuss this matter as a future possibility.

* Threshold Congregation: Kim Podereys submitted the application.

* Nina motioned, Jeff seconded that we hold December Congregational Meeting on December 16 for the purpose of approving the 2013 budget. Motion Approved.

6. New Business

* Annual report: Committee reports should focus on covenant, mission statement, proposed vision and core values

* Ways & Means will meet again in January, potential fundraisers will be discussed.

7. Important Dates

* District Assembly 2013 will be April 26-27, 2013. Keynote speaker Rev. Peter Morales, President of UUA

* General Assembly 2016 will be in Columbus OH June 22-26, 2016

* Next scheduled Board Meeting: December 8, 2012-9:00 A.M

o Newsletter deadline: 4Th Wednesday Nov 28

o Announcements:

Dec 2 Jeff Hill

Dec 9 Laura Howe

Dec 16 Mary Ann

Dec 23 Marty Keith

Dec 30 Nina Webb-Lawton

8. Adjournment

Nina moved, Nathan seconded that the meeting adjourn at 10:28 AM. Meeting adjourned.

Volunteers of All Stripes Needed

Our active and vibrant congregation needs volunteers of all kinds to do the work of building beloved community and social justice within our congregation and out in the world. Take a look at the opportunities available and see which opportunities appeal to you!

Religious Education: We need substitutes to fill existing vacancies and act as last minute subs when someone gets sick. We are asking members of the congregation with a special talent for art, performance, and/or activism to step forward and help with guest appearances for our spring semester. We have an RE Rep of the Day most weeks, but also need subs for that position as well.
[Email Lily](#) for information or to make a commitment.

Refreshments for Social Hour: Can you bring snacks and refreshments for social hour after worship? It requires purchasing items, coming in early for set up, and helping clean up afterwards. Sign ups are in the Fellowship Hall on the bulletin board nearest the kitchen.

With every breath and every step, may we be working to create the Beloved Community we all strive for!

Sincerely,

Susan Ritchie and Lily Shahar Kunning
North Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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