



# NORTHERN LIGHT

Newsletter of the North Unitarian Universalist Congregation

April 2013

## WORSHIP:

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

### LEARN HOW TO WRITE A SERMON!

From the Worship Committee: Sunday, April 28, 2013: "Lay-led Service Brainstorming Session," in conjunction with Rev. Susan Ritchie offering her class on "How To Do A Sermon."

As was noted in our recent annual report, "The importance of hearing powerful lay voices as well as a diversity of religious points of view is considered of primary value." Our minister's contract is not only meant to establish a minimum requirement of services that Susan will personally offer, but also to guarantee that a good number of services be left to allow for this diversity of voice. This is what "Utilizing the democratic processes in an atmosphere of respect looks like, worship style." As you travel your spiritual journey, what subjects, perspectives, and points of view would you enjoy sharing, or would you be interested in hearing more about? (An on-line search of, for example, "UU lay-led service ideas" will provide endless ideas!). Please bring your ideas to this

### RevElations!

I am pleased to introduce you to our newest NUUC staff person, Joleen Bazell. Joleen will begin as our half time Administrative Assistant on April 15. Joleen brings with her 13 years of experience in administration and customer service. She is coming to us from her current position as an Inventory Manager for a local oil company, a company for which she previously worked as an Administrative Assistant. Joleen is leaving her full time position so that she can return to college in the fall--she appreciates the flexible schedule we can offer her, and the opportunity to do much of the work from home. Her references have described her as thorough, detail-oriented, quick to learn, highly trustworthy and as having excellent customer service skills.

Our Administrative Assistant is responsible for keeping all records of contributions, making and recording our weekly bank deposit, collecting information for and then publishing our orders of service and newsletter, maintaining our database, keeping our building schedule, sending schedule reminders to volunteers, and, as is typical for Administrative Assistants, Numerous Other Things that simply help our church (and its minister!) function more smoothly.

I look forward to working with Joleen.

To Life!

Susan

### From the Music Director

Mark your calendars now for **Music Sunday on May 5!** This is our annual worship service, overflowing with song to recognize the importance of music in our spiritual lives. The NUUC Choir will reprise some of our favorite pieces from the year, but we need your help! Do you have a musical talent you would like to share with the congregation? **Musicians of all ages and instruments are invited to participate in the service.** Please contact me ([marlenemetz@yahoo.com](mailto:marlenemetz@yahoo.com)) before April 15 to secure your spot in the program.

Here's a look at the music being prepared for worship services this month:

April 7: To continue our exploration of the "teal" hymnal, the NUUC Choir will sing #1060 "As We Sing of Hope and Joy."

April 14: We add a new song to our ever expanding repertoire with "Things That Never Die."

brainstorming session. In addition to Susan's class, other helpful resources for planning a service will also be provided. The class will begin after services and will include refreshments. A sign-up sheet on the bulletin board will soon be available. Plan now to attend!

## Creative Fellowship:

Creative Fellowship is meeting on the 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m in Fellowship Hall.

This is a great opportunity to get to know other people you see in the pews on Sunday while we work on our sewing, scrapbooking, cross stitch, knitting or any other creative endeavor you are working on. Any questions please contact [Teri Cornell](#).

## Join us on Facebook!



Join Our Mailing List!

## Ways and Means

Save the Date! Invite your Friends, Family, Acquaintances, and everyone you meet! This event is sure to be a blast!

Spaghetti Dinner, Jazz Concert, and Silent Auction  
**May 17, 4:30-8:30pm**

Spaghetti will be served from 4:30-6:30: Tickets to the dinner will be \$8/adult (Age 16 and over) and \$20/family. Gluten free spaghetti and Garlic bread will be available, Spaghetti sauce will be vegetarian with meatballs on the side. The Jazz Concert featuring dynamic duo Traci Aquara and Wade Jones will begin at 7:00: a goodwill offering will be collected during the concert. We will also have a Silent Auction during the event.

April 21: A familiar hymn with an invigorating setting, "Amazing Grace" is always well received.

April 28: Don't miss Kurt Zielenbach singing "As Glory Goes" from the musical *Floyd Collins*.

Musically yours,  
Marlene Hartzler

## News from your Social Action Committee Next Steps to Recovery - Hurricane Sandy Update

Can you imagine life without your kitchen? Many of the families displaced by Hurricane Sandy are just now getting back into their rebuilt homes and having to start fresh with new basic kitchen items. This has been one of the biggest requests from the area. So, we are partnering again with the group that took blankets and books to the Jersey shore hurricane victims last fall. This time we are answering a request for "Kitchen Recovery Kits". Each kit will help a family that is making a fresh start after so many months of waiting.

We will have tags on the bulletin board for NEW items that you can donate. Please take a tag, bring in that item and put it in the bins. . Then we will pack up the boxes so the folks traveling to Manasquan, New Jersey can deliver them directly to the churches that will distribute them. The items need to be at NUUC by Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Items needed (all NEW):

- Glassware (4)
- Flatware (4 sets)
- Pots, pans
- Mixing/serving bowls
- Mixing spoons, measuring cups/spoons
- Toaster or toaster oven
- Service for four

Financial donations are also very welcome. Please make check out to NUUC and write "Kitchen Kits" in the memo line.

As you and your family gather in the warmth of your own cozy kitchen, you can think about how we have helped our New Jersey friends start a new life in theirs.

If you have any questions, please contact Molly Watson (originally from the Manasquan area) at [mollystarfish@gmail.com](mailto:mollystarfish@gmail.com) or 614-570-3234. Thank you very much!

**GET INFORMED ABOUT MARRIAGE EQUALITY** The Social Action Committee is sponsoring two information forums on marriage equality issues immediately after the service on April 7 and April 14, 11:35AM-12:05 PM. Representatives from Freedom Ohio will join us April 7, and representatives from Equality Ohio April 14.

**NO IMPACT MAN** - The Potluck/Movie/Booktalk was a success! Over 30 people attended the potluck on March 10<sup>th</sup>, including several guests and young adult children. There was lots of delicious food and the opportunity to share our concerns about the environment as well as our individual efforts to live sustainably. Thanks to everyone who participated! Several people have expressed an interest in forming a group to meet on a regular ongoing basis for the purpose of learning more about environmental justice issues and legislative actions, to share ideas, and to support each other in our efforts to be better stewards of the planet. If you are interested in further conversation or involvement in environmental justice issues, please contact Pam Patsch at [pqp723@aol.com](mailto:pqp723@aol.com) or (614)580-3697.

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTION ALERT:** In March, SAC members Chuck Lynd, Ulrike Martin, and Pam Patsch attended environmental lobby days sponsored by The Sierra Club and Ohio Environmental

### Ways and Means Volunteer Opportunities:

If you are itching to roll up your sleeves and contribute, here are some grand opportunities:

#### Donate to the Silent Auction!

We are gathering donations such as gift certificates from local businesses as well as from anyone who would like to contribute. Would you like to offer up a "Buckeye basket" of necessities for any avid OSU fan? Bake a Cake? We are accepting physical items only: winning bidders will take home their winnings that night.

#### Come work at the Spaghetti dinner!

We can use some more volunteers to help wash dishes, run the cashier table(s), distribute Silent Auction Items, and clean up after the event. (Your dinner will be complimentary!)

#### Join the Service Auction Task Force:

Help organize and run our Annual Service auction!

#### Cookbook Task Force:

We would love to do a cookbook fundraiser early next year, and need someone to run this Task force. Will it be you?

If you are interested in volunteering for these opportunities, or if you have other ideas for fundraising opportunities for our congregation, Please contact Becca Morse at [beccamorse@gmail.com](mailto:beccamorse@gmail.com). Thank you!

#### Sign up for the Kroger Community Rewards card

Do your regular grocery shopping, and earn money for NUUC at the same time! If you need help signing up, someone will be available on the second Sunday of each month to walk you through the process.

### Brown Bag Books

Meets at Noon the Third Tuesday of the month. Get all the details [by clicking here.](#)

### District Assembly

Council. There are several legislative issues that will be considered by the Ohio General Assembly. Powerful lobbyists for the utility companies are working hard to weaken Ohio's exemplary Clean Energy Act which requires utility companies to meet set standards for increasing the energy efficiency of their customers and for increasing alternative renewable energy resources. Another legislative initiative involves lobbying for a moratorium on fracking until safety concerns are addressed. Environmental groups are also seeking an increase in the severance tax on oil and gas production to help pay for additional inspectors to enforce safety regulations as well as to offset infrastructure and public health costs to local communities resulting from fracking. For additional information about these issues go to [www.theOEC.org/BriefingBook2013](http://www.theOEC.org/BriefingBook2013).

**GUEST AT YOUR TABLE (GAYT):** Guest at Your Table is a program of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) which has been celebrated by UU communities each year since 1975 as a means of educating members about UUSC and raising funds for their programs. Emphasis is on families learning together at the dining table how we put UU values to work to "serve humanity" as we affirm each Sunday morning. The Guest at Your Table program will be wrapping up Sunday, April 7th. **Please convert your donation into a check made out to UUSC.**

You can place the donation in the collection basket or give it to Ulrike Martin or Marty Keith. Remember, gifts of \$100 or more are eligible to be matched! Let's show the UUSC that we value the work they are doing, and show the world that they can count on UU's to be there for them.

If you have any questions about Guest at Your Table, please contact Ulrike Martin at 740-965-6720 or

#### **BEHIND THE KITCHEN DOOR** by Saru Jayaraman

Your Social Action Committee is joining hundreds of UU's across the country in collaboration with UUSC's (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) and Guest at Your Table to bring awareness to the rights of workers in the food system. The theme this year is "Justice is Choosing Compassionate Consumption", a call to protect the rights of workers in the food system. The right to work in a safe environment, receive fair wages, and organize with dignity is regularly denied to restaurant workers' by their employers. The book "Behind the Kitchen Door" brings awareness to the interconnection of ethical eating with the human rights of the workers in the food chain.

As UU's we believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person and we have a duty to stand up for those whose worth and dignity are not being recognized. Workers in the food system are no exception.

You can take action by:

--Visit [uusc.org/economicjustice](http://uusc.org/economicjustice)

--Commit to choosing compassionate consumption by signing the UUSC pledge at [uusc.org/cccpledge](http://uusc.org/cccpledge)

---Download the ROC-United diners' guide at [uusc.org/dinersguide](http://uusc.org/dinersguide)

--- Buy the book "Behind the Kitchen Door" then join us on May 5th after the service for a potluck and book discussion facilitated by Rev. Susan Ritchie

---Make a donation to UUSC today.

A sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall for the potluck on May 5th - Hope to see you there!

**UU JUSTICE OHIO (UUJO):** The March UUJO Exchange newsletter at <http://bit.ly/11fQThO> includes information about our four priority issues - immigration, economic rights, environment, and LGBTQ accompanied by a calendar of lobby days in Columbus and multi-city initiatives on the death penalty and worker's rights. The UUJO Facebook page [www.facebook.com/UUJusticeOhio](http://www.facebook.com/UUJusticeOhio) and website <http://ohiomeadville.org/uujo/>

**The SAC meets at Noon on April 7th.** We welcome new members. For

The annual District Assembly of the Ohio Meadville District of the Unitarian Universalist Association is April 26-27.

[Details and registration information here.](#)

Let Rev. Ritchie know if you are interested in attending as a delegate of our congregation.

## HARVEST THE POWER CLASS

Harvest the Power classes continue with a focus PURPOSE or What ends do we serve? The signup sheet is available now in Fellowship Hall. This is open to all (You do not need to have been part of the previous sessions focused on Identity to participate). We will be meeting Sunday evening starting at 5PM on April 7, 14, 21, and May 5. Any questions? Please ask Laura Howe.

more information about the Social Action Committee, contact Pam Patsch at [pgp723@aol.com](mailto:pgp723@aol.com).

[ulrikem@peoplepc.com](mailto:ulrikem@peoplepc.com).

## Treasurer's Report

by Koraleen Stavish

Outlined below is a summary of the financial report presented to members of your Finance Committee and Board of Trustees for the month of February, 2013:

|                              | Actual \$ Received and Paid | Budget (Planned Receipts and Payments) |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>February, 2013</b>        |                             |  |
| 2013 Pledge Offerings        | 14,899                      | 12,259                                 |
| Non-Pledge Offerings         | 315                         | 0                                      |
| Rental Revenue               | 115                         | 154                                    |
| Ways and Means - Fundraising | 213                         | 361                                    |
| <b>Total Income</b>          | <b>15,542</b>               | <b>12,774</b>                          |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>        | <b>11,893</b>               | <b>12,726</b>                          |
| <b>Year-to-Date</b>          |                             |  |
| 2012 Pledge Offerings        | 6,187                       | 0                                      |
| 2013 Pledge Offerings        | 29,993                      | 24,517                                 |
| Non-Pledge Offerings         | 960                         | 0                                      |
| Rental Revenue               | 375                         | 308                                    |
| Ways and Means - Fundraising | 511                         | 723                                    |
| <b>Total Income</b>          | <b>38,026</b>               | <b>25,548</b>                          |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>        | <b>24,292</b>               | <b>25,452</b>                          |

## Social Hour

**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.



Try it FREE today.