



The Anchor

March 2010

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Haiti Relief — March UUA Legal Clinic

On January 15, 2010, the Obama administration announced that Haitians in the United States prior to the earthquake may apply for Temporary Protected Status (TPS), which would allow them to legally live and work in the United States for the next 18 months without fear of deportation. It is estimated that this program will help 100,000 to 200,000 Haitians currently in the United States. UUA and UUSC are [setting up and supporting legal clinics for TPS applicants](#) in select regions of the country. At these clinics, volunteers will help provide information, advice, and assistance in filling out the necessary forms, as well as help in completing the employment authorization and TPS fee-waiver applications. Volunteers need NOT be attorneys in order to participate. All volunteers will receive training, and each TPS legal clinic will be supervised by immigration attorneys. There will also be a need for child-care services and French and Creole translators at these events. Attend one of the following TPS Legal Clinic Training Webinars:

[Register for Wednesday, March 3](#): 7-8:30 p.m. EST.
[Register for Wednesday, March 10](#): 7-8:30 p.m. EST.

Once participants have attended the training, UUSC will help connect them with a clinic in their area. Partner organizations include the Haitian Coalition and Greater Boston Legal Services in Massachu-

setts, Cabrini Immigrant Services in New York, and the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center. Partner organizations in other areas with Haitian populations will be announced soon. Trained volunteers may also check the [American Immigration Lawyers Association](#) site for where clinics are being held.

For more information see [UUSC Training Schedule](#).

Contact Nichole Cirillo, UUSC Campaign Manager at ncirillo@uusdc.org or (617) 301-4336

Same-Sex Wedding Ceremonies

On Tuesday, March 9, the Universalist Church of DC will open its door to those who would like to celebrate their same-sex, legal marriage with a wedding ceremony. Couples need to obtain their license in DC at Moultrie Courthouse, 500 Indiana Ave, NW, RM 4485, Washington DC 20001.

Processing takes 3 days.

Couples from DC and Maryland are invited.

The Rev. Lillie Henley will officiate. Church members plan to help celebrate the marriages with hospitality. Please call Rev. Henley to make arrangements. 301-655-3798

or email her at pastorlillie@universalist.org.

There is no minister's fee for the ceremony' donations to the church will be welcome.



Elaine Kass, Chancel Choir volunteer and now a new member.

6-week class ~ Psalms Underway

Psalms—6 weeks

The Lenten class on Encountering the Psalms launched last month will look at Psalm 1 and what it can tell us about the central theme of the bible and its main characters—God, the righteous, the wicked, the law and the natural world. We also talked about what makes a passage “user-friendly” and some of the varied approaches taken by different translations.

Our next session, March 7, will focus on the “angry” Psalms and attempts at inclusive language. To prepare, we’re reading Psalms 42—72 paying special attention to Psalms 42, 51, 69 and 72.

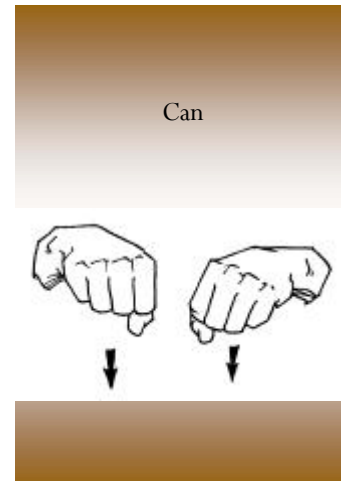
Here is the tentative schedule for the other class sessions:

- March 7
The “angry” Psalms
- March 14
The vivid imagery of the Psalms
- March 21
Using the Psalms in personal devotion, worship and celebration
- March 28
Wrap-up: lingering questions & the Psalms in Holy Week

If you miss a class but still want to participate, just ask Sue Mosher for a copy of the materials. You do not need any previous Bible study experience. While each session is designed to stand on its own, you will probably have a richer experience if you attend as many sessions as possible and try, at least some, of the suggested “homework” exercises.

American Sign Language Class—March 7

American Sign Language classes are continuing and walk-ins are welcome. Meet the first Sunday of every month, March 7, 12:30 in the 2nd floor library. No need to register, but if you plan to come, please let Janice Rosen know so that she can be sure to have enough materials for everyone.



Class ~ Delighting in the Feminine Divine

We have been studying from the book of the same name about the Feminine Divine in the Old Testament. We are now moving into the New Testament.

Come join us as we explore how we expand our vision of God. After church and the hospitality time, we will be meeting in the library on the second floor.

Our guide through this discussion is Jennifer Sandberg. We are exploring the Feminine Divine in the Apocrypha and the New Testament. Come and explore a new view of God.

Jennifer Sandberg is spearheading the organizing of a mission trip to Haiti. There will be more information on this trip from Jennifer in the

coming weeks.



HAIKU POETRY

Rev. Lillie will be offering Haiku writing as a spiritual exercise in the Spring.

Interested? Call her!

From The Heart

~ Pastor Lillie

From my sermon,

“The Devil Made Me Do It”

It seems rather old fashioned, doesn't it, to talk about the devil. Old fashioned to suggest that we sin. Liberal religious thinking has, for a couple of centuries, tried to persuade us that “sin” was antiquated, oppressive, and a useless word.

It is, I believe, because we have an Arminian view of sin. That is, we do not believe in “original sin” which is St. Augustine's and Calvin's view of sin. Arminianism is a belief that humankind is as capable of goodness as they are of sin.

We do sin; we do things that separate us from God and from others. We behave in some ways that builds fences between us and those we love. We make decisions that show our arrogance. We succumb to temptations that hurt others.

When Flip Wilson the great comedian of the 1970s portrayed the character Rev. Leroy he was, as all great comedians do, making fun of our frailties and our weaknesses. He was, telling us, everybody sins, even the preacher.

Adam and Eve had to leave their paradise. The great King David of Israel was not allowed to build the Great Temple. Tiger Woods lost the respect of almost the entire planet. The teacher was arrested. The senator was censured.

Something else that seems old fashioned, or distant from us is the observance of Lent. It began with the early Jesus followers, who recognized the weeks which led up

to the Crucifixion. It became institutionalized with the early Roman church. And today, Christians in all Orthodox and Catholic churches observe Lent. And so do most of the churches from the Sixteenth Century Reformation, Presbyterians, Lutherans, and Methodists.

If sin separates us from God and each other, then the forty days of Lent is a good time to consider our lives, examine our hearts, and figure out what we need for better relations with our One God who created us and with each other.

Observe Lent in some way. Give up something or do something that will make a difference in your life

It's not too late to begin a Lenten practice. It is never too late to ask forgiveness of one's sins. And remember, no matter what, God loves us unconditionally, we are all

Sharing Our Plate

Every month, this church shares a percentage of the plate offering with a different charity. For March, we will be sharing with

Food & Friends

The mission of Food & Friends is to foster a community caring for men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS, cancer and other life-changing illnesses by preparing and delivering specialized meals and groceries in conjunction with nutritional counseling

If you interested in volunteering with this nonprofit, check their website at

FoodandFriends.org , call the main number at

202-635-426 5or email

Volunteer@FoodandFriends.org



Leland Place Dinner ~ March 20

Rev. L.A. McCrae and the UNMC Young Adult Group are sponsoring the Leland Place dinner for Saturday March 20. Young adults -- and young-at-heart adults --- should get in touch with L.A. or Dave Skidmore, to volunteer. We'll gather in the church kitchen at 2:30 p.m. with the goal of serving the meal at Leland, on North Capitol Street, at

around 5 p.m. We carpool back to the church at around 6:30 p.m. Volunteers generally share the cost of the meal (\$15 to \$25 each) but are welcome to donate labor only, not cash. See Dave or Pastor Lillie to do that.

Mardi Gras was the theme of the February 20 dinner. Volunteers Ron Eanes, Marti Martinson, An-

gela Khaminwa, Marsha Silverberg, and Dave Skidmore served jambalaya, salad, and homemade biscuits to more than a dozen hungry men at Leland, a halfway house--run by S.O.M.E. (So Others Might Eat)--or men in recovery from homelessness and addictions. They finished off the meal with Bananas Foster and vanilla ice cream.

Social Action ~ March 14 & April 11

Next Social Action Meeting Sunday March 14, after service 12:30pm

Haiti fundraiser: We decided to put together a fundraiser for Haiti in April in Perkins hall which would include music, food, and information about Haiti projects. Since our food bank partner AMURT has an active Haiti project and we partnered successfully with Lambi Fund for Haiti in June 2009, we would split the proceeds between these two groups and have another FROM H STREET TO HAITI event. More details will be discussed at our upcoming meeting.

Red Cross Blood Drive: We will hold another Red Cross Blood/Bone Marrow drive on Sunday, April 11 after the church service. Plans are to

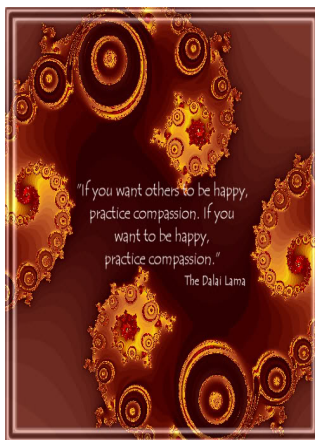
have a Clara Barton Worship service to coincide with this.

Jambo Africa Child Hope: We will have another after church dinner in May to present information and raise funds for Jambo Africa Child Hope

Monthly Coffee House in Perkins Hall: We will discuss plans for this at our next meeting. Ideas are to have a social action theme and to have an open mic at the beginning, leading into an established performer for the program and to do education and fundraising.

Thanks to all those who donated time, talent, and treasure to the swing dance fundraiser with special thanks to Rick and Adelaide for organizing and donating their services. About thirty people showed up

and we took in around \$600. We were able to raise \$110 each for the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Philippines and AMURT after we paid the band. There is much interest in holding more swing dance fundraisers in the future.



March Sermons

March 7, Third Sunday of Lent, Rev. Henley preaching on Luke 13:1-9, "Slip Sliding Away" As people we struggle throughout our lives, sometimes there's rain, sometimes it is a clear day, nevertheless, we struggle. Where is, how do we, have hope?

March 14, Fourth Sunday of Lent, the sermon will be "The Prodigal Son" based on our reading from Luke 15. Reading I will be James Weldon Johnson's "The Prodigal Son" ... And the young man journeyed on his way, /And he said to himself as he traveled along: / This sure is an easy road, /Nothing like the rough furrows behind my father's plow. Rev. Henley preaching.

March 21, Fifth Sunday of Lent, "Going About Our Lives—Are We Mary or Martha" Rev. Henley looks at our inclinations for service, physical or spiritual? We find in John 12 the story of the sisters' service.

March 28, Palm Sunday and the 80th Anniversary of Universalists worshipping in our beautiful, sanctified church. Come this Sunday and celebrate our Eightieth year at 1810 16th St NW! Rev. Henley will preach on Jesus' acceptance of his fate and his courage as he faces the trials and tribulations to come. **Bring a potluck dish to share after church. The Board will provide the Anniversary Cake!**

April 1 we will celebrate Maundy Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the church and our Good Friday service is at noon.

Women's Group—Women Supporting Women

Women, we are relevant to each other at any stage of life ~ wherever we are ~ we are all beautiful and we all need each other. Let us embrace ourselves, find where we can belong with others who can support us, socialize and help us de-stress. Are you wondering about getting a mate, raising children, the roller coaster ride of a lifetime partnership like marriage or health concerns specific to women?

Love, Relationships, Children, Women's Health ...

What can we give each other?

Beautiful older women, would you like to mentor and share with younger women?

Beautiful younger women, would you like to be a part of a larger community of experienced older women and see that you will always be relevant?

We are one.

BOW, Beautiful Older Women, is a group of

women supporting women.

Interested?

Contact Adelaide via email

WomenSupporting-Women@yahoo.com



UNMC Response to Haiti

Our efforts to raise money for Haiti to be donated to the American Red Cross was a rousing success! We raised \$738.41 in donations just from the church.

Then member, Catherine Bockor, added her donation, which was a matching of dollar for dollar to what we had raised. All in all we gathered in over \$1400 in donations.



Standing on the Side of Love Campaign ~ March 21 March for Immigrant Families

The Standing on the Side of Love Campaign, together with our partners at the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, Reform Immigration for America, and others, are encouraging everyone who can, to join us in Washington DC on Sunday, March 21, for the largest mobilization for immigration reform. The rally, from 2:00—5:00 will be on the National Mall. If you'd like to register for this march on the Mall, go the <http://standingonthesideoflove.org/>

[standing-on-the-side-of-love-with-immigrant-families](https://twitter.com/standing-on-the-side-of-love-with-immigrant-families)

Join Standing On The Side of Love on Twitter - [#SideOfLove](https://twitter.com/SideOfLove)



UNMC Young Adults

We hope you are excited and can feel the enthusiasm! Once again, the Young Adults at UNMCR have been boldly visioning and planning for the development of our vibrant young adult community. Please take note on the events we have coming up in March. If you would like to suggest an event, please feel free to see any of the young adults. Our Social Coordinators, Kari Amidon and Jerry Kemper, would be more than happy to chat with you about our goals and ideas. In the upcoming months we look forward to Open Mic Nights, Worshipping Outside, continued intentional ministries, and growing deep in our faith journeys. We look forward to the journey ahead!

~ UNMC Young Adults



From Rev. L. A.

Scholars, theologians, seminary students, laity, and pastors have pondered over the meaning of “community” these last few years. Admittedly, I was once a member of this constituency, searching for the answer to this question that permeated theological inquiry. Not only were people trying to reveal the truth of community, but persons wanted to know where Christian communities were located. It seemed as if people were coming and going from mainline Protestant denominational churches because of the lack of communal atmosphere.

When coming to UNMC months ago, I was not surprised when I did not find a community atmosphere. Instead, I found a family with open arms, warm smiles, great hugs, and an amazing hospitality hour. Everyone is genuine, sincere, and authentic. THIS is the “community” others seek to find. What an amazing blessing to have found a home after coming out from the wilderness of exclusion and marginalization! Truly a Divine presence can be felt.

This presence is not only in the Church and embodied in the members, but in the neighborhood. As I have been walking around the neighborhood, visiting businesses, and talking with young adults – I have realized that they too share this warmth. However, there still seems to be this search for – community.

Indeed, the young adults here at UNMC are a family that looks forward to engaging others in the DuPont Circle area. I am humbled and honored to be a part of this group. All of the members of the young adult family – including mentors – are utterly significant to the pulse of the church and the community in this area. We are blessed to be led by their vision and commitment.

If you know someone who may be searching, or meet someone on the street/Metro/work or wherever you are – please invite them into our family. We look forward to greeting them at hospitality hour! ☺ Most importantly, we always love drawing the family wider to include more and there is “plenty good room” at this table.



Upper left, Rev. L.A. with a friend from Wesley Seminary. To the left, Shawn with guests at our Mardi Gras fundraiser “From P St. to the Philippines.” Above, Sunday guests: L.A.’s spouse Valleesha and L.A.’s sister-in-law.

5 March 2010 The Potter’s House Evening with Mary Shapiro

7 March 2010 The Vagina Monologues @ UNMC

9 March 2010 UNMC and UU Silver Spring Celebration of LGBT Weddings @ UNMC

14 March 2010 9500 Liberty Film Screening @ All Souls, 1-3 PM

20 March 2010 Leland Place Ministry, 2:30-6:00

21 March 2010 Social Hour after Hospitality

**28 March 2010 Social Hour after Hospitality
**** Faith Journey Conversations and Vespers ******

Maundy Thursday Potluck 7:30 p.m. April 1st

On Thursday evening, April 1, we will commemorate Jesus' last supper with his disciples with our annual Maundy Thursday service. Traditionally, this is a potluck dinner and one of the most festive events of the church year. The deacons need your help in planning the event. If you'd like to help, come to a planning group at the

church at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 13. If you can, bring a lunch, and stay a little while longer to enjoy the fellowship. For more information or if you want to help but can't attend the meeting, speak to Pastor Lillie or any of the deacons. (The deacons' names are in the order of worship each

Sunday, and they wear blue name badges.)



REDEFINING THE GOOD LIFE—

Joseph Priestly District UUA News

People from across our Joseph Priestly District of the UUA will meet Friday night and Saturday, April 16-17, in King of Prussia, PA, for the annual spring conference. Many of the workshops will focus on this year's theme—

“Redefining ‘The Good Life’: Faith & Values for a Sustainable Future.”

The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Michael Schuler, author of *Making the Good life Last: Four Keys to Sustainable Living*. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.jpduua.org/>

[pages/jpd-conference.php](http://www.jpduua.org/pages/jpd-conference.php). Registration fees go up after 3/26.

If you plan to go, please contact the office at office@universalist.org or call 202-387-3411 to discuss possible ride and/or hotel sharing.



March Calendar

Mar 14

4th Sunday of Lent

“Smooth and Easy Is the Road”

Reading I: “The Prodigal Son” James Weldon Johnson

Reading II: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Mar 21

5th Sunday of lent

“Mary and Martha Serve”

Reading II: John 12:1-8

March 28

Palm Sunday

“Do You Lack for Anything?”

Reading I: Luke 22:1-46

Reading II: Luke 23: 26-49

Looking Ahead

April 1

Maundy Thursday Communion Service, 7:30 PM

April 2

Good Friday Service
12 noon

April 4

Easter Sunday

“You Raise Me Up”

Reading II: John 20:1-18

**Universalist National
Memorial Church**

1810 16th St NW
Washington DC 20009
Phone: 202-387-3411
Email: office@universalist.org

From the Editor:

Rick and I enjoyed being able to perform for the Mardi Gras Hunger benefit. Participation was great—and would have been even better if the “Blizzard of 2010” had not postponed our first scheduled date. “We’ve got have another dance when the weather’s better,” said Moderator Dave Gatton.

Several people asked me if we would do this again.

Peace,
Adelaide Eldridge

Editor
editor@SwingJazzBand.com



Above—speaks for itself! Upper right having fun, Jillian and Dave. Below far left, the swing dancers learning new steps. Below, Eric and Adelaide warming up before the dance. Below right, Dave and Marcia trying out some dance moves!

