

Universalist Anchor



May 2005

Musings from Mary Katherine

Dear Friends,

This month we have three very important events—all of which I hope you will attend. I know that's a lot for a little church...but, I think you will be glad you made the time.

First is our **May Day Community Open House** on May 1st. Please join us for worship at 11:00 and bring a friend or several! If you are able to bring food to share for the open house, please let Mary Katherine know at mkmorn@universalist.org. To prepare for this event some of us will gather at the church on April 30th to do some spring cleaning. Join us if you can between 10:00 and 4:00.

Second is our **congregational leadership event** with Alban Institute consultant Dan Hotchkiss. If you consider yourself a leader at Universalist National Memorial Church, or if you would like to be more involved, please join us on May 4th and 5th from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. We'll have a light supper at 6:30 and then begin promptly at 7:00. These two evenings will give us a chance to get a good sense of where we are with numerous important projects and take first steps on accomplishing our goals. Please let me know if you can join us. (mkmorn@universalist.org)

Finally our **annual meeting** will be held on May 15th following the service. The Rev. Shana Goodwin, of All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church will be preaching that day. In addition to the regular annual business, we will be voting to adopt the congregational covenant we have developed.

I'm grateful for the enormous devotion so many of you have for Universalist National Memorial Church. I wish I could package that devotion up and show it off to folks hoping for a liberal Christian community. I think they would come running to find such a place. Please join me in May as we practice our devotion and take some steps toward the future.

See you in church,

Mary Katherine

May 6-8, Friday-Sunday

Mayhem 2005: A Riotous Social Justice Journey, <http://www.jpd-uuyan.org/> The annual spring retreat of the JPD UU Young Adult Network focusing on faith-based social justice, at the midpoint of the Appalachian Trail at the Ironmaster's Mansion, Pine Grove Furnace State Park.

Sunday, May 8

11 a.m. Worship: "Recoloration," Sue Mosher preaching. Genesis 2:8-17 The struggle over the symbols of faith is nothing new. When one group claims exclusive meaning for a symbol, others may lose the ability to have their story honored as well. Can a fresh look at the cross give us the will and clarity to more boldly proclaim God's love for all?

Sunday, May 15

UNMC Annual Congregational Meeting
Election of officers, approval of other budget, and other business of the congregation.

May Worship & Activity

Schedule at UNMC

Sunday, May 1 Bring a Friend Sunday

11 a.m. Worship: "The Largest Thought the World Has Ever Known," Rev Morn preaching. This quotation comes from Universalist minister Clarence Skinner as he describes Universalism. On this Neighborhood Open House Sunday our service will provide an introduction to Universalist faith for old and new friends alike. Please invite a friend to join you at church this Sunday.

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May Worship & Activity Schedule at UNMC

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Saturday, May 14

8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Regional Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship Revival in Charlottesville

Sunday, May 15

11:00 a.m. Worship: The Rev. Shana Goodwin, All Souls, preaching. UNMC Congregational Meeting follows.

Sunday, May 22

11:00 a.m. Worship:

“Professions & Declarations in Universalist History”

In this service we will survey and explore various statements adopted by Universalists through the modern era and consider the role of such statements in congregational life today.

Sunday, May 29

11:00 a.m. Worship:

“Marriage: A Holy Sacrament for All God’s Children”

How might we, as people of liberal faith, respond to the current struggle over marriage? Who will decide? Is marriage a civil or a religious state? And why are we so confused over this?

Parish Notes

Ed Safranek, who has been attending UNMC since January 2003, officially became a member on March 13 after signing the membership book. We will formally recognize Ed and any other new members during an upcoming worship service

Evelyn Brooks Rowse, the niece of long-time UNMC pastor Dr. Seth Brooks, writes to wish everyone a Happy 75th Anniversary. She and her husband James just returned to their home in New Hampshire after spending six weeks in Florida and were able to see their son and daughter

Safe, Legal...Unavailable? Access to Abortion Then and Now

Thursday, May 12th from 6:30-8:30pm

All Souls Church, Pierce Hall

1500 Harvard Street, NW

Join the DC Abortion Fund for a screening of the documentary "Jane: An Abortion Service," and a conversation with Heather Booth, organizer, activist, and founder of Jane.

In the late 1960's, Heather Booth founded "Jane" out of her University of Chicago dorm room in response to a friend who sought her out for help in obtaining an abortion. Jane grew into a collective that provided over 10,000 women with safe, but illegal abortions between 1969 and 1973. The film, "Jane: An Abortion Service," chronicles the history of Jane through interviews with the women who ran the underground service and some of the patients who received their abortions through Jane.

Following the film screening, Heather Booth will speak about abortion access and affordability and take questions from the audience.

Please RSVP to dcaf@nnaf.org

Light refreshments will be served. There is no cost to attend this event, but donations of any amount are appreciated.

About the DC Abortion Fund: We are an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that makes grants and no-interest loans to DC regional women who cannot afford the full cost of an abortion. We cover the gap between what women can afford and the abortion cost, making the freedom of choice a reality for all women.

The Board of Trustees meeting is May 9, 7:00 p.m., and the main topic of discussion will be the 2005-6 budget.

Third Wednesday Theology Discussion

Thanks to frequent visitor Lisa Harris for leading us in a discussion of Marcus Borg's "Meeting Jesus for the First Time". This book calls for a new understanding of Christianity as founded by a "human" Jesus, not a God. One of the most memorable statements from this discussion which Lisa said was: "Who can claim or try to be a disciple of God?; But we can be disciples of a man who lived in history called Jesus." Borg challenges us to see the "pre-Easter Jesus" rather than focus on the distortions of the Christ of faith and thus see him in a new light.

Our third Wednesday discussion on May 18 at 7:00 pm will follow up on Rev. Morn's sermon at All Souls on April 16: "Glad and Generous Hearts" by looking at our Universalist Declaration of faith of 1899 and the Seven Principles and purposes of the UUA. We will focus on the question of how can we find unity in diversity while maintaining the spirit of Rev. Morn's challenge to us in her sermon. We will also discuss the history of the two statements and their applicability to our practice and worship today. For background please read Rev. Morn's sermon, "Glad and Generous Hearts" and "A Different Witness" by Rev. David Keyes both found under "sermons" on our church's website at www.Universalist.org. Printed copies will also be available on the table in the church parlor. Come to our third Wed. series for a lively discussion and fellowship. Reminder from our mission statement: "We respect individual beliefs as we grow together." For more info contact the church office at office@universalist.org.

Camp Arena Stage

Arena Stage is one of the premier nonprofit regional theatres and education and community engagement are at the heart of our mission. Camp Arena Stage is a four-week camp, held on the beautiful campus of Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School in its recently renovated (and air conditioned!) buildings.

Campers, aged 8 to 15, choose their own schedules from a host of classes in visual arts, dance, music and theater. Each week, campers take a field trip to arts institutions around D.C., and each day campers can perform in or watch a Noontime Show. Camp culminates with a full-day arts festival of displays, demonstrations and performances for family and friends. To learn more about Camp Arena Stage, please visit our website <<http://www.arenastage.org/>> or call 202.554.9066 ext. 808.

Partnering with the Unitarians in Bucharest

At the JPD District meeting a few weeks ago, the UU Partner Church Council display had information that the capitol of Rumania, Bucharest, is looking to partner with a capitol city. Perhaps All Soul's Unitarian and Universalist National Memorial might consider cosponsoring this congregation. There are quarterly meetings of the local partner churches (i.e. Cedar Lane, Rockville, Arlington, River Road, Fairfax, Mt. Vernon, Sterling). A special interest group could be developed to explore the possibilities with representatives from the 2 churches. For additional information about what being a church partner means, please visit the UUA website www.uua.org/uupcc. For more information on this project contact the church office at office@universalist.org

Bucharest April 18 update by Rev. Bela Krizbai

Positive changes in Bucharest's political landscape are great news for Unitarians in Romania. "Their" candidates are winning the most important offices.

1. The candidate for the job of chief Mayor of Bucharest is Adrian Videany, Democratic candidate. The relationship of Mr. Videanu with the Hungarian national representatives is excellent. This means that the Mayor will probably enthusiastically support our central concern: providing a building for Unitarians in the capitol of the country.

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Chancel Flowers for May

Mary Simmons, Chair

May 1: Flowers are given in memory of Marcus W. Lewis by members of his family.

May 8: Flowers are given in loving memory of Jean Jacobs by her son Jeffrey and grandchildren Catherine and Brian Jacobs.

May 15: Flowers are given in loving memory of her parents by Mary Simmons

May 22: Flowers are given in memory of their parents Sally Tesoriero and John Bertram by Tom Tesoriero and Rob Bertram

May 29: Flowers are given in honor of Sue Ann Salmon, sister of Mary Templeton, by Mary and Al Templeton.

Partnering with the Unitarians in Budapest

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2. The Vice-Mayor is a Unitarian (!) Hungarian, ORBAN, Lajos, who has pledged his support toward creating a Unitarian Center for the Unitarian congregation in Bucharest--which would also be a national Unitarian center and representation.

3. The cause of the Bucharest Unitarians' need for a building is officially recognized by both wings of the current government--Democrats and Liberals. It is in the government's list of "Must Do."

The relationship of Democratic leaders of the Romanian Government toward the Hungarian minorities is positive, supportive. The Romanian Prime Minister positively supports the Hungarians. The Vice-Prime Minister is a Hungarian Poet, MARKO, Bela, also the President of the Hungarian Democratic Alliance. He is obviously our ally.

There are also other Hungarians and Unitarians in high government offices, secretaries of state in different areas, such as representations in the European integration, Commerce, Industry, Ecology, Finances, Atomic Energy, etc..

Krizbai thinks that this is unique historic moment of opportunity for Unitarians for opening up, becoming inclusive, thus securing our future. Krizbai celebrates the idea of conducting Romanian language Unitarian services [and Krizbai is eminently qualified for it. He speaks perfect Romanian and he is one of the most eloquent and elegant speakers in the Church, in both languages--remark by Judit Gellerd]. Rev. Krizbai wants to build bridges toward the Romanians, and even carry out a kind of "mission" among them. The Church must OPEN its doors and must create a positive image of inclusiveness, allowing Romanians to learn about our values. This is a key to the future and vitality for the Unitarian Church in the new era of European Integration, Krizbai thinks. Unitarians must have a representation in Bucharest--This is key and the first step toward the new opening.

Board Recruitment

The Nominating Committee is still recruiting new Board of Trustees members to fill positions that will be voted on at the annual congregational meeting May 15. Check the bulletin board in the hallway for descriptions of these and other open positions, including that of Secretary.

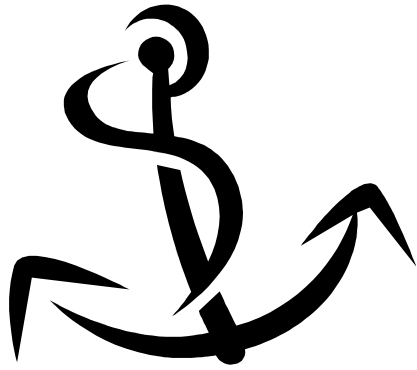
If you're interested in exploring these or other potential paths to personal service within the church, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee - Lynn Cook, Richard Hurst, or Sue Mosher.

Mini-Revival May 14: "Being Present"

Members of the Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship (UUCF) in the Joseph Priestly and Thomas Jefferson districts invite you to attend an all-day mini-revival at Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church in Charlottesville on Saturday, May 14. This first-ever regional UUCF gathering is a wonderful opportunity to experience the same worship, learning, and lively conversation that takes place at the continental UUCF Revival conferences, but in a one-day format, close to home! The schedule includes:

- 8:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 Greetings, David Dawson, UUCF board member
- 9:15 Opening Worship
- 10:00 Workshops
- 11:45 Lunch
- 12:45 Worship, led by Rev. Danny Reed, minister at the Unitarian Church of Norfolk
- 2:15 Labyrinth Walk
- 4:00 Communion Service, led by Paul Russell, member TJMC UUCF and former Baptist minister
- 4:45 Closing, UUCF executive director Rev. Ron Robinson

The cost is \$15. Homestays are available in TJMC UUCF members' homes on Friday night. Brochures and registration forms are on the information table in the parlor. If you're interested in going and want to carpool, please contact the church at office@universalist.org.



The *Universalist Anchor* is published monthly for the members and friends of the Universalist National Memorial Church in Washington, DC.

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The Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, Interim Minister

The Rev. Dr. William L. Fox, Minister Emeritus

Board of Trustees: Rob Bertram, Kathryn Desmond, Richard Hurst (Vice Moderator), Perry King, Clint McCully (Assistant Treasurer), Sue Mosher, Brian Pepper (Treasurer), Greg Wigle (Moderator)

Mr. David Skidmore, Head Deacon

Dr. Michael O'Brien, Music Director

Mr. Kirk Denton, Organist

Marguerite Bogle, Church Office
office@universalist.org

Our Mission (adopted May 2002)

We create a loving community
for worship and service
in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

We welcome all and respect individual
beliefs as we grow together.

The Universalist Anchor
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1810 Sixteenth Street, NW
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