

UUCOMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford

April 2009

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e-mail: uuoxford@uuoxford.com

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-----SUNDAY SERVICES FOR APRIL-----

Our services start at 11:00 a.m. and childcare is provided.

April at UUCO brings many celebrations!

April 5 - Passover Seder

The Passover Seder is a ritual re-telling of the Passover story and the Exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt. It is a time to share the story with all ages and celebrate and affirm our freedom with our children. Join us this Sunday for an intergenerational Passover Seder that will include the ritual meal.

April 12 - Easter: Celebrating New Beginnings

New beginnings take a variety of forms in our Unitarian Universalist congregation. Come for a morning of readings and poetry.

April 19 - Earth Day Celebration and Annual Congregational Meeting

We gather to honor the interdependent web of which we are a part. Immediately after the service will be the **Annual Congregational Meeting** for the adults and a chance to **build worm farms** for the children and youth!

April 26 - Carrie Sue Ayvar, Story Teller

This year's Double Decker Storyfest and Square Fair on April 25 will feature Miami storyteller Carrie Sue Ayvar, who is on the Mississippi Arts Commission Arts Demonstration roster. Carrie Sue blends traditional tales suitable for all ages. She brings animated energy to the stage as she spins bilingual tales moving effortlessly from English to Spanish. Join us the morning of April 26 for a service featuring Carrie Sue.

-----NEW MUSIC FOR UUCO-----

UUCO's pianist extraordinaire, Christine Bertz, has planned two pre-service singing sessions for April. Please join her and other music lovers on April 19 and April 26 at about 10:30 a.m., before our regularly scheduled 11:00 services. She will work with us on new music. No talent is required, but enthusiasm is greatly appreciated.

----- CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON APRIL 19: DEMOCRACY IN ACTION-----

Save the date! The UUCO Annual Congregational meeting will be on Sunday, April 19, shortly after the service! Please plan to attend this important Congregational meeting.

As a Unitarian Universalist Congregation, we enjoy Church Polity. That means that we govern ourselves, but do so in covenant with each other and with other UUs. The Annual Congregational Meeting is an important time in the yearly cycle of our congregational life. At this meeting, members of the congregation elect new board members to serve on the open positions of the UUCO board. And, at this meeting we vote to approve the budget for the next fiscal year.

Who is on the UUCO Board of Trustees and what

does the board do? Great questions!

The UUCO Board is the elected leadership for the congregation. Our representational democracy is consistent with our fifth principle. The responsibility of the UUCO board includes assuring that the congregation has the resources to carry out its mission statement. The board also provides leadership to the various committees that do the important work that is the mission of the church (e.g. Sunday service programming, religious education, stewardship, membership and communication). The details about each position are listed in our bylaws and are available on our web page and will be posted on our bulletin board through April.

Consistent with our bylaws, the Board appoints a Leadership Development Committee, who each year both seeks to identify and to encourage potential leaders. It is this committee that creates a slate of candidates for each position on the Board. There is additional information about the Leadership Development Committee elsewhere in this newsletter.

Also, consistent with our bylaws, the UUCO Board yearly oversees the pledge drive, and following the pledge drive, develops the budget for the next fiscal year.

The Congregational meeting on April 19 is our yearly gathering to tend to governance and financial issues. All members are encouraged to be there!

---LOOKING FOR NEW UUCO LEADERS!--
Are you looking for ways to make a significant contribution to UUCO? Do you have a particular passion for something you would like to do to nurture yourself and the congregation? Well, the Leadership Development Committee is looking for UUCO members to fill the vacancies on the Board and to replace outgoing trustees.

The Leadership Development Committee is a committee appointed by the UUCO Board with the task of identifying and encouraging leaders within the congregation. The members of the committee this year are Linda Iorio, Dan Mattern and Pat Miller.

For these Board positions, there is a one-year commitment but a maximum term of 3 years in a particular position. Several Board members have filled out their terms and will be stepping aside to let new people and ideas come to the Board. As far as we know right now, the Board positions that will be open are the following:

President
Vice President
Communications Trustee

Other positions may need to be filled once the Leadership Development Committee has talked with all of the present Board members.

If a member of the LDC approaches you to ask about your future leadership in the congregation, we ask that you sincerely consider devoting time to YOUR congregation.

There is a description of responsibilities of all positions posted on the bulletin board at UUCO. If you have any questions about positions or ways that you can make a contribution to the congregation either now or in the future, please see one of the LDC members.

The congregation will be voting on the new slate of Board members at the UUCO Annual Meeting, April 19, after the Earth Day service.

We need your ideas, commitment and leadership to grow our congregation spiritually and to grow our faith in our community and the world. Thank you for all that you do.

Dan (mattern@olemiss.edu)
Linda (kneestwo@yahoo.com)
Pat (hibiscus956@yahoo.com)

-NEWS FROM THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT-
From June Bryant, TEACH Trustee, MSD Board:

Get ready for the 2009 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY, scheduled for May 1-3 at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville, Tennessee.

Wait a minute, the elections aren't over! There is more voting to do this year! We are electing new Board members and a new Trustee from the Mid-South District to the UUA Board in Boston. We will hear from the campaigns of the two candidates who are running for the President of the UUA to follow Bill Sinkford. That vote will take place in Salt Lake City in June. Candidates! Music! Fun! Fellowship! Friends! And Fabulous Speakers! All of this and much more is happening as we strive to Grow a Beloved Community at this year's Mid-South Annual Assembly.

The fun begins Friday night with the Service of the Lively Tradition at 7:30 pm, preceded by the Lively Choir rehearsal at 5:30 and a light supper at 6:00 p.m.

This year's theme – "Growing a Beloved Community" – will be addressed most appropriately by none other than Rev. Tom Owen-Towle, author of a book by the same name. He will give the keynote at the Ingathering on Saturday morning. Plan to stay overnight and take part in the Drumming Circle that happens at the church at 7:30 p.m., and attend the early Sunday service the next morning at 9:00 a.m. Rev. Owen-Towle will be speaking again at the service.

Registration will be available in early April at www.msduua.org. Contact MSD Trustee June Bryant for more info at junebryant@cox.net.

Come be energized and inspired by this time together with UUs from across the South. Be a representative from your congregation and vote as we elect our new leaders. Plan to sing---you're gonna be in Music City!

More on the web at www.msduua.org!

-----IN MEMORIAM: ED DYE -----

We are sad to mark the passing of Ed Dye, former husband of UUCO member Charlene Dye and a friend to many in Oxford and at UUCO who enjoyed his company and his music. Ed died a few weeks ago in hospice care in Alabama. At the time of this newsletter there has been discussion of a memorial service but no date set.

To learn more about Ed Dye's life and music, please see <http://www.highway61radio.com/?p=1480>.

-----HOW TO FIND US-----

1. Travel on College Hill Road towards Clear Creek.
- 2.. At the intersection with Old Sardis Road, go past the stop sign and continue straight on CR 314 for 3.5 miles.
3. Turn right onto CR 198 (you should see a white sign saying "Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford").
4. Go .2 miles. UU Hall, a light-colored building with a trailer next to it, is on your left immediately past CR145.

TUPELO GROUP: The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Tupelo welcomes visitors. They meet the first, second, third and fourth Sundays of each month at 11 a.m. in Temple B'Nai Israel, 1301 Marshall Street. Website: www.UUTupelo.org.

-----NOTE FROM THE EDITOR-----

Please let Luanne know of corrections and additions. You can reach her by phone at 234-3833, and at lbuchana@olemiss.edu.

We hope to send out our May newsletter by Monday, April 27. Please consider submitting an article! Thanks to Gail Stratton and Pat Miller for their contributions this month.