

## UUCOMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford

June 2009

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### -----SUNDAY SERVICES FOR JUNE-----

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

#### **June 7 - Flower Service**

The first Unitarian flower service or flower communion was held in Prague, Czechoslovakia in 1923. Norbert Cebak, the founder of the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia, saw the need to unite his congregants, who came from Protestant, Catholic and Jewish backgrounds, without excluding anyone. We continue this fine tradition! Each person should bring a flower to add to the common vase. Shanna Flaschka is our service leader.

#### **June 14 - Visiting Minister and Welcoming of Our New Church Art**

The Reverend Barbara Jamestone is a long-time friend of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford and currently serves as the Minister for the Unitarian Universalist Society of Hartford, Connecticut (<http://www.ushartford.com>). On this Sunday we will unveil our wonderful gift from Marty Vinograd (please see the article below). Terri Wright will be our service leader.

#### **June 21 - Father's Day**

Mary Queyja will be our service leader.

#### **June 28 - Oxford's Community Garden**

UUCO's own Susie Adams, one of the great minds behind this effort, will speak about the creation of the Oxford Community Garden Association.

### -----ARTIST MARTY VINOGRAD GIFTS UUCO WITH UNIQUE WORK-----



Our UU Congregation of Oxford has been offered an elegant and generous gift of unique art! Marty Vinograd is presenting UUCO with an original piece of art, which she created out of her passion for Unitarian Universalism. Marty is a member of our congregation who is well known, admired and respected as an artist in the Oxford community. Her works are often part of exhibits in the area and are part of important collections. The piece she has created to celebrate Unitarian Universalism will be a dramatic and inspiring asset to our congregation's environment.

“Wow!” is what all have said who have seen the work! The work's central portion, which Marty created on quilted fabric so that it can be hung as a wall piece, is a chalice. Around the chalice is a white aureola. Flanking the chalice are quilted pieces that suggest a pair of stained glass windows. (A photo is

included here so all may have a preview.)

Marty has written an artist statement which says much more about the creation of the piece. Part of it reads: “The chalice [is] the shape chosen by the Unitarians so many years ago: slender support, off center, silver. It has a three-dimensional flame with a dark wick that is fabric and bits of metal leaf adhered to the flame circle – copper, gold on a base of silver. Then through the piece highlights of silver foil and gold ribbon. I bordered the chalice with silver/black cord.”

In appreciation of Marty and to suggest a tentative schedule for bringing the work to UUCO, Gail Stratton, congregation president, writes, “I am so deeply touched by Marty's generosity! We can have the piece up on the wall in a temporary way on Sunday, June 14th, a day when a lot of people are likely to be there. That day Reverend Barb Jamestone will be preaching and the Gelbard-Mattern family will provide music. Later in the summer, perhaps towards the end of August, the Sunday service worship committee will plan a service that will highlight it and acknowledge Marty. These plans are not set in stone, but we hope to find ways to thank Marty for this incredible gift.”

Marty's creation is a celebration of the power of Unitarian Universalism and our tradition. More about this unique art piece, its artist, and its gift to UUCO will be shared later through our website and news articles for the congregation and the community.

**-GIVE AWAY THE PLATE? DID WE EVER!-**

Thank you for your generosity! UUCO raised \$300 on Sunday, May 24, to go to the Civilian Protection Program of the Genocide Intervention Network. A very warm thanks to the students of South Panola High School – Chelsea Ratcliff, Emily Fox, Sara Sudduth, and Aevan Gibson – who shared with us some of what they learned from their semester long class on genocide. And a warm thanks to their teacher, Laura Boughton, who guided them through

through their study and who brought them to us last Sunday!

More information on the Genocide Intervention Network is available at

<http://www.genocideintervention.net/protection>.

**-----SOCIAL ACTION AND UUCO-----**

Enku Ide and Luanne Buchanan are two members of the new Social Action and Justice Committee. We're looking for more members and more feedback about social justice issues that concern you. We hope to meet by mid-June to make plans for the upcoming fiscal year. Please contact Enku ([enku@riseup.net](mailto:enku@riseup.net)) or Luanne ([lbuchana@olemiss.edu](mailto:lbuchana@olemiss.edu)) with your ideas.

In the meantime, UUCO continues with its commitment to the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. If you haven't yet signed the petition requesting an official commission of inquiry into U.S. torture activities, please visit [www.nrcat.org](http://www.nrcat.org) and click on “Call for a Commission of Inquiry.” During the month of June, religious groups across the country will participate in prayers, vigils and efforts to increase public awareness of this grievous violation of our own UU Seven Principles. UU's in Mississippi plan to publish a series of newspaper ads. More on this topic soon!

**-----HELPING WOMEN PRISONERS-----**

If you want to help women in the local jail, YOU CAN! Deliver a clear plastic bag of all or some of the following toiletry items to the jail on West Jackson across from the Historic Belfry Church:

1. toothpaste
2. deodorant
3. soap
4. clear ball-point pens (NO pencils)
5. notebook paper or a notebook that is NOT spiral bound
6. envelopes
7. stamps
8. shampoo in a plastic bottle

- 9. hair conditioner in a plastic bottle
- 10. lotion in a plastic bottle
- 11. a very small comb that is very bendable

Please do NOT include candy, books, toothbrushes, or wash cloths.

If you have questions, please call Ann Phillippi 662-236-1456.

-----**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](http://www.UUTupelo.org).

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

We will take the month of July off from newsletter writing. The next newsletter you receive will be from the able hands of Linda Cox. Welcome, Linda!

Luanne thanks John Schuster, Gail Stratton, Eunice Benton and many others for keeping her on track as newsletter editor during the last two years.

Thanks also to Eunice Benton, Ann Phillippi and Gail Stratton for their contributions this month!