

UUCOMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford

March 2009

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-----SUNDAY SERVICES FOR MARCH-----

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

March 1 - "Out of the Shadows"

The Rev. Jean M. Rowe will present a program about waking up, coming out of the shadows, seeing the light, getting enlightened. Seeing what's real; seeing from a broader perspective. It's early spring, and we are living with more light. Let's let the light shine inside us, too!!

Rev. Jean M. Rowe is the Minister Emerita, Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church in Memphis and is currently living in Brevard, North Carolina. Rev. Jean is a Universalist with strong Christian/feminist/Buddhist/mystic leanings. She's encountered the Holy in a variety of ways; enjoys theological discussion and debate; and thinks that God, love and freedom are inseparable concepts. She most often encounters the holy in people and in Nature.

March 8 - The Oxford Medical Ministries Clinic Penny Sisson will take about the OMMC, which serves the medical needs of the working uninsured in our area. Come hear about this vital ministry. This will be a Give-Away-the Plate Sunday, with the OMMC benefitting from our generosity!

March 15 - The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success Briggs Massey will lead a discussion of De3pak Chopra's book.

March 22 - "Injured Lions: Lessons From the Dying"

Our speaker is Linda Foshee, Lay Minister from Our Home Universalist Unitarian Church in Ellisville. Randy Pausch, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon University and an active Unitarian Universalist, was chosen as Belief.Net's "Most Inspiring Person of 2008." Pausch's "Last Lecture," an internet phenomenon, has been viewed by more than 20 million people. This service will explore the valuable life lessons taught by those who are approaching death.

March 29 - Feedback Sunday

On this special Sunday, we pause to reflect on our worship services, what they are, what we want them to be. Join us in this important creative process, led by Elaine Gelbard!

-----UUCO HOSTS CHURCH WOMEN UNITED ON MARCH 7-----

Church Women United is the oldest biracial organization in Oxford and has a wonderful history. Please join UUCO in welcoming the group for its quarterly meeting, Saturday, March 7 at 2:00 p.m. The group will hold its National Day of Prayer service at that time. Mary Queyja, this year's co-president with Rev. Shirley Coffee, notes that UUCO hosted CWU last year and they are very impressed by our building, the welcoming atmosphere and the refreshments.

Mary asks the UUCO community to do our part to reach across religious boundaries to our neighbors

in the effort to promote world peace. It is a great opportunity for us to get to know our neighbors in the Oxford area. We hope to have pastors as well as members and members of the general public in attendance.

Members and friends of UUCO are asked to bring desserts, sandwiches, and other goodies for the gathering. Please call Ann Phillippi (236-1456) if you can assist in hosting this important occasion.

-----PLEDGE SEASON ENDING SOON!----

UUCO's pledge drive ends shortly, and your board will begin its work on next year's budget. If you have attended services during the month of February, you probably have heard members of the congregation talk about what the church means to them and how that affects their pledge. There are many stories we can tell about the presence of UUCO in the life of Oxford and the surrounding community. Please consider making a pledge that will help support your church — and create more good stories to tell! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact a member of the board. And a heartfelt thank-you to those who have submitted their pledges already.

**NEWS FROM THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT-
ELECTING OUR NEW UUA TRUSTEE**

Democracy is a matter of principle for UUs. Specifically, our fifth principle affirms “the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.”

This year Lyn Conley reaches her term limit as the Mid-South Trustee on the UUA Board, and the vote for her successor will take place on May 2 at our district's Annual Assembly in Nashville. Our next UUA Trustee will have large shoes to fill. During her eight years on the UUA Board, Lyn has served our association tirelessly in many ways, including as Finance Committee chair.

Each of the 20 districts in the Unitarian Universalist Association elects a trustee to serve on the board that sets UUA policy and plans for the long-range

welfare of our movement. Trustees also function as communication links between the UUA and their district and its congregations, and they participate in district board meetings and conferences.

A UUA Trustee Election Committee, chaired by John Malluck, was appointed to oversee the nomination and election process. We are fortunate that, at this writing, congregations in our district have nominated at least two people by the February 19 deadline. The Election Committee will mail each congregation description of the election process and a ballot of nominees by March 6. The process and the nominees' resumes and qualifications will be posted on the MSD website. You can also read the relevant MSD Bylaws, and specifically Article VIII, by visiting http://www.msduua.org/home/Home_Structure/MSDbylaws2006.htm.

Thankfully, we have excellent candidates willing to serve UUism in this important role. The democratic process works best when all of us strive to make careful, informed decisions about whom we choose to represent us.

Mid-South District - UUA

On the web at www.msduua.org

**-----GREEN IN NEW YORK – NEWS FROM
UUCO MEMBER CHARLENE DYE-----**

Greetings from New Paltz, New York.. For those of you who are green-minded, I thought you might be interested in what I am doing in New Paltz and the mid-Hudson River Valley. There are several grass-roots groups forming under the umbrella of New Paltz and Vicinity for Obama. (There should be a similar organization in Oxford.) Obama put out the call for these groups to form in areas such as environment, economics (his priority right now), health care, etc. Sadly, as you probably know, money for the environment is at the bottom of his list, and the majority of that small amount is aimed at energy (energy independence, not energy alternatives! big difference.).

I joined a group to form the environment committee. Our focus right now is to research

studies that are being done on the effects of global warming to New Paltz and surrounding areas--a study of adaptation to climate change. These would be long-range as well as immediate issues in areas such as agriculture, water, migration of species, migration of people, etc. We are trying to figure out how we, as a concerned group, can help bring an awareness to our community about the effects of global warming and, through that, to bring about change in behavior and habits.

There's a big leap from awareness to change, so we have our job cut out for us. We think in order to do this with any authority, we need to know what is being done to identify what has already been affected and what we can expect in the future. We also don't want to spend time on a issue that is being covered by another group; there's an awful lot going on around here. My part of this search has been to contact professors at SUNY New Paltz who are or who may be doing this type of research. There are a few but not as many as I had hoped. However, the search is not over; I still have campus to cover.

I'd love to hear from you (cdye3@verizon.net).

-----EVENTS OF INTEREST TO UUCO-----

The Sara Isom Center at the University of Mississippi announces the following event for March 30:

Memoirist Joyce Zonana, author of *Dream Homes: From Cairo to Katrina, an Exile's Journey* (Feminist Press 2008), gives the 2009 Women's History Month presentation, "Finding My Earth Home: A Jewish Arab Feminist Journey." It will take place on Monday, March 30, 12 noon, Tupelo Room, Barnard Observatory. For details, see Isom newsletter under "About" at www.olemiss.edu/depts/sarah_isom_center.

And, planning ahead, May 15-17 is the date for:

UNIVERSALIST CONVOCATION 2009

Celebrate the religious heart of Unitarian Universalism, with The Unitarian Universalist

Church of Birmingham, Alabama. Information will be posted at www.nmuc.org/Convo.

-----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 CR 145.-----

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 April newsletter by Monday, March 30. Please consider submitting an article!