



The UUCO News

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford

September 2009

September Issue

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SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

Sept. 6--A Whale of a Tale: it is not what you think!! Rev. Barry Whittemore, from Birmingham will be our visiting minister. Reading assignment: read the book of Jonah!



Religious Education Classes meet this week.

Sept. 13--Building Community Through Storytelling. Carolyn Ray, Storyteller, will be weaving stories into a tapestry of faith and hope. Carolyn is an advocate for the art of the oral tradition. She learned to tell stories by listening: deeply and carefully.

Sept. 20--All Power to the Imagination. On this very special Sunday we will hang the striking chalice quilt created by Marty Vinograd and gifted to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford. Inspired in part by the book by John Buehrens and Forrest Church entitled *A Chosen Faith*, this quilt is a bold expression of our faith tradition. The service will celebrate the power and the gift of the imagination. Says Marty: "You can choose for yourselves what the circles of velvet are spread out in the universe. They can be ideas, dreams, new life, prayers, meditations or whatever you wish to ponder in this mixture of you and me."



There will be a reception for Marty immediately after the service.

Sept. 27--Building the Beloved Community: Ideas About a Second Hour. In a society that has for many people resulted in an increasing sense of isolation, it is essential to

nurture community and to encourage meaningful conversations, good listening, and working together to make the world a better place. Providing a second hour on Sunday morning can be a vital way to meet those goals. (Words adapted from Rev. Amy Bowden Freedman.) In this service, we will present some ideas about adding a regular second hour on Sunday morning to increase the opportunities for small group discussions.

 Sunday services begin at 11:00 a.m. Childcare is provided. We would love to have you stay for coffee and snacks after the service.

Come join us!! It won't be the same withoUt yoU.

FROM THE CHILDREN'S ROOM

If you are feeling a need to give to others, donations from the following wish list would be a help to the UU children:

Puzzles, play-dough, balloons, small 'safe' scissors, plastic Easter eggs.
 Snacks: Cheese nips, cookies, box drinks, raisins, peanut butter crackers, fruit snacks.

SPOTLIGHT ON NEW MEMBERS

On April 19th Anjel Craig and Enku Ide signed the membership book and graciously agreed to write something about themselves for our newsletter. If you missed their information, here is a brief synopsis. Their complete essays are available at www.uuoxford.com in the archived May newsletter. We're so pleased that they have become active members of our congregation!



Here's Anjel:

I'm originally from Picayune and moved to Oxford last year to attend Ole Miss seeking my master's degree in biology/ecological restoration. My research deals with mycorrhizal fungi, and I have a strong passion and conviction that mushrooms will one day save the world. I graduated from USM and left a very active career in the Hattiesburg activism community, where I was founder and president of the Sierra Club and an active member in Amnesty International. As a grad student, I have less time for social and community action, but through the UU congregation I feel I can once more involve myself in progressive social movements which is something I haven't been able to do much though the university. I have been in a dedicated relationship with my boyfriend, Paul "Puppy" Tate for 8 years and we are planning on getting married next year. I enjoy gardening, belly dancing, tai chi, and pilates.

Enku wrote:

I was born in South Mississippi and the area around Hattiesburg and New Orleans has been my home for most of my life. I was raised Southern Baptist, but my coming out experience was difficult in my specific cultural and faith-based milieu. I sought answers within Christianity, visiting as many diverse denominations as I could, and became disillusioned with the idea of

religion all together. In 2001, I entered the University of Southern Mississippi, where I also encountered Buddhism and timidly began to look into this system of faith. I have a passion for working with immigrant communities in the United States, and am thus learning Spanish. Through my activist work, I was able to engage with people of faith who used their religious beliefs and practices to motivate their work for human rights and equality. While my personal practice and path is mainly Buddhist-inspired, I must also recognize that my early Christian instruction on love and right and wrong gave me an important foundation upon which to build my ever evolving moral framework. I found a church home in the Hattiesburg Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (HUUF), and I have been deeply touched by the UU community I have found here in Oxford. I think our UU faith has much to offer to those of us who feel called together to fellowship and build this community and movement, as well as for our world.

UPCOMING EVENTS

There will be a meeting of the **UUCO Social Action and Justice Committee** immediately following the service on Sunday, Sept. 6. The meeting should only last an hour and participants should feel free to bring a snack to share. Questions should be addressed to Enku Ide: 601-590-1260.

Based in the insight of Dr. Cornell West that "justice is what love looks like in public," the UUCO Social Action and Justice Committee will act as a small group ministry that ties together an ever deepening theory and praxis for religious and secular social action. Under such a charge, we will undertake to: 1) Encourage and coordinate social action efforts of individual congregation members and congregational initiatives; 2) Outreach to other faith communities undertaking similar work; 3) Outreach to other UU churches, increasing the strength of our denominational polity; 4) Communicate and coordinate between UUCO and the UUA Service Committee; 5) Encourage our members to spiritual growth rooted in social action; 6) Help in coordinating speakers, actions and presentations, including the community; 7) Engage in the work of forming both an ever deepening theory and praxis for religious and secular social action; 8) Work to more deeply understand and challenge systematic oppression and systematic privilege which undermine true inter-community and inter-personal understanding, the basis of a beloved community. This work can take place at levels spanning from the global to the personal.

The 10th Annual Hummingbird Celebration will be Sept 11-13 at Strawberry Plains in Holly Springs.

HELP IS NEEDED

From Suzanne Childress: Imagine moving your entire family to a new country and all you have are your clothes, a few of your favorite cooking pots, and spices. That's the situation! I am working with a post-doc and his family (from Bangladesh) to furnish their apartment so that they may get settled into life in the US. Our lab thought it was just one person coming and were surprised when a whole family arrived. All we had gathered was one full-size mattress set & dining room table. They need: full-size mattress & boxsprings or a queen size mattress set, living room couch, dining room chairs (4), microwave, blender, crock-pot, rice cooker, chest of drawers, and a car seat for children 9kg and up. These are the most pressing items! Also: pots & pans (with lids), set dishes 4-6 pieces (bowls,

plate, mugs), silverware set, vegetable peeler, decent kitchen knives, hand mixer. I have a truck and helping hands to move furniture please e-mail me at suzanne@olemiss.edu or call my cell phone and leave me a message 573-778-8742.

Directions to UU Hall

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 mobile home 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.

Contact Information

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Please reply to: uuoxford@uuoxford.com

Newsletter submissions are due by the 25th of the month and may be emailed to Linda Cox at the above address or to lindakcox@ms.metrocast.net.

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