

East Suburban Unitarian Universalist Church



Sunday Services - 10:30 AM
Religious Education - 10:30 AM

Telephone
(724) 327-5872

Now in our new home at
4326 Sardis Road, Murrysville!

Website
<http://www.esuuc.org>

Volume 41 No. 4

November, 2003

Editor, Andy Manhardt
newsletter@esuuc.org

Soup Lunch Fundraiser

Sunday, November 23rd after the service. Please join us after church for a soup lunch fundraiser. We would like to make a donation of food and money to our local food bank so we are asking anyone who wishes to attend this event to bring a non-perishable item of food as well as an ingredient that would be appropriate for a vegetable soup (vegetables, noodles, rice etc.). It will be very interesting to see what kind of soup results from our efforts! Bread, crackers, beverages and dessert will be provided. We will be asking for a \$5.00 donation for adults. Last year's "Stone Soup Sunday" was a great success so lets try to do it again! All items of food should be dropped off in the kitchen before the service. Please call me with any questions. Maria Luczkow (724) 327-3352

ESUUC Monthly Forums

Sunday, November 9, 9-10 AM *"The Patriot Act"*

The Patriot Act, passed to improve our safety and security in the face of the threat of terrorism has been very controversial, with many civil libertarians claiming that sections of the law infringe on our basic freedoms as Americans. The administration is now proposing additions to the act to give law enforcement even more power to investigate potential terrorism while others are advocating the repeal of certain provisions of the law. We will examine these issues in our discussion.

Sunday, November 23, 9-10 AM *"The First Principle" (Jerry will facilitate)*

Accepting the first UU principle, "the inherent worth and dignity of every person", can be a challenge when the person being considered is someone like Adolph Hitler or Usama Bin Laden. We will have a lively discussion over how this principle can apply to people who seem to be a personification of evil.

ESUUC Sunday Services

Sunday, November 2, 10:30 AM- *"Bring a Friend Sunday"*

Please think of a friend who may be interested in knowing more about Unitarian Universalism. Mention to that friend that your church is having a special program for newcomers, then bring them along on Sunday, November 2. We are making careful plans to welcome folks who may not know about this "uncommon denomination". We will have several greeters on hand that day. We will have a visitor friendly program. We will recognize our newest members. We will have displays and photos showing who we are and what we do. We will have special refreshments. It will be a great time to bring in folks you think would love to know more about us. This is the Sunday set aside especially for them. Ask early so they will set the date aside. And....thanks. Personal invitation is proven to be the most effective way for a church to grow. Your part in this is critical.

Sunday, November 9, 10:30 AM- "Acceptance of One Another: A Journey Into Fear"

Rev. David Lutz, Interim Minister of Allegheny UU Church.

Our third Unitarian Universalist Principle begins, "we covenant to affirm and promote acceptance of one another." But if we value acceptance we find we have to then come to terms with fear, whether our own or that of others. Fear shows up in many guises, and we ignore it at our peril.

Sunday, November 16, 10:30 AM- "Corporate Personhood??!"

Since a legal mistake in the late 1800's corporations have enjoyed the rights of a person, even though they do not die and there is no individual to take responsibility. We'll explore the possibility that corporate personhood is a distortion and violation of the democracy, and thus a fundamental UU principle. For background information, see the UU World magazine issue from May/June 2003 or uua.org. Presented by Nancy Fitzgerald, CLL.

Sunday, November 23, 10:30 AM- "Teachings From the Medicine Wheel"

For many plains, Native Americans, the medicine wheel is the fundamental teaching. Its beauty lies in the paradox of its simplicity, as well as its unfolding complexities. It encompasses teaching us about ourselves and how to become a whole and complete human being (AKA, a wise elder), the complexities of different perspectives and the interdependent web (environmental issues). This service encompasses chants, a smudging ceremony, readings, symbolism, and stories to reveal it's basic teachings.

led by Denise DeArment from Urban Hope UU Congregation in Cleveland, Ohio.

Sunday, November 30, 10:30 AM "A Drumming Experience"

As We Drum, We Are One: Join us as we celebrate life through the spirit of rhythm, and drumming. Drumming is a form of meditation which synchronizes the left and the right brain hemispheres. The beating of the drum symbolizes the beating of the heart, and when we drum in a circle, we are not only connected to each other in the immediate circle or group, but we are connected through the web of life to all humanity in what the Native Americans call the Circle of Life. Being in a drumming circle helps us to realize that we are all One in Spirit, no matter where we are from physically, or where we are now. Please bring any extra drums and / or shakers you may like to share with others. You do not have to have any experience in order to participate. It's easy and fun!

Sunday, December 2, 10:30 AM- "Biblical Heritage: Ally or Enemy?"

Is the Bible important to UUs? Could it be? Should it be? **Dr. Waun** will use Rev. John A. Buehrens' new book *Understanding the Bible: An Introduction for Skeptics, Seekers, and Religious Liberals* as the basis for her reflection on this topic. Buehrens was President of the UUA from 1993 to 2001, is co-author of *Our Chosen Faith*, and now serves a church in MA. He said to Dr. Waun when signing her book at the General Assembly in Boston, "I wrote this book especially for UUs."

For updates on programs, or questions, check www.esuuc.org, or call (724) 327-5872

Religious Education News

Class Schedule

Nursery Schedule:

Nov. 2 - Merritt Bailey
Nov. 9 - Kate Zingarelli
Nov. 16 - Merritt Bailey
Nov. 23 - Mary Kukura Straw
Nov. 30 - Mary Kukura Straw
Dec. 7 - Kate Zingarelli
Dec. 14 - Mary Kukura Straw

Lower Elementary:

Nov 2 - A time for Heroes - All Saints Day –
Kathy Begg. Children will attend the first
part of the service.
Nov 9 - A Time to Remember Those Who Have
Died - All Souls Day – Marianne Jew
Nov 16 - A Time for Getting Ready - Advent –
Kathy Ruffing
Nov 23 - A Time to Give Thanks – Thanksgiving
Day - Lew Ruffing
Nov. 30 - NO RE PROGRAM TODAY
Dec. 7 - A Time for Freedom of Worship –
Hanukkah - Kathy Begg Children will
attend the first part of the service today.
Dec. 14 - Congregational Sponsored
Inter-generational Service.

Upper Elementary:

Nov. 2 - The Time Machine - Part 2, 2nd half –
Dan Begg Kids will attend the first part of
the service.
Nov. 9 - Back to the Beginning - Part 1 –
Maria Luczkow
Nov. 16 - Back to the Beginning - Part 2 –
Maria Luczkow
Nov. 23 - The New World - Early Settlers in New
England and Eastern Canada - Part 1,
Laurie Montgomery
Nov. 30 - NO RE PROGRAM TODAY
Dec 7 - The New World - Early Settlers in New
England and Eastern Canada -Part 2,
Laurie Montgomery
Dec 14 - Open for congregational sponsored
intergenerational service.

Middle School:

Nov 2 - What Faiths do We Want to Learn
About? - Part 1 - Ken Noble
Nov 9 - What Faiths do We Want to Learn
About? - Part 2 - Ken Noble
Nov 16 - In the Name of God - Islam – Tom
Bailey
Nov 23 - Candidates and Available Mentors will
attend a Mosque
Nov 30 - NO RE PROGRAM TODAY
Dec 7 - Integrating our experiences/ service
project
Dec 14 - Congregational sponsored
intergenerational service.

RE Events

Coming of Age

On the weekend of October 17 we kicked off our Coming of Age program for this year. We now have 8 Candidates! The candidates spent the night in the church, (we planned to camp out but between rain and dropping temperatures, opted to sleep inside instead), and participated in a number of activities.

Many of the activities were based on Native American lore - including the Medicine Wheel, the making of Red Earth Bundles, and the selection and decorating of a staff. The candidates also did a blindfolded walk at night, following the sound of a drum, and learned to build a Debris Hut, a survival technique that could keep them from freezing to death if they were ever unexpectedly caught out in the forest and unable to find their way home. Many, many thanks go to Pam Poholsky for leading us. She was great! - and thank you to all of you who contributed funds to make it possible for us to bring Pam in. We could not have done it without you, and it was definitely worthwhile.

We would also like to thank the many people who were kind enough to supply us with food - Nancy Fitzgerald, Karen Katilius, Kate Codd Palmer, Brien Palmer, Marylyn Devlin, Cathy Servanti, and Ken Noble. Special thanks also go to Ken Noble, Leona Dunnett, Gerard Katilius and Kathy Begg for staying overnight and helping to make the many activities possible.

On the evening of Saturday, October 18, we had an opening ceremony at the church. Candidates, Mentors, and families all participated in this moving event. Thank you Reverend Waun. You made this very special.

Movie Night/Pasta Dinner

Nov 14 brings the return of movie night and a COA sponsored Pasta Dinner fundraiser. Nov 14 is a Friday. We will begin serving Pasta at 6. Dinner will include salad, pasta, desert and soft drink, coffee or tea. Adults are welcome to bring an adult beverage. Cost will be \$10 per person, \$5 for children under 12.

As part of our commitment to being a Welcoming Congregation, the movie this month will be "Billie Elliott". Because of the R Rating of this movie, an alternative welcoming movie will be available for children, however we are still working on what the movie will be. Once it is identified, we will announce the movie in church and send out an e-mail on it as well. We are looking for suggestions for future movie nights, so let us know what you would like to see!

Parents Night Out

We are working on having a COA sponsored Parents Night Out on the first Saturday in December, which would be December 6. We expect this event to start around 4PM on Saturday and include, pizza dinner, crafts, movie, camp out overnight at the church, and pancake breakfast the next morning. Kids would need to be picked up by 10AM on Sunday, or stay for Sunday School. The COA Candidates would be leading most of the activities in conjunction with adult volunteers. The cost is expected to be in the neighborhood of \$20 per child. We are also willing to open this up to friends who might be interested in a night out also.

We do need to know how much interest there is in this before we take it much further. If you would be interested, or know someone who is interested, please let Merritt Bailey - 724-887-0952 or Kathy Begg 412-373-4106 ornikitude@earthlink.com know as soon as possible.

Stay tuned. We will have many more events coming. This promises to be a great year for RE!

Kathy and Dan Begg
RE Directors

New Member Profiles

We highlight new member **Laurie Montgomery** and WELCOME HER! Laurie is a lovely woman with curly blonde hair and lovely green eyes. She is kind, intelligent, and learned of UU's through friends. She is married, is the mother of 8 year old Michelle and 10 year old Zack - cute, bright children. Laurie has a beautiful garden at home and still finds time to tend to our church garden as part of the landscape committee. She is in charge of the Sloan School garden but also finds time to take classes in computer programming to, as she puts it, keep her humble. She serves a delicious cheese quiche for church refreshments, enjoys dark red wine, and roller skates for pleasure. Please welcome her.

Meet the **Pottingers-- Jim, Mimi and baby Riley**. The Pottingers signed the membership book last spring at the time of the Child Dedication Ceremony for Riley. Jim is a teacher at Gateway High School, teaching earth science and astronomy. He is also head of the snow sports program, which includes snow boarding and a ski club of about 200 students. Jim has been on staff at Seven Springs, overseeing the ski instructors. Mimi is also a teacher (now taking time off to be at home with Riley). She is an art teacher (specializing in pottery) and also loves skiing (she has been an instructor as well, and has an incredibly competitive downhill speed). She and Jim met skiing. Riley is cutting teeth and having fun scooting around the house in her walker. Mimi and Jim feel that this is wonderful preparation for the little pair of skis that are sure to be in Riley's future. This winter they plan to introduce her to snow adventures by letting her slide down small hills on her back.

Thank You

On behalf of the congregation, I would like to thank all of those who made the Work Event at ESUUC a great success. Folks helped out with: spreading gravel on the parking lot, digging a trench to drain the bottom of the parking lot, doing some repair work on the attic access, inspecting the roof, moving the Visitor Parking signs back, weeding and planting in our garden, placing mulch in our garden, cleaning out and organizing the furnace room, assembling storage shelving for the furnace room, cleaning and organizing the R. E. closets, cleaning out and organizing the kitchen cabinets and the refrigerator, providing food for the participants, staying home so that one's mate or partner could be free to help us out, moving boxes of archived material to the attic, installing software on our PC, and setting up a filing cabinet in the office. And, there are probably some things that I've missed. Thanks again to the approximately twenty people that helped in one way or another.

The roof inspection confirmed that we will need a new roof as soon as possible. The old estimates, from the time of our building purchase, put the price at about \$5,000. Allowing for some inflation, it's likely that we can get the job done for under \$6,000. We'll get new estimates.

Sincerely,
Lew Ruffing, Facilities Manager

Another Thank You

Bill Sinkford, President of the UUA, recognized East Suburban UU Church on October 1st, for contributing our full Fair Share to the Unitarian Universalist Association. Our financial contribution to the larger UU movement comes back to us, and neighboring congregations, in the form of programs, services and resources. We sincerely appreciate your generosity in supporting both our church, and the principles of Unitarian-Universalism.

Gerard Katilius, President

Calling all holiday musicians.

We are looking for all musicians interested in playing in the Holiday Music Service on Sunday December 21. Young (especially), old, and in between; vocal, instrumental and in between (kazoo choir?). Please contact Alan Halperin at 724 733 4006.

Join the Choir!

Do you enjoy singing? Would you like to be part of small but mighty band of enthusiastic singers? Consider joining the choir. We practice about an hour before services on the first Sunday of every month, sometimes also on the third and/or fifth Sundays, as announced. If you would like to participate, just come. Or...if you would like to chat with someone about this, you may call **Rev. Waun** at 412-731-2834 or **Marylyn Devlin** at 412-372-6113.

Adult Drumming Circle

Please join us at 7:30PM in the Sanctuary on Sunday **November 9th and 23d at 7:30** for the drumming circle. We drum for peace, love and fun!! We have extra drums for those who would like to try drumming. It's a relaxed, fun atmosphere! call Karen Katilius for any questions or to reserve a spot or drum. (724) 327-6321, karenlgerard@aol.com

Welcoming Congregation

Our next meeting will be Sunday, November 2, 12:30 pm, at the church.

Board Meeting

The ESUUC Board meeting will be held **November 6 at 7:15 PM**. All members are welcome to attend board Meetings.

R.E. committee

There will be an R.E. committee meeting after church on **November 16** . All are welcome to attend.

Finance Committee

The finance committee has scheduled the following meetings at 9:00am at the church.

Nov. 16	Capital Expenditure Priorities
	Fundraising Priorities
Jan. 18	Audit Procedure
March 21	
April 18	Budget Meeting I
May 16	Budget Meeting II

All members of the congregation who have an interest in the church finances are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please contact our Treasurer, Cathy Servanti.

Talk by David Radcliffe

We have been invited by the Monroeville Church of the Brethern to hear David Radcliffe speak on Peace and Justice, at 2:00 PM, on Nov. 2nd, 2003. For details, call Cheryl A. Smith, at (412) 372-4165.



Murrysville Community Day Booth – September 13, 2003



East Suburban Unitarian – Universalist Church - Sign Dedication



Pastor's Column

by Rev. Renee Waun

Adjusting the Focus at East Suburban

I've been taking photos of the beautiful leaves this year, especially with sun that causes them to sparkle and radiate in wondrous ways. When experimenting with a close-up shot, I must decide which leaf to focus upon. By changing the focus, I can highlight the orange leaf on this side, or the gold one further back. By bringing one into focus, the other one fades to an indistinguishable shape on the periphery.

This same phenomenon occurs in all aspects of our lives. When we selectively focus on one thing, that thing becomes central as we give it our attention.

I was wondering how this concept of focus could enhance our ability to attend to newcomers at our church on Sundays. For instance, if we set our focus toward visitors, we will naturally want to meet them, chat with them, help them to feel welcome, introduce them to others. We would help them to connect with a greeter who has visitor information cards in the foyer. If they had children with them, we would be able to help them find the appropriate classrooms. We would probably notice if they didn't have a hymnal in worship, and pass them one. We would make sure they knew how to find the coffee fellowship after services. Most of all, we would want to help make their experience at our church warm and welcoming.

Let's adjust our focus toward newcomers during the month of November, beginning with Nov. 2, "Bring a Friend" Sunday when we will probably have a number of extra visitors with us. Because we love our church, we want to put our best foot forward so that others will enjoy the rich fellowship that we have to offer.



There was wonderful energy in the church this weekend, as our youth initiated their Coming of Age program. Coming of Age is a year long process where Junior High youth start to develop their own personal theology, and ours have gotten off to a great start. Several people in our congregation invested many hours in making this program a success, and it is important to recognize them - our new RE Chairperson, Ken Noble, has jumped into the job with enthusiasm, and leveraged his leadership skills extremely well. The kids were eager to start each activity, and in the rack by 11:00 PM Friday - quite a challenge!

Kathy and Dan Begg pulled together all the right people, and the perfect materials to make our youth have an exceptional experience, and each feel special. (They did this while also planning, co-ordinating and often personally teaching the other children!) Kathy personally planned and facilitated most of the activities over the weekend, and every single one was memorable. Our Minister, Renee Waun, worked with Kathy to plan, write and run the student/mentor/parent ceremony Saturday night - this was one of the most moving programs we have had in our new building, and everyone there felt the special magic of participating in an exceptional experience. Our new Youth Advisor, Leona Dunnett, also jumped into her position with fantastic enthusiasm. The love and excitement she brings to our children is contagious. Pamela Poholsky contributed extensively to the curriculum from her extensive knowledge of Native American traditions, and led the youth in constructing a very durable debris hut shelter up in Townsend Park.

The individuals who volunteered to mentor the youth are wonderful - every one of them showed up to accept the staff each youth created during the day, and to confirm their role with the children. They will be spending a huge amount of time with the children over the coming year, guiding them with their wisdom. A special thank you to the people who volunteered to make and deliver food to the children during the weekend!

Each of these individuals has chosen to make their mark on the next generation by investing their time, love and energy with our children today. It was wonderful to feel the energy, and I am certain each of the youth will be strongly influenced by the experiences they had this weekend, and will have over the coming year.

Refreshments

"Coffee and Conversation" is an integral part of Sundays at ESUUC. This time honored ritual takes place after every Sunday service and consists of coffee and other beverages, as well as a snack. Snacks are provided by congregational members and friends on a rotating basis, and the list of names is posted in each monthly newsletter. The duties of the assigned refreshment person(s) include setting up the coffee and hot water for tea and cocoa, setting out plates, cups, napkins, plastic cutlery and the food, as well as cleaning up when everyone is finished.

- Nov. 2 Cathy Serventi
- Nov. 9 April Soule
- Nov. 16 Dave Whaley
- Nov. 23 Stone soup Sunday
- Nov. 30 Kate and Mark Zingarelli

If the Sunday assigned to you is inconvenient, please try to switch with another person on the list. Feel free to call me with questions. Maria Luczkow (724) 327-3352.

AUUC "Down Under" Coffee House

You are invited to attend the Down Under Coffeehouse on **Saturday, November 15 from 7:30-9:30** to hear the Monongahela Sheiks, Pittsburgh's premier jug band. Come and listen to the acoustic blues, ragtime, and popular American music from the Early 1920s, '30s and '40s The Down Under Coffeehouse is held the third Saturday of every month in the basement of the Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church, 416 West North Ave, North Side Suggested donation is \$5.00. Call 412-322-4261 or see <http://www.trfn.org/auuc> for more details.

The purpose of the Coffee House is to raise funds to sustain, maintain and renovate the church, as well as to offer a welcoming community meeting place where local performers can enjoy and be enjoyed within an intimate coffee house setting. The coffee house utilizes AUUC's newly renovated downstairs "Founder's Room". Coffee is free to all. Baked goods and soda will be for sale.

Newsletter Deadlines

The newsletter deadline for the December Newsletter will be November 16, Please Email me with your articles at manhardt@adelphia.net or call me at (412) 373-3668 church and leave a message with your news, stories, and other information.

Andy Manhardt, editor

The Sissy Show

The Transgender Musical Review

Friday, November 8, 8:00pm

Pratt Auditorium, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

FREE ADMISSION !!!

FOR INFO: <http://www.sissyshow.com>

Ever wonder what it feels like to be the wrong sex?

Ever wonder what it's like to actually change your sex?

The Sissy Show is a musical revue that provides a humorous and bittersweet exploration of the personal and social joys and sorrows of people whose bodies and lives do not quite match their internal sense of their gender. The show features 26 songs done in a variety of musical styles ranging from pop, rock, R&B, and hip hop to Gilbert & Sullivan, cowboy songs, jazz ballads and salsa. The songs deal with the many unusual occurrences-from the comical to the tragic-in the lives of male-to-female transgender people. The authors have written from a personal perspective, since each is a (gasp!) male-to-female transsexual. Conveyed through personal accounts, story songs and the clever use of settings and situations the message of the Sissy Show is a universal one, reminding each one of us of how critically important it is to explore our fundamental needs and express to the world who we really are. While many people in the "trans" community will relate immediately to the content of **The Sissy Show**, we find that "non-trans" folk fully enjoy this tuneful look into a much misunderstood lifestyle. There is nothing quite like **The Sissy Show**. It's not a drag show. It's not a musical or a play, exactly. We like to think of it as "The Transgender Musical Revue". It is a show grounded in the reality of transgender life, and not a spoof or a drama. It covers both the hilarity and heartbreak of the experience, and puts many situations into terms that tie them together with universal human predicaments. We hope you enjoy it!

Sponsored by the Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Issues, The Entertainment Network (TEN), Pride Alliance, Women's Studies Program, Health AWAREness (Center for Student Life), and the Residence Hall Association (RHA)

Calendar

(Sunday Services and Forums are listed on the first page)

Wednesday, October 1	Monroeville Interfaith Ministerium Meeting at the Church (see article)
Sunday, November 2	Council of Committees Meeting – 9:00 AM at the church
Sunday, November 2	Choir Practice – 9:30 AM at the church
Sunday, November 2	Welcoming Congregation Committee Meeting 12:00 Noon at the Church
Sunday, November 2	Talk by David Radcliffe – 2:00 PM at the Church of the Brethern
Thursday, November 6	Board of Trustees meeting – 7:15 PM at the Church
Saturday, November 8	“The Sissy Show” – 8:00 PM, Pratt Auditorium, Indiana University of PA
Sunday, November 9	Adult Drumming Circle – 7:30 PM at the Church
Saturday, November 15	AUUC Down Under Coffee House – 7:30 PM at the Allegheny UU Church
Sunday, November 16	Finance Committee Meeting – 9:00 AM at the Church
Sunday, November 16	Coming of Age Meeting – 9:00 AM at the Church
Sunday, November 16	Religious Education Committee Meeting, 12:00 Noon at the Church
Sunday, November 23	Soup Lunch Fundraiser – 12:00 Noon at the Church
Sunday, November 23	Adult Drumming Circle – 7:30 PM at the Church