

East Suburban Unitarian Universalist Church



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

Telephone
(724) 327-5872

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

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June/July 2005 – SPECIAL 2-MONTH ISSUE

Editor: Marianne Jew
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ESUUC Sunday Services

Sunday, May 29, 10:30am- “*Honoring Our Veterans*” As Memorial Day approaches, it is time to pause and consider the true meaning of this holiday. Memorial Day represents one day of national reverence, honoring those who died while defending our nation and its values. **Ken Noble** will facilitate a discussion on the true meaning of this holiday. Please bring a picture and memories of veterans you have known to share with all of us.

Sunday, June 5, 10:30am- “*The Gay Bible?*” In observance of Pride Month, **Dr. Waun** will question the Bible. Is there a “*Gay Bible*” along the lines of the *Woman’s Bible* or the *Jefferson Bible*? Where are the exegetical sticking points for the mainstream churches, and what biblical resources are being used to affirm our LGBTQ friends?

Sunday, June 12, 10:30am- “*Blooming Where We Are Planted*” This is our annual Flower Communion Sunday where you are invited to bring a stemmed flower to share in a group bouquet. We are also recognizing our wonderful Sunday School teachers that Sunday—plus we will be doing a Child Dedication ceremony for Torin Pottinger. It will be the last Sunday of our regular program year. **Dr. Waun** officiates.

Sunday, June 19, 10:30am- “*UU Roots in Western PA*” Join **Kathleen Parker, PhD** for this presentation, beginning when Unitarianism first came to Pittsburgh in 1820 with English immigrants. The early congregation remained small and after the Civil War, it collapsed. In the 1890s, a dynamic and gifted minister, the Rev. Charles St. John, came to Pittsburgh from Massachusetts and helped to revive the church. Following him came the Rev. L. Walter Mason, who served the church until his death in 1929. Together, these two leaders established Unitarianism on a firm foundation in Pittsburgh. The story of their work and their lives is played out in a service of dramatic readings that draws on letters, newspaper accounts, and the minutes of congregational meetings from their time.

This service is part of a history project that has been undertaken at the First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh to research our Unitarian and Universalist roots in this region and produce a book, an exhibit, and an oral history archive. It is also hoped that this project will help make historical connections between the Unitarian Universalist congregations in Western Pennsylvania.

Sunday, June 26, 10:30am- *“Paper Bag Skits”* Join **Marylyn Devlin** and **Leona Dunnett** in an intergenerational program involving the always-popular and fun paper bag skits. Everyone gets involved, and we always have a good time with this program.

Sunday, July 3, 10:30am- *“Intimately, Ultimately Connected”*- **Dr. Waun** will introduce a month-long series of programs presented by a variety of people on the theme “Connections”. The seventh UU Principle states, “We affirm and promote respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” This is an opportunity to explore just how far and how wide that sense of connection really goes.

Sunday, July 10, 10:30am- *“Andean Cosmology / Woman as Connector”* Join **Rosa Gamarra-Thompson** for this topic. Rosa Thompson is a healer and life coach who has a remarkable ability to connect to the hearts and minds of people. This is a program promising to be both mystical and spiritually uplifting.

Sunday, July 17, 10:30am- *“Witches, Druids, Occultists, Shamans and Other Obscure Practitioners.”* That stuff is all Hollywood, right? Not by any stretch of the imagination. Learn why, and how pagan religions and practices are alive and growing in America. **Michael Pasipanki**, Wiccan Priest, will be touching on various aspects of paganism including some of the different pagan religions, practices, and why the pagan pathways to deity are particularly special. Pagan religions are as old as humanity and as broad in scope as the minds of the people who practice(d) them. They are also evolving. We all have pagan ancestors somewhere back down the line. Find out about the differences between modern pagan practices and the ways of the old. We will explore polytheism, the occult, pagan pantheons and several other aspects from the enormous world of pagan religions.

Sunday, July 24, 10:30am- *“Connections of Scientific Inventions”* Join George Ratliff for this topic. Please visit the website (www.esuuc.org) closer to the date of this service for more details.

Sunday, July 31, 10:30am- *“Unitarianism in the Khasi Hills, India”* Did you know that there are over 9,000 Unitarians in North East India? Khasi Unitarianism was founded in 1897 by Hajom Kissor Singh, a native of the region who was schooled by Welsh Calvinist missionaries, was converted to Christianity, and later, through his own thoughts, culture and readings of the sermons of William Ellery Channing, came to develop an indigenous Unitarianism. **Jennifer Halperin** and **Ebe Emmons-Apt**, American Unitarian Universalists, had the pleasure of visiting the Khasi Hills and meeting lots of Unitarians there in January, 2005, and will present images and reflections from their experience.



Pastor's Column:

by Rev. Renee Waun

Choosing Our Connections

One of our summer series for programs is entitled “Connections”. We are connected to people, things, events, in many deep ways. It will be interesting to see how the various presenters flesh out the topic of connections.

It occurs to me that how we choose to connect is a statement about our lives. In fact, it IS our life. I find that as I do counseling and mentoring—or even just chatting with folks, there are people whose primary focus is to find things to share complaints about (I heard a lot of that while working at the polls recently) and then there are people whose primary focus is to find things to appreciate.

I don't know about you, but because I can choose my connections, I would much rather choose to be with people who are "comblisserating" rather than those who are commiserating. It makes life so much more fun.

As we enter the summer months, let's seek out those who are fun loving and uplifting. Life is supposed to be fun, don't you think?
See you in church!



mUUsings from the President:

by Maureen McHugh

Annual Review and Preview

As we prepare for the annual meeting and diner in early June, I have been reviewing accomplishments for the year and looking forward to next year, the second year of my Presidency of the Board. I want to express my appreciation for the hard working and almost always cheerful board members. Thanks to Renee Waun for her assistance with the administrative aspects of ESUUC. And thanks to all the Committee Chairs and committee members who have done a great job this year crating community.

This past year the dream of a meaningful and majestic work of art for the sanctuary was brought to fruition. *I love the tapestry.* It represents in such a tangible way the shared vision, the cooperation, the ideals and the creative spirit of our congregation. Thanks to all those who helped to envision, commission, create and install it, especially to Adrienne Heinrich, the artist, and to Jane Longdon, the Chair of the Aesthetics Committee.

This year my vision for a Pastoral Care team, a trained group of individuals who assist with the ministry to the sick, the weary and the bereaved, has also been implemented. Thanks to the team members for sharing an understanding of the importance of providing this type of "care" to the congregation. In the coming year we will be called upon to help this system of ministry work by referring individuals who need ministry to the Minister and the Pastoral Care Team.

We need to know if we are meeting the spiritual, ministerial and community needs of the congregation. We need to be able to assess and address the roles of the minister, the commissioned lay leader, the Board, the Pastoral Care team, the Sunday Programs, the Religious Education Program, and all other functions of the church. We need to know when we are doing something right, and when there are problems. We need this information in order to steer the ship, set the course, etc. I see this as a most urgent need of the congregation right now. The Board has been working to address this issue by setting up a very new Committee on Ministry, following the revised model offered by the UUA. I am pleased to announce that this committee will be fully operational in the coming year.

I am also pleased that the re-organization and energizing of the committee structure at ESUUC is well underway. I was instrumental in this initiative as the Vice President, and I remain committed to having the work of the congregation be done in a meaningful way by committees. Committees are the primary force in creating a democratic and a caring community. Please consider joining one or more committees and moving into position of leadership within those committees this year.

We are continuing our 30 year tradition of offering diverse and stimulating Sunday programs, supplemented by Forums and meditations. I am very pleased to assist with the conduct of the Wheel of the Year services. As always, we are pleased to offer an array of Religious Education classes. We are happy to be offering various phases of Our Whole Lives, a life long sexual education curriculum. We are grateful for all the efforts to support our RE program, including fostering a youth group. We hope to expand our Adult RE this year by offering a series of workshops.

For the coming year I am hoping to continue working with committees and the Council of Committees. I would like to insure that the Committee of Ministry is working well by the end of the year. We are continuing to work on maintaining a community spirit here at ESUUC, and to extending our caring into the greater community through service and action. Please join us in these efforts.

Annual Meeting: June 4

Come one, come all. This year's annual meeting will be held **Saturday, June 4 at 6:30pm** at the church. The annual meeting is our opportunity as a congregation to come together to make decisions about the future of our church. All members and friends are invited to participate, however, only members that have signed the membership book by May 5 will have an official vote. We will be electing Board of Trustees members, approving a budget, recognizing our achievements this year and signing up for committees for next year. And eating, too. All official members should receive a packet of information in the mail in early May with a proposed budget and any other items that need to be voted on, a tentative list of candidates, and a proxy form in case you have a good excuse not to attend. Ask any Board member if you have any questions.

Transforming Your Relationship with Money

It's always time for making peace with and simplifying your finances. Sometimes it's also just the right time for you to bring your values to your spending.

Transforming Your Relationship with Money
by Joe Dominguez, **AUDIO SEMINAR**
East Suburban Unitarian Universalist Church
Saturday, June 11, 2005
9:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m.

\$20.00 includes individual workbook, lunch and small donation to the church
YOU and a friend in session facilitated by Nancy Fitzgerald

This session is a great introduction or refresher to the mind-bending and freeing ideas of Joe Dominguez, based on his life experience, presented with entertaining candor and humor in this audio seminar. He was a co-author with Vicki Robin of the book Your Money or Your Life, now translated into many languages. Joe explains the rationale for achieving **FI**—financial intelligence, financial integrity and even financial independence if you're wanting—whatever form of financial freedom suits you now. Open to everyone in the community! Just show up for the day with \$20 to get the seminar, a workbook and lunch.

The facilitator is Nancy Meyer Fitzgerald, who has used FI to retire early and work for the things she most values (that's why there's time to lead this group). "It's been 10 years since I discovered this program and I still find it changing my life and my decisions about money and values—and I really enjoy sharing my experience with friends and neighbors."

Yum! Yum!

Matt Mathis and Susan Goodis will be hosting a Garlic Potluck on **Saturday, June 11**. All ESUUC friends and members are invited! Please contact Matt or Susan for more information. mathis@psc.edu, 412-654-7529 or 724-325-8048.

Family Drumming

Family drumming will be held on **Sunday, June 12 at 7:30pm**. Join as we play, chant (and maybe even dance!) together. No experience is required and everyone is welcome - and encouraged!!! Contact Jen Trout Osborne at 412-608-2725 or drumming@esuuc.org .

Join Other UUs for Pride Day

The annual Pride Day Parade and Festival is scheduled for **Saturday, June 18** in Pittsburgh. All area UUs from the five cluster churches are planning to walk together in the parade. There will be T-shirts available for purchase so that the UUs can be identified as a group. Cost will be nominal (around \$12). The T-shirts will also be used for other common UU cluster activities and social justice events.

The parade will step off at 11:30am sharp. The gathering place is on Ross Street behind the jail building (no symbolism there). The police escorted route goes through the downtown area, across a bridge and into the grassy park near the Carnegie Science Center for a festival that lasts all afternoon.

The Interweave Group (LGBTQ) from First Unitarian has rented table space at the festival. We are invited to provide literature about our church to put on the table. It is a wonderful day and way to show our welcoming support and common witness as UUs. If you are interested, please contact Dr. Waun revmom@pitt.edu before June 12 or Matt Mathis welcoming@esuuc.org. We can arrange carpools.

Summer Institute 2005

Summer Institute Planned for July 17-23 at the Virginia Tech campus, Blacksburg

There is so much to do at Summer Institute for District UUs, it seems to get better every year. Classes, workshops, theme talks, community time, banner parade, concerts, plays, cabarets, outdoor activities, swimming, worship--it's all wonderful for ALL ages. Come for all or part of the time. Check it out at suusi.org.

Angel Gathering, Yoga, and Bonfire with a Drumming Circle

Friday, July 22 6:30pm -10:30pm

For ages everyone.... singles and families

Location: Townsend Park, Campfire site by Lower Pavilion

Fee: \$13.00

Take special time for yourself on this magical night of play, fun, and laughter in Townsend Park by the Lower Pavilion! Move through Moon Salutations: a series of yoga poses that build flexibility and strength. Next learn about the Angels of Summer from the founder of "Angel Gathering," Carol Ciocca. Finish the evening sitting around a bonfire under the moonlit sky with join in or just enjoy the drum circle with teens from Murrysville Rec drumming class. Bring a blanket and something to drink. Snack provided. In case of rain, angel gathering and drum circle will be held in the lower pavilion. Contact: Murrysville Parks and Rec: 724-327-2100.

Looking for Music-Makers

Travel back in time to high school. Were you in the band or the choir? If you were, contact Jean Robl for more information. We're interested in your talent and/or instrument. Let's have some fun together.



Choir members attending Choir Festival at First UU in April:
Marylyn Devlin, Nancy Fitzgerald, Marianne Jew, and Rev. Renee is taking the photo!

Community-wide Welcoming Initiative at ESUUC

There is a group of East Suburban UUC people who are eager to initiate some kind of welcoming space or activity for area lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning persons here in our building. We have been picking up some interest in this endeavor and are open to new ideas. The group met and brainstormed all sorts of gems, such as partnering with local and regional LGBTQ groups for co-sponsored activities here, using the building for some sort of LGBT youth group, starting a Spiral Scout troop, using our OWL programs somehow in the LGBTQ community, hosting support groups, having a LGBTQ labyrinth walk, etc. If you have interest and/or ideas along these lines, please contact Matt Mathis welcoming@esuuc.org, Gerard Katilius KarenLGerard@aol.com, or Rev. Waun revmom@pitt.edu.

UU Trip to India

Join a group of UUs on a unique pilgrimage that explores Buddhism and Hinduism- two of the world's great religions that inspire us in our ethical and spiritual life. Experience Delhi, Dharamshala, Jaipur, the Taj Mahal, and Varanasi. The trip is sponsored by Neighbourhood UU Congregation in Toronto and led by Rev. Wayne Walder, www.nuuc.ca. Travel dates are March 10-26, 2006, and the group is limited to 26 participants.

Refreshments

Refreshment Schedule for the Summer (June through August)

Given the active schedule of UUs during the summer months, we did not want to assign Sundays for refreshments in the event it conflicted with travel plans. That said, we all still love a cup of coffee and something to nibble on after service, even in the summer!

The kitchen will be stocked over the summer with coffee, tea, and a limited amount of snacks. Please consider adding a snack or a container of juice to the pantry. We might try using the small coffee pot as the weather gets hot---feel free to get the pot going when you arrive at church. If we all lend a hand.....well you know how that saying goes!

Thanks for all your help throughout the year, the weekly treats were delicious and much appreciated by all who shared them.

RE Registration for 2005-2006

A copy of the registration form for the 2005-2006 RE year is attached to this newsletter. Please fill it out and send it to us as soon as possible - we have only received three forms so far! If you receive the newsletter electronically and want to send us your form that way, please just copy the completed form and paste it into an e-mail and send it to us at REdirector@esuuc.com. You can also mail it, put it in our box at church, hand it to us - whatever is easiest for you!

RE Class Schedule

June 19 is the end of the RE year - no classes will be held during the summer months. We have enjoyed working with all of the kids, and look forward to seeing everyone again when the new year starts in September!

To All Teachers, Parents, Kids, the RE Committee, the Board, and the Whole Congregation:

Thank you all for your help and support of the RE program. Without it, we would be nowhere. We look forward to seeing you all in the fall - when we will have a new model for our RE program! We are excited about the change and plan to spend the summer pulling all the threads together. Stay tuned!

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy and Dan Begg - RE-Directors

Nursery:	Day	Teacher
	June 5	Merritt Bailey
	12	Teacher Appreciation Sunday - No Nursery Today
	19	Mary Warwick

Early School Age:	Day	Class Description	Teacher
	June 5	Kids will attend the first part of the service; Special Project	Kathy Begg
	12	Teacher Appreciation Sunday - Kids will attend the service	
	19	Kids' Party and year-end celebration	

Elementary:	Day	Class Description	Teacher
	June 5	Kids will attend first part of service; The Web of Interdependence (IOH 12)	Dan Begg
	12	Teacher Appreciation Sunday - Kids will attend the service	
	19	Kids' Party and year-end celebration	

Middle School:	Day	Class Description	Teacher
	June 5	Kids will attend first part of service; Earth Stewardship (IOH 16)	Leona Dunnett
	12	Teacher Appreciation Sunday - Kids will attend the service	
	19	Kids' Party and year-end celebration	

ESUUC
RE Program Registration
2005 - 2006 YEAR

Child's Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Grade on September 1: _____ Age on September 1: _____

Please note any allergies or other conditions here:

Parent(s) Name(s): _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Phone No: _____

I am interested in participating in the RE program:	Yes	No
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Would you be willing to be lead teacher for the section you teach?	Yes	No
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Would you be willing to lead one Children's Chapel during the year?	Yes	No
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My preference would be to teach the following section(s): (Please circle all that apply)

Nursery through 4 years	Pre-School/Early Elementary 5 years - 2 nd grade	Elementary 3 rd - 6 th grade	Middle School 7 th - 8 th grade
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Class assignments are based on grade on Sept 1 2004.

Do you or your child have any particular interests or concerns we should be aware of?

Any other comments? _____

Are you interested in having your 4th or 5th grader, or your Youth Group participant, attend OWL training this year? (This is not mandatory.)	Yes	No
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