

East Suburban Unitarian Universalist Church



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

Telephone
(724) 327-5872

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

Volume 44 No. 6

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Editor: Mary Warwick
newsletter@esuuc.org

ESUUC Sunday Services

Sunday, April 6, 10:30 am – “*Waiting to Touch Down in the Land of Oz*” – Did you ever have the feeling that you are in a situation—like Dorothy was—spinning around in her house, seeing scary things out of the window and wondering when it will all come back to the safe place you always knew it was? **Dr. Waun** will help us to hang on and ride it out. The service includes a preview of the evening’s “*Wizard of OZ*” canvas party (details on page 3).

Sunday, April 13 10:30 am – “*Whither Goest, Thou Spirit?*” — “Spiritualism” is a practice whereby people communicate with departed spirits; a subject made popular by certain TV dramas. **Dr. Jay Powell**, a Canadian math and physics professor (recently transplanted to Pittsburgh) will share some history of spiritualism, his own experience as a medium and his evolution away from the more common conventions of the practice.

Sunday, April 20, 10:30 am – “*Ecofeminist Theology*” -- Andrew Weber, our favorite divinity student, returns with his unique approach to religious and philosophical thinking. Gaia and God - What is an “Ecofeminist Theology of Earth Healing” and what does it mean for me?

Sunday, April 27, 10:30 am – “*Inherent Worth and Dignity*” -- Nancy Fitzgerald and George Ratliff will present opposing views on the most controversial of the seven principles of the UU Assoc. “Affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person.” If we each check in honestly with ourselves we might find some doubts or questions about exactly what this principle proposes and whether we agree. In any case, we will explore just what could underlie our first Unitarian Universalist principle.”

Sunday, May 4, 10:30 am — “*Decisions, Decisions*” – as Unitarian Universalists we pride ourselves on being open-minded and tolerant of others’ religious beliefs, opinions and practices. So how do we make decisions within the life of a congregation, when every opinion counts but not everyone will be happy with the outcome? **Dr. Waun** will help us unravel this dilemma.

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Pastor's Column: *Have You Seen Them* by Rev. Renee Waun

Have you seen them? There are dozens of them creeping their way into the sanctuary, across the carpet and up the walls and the backs of chairs—especially on sunny Sunday mornings. I'm not talking about ants or spiders or dust mites, I'm talking about rainbows! They are the little arcs and stripes of rainbow light that are shimmering here and there from our new magnificent stained glass window. Have you seen them?

Now we are in a season of looking to see what's beyond the rainbows—not only the reflected ones that appear from the window in the church, but the ones that represent our hopes and dreams for East Suburban UU Church.

Remember how Dorothy yearned to fly over the rainbow to see if she could follow HER dreams? Well we have a similar opportunity this month at ESUUC, as we look ahead again to all the marvelous possibilities that await us as a congregation. The image that comes from our annual canvass campaign is: "Let's Go Over the Rainbow".

We can have lots of fun with this theme, with songs, stories and even a party. But the main thing is that we will each be invited to "go over the rainbow" with our own hopes and dreams for the church as we consider our financial commitment to the church.

As always, I am pledging a full 10% of my gross salary back to the operating budget. This gives me a sense of ownership and investment in the future of our church, and it is very rewarding. I think it's important that I give enough to really care about how the money is spent. For each person, that amount will be different.

Have you seen the rainbows in the sanctuary and on the 2008-2009 canvass materials? What will your response be as we, together, go "over the rainbow"?



Musings from the President: *Spring Into Action* by Matt Mathis

Springtime! April showers bring May flowers and rainbows! It is time for renewal of the spirit and a little spring cleaning. It is time to let in the fresh air and clean out the winter debris. I have been quite hunkered down all winter and am finally getting a chance to spring back and enjoy the beauty of the world a little. Soon I will be smelling the flowers, I am sure.

This is also canvas month: everybody will have an opportunity to contribute to our own rainbows right here at ESUUC. Everything we have and do comes from somebody who gave freely of their time, talent or

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treasure. Please help, by doing your part to help our congregation grow and flourish. I am really proud of all the ways we have made the world better: here at home for ourselves, out in our community and in our global village.

April is the time to tend all of our flowers, so we will have more blooms all throughout the year.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call me at 412.654.7529 or drop a note to mathis@psc.edu or president@esuuc.org.

Canvas Event:
Wizard of OZ Theme Party – April 6
(aka OzFest)

Sunday, April 6 at 6:00pm, plan to join us for an evening of songs, laughter, food and fun as we go “over the rainbow” together to kick off our annual canvas campaign at ESUUC. Hey kids, dress up like character from the movie, if you dare and we might even dance along the Yellow Brick Road! At any rate, all the witches at this party will be our own GOOD witches (we hope), so please plan to join us.

Service Auction - April 26th

ESUUC is presenting our second biennial services auction on April 26th. We would like to encourage people to bring a friend or family member to the auction. This is an adults only event, although child care will be provided. Admission is \$5 for singles, \$8 for couples. This includes hors'devours, desserts, non-alcoholic beverages, two tickets for wine and their auction booklet. Questions regarding donations, or the auction in general may be directed to me - 724-887-0952. A service donation form is included at the end of this newsletter.

Religious Education

Class Calendar for April:

Elementary:

April 6 Children’s Chapel, Julia Begg
April 13 Global Village, Kate Z.
April 20 Working it Out
April 27 Service Project Sunday

Middle:

April 6 Children’s Chapel, Julia Begg
April 13 What UU’s Think About God.
April 20 What UU’ss Think About the Bible
April 27 Service Project Sunday

COA:

April 6 Children’s Chapel, Julia Begg
April 13 Genesis and Evolution
April 20 Creating Worship
April 27 Service Project Sunday

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Caring and Concerns

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, and honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”

- *Leo Bucaglia*

Happy Birthday!

Nic Freda

Ian Pamerleau

Melanie Riggio

Emer Straw

Jean Robl

Alison Daigle

Gerard Katilius

Happy Anniversary!

April Soule & Tom Cors

As a community, we share our positive energies to help those who are having difficult times...

Leona Dunnett (hopefully recovered by the time you read this)

David Schwartz (also recovering from illness)

Kathy Ruffing & family concerning Kathy's mother

Nancy Fitzgerald concerning her mother

Mary Warwick – the final stretch till the April 15th tax deadline

Laurie Montgomery – finished with chemo and all treatment.

Each month, we will post this column for birthdays, anniversaries, honors, illnesses, or memorials. Please contact Susan Goodis at Caring@ESUUC.org or call 412-609-1232 with events you wish to have included in our newsletter. Thank-you.

Passover Sedar

Join us on Sunday, April 20th from 5 pm to 7 pm at ESUUC for a ritual feast to celebrate Passover Sedar. Tickets cost \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children, with a maximum of \$20 per family. RSVP to Susan Goodis at (412) 609-1232 by April 10th.

Sunday Refreshments

One of the most popular Unitarian traditions is the social hour after each service. At ESUUC, each adult member (or couple) takes a turn bringing refreshments. It works out, on average, to about one turn per person/couple per year. PLEASE NOTE that for various reasons, it will be necessary for some people who brought refreshments earlier this year to take another turn as we near the end of the church year. (Just remember, somebody else will have that fun next year!)

To ensure fairness, we assign each adult member/couple a date on which to bring refreshments. These don't have to be homemade or fancy; store-bought treats work well, too. If you haven't brought refreshments before, or are unfamiliar with how things are set up, you may want to come in the weekend before your turn to see how it's done. There are also instructions in the kitchen on how to use the coffeemaker and hot water pot.

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at the service and you want a hand, just come and get me. The only thing I WON'T do is let you off the hook – we need your participation to keep this fun tradition alive (and everybody fed)!

If the week you're assigned doesn't work for your schedule, please switch with someone else for that month.

April 6	Dan & Kate Begg
April 13	Jill & Keith Born
April 20	Kate Codd-Palmer & Brien Palmer
April 27	Jun Deng & Brian Ogle

May 4	Marylyn Devlin
May 11	Leona & Tom Dunnett
May 18	Jenifer Ewart
May 25	Nancy Fitzgerald

Next: Susan Goodis & Matt Mathis, Alan & Jennifer Halperin, Marianne Jew

Your Mom Doesn't Work Here

....and we DO want to become a Green Sanctuary, so please, help out with clean-up after refreshments! We're phasing out paper products, and that means a lot more dishes any time food is served. While the refreshment people will still have charge of general clean-up, it would really help them if you could wash your own dishes before you leave. Thanks!

News from the Treasurer

By Chris Priano

Liquid assets, 7/1/07:	\$ 20,034
Liquid assets, 2/29/08:	\$ 25,059
Increase in liquid assets:	\$ 5,025
Net inflows:	\$ 5,025

Pledge payments through 2/29/08: \$ 31,473 (64% of target)
 Collection cash through 2/29/08: \$ 1,636 (33% of target)

Operating expenses through 2/29/08: \$ 32,137 (58% of budgeted)

Mortgage balance, 2/29/08: \$ 33,391

As of the end of February, we're 2/3 (66%) through our current fiscal year. Pledge payments are about where they need to be, and we're slightly underrunning operating expenses. However, we'd hoped to receive \$5K this fiscal year in cash from weekly collections and other sources (such as the Abitibi recycle bin). At 33%, we're badly underrunning our cash target. For those of you who may not have made a formal pledge, donating through the Sunday collection plate is a greatly appreciated way of providing the church with much-needed financial support. I thank each of you for whatever level of support you can provide, and in whatever manner works best for you.

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Very soon, we'll be launching our annual canvass to fund the operating budget for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. (Mary Warwick has once again graciously agreed to orchestrate this year's canvass effort.) I use the results of the canvass to develop a proposed budget. Remember that we have many necessary obligations that must be met in order to keep our church vibrant and growing, and the building and grounds themselves in good order. A few examples are: minister and staff salaries, mortgage, utilities, insurance, janitorial service, lawn service and national/district/local UU affiliations. None of these items is especially exotic; however, each is a necessary component of maintaining a viable church community. Please keep this in mind as you and your family members evaluate ESUUC's importance in your lives, and give as generously as possible.

Welcome spring!

Church Directory Updates

Please note the following changes/corrections since publication of our 2007 - 2008 directory:

Merritt Bailey, E-mail address: m Bailey02@zoominternet.net

Agnes McAllister, Home address: 247 Outlook Dr., Verona, PA 15147-3827

Jim Osborne, E-mail address: jim.osborne@comcast.net

Rev. Renee Waun, E-mail address: mwaun2003@yahoo.com

Jerry Crystal, New e-mail address: jerrysplace816@comcast.net

Records Purge

By Chris Priano

The anti-packrat in me has been slowly going through boxes, etc. of old church records and destroying those we no longer need to retain. Some of our files are over 30 years old!

The personal nature of much of this information (bank statements, etc.) necessitates that these records be shredded: a slow and tedious business. If you have a paper shredder at home and would be willing to shred several folders worth of documents, I sure would appreciate the help. I'll first presort whatever I give you. That way, you won't have to worry about determining what should be kept. (I'll take care of the more confidential files, such as those dealing with individual pledge data.) Here and there, I've discovered a few items worth saving for our legitimate "archives," but a lot of it is just junk that's consuming much-needed storage space.

Remember: the shredded paper (in clear plastic bags, which I can give you) can be deposited in our Abitibi paper recycling bin. If you're interested in lending a hand, please e-mail Chris Priano at treasurer@esuuc.org, or call me at (412) 848-5170. Thanks!

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A service donation form is included at the end of this newsletter.

Book Club, I

This month's serious book club selection is "The Whiskey Rebellion" by Hogeland. See you at Paneras, Penn Ctr. at 1 pm on Wed. 4/2. May's book is "Moll Flanders" by Daniel Defoe. We always meet the first Wed. of the month--same time, same place.

Book Club, II

The light book club's selection for this month is "Away" by Amy Bloom. The club will meet Tuesday, April 1st (No Fooling!) 6:30PM at Kate Begg's Home ***Call for directions 412-609-1232.

Thank You!

Thank you for your generous donations to our Guest at Your Table Program. Our congregation sent a check for \$400.95 to the UU Service Committee to be used to advance human rights worldwide. We would also like to thank Kathy Leon for donating flowers to beautify our worship table. She is Manager of Belli Fiori Florist Shop on Center Road in Monroeville. Please call her when you need flowers, plants, gift and gourmet baskets at 412-380-0195.

News from Kopec, Transylvania

Dear Renee and Unitarian friends of Pittsburgh,

I attached the bad news related to the death of Zsuzsanna Kis, the former lay president of the Kopec fellowship. I will send you soon some photos/pictures taken at her funeral service. Blessings from the small Kopec Unitarian fellowship. We all are wishing you HAPPY EASTER HOLIDAY.

Rev. Alpar Kiss

Note from editor: If you would like to read Zsuzsanna Kis's full obituary please call me (724) 327-3092 or e-mail me.

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OMD Annual Assembly

On the weekend of April 4, Unitarian Universalists from all over the Ohio Meadville District will gather for a time of sharing, enlightenment and fun. Keynoter for the assembly will be well-known pastor, author and theologian Alice Blair Wesley. You will definitely want to hear her speak!

Each church is entitled to have a certain number of voting delegates to the assembly, but all UUs are encouraged to attend and participate in the activities. If you are interested in attending, please contact Dr. Waun 412-731-2834, mwaun2003@yahoo.com. There is a registration fee of \$55 for the assembly which includes Friday's light supper and reception, Saturday breakfast and lunch.

North Hills Building Renovation Celebration, April 18-20

Our friends at the North Hills UU Church are sizzling with excitement over the renovation of their beautiful (barn-shaped) building, with remodeling which has more than doubled the size of their facilities. Plus, they now have a fabulous new community space for church dinners, framed by a dramatic curved staircase leading to the sweeping new spacious rooms on the second floor. They literally raised the roof! (Or rather, the ceilings.) They would love for us to come and see what they have created.

Let's help them celebrate their gorgeous new space: Friday through Sunday April 18- 20.

There is a free concert Friday evening. Saturday will feature a variety of engaging activities all day, with a dedication service and reception scheduled for Sunday afternoon at 4pm. Here's the whole program from their press release:

UUCNH is inviting Pittsburghers to help celebrate the official opening of the renovated space the weekend of April 18-20. The Celebration Weekend kicks off Friday night at 7:30 with a free concert by internationally renowned recording artist Jim Scott, a self-described UU activist and artist from Massachusetts, a member of the Paul Winter Consort. Jim's latest creation, "The Earth and Spirit Songbook," is gathering rave reviews for its profound lyrics and catchy melodies.

On Saturday, April 19, the congregation will celebrate Earth Day with a barn warming featuring activities for all ages from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Weather permitting, Marburger Dairy will bring young calves to bottle feed. Children can also enjoy games, face painting, crafts, and seed planting. Musical entertainment includes the Renaissance City Women's Choir, Allegheny Fiddlers, singer songwriter David Wells, and other local talent. Yoga teacher Trish Zitello will share her love of "raw food cooking," and Evan Verbanic will speak on the topic, "Go Organic—Stay Local." The church's long tradition of celebrating the arts with the "Twin Towers Art Festival," and more recently "Arts in the Autumn" will be remembered with a small art show displaying works of local artists. History buffs will enjoy the pictorial history of the barn displayed in the newly renovated upstairs, as well as the opportunity to meet Debby Rabold, author of the History of Franklin Park, which features a story of the "housewarming for cows" held shortly after the barn completed in 1926.

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For more information, visit the church website at www.uucnh.org, or call the church at 412-366-0244. UUCNH, also home to the Bellwood Preschool, is located at 2359 West Ingomar Road in Franklin Park, about a half mile off Brandt School Road to the east and Rochester Road to the west.

Congregational Committees

Committee – Chair (email)

Aesthetics – Jean Robl and Maureen Lilly Building and Facilities – open Caring & Concerns – Susan Goodis Committee on Ministry – Gayle Pamerlou Community – Brenda Shiring Drumming – Bill Dunham (drumming@esuuc.org) Finance – Chris Priano Landscaping – Laurie Montgomery	Membership – Marylyn Devlin Music – Alan Halperin Pastoral Care – Maria Luczkow Religious Education – Kate Zingarelli Sunday Programs/Celebrations – Mary Kukura-Straw Welcoming Congregation – Matt Mathis
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Newsletter Deadlines

May 2007 newsletter deadline: **April 20th**

Please email your articles to newsletter@esuuc.org or call Mary Warwick (724) 327-3092 and leave a message with your news, stories, and other information.

Get the Weekly Email News

If you would like to receive a weekly email that includes items not in the newsletter and reminders of upcoming events for the week, please send an email from the address you would like subscribed to esuuc_news@esuuc.org. You can also send a message to that address if you would like it included in the weekly email announcement to the congregation.

Calendar

Wednesday, April 2

1:00pm Wednesday Book Club

Saturday, April 5

9:00am OWL gr7-9 (FIRM) - Field trip

Sunday, April 6

Canvass Kickoff

6:00 Canvass “Over the Rainbow” meeting

9:30am Choir Rehearsal for today's Service

10:30am Sunday Service

12:00pm Program Committee

8:00pm * Spirit Progress Radio is an online streamed audio radio program

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Wednesday, April 9

7:30pm Board Meeting

Sunday, April 13

10:30am Sunday Service

8:00pm * Spirit Progress Radio is an online streamed audio radio program

Wednesday, April 16

1:00pm Current Events Group

Saturday, April 19

9:00am Non-ESUUC Event (Mixed Media Art)

Sunday, April 20

10:30am Sunday Service

5:00pm SEDER

8:00pm * Spirit Progress Radio is an online streamed audio radio program

11:00pm Newsletter Deadline

Saturday, April 26

6:30pm Service Auction (TENTATIVE)

Sunday, April 27

10:30am Sunday Service

Wednesday, April 30

7:30pm Board Meeting

Saturday, May 3

All day Close Canvass

9:00am Parking lot Repairs

Sunday, May 4

9:30am Choir Rehearsal for today's Service

10:30am Sunday Service

12:00pm Program Committee

5:00pm OWL gr7-9 (tentative)

5:30pm Youth Group

8:00pm * Spirit Progress Radio is an online streamed audio radio program

Wednesday, May 7

1:00pm Wednesday Book Club

Saturday, May 10

9:00am Parking lot Repairs (Rain date)

Sunday, May 11

10:30am Sunday Service

5:00pm OWL gr7-9 (tentative)

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