

Add Your Voice
Unity Church—Unitarian
Pledge Drive 2007

Unity Church Welcomes Rev. Rob Hardies for Celebration Sunday

Unity Church is proud to welcome the Reverend Rob Hardies as our guest minister at all three services on Celebration Sunday, October 15.

Rob and Janne Eller-Isaacs have a special connection to Rev. Hardies, who served a ministerial intern while they were ministers at the First Unitarian Church of Oakland. When asked what value he received from being an intern, Rev. Hardies says, "the mentorship that begins during the internship continues long after the internship is over. I still turn to Rob and Janne for advice and guidance in my ministry."

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Rev. Hardies is the Senior Minister of All Souls Church, Unitarian, a historic, diverse congregation in the heart of the nation's capital. Since Rev. Hardies was called to All Souls Church in 2001, the church's membership has doubled in size. Founded in 1821, with John Quincy Adams and John C. Calhoun as two of its founders, All Souls has a history of social justice, involving actions opposing slavery, funding and supporting public education, supporting women's rights, and involvement in many civil and human rights matters. The congregation continues its long tradition of social justice activities on a local, national and international basis.

In 2004, Rev. Hardies was the keynote speaker at General Assembly's Sunday Service, where he gave a passionate, prophetic and uplifting sermon about "life always calling us to rebirth." He said, "When a loved one dies and we find the strength to go on, we are born again.... When we come out of the closet and find the strength to be openly gay or lesbian, we are born again.... With each rebirth, that transforming love takes hold of our heart, our battered old heart, and stretches it further than we thought it could stretch." He reminded us that "we must preach the old Universalist gospel that all souls are invited to the welcome table."

He called for "a love that will not let us go, will not let us down, and will not let us off," to which the congregation responded with cries of "Amen!"

Rev. Hardies considers himself a Unitarian evangelist because of his own experience of discovering Unitarian Universalism in Portland, Oregon, as a gay person who found himself in the middle of an anti-gay movement. The UU church was the only spiritual place that welcomed and embraced him. His goal is "to make sure the UU faith is available to and reaches out to people who need the UU message of love and inclusiveness." He has a passionate commitment to providing a wide open door and healing ministry.

"Add Your Voice" at Unity Church on October 15!

Our church provides us spiritual enrichment and a unique place of nurturing and support: religious education for our kids; Wellspring Wednesday with its food, fellowship, and varied programs; pastoral care when we hit rough spots in our lives; covenant groups; our many outreach programs; wonderful music; and inspiring Sunday morning worship. Unity Church is a loving and supportive community of many varied voices in conversation with the wider community and outside world.

Each year, we ask every member to financially support our religious community so that it can continue to give sustenance to us individually and to the wider community. This year, our pledge drive theme is *Add Your Voice*. We add our voices as we participate in many ways in the life of the church. Also and importantly, we add our voices as we pledge our dollars.

If you haven't picked up your pledge materials at Sunday church services, you will receive them in the mail during the first week of October. As you determine your pledge, consider candidly what our church means to you, your family, this community, and this world. Please bring your pledge card to Celebration Sunday on October 15 and join the congregation as we renew our financial commitments to our church community.

JUST WORDS / WHEEL OF LIFE

Just Words

James Baldwin, one of the great courage-teachers of the 20th century, wrote near the close of his provocative essay The Fire Next Time:

I could see that the intransigence and ignorance of the white world might make vengeance inevitable — a vengeance that does not really depend on, and cannot really be executed by, any person or organization, and that cannot be prevented by any police force or army; historical vengeance, a cosmic vengeance, based on the law that we recognize when we say, “Whatever goes up must come down.” And here we are, at the center of the arc, trapped in the gaudiest, most valuable, and most improbable water wheel the world has ever seen. Everything now, we must assume, is in our hands; we have no right to assume otherwise.

I hesitate to write this for fear I might somehow hex the historical turn I’m beginning to perceive. It may be the recent primary election when Keith Ellison — a talented progressive who also happens to be both African-American and Muslim — won a hotly contested Democratic primary. It may be that four senior Republican senators just blocked the President’s effort to give carte blanche for torture to the CIA. It may be that 220 people attended our first 4:30 service. It may be that I’m totally deluded but I think the so-called religious right has finally over-reached. I think the pendulum is beginning to swing back.

You will notice that Baldwin writes that vengeance might be inevitable. My purpose here is to weigh in on the side of compassion. My hope is that progressive organizations, liberal churches included, will soon experience a growth surge which echoes that experienced by the evangelical right in the past 20 years. My fear is that we won’t be ready.

I could offer you a laundry list of ways that liberal churches are ill prepared to welcome all the “longing, thirsty souls” who may soon come our way. I could berate us for thinking so small in a time when the need is so great. I could bemoan our tendency to take pride that we have influence far beyond our numbers. We’ve been proud to be the leaven long enough. It’s time for us to be the bread.

But what I really want to say is very simple. If we are to be ready when the tide of history turns we will need to re-double our efforts to be receptive, compassionate and engaged. We will need to reject vengeance. We will need to refuse small-mindedness. And we will need to engage with those with whom we disagree. When and if, as Seamus Heaney puts it “hope and history rhyme,” I pray that we will greet what power comes to us with deep humility and with an abiding respect for all the neighbors we have yet to know.

With great appreciation and deepening faith,
Rob Eller-Isaacs

The Wheel of Life

In Celebration

Maya Carolyn Greenbaum

born September 13, 2006
daughter of
Sara and Mike Greenbaum

Reese Lynian Greenbaum

born September 13, 2006
daughter of
Sara and Mike Greenbaum

In Celebration

Jenny Leonard and Clairson Dutra

married September 9, 2006

In Memoriam

Robert Caswell

father of Charlie Caswell

Dotty Heydinger

mother of Rick Heydinger

Barbara “Bobbie” Hanel

mother of Nancy Moe

NEWS AND HAPPENINGS / HALLMAN INTERNS

Doesn't Practice ~~Make~~ Perfect!

by Hallman Ministerial Intern Justin Schroeder

Introducing John Lentz, Interim Facilities Manager

After renovating the ceiling of the Center Room this past spring as a contractor, it is my pleasure to return to be a part of the daily operations at Unity Church as Interim Facilities Manager.

Some of you already know me from my time growing up in Unity, and others know members of my family. If you'd like to meet me on weekdays, I am available from about 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., and will also be poking around some on Sundays.

Anyone with questions, comments, or concerns regarding the facility please let me know. I am easy to talk to, I read email (john@unityunitarian.org), and I read any notes left for me. Be sure if you'd like me to reply that you tell me how to get a hold of you! It's great to be back.

Dottie Mathews' Ordination

Dottie Mathews, last year's United Theological Seminary Intern, will be ordained as the Fox Valley UU Fellowship Assistant Minister on Sunday, October 8, at 6:30 p.m., at the Lawrence Memorial Chapel on the Lawrence University Campus in Appleton, Wisconsin.

All members and friends of Unity Church are welcome to come celebrate with Dottie and her congregation. To help estimate how many people from Unity Church are coming, please contact Fox Valley UU Fellowship at fvuufsec@new.rr.com or 920/731-0849 if you plan to attend.

Borrowing from Julia Cameron, author of *The Artist's Way*, I begin my mornings with stream of consciousness writing. Whatever is floating around in my head is fair game — dreams, frustrations, joys, theological questions, lists — it all comes out. After the initial brain drain, I pick what feels like the most pertinent issue and spend some time reflecting and writing on that.

After the writing, I read two or three poems twice through in order to wrap myself in the words, metaphors, and spirit of the poem. (Currently I'm reading Pattianne Rogers, Rachel Shihab Nye, and Mary Oliver.)

When I'm finished reading, I pray. I close my eyes, breath deeply, and begin, paraphrasing e.e. cummings: "i thank You God for most this amazing day..." I pause, my feet tucked beneath me, sitting on my meditation stool. Then I open my heart to the wider community and world, holding those I love and know, those I hardly know — and trying to make space for whatever the day might bring.

This trinity of writing, poetry, and prayer makes up my regular spiritual practice. I've had some sort of spiritual practice for over 15 years, and yet, despite all this practice, I'm still no closer to perfection!

This highlights a significant truth: spiritual practice is not about achieving perfection, or near perfection — it is about *practice!* As in, *doing* it. As in, giving my "spiritual" muscles a workout, so that in the gym of life, I am able to handle the different spiritual "workouts" that come my way. Writing, reading/reflecting, and prayer help strengthen those "muscles" for me.

However, maintaining and doing a spiritual practice is not always easy! In fact, John Tarrant, author of *The Light Inside the Darkness*, confesses that it took him years of practice to learn to meditate for longer than five minutes!

But he stuck with it, and his practice deepened. The point is: faith is not about perfection, it's about practice. And practice doesn't make perfect; practice leads to the growing of a soul. Think of the noble professions of law and medicine — the best practitioners, such as Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D., recognize it as a practice, healing and growing their souls through their practice, and positively impacting many other lives.

In what ways are you growing your soul? When and how do you create time to sit in silence, to reflect on something that's troubling you, to pray, to walk outside, to be still? How do you cultivate beauty, gratitude, and compassion in your life, in the midst of the hubbub?

In the end, a spiritual practice is life giving, even if it's only for five minutes a day. For me, it is a bold declaration that faith and spiritual wellbeing are a priority in my life.

So whatever practice it is you have, I hope you stick with the practice, and practice, practice, practice, not so you'll receive a "Perfect 10," or an "A+," but so that your soul will grow and your faith will deepen. May it be so.

I'll see you in church,
Justin

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRIES

FROM THE EVERGREEN PROJECTS MINISTRY TEAM:

Successful Quilters' Auction and Raffle

In May and early June, the Evergreen Quilters of Unity Church exhibited 20 silent auction items pieced, quilted, and embroidered by them on the theme "Quilt Me A Story." The *piece de resistance* of the show was the raffle quilt, an eye-popping king-sized quilt, "Star Trails," collectively pieced and hand-quilted by the group.

Theresa Henderson from Colorado Springs, Colorado, was the thrilled winner of the raffle. Theresa, a friend of an Evergreen Quilter, is a long-time lover of quilts. Theresa visited the Twin Cities over the Fourth of July weekend and accepted her new quilt then. Now, reportedly, she has signed up for a quilting class to expand her understanding of quilts and the process of making them. Meanwhile, Evergreen Quilters exhibited "Star Trails" in mid-June at the annual Minnesota Quilters Show in St. Cloud. It looked magnificent hanging there amid 300 others.

The Evergreen Projects Ministry Team thank all of you who supported the silent auction and raffle with your generous bids and purchases of raffle tickets. The silent auction and raffle raised \$4,086. We contributed over \$1500 to Ramsey County Family Center to provide monthly meals and another \$500 for their shelter. We donated \$1000 to Sharing Kormer Foodshelf, serving residents of Frogtown and the immediate neighborhood of our church, to help replenish their shelves. And we contributed \$1000 to The Family Place, a day shelter for homeless families. The individuals we help through these agencies, and the agencies themselves, deeply appreciate the support of our religious community. Every dollar you spent at the auction and raffle helps enormously.

Evergreen Quilters continues its practice of designing and making baby quilts for the Baby Welcoming Sundays at the church. Those quilts, six each year, are donated to babies in families staying at the Ramsey County Family Center and The Family Place to show they are cared about by our community. Thank you, again, all for your support of the Evergreen Quilters and the Evergreen Committee's efforts.

We always welcome new members regardless of your quilting skills. The only requirement is that you are enthusiastic, interested, or curious about quilting. Come learn from us who were new to quilting not so long ago. This friendly bunch of Evergreen Quilters meets at the church each month on the second Tuesday from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. For more information, contact Michelle Hill at 651/264-0884.

FROM THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE MINISTRY TEAM:

Restorative Justice Team to Sponsor Circle Training

An important practice in Restorative Justice work is the Peacekeeping Circle. In these circles, linked to Native American practices still in use today, offenders sit with victims and community members. Participants tell their stories, accept responsibility for their own actions, and find their ways to healing and restoration in the community. Those who "keep" these circles have received training to make them effective in this work.

The generosity of Unity Church through last year's Easter offering makes it possible for the Restorative Justice Team to sponsor a circle training, open to 20 members of our community without charge. The training will begin on Thursday evening, November 2, and continue all day Friday and into Saturday afternoon. Trainers will be Jamie and Oscar, who keep circles and provide circle training in educational and criminal justice settings.

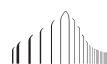
Contact Pat Haff at the Church Office to talk about your interest in participating in the training. It's one of the best possible ways to learn about Restorative Justice and the role you could play in this important work.



EVERGREEN FOODSHELF CORNER

October's Foodshelf items are hygiene products, such as shampoo, handsoap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant. Remember that any non-perishable item can be donated any month.

These above items are just suggestions. Donations may be left at the barrels at the Holly and Portland Avenue entrances at any time.



commUNITY

commUNITY is the church newsletter of Unity Church—Unitarian. It is published monthly, except the month of July. Deadlines are the 14th of each month. Subscriptions are free to those who make pledges to Unity Church and are available to others for \$30/year.

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRIES



FROM THE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY TEAM:

Supporting Sustainable Agriculture

What if we all could live lives that harmed no one, nurtured the environment and left the world a better place for future generations? Sounds good doesn't it? Throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin sustainable farm families are doing just that. Using techniques that respect the earth and build for the future, they are committed to creating farms that nourish their families spiritually and economically, sustain the environment, and provide eaters not only with safe wholesome food but with a clear sense of who and where their food came from.

These farmers market their food a variety of ways, both through consumer co-ops and other retail groceries that buy locally, and by selling directly to consumers; at farmer's markets, through consumer supported agriculture (CSA) arrangements and as producer co-ops. The sustainable agriculture team at Unity encourages you to use any of these means to buy locally produced food. If you belong to a CSA or are shopping at the farmer's market or at Mississippi Market Co-op, that is great. But if you are among the many of us who find ourselves at Rainbow or Cub or another grocery buying food that has traveled 1300 miles to reach us, we have an alternative for you right here at Unity. You can order meat, cheese, produce and much more from local, sustainable farmers and pick it up right at Unity. Here's how it works. During the second week of the month, you place an order with Whole Farm Cooperative, a producer co-op of over 30 sustainable farms, using the internet, email or telephone. The next Wednesday afternoon (third Wednesday of the month), the orders are delivered to Unity. When you pick up your order at the church, an invoice is enclosed. You pay by sending a check for the invoice amount directly to Whole Farm. Get the details at the Peace Coffee table in the Parish Hall after Sunday services.

Whole Farm allows you to order in meal-sized portions; a pound of hamburger, two pork chops, a dozen eggs, etc. You can order as much or as little as you need. The meat is processed at an inspected meat processor and delivered packaged and frozen.

For every food calorie purchased at a conventional grocery, nine calories of energy are expended getting it there. Eating locally produced foods means less energy used and less pollution created. Buying local food won't save the world – but it will help the environment and support some people trying to live lives that make the world a better place.

FROM THE MANO A MANO MINISTRY TEAM:

To Bolivia With Love:

A Special, All-Ages Wellspring Wednesday Event

Have you wondered about the work of Mano a Mano in Bolivia? Would you like to do something hands-on to help with that work? Are you looking for a fun and meaningful way to connect with members of the Unity congregation, including those older and younger than you?

We've got a special, intergenerational event planned for Wellspring Wednesday on October 18 that's just right for you. To Bolivia, With Love is a multi-activity evening that starts with a delicious Bolivian meal, moves on to a short worship service with music and stories from the Andes, and culminates in our rolling up our sleeves for some hands-on work that will enable Mano a Mano to share baby clothes and school supplies with some of the world's most impoverished communities.

Registration limited to 100 people; children's and elders' participation encouraged.

FROM THE PARTNER CHURCH
MINISTRY TEAM:

November Guests from Transylvania

After the fall of the Romanian Communist dictatorship in 1989, Unity Church became a partner to the mostly Unitarian village of Homoródszentpéter in Transylvania. We have raised funds to provide scholarships for youth of the village and help with underwriting village development projects. More importantly, there have been several visits between the two partners to meet and come to know each other better. This coming November, we will be welcoming two couples from the village as our guests for two weeks.

In 2001, Laurel and Eric Lein were part of the first group that visited the village. They returned with another group in 2003 and again this past spring. Laurel has written about why the partnership is meaningful to them:

"In May, 2006, Eric and I made our third trip to our sister church village of Homoródszentpéter. Yes, we took over 700 digital photos, but the one embracing feeling of true friendship, love, and family is why we keep going back. It's about living in the Maté's modest home, about their work in the fields and at the dairy, about life in an agricultural village with an uncertain future. It's about cows, rabbits and grain, and laughter, compassion, and tears.

"On the other side of the world, in a Christian Unitarian village, we now have a deep and common bond with people who originally weren't sure that being friends with Americans was a good idea. We also have a six-year relationship with the villagers through picnics, summer camps, dinners, and building a massive retaining wall together. What began with one small farm tractor after the fall of communism has blossomed into Community."

ANTI-RACISM TEAM / WELCOMING CONGREGATION TEAM

FROM THE ANTI-RACISM MINISTRY TEAM:

Membership Changes on the Anti-Racism Ministry Team

After three years of serving on the Anti-Racism Ministry Team, the team says thank you to four of its members for their hard work and dedication as they move on to other endeavors. Cris Brizuela, Allen Giles, Kevin Harris, and Steve Lewis have all made significant contributions, especially to the hard work of researching and writing the history of race relations at Unity Church. (Check it out: it is available on Unity's website at unityunitarian.org/antiracismteam.htm or from the Church Office.)

After putting out a call for applications and interviewing candidates, the team has added the four new members:

Drew Danielson, a member of Unity for eight years, has worked with the Coming of Age program and served as a worship associate. Born into a "good Swedish Lutheran Family" and taught to only trust blondes, his professional and personal life has brought him into a bigger, richer multicultural world. He lives with his wife, Betsy, and their children, Atticus and Harper, in the Summit-University neighborhood, and teaches in an urban charter school. He has joined the Anti-Racism Team to learn about and hopefully help shape an "Anti-Racist" organization.

Daphne Thompson came to Unity two years ago with her husband, Bill Curtis, and serves on a Wellspring Wednesday cooking team. Her two children and two grandchildren live in California and Montana. She is a real estate asset manager, trying to retire, and volunteers with community theatre, an arts council, and as a reading mentor at Hancock Elementary School. She is pleased to be able to work with the Team on something so dear to her heart.

Tara LaFerla has been a member of Unity Church for two years and is a leader in the ninth grade Coming of Age program. Her husband Jo recently joined the staff as Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Tara works in Multicultural Student Services at the University of St. Thomas. She joined the team this summer after reading the Unity history of race relations. One of her favorite quotes is by Mahatma Gandhi, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

Sherman Eagles, a member of Unity for 28 years, has visited our partner church in Transylvania twice, and is a member of the Partner Church Team and the Sustainable Agriculture Team. Professionally, he chairs several international working groups, which has taught him the importance of listening very carefully. Recent experiences listening to earnest young people frustrated about lack of action to combat racism led him to conclude that it is simply not acceptable to know about the systemic nature of racism and not be involved in working for change.

In addition to these new team members, **Justin Schroeder**, one of this year's Hallman Ministerial Interns, will be involved with the team as part of his internship learning process and will offer ministerial support. Justin has taken classes at Meadville Lombard Seminary and Phillips Seminary in Tulsa. He worked at All Souls Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, for five years prior to coming to St. Paul. He moved to St. Paul with his fiancée, Juliana, and is excited about Unity's commitment to becoming an anti-racist institution.

These five people will join continuing members Wendy Harris, Sue Conner, Lia Rivamonte, Angela Newhouse, Pauline Eichten, and staff liaison Pat Haff as they work on anti-racist issues. Find out more them and their work on the church website at unityunitarian.org/antiracismteam.htm.

FROM THE WELCOMING CONGREGATION MINISTRY TEAM:

National Coming Out Month

The Welcoming Congregation Team wants you to know that October is National Coming Out Month. This is a time for celebration and recognition of those who have come out as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and allied people. It is also a time to encourage others to make a decision to come out – and that includes coming out as an ally, or supporter.

One thing you can do is join the many people in the Unity community who have chosen to add a rainbow stripe to the nametag they wear in church. This makes a clear statement that you are a supporter. Stripes are available at WCMT sponsored events, at our table on the first Sunday of the month, and from Laura Schlatter.

Another is to check out how you can support candidates for office who support human rights for all Minnesotans. To learn how your state legislators have voted in the past, go to:

<http://outfront.org/action/action.aspx>

And you might also want to take a moment to tell the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and allied people who have come out, at Unity and elsewhere in your world, how much you appreciate their courage on the coming out journey.

October 11 is National Coming Out Day. In honor of the day, representatives of the Welcoming Congregation Ministry Team will lead the Wellspring Wednesday worship that evening. Please join us — worship is from 6:45-7:05 p.m.!

FROM THE CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE
MINISTRY TEAM:

Amnesty International Conference at Unity Church

All members and friends of Unity Church are invited to celebrate 30 years of human rights work by the Twin Cities Amnesty International Group 37 at "Hope In a Time of Despair," a one-evening conference held at Unity Church .

This conference will focus on human rights abuses and torture in the "War on Terror." The keynote speaker for the evening is Dr. Steven Miles, M.D., nationally known and highly respected medical ethicist from the University of Minnesota, who will speak on how military medical personnel have participated in interrogations and torture. His presentation will be followed by a panel discussion led by Barbara Frey, former director of Advocates for Human Rights and Director of Human Rights Education at the University of Minnesota; attorney James Dorsey founder of Advocates for Human Rights; and Holly Ziemer, Director of Communications at the Center for Victims of Torture.

Professor David Weissbrodt, founder and guide of the Twin Cities Group 37, will be honored for his work as an international human rights lawyer and teacher and Ruth MacKenzie will provide music for the evening.

The conference will be held Friday, October 27, at 6:00 p.m. For more information or to register, contact Sigrid Bachmann at 612/338-0862 or sigrid50@earthlink.net.

Heart to Heart: A Couples Enrichment Class

Heart to Heart is a program designed to enrich communication and intimacy in your relationship. The weekend emphasizes personal reflection and couple dialogue. Participants are not asked to share with the group, but rather, to dialogue privately with their partners. All couples committed to their partners and to their relationships are welcome — same-sex and opposite-sex, married and unmarried.

Three Unitarian Universalist couples lead the annual fall retreat, scheduled for November 3–5. The cost is \$360 per couple, and includes two nights lodging and meals Saturday and Sunday. Thanks to the generosity of previous participants, "scholarship" assistance is available. If the weekend cost is too high and would prevent your being able to attend, please contact us. Space is limited to 15 couples, so register soon.

For Information, visit our website at <http://www.heart.mn.cx> or contact Eric or Laurel Lein at 651/227-0486.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS IN THE COMMUNITY...

Metro-wide UU Contemporary Arts Forum

This five-session series brings together UUs from the Twin Cities area for lively discussion and in-depth tours of contemporary art at the Walker Arts Center. Artists featured this year include Kara Walker, Eva Hesse and Pablo Picasso. The first Contemporary Arts Forum takes place Thursday, November 2, at 5:30 p.m. Please join us. You'll enjoy good talk, cutting-edge art and refreshments by Wolfgang Puck. And if you can't make every UU session, you can substitute with another group.

For further information, contact Lara Roy at the Walker 612/375-7574 or contact Christine McVay of First Unitarian Society at cbmcvay@earthlink.net. Pre-registration is required.

"People of the Book"

*A Series Addressing the Use and Misuse of Scriptures to Address
Critical Contemporary Issues*

This six-session series, presented by leaders from Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Quaker, Unitarian and Baha'i congregations in the St. Paul area, will address the beliefs, assumptions and principles used in interpretation of scriptures, and how scriptures are applied to challenging contemporary issues.

Presenters from different traditions each evening will discuss application of scripture to current issues. Each session will also feature time for intra- and inter-religious dialogue among all participants. The series is sponsored by Unity Church–Unitarian along with several area congregations of different traditions, the Interreligious Network of St. Paul and the St. Paul Area Council of Churches. *People of the Book* will be held on Mondays, October 16 through November 20, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The series is free and open to the public. Contact Tom Duke at 651/263-7031 for more information.

Schedule of sessions:

October 16 at Gloria Dei Lutheran — Rev. Tom Duke
Introductions and orientation to the series

October 23 at Mount Zion Temple — Rev. Susan Peterson
Muslim and Christian presenters

October 30 at Muslim American Society/ Masjid Al-Aman in Inver Grove Heights — Rabbi Adam Spilker and Rev. Ron Saari
Jewish and Christian presenters

November 6 (location to be determined)
— Fahima Aziz and Rabbi Randall Konigsburg
Muslim and Jewish presenters

November 13 at Unity Church–Unitarian
— Rev. Rob Eller-Isaacs and David Sterling
Unitarian, Bahai, and Quaker speakers

November 20 at Temple of Aaron
Panel discussion and concluding dialogue

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION / YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Religious Education News

Unity's Ministries with Young Families

Our growing congregation includes an ever-increasing number of new families with young children. Here are some reminders about the vast array of worship, education, fellowship and social justice offerings that serve parents and young children.

Chalice Lighter Program

Chalice Lighters is a new program for children in grades 3 to 6. Upon completion of a two-session parent/child Religious Education experience, children become participants in Chapel and Sanctuary worship as lighters of our chalice.

Parent Education Opportunities

Wellspring Wednesday Parent Education offerings for this fall include sessions on the importance of good sleep habits (October 4), strategies for managing different parenting styles (November 1) and positive approaches to parenting adolescents (December 6). All classes are free of charge and are presented by Marty Rossmann, a parent educator and academic researcher in the area of parent-child relations.

Social Justice Opportunities for Families

Families can live out their Unitarian Universalist values together by participating in outreach programs:

The October 18 Social Justice Wellspring Wednesday will give families an opportunity to roll up their sleeves and do some work with our Mano A Mano Outreach team. We'll learn about the work our congregation supports in Bolivia and will package layettes and school supplies for families there.

Guest at Your Table is a Unitarian Universalist Service Committee program that brings mindful sharing into the Thanksgiving Holiday. Families can pick up donation boxes at church beginning in November.

The Mitten Tree project starts in November as the weather turns cold. Unity's families gather warm mittens, hats, scarves and gloves to share with area organizations.

Unity's Evergreen Food Shelf team regularly collects food and personal items to share with area organizations that work with families who need assistance. Children are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items or items from the monthly special request list to place in the collection barrels.

Intergenerational Worship

Intergenerational worship takes place every Wednesday from 6:45 to 7:10 as part of our Wellspring Wednesday programming. Families can worship together and model appropriate behavior in a relaxed, child-friendly setting.

Fellowship

Unitots is a playgroup for parents of toddlers and preschoolers at Unity Church. Unitots meets here at church on Friday mornings from 9:30 until 12:00 noon.

A Kidspace is set up each Sunday in the Parish Hall, providing a place for parents to visit over coffee while their toddlers and preschoolers play and read books. Drop by and say hello to other Unity parents.

October R.E. Dates to Remember

October 1:

Celebration of New Lives,
9:00 and 4:30 service

October 13:

Preteen Movie Night
Curse of the Wererabbit, 6:30 pm.

October 18-22:

High School Boston Trip

October 22:

No Religious Education - MEA Weekend

October 29:

Story Sunday - Workshop Rotation
children attend worship for the first 15 minutes

Young Adult Gatherings Begin!

There are some changes in store for young adult programming this year! First, this is the first year for Unity's new Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Jo LaFerla. A longtime member of Unity Church, Jo has been involved as a leader of the 9th grade *Coming of Age Program* for the past several years. Jo fills the position held by Briana Melom, who left Unity to raise her son.

The second big change is that young adult programs will now take place following worship services to make a stronger connection to the larger worship life of the church. Join other young adults for food and discussion following the 4:30 p.m. service on the second and fourth Sunday of each month, meeting upstairs in the Robbins Parlor. These gatherings are a wonderful way to meet other young adults (age 18-35ish), talk about the service, and check in about what's going on in our lives.

The year will begin with low-key gatherings and as time goes on we'll get into more formal topic-based discussions and social justice opportunities. Whether you are just out of college, single, married, parenting and/or in graduate school, you are welcome to join us! For more information, contact Jo at the Church Office.

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMMING / WELSPRING WEDNESDAYS

Galsan Tschinag Visits Unity

Galsan Tschinag — writer, shaman, throat-singer, and leader of the Tuvan people in Mongolia — will visit Unity Church on Sunday, October 29, at 7:00 p.m., for a concert and reading of his new book *The Blue Sky*, about a boy growing up in the traditional ways of the Tuvan people. All are invited to this open to the public and free of charge event.

Men's Programming at Unity

As a part of Justin's internship at Unity Church, he will be working to support existing men's programming, as well as exploring the creation of additional programming for men.

Initial ideas have included a men's vocal ensemble, a group for new fathers (or fathers, in general), or a group that wants to cook a pancake breakfast for the mothers and women of the church on a particular Sunday morning. If you have ideas or sense a particular need in the church regarding men's programming, please contact Justin at the Church Office.

Elder Visioning

Do you have dreams for elder programming here at Unity Church? Or, perhaps you don't have specific ideas, but you have an interest in elder programming? Whether you consider yourself an elder, or you want to be involved in our vibrant elder community, come gather to get better acquainted and discuss our visions and dreams for Unity elder programming.

The elder visioning group will meet Thursday, October 26, at 3:00 p.m. in the Center Room. Coffee, tea, and light refreshments will be provided. If you have ideas or suggestions, but cannot attend, please contact Teresa at the Church Office.

Unity Singles Group

Are you an adult single, age 35 and beyond, interested in dining, socializing, and experiencing cultural activities with others like you? Join our group by contacting Karen Pike at 651/695-9800 or Rick Ahern at 651/636-5836.

Upcoming Unity Singles Group Events:

October 14: Hike at Afton State Park.

November 10: Potluck at a member's house

December 9: Wine-tasting at a member's house



October Wellspring Wednesdays

Wellspring Wednesdays continue throughout October. Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m., a short intergenerational worship service begins at 6:45, with classes and workshops starting about 7:10. Sign up for classes and dinner by contacting the Church Office or by stopping at the table in the Parish Hall on Sundays.

FEATURED DISCUSSIONS FOR OCTOBER:

October 4: "Parent/Child Relationship Series: Getting Good Sleep Matters"
— Marty Rossmann

October 11: "Collaborative Law: Divorce With Dignity"
— Louise Livesay and Audra Holbeck

October 18: "To Bolivia With Love: A Special, All-Ages Event"
PREREGISTRATION IS REQUESTED. SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS.

October 25: "Church and State in the United States"
— Peter Thompson and Rev. Arthur Tredwell

OTHER OCTOBER OFFERINGS:

Basic, Easy, Wonderful Quilting — The Evergreen Quilt Group

A four-week class on the fundamentals of quilting. Meets October 4 through November 1, with a week off on October 18.

Visions of Home — Susan Armington

A Hands-on Intergenerational Creative Workshop that will help you create a small cottage box that unfolds to present a 3-D image of what home means to you. Meets October 11.
PREREGISTRATION IS REQUESTED. LIMIT OF 25 PARTICIPANTS.

Why We Do This Sacred Work — Justin Schroeder

A discussion on the theological underpinnings of the UU imperative to work to create a more just world. **NOTE DATE CHANGE:** Class meets October 4, 11, and 25. PREREGISTRATION IS REQUESTED.

Children's Musical Script Workshop

Help create the theme, plot, and characters for this year's musical! Class meets October 10 & 11, 24 & 25.

Kundalini Yoga

An ongoing class. There is a small registration fee for this class.

A SCHEDULE CORRECTION FOR NOVEMBER:

Exploring Magical Practices

Teresa's three-part class Exploring Magical Practices will be held November 15 (The Tarot Deck), November 29 (Scrying), and December 6 (Spellcasting). PREREGISTRATION IS REQUESTED.

For more information about any Wellspring Wednesday offering, please see the Fall Wellspring Wednesday brochure or contact the Church Office.

MUSIC AND ART

Music Program Offerings for 06–07

CARMINA SINGERS:

Come and join this special projects, three-rehearsal choral group. The group will work on three Monday nights, November 13, 20 and 27 from 7:30 to 9:15 p.m. The group will sing in church on Sunday, December 3, at the 9:00 and 11:00 services and on December 17 at the 4:30 service. Some choral experience is recommended as the group will be learning quickly in these three rehearsals. Open to all members and friends of Unity Church. Contact Ruth for more information!

MORE ADULT OFFERINGS:

Unity Singers: auditioned 16-voice ensemble – Tuesdays, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Unity Singers small ensembles: Quartet, Octet, etc. – developed from and during Unity Singers rehearsal times

Unity Choir: non-auditioned ensemble of 60 to 75 voices – Thursdays, 7:30 to 9:15 p.m.

Unity Choir Ensemble: Smaller divisions of Unity Choir — often occurring on Sundays when the choir splits between services, memorial services, various occasions, etc.

Concerts with a Cause: These one-hour concerts will be offered periodically throughout the year followed by a reception and social time.

Chamber, Candlelight and a Cause
Community, Culture and a Cause
Choirs, Carols and a Cause
Caberet, Coffee and a Cause

Unity Church Volunteer Musicians: As always Unity Church is looking forward to hearing from our own Unity musicians in various venues. Of particular interest is the Wellspring Wednesday Worship Service. Solos, small ensembles and family musical teams are encouraged to participate.

Guest Musicians: We always look forward to inviting outstanding musicians to participate in our services and are enriched by the presence of their expertise.

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH OFFERINGS RECAP:

Unity Church's move to three services has offered us the opportunity to think creatively and both evaluate and improve our music program offerings for children and youth. Our hope is that they will be more coordinated with the R.E. program and designed to meet the needs of our children and youth with greatest effectiveness.

OCTOBERART

Susan Armington

I work largely in painting and collage and imaginative map-making. Sometimes I work in two dimensions, sometimes in three and I like to use words and language as an expressive material in the work. I tend to develop my work first on a personal level, and then expand it to include interactions and art-making with the larger public. (As in my Talking Suitcases project, where participants create story objects in a suitcase that tells their personal story.)

My recent work, "Mythic Geography" focuses on overhead views of the Middle East with layers of ancient writings and textures of the land. These geographies, where the land itself is constructed from ancient texts, evoke the voices of the people who have co-existed there over the millennia.

In 2004, I first transposed my map-making approach to Minnesota, my home, and created a 6 ft. x 9 ft. map painting of the Twin Cities called "Geography of Home." This map, like the previous ones, was made out of the words and languages of the residents, but this time I interviewed 49 current city residents who speak 29 languages, and used their writings to shape the land of the city. This map is currently on view at United Theological Seminary, and will be on tour around the Twin Cities (ending at the Minnesota History Center in 2008), but a small sample piece is on view here. In addition, I have begun a portrait series of large "mythic" collage portraits of people from the map, and here include a portrait of myself and Yuichi Kubota, my husband who is also on the map. These portraits depict the subject in a pose with an object symbol (as with Greek gods or Christian saints) but their anatomy and clothing is constructed out of artifacts from their lives – writings, maps, images, etc. (If you look closely, you may see that the alchemical vessel in my portrait is made of New Jersey!) At the same time, I use drawing to create a physical likeness.

In much of my work there is an interplay between the analytical and the intuitive – for instance, the facts of the map versus the feelings of place or story, or perhaps the codified lines of text against the flow of paint and brush. This dynamic is key to me and my art reflects my deep interest in ways of seeing and conceiving. How do we construct meanings and interpretations of places, of people? Three small portraits in ancient texts address this question directly – how do we make meanings out of people; how do we decode who they are, their language? Can we ever really know them? Or know a place? Much of my work hovers around these questions, creating images that hold both geographic "facts" and subjective feeling at the same, using both to construct my vision.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS / GATHERINGS

from Music Offerings, page 10

Beginning Fall 2006 our program offerings are as follows:

Children's Choir: Grades 1 through 4

Kathleen Radspinner, director.

Sunday mornings 10:15 to 11:00 a.m. – Chapel

Children's Musical: Grades 5 and 6

Sandy Waterman, Michael Lee, Joyce Paxton, directors.

(Fifth grade students will have a year off from the traditional program offerings in anticipation of their first year of involvement in the Children's Musical.)

Youth Ensemble: Grades 6 through 8

A variety of directors to be announced.

Sunday mornings during the 11:00 a.m. service in the Ames Chapel — to be offered as a module of choice in the R.E. program offerings. This will be divided into various modules of musical experience including singing, instrumental, various cultural music, collective composition resulting in a performable song and many other special interest opportunities as well.

from Rob Hardies, page 1

In addition to his ministry at All Souls Church, Rev. Hardies is a leader in the Washington Interfaith Network, a coalition of 40 congregations building power to create social change in the city. He is a board member of Clinica del Pueblo, a non-profit health clinic serving Washington's Latino community, and, the city's Interfaith Advisory Board.

Nationally, Rev. Hardies is a member of the advisory board of the Network of Spiritual Progressives, founded by Rabbi Michael Lerner and Cornell West to counter the power of the Religious Right. In 2006, All Souls hosted the Network of Spiritual Progressives' national conference. His public affairs commentaries have appeared on the nationally-syndicated public radio program *Interfaith Voices*, and last June, he appeared on CNN and CBS to voice his opposition to the anti-gay Federal Marriage Amendment.

Among his scholarly pursuits, Rev. Hardies edited *Blessing the World: What Can Save Us Now* (Skinner House, 2006), a collection of essays by the feminist theologian, Rebecca Parker. He is an adjunct faculty member at Wesley Theological Seminary.

Before coming to All Souls, Rev. Hardies served Unitarian Universalist congregations in Oregon and California. He is a graduate of Cornell University and Starr King School for the Ministry.

To learn more about Rev. Hardies, you can visit All Souls' website at all-souls.org.

THIS MONTH'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP MEETINGS

All are invited to attend the following groups. For more information, contact the Church Office or the persons listed with each group.

Unity Young Adult Group

Second and fourth Sundays of each month following the 4:30 p.m. service For more information, contact Jo at the Church Office.

Mother-Daughter Book Club (grades 5–7)

Held monthly on the third Wednesday of every month as part of Wellspring Wednesday. For titles, contact the Church Office.

Unitots! A group for families with kids through preschool age.

Every Friday at 9:30 a.m.

Contact: Bridget Borell, 651/644-5618.

Grandparent Unitots! A group for grandparents and their grandkids.

Every Monday at 9:30 a.m.

Contact: Sue Conner at 651/646-6667

Unity Bridge Club

First Friday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at members' homes. Contact Bernice Hanson at 651/633-3276.

Evergreen Quilt Group

Second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Kathie Simon Frank at 612/379-4253

U-Knitarians

...for those who enjoy knitting and crocheting

Fourth Wednesday of each month at Wellspring Wednesdays

Contact: Laura at the Church Office

Men's Retirement Group

Monday, October 9 and 23 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Contact: Phil Morton at 952/934-3578

Many Voices Political Discussion Group

Contact: Vince Grundman at 651/488-0778

Unity Divorce/Transitions Group

Contact Laura at the Church Office.

Unity Singles Group

Contact Laura at the Church Office.

A New Look at the Bible

First Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m.

Contact: Joan Lovrien at 651/739-6958

Afterthoughts

Every Sunday after the 9:00 a.m. service

Contact: Paul Gade at 651/771-7528

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION

Sunday services are held at 9:00, 11:00, and 4:30, unless otherwise noted. Worship leaders are assisted on Sundays by Worship Associates, Holly Avenue Greeters, and Sunday Welcome Teams.

October 1 (9:00, 11:00, 4:30)
“Your Waves Washed Over Me”

— **Rob Eller-Isaacs**

With gratitude and respect we enter into Yom Kippur. The traditional text for the Day of Atonement is the Book of Jonah. Rob and Worship Associate Estelle Brouwer will wrestle with the call to prophecy and their reluctance to heed God’s call. The service will include an invitation to forgive and be forgiven and “to begin again in love.”

October 8 (9:00, 11:00, 4:30)
“What I Found Here”

— **Rev. Laurel Hallman,**
First Unitarian Church of Dallas

In 1965 I came to Unity Church, a new bride a thousand miles from home. I will tell you what I found and the difference it made.

Laurel Hallman has been the Senior Minister of First Unitarian Church of Dallas for 19 years. She was ordained at Unity Church in June 1981, before being called by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana.

October 15 (9:00, 11:00, 4:30)

“The Even Better News” — Rev. Robert M. Hardies, All Souls Church of Washington

What is the good news of Unitarian Universalism that our world so desperately needs? Rev. Hardies, senior minister of All Souls Church in Washington, DC, will share with us his vision of that saving message, and encourage us all to help spread it by “adding our voice.”

Rev. Robert M. Hardies is senior minister of All Souls Church Unitarian in Washington DC — a historic, diverse congregation in the heart of the nation’s capital. In Washington, he is also a leader in the Washington Interfaith Network, a coalition of 40 congregations building power to create social change in the city.

October 22 (9:00, 11:00, 4:30)

“In Our Own Best Interest” — Janne Eller-Isaacs

Huston Smith said that the first step in human flourishing is empathy and compassion. Janne and Worship Associate Neely Crane-Smith will examine the role that justice making activities and our own community outreach play in our own lives. This service is part of the Privilege of Place series.

October 29 (9:00, 11:00, 4:30)

“What Are We Afraid Of?” — Rob Eller-Isaacs

Why do we fear what we fear? Beyond hard-wired aversion to poisons or pain there are more subtle triggers. Particular costumes, a certain swagger or even just the color of a person’s skin can set off our interior alarms, speeding up our heart-rates, closing down our minds. Rob will be joined by Kerri Meyer and Worship Associate Mary Baremore for a descent into the underworld.



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