



# What's with UUS

*Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalists of Sterling  
A Welcoming Congregation  
Sterling, Virginia*



## Minister's Message



### "In This Way"

It is a deep pleasure on Sunday mornings to look out into our gathered community and recognize so many faces, so many gloriously interconnected individuals! Understanding you is vitally important to my ministry. I rest my capacity to engage meaningful topics in our worship services on my ability to know you – to know who you are and what passions drive your hearts and minds. In this way a sermon becomes a conversation. In this way a ministry extends to all who gather, and far beyond.

On many Sundays, we welcome guests into our midst. I make it my mission to speak with every guest I can. I know that many of you are similarly engaged in this act of hospitality. It is also important for you to take some time during our hospitality hour to meet with dear friends, to buy coffee, and to read all the various literature that lines our tables and walls. Yet, if ever you can, I hope you will share your Sunday morning practice – to invite a newcomer into your conversations or to tell them about our fair trade coffee, upcoming exploration classes, covenant groups, or grocery scrip. In this way, a newcomer becomes acquainted, in this way a newcomer experiences interconnection.

It is important for me to meet with our newest friends and visitors. It is equally important for me to meet with those of you who have been coming for months, or years, or who have recently begun coming again after a long hiatus. We

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## President's Message



### Let's Get Started!

Okay, technically we started a while back with the church year and Rev. Anya's ministry. But I'm referring to the recent Ministerial Startup Workshop held October 20 at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax.

I'd like to share my perceptions of some of the high points of the workshop for the benefit of those who couldn't attend and to provide insight on how outcomes of the workshop impact on the activities of UUS leadership moving forward.

More than anything else, I was *supremely* impressed with the sense of this congregation as a cohesive and expansive community that is deeply committed to each other and Unitarian Universalism. I can't tell you how much that means to me, both as a lay leader and a member of the congregation.

Partially mirroring the agenda put together by Rev. Melora Lyngood (who did an *outstanding* job facilitating the workshop, by the way):

#### **Hope and Fears**

The main points I came away with regarding the hopes and fears of the congregation mirror much of what the Board identified as important in its recent retreat. As a congregation we are hopeful that we can be a deeply spiritual religious community that cares well for its own, reaches out in meaningful ways to the larger community, and aims to thrive and grow as a result.

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## Worship Calendar

### November 4 "Nurturing Community"

**Rev. Anya Sammler- Michael** Our congregation is a nurturing community, organized to support and sustain our members, friends and wider affiliations. How are we doing? How might we work with one another to make the dreams that we broached at our "Ministerial Start-Up" retreat a vibrant part of our daily reality? There will be a **Hymn Sing** at 10:10. Come early and share your voice with the gathered community. *Note: Remember to set your clock back from daylight savings time the night before!*

### November 11 "Veteran's Words - Poems on War, Poems on Peace"

**Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael and Guests** Come share in a worship of remembrance. Veterans will offer their reflections and poetry on both the present war in Iraq and past conflicts.

### November 18 "Guest at Your Table"

**Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael** Our service will engage the topics of unjust child labor practices and encounter the work that the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is doing in Nairobi, Kenya to strengthen the rights of child laborers. Our children will invite us to begin a collection for the Service Committee, a process that will conclude on December 23. *Children and Youth will begin in their religious exploration classes, then will join the service for the second half...when we will share a cornbread communion!*

### November 25 – To Be Announced



(Minister, Continued from page 1)

each offer something inexplicable and undeniable to this mix called the Unitarian Universalists of Sterling. As your minister, I am called to tend to the needs of the congregation as an institution, as well as the needs of the individuals within the congregation's fold. As your minister, I am granted the profound privilege of building relationship with the expressed purpose of building community. In this way, our individual stories merge. In this way, our individual stories become our collective experience.

I am in the office Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of each week from 10 until 4. And I am available by appointment most any day, save Mondays, which is my day off. Of course, even on Mondays, I am available to attend to emergencies. You are welcome – in fact you are encouraged – to call or email to make an appointment or to just stop by! You don't need a reason. The joy of forming a common understanding is reason enough. We can talk about life, about your life, about family life, about your spiritual or religious aims, about social justice concerns, about Unitarian Universalism, about your hopes for this congregation, about an illness, about a family member's or friend's death, about dreams, loss, joy or memory. We can put a pot of coffee or tea on, or we can walk around the block. In this way, we nurture relationship. In this way, we nurture our religious home.

We live in beltway culture. Business, both private and public, swarms all around. We tend to be productive and agile. We tend to accomplish the aims we set before us. One vital aim we must remember and pursue is growing in relationship. When the Board of Trustees or the Membership Committee or any of the various groups at UUS meet, they meet for two twinned purposes – one, to sustain the congregation and two, to sustain one another. We come together as a religious community, ministering to one another. "Religio" means to bind or to bring together. All the way down to our Latin roots, we are called toward relationship, and relationship is the best and most trusted practice for sustaining one another. Indeed it is the most precious

gift that a religious community can offer. In this way, we are sustained. In this way, we sustain a ministry.

I will let Felix Adler, founder of the Society for Ethical Culture, have the closing words. This is from his work, "An Ethical Philosophy of Life":

"The unique personality which is the real life in me, I can not gain unless I search for the real life, the spiritual quality, in others. I am myself spiritually dead unless I reach out to the fine quality dormant in others. For it is only with the god enthroned in the innermost shrine of the other, that the god hidden in me, will consent to appear."

Ok, I will let Felix Adler have the second-to-last words...

In this way, our search for truth and meaning binds us one to the other. In this way, our search for wholeness is fulfilled. In this way, we become not only what we have dreamed, but more than we could ever imagine.

- Rev. Anya

## How To Reach the Minister

Office Hours: **Tuesday - Thursday**

**10:00 – 4:00**

Available by appt: **Tuesday - Sunday**

Available **Monday** for emergencies

Day Off: **Monday**

Day for Sermon Preparation: **Friday**

Contact:

**Work:** 703-406-3068

**Home:** 703-433-5776

**Cell:** 773-206-0407

**Email:** minister@uusterling.org

I will check voice mail messages on Fridays. On Mondays, I will only check cell phone messages. In the case of an emergency, please call my cell phone.

**In November:**

**Sunday Off:** Sunday November 25

**Days away from the office:** Wednesday (Nov. 21) – Sunday (Nov. 25)

(President, Continued from page 1)

Conversely, we are fearful of the possibilities of failure despite our best efforts, that our organizational structures might overtake our care for people and principles, that we might place too many expectations on Rev. Anya, and that we might simply be spread too thin to sustain ourselves until we can grow our membership sufficiently to accomplish what we wish.

My sense of the congregation based on these takeaways is this: We are hopeful for our future, but not unrealistically so. We are apprehensive about what our future might bring, but not unreasonably so. In all, a pretty good balance with which to move forward.

### History

It's funny to think of history experienced by a congregation that's been around since 1993. Then again, we have seen a lot and endured a lot, in the process being a small congregation that became a not-so-small congregation, only to become a small congregation again.

In retrospect, what I see in our history are lessons about setting reasonable expectations, making smart staffing decisions, and ensuring that our means match our ends. In these respects I am comfortable that Rev. Anya and the UUS leadership are heeding those lessons.

### Congregational Characteristics/Norms

This is easy, because anyone who has attended UUS more than a few times can call these out off the top of their heads. We're robust, resilient survivors, are amazingly generous, value pastoral care by professional ministry, expend a tremendous amount of energy welcoming newcomers, cautiously engage in the wider moral political realm, and have a *lot* of children for whom we invest a great deal in the church.

At the same time, we struggle to define a spiritual identity, can be dogmatic about the political and religious beliefs of newcomers, tend to focus on organizational function sometimes to a fault, tend to push each other to burnout,

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# Parenting Support Groups

## On hold for now ...

Three families responded with a desire to form a parenting support group. This is a great beginning. I would like to put this project on hold until I hear from a few more interested participants. At that point, I will re-initiate the effort, hopefully, to begin in the late winter or spring.

(President, Continued from page 2)

and don't tend to handle failure of volunteer efforts gracefully.

This summary is not random: The first paragraph represents those aspects of the church we hope to preserve and build on, and the second represents those aspects of the church we hope to let go of from the past.

## Roles and Responsibilities

Rev. Melora was astounded at how well coordinated we are, how few gaps there are, and that so few of us have been trained to the tasks at hand. Of course, many of us have brought these skills in from our day jobs, but I won't tell her if you don't....)

Bottom line: we need to make sure we're only doing what we need to do, are willing to shift our efforts to cover obvious holes, are expending an amount of effort appropriate to our current membership, and are paying attention to burnout.

## Covenant Beginnings

Perhaps most importantly in the workshop, we identified those aspects of the relationship between the UUS congregation and Rev. Anya. I believe that Rev. Anya captured the essence of that relationship in a set of attributes that apply to both her and the congregation:

- Presence
- Commitment to shared vision
- Empathetic engagement
- Trust

I believe that these elements form the basis of a church in the truest sense.

Yours in Faith,  
Bryan

# New UUS Administrator

Greetings! My name is Lori Stevens and I am pleased to introduce myself as the new administrative assistant for UU Sterling. I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to work with Reverend Anya, Linda Weaver, the Board, committee members and congregants. I look forward to meeting all of you and providing you with an opportunity to know me better. Until that time, I'll tell you a little about me.

I was born in Newcastle, Indiana, and most of my family roots are in Greenfield, Indiana – home of the Hoosier Poet, James Whitcomb Riley (my favorite). I live in Sterling, Virginia with my husband John and our blended family of five. I have three children, Riley (12), Jack (9) and Lily (6). Each will be one year older between now and the end of 2007! My husband has two children, Jenny (11) and Taylor (6). Our families married on January 8, 2005 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Loudoun, where we are members. Our ceremony was performed by UUCL's former minister Reverend John Morehouse, who is currently the minister at Pacific Unitarian Church in Rancho Palos Verdes, California.

With five children comes five amazing

opportunities to serve my community. My husband and I have chosen to accept the challenge of giving back by serving as volunteers in a variety of ways within the schools (ask me about my different hats!), the county, and assorted organizations. I am given so much from my community and the people in it, nothing brings me greater pleasure than to try to return that generosity.

You will come to know me, and recognize my bright blue billboard that is my Volkswagen Eurovan, the back of which I have chosen to be my canvas. I always accept new bumper sticker donations! My most recent addition: a UUS bumper sticker.

I will be working at the UUS office part time, approximately 10 hours per week. My hours are as follows:

Monday: 12:30-2:30

Tuesday: 10:00-1:30

Thursday: 10:00-1:30

Friday: 1 floating hour

My duties vary, and chief among them is to provide assistance to your wonderful new Minister. Generally, I will help keep things running smoothly for you all as you continue to grow. Please feel free to contact me any time at [Administrator@uusterling.org](mailto:Administrator@uusterling.org), or by phone at 703-328-6518. And please make sure to stop by and say hello!



L to R: Jenny, John, Taylor, Lori, Riley, Lily, Jack

# Religious Exploration Calendar

	Date	Lower Elementary Topic	Leader / Helper	Tween Topic	Leader	Nursery Adult
November	4	Moses & the Ten Commandments	Lum Need Help	Isis and Osiris	James Fitzgerald	James Need Help
	11	David as a Boy	Chandler Bullock	Zarathustra	Rothman	Need Help
	18	Social Action Sunday – Guest at Your Table	Weaver George	Social Action Sunday – Guest at Your Tab	Weaver George	James Need Help
	25	David and the Ark	Connors Need Help	Canaanite	Fitzgerald	Need Help
December	2	Solomon Builds the Temple	Lum Need Help	Elijah	Rothman	James
	9	Social Action Sunday – Gifts with a Difference	D. Rose Weaver	Social Action Sunday – Gifts with a Difference	D. Rose Weaver	Lum
	16	Christmas People	Chandler George	Ark of YHWH	Rothman	James
	23	No RE	No RE	No RE	No RE	Need Help
January	30	Kwanzaa	Connors Need Help	Kwanzaa	Connors Need Help	Need Help
	6	No RE	No RE	No RE	No RE	Need Help
	13	The Queen of Sheba	Chandler Need Help	Prometheus	Rothman	Need Help
	20	Social Action Sunday - MLK Jr. Day	Weaver Need Help	Social Action Sunday - MLK Jr. Day	Weaver Need Help	Need Help
February	27	Elijah and Ahab	Connors George	Heracles	Fitzgerald	Need Help
	3	Elijah's Fiery Chariot	Need Help	No class – Attend Service	No class	Need Help
	10	Social Action Sunday - Valentines for Vets	Chandler Need Help	Social Action Sunday - Valentines for Vets	Chandler Need Help	Need Help
	17	Joseph and His Brothers	Connors George	Philosophy	Rothman	Need Help
	24	Joseph and His Brothers Meet Again	Need Help	Romulus	Fitzgerald	Need Help

# Religious Exploration Calendar

	Date	Lower Elementary Topic	Leader / Helper	Tween Topic	Leader	Nursery Adult
March	2	Jesus & John the Baptist	Chandler Need Help	Mary & John the Baptist	Rothman	Need Help
	9	Social Action Sunday	Weaver George	Social Action Sunday	Weaver George	Need Help
	16	Esther (Purim)	Connors Need Help	Jesus	Fitzgerald	Need Help
	23	No RE	No RE	No RE	No RE	Need Help
	30	Social Action Sunday	Weaver Need Help	Social Action Sunday	Weaver Need Help	Need Help
April	6	Ministry of Compassion	Chandler Need Help	Paul	Rothman	Need Help
	13	Jesus Teaches by Telling Stories	Connors Need Help	The Gospels	Fitzgerald	Need Help
	20	Social Action Sunday -Earth Day	Weaver Need Help	Social Action Sunday -Earth Day	Weaver Need Help	Need Help
	27	Taking Action 1	Reeder Weaver	Taking Action 1	Reeder Weaver	Need Help
May	4	Taking Action 2	Reeder Weaver	Taking Action 2	Reeder Weaver	Need Help
	11	RE Service Rehearsal	Weaver Need Help	RE Service Rehearsal	Weaver Need Help	Need Help
	18	Celebration Sunday	Chandler George	Review & Celebration	Rothman	Need Help
June	25	No RE	No RE	No RE	No RE	Need Help
	1	RE Service	No RE	No RE	No RE	Need Help
	8	Trail Clean Up	Chandler Need Help	Trail Clean Up	Chandler Need Help	Need Help
	15	Games Day	Connors George	Games Day	Connors George	Need Help



# **UUS Auction!**

## **November 17, 2007**

Well the big event is finally here! The Auction is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year as well as being a big party with lots of food, fun, and community.

The event will start at 6:30 pm on Saturday, November 17. The room will be ringed with tables of wonderful items in the silent auction. We have a wonderful selection of goodies to tempt you: beautiful jewelry, holiday décor, toys, and cool things too wonderful for the yard sale!

Take special note of the dinners and social events being offered by members and friends. Here are a few to tempt you:

- Super Bowl party at the Dick.s.
- Bonfire party at the Scher's.
- Progressive cookout with Judy Gruner, Susan Miller, and Dave Miller.
- Pampered Chef Wine Tasting Party with Dorine Scher.
- Sunset Wine and Cheese Hike with Linda Reeder.
- Cookies and Drums with Anya and Scott Sammler-Michael.
- Latin American dinner by Susan and Newt Rose.
- Armenian dinner by Stephanie and Paul Roche.
- Bridge and Chili Dinner with Judy Gruner, Mary Matheny and Al Swett.
- Brunch with the Minister with, who else but, Reverend Anya and Scott.
- Spectacular Spaghetti Dinner with Shelley Tamres.
- Gourmet Dinner with Judy Gruner, Clarice Douoguih, and Chef Gus.

By the time of the Auction, there will be plenty more!

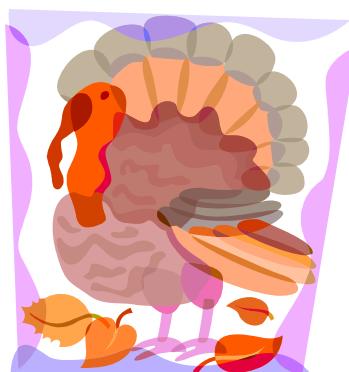
The Auction isn't just the Silent part – we have Susan Miller back by popular demand as our Auctioneer! We have handmade items, paintings, electricians and handymen being sold to the highest bidder. Hmm...that doesn't sound quite right – how about electrician and handymen services!

# **Thanksgiving Dinner UUS Style**

Bryan and Nikki George invite UUS to dinner! Lets surprise them and all show up!

As reading #468 in our hymnal reminds "We need one another," and, I'd add, when it is time to celebrate and enjoy the many harvests of the season.

Families are welcome, singles are welcome, and children are most certainly welcome. Dinner will be at 2 PM on Thanksgiving Day. RSVP to Nikki at [negeorge@mac.com](mailto:negeorge@mac.com) or (703) 707-8578. Early reservations are great, but please do not hesitate to come – even if you decide at the last minute.



Please note that Reverend Anya has offered a sermon of your choice as a live auction item! Let the bidding begin!

We also eat heartily with a potluck chili dinner being coordinated by Maureen Burns. So dust off your favorite recipe and bring a pot to share. Maureen has a sign-up sheet for the dinner so please see her soon! We also need side dishes, drinks, and beverages.

This event doesn't happen without lots of help! Please let me or Michelle James know if you can help with the logistics of setting up tables, arranging the dinner, laying out the silent auction items, keeping a tally of the winning bids, and any number of jobs that I can't remember now!

So put November 17 on your calendar, think about donations, look for your recipes, and join the fun!

See you there!

Nancy McCormick, Michelle James, and Maureen Burns.

# **Arts And Aesthetics Task Force**

**First Meeting – Sunday November 4 at 12 noon. Bring a brown-bag lunch!**

We are auditory, kinetic, and visual people. Religious and Spiritual experience interacts with all three modes of perception. Our religious space is beautiful – a testament to the love and dedication of a community. Yet we have an opportunity to enhance its beauty and functionality. Let's imagine a more welcoming, warm, and energizing space...then let's make it so!

Artists, creative thinkers, decorators, dreamers, organizers, crafters, builders, planners, etc. are welcome. We will meet no more than three times, draft a plan, and organize the effort.

Thank you, and I'll see you there.

- Rev. Anya

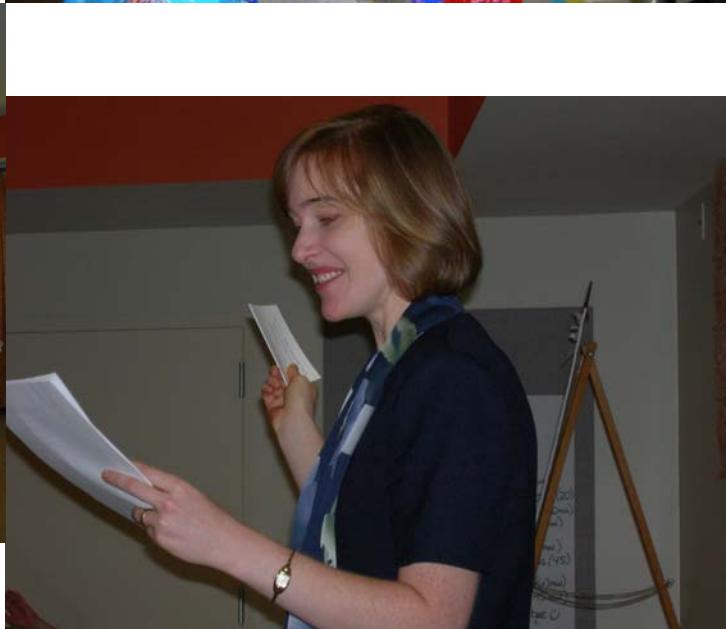


# **Calling All Musicians, Performers, Artists**

Do you dream of sharing your talents with our worshiping community? Do you have a song, a skit, a poem, or a prayer that you are itching to share? Do you play a musical instrument or dance a jig? Do you juggle or paint?

Whatever your creative passion – we (the Worship Associates and Minister) would love to work with you as we craft new ways to involve the arts in our worship experience! Please contact Rev. Anya ([minister@uusterling.org](mailto:minister@uusterling.org)) or the chair of our Worship Associates, Clarice Douoguih ([cdouoguih@hotmail.com](mailto:cdouoguih@hotmail.com)), with your ideas.

## UUS Retreat October 20, 2007



## Covenant Groups

Covenant Groups are designed to help UUS Members and Friends maintain a sense of intimacy as the congregation grows. In a Covenant Group you will develop a close bond with a small group of people, sharing experiences from your personal lives, as well as reflecting together on ethical, spiritual, and religious questions. Covenant Groups do not take the place of Sunday morning worship, but do augment and strengthen that shared experience. People come to church seeking to know themselves better, to grow in their understanding of the world, and to ponder the age-old questions of faith.

The topic for the October session was Telling Your Story. Each member related an event that made a difference or even changed his or her life. Participants were also invited to bring and share items of significance related to the event. The other members listened without interrupting in an exercise called Active Listening. It was a very interesting evening. Many participants found that the deep listening created a more focused interaction than we are accustomed to in the hustle and bustle of our day-to-day lives.

There are four groups this year, meeting once a month on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings and Tuesday noon. You can join a group by emailing Bonnie Lepoff ([blepoff@cox.net](mailto:blepoff@cox.net)) or by calling Rev Anya.



## Small Group Ministry

November starts the holiday season. Cooler weather is finally here and Christmas decorations are on display. The energy at UUS on Sunday mornings is growing. Carry that energy through the week by participating in one of these groups. Our small group ministry program is an important part of UUS, providing a way for members and friends to keep in touch and stay connected during the week. This contact can be just what you need, especially if you can't make every Sunday service. More information on all small groups is available on our website ([www.uusterling.org](http://www.uusterling.org)). Watch for announcements from these groups. UUS small groups are always open to new members.

### New Groups

It is easy to start a small group. If you like to read and would like to discuss what you read with other UUS'ers, or if you like to watch and discuss movies, or if you like to quilt or do other fabric-related things, you could start a group. More information is available on our website under the drop down menu ministry/small groups, or contact Shelley Tamres (Board liaison to Small Groups) at [shelleytam@aol.com](mailto:shelleytam@aol.com).

### Choir

The choir rehearses Monday evenings plus Sunday mornings when we sing, which is at least two Sundays a month. We are always looking for new members. See our music director, Dan Boothe, or any choir member if you are interested in joining the choir.

### Covenant Groups

Covenant Groups meet once a month during the school year to discuss a topic related to spiritual growth. As a member of a group, you will be able to engage in deeper conversations than coffee hours permit, and you will get to know the other members of your group in a way that might not otherwise be possible. You don't want to miss this opportunity! There are four groups this year, meeting once a month on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings and Tuesday at noon.

Rev. Anya is working with the groups this year, so be prepared for some interesting session topics! Send an email to Bonnie Lepoff at [blepoff@cox.net](mailto:blepoff@cox.net) or contact Rev. Anya if you are interested in joining a group or just learning more.

### Elder Care Support Group

The Elder Care Support Group meets for breakfast at 8:30 am the second Sunday of each month at the Virginia Kitchen in Herndon to discuss issues related to caring for our parents. The coffee is always ready for us. If you would like to join this support group, contact Mike Berger at [m.d.berger@ieee.org](mailto:m.d.berger@ieee.org) or just show up.

### Men's Spirituality Group

The Men's Spirituality Group meets at the church on the second Friday of the month from 8-11 pm. If you are interested in joining this friendly game of poker, contact Tony Thede at [tdthede@yahoo.com](mailto:tdthede@yahoo.com).

### Stream Monitoring

The UUS Stream Monitoring Group monitors Beaverdam Run in Ashburn. Members get together periodically to conduct a habitat survey and a biological survey according to a protocol. Results are submitted to the Loudoun County Wildlife Conservancy and the Loudoun County Watershed Watch and used for the annual "The State of Loudoun Streams" report. The Stream Monitoring Group encourages environmental stewardship, and is an opportunity to learn, interact, and commune with our local environment in a family-friendly, fun outdoor activity. Contact Scott Findley at [sfind39@aol.com](mailto:sfind39@aol.com) for more information.

### Women's Earth-Based Spirituality Group (WEBS)

In this circle of UUS women, we explore the UUA sixth source of wisdom - "Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature". The UUS WEBS Group usually meets the fourth Friday of every month. Watch for the announcements. For more information contact Kim Fitzgerald at [Kimberly.fitzgerald@ngc.com](mailto:Kimberly.fitzgerald@ngc.com).

# Religious Exploration

November has arrived and hopefully so has the cool fall weather. With the autumn chill and falling leaves come two traditions at UUS, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF and Guest at Your Table. Both provide opportunities for our children to learn more about the experiences of people in other parts of the world. They also allow us all to support others striving to improve their own lives.

On October 28, the children began raising money through **Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF**. Donations aid children around the world by providing items such as medicine, clean water, and school supplies. Money for this program will be accepted at church until November 11. You can also donate to UNICEF at a Coinstar® machine, online, or by phone.

**Guest at Your Table** will begin November 18. This program raises funds for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's work to advance human rights and promote social justice. You can contribute and be a part of this UU tradition by placing a Guest at Your Table box on your family's table. Put some money in the box at each meal through the holiday season and discuss what it means to welcome a guest to your table.

Donations to Guest at Your Table may be applied toward membership in UUSC. Memberships are \$40 per person, \$10 for students and youth, \$20 for seniors (65 years and older), and \$75 for a dual general membership (two adults). The UU congregation at Shelter Rock will match all individual and family unrestricted contributions of \$100 or more.



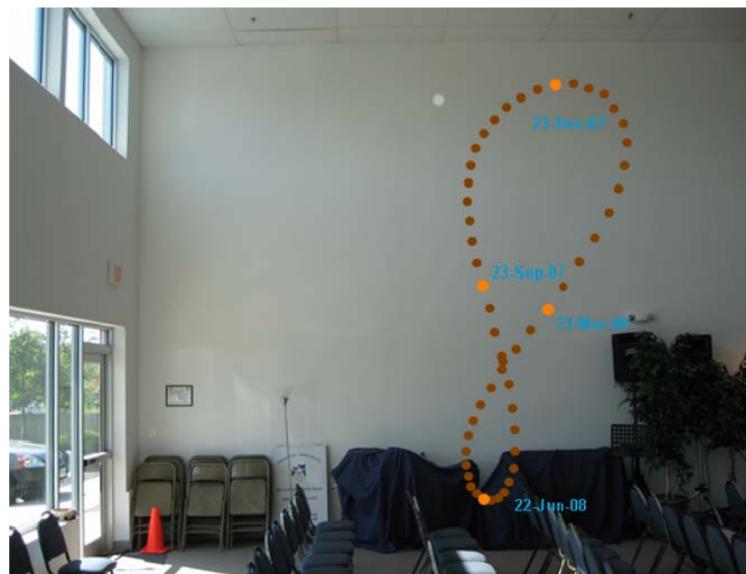
## Analemma Project

On November 4, we will inaugurate a new feature of our worship space—an analemma.

An analemma is simply this: If you record the position of the sun in the sky at the same time every day, let's say at 10:30 AM EST (the time our service begins, when on standard time, or ends, when on daylight saving time), you would notice that at certain times throughout the year the sun's position not only varies higher and lower (North and South) as you would expect with the change of the seasons, but also slightly east and west. This figure-8 path that the sun makes in the sky is called the analemma. You may be familiar with seeing this figure on sundials and globes

One of the distinctive architectural features of our sanctuary is our eastern-facing clerestory windows, which bless us with streams of sunshine during our Sunday morning services. You may have observed how the beams move around during the service. The exact way that these beams and shadows move is a function of the orientation of our building, and the time of day.

Over the last few months we have been experimenting with placing a mirror in the southernmost clerestory window that projects a spot of light onto the south wall. We now have the placement where we want, so now we can simply make a mark on the wall at 10:30 EST every week or so for year. These marks will form an analemma that will look approximately like this:



## Roving Reporter

### By Susan Rose

The eve of All Saints' Day, or Halloween, is already upon us! What costume will you be wearing?

Holly (9) a Frankenstein person!

Madison (7) a pirate!

Tim (5) Batman!

Anna (7) a princess!

Molly (5) a ballerina!

Molly (7) a vampire!

Maggie (3) a ballerina!

November 4 is the perfect time to begin this project since it is the first Sunday after the annual Fall change back to Standard Time.

Creating an analemma on the wall of our sanctuary would be a focal point for an artistic and unique interior design with a wealth of symbolic meaning. It would tie us to the changing of the seasons in a post-agricultural world. The shape of the analemma itself suggests the symbol for infinity, and yet it is a momentary phenomenon situating us in the Cosmos at a particular time and place. If you have some brilliant ideas for how to work this symbol into the larger concept of our beautiful worship space, please be sure to attend the Arts and Aesthetics Task Force.

# UUS Board Meeting Highlights

October 9, 2007

## Communication (Jeff Chandler)

Board members and committee chairs need to look at Web site and request any changes through web masters.

Sunday snacks for time of fellowship are scheduled by month/last name.

## Denominational Affairs (Dave Miller)

Congregational Retreat/Ministerial Startup - Coordination with JPD and Facilitator, Rev Lynngood, has been ongoing by many parties.

Liberal Religious Revival activities were advertised.

Scott Sammler-Michael is publicizing the Juubilee Celebration on Oct 13th at All Souls

## Finance (Paul Roche)

### Alyssa Lum)

Our financial situation continues to look fairly strong.

## Fundraising (Alyssa Lum)

Nancy is making good progress on the auction in November. Maureen Burns has volunteered to coordinate the dinner part of the event, so Nancy is concentrating on drumming up ideas and donations for the auction.

Michelle James has volunteered to co-chair the fundraising efforts throughout the year with Nancy.

## Membership (Jeff Chandler)

Reviewing the committee structure and charter. On Rev Anya's suggestion it was agreed that it will be useful to cast the committee functions into three areas:

Volunteer Coordinator

Caring and Concerns

Membership Duties.

Shannon presented the work on our New Member Packet; the committee is happy with the work.

Scott Sammler-Michael will provide Greeter Training based on Radical Hospitality Workshop. Location and duration of training TBD, but may not

be at the Davis Dr church.

## Minister (Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael)

We are drawing to the close our first month of working together to serve UUS. It has been a full month of learning, beginning, and developing. Much of my work has been organizational – from organizing the office files to designing a new way for the Worship Associates to function as a committee. I have also had the opportunity to meet with many of our members – sharing conversations that help us better understand one another and support one another as we dream a future for our congregation.

## Ministry (Bryan George)

The Committee on Ministry (COM) has reformed with Stephanie Roche as chair.

The COM has re-considered its charter and role in the congregation. The current members and minister are interested in expanding the role of the COM to move beyond the model of "supporting the minister" to "supporting the ministry of the congregation." They will monitor the way that the congregation ministers to itself, the way that individuals minister to individuals and the way the minister ministers to the congregation and its individuals. This role expansion will enable the COM to work with the congregation as a whole to enable a nurturing and healthy environment.

## Music (Scott Findley)

### Mary Matheny)

The choir reinstated practice in late August to begin preparation for the new year beginning in September. Our music director, Dan, joined us again on October 1st, after taking a few weeks off after becoming a new daddy. We are working on short pieces to be used as an adjunct to our regular performances, in addition to pieces for our regular performances.

In October we will begin to look at some options for fundraisers for the purchase of UU Supplemental Hymnal's for the congregation.

The choir director and minister are working closely with the choir committee to ensure as a goal the integration of a variety of music into the church services.

The September 7th performance of the Concert Series with Tom & Linda Teasely was well attended and enjoyed by all.

## Religious Education (Linda Weaver)

Led RE Leader and Assistant Orientation with Rev. Anya and Deb Rose. Deb led a section on including children with varying abilities.

K-3rd and Youth Group rooms are at capacity. 4th-7th room would be above capacity if fully attended. A second space has been identified for each class.

## Social Action (Shelley Tamres)

After meeting with Rev. Anya re the Social Action committee, Linda Reeder has decided that her true interest at the moment is specifically in a Partner Church opportunity as opposed to taking over the SA committee. It has been agreed to allow the SA committee to remain dormant for a few more months, probably until spring. I'm hoping that a part of the Congregational retreat in Oct. will address Social Action and just what the Congregation envisions at this point in our existence.

## Worship Associates (Judy Gruner)

Rev Anya also developed a proposal to divide the WA into Service Planning and Sunday Services subgroups. I will send this out to you for discussion at this meeting.

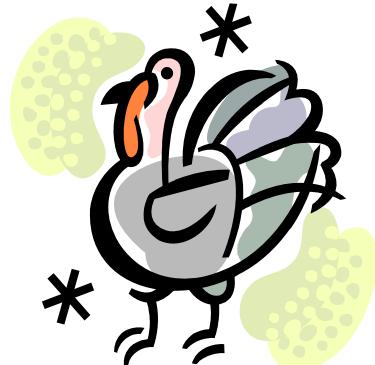
We also must find a guest speaker/service for Nov 18. Rob Keitan is not available.

## Board Host Schedule

November

4	Jeff Chandler
11	Judy Gruner
18	Bryan George
25	Shelley Tamres

Next board meeting (7 PM @ UUS):



# November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
				7:00PM-9:30PM Board Meeting - <a href="#">Bryan George</a>		5:00PM-10:00PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
10:30AM-11:30AM Worship Service "Nurturing Community" by Rev. Anya Sammler; <b>Children:</b> Moses & the Ten Commandments (Chandler, Confoy)/Isis and Osiris (Fitzgerald); Nursery: James 3:30PM-9:30PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy	7:30PM-9:00PM <a href="#">Choir Rehearsal</a> - Mary Matheny				7:00PM Men's Spirituality - <a href="#">Tony Thede</a>	6:00AM-5:00PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
8:30AM - <a href="#">Elder Care</a> Breakfast @ Virginia Kitchen in Herndon - <a href="#">Mike Berger</a> 10:30AM-11:30AM Worship Service "Veteran's Words - Poems on War, Poems on Peace" by Rev. Anya Sammler; <b>Children:</b> David as a Boy (Chandler, Bullock)/Zarathustra (Rothman); Nursery: help needed 3:30PM-9:30PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy	7:30PM-9:00PM <a href="#">Choir Rehearsal</a> - Mary Matheny	Tuesday Night <a href="#">Covenant Group</a> - Sterling		Thursday Night <a href="#">Covenant Group</a> - Ashburn	December Newsletter Deadline	5:00PM-10:00PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
10:30AM-11:30AM Worship Service "Guest at Your Table" by Rev. Anya Sammler; <b>Children:</b> Social Action Sunday – Guest at Your Table (Weaver, George); Nursery: James 3:30PM-9:30PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy	7:30PM-9:00PM <a href="#">Choir Rehearsal</a> - Mary Matheny  Monday Night <a href="#">Covenant Group</a> - Reston				7:00PM-10:00PM <a href="#">Women's Spirituality</a> - <a href="#">Kim Fitzgerald</a>	5:00PM-10:00PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Sunday Coffee Hour</b>	
10:30AM-11:30AM Worship Service by Worship Committee; <b>Children:</b> David and the Ark (Connors, Thede/Canaanite (Fitzgerald); Nursery: help needed 3:30PM-9:30PM AAFCJ - Joan Confoy	7:30PM-9:00PM <a href="#">Choir Rehearsal</a> - Mary Matheny	Tuesday Noon <a href="#">Covenant Group</a> - Sterling	7:00PM-9:00PM Membership Committee - <a href="#">Mike Masiak</a>		We all enjoy coffee and conversation after the service ... and we really enjoy all the scrumptious treats! Below is the schedule for your family's turn to bring in something wholesome to share. Try to avoid crumbly things that will drop on the floor. Non-sugary things are also very appreciated.	



Month	Last Name
November	D - F
December	G - K
January	L - P
February	R - S
March	T - Z
April	A - C
May	D - F
June	G - K

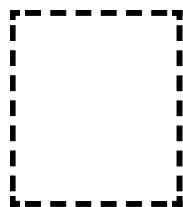
**Unitarian Universalists of Sterling**

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### ***Your Church Leadership***

**Minister:** Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael

**Director of Religious Exploration:** Linda Weaver; **Music Director:** Daniel Boothe

**Board of Trustees:** President - Bryan George Vice President - Dave Miller Secretary - Jeff Chandler

Co-Treasurers - Alyssa Lum and Paul Roche At-large - Gus Douoguih, Judy Gruner, Scott Findley, Shelley Tamres

### ***UUS Mission Covenant Statement***

The Unitarian Universalists of Sterling offer a place where reason and spirituality converge. We welcome members of the community who are seeking such a religious home.

Our mission is to make the community a better place to live by promoting a variety of religious expressions, working toward social justice, and fostering diversity. In order to carry out this mission, we covenant to listen to each other, encourage the exchange of creative thought, and respect our differences.

### ***UUS Sunday Services 10:30 a.m.***

**Unitarian Universalists of Sterling** meets at the Sterling Oaks Commerce Center Sterling, a handicapped accessible 24-7 facility, located on 22135 Davis Drive near Route 28 and Church Road in Sterling, Virginia. Child care and children's religious education are both provided during worship services. Dress is casual. Children are encouraged to wear play clothes.

From Northbound Route 28: Take Route 28 North exit from the Dulles Toll Road. Turn right at Church Road. Turn right on Davis Drive. Go about one block and turn right into the parking lot.

From Southbound Route 28: Take Route 28 south from Route 7. Turn left at Church Road. Turn right on Davis Drive. Go about one block and turn right into the parking lot.

From Westbound Route 7: Turn left at Sterling Boulevard. Turn right at Church Road. Go three miles. Turn left on Davis Drive. Go about one block and turn right into the parking lot.

### ***What's with UUS***

**Communications Committee Chair:** Terry Dick; **Editor:** Linda Reeder

**Production:** Jeff Chandler, Susan Miller

**Board Liaison:** Jeff Chandler

To submit material for publication send by email to [uus-newsletter@yahoogroups.com](mailto:uus-newsletter@yahoogroups.com)

### ***Submission Deadlines***

11/16/07 for December

12/21/07 for January

1/18/08 for February

2/15/08 for March