



# What's with UUS

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



## Minister's Message



### Open Doors, Open Arms

Rev. Anya  
Sammler-Michael

The term “radical hospitality” is batted about with a b a n d o n i n

Unitarian Universalist circles, but what does it mean and what can it teach us? To be radically hospitable is to be more than welcoming. A congregation that is welcoming has open doors. It does not discriminate. Radically hospitable congregations know that their work does not stop at the door, but in their own hearts.

Radical hospitality is not easy. If it were, it wouldn't be worth pursuing.

I experienced radical hospitality as a guest at St. James Episcopal church in Leesburg. I taught one session of a six-week class there called “Six Voices Six Faiths” and attended a few of the other sessions. One session I attended was led by Pastor Kate from St. James. During the question and answer period, Pastor Kate paused after a particularly difficult question and asked me if I could add my reflections. I am certain that Pastor Kate and I have different theological perspectives, yet she offered me, a fellow member of the clergy, the opportunity to respond. And more so, she humbled herself by welcoming my comments during her class session in her congregational home. I was awed and humbled by her generosity of spirit.

Indeed, radical hospitality originates in the generosity of spirit – in our willingness to let go of our egos or even our supposed needs so we can truly welcome “the stranger” with open arms.

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## President's Message



### It's All About Balance

Bonnie Lepoff

Life is a balance. At times, that balance is like a y o g a p o s e .

Sometimes we are standing in mountain pose, firmly on both feet, hands at our sides, ready to take on the world. That balanced confident stance feels good, doesn't it? There have been times in my life when that has been my stance. I felt that way last May after our annual meeting. I was ready for anything.

Sometimes we are standing on one foot, in star pose, concentrating intently on one part of our life, with the other leg and both arms fully extended helping to keep us in balance. That “one part” was work when I started a new job several years ago: I had to study hard to conquer that learning curve. That one part was close family in 2003 when my mother died and a much happier extended family when I got married in 2006.

Now I find myself in a triangle pose, both feet on the ground but arms extended. I am balancing my family responsibilities and my church responsibilities with some concentration and “a little help from my friends.”

In life, as in yoga, we flow through these poses. What we are balancing changes; how much help we need changes. What is constant is the fact of change, and hopefully, the support you get from the UUS spiritual community.

I make this analogy and this point to tell you about Cathy Tucker. She thought she was balancing well in star pose, managing the work, family, and church

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## Worship Calendar

Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael

The October 2009 liturgical theme is **change**. We will address this theme throughout the month in a variety of ways.

**October 4th** – “An Animal Blessing”  
Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael leads this annual intergenerational service that honors our non-biped friends and companions. We will have an opportunity to honor our dear departed pets as well as the animals that share our lives presently. All are encouraged to bring a memento or picture of the animal they would like to honor. Our choir, led by Kris Adams, will sing, and we will begin with a hymn sing at 10:15. Newcomers: an inquirer's class will follow the service at noon.

**October 11th** – “Revisiting Change”  
Pete Fontneau, a seminarian and member of the Accotink UU Church, leads our service, which features a tablespoon of history, a dash of philosophy, a cup of language, and a quart of Unitarian Universalists. Pete is a third-year student at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington and is currently working part time in social justice coordination in the George Mason University campus ministry program.

**October 18th** – “Spiritual Health in Trying Times”  
Life is never simple. It is always complex and each generation encounters new forms of complexity. The times we are living are taxing us in novel and profound ways. How can we respond to sustain a semblance of spiritual health? What does the African American tradition of Blues music teach us about finding strength in our struggles? Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael will lead our service and the JUUS-UUS band will share the blues.

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(Minister Continued from page 1)

By “the stranger,” I mean a person who is on the outside of whatever group or community we call our own.

Many “strangers” visit our Sunday services. Some come with different views and different needs. I don’t expect that all will find sustenance in our community but I am honored to serve the Unitarian Universalists of Sterling when I watch as our open doors lead directly to open arms – when someone is welcomed with radical hospitality, and finds, if only for one morning, that they are not a stranger here.

May this necessary work continue and may it sustain us as well.

## Contacting Rev. Anya

E-mail: [minister@uusterling.org](mailto:minister@uusterling.org)

Electronic communication can be faulty. If you try and email me and I do not respond, please telephone.

Work: 703-406-3068; Home: 703-433-5776; Cell: 703-731-9018

Day off: Tuesday; Sermon Writing Day: Friday

Office Hours: M – 10-4, W – 2-7, TH – 10-2. Please email or call to schedule an appointment.

(Worship Calendar Continued from page 1)

**October 25th** – “Visions of Liberation” In the second service in her series, “Our Liberal Religious Landscape,” Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael delves into Liberation Theology and asks what would Liberation Theology in a UU context look like? What are we poised to liberate? The choir, led by Kris Adams, will perform.

**November 1st** – “A Modern ‘Saint’– The Poems and Promise of Sonya Sanchez” On the day known as All Saints Day in the Catholic calendar, Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael reflects on the life and works of Sonya Sanchez, an inspirational poet who said, “Fear will give you the energy to save just you... Love will give you the energy to save you and others.” A hymn sing will begin at 10:20; an inquirer’s class for newcomers will follow the service.

(President Continued from page 1)

aspects of her life. Her workload increased and she needed to have both feet on the ground. To do this, she made the hard decision to resign from her position as vice-president at UUS. We will miss her on the Board even as we support her decision.

As you flow through these poses of life balance, UUS is there for you. We are a strong congregation because we recognize the importance of helping each other find that balance. We are stronger together because we do so with open hearts and open arms.

UUS is here for you.

Bonnie Lepoff  
[blepoff@cox.net](mailto:blepoff@cox.net)

## Transition on the Board of Trustees

### Board of Trustees

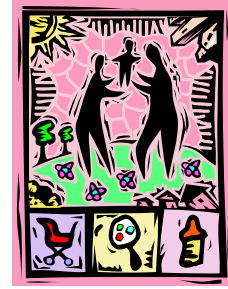
The work of the Board of Trustees is strenuous. Sometimes elected members choose to resign when they find that the work is simply too much. The board understands these resignations and hopes that every volunteer at UUS takes care of him or herself.

Our vice president, Cathy Tucker, has chosen to resign. We will miss her leadership but honor her decision. The Board hopes to fill the open position by their November meeting. The new Vice President (per our by-laws) will be chosen by the Board, and then elected, if they choose to fulfill another term, at our next congregational meeting in May.

**Save the Date for the UUS Auction**

Nancy McCormick

The UUS auction is on November 7, 2009, from 6:00 p.m. - ???



## Parents Support Circle

Brought to you by the Lifespan Faith Development Council. Sunday, October 18, at 12:00 noon in the Religious Exploration area – with lunch and childcare provided!

Parents, we have listened and we would like to support you! It is difficult to bring up liberally religious children in Loudoun County. The parents support circle will meet monthly. Guests will be invited to speak on issues of interest. Childcare will always be available. Come to this first gathering and share your particular needs/hopes, so we can design a year of programming that is right for you!

## Lifespan Faith Development Council

The new Lifespan Faith Development Council has already met twice and is hard at work. The council’s mission is to provide opportunities for members and friends of all ages to question, grow, and celebrate in community. The council members are Susan Miller, liaison to Adult RE; Bob Brown, liaison to the Youth Group; Kim Fitzgerald, liaison to the Middle School Class; Sonya Connors, liaison to the K-5 class; Karen Houck, liaison to the Nursery and PreK; and Karen Saifer-Ward, liaison to Space and Facilities. Belinda Bullock is council’s liaison to the Board.

## Religious Exploration

An exciting new year has begun in Children's Religious Exploration. Children in preschool, elementary school and middle school have been meeting with their adult leaders and their peers since September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Each Sunday, preschoolers gather for a short circle time with a story and activity.

During the first RE session, on September 20<sup>th</sup>, the children in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade created 8" friends. For the rest of the year the children will learn more about each of these friends' religions and cultures. On September 27<sup>th</sup> they were introduced to Judaism and Roshanah by the imaginary friend Rachel. In October they will continue to explore Judaism and learn about Sukkot and Passover with the help of two more imaginary friends and a variety of fun activities. It is hoped that the children will gain a basic understanding and appreciation of Judaism and discover the diversity within Judaism. It is especially hoped the children will discover the similarities they share with all of their classmates, friends, and neighbors and realize that they are much more alike than different.

The middle school group gained familiarity with the *Neighboring Faiths* curriculum and worked on building community during the September sessions. In October they will continue to discuss the faiths they would like to explore and the local faith communities they might visit this year .

**To find out more** about the children's RE program, check out the website at [www.uusterling.org](http://www.uusterling.org), the brochures near the door at UUS or contact Linda Weaver at [re-director@uusterling.org](mailto:re-director@uusterling.org).



## Roving Reporter

Susan Rose

Are you happy or sad that it's fall and school is back in session?

Makayla (9) I'm happy because I get to see all my friends!

Ally (8) Fall makes me feel good 'cuz of the weather, and I feel I have a lot to do!

Matthew (15) School means being back with friends but a lot of homework! (The teachers are good.)

Molly (7) Fall and school make me feel happy, 'cuz of more activities, and everyone's back together again!

Miles (8) I'm not so glad 'cuz summer never lasts long enough!

Evan (7) I'm happy 'cuz I like being back taking math! (I like school.)

Luke (7) I'm a little nervous (since I skipped first grade), but happy. I have a lot of new things in my life (including homework)!

## Special Events

**Oct. 18 – RE Social Justice Sunday – “Using New Words to Meet Your Needs”** - will be led by Susan Miller, a Loudoun County Public Schools teacher. Held during our regular RE time, children will participate in activities that will introduce them to other languages and help them understand the experiences of children who are new to a country and its language.

**Oct. 25 - 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m. – Middle School Parents' Meeting** – Parents of middle school children meet to learn about the plans for the year, which include a number of field trips.

**Nov. 1 – K-5 Open House and Parents' Meeting** – Everyone is invited to visit the K-5 classrooms after the service to see what the children are doing. Parents meet with class leaders and assistants from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. to find out more about this year's program.



## Children's Religious Exploration Schedule

	Preschool Circle	Kindergarten - 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Middle School
<b>Oct. 4</b>	Animals	Attend Intergenerational Service	Attend Intergenerational Service
<b>Oct. 11</b>	Leaves	Judaism – Sukkot	What Faiths Do We Want to Learn About?
<b>Oct. 18</b>	Trees	RE Social Justice Sunday	RE Social Justice Sunday
<b>Oct. 25</b>	Monsters Can be Nice	Judaism – Passover	Worship
<b>Nov. 1</b>	Differences	Earth-centered - Mabon	Judaism
<b>Nov. 8</b>	Boys & Girls	Earth-centered – Wampanoag Cranberry Day	Judaism
<b>Nov. 15</b>	Black is Beautiful	RE Social Justice Sunday	RE Social Justice Sunday
<b>Nov. 22</b>	Thanksgiving	Attend Intergenerational Service	Attend Intergenerational Service
<b>Nov. 29</b>	Church	Earth-centered - Hopi	Judaism

To find the names of the leaders and assistants for each session, go to the UUS calendar at <http://www.uusterling.org/>, find the correct month and day and then click on the RE class session you would like to view.

## Walk for Hunger ... or Run for Children's Hearts

Would you like to participate in the Purcellville Crop Walk on October 24, 2009? This is a family-friendly 5-mile long walk along the most gorgeous section of the Washington and Old Dominion Trail. Funds raised will support Church World Services hunger and refugee related projects around the world; 25 percent will be donated directly to Loudoun Interfaith Relief. Or, if you prefer to run, INOVA Fairfax Pediatric Heart Center is holding an 8K run on October 10 (8:00 a.m. start). Funds benefit their 186 bed full-service children's hospital. To register or inquire about both events, contact Rev. Anya at minister@uusterling.org. or 703-406-3068 (ex.2)

## Virginia Countryside & UU History Mystery Tour

October 9-11, 2009

Enjoy a beautiful fall weekend in the historic Virginia and West Virginia countryside and learn about a piece of little known UU history in the process. Members of the UU Church of Loudoun will guide you through your tour of historic villages and towns in Loudoun County, Virginia.

The tour also includes a day trip to beautiful Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, to mark the 150th anniversary of the John Brown raid. Uncover the truth about three UUs who abandoned their pacifist roots to support this historic raid.

A special children's program is offered by the UU Church of Loudoun's Religious Education Director (for ages 10-17 - see registration form for cost). For more information and to register for the tour, visit [www.loudoun.org/tour](http://www.loudoun.org/tour). If you have any questions, contact Brenda Davis at [tour@uuloudoun.org](mailto:tour@uuloudoun.org).

## UUS Craft Night

Michelle James

The next craft night is Thursday, October 1, from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the church. Bring your own craft and join us for conversation and to admire and assist with each others crafts. Kids are welcome but childcare is not provided. This is a drop-in group with no agenda, so feel free to come late or leave early as your schedule requires. Knitting assistance will be available. Contact Michelle James (703-327-0958 [mnpjames@verizon.net](mailto:mnpjames@verizon.net)) with questions.

## 5th Annual JPD Anti-Racism Conference

The Unitarian Universalist Association is committed to Anti-racism work. The 5th Annual JPD Anti-Racism Conference – "Multicultural Families" is scheduled for Saturday, October 17, 2009, at the UU Church of Annapolis - 333 Dubois Road, Annapolis, MD 21401. Information about the keynote speaker, workshops, meals, and local hotel/home hospitality is available on the JPD website: [www.jpduua.org](http://www.jpduua.org)

## Social Justice Ministry at UUS

Unitarian Universalists of Sterling Social Justice Ministries

**Nurturing our spirits—to heal our world:** The Social Justice Council has worked to categorize and define the work we do as a community in support of Social Justice. We do a lot! Please take a look and see if there is anything you would like to get involved in.

**Neighborhood Support and Service:** *Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter*, LAWS (Funding, Education) — Raise awareness within our community of the shelter's work, sell "Pins for Lucinda" (proceeds benefit LAWS), sell Scrip to donate, contribute one month's social justice collection plate, and support the Holiday Coalition program. Bonnie Lepoff at [blepoff@cox.net](mailto:blepoff@cox.net)

**Loudoun County – Community Building:** *Loudoun Interfaith BRIDGES* (Direct Service, Funding, Advocacy) — Support the efforts of our local interfaith organization by sending representatives to monthly meetings; marching annually in the MLK parade in Leesburg; and supporting and attending BRIDGES events. Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael at [minister@uusterling.org](mailto:minister@uusterling.org)

*Loudoun Interfaith Food Bank* (Education, Funding, Collection) — Raise awareness of the need for food and the presence of hunger in Loudoun County; give one month's social justice collection plate, and in the same month, collect non-perishable food items for donation. Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael at [minister@uusterling.org](mailto:minister@uusterling.org)

*Rebuilding Together* (Direct Service, Funding) — Repair the home of a family selected by the local Habitat for Humanity program; raise funds to support this work.

**International Solidarity:** *Partner Church in Kut India* (Direct Service, Funding, Education) — Support our Partner Church in Kut through the work of the Partner Church Council with independent giving, one month's social justice collection plate, letter writing between UUS members and children and the children of the Unitarian School, and educate our community regarding the nature of life and the needs of the people of Kut and the Khasi Hills in India. Linda Reeder at [mlreeder@gmail.com](mailto:mlreeder@gmail.com).

**Work for the Earth:** *Green Sanctuary* (Direct Service, Education, Funding, Advocacy) — Create a green sanctuary by strengthening the connection between spiritual practice and Earth consciousness, encouraging green lifestyles, engaging in environmental community action, and working to heal environmental injustices. John Botts at [Johnabotts@aol.com](mailto:Johnabotts@aol.com)

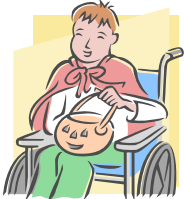


## Sunday Treats

Terry Dick

We all enjoy coffee and a bite to eat after our Sunday morning service. If you would like to help provide treats, see this list. Please bring treats that are not crumbly and do not require utensils.

If your last name starts with	Your months are.....
A - C	Sept. & March
D - G	Oct. & April
H - Ma	Nov. & May
Mc - P	Dec. & June
R - S	Jan. & July
T - Z	Feb. & Aug



## Including All Children

Sally Patton's *Involve* training will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring, MD, on Saturday, Nov. 21, 2009, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sally Patton, Ed. M. Dev. Psychology, has advocated and worked for children with special needs for over 35 years. She now offers this workshop to increase sensitivity to the needs of children with special challenges, help congregations include these children and their families in the life of their churches, and provide specific strategies for teaching and ministering to children with special needs. UUS would like to send several people and is covering the fees. To register or to find out more contact Linda Weaver at [re-director@uusterling.org](mailto:re-director@uusterling.org).

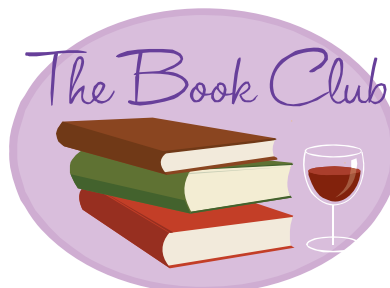
## Movie Night and Discussion

As a reminder of our commitment to the "Welcoming Congregation" covenant, the Membership Committee will sponsor a movie night with discussion on Friday evening, Oct. 16, at 7:00. Coffee and dessert will be served and childcare will be available. The film is "The Gay Marriage Thing," Directed by Stephanie Higgs, 2005.

Review: "The Gay Marriage Thing" is not some historical commentary on gay rights in the United States. It is instead a small story with big implications. By focusing on one suburban couple and the multitude of events that directly affect that couple's otherwise average life, "The Gay Marriage Thing" strives to show a different side of this issue than documentaries or television newscasts have thus far. This tale is cinematic in its storytelling, rather than journalistic in its reporting. There are plenty of other worthy documentaries where "experts" abound. But this film is about the biggest experts of all, real people. With protesters and their colorful signs serving as a Greek chorus, and an array of opinions from church, state, and everyone in between, this is the film that family members can finally watch together. "The Gay Marriage Thing" is the documentary that opens dialogue, fully expecting the audience to continue it.

## UUS Book Group

Join us October 19, 2009, 7:00 p.m. at UUS for a discussion of the historical fiction novel about the survival of the Sarajevo Haggadah, People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks. We will have good conversation and snacks as usual! Contact Janice Thede at [jmt330@yahoo.com](mailto:jmt330@yahoo.com) or Joan Johnson at [jojo080186@yahoo.com](mailto:jojo080186@yahoo.com)



## Social Justice Empowerment Cluster Workshop

Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael

November 14, 2009

Thomas Paine Unitarian Universalist Fellowship / 3424 Ridge Pike Collegeville, PA 19426

Need help launching or strengthening your congregation's social justice program? The UUA is offering a one day training on effective social justice programs that are working in other congregations, how to develop action groups, the role of a coordinating council or social justice committee, involving congregation members in the programs, funding justice programs, choosing issues to work on, using UU social justice resources and programs, and how to evaluate your social justice program.

There will be experienced and effective leaders, small group dialogue, time to share in large group, presentations, worship, food, music, printed materials, a post-workshop organizing strategy, and formats that work.

Cluster workshops are now available and held for teams from congregations (2 or more people) and cost \$200 per team (up to 4 people). For teams of 5 or more the rate is \$200 for the first four and add \$25 per person for each additional person. Handbooks are provided by the UUA.

We need at least 4 congregations (excluding the hosting congregation) for this workshop to occur, so please respond as soon as possible.

For more information please contact Dorothy Tarka at [dtarka@verizon.net](mailto:dtarka@verizon.net).

# UUS Board of Trustees

Joan Johnson

## Meeting Minutes of September 2, 2009

### Present:

Minister: Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael  
President: Bonnie Lepoff  
Treasurer: Paul Roche  
Secretary: Joan Johnson  
At-Large: Ken Ward  
Director of Religious Exploration: Linda Weaver  
Former President: Dave Miller  
Youth Member: Julia Burns

At-Large: Linda Reeder

### Absent:

Vice President: Cathy Tucker  
At-Large: Belinda Bullock  
At-Large: Dorine Scher

### Old Business: Review of action items from August minutes:

Staff Contracts. Dave provided the staff contracts for signature.

Personnel Committee. The Board discussed naming a third member for this committee. Rev. Anya will submit nominees via email for selection. We discussed the need to write procedures in general and in particular for staff evaluations and other staff matters. We discussed whether this should be a Board assignment or a separate ad-hoc committee. Tabled until next month.

Issue Board contact list to the Board. Done

Retain second child caregiver. Done. We will need another caregiver for the nursery when absence for maternity leave occurs in April 2010.

Dave submitted the latest floor plan and it was reviewed after the Board meeting.

A Social Justice committee meeting will be held Labor Day. Yvonne Centala will be on the Social Justice Council. The meeting will be to develop the calendar for the social justice activities identified in the small groups. A written vision/outline is pending.

Website maintenance. The new administrator will be updating the calendar on the website for regularly scheduled events and routine uploads. We need a designated webmaster who

will coordinate with the new administrator. After discussion, Linda Reeder agreed to approach a member about this. This role is for a responsible person with the authority to coordinate and make sure the site is kept up to date, not necessarily to fix any technical problems.

Organize painting weekend. Done.

Approach Nancy about next year's auction. Done

Issue committee chair list to Board. Joan will send the list of committees to the Board Liaisons and ask for the names of each committee chair.

### New Business:

**New space.** Dave reported that the cable company will be vacating at end of November. There are no major issues for the architect. We have to add a drinking fountain and motion sensors for energy savings. Dave sent the floor plan to the Board for comment and received none. The landlord needs to discuss the site plan with the county. If the site plan does have to be resubmitted for County approval, we would need to execute the new lease first. The Board decided that Dave, Rev. Anya, and Bonnie will review and finalize the site plan; Dave will then submit it to the landlord.

**JPD Grant.** No update at this time. Belinda will report next month.

**Strategic Plan.** Joan to make updates to plan and submit to Rev. Anya to be finalized for uploading to the website.

**Institutional Vitality Ministry.** Rev. Anya will add a facility group under this ministry that will address the build-out, improvements, aesthetics, maintenance, and supplies.

**By-Laws.** Joan handed out copies of the By-laws. Updates to the by-laws will be discussed next month.

**Upcoming JPD workshops.** Board agreed to focus on the following workshops while encouraging participation by all congregants in any workshop. The focus will be: Worship Experiential, RE Workshop, and Social Justice. We need to issue UUS Announcements for workshops. Tech summit is scheduled for Sept. 26, 2009.

**Finance Report.** Paul noted that we had a reduction in pledges and our reserve

has now been met. Cat plans to attend the Finance Committee next week.

**Board Host Duties.** Rev. Anya is updating this and the OOS and will distribute for comments.

**Calendar Review.** Officer Installation is on Sept. 27; Auction is on Nov 7.

**All Church Retreat** at Reston is Sept 27: Linda Reeder will be registrar; Julia will help with charades; Belinda will pick up Subway; Dorine will help with games. The Board Host will hand out invitations to the retreat. Bonnie will post a UUS-announce.

**Board Book.** The book, Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times is available; the price is \$16.

**Cards.** A get-well card was signed for Belinda. Congratulations and farewell for Lori. Thank-you notes for painting the RE space to AAFCJ, AI, Melanie.

The *Loudon Times Mirror* published an article by Rev. Anya and a copy is posted.

Joan to send the Board Host schedule to Terry Dick and the new administrator.

### Board Host Schedule:

Sept 13 – Ken  
Sept 20 – Joan  
Sept 27 – Lindy  
Oct 4 – Bonnie  
Oct 11 – Dorine

**Next board meeting 10/7 readings and snacks:** Ken Ward

### Action Items:

Bonnie will contact Belinda and Dorine about All Church Retreat duties, send UU Announce notices for the retreat and for JPD workshops

Facilities – aesthetics. Rev Anya to work with new administrator.

Joan to update strategic plan and send By-laws to Board

Rev Anya updating Board Host duties and OOS.

Webmaster selection in process.

## UUS Calendar

For times and dates of events at UUS, please go to [www.uusterling.org](http://www.uusterling.org) / Keeping In Touch / UUS Calendar.

# Autumn for Kids: A Picture to Color and a Story to Read!



## Fall Fun!

By Erin Horner

Is it ever fun to fall? It is not fun to fall off your bike. It is not fun to trip and fall down on the sidewalk. It is not fun to fall out of bed. There is one kind of fall that is fun, though: the fall season.

In the summertime, many trees are filled with large dark-green leaves. After a few months of fun in the sun, the weather begins to change. The temperature is suddenly cooler, and the once-warm breeze becomes chilly. This means a new season has arrived. It is now fall. During fall, the leaves begin to change color. Some will become a deep red. Others will turn orange or yellow. Some leaves even turn purple! Once these colorful leaves start falling from the trees, the real fall fun can begin!

There are many fun things that you can do with freshly fallen leaves. You can walk along the sidewalk and stomp on them. When you step down on a leaf it makes a really neat crunching sound. You can also pick out some favorite leaves and use them in an art project. Why not paint them? Painting leaf prints can be messy, but it's also a lot of fun! Another awesome autumn activity is jumping in freshly fallen leaves. First, rake the leaves into a huge pile. Next, run as fast as you can. Finally, jump up and plopp down into your big leaf bed!

In a few short months, all of your favorite trees will be bare, and the weather will become much colder. This means that the seasons have changed once again and that winter has arrived. When you look out your frosty window and long for a fun fall day, remember that it will be time for the seasons to change again before you know it. In the meantime, remember that like fall, winter can be a lot of fun. This cold season brings with it a different type of falling fun: falling snowflakes!

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## Unitarian Universalists of Sterling

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Office hours are:  
Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday  
10:00 AM—4:30 PM



### *Your Church Leadership*

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

**Director of Religious Exploration:** Linda Weaver; **Music Director:** Kristina Adams

**2009-2010 Board of Trustees:** *President* - Bonnie Lepoff; *Secretary* - Joan Johnson;

*Treasurer* - Paul Roche; *At-large* - Dorine Scher, Ken Ward, Linda Reeder, Belinda Bullock; *Youth Member* - Julia Burns

### *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 AM*

**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. Head east on 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*

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To submit material for publication, send by email to [newsletter@uusterling.org](mailto:newsletter@uusterling.org)

#### **Submission Deadlines**

10/16 for November  
11/20 for December  
12/18 for January  
1/22 for February

**For information about times and dates of events concerning the life of the congregation, please go to [www.uusterling.org](http://www.uusterling.org) / Keeping In Touch / UUS Calendar**