

# THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

April 19, 2009

## Community Worship Services

Community Services and Children's Religious Exploration classes begin at 11:00am. Child care is available.

### Sunday April 26 at 11:00am

*"The View from the Tree: Perspectives on Love and Forgiveness"*

guest speaker: Diane Wright

Diane Wright will share information on the ongoing work of the Fetzer Institute's "Campaign for Love and Forgiveness," which is having an impact around the world. She will also share stories of the power of forgiveness, and steps we can all take to incorporate the spirit of forgiveness into our lives.

### Sunday May 3 at 11:00am

*"Ministers, Ministry and Movin' On"*

guest speaker: Rev. Dr. Nana Kratochvil

Rev. Kratochvil is the Ministerial Transitions Representative for the Heartland UU District. She is here to help us launch into the settled search process; addressing the emotional, spiritual and administrative pieces of the process. There will an opportunity for Q/A after the sermon.

## Contemporary Worship Services

Contemporary Worship services are on the first and third Sunday of each month. They begin at 9:00am and are held in Krolfifer Hall. Childcare is available.

### Sunday May 3 at 9:00am

*"We Play, Therefore We Are"*

service leader: Karen Miller

We will take a look at the biological and spiritual underpinnings of play. "If you think of all the things we do that are play-related and erase those, it's pretty hard to keep going. Without play, there is a sense of dullness, lassitude and pessimism, which doesn't work well in the world we live in." –Stuart Brown

### Minister

The Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

### Minister Emerita

The Rev. Annie Foerster

### Minister of Music

Dr. Catherine Roma

### Assoc. Director of Music

Rachel Kramer

### Director of

### Religious Exploration

Omope Daboiku

### Worship Coordinator

Omope Daboiku

### Office Administrator

Mary Jo (Josie) Arens

### Caretaker

J. Michael Skaggs

### Church Office

513-961-1938

stjohnuu@fuse.net

### Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday

7:30am to 2pm

### Church Website

www.stjohnsuu.org

### Newsletter Editor

Bruce Beisner

### Next Newsletter Deadline

Thurs. April 30 at 5pm

# pportunities & Invitations

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## Final Friday Games Night

Please join us this Friday (April 24) at 7pm in Krolfifer Hall as we gather to play our favorite board games. There will be many to choose from or you may bring your own! Don't worry if you don't know how to play any games, because we are always willing to teach. Questions? Ask Pete Asman or Karen Miller.

*-Karen Miller*

## Adult Forums

**Sunday April 26:** "Inner Space-The Ultimate Journey." We'll view part of a video in which six well known authors share their insights into our lives. As Stephen Covey puts it, "everyone wants to know what is the meaning of this soap opera we live in and what happens when we die." Other authors in the video include Bernie Siegel, Marianne Williamson and Thomas Moore. Discussion following the video will be facilitated by Ethel Ingalls.

**Sunday May 3:** "The Collaborative on Police Community Relations Seven Years Later" Attorney Al Gerhardstein and Black United Front representative Iris Roley will join us to discuss the progress in improving police/community relationships made as a result of the Collaborative Agreement in 2002. Several programs have been put in place as a result of the plan established by the Agreement. Come and learn more about what is working and how we can encourage improvement where it is needed. Forums are held downstairs in the Darwin Room starting at 10am. If you would like to have a forum discussion of a particular topic, please contact

Ethel Ingalls. All suggestions welcomed.

*-Ethel Ingalls*

## Raising the May Pole

Please join us after the service on Sunday May 3 for our annual raising of the May Pole on the front lawn of the church. The service that morning will also include our annual Beltane celebration.

*-Omope Daboiku*

## Caring Circle Support Group

The Caring Circle will be offering a support group on Saturday May 2 from 10am to 11:30am for parents and children of St. John's, in our effort to provide continuing opportunities to come together and talk about feelings and needs associated with the violent death of Esme Kenney. We will offer various support groups as needs dictate throughout the next several months. Please RSVP to Josie Arens at stjohnuu@fuse.net or call 513-961-1938. Also Nina Tolley and Kathryn McDonough, Caring Circle co-chairs, are willing to meet with any adult individually who needs to talk to someone about this painful event and subsequent feelings of anxiety, grief or persistent sadness.

*-Kathryn McDonough*

## Honoring Our New Members

On Sunday May 17, we will honor all new members who have joined St. John's in the past year at the 11:00am service with a special coffee hour afterwards. We will also recognize all those who have been members 25 years or more. In addition, we will be honoring our graduating seniors. So please plan to attend and show support to these valued members of the St. John's community.

*-the Membership Committee*

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## Frankly Speaking.....

Our minister, Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter, is away on leave. His column will return in the next issue of The Reporter. Frank will be back in the pulpit at St. John's on Sunday May 17.

## Among ourselves

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### Spring All Council Meeting

Committee Chairs, committee members, anyone involved in the work of St. John's –it is very important that you attend the Spring All Council Meeting from 9am to noon on Saturday April 25. We'll revisit our mission statement and work on developing a flexible strategic framework to guide us in the next few years. Please call the church office to RSVP or email Penny Shada .

*-Penny Shada*

### Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday June 7 has been set for our St. John's Congregational meeting. All are invited to attend, but only persons who have been members as of March 10 will be allowed to vote. We have important business to decide for the future of our church. Please mark your calendars now and plan to stay after church that day.

*-Carol Fencl, Board Secretary*

### Planning for Next Year's Adult Religious Ed. Classes

It is time to look ahead to the next church year to begin consideration of what we'll offer in the 2009-2010 Adult RE program. We will hold a meeting of those interested in giving input, suggesting classes or maybe even considering leading a group in the future. We have a good library of curricula, plus there is the opportunity to develop your own if desired. Coming to this meeting does NOT commit you to being on a committee, but it will allow you to participate in our planning. We will meet at St. John's on Wednesday April 29 at 7:30pm. Any questions or ideas, please contact Carol Fencl. If you can't come that night but would still like to be involved, also please let me know.

*-Carol Fencl, Adult RE Chair*

### Pledge Campaign in High Gear

We're two weeks into this year's annual pledge drive. To date, St. John's has received **89** pledges totaling more than **\$143,000**. But we've still not heard from over 65 of our currently pledging members and friends. If you are one of these people, please take a few minutes to complete and return your pledge card. If you've misplaced your card, you can download a copy from the St. John's web site at [www.stjohnsuu.org](http://www.stjohnsuu.org). Just look under the "members corner" section and you'll find information on the pledge campaign and a link to the pledge card and St. John's pledge guide. **The St. John's Board is already working on next year's budget so it's imperative that you make your pledge today!**

*-Tom Darner, Stewardship Chair*

### Letter Received from Kiss Family

The Rev. Mihaly Kiss and his wife, Rozsa, sent the following letter to St. John's on April 9th. "We arrived home safely to Nyaradszentlaszlo on March 29th, and everyone was looking forward to welcoming us. We had a wonderful time in Cincinnati; it was great to see everyone we already knew and met before; and it was also great to make new friends. Everything was wonderful and unforgettable for us, and please send our greetings to the Unitarian congregation and also to the translators. We shared the details of our visit with the congregation here, they enjoyed looking at the photos, and they were eager to listen to the stories. The children were very happy and excited about your gifts. Right now we are preparing for one of our biggest Holidays, Easter, that we celebrate every year. We would like to wish you a Happy Easter. Also please send my greetings to Rev. Carpenter; I would like to wish all the best to him. God bless you, Rozsa and Mihaly."

*-The Friends of Szentlaszlo*

## Calendaring for Next Year

This is the time of year when we schedule things for the church year that starts July 1st. Beginning at 12:30pm on April 25 and running through 8pm on May 11, large sheets of paper (one per month from July 2009 thru June 2010) will be posted in the rear of Krolfifer. Each group/organization in the church should ensure that all its meetings are listed. Small pieces of paper and tape, along with directions, will be provided. Please list your group's name, the date of the meeting/event, the time (from the start of setup to the end of cleanup), your name, your email address, your phone number, and the room requested (or "off-site"). If your group meets weekly/monthly, please make sure you put something on the calendar on each date when you plan to meet. Josie will then compile all the dates, conflicts will be resolved and the annual calendar distributed. Unless specifically requested and needed, rooms will be assigned based on size of groups, etc. Note: This is NOT a first-come, first-served process, but it is important that each group in the church get its events onto the calendaring sheets by May 11. Please contact Josie Arens or Pete Asman with any questions.

-Pete Asman

## Photo Board Picture Taking

Sam Cauffield will be taking pictures for the new picture board, after the 11:00 service on April 26. If your picture isn't on the new board and you wish to have a picture there, please plan to have your picture taken on these dates. Pictures can be individual or family. In addition, we are soliciting contributions for a second picture board and picture holders for it. The cost will be approximately \$250. Send checks made out to St. John's UU Church (with a notation that they are for the picture board) to the church office.

-Membership Committee

## St. John's Budget

What is important to you besides heat in the winter and a minister in the pulpit? A well-tuned piano? Candles for the wheel of Life? Brochures for visitors? Materials for RE classrooms? Community outreach? They all cost \$. Who is to decide besides YOU?

Become involved in developing next year's budget on any or all of the following dates:

Tuesday May 5 at 6:30pm in Krolfifer : planning

Sunday May 10 at 12: 30 in sanctuary: planning

Sunday May 17 at 12:30 in sanctuary: planning

June 7: Annual Congregational Meeting: vote

-Penny Shada

## RE Sunday is May 10

May 10th will be Religious Exploration Sunday. During our 11:00am Community Worship Service, RE allies will be honored for their year-long efforts, and our First Sunday Singers will make their debut. Omope Daboiku, Director of Religious Exploration, will lead the service.

-the Worship Committee

## A Greener Community

A local group working with the Cincinnati Civic Garden Center is looking for green space to start a Community Garden in Clifton. They had heard that St. John's has been involved in environmental causes and were hoping that we might have some space (like on our front lawn!). Any *alternative* ideas to offer them about potential sites? They've already approached our school neighbor and learned that the school is planning to start its own garden for the children. If you have any ideas about collaborating with this group, growing something edible and attractive on church grounds, suggestions for garden spots in Clifton, etc., please contact Penny Shada.

-Penny Shada



## Finance Corner

Three ways to support St. John's with your shopping habits.

**Kroger Cards** – Purchase a \$5 card from Rick Prairie. Each time you go to Kroger, ask a clerk to “load” \$ onto the card, then use it to pay when you check out. St. John's earns 4% of the card sales.

When you plan to shop online, first go to [iGive.com](http://iGive.com), find and select St. John's Unitarian Church as your cause, register, and begin shopping at any of the 700 stores listed. The donation to St. John's varies by store but averages about 2%.

Use [eBay Giving Works](http://eBay Giving Works) to list items on eBay and donate 10% to 100% of your listing's final sale price to St. John's. When you customize your listing, look for the eBay Giving Works field in the “Choose how you'd like to sell your item” area. Select St. John's Unitarian Universalist and a percentage.

Shop away and be sure to tell your family and friends about these opportunities to support our mission. Questions can be directed to Rick Prairie or Jonena Jones.

**Stewardship:** Thank you to Tom Darner and members of this year's pledge campaign team!!

### **The Finance Council needs you!**

Do you prefer “number” search to word search puzzles? Do you have a secret ability to balance your own checkbook? If you answered ‘yes’ to either of these questions, consider joining the Finance Council. Opportunities available include assistance with financial secretary duties and Treasurer tasks. Contact Jonena Jones for details.

### **The “B” word...**

Yes, it is that time again...budgets and budget meetings. Possible budget scenarios were discussed at the Town Hall Meetings in December and February and posted on the Finance bulletin board outside of the church office. The next budget forum will be held on Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup> Community Night at 6:30pm. Now is the time for all of us to think creatively and positively about how we can “live within our means” and continue to prosper as a loving community.

*-Jonena Jones*



## In the Haehnle Gallery

Our featured artist for May will be Barbara Boncheck. On display will be a collection of her hand drawn geo-motion designs titled “Dizzy Art.” The exhibit will run from May 3 to June 1 with an opening reception on Sunday May 3 from 1:30 to 3:30pm. All St. Johners are invited to attend.

*-Barbara Boncheck*

## Denominational Affairs

At the Annual Meeting of the Heartland District on April 4 in Muncie, our own Judy Buxton was elected President of the Heartland Board of Trustees! Early registration (reduced fees) for the annual meeting of the UUA (General Assembly) June 24-28 in Salt Lake City closes on April 30. Please contact Penny Shada for more information or register online at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org).

Summer vacation idea: attend the Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute in Radford, VA, July 19-25. SUUSI is “an intentional community of Unitarian Universalist and like-minded people. We convene for a week in July each year to explore our interconnectedness, delight in the outdoors, enjoy music and learn new ways of seeing our world and each other.” Special programs for Youth, Teens and Young Adults. Brochures available in the Denominational Affairs mailbox in the church office.

*-Penny Shada*

## **Self-Nomination for Settled Search Committee**

Persons interested in being a member of the Ministerial Settled Search Committee may self-nominate by preparing a brief description of their interest in serving and what they bring to the role. The ideal committee will be balanced by the following attributes: organizational ability, broad theological awareness, computer skills, ability to facilitate dialogue and collaborative behaviors. Individuals who have served on the past two settled searches will not be considered for the current committee. Members must be strongly committed to the congregation as a whole and able to meet the demands and time requirements of the search process. These include attending every meeting of the committee, reading the various handbooks and guidelines and being able to give between 250-400 hours to the process over the 12-18 months required to call the new minister. Some members of the search will become the new minister's Committee on Ministry in the first year of service, others to participate in the compensation negotiation process.

There are no 'ex-officio' members of this committee. Self-nominations should be sent by May 4 to Karolyn Schalk. Please contact Karolyn if you have questions about the search process.

*-Karolyn Schalk*

## **We're ready!**

Sudden cardiac arrest kills over 1000 people every day in the US. If someone at St. John's has a heart attack, we have an AED (automated external defibrillator) in the lobby beside the social hall door. And the following people have been CPR-AED certified to use it: Pete Asman, Carolyn Banfield, Carol Fencl, Dick Fencl, Linda Heath, Emily Hodges, Jonena Jones, Sally Larson, Cliff Shisler, and Claire Wagner. (Names are also beside the AED.) If you're trained and your name isn't listed, please let Linda Heath know. We need to stay ready, while hoping we'll never have the need.

*-Linda Heath*

## **First Friday Flicks**

Please join us on Friday May 1 at 7pm for "Away from Her" rated PG13. This film is adapted from a short story by Alice Munro telling about the lives of Grant (Gordon Pinsent) and Fiona (Julie Christie). They have been in love and married for years. Fiona's memory begins to fail, and she is determined that Grant take her to a nursing home. At the beginning of Fiona's stay at the nursing home, Grant is not permitted to communicate with her. In his absence, Fiona develops a new relationship which causes Grant heartache as he continues to love her. A discussion will follow the film. As always, feel free to bring your own chair for comfort's sake. Contact Karen Miller or Debbie Combs with any questions.

*-Debbie Combs*

## **Spring Auction on April 25 at Northern Hills UU Fellowship**

The members of the Northern Hills Fellowship invite all St. Johners to join them for their Spring Auction on Saturday April 25 starting at 6:30pm. The evening starts with a silent auction and refreshments followed by the oral auction. This year's theme is "Island Paradise" and there will be great door prizes as well as the usual spectacular selection of auction items. There will be activities for everyone, kids included. All proceeds go to support the programs of the church. Northern Hills Fellowship is located at 460 Fleming Road in Springfield Township. For directions and more info, call 513-931-6651 or visit [www.uunhf.org](http://www.uunhf.org)

*-Betsy Anderson*

## **Sunday Coffee Hosts**

Coffee hosts for April 26 are: Al Geiser, Sandy Gieser and Elaina Kaiser

Coffee hosts for May 3 are: Monica Pellman, Tom Darner and Jean Ashcraft

Coffee hosts for May 10 are: Gail Boggs, Joan Robinson and Waltke Paulding.

*-Kim Stein*

# St. John's Church Calendar

## **Tuesday April 21**

10:00am: Yoga  
5:45pm: Community Night Pizza Dinner  
7:00pm: Writing as Spiritual Practice  
7:00pm: YADA Young Adults Discussion

## **Wednesday April 22**

6:30pm: Caring Circle

## **Thursday April 23**

10:00am: Meditation  
7:00pm: Building Your Own Theology

## **Friday April 24**

7:00pm: Final Friday Game Night

## **Saturday April 25**

9:00am: All Council Meeting - Krolfifer  
10:00am: Chalice Group Facilitators Mtg.

## **Sunday April 26**

10:00am: Adult Forum  
11:00am: Community Worship Service  
12:15pm: Member Picture Taking  
12:30pm: Shared Ministry Interviewers

## **Tuesday April 28**

10:00am: Yoga  
7:00pm: Dharma Reader  
7:00pm: Writing As Spiritual Practice

## **Wednesday April 29**

7:00pm: Program Planning Team (PPT)  
7:30pm: Adult RE Committee Meeting

## **Thursday April 30**

10:00am: Meditation  
7:00pm: Building Your Own Theology  
7:00pm: Choir Rehearsal

## **Friday May 1**

5:00pm: Art Reception  
7:00pm: First Friday Flicks

## **Saturday May 2**

9:00am: Contemporary Service Rehearsal  
10:00am: Caring Circle Grief Session

## **Sunday May 3**

9:00am: Contemporary Service  
9:30am: Choir Rehearsal  
10:00am: Adult Forum  
10:00am: Knitting for Peace  
11:00am: Community Worship Service  
11:00am: RE First Sunday Service  
12:15pm: May Pole Celebration  
12:30pm: Budget Meeting  
1:00pm: Art Reception  
6:00pm: Men's Group

## **Spiritual Hospitality In a Public Setting Rescheduled for May 6**

The Unitarian Universalist Council of Greater Cincinnati is conducting the first workshop for the volunteers from our member congregations who will staff the UU booths at Pagan Pride, Pride Alive, and Juneteenth Cincinnati events this spring and summer. The workshop will take place on May 6 from 7:30 to 9:30pm at the Heritage UU Church (2710 Newtown Road) and will cover the topics: how to make a meaningful connection in a busy, public setting; a unified approach to talking about our denomination (don't worry -we're not going to invent a catechism); learning about one another's denominations so we can speak knowledgeably and respectfully about them. For more information email [uucouncil@cinciuu.org](mailto:uucouncil@cinciuu.org). A repeat workshop will be offered at the Northern Hills Fellowship, date TBA.

*-Karolyn Schalk*

## **Jazz and UUs in Toronto**

This summer, coinciding with the 21st Annual Beaches International Jazz Festival in Toronto on July 17-26, 2009, Neighborhood UU Congregation is continuing with a Bed & Breakfast program for Unitarians to visit Toronto at this favorite time of year. For more information, visit [www.nuuc.ca/bed&breakfast.htm](http://www.nuuc.ca/bed&breakfast.htm)

*-Neighborhood UU Congregation*

# Thought of the Week

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“It is only when we are aware of the earth as poetry  
that we truly live.”

-HENRY BESTON

**Celebrate Earth Day**  
**April 22, 2009**

