

APRIL 2003

Allegheny ADVOCATE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ALLEGHENY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

APRIL 6

Women, Religion & Ministry

Rev. Joan Sabatino

We are delighted to invite Rev. Joan Sabatino, Minister of the Ohio Valley (Wheeling) UU Congregation, into our pulpit. The two congregations are doing a pulpit swap this morning as Art is in Wheeling. Joan will reflect on the role women have played in the UU ministry. Not so long ago, UU ministry was primarily a call for men but currently there are more women in our ministerial ranks than men.

APRIL 13

Communion Service 10:00 AM

Reader: Jennifer Wood

Monthly Service that reconnects us to our community of faith and action.

Jesus and the Disinherited 11:00 AM

Rev. Art McDonald

As we celebrate Palm Sunday in the Christian tradition, Art will draw on insights about Jesus and Christianity from an African-American mystic and scholar, the late Dr. Howard Thurman, who from a Christian perspective worked very closely with Unitarian Universalists. He served a church in San Francisco which welcomed people from all faith traditions.

APRIL 17

Maudy Thursday Service 7:30 PM

Rev. Art McDonald

APRIL 18

Annual Passover Seder 6:00 PM

APRIL 20

Easter Service & Membership Sunday

Kris Thomas, DRE & Rev. Art McDonald

We begin this wonderful annual celebration with a pancake breakfast, followed by an inter-generational Easter Service as we acknowledge new members who have joined in recent months.

APRIL 27

Unitarian Universalist Values and Our Work

Kathryn Hans-Greco

We are blessed to have First Unitarian congregational member, Kathryn Hans-Greco, in our pulpit today. As a family lawyer, Kathryn has worked with a number of our members who, as partners in a same sex union have filed for second partner adoptions. Kathryn views this work as being influenced by her UU principles.

Sunday Services
at Allegheny
Unitarian
Universalist
Church begin at
11 o'clock.
All are welcome!

PROGRAM AND MUSIC NOTES

Special Services in April

Communion Services have moved to Sundays at 10:00 am. This month it will be April 13. We will celebrate Maundy/Holy Thursday on April 17, beginning at 7:30 PM, and our annual Passover Seder on Friday, April 18, beginning at 6:00 PM. Please bring a potluck item for Passover dinner. On Easter Sunday, April 20, we will begin with a pancake breakfast at 9:15, followed by an inter-generational Service at 11:00, at which we will celebrate our new members.

Inter-generational Choir

Would you like to sing in church on Easter? Let's put together a real inter-generational choir to sing two simple but tuneful selections on April 20. Families are encouraged to participate together, and we would especially like any youth who would be willing to play instruments/percussion to come forward. We will practice after church on April 6 and April 13, from 12:30 to 1:00 PM. I hope to see you there!

FROM THE COMMUNITY

NCM Annual Shelter Walk

From 2 until 5 PM, on Sunday, May 18, our partners at NCM will conduct the annual fund raiser walk focused on youth walking. Kris Thomas hopes to produce a pretty good contingent. Adults can walk too, but it would be greater to pledge to support a youth.

Also, Art has served on NCM's Board of Directors for approximately 10 years. Any member interested in serving on that board to continue a tradition?? Talk to Art.

People of Color Fund raiser

Put in your calendar May 3, 7 PM, to hear Ysaye Barnwell, singer for *Sweet Honey In The Rock*, perform at First United Methodist Church. Cost is \$25 and you can call 412-242-2441 for details.

First Church Humanist Group

The theme for the April meeting will be, *Pantheism: the Whats, the Whys and the Wherefores?* It will be held in First Church's Schweitzer Room, Tuesday, April 8 at 7:30 PM.

Renaissance City Choir Women's Choir

Why not attend a concert and dance featuring lesbians in film on Friday, April 4, 8:00 PM, at Chatham College, Eddie Theatre.

Know Any UU Jokes

I'm a UU and student from California working on a UU jokelore research project. I would love to hear what jokes you know and how you came to know them. Please e-mail them to lissa@escfx.com. Thanks, Lissa Klanor

East End Community Thrift Shop

The annual luncheon and Fashion Show to benefit this project of the Thomas Merton center will be on Saturday, April 12, from 11-1:00 PM.

Support Healing Weekend

Once again we are being asked to make a scholarship contribution to this healing weekend for people living with AIDS/HIV—the weekend occurs in early June. One scholarship costs \$300. Last year we raised it through multiple contributions. Make checks payable to PERSAD (fiscal agent for the planning committee). Place "SW PA Healing Weekend 2003" on the check and give it to Art McDonald. Thanks, in advance, for you generosity.

Regional Peace Convergence

Put in your calendar April 26, 2:00 PM, a regional peace, anti-war convergence. Details to follow.

See Kiki Barley to join in the fun with the inter-generational choir on Easter Sunday—practices on April 6 & 13.

April 2003

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 Program Committee 7:30 p.m.	2	3 PIIN Economic Equity Task Force 7:00 p.m.	4 OMD Annual Meeting begins, Youngstown	5 OMD Annual Meeting Anti-War Rally Noon
6 Choir 9:30 a.m. Giant Eagle certificate sign-up	7 Fund Raising 6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees 7:00 p.m. NA 7:00 p.m.	8 RE Committee 7:30 p.m.	9	10 PIIN Core Training Team 6:00 p.m. Wesley Center	11	12 Anti-War Rally Noon
13 Palm Sunday G.E. cert. delivery Choir 9:00 a.m. Finance 9:30 a.m. Communion Service 10:00 a.m.	14 Women's Group NA 7:00 p.m.	15	16 Passover begins at sundown	17 Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 p.m.  Shelter Meal 9:00 p.m.	18 Newsletter Deadline!! Passover Seder 6:00 p.m.	19 Anti-War Rally Noon Coffee House 7:30 p.m.
20 Easter Sunday Membership Day Annual Breakfast 9:15 a.m.	21 NA 7:00 p.m.	22	23	24	25	26 Anti-War Rally Noon Poetry Reading 7:30 p.m.
27 Choir 9:30 a.m.	28 NA 7:00 p.m.	29	30			

May 2003

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 May Day	2	3 Peace Rally Noon Derby Day 4:00 p.m.
4 Choir 9:30 a.m. Giant Eagle certificate sign-up	5 Fund Raising 6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees 7:00 p.m. NA 7:00 p.m.	6 Program Committee 7:30 p.m.	7	8	9	10 Peace Rally Noon
11 Mothers Day G.E. cert. delivery Choir 9:00 a.m. Finance 9:30 a.m. Communion Service 10:00 a.m.	12 Women's Group NA 7:00 p.m.	13 House Committee 6:30 p.m. RE Committee 7:30 p.m.	14	15 Shelter Meal 9:00 p.m.	16 Newsletter Deadline!!	17 Peace Rally Noon Coffee House 7:30 p.m.
18 Choir 9:30 a.m. 98 th Annual Congregational Mtg 12:30 p.m.	19 NA 7:00 p.m.	20	21	22	23	24 Peace Rally Noon
25 Choir 9:30 a.m. RE Program ends	26 Memorial Day NA 7:00 p.m.	27	28	29	30	31

Reducing Waste

Have you ever made a conscious effort to take notice of how much and of what you throw away every day? Every week? Every month? Although recycling is the best way to reduce pollution and conserve our resources, reducing our consumption is also important.

Reducing our use of disposable items is a good start. We buy a lot of single-use-only razors, cameras, paper plates and other paper dishes, plastic utensils, and pens. There will always be an 'emergency' or 'only item available' occurrence, but can you use non-disposables more often? Most everyone enjoys a daily newspaper, but could you manage with just the Sunday and Wednesday editions? Magazines can be informative. Can you cancel those that duplicate information? Catalogs are fun to thumb through, but if you don't buy the merchandise, could you call or write a letter to be taken off the mailing list? Junk mail (what a perfect name!) irritates us all. Below is an address to write to that can help stop it coming to your door.

Mail Preference Service
Direct Mail Marketing Association
P.O. Box 9008
Farmingdale NY 11735-9008

Have you every noticed how much you throw away after a meal at a fast food restaurant or from a food court? A sit-down restaurant isn't always workable, but could you keep it in mind? Do you use paper towels consistently in the kitchen? Could you put them under the sink and use a dish cloth for all but the nastiest of messes?

Tuesday, April 22 is Earth Day. Help celebrate and honor our planet by making a small change in your daily life. Last year I started carrying an insulated lunch bag. I use Rubbermaid containers for my food and drink and a cloth napkin. I have to wonder how much in resources and money I've saved by

not using brown paper bags, wax paper, foil, paper napkins, or store bought individual containers of food. This year I've put an end to arguing with myself over paper or plastic grocery bags—it's going to be washable canvas bags.

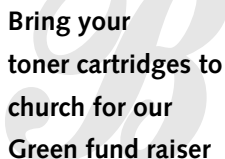
Valuable Toner Cartridges

The Green Sanctuary Committee will soon launch an environmentally responsible fund raiser. We will be collecting inkjet, laser, and FAX cartridges for recycling. We will earn approximately \$3.00 per cartridge! So don't throw out your old ones. Start collecting them now and please pass the word along at your workplace and among your friends and neighbors. We look forward to a very successful project.

Of course, refilling your cartridges is also environmentally responsible and can save you considerable money. If you would like information on this option, please contact Jill Brethauer.

Recycled Paper Products

In order for recycling to be successful, there must be a market for recycled products. Since Giant Eagle no longer carries recycled paper products, the Green Sanctuary Committee is currently exploring the idea of starting a buyers' club to buy recycled toilet paper, paper towels, and paper napkins. One option is to purchase these products from the East End Food Co-op. The advantages of doing this through a club are that we could get a discount by purchasing a membership in the co-op (\$100) and buying in bulk. In addition, for those of us who do not live near the co-op, we could take turns picking up the materials so that we would not negate our efforts by wasting gasoline to drive there individually. For more information, contact Jeanne Zang, Lynn Glorieux, or Nancy Martin-Silber.



Bring your
toner cartridges to
church for our
Green fund raiser

Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network

Our first major public action for PIIN, held on February 20, by most accounts was a very successful showing. We estimate that 900 folks attended, representing Muslims, Jews, Christians, UUs, Quakers, etc. It was also interracial, a major accomplishment in this city. Each of the four task forces, Economic Equity, Education, Youth Recreation and Civil Rights, made presentations and exacted commitments from various political figures. In many ways, such a meeting is an attempt to portray an organization with strength/power and discipline, which can turn the tables on political figures and send the message that demands can be made and groups can make politicians pay attention. The meeting is a form of political theater, in my view. Jim Roddey caught that and played it to the hilt. The Deputy Mayor seemed less inclined to undertake his part in the script.

At the meeting, PIIN controlled the agenda and the mike, and simply asked politicians whether or not they agreed to the demands. Yes or no answers are required only. No political speeches are allowed. It's amazing how such a group can command attention and cooperation. There is unease on the part of politicians and many of us; it's a new moment which many of us have never experienced. It can seem disrespectful and insulting if not done well. Either way, it's an experience.

Negotiations with political figures went down to the wire; Johnnie Monroe and I were on the phone with Deputy Mayor Cox at 4:00 the afternoon of the event. We didn't win on all of our issues but it was a decent first step. Now the key is follow up and accountability.

The Economic Equity Task Force received a commitment from Commissioner Roddey to appropriate \$150,000 for boarding up and tearing down houses in Wilksburg. It also got him to agree to meet with us to plan a regional *smart growth* summit. Mayor Murphy also agreed to meet with us on this issue. The

Lt. Governor, Catherine Baker Knoll, who came in at the last minute, agreed to take to the Governor our proposal for a state-wide Smart Growth Committee with PIIN at the table. We'll see about that issue.

Youth recreation was mostly interested in gaining a commitment from the Mayor to provide and connect computers in local recreational centers—up to five centers. His answer was that it would be too costly, but that they would put it in next year's budget and see what City Council did with it. We countered with a request to start the process by committing \$40,000 now. They refused. Interestingly, at the public meeting Roddey agreed to help fund the computers and subsequently has offered 100 to PIIN.

On Civil Rights, we have asked that the City and the police provide much more data on arrests and police behavior than seems available at this time. It has been a difficult issue for the city/police to respond to, but they have agreed to a series of meetings to resolve the dilemma. We are also talking with them about the problem of police not testifying in front of the Civilian Review Board. They claim that the police union will not budge on this issue, so their hands are tied.

Lastly, the Education task Force developed a platform which was signed by four current members of the School Board, and by one candidate, Patrick Dowd, who is running in the upcoming election. I believe he is running for Darlene Harris' seat. They also committed to supporting Good Schools Pennsylvania and received commitments from the Superintendent to add curriculum to enhance cultural awareness for African Americans and Muslims. The Task Forces will continue to work for another year. The next major event for PIIN will be a June conference on Smart growth/development, possibly in conjunction with Sustainable Pittsburgh. At that time we will

re-visit commitments from the politicians and begin to develop a strategy to combat urban sprawl and the deterioration of the city and inner-ring suburbs. It's getting fun. Please get involved, if you feel some passion for one of these groups.

Anti-War Efforts

We continue to hold our Saturday vigils in front of the church from 12–1 PM. We think it is more important than ever—not only do many of us think this is a tragic new development in our international politics, but we are greatly concerned that it is the beginning of a whole new phase of military engagements. Many commentators are convinced that our current leadership is determined to strike other countries without provocation. Will it be Iran? North Korea? Syria? Libya? Cuba? What will the people of the U.S. think of that? I do not think it an exaggeration to say that our democracy is under attack by a cadre of neo-conservatives in government bent on re-shaping the world order. They are not good at dialogue and listening, and they will further restrict our civil rights if necessary. Resistance is now acting to maintain some semblance of democracy in my view.

Several of us did participate in the march last Thursday that led to the arrest of 122 folks. I was not terribly surprised at arrests, as some of the group were determined to do civil disobedience. I, of course, support and respect acts of civil disobedience as a political strategy and message-protest. Though I did not think this one was particularly well planned; or clear. Actually, the entire march through the city, blocking and tying up traffic, was entirely illegal, but the police allowed it to go on for over two hours. When I left the march at about 6:30 (it began at about 5:15), I thought it was a powerful symbol and that the police were pretty cool. As the crowd dwindled and the march ambled on, it seems that there was some agitation from some in the march and the police lost their cool. Ultimately, it seems, they overreacted in their arrests, evidently arresting folks who were obeying and on the sidewalk. But I also believe there was enough agitation

aimed at the police that their over-reaction was related to some behavior in the crowd. It's too bad for, as I have stated, it was a wonderful action by about 750 people. We must continue to show our resistance to this unjust and unnecessary war of choice by the Bush Administration.

UUA President, Rev. Bill Sinkford spoke a few days before the beginning of bombing and, once again, when the bombing began. His words are posted on the bulletin board. They are worth reading.

Transitions

I was in Boston two weekends ago, partly to attend some meetings at the Universalist church of Essex, partly to continue scouting out possible areas to live, and partly to touch base with family. A niece and nephew accompanied me on a visit with my mother, who is approaching 91. She was in a fairly chipper mood, though she is developing walking problems and her dementia is increasing. For the first time, she couldn't name me, though she seemed to know I was a son. "I want to say you are Paul," she uttered hesitatingly. "Close," I replied. Paul is one of my older brothers who lives in the Boston area. But we had a good visit and with some prompting, she remembers a lot. But I sensed she is losing interest in things.

It's a strange time of my life, what anthropologists call a *liminal* period; a time between events—transitional. Liminal periods are unsettling and full of anxiety, uncertainty. I (we) have some of each. Like some of you, Melanie and I are beginning to grieve, anticipating the move and change. About a week ago one of you and I had a good cry together. It was a bit painful, but so important and rich as well. We are getting in touch with what we are giving up—such a spiritually rich religious congregation full of loving friends and committed members. I am ever thankful for what we have developed. My dad said a few days before dying, that he was a very lucky guy to have run a grocery store; meeting and serving so many wonderful folks. I'm at least as lucky.



Our peace witness continues on Saturdays from 12 until 1 in front of church. Please join us!

CONTACTS

The *Allegheny Advocate* is published monthly (except August) by Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church. Submissions must be received by the third Friday of the month preceding publication. Contributions or inquiries may be directed to Donald Zeilman

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