



The

# Arlingtarian

The newsletter for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington | September 2010 |

*From the Team Ministers*

## The Spirit of Aloha

By Rev. Carlton Elliott Smith

One of the reasons Unitarian Universalism appealed to me initially was its affirmation of a “free and responsible search for truth and meaning” as stated in our seven principles. I knew that within this faith tradition, I could strike out on my religious quest, travel as far and wide as I wanted and still have a spiritual home to return to.

In the spring of 2008, that quest took me to the Hawaiian Islands, and that journey brought about my first experiences of aloha. From watching Hawaii 5-0 when I was growing up, I knew aloha could be used where we otherwise would say “hello” and “goodbye”. During those three weeks, however, I came to understand that aloha was much more than that. It is the very spirit of Hawaii, handed down through many generations.

“Aloha exists beyond motives, desires, or opinions. It is sustained by love, fortified by compassion, and expands in power and beauty as we give it away to all who come into our lives.” This is one of the ways the poet Robert James describes the phenomenon in his book, *What Is this Thing Called Aloha*. Being introduced to aloha filled a void in my life. Philosophically, I found a home years before in Taoism, as described in Alan Watts’ *Tao: The Watercourse Way*. I didn’t have a spiritual approach that spoke deeply to my heart until aloha found me.

So, at the start of my two years with you as your Consulting Minister, know that I am here to share my aloha and to encourage you to share yours.

– continued on page 5

### Worship Services

**Labor Day Sunday,  
September 5, 10 a.m.  
“Which Side Are You On?”**

**Sunday, September 12,  
9:15 and 11:15 a.m.  
“Aloha!”**

**Sunday, September 19,  
9:15 and 11:15 a.m.  
“The Ten Commandments  
Renewed: You shall open  
your heart to the Holy”**

**Sunday, September 26,  
9:15 and 11:15 a.m.  
“When Bigger is Better”**

*From the Board Chair*

## Saying Grace, Showing Gratitude

By Natalia (Natty) Averett

The church fiscal year begins July 1, but it’s in September, when we return to two Sunday services and when many activities which are on hiatus for the summer return, that it feels that the church’s new year has begun. The church has a “first day of school” feeling. Activities get into full swing, sign-up tables abound, the new-visitor rosters swell. I wanted to write something fitting for the start of the year and struggled for an idea. Then I remembered our former minister, Rev. Mary, quoting Meister Eckhart: “If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough.” And I remembered Rev. Linda’s story of the Sukkot, also known as the feast of ingathering, or feast of tabernacles, and

how it takes all kinds to make the sukkah, the place that shelters us. For this month, I decided to share with you the reading from our first Board of Trustees meeting this year.

Here is my kick-off for the year: a poem and prayer. I am “saying grace,” giving thanks, with words borrowed from the Rev. Janet H. Bowering.

### “The Church is People”

By Janet H. Bowering  
Minister emerita, Universalist  
Unitarian Church of Haverhill,  
Massachusetts  
Published on [www.uuworld.org](http://www.uuworld.org).  
January 11, 2010

– continued on page 7

### Inside this Issue

Renewal Conversations . . . . .	3
Congregational Meeting . . . . .	4
New UU Class . . . . .	4
What’s Happening in RE . . . . .	5
Circle Dinners . . . . .	6
Board Meeting . . . . .	7
Labyrinth Walk . . . . .	8
Share-the-Plate Month . . . . .	9
Through the Green Lens . . . . .	10
Practicing Peace . . . . .	11
Adult Ed Classes . . . . .	12
Used Book Sale . . . . .	16

## Worship Services

**Labor Day Sunday, September 5,  
ONE service at 10 a.m.**

**"Which Side Are You On?"**

*Rev. Linda Olson Peebles*

The power of organizing for we who would stand on the side of love. T-Shirt Sunday - wear your favorite "message" t-Shirt.

**Water Communion Ingathering Sunday,  
September 12, TWO SERVICES RESUME -  
9:15 and 11:15 a.m.**

**"Aloha!"**

*All the Ministers*

A celebration of renewal, hospitality, and love of life, as we begin the church year together with new and old friends. Bring water to join in the annual ceremony of water communion.

**Sunday, September 19, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.**

**"The Ten Commandments Renewed:**

**You shall open your heart to the Holy"**

*Rev. Michael McGee*

This is the first of a ten-part sermon series on "The Ten Commandments Renewed." The original version of the first commandment is: "I am the Lord your God...You shall have no other gods before me." How can we renew those words so that they have a deeper meaning for us today?

**Sunday, September 26, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.**

**"When Bigger is Better"**

*Rev. Carlton Elliott Smith*

"Always design a thing by considering it in its next largest context—a chair in a room, a room in a house, a house in an environment, an environment in a city plan." This quotation comes to us from designer Eliel Saarinen, the father of Eero Saarinen, the designer of the soaring "Gateway Arch" in St. Louis, Missouri. This morning, we will consider the next largest contexts of our nation, our religious movement, our church and our lives, as we design them with eyes on the broader view.

## MEMORIAL SERVICES

- **Marcia Provan Service** - Sunday, September 5, 2 p.m. in our Sanctuary.
- **Lindsey Harmon Service** - Sunday, September 12, 3 p.m. in our Sanctuary.
- **Leon Wilson Service** - Sunday, September 19, 3 p.m. in our Sanctuary.
- **Gerta Goldberg Service** - Wednesday, September 22, 2 p.m. at Goodwin House - Bailey's Crossroads.

## Requested Your Table for the Activity Fair Yet?

This year we will hold our church Activity Fair in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 12 after each service. This is a great opportunity to share your excitement about your church organization or activity and to invite others to join and get involved. If you would like space at a table, please submit your request to Barbara Gilligan ([barbara.gilligan@uucava.org](mailto:barbara.gilligan@uucava.org)). Questions? Give Sue Browning a call at 703-276-9846 or drop her an e-mail at [volunteer@uucava.org](mailto:volunteer@uucava.org).

## 2010-2011 Covenant Groups

Sign-ups for the 2010-2011 Covenant Group season will take place during the month of September. Look for the sign-up table after services, starting September 5. Most of the covenant groups will focus on this year's sermon series – **The Ten Commandments Renewed**. But there are also a few special subject Covenant Groups that might be of interest, so please come by the table and see what is available. If you are unable to come by the table in person, feel free to contact [beth.rager@comcast.net](mailto:beth.rager@comcast.net) to find out what groups have openings and get on a list. If you are interested in co-facilitating a group you should also contact Beth Rager. Are you new to UUCA and not sure what a covenant group is? For more information, stop by the table or contact Beth Rager by email or phone at 703-527-2949.

## Quilt Raffle Coming!

The UUCA Quilt Covenant Group has completed its Underground Railroad sampler quilt and will raffle it off at the Services Auction November 6. Raffle tickets are now available at \$1 apiece or 6 for \$5. Look for the group's table in Fellowship Hall between services beginning September 12. Squares for the quilt, which represent patterns used in pre-Emancipation days, were made by Suzy Augustyn, Roberta Fox, Lois Czapiewski, Elsie Kimbrell, Ramona Miller, Barbara Krause, Carol Hopper, Jacomina de Regt, Beth Moffett, and Lois Gunlicks. The quilt is hand-quilted and measures 51.5 X67". You can see a photo of the Underground Railroad quilt on the UUCA web site – click on Photos – then All Photos – in search window on the left, type in "underground".

## Renewal Conversations Set for September, Congregational Meeting for October

UUCA is embarking on a journey toward *“Renewal of Spaces, Renewal of Spirit”*—a theme that you will hear frequently in the coming months. To involve as many of UUCA’s congregation as possible, September will offer at least 16 opportunities for participating in a “Renewal Conversation” (see below). To participate, you need not be a member or even an officially recognized friend—just someone who cares about this congregation’s past, present, and future – especially its future.

*“Renewal of Spaces, Renewal of Spirit”* is partly about raising funds, through a long-postponed capital campaign, to meet the needs of the church plant and to help UUCA express its welcome, its commitment to greening and social justice, and its vision toward the future. It is also about raising our spirit: What parts of the church’s work and vision are engaging for each of us? To what are we each most committed? How will we choose to express that engagement and commitment? Where do we want UUCA to go?

The renewal work builds on the work of the strategic plan, approved in 2009. The ministers, the trustees, the capital campaign coordinating committee, the architectural committee, and others have already been working hard on articulating ideas for renewal. But the plan will only take shape with the involvement of many of us. Each Renewal Conversation will include a 20-minute presentation, followed by about 40 minutes of Q&A and general discussion. (Four were held in August.) Please set aside time to join one of the conversations.

And save the date for a congregational meeting on October 3 (after second service) to vote on approval for undertaking the full capital campaign.

---

### Calendar of Renewal Conversations

#### *“Renewal of Spaces, Renewal of Spirit”*

Conversations will last about 60 minutes each. All are scheduled for the Board room, and child care will be provided for some, as marked with an asterisk.

Sun., Sept. 5	11:15 a.m.	Tue., Sept. 14	7:00 p.m.
Thur., Sept. 9	7:30 p.m.	Sun., Sept. 19	8:15 a.m.
Sat., Sept. 11	9:00 a.m. (RE Teachers)		10:30 a.m.*
	10:15 a.m. (Leadership Teams)		12:30 p.m.*
	11:30 a.m. (Leadership Teams)	Mon., Sept. 20	7:00 p.m.
Sun., Sept. 12	10:30 a.m.	Sun., Sept. 26	8:15 a.m.
	12:30 p.m.		10:30 a.m.
			12:30 p.m.
		Sun., Oct. 3	1:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting

\* Child care available.

Additional conversations will be scheduled and announced. But if you would like to request a conversation for a specific group, please contact Allen Keiswetter ([keiswetter\(at\)aol.com](mailto:keiswetter(at)aol.com)), Bill Fogarty ([wafogarty\(at\)aol.com](mailto:wafogarty(at)aol.com)), or Diane Ullius ([du4uuca\(at\)comcast.net](mailto:du4uuca(at)comcast.net)).

## New UU

**Saturday, Sept 25, 8:30 a.m.-Noon**



We'll look at the history and theology of Unitarian Universalism and the programs and activities of UUCA. A light breakfast will be served. There is no fee, but registration is required. Free childcare is available with prior request. Register at [www.uucava.org](http://www.uucava.org), under

Programs tab, click on Adult Education. Questions? Contact Sarah Masters at [sarah\(at\)uucava.org](mailto:sarah(at)uucava.org)

## Nurture Shock - A Book Discussion

Book discussion: *Nurture Shock - New research on child development*. Join Chuck Ellis Tuesdays, Sept. 14, 21 & 28 to discuss the inverse power of praise, why white parents don't talk about race, the myth of the supertrait and other important essays on new research. The book has far-reaching implications for parents, grandparents, former children and for our larger society. For more information, contact Chuck at [cellisiii\(at\)hotmail.com](mailto:cellisiii(at)hotmail.com) or 703-354-6567.

## First Coffee House of the new Church Year – Friday, October 1

With the new church year starting, we are once again scheduling a series of coffee houses and already have some great plans. The first coffee house will be Friday, October 1, at 8 p.m. And we have invited Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church and Mount Zion Baptist Church to join us for this event. The money we raise will go to Habitat for Humanity Perry Hall project.

UUCA's Coffee House program provides a venue for the informal, intergenerational sharing of music, poetry, humor, and other creative expressions. The primary goal of this activity is to have fun and support one another, but in the process the coffee house evenings also raise money for important activities. There are no charges for admission, snacks or beverages, but donations are greatly appreciated.

So if you feel like singing a song, telling a good joke, reciting some poetry, performing a dramatic reading, or any other creative interest you'd like to share, please contact Beth Rager at 703-527-2949 or e-mail [beth.rager\(at\)comcast.net](mailto:beth.rager(at)comcast.net) to get a spot on the line-up. Come and participate as a performer or enjoy and encourage others as an audience member.

## Congregational Meeting

Agenda: Capital Campaign

**Sunday, October 3, 1p.m.**

Light lunch will be served.

See related article on page 3.

## You're Invited!

**Saturday, September 11, 4 to 6 p.m.**

ANY and ALL are welcome to join in a potluck community sing and supper hosted by Joe and Cynthia Adcock on the occasion of Cynthia's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. (Room 13/15) Bring ONLY food, your voices, instruments and/or music to share. For more information, call 703-892-7164.

## UUCA Offers Three Choral Opportunities for Children and Youth

Does your child love to sing?? Are you looking for a fun, rewarding way to enhance your child's spiritual growth and sense of community at UUCA?

- **The Chalice Choir, open to all children pre-K thru 3<sup>rd</sup> grade** meets Sunday after first service in the Chapel, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Our primary objective is to build confidence and community through singing and music fun! Rehearsals begin Sept. 12.
- **The Youth Ensemble, 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade**, provides a bit more challenge for our young singers. This group meets after second service, 12:30 to 1 p.m. The Youth Ensemble often sings with the Chalice Choir in the service, providing harmony and part-singing. Rehearsals begin Sept. 12.
- **Our growing and dynamic Youth Choir - 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade**, meets Sunday, 1 to 1:45 p.m. and provides a wonderful bonding and singing opportunity for our Youth. Rehearsals begin Sept. 12.

All three groups learn a variety of music; of all styles – and are afforded numerous social outreach and performance opportunities throughout the year — including joint concert events with children and youth from other communities and congregations, recitals, concerts, joint singing with each other and the adult Clerestory Choir. No auditions required—all are welcome and encouraged to join us! Contact: Bea Ann Phillips, [bphillips\(at\)planning.net](mailto:bphillips(at)planning.net) for more information.

## From the Team Ministers

### Spirit of Aloha

— continued from page 1

I'm delighted we ministers agreed this year's Ingathering Sunday, September 12, will be built around the theme of "The Spirit of Aloha." If you would add the gift of your presence and bring friends with you, it would make the day that much richer.

There are many exciting activities and events coming up this year, including the Capital Campaign that begins this January in earnest. Its theme will be "Renewal of Spirit, Renewal of Spaces". I hope that during this year and in the years to come, you allow your spirit to be renewed by the aloha that is as near as your next breath.

In faith and joy,  
Rev. Carlton  
carlton(at)uucava.org

### Looking Ahead

#### October 1 - First Friday

Join for a simple supper at 6 p.m., followed by a festive and musical evening worship at 7 p.m.

#### Sunday, October 3 - Pet Blessing at 4 p.m.



Bring your pet (or a photo of shy or departed pets) to a brief ceremony of blessing. Meet other pet-lovers and Rev. Linda on the "Peace patio" outside the upstairs foyer.

## Religious Education

Rev. Linda Olson Peebles

### Messages for Our Children - Love and Renewal

Many things in the world can make this a scary place, especially people spreading feelings of hate and fear about other people who are of different faiths, nationalities, races, and sexual orientations. Our faith is one thing in this world that can give us hope. Now more than ever it is vitally important that we make sure children can hear the messages we offer - of a renewal of hope and of our commitment to stand on the side of love (not hate).

The UU Church of Arlington offers our children those messages, as well as deepening experiences in learning to value people in all their uniqueness and diversity. We encourage children and youth to come every Sunday, and to bring their friends! Help us spread the messages of love, renewal, hope, and compassion. Bring your neighbors, and help spread the Good News that Unitarian Universalism has to offer.

### What's Happening in Religious Education for Children & Youth This Sept/Oct?

#### What?

High energy, warm friendships, and lots of chances for families to join in our congregation's vibrant life.

#### Who?

Aloha! to:

- Jamie Gaffke, our brand new RE Coordinator
- Sana Saeed, starting her second year as our Youth Ministry Director
- Rev. Linda, starting her 10<sup>th</sup> year as Minister of RE at UUCA; and
- The many volunteers committed to leading, supporting, and teaching in our shared learning ministries with children, youth, and adults.

#### Why?

We are all eager to grow and help others grow, learning about UUism, the spiritual pathways of compassion and justice, multiculturalism, human sexuality, the interdependent web, and much more!

#### When Do Things Start?

- **Sunday, September 12, 9:15 & 11:15 a.m.** - Water Communion "Aloha!" Ingathering services for all ages (nursery and toddler care begins). Following services an Activity Fair (upstairs) and RE Open House (downstairs).
- **Sunday, Sept. 19, 9:15 & 11:15 a.m.** RE Learning groups begin meeting - K - 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

#### What's Happening?

For Families with Youth 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade

- OWL Parent orientations - for 8<sup>th</sup> grade - September 12 & 16, 7 p.m.; for 5<sup>th</sup> grade - September 19 & 23, 6 p.m.
- Senior High Youth Group overnight retreat - Sept. 18 - 19
- Coming of Age (7<sup>th</sup> grade) youth/parent potluck - Sun. Sept 26, 6 to 8 p.m.

– there's more →

For Learning Groups K through 4<sup>th</sup> grade Festival Sundays!

- 75 minutes of shared celebration during church services once a month throughout the year, starting with Oct 10 - Walk to Help the Homeless (to benefit ASPAN)

For Families with Children infants thru 4 years old

- Second Sunday "Family Times" - Gather with Rev. Linda for brunch and games and conversation, to get to know other families - adults and children - following each service - starting Oct. 10

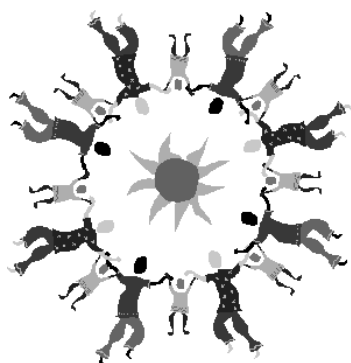
For Everyone

- Sept 5, 10 a.m. T-Shirt Sundae Sunday - wear a "message" t-shirt, celebrate the end of Sunday with a Sundae!
- Sept 12, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. Water Communion Ingathering - Bring water to share.
- First Fridays start up Oct. 1 - supper at 6 p.m., musical worship at 7 p.m.
- Fri., Oct. 1, 8 p.m. Coffee House - Open mike for anyone to share a song, a poem, a magic trick!
- Sun., Oct. 3, 4 p.m. Pet Blessing - Bring your pet, or a photo, for a brief ceremony outside.
- Sun., Oct. 31 - Halloween "Wear a Costume" Sunday - Trick-or-Treat Coffee Hour to benefit UNICEF!

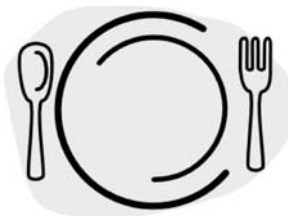
Keep watching the [www.uucava.org](http://www.uucava.org) web site and The Arlingtarian newsletter for new events upcoming as the year rolls on! And feel free to be in touch with [revlinda@uucava.org](mailto:revlinda@uucava.org), [reasst@uucava.org](mailto:reasst@uucava.org), and [sana.saeed@uucava.org](mailto:sana.saeed@uucava.org) with any questions or new ideas!

### How Else Can Families Have Fun and Grow as UUs?

- Join a Covenant Group
- Go to the VOICE Candidates Action (tentatively Oct 18)
- Join a choir
- Participate in a service project



## CIRCLE Dinners



### Make New Friends - Savor a Good Meal - Enjoy Interesting Conversations

Join us as we strengthen the bonds of friendship within our large

congregation by breaking bread together. We are forming new groups of eight adult members and friends for a series of four Circle Dinners to be held over the course of this church year. Each group will spend time getting to know each other while sharing a potluck meal at a host's home. All you need to do is sign up and commit to attending at least three of the four dinners. However, for those who can't make that commitment, you can request being listed as a substitute.

The first dinner is scheduled to occur October 8 thru 11 or October 15 thru 17. The next three dinners, to be scheduled at the group's discretion, are recommended to occur in November, February, and March. However, it will be up to each group to select a date suitable to all of its members.

Additional information and sign up opportunities will be available after services September 5, 12, and 19. If you have any questions you may call Jennifer Wright at 703-270-9065. You may also call the Church Office at 703-892-2565 and ask for Sarah Masters.

## Arlington County Fair

UUCA had a table at the Arlington County Fair this year. Thank you to the volunteers who staffed the table: Cynthia Adcock, Sara Anderson, Richard Barton, Anne Blacksten, Ric Blacksten, Lee Bory, Steve Brannon, Bill Browning, Rhonda Buckner, Bob Denniston, Jacomina De Regt, Bill Fogarty, Elizabeth Fogarty, Margaret Fogarty, Lavona Grow, Beatrice Hale, Christine Hauser, Wendy Jessup, Jim Olivetti, Maura O'Reilly, Tom O'Reilly, David Powers, Juliet Purll, Susan Randall, Kathy Scheibelhoffer, Penny Showell, Rev. Carlton Elliott Smith, Sally Sharp, Dave Shilton, Ray Sidney-Smith Chung, Sharon Sundial, Louise Van Horne, Rosemarie Wilcox, Phyllis Woodring, Christine Wysor.

"We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color."

– Maya Angelou

## From the Board Chair

### Saying Grace, Showing Gratitude

– continued from page 1

A church is people. It is not a body of belief, a set of principles, or an impressive structure of stone, wood, and glass. A church has roots in the past no matter how recently the congregation was organized. A church represents a long procession of people willing to work with others toward shared goals, worship with others of similar belief, and hold in honor the wise and courageous people who have gone before them.

The people who constitute a church come with their needs as well as their gifts. To the extent that they can share their concerns and vulnerabilities and become sensitive to those of others, they will be part of a beloved community.

A church consists of people who are not too sure they are right, who are willing to be somewhat uncomfortable in order to correct what they see as wrong. It is made up of people who order their priorities and choose their way with a generous spirit (and often considerable rhetoric).

In a church there are those who are practical about institutional needs as well as the needs of the human family. There are people who understand our interdependent web of existence, those who can share the poetry they find in the stars, and those who can circulate a petition to save the wetlands.

There are those who can speak out against nuclear madness and those who can remember that the roof needs mending. Churches need people who can help feed the hungry of the world and people who can help feed the hunger deep within the souls of those gathered.

A church is composed of people who continue in the long procession knowing that others will follow—others for whom they must make a better world, to whom they owe a heritage of carefully examined discoveries and challenging possibilities. A church is made up of people eager to be part of that procession yet fiercely aware of their individual identities within it and alert to the fragility of the relationship.

A church is a granite base and a silken web, a crystal ball and a cup of fire.

Thank you to all the volunteers, staff, and stewards of the church who keep the lights on and to the children and adults, members and friends, who give us a reason to.

In peace,  
Natalia (Natty) Averett, Chair  
On Behalf of the Board of Trustees  
nataliaaverett(at)aol.com  
703-868-8189

### Board Meeting Schedule:

Third Tuesday of the Month, 7:30 to 9:15 p.m., with a potluck reception from 7 to 7:30 p.m.

Meetings of the Board are open to all. If you are coming to the reception, you are welcome to bring short icebreaker games, if you have them, as well as snacks, non-alcoholic drinks, beer or wine for 4 to 6 people. If advance preparations may be needed to make the meeting more accessible or comfortable for you, please contact the Chair, Natty Averett, at [nataliaaverett\(at\)aol.com](mailto:nataliaaverett(at)aol.com) or 703-868-8189.

You may also contact the Chair for advance copies of the materials for the meeting.

### Agenda for September 21

Discussion: Ownership Linkage; *Salsa, Soul, Spirit: Leadership for a Multicultural Age* by Juana Bordas  
Board Monitoring/Staff Reporting Topic: Positive Staff Relations and Governance Board Policies:

- Executive Team work
- Emergency Administrator Succession
- Treatment of Staff
- Integration of Volunteers
- Communications to the Board of Trustees and Congregation (sections 10 and 11)

The Board Policy manual and other documents related to meetings are available in the Governance section of [www.uucava.org](http://www.uucava.org) (<http://uucava.ning.com/page/uuca-governance>).

### Joseph Priestley District

#### Journey Toward Wholeness 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Racial Justice Conference Walking the Talk: Personalizing the Journey Toward Wholeness Sat., October 16, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

UU Church of Delaware County  
145 W. Rose Tree Rd, Media, Pa.

Journey Toward Wholeness is the name of the UUA's initiative to develop anti-racism and multicultural ways of being in the world that truly reflect our Unitarian Universalist Principles.

Advance registration requested. \$40 before Oct. 12. \$50 after. Pick up a registration form at the flyer table in the Narthex area or visit [www.jpduua.org](http://www.jpduua.org)

## Day Alliance

### Living Aloha Everyday

Tuesday, September 14

Our Water Communion-Ingathering Sunday includes the theme of aloha, a way of being in the world that is close to Rev. Carlton's heart. He will share his experience of being on the Big Island during his sabbatical, and what he believes living the spirit of aloha can offer us regardless of where we live.

Rev. Carlton Elliott Smith will serve as UUCA's Consulting Minister from now through July 2012. His portfolio includes community building, social justice, membership, and denominational connections. He is an Accredited Interim Minister in Training within the Unitarian Universalist Association, and has served congregations in New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, and California. He is a graduate of Howard University's School of Business and School of Divinity.

New members and guests are always welcome. We gather at 10 a.m. for coffee, a short business meeting at 10:30 a.m., and our featured program at 11 a.m. Tickets for a catered lunch are \$9 and advance reservations are appreciated (Elsie Kimbrell, 703-931-6031, [elsiekimbrell@yahoo.com](mailto:elsiekimbrell@yahoo.com)).

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Peace Corps in 2011

Next year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Peace Corps, founded under the Kennedy administration. Many UUCA members served as volunteers or staff in the Peace Corps, and some have discussed doing something special for next year to commemorate the Peace Corps and to honor service. First step – compiling a list of all returned (and current!) Peace Corps volunteers in UUCA. If you were a volunteer, or know someone who was or is, please contact Bob Denniston at [Justdoitbob@hotmail.com](mailto:Justdoitbob@hotmail.com).

## Men's Book Group

Sunday, September 12, 7:30 p.m.

The Men's Book Group will meet on Sun., Sept. 12, to discuss John LeCarre's *A Most Wanted Man*. The October book selection is *The End of Overeating* by David Tessler. The Men's Book Group meets the second Sunday of the month. For more information, contact Henry Ernstthal at 202-537-7255 or [henryernstthal@comcast.net](mailto:henryernstthal@comcast.net).

QUUest Gallery presents

Margaret M. Bauman -

## Recent Paintings and Fiberworks

September – October 2010

### Artist Reception

Friday, September 24, 6 – 8 p.m.

UUCA member and past QUUest gallery artist, Margaret M. Bauman, is presenting a show of recent oil paintings and fiber pieces inspired by the writing of Yeats and Rickie Lee Jones and the themes of Life and Death.

Please come to the artist reception and take a moment to view these works while in the upstairs halls and narthex area.



## Labyrinth Walk

Saturday, Sept. 11  
7 to 8:30 p.m.

Please join in this special Peace Walk that remembers the victims of 9/11.

If you've never walked the Labyrinth, now is a good time to give it a try. The Labyrinth is not a maze, there's no dead ends or blind passages – Walking it is a soothing walking meditation. Many claim it helps them reconnect to their inner selves – helping them on their spiritual journey. New walkers are always welcome.

For more information, contact Leah Pellegrino at [pellegrl@earthlink.net](mailto:pellegrl@earthlink.net).

# Social Action at UUCA

---

## Give-the-Plate Sunday Changes to Share-the-Plate Month

We are trying something new. This year, on every Sunday each month, we will Share-the-Plate of all non-pledge cash contributions with a deserving organization – **September's organization is VOICE (see article to the right)**. Checks that have the name of the organization written in the memo line, will go to the organization in full. Checks with the memo line left blank will go to the church. If you want to make a cash contribution, you can use the envelopes that are provided at the back of the church to direct your contribution.

In addition, the entire month of each STP we will focus on the issue and organization through forums, Religious Education classes, displays, films, and other creative ways to deepen our understanding of the organization, the community it serves, and the underlying issues affecting it. This is an opportunity to provide a deep understanding on any given issue or organization, and foster a culture of abundance.

We are still working out the details, so we appreciate your patience while we finalize our new policy. For more information, please contact the Social Justice Coordinator, Lavona Grow, at [socialjustice\(at\)uucava.org](mailto:socialjustice(at)uucava.org).

## Documentary and Panel Discussion on Local Immigration Battle

**Wed., Sept. 15, 7 p.m.**

The award-winning documentary, **9500 Liberty**, is a gripping portrayal of the fierce anti-immigration battle in Prince William County, Virginia. Desson Thomson of the Washington Post called the film "as powerful a booster of the democratic process as anything Frank Capra ever imprinted into our collective memory."

The film's co-director, Annabel Park, will introduce the UUCA screening of the film on Wed., Sept. 15, at 7 p.m. Following the film will be a panel discussion featuring Walter Tejada, Arlington County Board member, and representatives of immigrants' rights organizations.

There is a suggested donation of \$10. Proceeds will support UUCA's official participation in VOICE (see related article on this page). UUCA's VOICE team offers this event in support of UUCA's year-long focus on immigration as a social justice issue. For more information, please contact Sharon Williams, [williams\\_sharon\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:williams_sharon(at)yahoo.com).

## September is VOICE Social Justice Month

**VOICE – Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement**

### What is it?

- a new, powerful, social-action coalition of nearly 50 houses of worship in Alexandria and in Arlington, Fairfax, and Prince William counties that cuts across race, class, culture, and religion - in which UUCA played a founding role
- a source of democratic power aimed at elected officials to strengthen social justice in our community
- more than 125,000 individuals whose congregations have pledged to support each other in demanding justice and dignity for all Northern Virginians.

UUCA members voted unanimously in 2009 to make UUCA an institutional member of VOICE and to commit 1% (maximum \$15,000) of UUCA's annual budget to VOICE. For the current year, the UUCA board chose to challenge the membership to directly raise \$10,000 of that amount.

Strong UUCA support for VOICE expresses the congregation's commitment to social justice ministry and to engage in cooperative multicultural social action.

VOICE is supported by professional community organizers from the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), the oldest and largest of five congregation-based community organizing (CBCO) institutions working with UU congregations.

Since October 2008, VOICE's victories have included code cleanups in public housing and public funding for dental care. Other key initiatives include ending the large backlog of naturalization proceedings faced by Northern Virginia immigrants.

VOICE's action issues are determined democratically by VOICE participants after extensive meetings in the community and follow-up research.

More information is at [www.uucava.org/group/voice](http://www.uucava.org/group/voice), [www.voice-iaf.org](http://www.voice-iaf.org), and [www.uua.org/leaders/justice/cbco](http://www.uua.org/leaders/justice/cbco).

---

## What Has VOICE Done Lately?

### Dental care

- 300-leader action in Richmond with 18 Virginia Senate and House leaders that helped preserve \$9 million for the Virginia dental care safety net in the FY 2011 budget
- Secured \$100,000 in renewal funding in FY 2011 budgets from Arlington and Fairfax counties as well as Alexandria City to continue the provision of dental →

services to 2,000 low-income adults through the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic.

- Organized 150 person public action at Prince William County FY 2011 budget hearing that led to restoring the proposed 15% cuts to nonprofit health and human services providers and the allocation of \$20,000 in new funding for the Prince William Free Health Clinic.

### Immigration

- Secured commitment from Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Esther Olavarria to address 200 backlogged immigration applications from VOICE members at Dar Al Hijrah Islamic Center in Falls Church. Ms. Olavarria promised a full accounting on 200 backlog cases and a follow-up meeting in August 2010.

### Affordable Housing

- Identified all foreclosures over recent years in Prince William County, Manassas City, and Manassas Park which had the highest foreclosure rate in Va. Working with The Reinvestment Fund from Philadelphia, VOICE linked these foreclosures back to the originating lenders and analyzed the data to identify lenders whose loans failed at the highest rates.
- Held 125+ person action to challenge Alexandria Housing and Redevelopment Board of Commissioners and Alexandria City Council to meet VOICE and tenant demands on relocation and redevelopment issues. Testimony at Virginia Housing and Development Authority Board Meeting lead to investigation of ARHA relocation policies and actions.

---

## UUCA Support to Offender Aid and Restoration

UUCA volunteers have worked with OAR over the years. Through this summer's Give-the-Plate service, we of UUCA donated \$2,611 to this organization that provides support to offenders and their families and helps offenders work toward rehabilitation. OAR needs volunteers to assist clients with job searches, resume development, basic literacy, GED tutoring, computer classes, anger management classes and life skills classes. The volunteer commitment is flexible, but ideally it would be two hours per week. The next training is scheduled for Sept. 20, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Anyone who is interested, please contact OAR Volunteer Director, Rachel Sparico, RSparico(at)oaronline.org. Or call UUCA member Ric Blacksten (703.980.5899) to discuss what OAR volunteering is like.

## VOICE Activities in September

September is VOICE social justice month at UUCA and Share-the-Plate recipient for every service in September (see related article on page 9). The following activities will broaden awareness in the UUCA community of this major social action network in which UUCA is an official member and plays a leading role.

- Literature table (and t-shirt sales) every Sunday (get a shirt for the Sept. 5 T-shirt service!)
- Sept. 15, 7 p.m., film and panel discussion on anti-immigration law in Prince William County (see related article on page 9)
- Sept. 16, 7:15 p.m. to 9 p.m.: training at UUCA led by VOICE organizers on the principles and methods of effective community organizing
- Sept. 19: After each service, Alexandria public-housing residents and VOICE's Alexandria organizer discuss VOICE's efforts to correct injustices in their displacement

## THROUGH THE GREEN LENS

### UUA's Ware Lecture – Act to Honor the Earth Sun., Oct. 10, 7 - 8:30 p.m. in the Activity Room

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) President, in consultation with the General Assembly Planning Committee, invites a distinguished guest each year to address the General Assembly (GA) as the Ware Lecturer. This year's Ware Lecture was delivered by Winona LaDuke, who is a Native American activist, environmentalist, economist, and writer. In 1996 and 2000, she ran for vice president as the nominee of the United States Green Party, on a ticket headed by Ralph Nader. An Anishinaabekwe (Ojibwe) enrolled member of the Mississippi Band Anishinaabeg, LaDuke lives and works on the White Earth Reservation. As Program Director of the Honor the Earth Fund, she works on a national level to advocate, raise public support, and create funding for frontline native environmental groups. Winona LaDuke invited her audience at the Ware Lecture to take back their country by erecting wind turbines, blocking coal plants and genetically-modified crops, and, above all, not waiting for someone else to save the world. We will view a video of the lecture and discuss it.

### Green Circle Meetings

Join us for discussions on topics of interest in Greening Our Environment and Our Lives. Details are in the Program Guide. We meet monthly on the first Wednesday evening from 7:30 to 9 p.m. (except for November--see below).

**Wednesday, October 6, 7:30 – 9 p.m. – Trees and the Environment.** Learn about the environmental benefits of trees and how you can play a role in enhancing the tree canopy of your community.

**Wednesday, November 3, 7 p.m. – "No Impact Man."** View and discuss an entertaining, amusing, and provocative film that follows a family as they try to live for a year while making no net environmental impact.

## UUCA's Guatemala Project - The Power of Accompaniment

The idea of accompaniment – standing with people while they pursue their rights – is simple and yet incredibly powerful. In the Guatemalan context, accompaniment is used effectively in communities where poor, mostly indigenous Mayans have for decades struggled courageously for basic human rights in the face of violence committed against them by their own government, military forces, and transnational corporations.

In the words of one accompanied genocide survivor: "Your presence lets us do the work that we need to do and not always be afraid.... The work is ours, it is our country, it is for us to do, but you open the space for us to do that work."

And so, since fall of 2006, UUCA has sponsored accompaniers in various Guatemalan indigenous communities. Each accompanier, with UUCA's support, spends a minimum of 6 months in Guatemala. You can read their letters on the church website, but here are some excerpts that offer insight into the power of having international supporters willing to be present and stand with those who are threatened:

### From Tracey (June 2009):

"I spent my days amongst incredibly strong men and women, fighting for their basic human rights...and because of what Guatemalans are fighting for – life, water, land – the movements are strong, the people are courageous and communities are forging new relationships....Solidarity is based on human connections and empathy. I met some of the most generous and giving people in Guatemala; people who shared with me the wild mushrooms they had found in the mountains that day to feed their family of five; people who offered me a space to sleep, and who shared their lives and stories and experiences with me. Many times they shared with me simply because of my presence, because I had traveled many miles to sit with them and listen."

### From Tad's final letter (June 2008):

"I often was instructed to become a messenger to the people of my country. 'When you leave for your home, Tad, you need to tell your friends and family of our situation and what we have been through,' instructed Pedrina of Xesiguan. A deep fear of being isolated in the struggle for justice, and a fear that the world may never know about the true atrocities committed during the violence, are driving forces for the people, that and a desire to achieve justice for these criminal acts."

– continued on next page

## Peace Camp THANKS UUCA



Peace Camp at UUCA calls together a multigenerational and multicultural community to learn and grow - this year around the theme of Heaven on Earth. The camp kept church (and grounds) spaces hopping from June 28 to July 2. Forty campers, age 5 to 11, were led in a wide variety of learning experiences by directors MJ and Jerry Park, assisted by 20 adult and youth staff. Other essential support was provided by lunch helpers, drivers and "special guests". In all, about 45 collaborators provided this week of peace education and multicultural relationship building.

In the five days of camp many "aha moments" affirmed the importance of "practicing peace," as when an adult or older youth takes time to work with two children to untie the knot of a conflict that's developed between them, or a child expresses an awakening understanding that curiosity about differences leads to framing a larger world than our comfortable neighborhood includes.

THANKS to all who shared their time, talent, energy and spirit. Church members who contributed financially, so that 11 low income children could attend camp, also played a vital role.

Our 13-year-old Peace Camp needs to continue to develop its potential. Will 2011 be your year to step up to support the camp's future? (See article below).

## Practicing Peace Opportunities

Did your summer have the effect of encouraging "new church year resolutions"?

In keeping with the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly decision to make "Creating Peace" the 2010 Statement of Conscience, our very own Peace Camp is offering two opportunities to "practice peace."

**First, on Tuesday, September 14, at 7:30 p.m., in Room 13/15 of the church (the RE Library), share your thoughts for "Visioning Peace Camp"** as older youth and adults gather to explore how to lead and support our 13-year-old Peace Camp as it enters adolescence. If you want our vibrant camp to continue, your presence is essential. All are welcome.

**Second, a series of six conversations, "Practicing Peace,"** will be offered beginning in October, co-facilitated by former Peace Camp coordinators Sarah Munson and Sharon Sundial. The practice-oriented sessions draw their inspiration from *Practicing Peace in Times of War*, by Pema Chodron, a Buddhist nun, widely respected for her writing and mentoring on this subject. Conversations, to be held at the church, will begin October 20, the third Wednesday of the month, and continue on the third Wednesday in November, to begin again January through April on the third Wednesday. The Chodron book, in paperback, will be available at the UUCA Bookstall.

Visit Peace Camp's table at the September 12 Activity Fair for information about both opportunities and to sign up for the conversation series. For more information, please contact Sarah Munson at sarahmun223(at)yahoo.com.

## Through the Green Lens

### Ethical Eating: Green, Just, & Delicious!

What is "Ethical Eating" that UU's around the country are currently studying? The answer is complex, and depends on who is answering, but a group of UUCA members and friends are looking into the question and considering answers. We're starting with the movie, "FRESH," on Sunday, Oct. 24 at 4 p.m. "FRESH" looks at the environmental aspects of our food chain. It features a Virginia farmer that Michael Pollan made famous in *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, who is blazing a profitable, sustainable way of stewardship on land that his family has farmed for three generations. In the meantime, you may review the UUA's excellent Ethical Eating study guide online at: <http://www.uua.org/documents/washingtonoffice/ethicaleating/studyguide.pdf>.

## Accompaniers – *continued*

### From Jeff (May 2009):

"Accompaniment is important to the people that we accompany. They honestly feel safer having someone from a foreign country come and listen to their concerns...accompaniment really could not be possible without support from organizations like PAG. Thank you so much again."

**From Melinda, former accompanier in 1994,** and now Board Chair for NISGUA – UUCA's partner organization that trains accompaniers (July 2009):

"Why I choose to stay involved (in Guatemala), specifically with solidarity work...is very simple: At some point along the way I realized that I wasn't 'helping the Guatemalans' but rather I was working to create an environment where friends of mine were able to have their basic human rights met: The right to peace, dignity, the right to enjoy a better life. The right not to worry that the next car passing by with tinted windows is going to stop and shove you inside. The right to be confident that your drinking water has not been contaminated with cyanide by the mining company just up the road. The right to grow corn and beans to feed your family instead of snow peas for the export market. The right not to be displaced at gunpoint by a massive hydro-electric plant. The right not to be killed for speaking out against injustice."

To learn more about UUCA's support for human rights in Guatemala and the young people who have served as our accompaniers, please visit [www.uucava.org](http://www.uucava.org) and follow the links to Groups, then Partners for Accompaniers in Guatemala (PAG). While you're there, sign on as a member of the PAG group. Thank you. For more information, contact Chris Sutton at [jds42cps44\(at\)verizon.net](mailto:jds42cps44(at)verizon.net).

## Adult Education Classes

Below are a few of September Adult Education offerings. For a more detailed list of other classes and events, please watch for the upcoming Fall Program Guide. To register for the following classes, please go online to [www.uucava.org](http://www.uucava.org) and under the Program tab, click on Adult Education. You may also register by e-mailing [reasst\(at\)uucava.org](mailto:reasst(at)uucava.org).

### Photo Album Workshop

**Fri., Sept. 17, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 6 - 9 p.m.**

**Sat., Sept. 18, 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

Have boxes of loose photos? This class is for you. Receive tips and supplies to help create unique and interesting photo albums that will become family keepsakes. \$5 for one session. \$15 for whole weekend. (Extra charge for supplies purchased). Instructor: **Linda Ayers**.

### Aerobix

**Mon. & Thur., 4:15 - 5:15 p.m.**

**Sept. 20 to Dec. 16**

Dance for fitness and fun! Routines include warm-ups, toning exercises, and up-beat dance steps to promote endurance, strengthen your heart and lungs, and make you feel better. No previous dance experience necessary. Fee: \$168 for 24 classes (twice a week); \$96 for 12 classes (once a week); \$5 discount for UUCA pledging contributors. Instructor: **Carol Osborne**.

### But I Don't WANT To Practice!

**Sat., Sept. 25, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

This class presents strategies and creative ideas for helping your child to practice their music lessons, even if you don't read music yourself. Practice time doesn't have to be painful! Fee: \$5 for handouts and "practice kits". Leader: **Libby Wiebel**.

### Stretch and Movement

**Fridays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. beginning Sept. 24**

Lengthen and relax commonly tight muscles to relieve chronic pain, prevent muscle spasm and sports-related injuries. The class will address all major muscle groups, emphasizing often ignored problem areas, such as the lower abdominals, hip flexors, chest, shoulders, and neck. Fees: \$120 for 10 classes; \$5 discount for UUCA pledging contributors. Leader: **Eileen Kozak**.

### Margaret Fuller Seminar

**Sun., Sept. 26; Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31**

**12:30 to p.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

Join in the conversations about 21st Century Issues Women Face today led by Margaret Fuller (AKA Shari Lewis) and Kathy Braeman after second service. Among the topics will be how best to juggle multiple roles and how to have an impact on the world. We will discuss how feminism affects our lives at different stages. How does each of us find support? How do we find mentors and collaborators? What are each of us born to do? Facilitators: **Kathy Braeman and Shari Lewis**.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington  
4444 Arlington Blvd.  
Arlington VA 22204

NON PROFIT  
POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT 6275  
MERRIFIELD VA

UUCA's

## Used Book Sale



**October 1, 2, 3**  
**Fri. 4 to 8 p.m.**  
**Sat. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
**Sun. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

### Book Donations Needed

Beginning Sun., Sept. 19, you can start bringing in your book donations. Please drop them off in the lower level Activity Room.

### Volunteers Needed

Volunteers will be needed throughout the two week period - Sept. 19 to Oct. 1 - to sort books. And, this year's sale has a special need for volunteers to manage the Saturday and Sunday portion of the sale. This is a fun and interesting volunteer opportunity for all book lovers. Please contact Paul Hoekstra for more information - 703-524-7621 or paulhoek99(at)gmail.com.

This newsletter is available online in pdf format at [www.uucava.org](http://www.uucava.org).

**For the visually impaired** – this newsletter is available in plain text and large print. Contact the church office to receive a copy - 703-892-2565.

### Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington

4444 Arlington Blvd.  
Arlington, VA 22204  
703-892-2565 | [www.uucava.org](http://www.uucava.org)

#### Professional Team

Rev. Michael McGee  
*Lead Team Minister*

Rev. Linda Olson Peebles  
*Minister of Religious Education*

Carlton Elliott Smith  
*Consulting Minister*

Natalie Fenimore  
*Intern Minister*

Bill Peters  
*Church Administrator*

Bob Griffith  
*Music Director*

#### Board of Trustees

Natalia Averett, Chair (2012)

Lee Bory (2011)

MJ Schmelzer-Hoekstra (2011)

Linda Martin (2011)

David Shilton (2011)

Phyllis Woodring (2011)

Frank Corsoro (2012)

David McTaggart (2012)

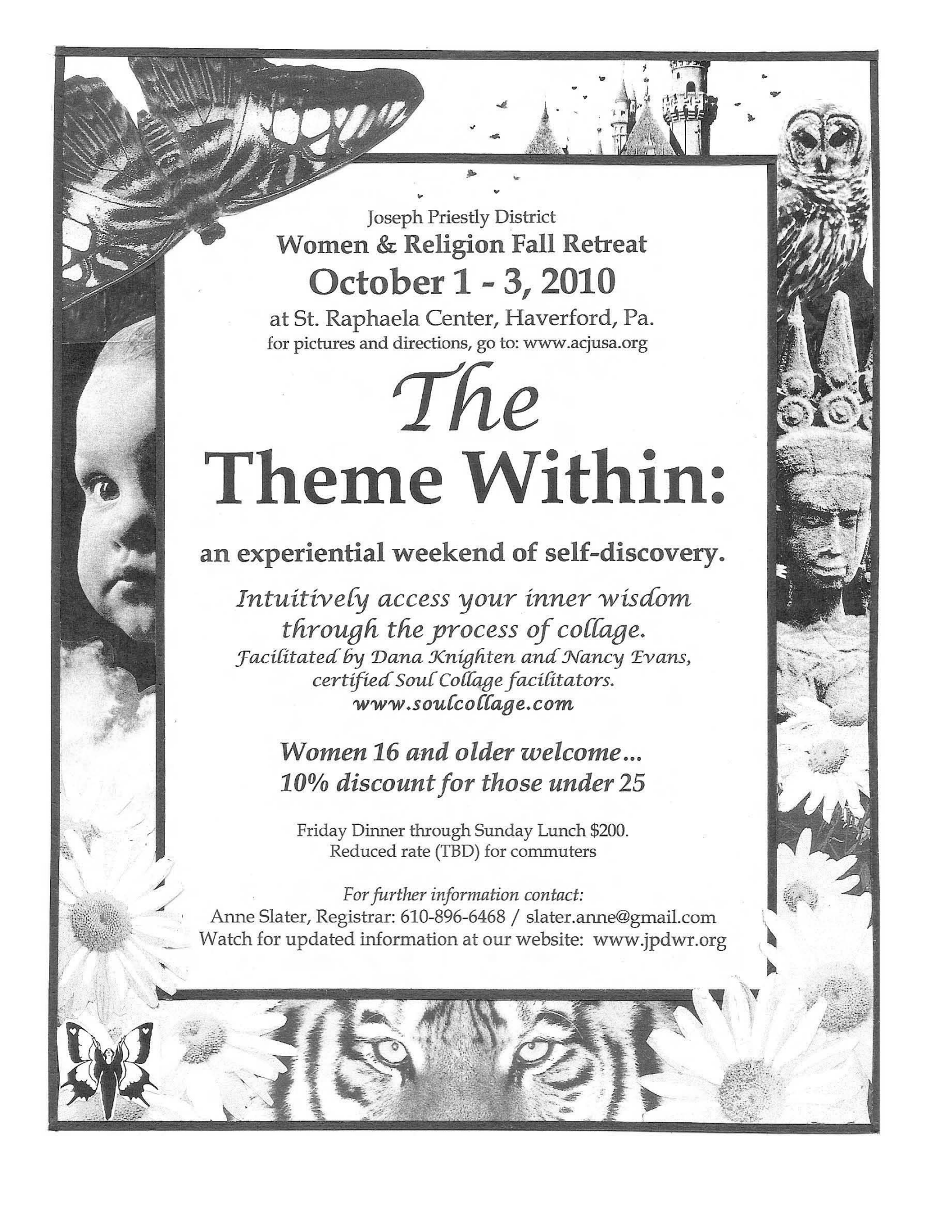
Alexandra Roth (2012)

*The Arlingtarian* newsletter is published once a month. Deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

To submit an article to the newsletter, e-mail your submissions to [pubasst@uucava.org](mailto:pubasst@uucava.org) by noon on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Word limit for each article is 300 words.

You may review newsletter guidelines at [uucava.org/news/getting\\_word\\_out\\_brochure.pdf](http://uucava.org/news/getting_word_out_brochure.pdf).

Editors for this issue: Betts Abel and Mary Ann Bolton.



Joseph Priestly District  
**Women & Religion Fall Retreat**  
**October 1 - 3, 2010**

at St. Raphaela Center, Haverford, Pa.  
for pictures and directions, go to: [www.acjusa.org](http://www.acjusa.org)

# *The* **Theme Within:**

**an experiential weekend of self-discovery.**

*Intuitively access your inner wisdom  
through the process of collage.*

*Facilitated by Dana Knighten and Nancy Evans,  
certified Soul Collage facilitators.*

*[www.soulcollage.com](http://www.soulcollage.com)*

***Women 16 and older welcome...  
10% discount for those under 25***

Friday Dinner through Sunday Lunch \$200.  
Reduced rate (TBD) for commuters

*For further information contact:*

Anne Slater, Registrar: 610-896-6468 / [slater.anne@gmail.com](mailto:slater.anne@gmail.com)  
Watch for updated information at our website: [www.jpdw.org](http://www.jpdw.org)