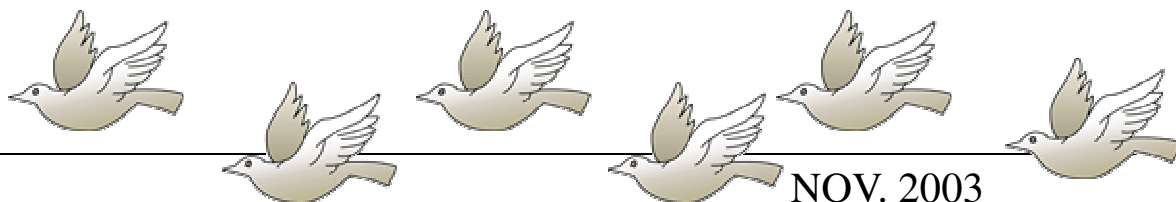


Second Thoughts

The Newsletter of Second Unitarian Church of Omaha



NOV. 2003

Sunday Services:

November 2

First Hour: "Being Liberal in an Illiberal Age"
Chapters 3-4 Facilitated by either Jodi Jones or Heather Lipsey

Family Worship: "Shared Ministry Sunday"
Rev. Dr. Joshua Snyder

November 9

First Hour: "Open Mic" hosted by Jim Daniels
Worship: "Sustainability and Spirituality"
Dr. Charles Harper

November 16

First Hour: "USA PATRIOT Act's impact on Muslims in the US" Musa Al-Hindi, Palestine Right to Return Coalition and Act to Stop War Coalition
Worship: "Give Them Not Hell, but Hope" Rev. Dr. Joshua Snyder

November 23

First Hour: Welcoming Congregation - Donna Colley, one of the founders of Real Families
Worship: "In Your Hands" — Thanksgiving Brunch
Rev. Dr. Joshua Snyder

November 30

First Hour: "Mindful Parenting" Rose Joshi, DRE
Worship: "Bread Communion" Rev. Sarah Voss

December 7

First Hour: "Being Liberal in an Illiberal Age"
Chapter 5
Family Worship: "Rules and Relationships; Religion and the Abuse of Power" Rev. Dr. Joshua Snyder

Information on First Hour & Sunday Service programming can be found on Page 6 of this newsletter.

Josh's Journal

The UUA's Commission on Appraisal is a group elected by the UUA to take stock of where we are as an Association of Free Congregations. In the past, their reports have ranged from the nature of congregational polity and the way churches are related to one another, to the process of becoming a member in a UU congregation. This past year, the Commission undertook the daunting task of trying to articulate, or at least reflecting the articulations of others, the "core" of the Unitarian Universalist tradition. I applaud the Commission for its courage in addressing this much needed area of Unitarian Universalist life.

Along these lines, Bill Sinkford, the current President of the UUA, said in a speech last year that Unitarian Universalists need to reclaim a "vocabulary of reverence" that are sorely lacking in our Principles and Purposes. Here again, I think that President Sinkford has hit the nail squarely on the head. We are blessed to be the spiritual heirs to a creedless faith built on the notion that congregations come together around a mutual covenant, not a laundry list of shared beliefs. However, one of the difficulties of committing ourselves to not having a coercively enforced creed is that it is all too easy to get lazy and never have to work out what it is that Unitarian Universalists believe exactly. Pushing us in the attempt to try to collectively articulate this "vocabulary of reverence" may not be completely successful, but the effort will likely get us closer than we would have otherwise.

One of the controversies that has arisen following Sinkford's comments is that some people feel that a "vocabulary of reverence" necessarily means talking about God, Jesus, and the Bible. I myself do not interpret it that way. I think that any authentic articulation of Unitarian Universalism must include reason, but also leave room for that which is beyond reason. The Father of Unitarianism in America, William Ellery Channing, was a champion for reason, but also believed that reason was not incompatible with Christianity. Buddhism too emphasizes the harmony of reason with religion. The Dalai Lama recently spent an extended trip on the East Coast

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Web site: www.secondunitarianomaha.org

Sunday Worship - 10:30 a.m.
First Hour - 9:15 a.m.
Children's Religious Education - 10:30 a.m.

Staff

Rev. Dr. Joshua Snyder, Minister

Minister's hours:

Mon, Wed 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Tues, Thurs 12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Rose Joshi, Director of Religious Education

Rose's office hours:

Mon, Fri 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Tues, Wed 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Sun 9:30 a.m.-12:30 pm

Holly Batchelder, Office Administrator
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Office hours:

Mon - Thurs 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Fri 7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Board of Trustees

President: Clyde Anderson

"Acting" Vice Pres: Steve Brown

Secretary: Sara Seaman

Betty Allen
Bill MacMillan
Craig Piquette

Second Thoughts is published monthly. Items for publication may be submitted to the church office or sent to the church email address:
info@secondunitarianomaha.org
Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month

to discuss the physiological effects of meditation with MIT researchers. While in town, he happened to stop by to visit with Bill Sinkford. I am sure the two of them had much to discuss and agree with, as Unitarian Universalists strive to include symbolic expressions of our faith along with rational ones. May we persevere in our efforts!

May You Always Be Blessed,

Rev. Dr. Joshua Snyder

Planks and Slivers

By Clyde Anderson, Board President

The installation of Rev. Dr. Josh Snyder as our settled minister on October 12 was a wonderful celebration, and so purposeful for Josh and the congregation. The guest speakers, choir, flowers (both inside & outside), and reception afterward – everything went so well. Special thanks to Ronni Kahn for chairing the ad-hoc Installation Committee whose hard work, along with the Fellowship Committee, produced this memorable event.

Ronni resigned from the Board of Trustees on September 14. She felt overwhelmed by the responsibilities of the Board plus chairing the Installation Committee. Ronni feels her interest and passion for the church fits better with the Fellowship Committee and choir. The Board appreciates Ronni's fine work and dedication to the church. We reluctantly accepted her resignation.

Bill MacMillan volunteered to fill Ronni's vacancy through next May. Bill has been a member of the church since 1996, and serves on the Long Range Planning and Technology committees. He also shares his musical talent by singing in the choir and playing guitar. According to our Bylaws, the Nominating Committee will recruit one or more candidates to run for the second year of the vacancy in the election at the annual congregational meeting next May.

Participation in denominational activities is a great way for our church leaders to network with those from other UU congregations. On September 17 and 18, Cheri Cody, JoAnne Draper, Linda Trone,

and I attended the Prairie Star District Presidents' Conference in Des Moines. Then on October 4, Steve Powell, Karin Brown, JoAnne Draper and I met in Lincoln with church finance leaders from First Unitarian Church and Lincoln Unitarian Church. All participants were so enthused by the exchange of ideas and information that Second Unitarian will host another meeting within a year. In September, area ministers and RE directors had a combined meeting at Mahoney State Park.

The monthly Board meetings are now scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on the first Thursday evenings beginning November 6. This will avoid a conflict with the Youth Group when they start meeting at our church on Wednesday evenings beginning in January. All members are welcome to attend.

Installation Thank You

*by Ronni Kahn, Chair,
Ad Hoc Installation Committee*

I received so much positive feedback regarding the Installation. I want everyone to know that it would not have been possible without wonderful help from so many people! Our committee was Janet Nichols (Fellowship Committee), Steve Powell (Finance Committee), Lorraine Duggin (Music and Worship Committee), Clyde Anderson (Board Chair) and Rev. Josh. Without all these terrific people, the Installation would not have been as nice as it was.

Special thanks, too, to all the people who helped: the Youth Group, those who baked, the people who video-taped and set up the sound system, the choir, the office elves who helped with invitations and the people who helped clean up afterward and most especially to the Fellowship Committee for setting up that wonderful reception. A special thank you to Janet Nichols for helping to print the invitations and taking responsibility for the reception, including building preparation and food set-up, and a hundred other unseen tasks. My deep appreciation to all of you for helping to make a grand event!

ANNUAL FALL SPRUCE UP Saturday, November 1 9:00-Noon

Nancy VanderSluis, Building and Grounds Committee Chair

Have you noticed anything at the church that could do with a little fixing up? Is that little place with chipped or peeling paint unattractive? Is there a nail hole that needs filling or a tree that could do with some pruning? Does everything look perfect to you but you just like wielding a screwdriver or power tools? Join me for a fun morning on Saturday, November 1, for our annual fall spruce up. I will have a list of easily accomplished jobs with materials needed, for anyone willing to help out. We will meet, rain or shine, at 9:00 a.m., and will not stay past noon. Drinks and home-made apple pie provided. All ages, all genders, and all skill levels are welcome! If you cannot attend, but notice a problem at the church requiring repair or maintenance, please let me know.



HEARTS AND HANDS GARDEN CLUB UNDERWAY

Winter time for gardeners means dreaming and planning for spring. We have a small core of folks with a dream of transforming our church acreage into a garden sanctuary, a meditation garden, and wildlife sanctuary. We envision a garden for people, birds, and butterflies to share; a place to teach children to appreciate and cultivate nature's bounty, and a space that enriches our environmental and spiritual values. If you share a passion for gardens, please join us at the *November 1 Fall Spruce-up*. We will organize a new garden club and develop a landscape plan so come spring we will be ready to turn our visions (and some sod) into reality. For more information contact Sara Seaman.

RE Announcements

- **Holiday Service:** The Intergenerational Holiday Service is scheduled for Sunday, December 14. We will begin rehearsing our songs and parts during Children's Fellowship in November. If you would like for your child to be able to participate with confidence, regular attendance is encouraged during this month. The final rehearsal will be on Family Sunday, December 7, during our class time downstairs after the children's story.
- **Chalice Table Decorating:** The kids have enjoyed decorating the chalice table before Children's Fellowship, and I would like to have a varied inventory of sacred and decorative items for them to choose from. Donations of small statues, chalices, bowls, nature items, nice fabric, and other things for decorating would be gratefully accepted.
- **Kids are always asking questions.** Kids don't wait until a Sunday RE class to come up with questions about religion. There is an on-line resource called "Between Sundays: Answering Kids" sponsored by The Church of the Larger Fellowship to help you with answers. You'll find it at www.clfuu.org/betweensundays. This interesting and informative site is well worth a visit!
- **Kid's Corner News Page:** As always, I'm looking for material for upcoming newsletters! We would love to publish your children's creative works: poems, drawings or paintings (on paper 8 1/2 x 11 or smaller). It is also fun to see baby photos of children enrolled in RE, and to guess their identity. Artwork and photo submissions can be given to Rose Joshi or placed in her DRE folder in the office.
- **Guest at Your Table:** The R.E. Committee has chosen Sunday, November 9, to start our annual Guest at Your Table program. Guest at Your Table is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee as a way to raise money for needy families.

On November 9, we will have donation boxes available in the Fellowship area. Please pick one up, keep it on your table, and place coins in the box at mealtimes. I will be collecting the boxes on Sunday, December 7. Thank you for your participation!

The picture below is last June's 6th grade RE

graduation. The kids in the picture – from left to right: Kate Hunter, Logan Snyder, David Raybine, Haley Brown and Derek Jeck.

"Prayer"

By Rose Joshi, Director of Religious Education

While driving to school one day, my kids and I were listening to some Indian music. One song called "Omiya" was particularly inspiring. I explained to the kids that "Om" is a special word in Hinduism, and that this song was kind of like a prayer.

The next day, when I was running through the woods, I came across one of nature's cathedrals - towering cottonwood trees on either side of the narrow path were the walls, their over-arching, interlacing branches the ceiling, and the glowing yellow, red, and green leaves were the myriad stained-glass windows. I was inspired to the point of stopping my run, turning off my music, and just standing there, reveling in that natural wonder. Quietly taking in all the sights, sounds, and smells, a sense of peace came over me. Then I realized that this was a type of prayer, too.

These two incidents provided much food for thought – how can I come up with a definition of prayer that encompasses both of these examples? Well, after a few more runs through the woods, I came to the conclusion that prayer is whatever strengthens and enhances our connection to the divine. Of course, there are as many ways to pray, as there are beliefs about what is divine. I think that even if we don't have these ideas exactly figured out for ourselves, we should still share them with our children. Discuss your ideas of divinity – what phrasing do you like to use? God? Goddess? The Di-

vine? The Holy? Spirit of Life or Love? The connections between people? Nature? Something special/ sacred within each of us? Point out to your children the different ways we connect with that divinity, whether smiling, doing a good deed unnoticed, expressing gratitude, meditating, reflecting on meaningful words, going for a walk and appreciating nature's beauty, playing music, singing, dancing, painting. The possibilities are endless.

A wonderful book to share with children is "Grandad's Prayers of the Earth" by Douglas Wood. The boy in the story learns from his Grandpa how all of nature prays, and that people pray in many different ways (smelling a flower, watching a sunrise and saying hello to a new day, etc.). This beautifully illustrated book, which is spiritual without associating with any particular religion, is now available in the RE Library.

Readers Respond

By Rose Joshi, Director of Religious Education

This month's question: Do you have any tradition of prayer that you share with your children, before eating or sleeping or at other special times? Our family has begun a tradition before starting a meal: we light a candle and express gratitude for our family and gratitude to the earth for our food and to the people involved in getting the food to our table.

Last month's question: How do other households rouse their sleeping children out of bed on those early school mornings?

When my (now 25 year old) son Ben began school, I used a Robert Louis Stevenson poem to get him out of bed each morning. I would sit on the edge of his bed and say, "A birdie with a yellow bill, hopped upon the window sill, cocked his shining eye and said, ain't you 'shamed you sleepy head?"... and then I added my own ending..."now get your body out of bed!" When Ben was a senior in high school, he had been home sick for several days in a row. The morning came when it was time for him to go back to school but he was not getting up so I went into his room to gently nudge him, to which my 6 foot son responded, "Tell me about the birdie with the yellow bill, mom, and then I'll get up!" Cheryl Wallace

Here is my progressive strategy when my two naturally early-risers are not rising early:

- 1. We've got plenty of time: Noisily open the door and raise the shades.*
- 2. It's really time to get up: Play piano or turn on the radio and start cooking breakfast.*
- 3. Get up NOW: Go back upstairs to sing the Good Morning song from the movie "Singing in the Rain" and tell them to "Rise and Shine".*
- 4. IT'S ALMOST TIME TO LEAVE!: Pull off the covers and start putting on their clothes, choosing items that they really hate to wear like a nice button down shirt and slacks (not blue jeans.) This always works. Nancy Vandersluis*

New Member Orientation

Are you a new member or considering membership at Second Unitarian Church? Then you are cordially invited to attend our bi-annual New Member Orientation! New Member Orientation is a two session program that meets on consecutive Saturday mornings, November 8 and 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. New Member Orientation is a relaxed and informal way to learn more about Second Unitarian Church. It is an opportunity to share spiritual insights, to hear from Church leaders, and to get to know more people at Church. The sessions culminate in our New Member Recognition ceremony held during the service on November 16. If you have joined the Church in the last six months or are just about to, please contact Rev. Josh

Coffee and doughnuts are provided.

Please contact Alison Maheux if you need childcare.



First Hours and Sunday Worship/Music Information for November

November 2:

First Hour: "Being Liberal in an Illiberal Age -Alone and Together" Chapters 3 - 4. Facilitated by either Heather Lipsey or Jodi Jones. Reading is helpful but not required. (If a book is desired, it can be ordered online at www.uua.org/bookstore.)

Family Worship: "Shared Ministry Sunday"

November 9:

First Hour: "Open Mic" Jim Daniels will host an "Open Mic" for anyone wanting to share their poetry, prose, singing or other arts.

Worship: "*Sustainability and Spirituality*" Dr. Charles Harper received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Nebraska in 1974 and has taught at Creighton University since 1968. He teaches and writes on Social Change, Environmental Sociology, Religion, and Food.

November 16:

First Hour: "USA PATRIOT Act's impact on Muslims in the US" Palestinian-American Musa Al-Hindi was born and raised in Lebanon and now lives in the US. He worked in social and human services before becoming a full-time father and homemaker. He will present a brief overview of the USA PATRIOT Act and related government policies and then focus on their impact on Muslims in the US.

Worship: "*Give Them Not Hell, but Hope*"

Music: Guitar ensemble

November 23:

First Hour: Welcoming Congregation - Donna Colley, one of the founders of Real Families, a group for Omaha area families that are headed by parents of the same gender will speak to us about Real Families and the challenges their families face, especially in Nebraska.

Worship: "*In Your Hands*"

Music: Choir

November 30:

First Hour: "Mindful Parenting" Rose Joshi, DRE, will lead a discussion on ideas in the book "Everyday Blessings: The Inner Work of Mindful Parenting" by Myla and Jon Kabat-Zinn. Who else can push our buttons like our progeny, whether new born or teenaged? We will discuss how parenting can be

viewed as a spiritual discipline, and how getting our buttons pushed can be turned into opportunities for spiritual growth.

Mindful parenting "honors the fullness of the present moment, and within it, the inner potential and beauty that reside in both our children and ourselves." You do not need to read the book before this discussion.

Childcare is available through Alison Maheux (please contact her by November 23)

Worship: "*Bread Communion*"

Music: Zither

Offerings from the Minister

Newcomer Session. The monthly newcomer sessions have begun once again! Our meeting this month will be on November 9 and continuing on every second Sunday of the month. This is a good way to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, Second Unitarian Church, to ask questions, and how to become a member. The sessions begin at 12:00 p.m. after coffee hour in the minister's office. No reservations are needed, and the Membership Committee provides childcare and lunch. Call Rev. Snyder for more information.

Meditation. The Meditation Group will be meeting only once this month due to the Thanksgiving holiday. We will be in the sanctuary on November 13 at 7:00 p.m. for our regular meditation practice. In addition to our half hour of meditation practice, we also have a discussion of our spiritual practice, and share ideas and insights on a whole host of spiritual topics. Everyone is welcome regardless of experience or meditation tradition, and newcomers are especially welcome! This is an excellent way to begin a spiritual practice or nurture a fledgling one. Feel free to bring your own cushion and/or mat if you like.

Second Unitarian Twenties and Thirties (2UT2). The Twenties and Thirties group is a social group for all young adults of the Second Unitarian community. We will have our regular monthly meetings on every third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. This month we will be meeting on November 20. At our monthly meetings we share snacks and have a time to get to know each other, and plan social events for the coming months, so bring ideas. If you are interested but cannot make the meeting, please call Rev. Josh

Social Justice Committee
by Vicki Pratt and Vicki Grunwald

Vibrant City Infrastructure

Omaha Together One Community: Thanks to everyone who provided housing for the Immigrant Workers Freedom Riders! The riders arrived safely in Washington, D.C., and New York to raise awareness of immigrant worker issues.

Thanks to your generosity we are more than half-way to our \$1,000 goal for individual contributions.

Respect for Diversity

Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO): How does one describe the awe at sitting in the General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York City listening to knowledgeable and inspiring speakers, some of whom are world leaders, welcoming all the NGOs (Non-Government Organizations)? Vicki Grunwald, the co-envoy to UU-UNO for Prairie Star District, describes the experience as absolutely breathtaking. Copious notes documenting the three-day workshop fill her notebook. The conference main theme, Human Security and Dignity, reveals that the meaning of security is changing from that of state security (i.e., protecting one's borders) to that of human security (i.e., a life free of poverty, oppression and disease). She attended breakout sessions on Islamic views of Abrahamic texts and Arab views on human security in the Middle East. In addition to these informative sessions Vicki got to meet other UUs involved in supporting the United Nations.

Stop the Hate Vigil: Our church was well represented at this inclusive gathering on October 2 at the Peter Kiewit Center. Readings from Islamic, Hindu, Jewish, Christian, Native American, and Buddhist traditions were spoken in front of pictures of hate crime victims. The evening concluded with a candlelight vigil.

Responsible Consumption/Flourishing Environment

Planning for Action: Ideas under discussion include promotion of recycling, environmental concerns, understanding investment funding, and support of local vs. large chain businesses.

Unitarian Universalists take pride in social activism and community outreach. Keep that tradition alive by attending our next meeting, November 9.

Shared Ministry Sunday

Are you looking to get more out of Church than just some extra tasks and responsibilities? Do you want to get involved at Second Unitarian, but do not know how? Are you looking for opportunities to share your talents and gifts? Then be sure to come to Church on Sunday, November 2! Shared Ministry Sunday is a special event during our normal coffee hour in which various groups and committees at the Church will be talking about not only what they do, but also about how their work is spiritually enriching and makes a real contribution to Unitarian Universalism. This is an especially rich opportunity for new friends and members to learn more about these unique opportunities to do the ministry we all share. Our committees provide many inspiring opportunities for ministry. Come check them out on coffee hour November 2!

Annual Thanksgiving Brunch

The Annual Thanksgiving Brunch sponsored by the Fellowship Committee will be held on Sunday, November 23, 2003, immediately after the worship service. The Fellowship Committee will provide the turkey, fresh bread, and beverages. **Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.**

Second Unitarian Church members and friends are the best cooks in town, so this is always a culinary treat as well as a great time to enjoy each other's company. Donations of \$4 per adult and \$2 per child, with a maximum donation of \$10 per family group, will be gratefully accepted! Contact either Denise MacMillan or Ronni Kahn for more information. **Please RSVP to Ronni Kahn, so we know how much turkey to buy.**

The Fellowship Committee promotes a sense of community and celebration by sponsoring social activities such as Fellowship time, circle suppers, brunches and family activities.

Fun with Fundraising From the Finance Committee

As many of you know, this year will we use the remaining funds that were raised to bring a minister to Second Unitarian Church. Wouldn't it be great if Second Unitarian Church could replace some of these funds with donations that came from sources other than members or friends? Or, how about looking at ways we can decrease expenses, without impacting the church programming?

Well, these are the types of opportunities that the Finance Committee wants to implement moving forward.

Sales Tax Exemption

Did you know that Second Unitarian Church is approved as a Tax Exempt organization by the State of Nebraska? That means any purchases of goods or services on behalf of Second Unitarian Church should be sales tax-free. That's an automatic decrease in church expenses of 7%. But this does not happen automatically. A Nebraska Resale or Exempt Sale Certificate, with the church's Tax Exempt number, must accompany all purchases of goods and services.

These Exempt Sale Certificates can be used one time, or established for "blanket" purchases at certain merchant locations. The Finance Committee would like to encourage everyone who purchases anything for the Church to make sure that the merchant either has an Exempt Sale Certificate on file, or gives the merchant a new certificate at the time of purchase.

Holly Batchelder (church office) and Karin Brown will maintain a list of merchants who have "blanket" Exempt Sale Certificates on file. Forms and procedures are available from either Holly or Karin. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Save those Inkjet, Laser and Toner cartridges
Here's a way to live by our Unitarian Principles, and make money for Second Unitarian Church at the same time! Just like aluminum cans, empty laser, toner and inkjet cartridges have value, but a much greater value.

Second Unitarian Church is entering into a partnership with US Recycling as part of their "TonerDonation" program. Bring your empty inkjet, laser and toner cartridges to church, and drop them off in the donation box under the coat rack. US Recycling pays all costs associated with the program, and Second Unitarian Church earns between \$.25 and \$8.00 for each empty cartridge.

If your employer, or any organization you work with, does not have a toner cartridge-recycling program in place, they can help Second Unitarian Church, too. By signing up with the "TonerDonation" program, and designating Second Unitarian Church the beneficiary of their donation, they can take advantage of a tax deductible donation for the cartridges that they used to throw out. If you would like more information on this program, please contact Karin Brown or Mike Miller.

For more information, check out tonerdontion.com.

Coming soon - Albertson's Community Partnership cards.

These cards cost you and Second Unitarian Church absolutely nothing. Just show this card to the checker at any Albertson's store, nationwide, and Second Unitarian Church will earn between 2 – 4% of the total amount of all member purchases (depending upon the total amount purchased each quarter).

Let's not stop here!

All ideas for FUNdraising are welcome! Contact anyone on the Finance Committee, or better yet, come join the Finance Committee and join in the FUN!

2UU Women's Group November 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Presenter is Jennifer Stafford. The title of her topic is "Seeing Red, Feeling Blue, Turning Yellow and Running Up the White Flag." The discussion will be based on "The Color Code" by Dr. Taylor Hartman. We'll identify our primary colors and discuss how this impacts our motivations, natural strengths and weaknesses and relationships. (Meeting to be held at the church in the sanctuary.)

Around the Association



UUA Website Improvements

The UUA's website (www.uua.org) has a new look and a redesign with standardized color and drop down menus that makes it easier to navigate. The powerful Google search engine finds information quickly and a link at the very bottom of the opening page gives a site map outlining the entire contents of the site. Just a sampling of what you can find: a special link for newcomers; a new lay leadership resource site; connections to over 170 different email lists; audio and video recordings of the 2003 General Assembly; a page called "From the Minister's Study" with newsletter columns by UU ministers from all over the continent and links to related organizations like the UU Buddhist Fellowship and the *Journal of Liberal Religion*, publishing papers by UU ministers. You can even look for a job. And a promise—no spam, no ads! Try it!

UUA President meets with the Dalai Lama

UUA President Bill Sinkford met with the Dalai Lama, the religious leader of Tibetan Buddhism and the political leader of the government of Tibet-in-exile, while the latter was in Boston in September. Discussions during the visit touched on international relations, spirituality, and the relationship of Buddhism and Western scientific empiricism. Sinkford was accompanied to the meeting by Tsering Wongmo, a Tibetan raised in India, who works in the UUA's Office of Information and Public Witness. Read more about the meeting at www.uua.org.

The Uncommon Denomination

Yes, that's us! Why not let the rest of the community know with an "Uncommon Denomination" bumper sticker? You can get them from the UUA Bookstore's website at www.uua.org or by calling 800-215-9076. The sticker was developed for a pilot media campaign in the Kansas City area--and they're really eye-catching!

Beacon Catalog for UUs

Beacon Press, the publishing imprint of the Unitarian Universalist Association, has just published its first *Catalog of Beacon Books for Unitarian Universalists*, with generous support from the Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Manhasset, NY. Find it online at www.beacon.org/uures.html or in hard copy from the UUA Bookstore (800-215-9076).

If you are interested in the Denominational Affairs Committee, please contact Rev. Josh at 697-3973.

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