



What*s Happening

MAIN LINE UNITARIAN CHURCH

October 2009



A WAYWARD JOURNEY TOWARD WHOLENESS

Join us October 2 – 4 for a weekend with Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed, author of *Black Pioneers in a White Denomination* and a pioneering African American UU minister. The weekend promises to advance our knowledge of inter-race relations in the U.S. in general and in Unitarian Universalism in particular.

At 7:30 p.m. on Friday, October 2, Rev. Morrison-Reed will read from and sign copies of his new book, *In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby*.

On Saturday, October 3, from 10 a.m.– 2:30 p.m., he will focus on the years between 1967 and 1970 when Black empowerment clashed with the largely white Unitarian Universalist denomination. Rev. Morrison-Reed will show the film, *Wilderness Journey*, containing first person accounts of this turbulent time, and will provide context to explore “What’s next?” (A light lunch will be served, please RSVP to Doreen Jackson in the church office: 610-688-8332, x10; doreen@mluc.org)

Rev. Morrison-Reed will complete his MLUC weekend on Sunday, October 4, when he’ll join Rev. Dr. Justin Osterman and preach a sermon titled, “Dragged Kicking and Screaming Into Heaven.”

WHO WE ARE

Main Line Unitarian Church is a diverse and caring religious community engaged in a liberating ministry of spiritual growth, human compassion, and universal justice.

At our church we:
embrace all people, regardless of age, race, ability, politics, financial situation, or sexual orientation; encourage and nurture every individual in his or her own search for meaning in life; and commit to serve local and world communities in promoting peace, social justice, and responsible stewardship of the earth.



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RUMINATIONS



Rev. Dr. Justin Osterman
Senior Minister

Our new Unitarian Universalist Association president, Rev. Peter Morales, emphasized in his campaign the need to “grow” our faith. He wishes that we had a louder institutional voice on important national issues, and observed that only by increasing the number of Unitarian Universalists in the world – and in individual congregations – will we achieve this goal. I couldn’t agree more strongly.

I’m committed to growing our larger faith and our local church. I believe that there are many people in the Philadelphia area hungry for a progressive spiritual home that is historically rooted, engaged with the contemporary world, and looking to the future. MLUC is that place and we need to help them find us and then make them welcome once they get here.

The leading reason that people join any congregation is that someone they know invited them to visit. With that in mind, the October 18 service will feature a sermon designed to stake out Unitarian Universalism’s unique position within the larger American religious landscape. We’re calling it “Bring a Friend Sunday.” I’ll do the hard work; your job is to invite a friend to church with you that morning.

I will also be hosting a conversation on October 20 at 7:00 p.m. about the future of Unitarian Universalism. To allow for discussion, space will be limited to the first 20 people who sign up and some reading will be required of participants. Contact the church office to sign up for this discussion about the future of our faith.

Yours in faith,
Rev. Justin Osterman

CRAIG’S COLUMN



Rev. Craig C. Roshaven
Associate
Minister

It is an honor and privilege to have the opportunity to serve as your associate minister. Although I have only been here a few weeks I feel like I’m already making myself a home here, both in this church and in the larger community. I also feel like I’m already beginning to come up to speed on the tasks and challenges of my position.

I was raised in Cleveland, Ohio and Bay City, Michigan. I am very much enjoying the climate here, both in terms of the weather and the culture. I already feel more at home here than I did in Fort Worth, TX, even though I lived there for many years. I appreciate the warmth of your welcome.

You can reach me at the church office most weekdays at 610-688-8332, extension 13. Although Tuesday is my regular day off, in the event of an emergency you can call on me any day. I regularly check my e-mail (craig@mluc.org) and find it especially useful for scheduling meetings.

I am looking forward to getting to know you over the next two years and contributing to the health and vitality of the church and the larger community.

Yours in a Shared Faith,
Rev. Craig Roshaven



REFLECTIONS FROM “DR. DRE”



Sandra Greenfield
Interim Director of
Religious Education

What a warm, vibrant community I have joined! Thank you for your hospitality and graciousness over these first weeks. I am about half-way through the “I don’t know what I don’t know” phase and look forward to having a more educated sense of the life in RE and in the community at large. For the next few months you will find me in my office on Tuesdays – Fridays. My email is sandra@mluc.org and my office is extension 11.

We held teacher orientations on September 10 and 12 and I am impressed and inspired by the vision and dedication of your children’s spiritual guides. We had some great laughs; don’t be surprised when you hear someone call me Sassy Sandra. This experience is what I call being the “changer and the changed.” I hope you will join this smaller community within MLUC by either volunteering or saying yes when being asked.

Special welcome to Arley Styer, our newest member of the RE Team! Arley is our Youth Program Director responsible for Junior and Senior Youth Groups as well as Sunday morning RE for senior high called YUUM. She will work directly with the Youth-Adult Committee.

Thanks to Lorle Wolfson for the beautiful display on the board outside the Main Meeting Room. I realized I forgot to give her a photo of the cats and I sure hope they don’t find out!

In faith,
Sandra

SUNDAY SERVICES

OCTOBER 4: DRAGGED KICKING AND SCREAMING INTO HEAVEN

Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed and Rev. Dr. Justin Osterman

Music: Kelly Fielden, guitar and vocals

An 18th Century French Huguenot was one of the first to preach universalism in America; by early in the 19th Century Universalism had swept across the young nation, finding a popularity it never again achieved. What does the message that God's love brooks no resistance mean in the 21st Century, and why is it important that we once again proclaim it?

OCTOBER 11: THE HER-STORY OF RELIGION

Rev. Dr. Justin Osterman

Music: TBA

The past forty years have seen a revolutionary change in western religions as women hungry for authentic expression of their experience of holiness have sought to rediscover the feminine principle within the Divine. This morning we'll consider the *history* and *herstory* of religion.

OCTOBER 18: RESCUING THE BIBLE FROM FALLACY, FANTASY, AND FANATICISM

Rev. Dr. Justin Osterman

Music: MLUC Choir

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday

More copies of the Bible have been published than any other book in the history of humankind. Some people revere it as the inerrant word of god while others scorn it as a crutch for simple minds. Regardless of one's view of the religious authority of the bible, you cannot grasp current world events or appreciate western literature without a rudimentary understanding of the Bible and how other people view it. This morning we will hear a Unitarian Universalist view of the Bible and consider its proper place in our lives. This will be a great service to invite your non-Unitarian Universalist friends and family to attend.

OCTOBER 25: A MINISTRY OF MUTUALITY

Rev. Craig C. Roshaven

Music: Shirley Ling, piano

Rev. Dr. Carter Heyward, professor of theology at Episcopal Divinity School and author of *Saving Jesus From Those Who are Right*, believes that Jesus saves by inviting us into a ministry of mutuality, a ministry of being radically present to one another. She believes that God is not out there but rather in here, here in the web of relationships, human and animal, organic and inorganic, that connect us and bind us all together.

YOUTH REPORT ON NICARAGUA

The MLUC youth who visited Nicaragua in July will speak of their experiences on Sunday, October 25, at 12:30 p.m. Will batt, Sophia Dominguez, and Emily MacDonald will make the presentation with photographs from their trip. Alex Willis, the fourth member of the group is away at college. All are welcome.

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(Wednesday-Sunday)

Will Quay

Assistant Custodian
(Saturday-Tuesday)

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Robert Batt, although an MLUC member for only eight years, really knows what it means to serve the MLUC community. Like many families, wife Sandy Gargus and Bob were looking for a stimulating RE program for their son Will. What they found was “a wonderful community and opportunities for spiritual and personal growth.”

Bob is an avid skier and outdoorsman when he is not creating beauty for his clients as a high-end residential painter and decorative faux finisher.

He started on the Building Committee and then graduated to the Board of Trustees almost overnight. His most recent service has been as President of the Board. Bob's Board service covered the period including the resignation of our Senior Minister, subsequent Interim Ministers, and the search and call of Rev. Osterman. We are all grateful for his leadership as well as his calm and thoughtful grace in tumultuous times.

Bob reports, “I am proudest of following the example of so many other leaders in our church. When a need arose, they were there to take on a task for the greater good despite any feelings of inadequacy or fears of being overwhelmed. The decision to accept the call as Board President was life-transforming.”



Bob Batt

CAKES FOR THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN

How would your life have been different if, when you were growing up, the divine had been imaged as female? That is the basic question to be explored during this fall's five evening course, *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven, Volume One: In Ancient Times*. This newly updated class from UU Women and Religion explores ancient goddesses, weaving their stories and the major concerns of women today with ritual, video, music, stories, activities, discussion, and reflection. Appropriate for women ages 16 and older, including those who took the original *Cakes* class, it will be facilitated by Nuala Carpenter, Lee Dastur, and Eileen Andrews. Sessions will be 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Thursdays, October 15, 22, 29, and November 5 and 12. To register, contact Doreen Jackson in the church office (610-688-8332, x13; doreen@mluc.org).

ARTIST OF THE MONTH: CLAIRE GIBLIN

The work of Claire Giblin, from Millersville, PA, will be in the Fireside Room from October 5 through November 15. She has received many national and regional awards for her painting; among many honors she was chosen as the 2003 “Woman of the Year” by the Women's Center at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster. She has led workshops and has had her work exhibited widely in Spain, Italy, and countries in Asia. She is currently curator of the Phillips Museum of Art at Franklin & Marshall. An artist's talk will be held at a time to be determined.

The Visual Arts Committee encourages everyone to attend these talks and learn more about what role artists play in society as well as about their personal journeys. Your comments are always welcome.

If you are interested in the arts, please join our committee. We always welcome gladly new energy and ideas.

GROWING UP IN A JAPANESE INTERNMENT CAMP

MLUC member Greta Godbey's Dutch family was living in Indonesia at start of World War II. At the age of ten, Greta and her family were taken to a Japanese internment camp. She will recount the story of her survival over four years in this difficult setting.

Join us at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, October 16, for a fascinating first-person account of a part of World War II history little-known in this country. Youth are especially encouraged to attend. Open to the public.

OF WICCAN AND WITCHES

Come explore the serious side of Halloween at Soul Sisters' October 11 meeting. Join Nuala Carpenter as she offers a historical perspective on witch burnings and a contemporary look at wiccan beliefs. The evening will include a showing of the acclaimed film “The Burning Times,” a discussion of this “old religion” and ritual honoring women who have been persecuted through the ages. The 7:00 – 9:00 PM evening is open to women of all ages and guests. MLUC Soul Sisters offers opportunities to broaden female energies, explore feminine spirituality, deepen connections between women, and just have fun. Childcare is available upon request. For more information, contact Eileen Andrews (215-661-0860; eileen@mluc.org).

***Newsletter deadline: September 10 at noon.
Please submit items for the October issue to
news@mluc.org.***

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dave VanOcker, President

What happened to summer? And how did fall arrive so early? I know I can lose touch with things like this so easily, but how did I miss September? It's easy to feel that you've lost touch. So with the intent of staying connected, your Board wants to do all it can to ensure that you don't feel out of touch – with us – and just as importantly, that you don't feel that we're out of reach.

As a way to stay in touch with our members and share the Congregational Survey results and our reflections on such, we're planning to hold feedback sessions after each service on Sunday, October 11. This will be your opportunity to ask us more directly about the data, our interpretations, and our plans to use this information to help shape our collective vision for MLUC.

We've reached another milestone that we'll be communicating to you in the coming weeks as well – adoption of updates to our **Ends**: *the beneficial outcomes we most hope MLUC will achieve*. Your feedback has been insightful and extremely helpful in enabling us to make the first formal revisions to the **Ends Statements** since they were first adopted in January 2008.

Please stay tuned for formal communications on survey results and updated Ends, and pencil in October 11 to join in the conversation and help us stay in touch.

CHILDREN'S RE HIGHLIGHTS

Sandra Greenfield, Interim DRE

610-688-8332, x.11; sandra@mluc.org

Church School and Youth Group registration is well underway. Your forms should have already been turned in to the RE office. Forms are available online or at the Welcome Center. Be sure to sign the back of your form!

Our electronic RE News and E-Notes will continue. If you have not signed up to get your notice electronically, send a request to news@mluc.org.

Camp Dark Waters is this year's location for the annual Youth Retreat. If you missed the Parent-Youth Orientation contact Arley Styer (arley@mluc.org) for details – quickly!

There are some opportunities for involvement in the Church School and Youth Programs. Talk to Sandra or Arley to get a job description and discover how you can be a part of our elite teams! Openings range from church school teachers/youth advisors to sharing your knowledge, experience and talents on a temporary basis.

OWL for 8th graders started on September 20. If you missed the mandatory parent orientation, please contact Kevin Black immediately. This year our program is a joint effort with the UU Church of Delaware County (Media) teens and leaders.

The 2009-2010 Church School and Youth Calendars have been sent to parents. If you do not have one, please contact Sandra or Church School Committee chair Gail Burgess.

FROM OUR PARISH NURSE

THE RESILIENT SPIRIT - PART 2

Join us for a special program sponsored by the Pastoral Associates and presented by Senior Minister Rev. Dr. Justin Osterman, *The Resilient Spirit - Part 2*.

You might remember the first part of this program, *The Resilient Spirit - Bouncing Back After Loss*, which was presented in May. This well-attended program generated so much discussion regarding grief and loss that we never got to "bouncing back". Part 2 will address the "resilient spirit". Join our senior minister for lively discussion and interesting look at reclaiming the fullness of life after the emptiness of loss. All are welcome.

The program will be given on Tuesday, October 20, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., in the McGinness Room. Call Doreen Jackson in the church office to register (610-688-8332, x 10; doreen@mluc.org). Child care is available on request.



Marybeth McMurray

Blood Pressure Screenings

Following services Sunday, October 4, and the first Sunday of each month

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE

Priscilla Osgood, Liaison



Reverse trick-or-treating is back! Last year, MLUC children and youth joined with supporters from all 50 states to reach nearly 250,000 households on Halloween night to help . . .

END **poverty** among cocoa farmers
END **abusive child labor** in the cocoa industry
PROMOTE **Fair Trade**
PROTECT the **environment**

. . . by giving Fair Trade chocolate *back* to adults while trick-or-treating door-to-door in their communities. This effort is spearheaded by Global Exchange, a partner of Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC).

Through reverse trick-or-treating, your children have the opportunity to hand out samples of Fair Trade chocolate to candy givers, as they go house-to-house on Halloween night. Each piece of Fair Trade chocolate they give out will be accompanied by a card that describes the social and environmental costs of corporate chocolate and how buying Fair Trade chocolate is a meaningful alternative. For more information visit the UUSC Web site (http://www.uusc.org/content/participate_third_annual_reverse_trick-or-treating).

PARTNER CHURCH

Jonathan Bass

The Partner Church Committee will be having its annual fundraiser in early October. We will have an information table after Sunday Services on October 4 and 11. We raise these funds to support our partner church in Várfalva, Romania. The funds support the ministry, religious education, and building maintenance at this historic church, the first in the world to use the word Unitarian in its name. Romania is one of the countries hardest hit by the current economic downturn. We believe the general economic climate there is making life more difficult for our friends in Várfalva.

Our friends have been very thankful for our past support. Let's help keep the chalice burning brightly in Várfalva!

Announcing the 5th Annual
Joseph Priestley District Anti-Racism Conference

MULTICULTURAL FAMILIES

Saturday, October 17, 8:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis, Maryland
www.jpduua.org

RETIRED MEN'S GROUP

The monthly lunch meeting will be on Wednesday, October 14, with beverages at 11:30 and lunch at noon. Our guest will be Dr. Steven Siepser, who will speak about various eye problems and his group's approach to solving them. Please RSVP to Herb Seifert by noon on Monday, October 12, so that we can have an accurate count for lunch. Thank you.

FOLK SING

The October folk sing will be hosted by Norm Vadner at 8:30 pm on Saturday, October 24. Everyone is welcome who enjoys being with a friendly group of people who enjoy singing.

GARDENING WORKSHOP

Save the date! Join us at MLUC on Saturday morning, October 24, when you'll have the opportunity to learn from our own pros:

- how to prune trees
- how to rejuvenate overgrown shrubs
- the ins and outs of composting
- plus other skills to streamline garden care

Watch for further details. . .

Priscilla Osgood

Joseph Priestley District Women and Religion Annual Retreat

DISCOVER YOUR VOICE
OCTOBER 16 - 19

Reclaim the power of your body and voice in the company of
UU women

We will use meditation, breathing, singing, drumming, and
other activities as pathways to our inner creativity
and energy.

Held at the Bishop Claggett Center, near Frederick, Maryland

Information and registration is available at www.jpdwr.org,
or contact Nuala Carpenter

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Rachel Locke, Chair

The Leadership Development and Adult Religious Education Committees cordially invite you to a new series of leadership courses this fall. The topics — Situational Leadership, Leader Succession Planning, and Dealing With a Poor Performer in a Volunteer Organization — are based on the results of the MLUC leadership survey that was conducted last spring. The courses will be led by MLUC member John Juzbasich, Partner and CEO of Merit Systems, LLC, a company that provides training to corporations and non-profits in leadership, communications, human capital, and project management.

It would be best to attend the first course if you wish to attend either of the other two, but attendance at any particular session is not required. There will be a nominal fee to cover the cost of course materials.

These courses are open to all members of the MLUC community (we also are inviting members of neighboring UU congregations), but current and aspiring MLUC leaders are especially encouraged to attend.

All courses will include didactic presentations, real life scenarios and role-playing exercises. Some courses may include a personality or leadership style assessment.

Please contact Rachel Locke with questions or to register.

Course descriptions:

Situational Leadership

Monday, October 12, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

We are continually searching for a "best" style of leadership, but a "best" style of leadership simply does not exist: there is not one magic formula, one concise mind-set, or one approach to taking action. Instead, effective leaders are capable of changing and adapting to match the situation they are trying to influence. This is where situational leadership comes in. A situational leader is one who can adopt different leadership styles depending on the situation. The SL model will give you the tools to analyze the needs of the situation so you

can adopt the most appropriate leadership style and improve the results of the follower. The model doesn't apply only to people in leadership or management positions; we all lead others at work and at home. In this course you will learn how to be a more effective leader no matter how large your sphere of influence.

Leader Succession Planning

Monday, October 26, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

A leadership succession strategy is a valuable tool to grow future leaders and to ensure continuous development and continuity of programs. But even though we know that succession planning has numerous benefits, we often fail to do it, probably because we don't know how. In this course we will learn how to assess leadership competencies and develop a personalized leadership development program so that your successor will be ready to lead when you move on to your next challenge.

Dealing With a Poor Performer in a Volunteer Organization

Monday, November 9, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Does having a low-performing member of your team get you down? Has the poor performance of one member ever affected the work and morale of the rest of your team? What options do leaders have when we all are volunteers? This course will help you to analyze the causes of poor performance, learn to listen properly to the person while suppressing your own opinion, and give feedback on poor performance. We also will discuss how the culture of the organization impacts a leader's ability to give feedback and how we can create an environment where the exchange of helpful information is accepted.



LIGHT THE CHALICE

Do you want to contribute meaningfully to a Sunday morning service? Light the chalice! It takes only a few moments at the beginning of the service to light the chalice and at the end to extinguish it. One of the Worship Committee members will be on hand to guide you and answer any questions. Interested? Contact Gary Merken.

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for the October issue.

Submit material to news@mluc.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

REV. DR. MARK MORRISON-REED

Friday, October 2 – Sunday, October 4: Workshops and more with UU minister and author Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed. (See page 1.)

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

Parish Nurse Marybeth McMurray will check your blood pressure after services on Sunday, October 4.

SOUL SISTERS

“Of Wiccan and Witches,” 7:00 p.m. Sunday, October 11. (See page 4.)

RETIRED MEN’S LUNCHEON

Wednesday, October 14, 11:30 a.m. (See page 6)

WOMEN’S ALLIANCE

Monthly lunch meeting at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, October 15.

JYG HAUNTED HOUSE

After services, Sunday, October 25.

THE FUTURE OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

With Rev. Dr. Justin Osterman, 7:00 p.m. October 20. (See page 2)

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COURSES

Monday evenings, October 12, 26, and November 9. (See page 7)

CASUAL CONVERSATION AND...

...Whatever! Join this informal lunchtime get-together each Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. Bring your needlework, mending, or “whatever” to work on while we chat, or just come to chat.

COMING IN NOVEMBER...

Saturday, November 7: MLUC Auction.

ON THE WEB

The complete MLUC calendar of events is online at mluc.org. Members can simply click to request a room for their meeting or event. While you’re there, you can listen to past sermons and learn more about MLUC.

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