

ComUUnicator

February-March 2006

President's Pulpit

It seems that an inordinate amount of space in this newsletter has been devoted to yours truly spouting off about one thing or another. This issue is going to be no exception. This issue almost didn't happen...

If you have attended a service in the past week or so you are already aware that my computer bit the dust. What happened was chilling. You may recall the late-night thunderstorm we had a couple of weeks ago. When the storm started, we shut down both our computers. That is a clue, my machine did a perfectly normal shutdown - there was no sign of storm damage afterward. But, it never booted up again either.

I have been performing the kind of recovery tasks that would be done if you took your damaged machine to a professional data recovery outfit. Something unusual turned up. I have been able to recover most of the data on the damaged hard drive - except my email. The email file has zero bytes in size and the address book isn't there at all!

This has all the trappings of a virus in action. Despite my precautions, I got hit. The really frustrating part was that I had purchased backup hardware for the machine and simply had not found time to install it yet. The moral of the story is obvious. The end result is that I am writing this on Barbara's laptop, which is currently the only functional machine in the house. That helps explain the rather different look of the newsletter this time around.

By the time you get this, it may well be time for the next newsletter. As a result, I will be trying to bring you up to date on everything and furnish upcoming notices as well. With that in mind, let's get started.

Executive Committee Summary

At the last meeting of the committee, it was felt that a summary of the activity of the committee should be both presented during a service and published in the newsletter. Hence, this new column.

We had some visitors at the meeting. **Richard Venus and Chuck Thomas** came to present a proposal that Richard will speak about more fully on March 19th. Basically, now that Chuck is back he would like our congregation to consider putting things back the way they were before Chuck submitted his letter of resignation. Richard will mention on the 19th that he wants to devote most of his energies to the church that employs him on half-time status. Secondly, he feels that while he took the position as a favor to us and to Chuck - he is really not the right person for the job. In fact, he told the Search Committee the exact same thing. And then there is the not-so-small task of writing a book, which he is trying to accomplish in his spare time. With what is left of his spare time he is also writing a descriptive section of a book on comparative religion that describes the UU denomination and philosophy. No small task that either!

We decided to bring the question to a vote of the membership during the next annual meeting in May, and in the meantime go ahead and schedule Chuck to take Richard's last two dates. The changes are now reflected on the schedule page of the website.

In other business, **Colin Dunbar** proposed that the annual budget of the Fellowship be brought before the congregation for approval at the annual meeting from hence forth. We agreed in principle and asked Colin to present us with some proposed wording for incorporation into the Rules of Conduct that would

implement that concept. He will have such ready for the next Exec. Meeting in March. It should be noted that this will require a major re-arrangement in the way that the committee does its financial planning, yet the good points seem to far outweigh that issue.

Also mentioned was the fact that the anti-war poster which the committee authorized placing in the Wayside Pulpit had not yet come in. (It arrived this week and will be positioned soon.) It is a 60's slogan that **Edie Dunbar** wears on a pendant. Curious? Come take a look...

Finally, we had talked about expanding our social action efforts in the community and settled on the idea of joining our Fellowship's appropriate Neighborhood Association as a way of doing that. It turns out that the one that covers our area is Riverside North, co-chaired by none other than **David and Estella Adams**. That group did not have a membership category for non-profit groups, so we asked them to create one. They did so and decided that \$10 a year in dues would be appropriate. That sum was paid at their last meeting, so the Fellowship is now officially a member of Riverside North. Any and all members of our congregation are welcome to attend their meetings on the first Thursday of each month.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

There aren't any this month. Well, there are, but I don't know whose. Let me explain. The information that I have on such events is contained in a spreadsheet file on my computer. I believe that I have already recovered it, but my computer is sitting on a bench at work as I write this. (I simply don't have enough bench space at home to have the guts of two computers strung out the way that I can at work.) Since I want to try to get this newsletter out this weekend, I will simply have to promise that I will include the March birthdays along with the April list next month. I may even throw in the ones for May simply for safety's sake. And again, please send in your information if you haven't already.

Schedule of Events

March

- 05 -- Don Mack - *Theodore Parker: Outcast Hero*
- 12 -- Cris Elstro - *Good Death-Is It Possible In America?* - Service Leader: Don Mack
- 13 -- 7:30 pm - Executive Committee Meeting - Liesl's
- 17 -- 7:30 pm - PFLAG Meeting - **UU Newsletter Deadline! (May be extended slightly this month)**
- 19 -- Rev. Richard Venus - TBA - Music: Connie
After Service: POTLUCK
- 26 -- Holly Norton, Ph.D. - *Unitarian Writers*

April

- 02 -- Rev Chuck Thomas - TBA Music: Connie
- 09 -- Mary Beth & Rick Siferd - TBA
- 16 -- Flower Communion & Brunch Music: Connie
- 21 -- 7:30 pm - PFLAG Meeting - **UU Newsletter Deadline!**
- 23 -- Denny Weaver - *How Black, Feminist and Womanist Theologies Speak to Everyone*
- 30 -- Bob Rudolph - TBA

May

- 07 -- Tree Service Music: Connie
- 14 -- Rev. Chuck Thomas - TBA
- 19 -- 7:30 pm - PFLAG Meeting - **UU Newsletter Deadline!**
- 21 -- John Bell - *Getting the Monkey Off of Darwin's Back*
(Annual Meeting after Potluck)
- 28 -- Ted Houghton - TBA

Note: This schedule is not set in stone and may well change. This listing is based on information on hand as of March 5, 2006. The "official" schedule may be found on the website at:

<http://www.uulima.org>

Other Announcements

The **Ladies' Lunch** program is temporarily suspended until later in the Spring. Poor attendance is the primary reason for this action.

Offertory takers, take note! Since the UUA is now requiring that all congregations submit weekly attendance figures for the previous year as part of the annual certification process, I am getting up on my Presidential high-horse and asking all those who take the Offertory to stop when they take the collection to the back and take a quick count. Per UUA guidelines, this count should include EVERYBODY in the building at the time, including children. Since the children won't be going upstairs until the Offertory, it might be easier to take the count right at the start. Please write the figure down on the pad that will be in the office for that purpose. As an aside, we should all thank **Louise Daniels** for maintaining these figures for us for years past. Since we can't expect her to be at every service, I am implementing this operational rule in the hopes of keeping accurate figures regardless of who is able to take the count at any given time or date.

Tree spruce-up. Our magnolia tree out front was severely damaged by the ice storm last year. While an expert has stated that it should survive, certain actions were recommended - which included removal of the large lateral bough that had been split but was still in place. I managed to get it down recently but there is still much to do. Remove the remaining stubs left by the storm and coat the exposed stumps with a sealant. We should thank **Colin Dunbar and daughter** for offering to remove the trimmings to a disposal point - and thank **Don Mack** for offering his forest as said disposal point! All of this may well warrant a work party (Yea! More pizza!) in the near future, so watch the schedule on the website for details. Anyone have long ladders & chain saw?

One of the sadder recent events was the decision of **Adaline Bridges** to seek a larger congregation. While leaving her private decision private, there is the matter

of filling the roles that she has left vacant with her departure. Among these is that of being a member of the Nominating Committee. That group is tasked to present a slate of officers in mid-April and time is short, so on an emergency basis, I was instructed by the Executive Committee to ignore the election requirements of the Rules of Conduct and appoint a successor. I have done so and **John Bell** has graciously agreed to take on the job. That still leaves us without a replacement for Religious Education Director. Are there any volunteers? One of the chief reasons for folks not wanting to take this on is that they miss the service. I would like to point out that this can be largely overcome by a little technology. One such possible solution is a speaker upstairs similar to the current one that no longer functions. Current wireless technology make implementing a replacement a matter of a relatively few dollars. Given the funds, we could video tape every service and make it available to see at a later date. And if we could persuade two or three folks to rotate the task, the burden and the sense of missing the "real thing" would be much alleviated. Any takers?

Still another fallout of this situation is the future of the Organic Food Buying Club that we have been incubating. **Organic Buddies** is going to be holding a meeting to decide their intent in the near future.

Louise Daniels and I are collaborating on a new section of the website. While further action on this project is on hold until my computer is feeling all better, the concept is quite simple. The current website does an admirable job of telling newcomers where to find us, what facilities we have and what is going on and when. What is missing is a description of the thing of which we are most proud - our fellowship. Describing that is a daunting task, and one done best by pictures. There are going to be a LOT of pictures. I may be talking with you concerning some of those pictures as things progress. The thing to remember as we talk about such is that the whole world can see these pictures. Literally. Stay tuned.

Speaking of pictures, we need to fill in a few missing faces on our **Members and Friends** page. Now, there

are some folks who might prefer to not have their picture appear in this location, so all you have to do is simply say so. The folks that I have identified as missing from the site at this time (I have a few on hand but not yet posted to the website) are: Rachel Barber, John Erkman, Brian Keegan, and Dow Wagner. If you have one you would particularly like to use, let me know but it would be simpler just to let me snap a digital one at the next opportunity.

Is your **key to the Fellowship house** in sad shape? Do you not have one at all? Members are given one for the asking and John Bell has just gotten a dozen made for us. Let me know if you want one.

One of the things mentioned at the last Exec. Comm. meeting was that a short **Treasurer's statement** of current financial status should be published in the newsletter each month to give everyone an insight as to how well the budget is being followed. Since our Treasurer, Evelyn Vanek, was out of town most of the last couple of weeks or so, that will have to wait until the next issue. If you would like to provide input on this subject, you are welcome to come to the next meeting. Refer to the Schedule of Events above.

We have had a lot of in-house material presented in this issue so far, but there is one item that has come in that falls into a more external classification. As part of the community members that attended the meetings about hurricane survivors and how to handle the influx, Barbara and I are on the City's mailing list for similar sorts of things. We each got a letter describing the following:

Forum for Regional Leaders: Anticipating the Growth of Our Spanish-Speaking Population. Friday, March 24 from 11:30 to 2:30 at the Old Barn Outback on Elm St.

Lunch will be provided. This is by invitation only, but if someone is interested, we can let them use MY copy of the RSVP form. Barbara intends to be using hers herself.

Members wishing to expand the Social Action stance

of the Fellowship might do well to consider attending. This will be affecting our community for a very long time, and actions taken now are fundamental in insuring the outcome of the steps to be taken.

Note that this is a prime example of non-partisan participation in community affairs. While certain media folk might have you believe that there are definite factions involved, remember that there are principles involved much more fundamental than that. It is interesting that the subject of Don Mack's talk about Theodore Parker might apply here just as much as similar feelings and viewpoints toward blacks did in the 1840's. UU members have always been involved, we just have the impression that such is not the case in our small group here in Lima, Ohio.

I would like to refute that. On the other hand, I can't make it to the meeting. Perhaps you would like to get involved. Perhaps you are not a member of the Fellowship (officially) and feel that I am not talking about your participation. If so, you haven't been paying attention. If you are reading this, I am talking to you. You are a part of our Fellowship - official or not.

Lemon Marinated Turkey Breast

Jean Goldman

Recipe is for ½ cooked turkey breast, sliced. I used one whole Butterball Skinless and Boneless Turkey Breast, cooked according to instructions and sliced.

In a small bowl, whisk together 3TBSP lemon juice, 1.5 Tsp Balsamic Vinegar, ½ cup olive oil, salt & pepper to taste. Stir in zest of 1 large lemon, 1/3 cup golden raisins that were soaked in a cup of boiling water for 5 min & drained. (Boil water, remove from heat, add raisins) & 2 TBSP capers. Pour over turkey & marinate, covered, a minimum of 4 hours, turning the turkey slices occasionally. Can be made day before.

Remove from fridge ½ hr before serving & sprinkle with 1 or 2 TBSP chopped parsley & 1 TBSP chopped mint (if avail.). Sprinkle w/3 TBSP toasted (just a few min. in a dry skillet on mod. heat) pine nuts & serve.