



ON THE STREET

The Peoples Church of Chicago

Newsletter for February, 2012

“A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience”

CALENDAR

Movie/Film Night

- **Fri, Feb 24, 6pm:** “The Lemon Tree” – drama of a Palestinian woman trying to save her family’s orchard in the face of gov’t hardness.

Upcoming Sundays

- **Sundays 10am:** Worship Service with Rev. Jean Darling preaching.

Black History Month Events

- **Fri, Feb. 24:** 3pm Black History Celebration, followed by **Service Provider Fair** in Anderson Hall.
- **Sun, Feb 26, 10am:** **Rev. Dr. Sharon Ellis Davis**, of God Can Ministries, preaches, followed by **all-church Potluck**.
- **Sun, Feb 26, 2pm:** **Walt Cunningham’s gospel group** sings in a benefit for PBC.

Other Events

- **Second Friday, Feb. 10:** 6pm Taizé service, Coffeeshouse at 7 with **February Sky**.
- **Sat, Feb 25, 7pm:** **Joseph Bures** plays music by **Frédéric Chopin**, for his 202nd birthday.

Minister’s Notes:

Love is in the Air

Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling

Our hearts are lighter as the sun creeps further north, the day is longer... We’ve taken down the winter lights – perhaps – and we are seeing a plethora of red hearts in the stores – Valentine’s Day! And whether we have a sweetheart or not, somehow this seems like a day for celebrating.

The Sunday magazine had stories about people in their 40s meeting and marrying for the first time – the headline: “Love waits. No, really. It does.” One of the stories is about a woman who logged onto one of those dating sites on a whim one night and the first person she saw was The One. He had – on a whim – logged onto the same site at the same time.

Somehow you have to think that the Universe was intervening in that one – Cupid was hovering over them with his little bow and arrow...

Jungians call those kinds of coincidences *synchronicity*. Those of us with a religious bent call it God acting in our lives.

The public radio stories in “This American Life” last Friday focused on conventions. One of the stories was about a man who met the love of his life at the intersection of two conventions; he was there dealing with computer geeks and she was one among other psychiatrists. He had never believed in love at first sight, he said, but there it was. Their eyes locked, and something magical happened.

He spoke to her, and they found out that she was also from New York City, and in fact she was about to move into the building he lived in. They immediately had a deep soul connection, and even though their lives and tastes were very different, it didn’t matter. They moved in together – they were both very happy.

Then, they had both traveled to L.A. for separate meetings. She spoke to him about how she wanted to have children with him, and would he like to talk about getting married? Yes, he said without hesitation. They were heading back to New York by different flights, and he put her on the overnight flight. They had both been battling the flu, and she was feeling tired.

cont’d...

2 Li'l Fishes

Each Tues, Thurs, Sat and Sunday, a free hot lunch is served downstairs in Anderson Hall. All are welcome.

To help out, contact Will Pruitt, volunteer coordinator, twolilfishes@yahoo.com.

Minister's Notes, cont'd

She went to sleep on the plane. But the flu had infected her pericardium – the membrane around her heart – and when the flight attendants came around to wake her up as they prepared to land, they found her dead and cold in her seat.

A terrible loss.

But somehow this man gained something from just having been in a relationship that was so complete, where he felt that somehow they were really one person, even in their differences.

He found that he no longer felt the barriers between himself and others that he had experienced before he met her. He knew them, somehow. Not everyone was prepared for his openness, of course, but he now found relationships easy, natural.

When he flying, he said, it is so beautiful, with the billowing white clouds, and the blue sky – like the Renaissance paintings of heaven. Somehow he is still close to her, even though she is gone.

Most of us have heard those words of Alfred, Lord Tennyson's poem:

I hold it true, whate'er befall;
I feel it, when I sorrow most;
'Tis better to have loved and lost
Than never to have loved at all.¹

Tennyson wrote this long poem over 20 years, grieving for his close friend Arthur Hallam, a bright spirit and fellow poet, engaged to Alfred's sister. He died at the age of 22, mourned by all who had known him.

It is hard to lose someone. But when you have given your soul to someone, and they to you – when you have rolled on the floor laughing together, when you have known each other's words and thoughts without speaking, then that person never really leaves you.

So love! Tell someone you love them. Make every moment count. Love is in the air.

peace, Jean



February Sky at the Coffeehouse

Join us on Friday, February 10 for our Second Friday in Molly's Café (floor 3 1/2).

Begin with a respite from your hectic week, the meditative **Taizé service** with chant, candles, poetry, and silence. The Peoples Church **Coffeehouse** follows at 7pm, where **February Sky, Phil Cooper and Susan Urban**, perform their own inventive, funny, and traditional songs.

Besides the live music, the Coffeehouse features cheap eats: fresh-brewed coffee and Ludie's fabulous desserts.



Interfaith News...

- **Spiritual Beans – new day, time**

Spiritual Beans (a project of Treasures of Uptown) continues its lively interfaith conversations around the table at Inspiration Kitchens, 4715 N. Sheridan. The next gathering will be on Saturday Feb 25th at 4pm, with the topic "The End of the World!". See you there!

- **On-line interfaith clearinghouse**

Also, Treasures is developing its website into a clearinghouse for interfaith groups in the Chicago area. It will have a calendar for events, a speakers bureau, and other resources that member groups would like to have. See www.TreasuresofUptown.org.



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¹ Alfred, Lord Tennyson, *In Memoriam*: 27, pub. 1850.

Calendar – February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 NEW YEAR'S 10am Service	2 New Year's – Office closed	3 6:30pm Treasures	4	5	6	7
8 10am Service 11:30 Trustees mtg	9	10	11	12 1:30pm 2 Li'l Fishes	13 6pm Taizé svc, Coffeehouse with Lee Murdock	14
15 ML King Sun. 10am Service 11:30 Potluck	16 M.L. King Holiday Office closed	17	18 6:30pm Worship committee	19	20	21 10-12 PBC board
22 10am Service 11:30 ML King party and Civil Rights sing-along 2-4pm Treasures of Uptown event	23	24	25	26	27 6pm Movie Night "Let the People Say, Amen!"	28 10am P.C. Prayer breakfast 7pm Joseph Bures piano recital
29 10am Service 11:30 Climate Change workshop	30	31				