



ON THE STREET

The Peoples Church of Chicago Newsletter for June, 2011

"A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience"

CALENDAR

Movie/Film Night

- **Fri, June 24, 6pm**, in Molly's Café: Movie Night will feature the drama **"Requiem for a Dream,"** about utopia-shattering addictions.

Upcoming Services

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

Other Events

- **Sat, June 4:** Uptown's Day of Service! To volunteer, contact Business Partners, the Chamber of Commerce, at (773) 878-1184.
- **Sun, June 5:** Trustees meet after service.
- **Fri, June 10, 6pm:** Second Friday: Taizé service, Coffeehouse at 7pm, with songsters **Andina & Rich**.
- **Sat, June 25, 7pm:** Joseph Bures **piano recital**, with pieces by Mozart, Liszt, and Chaminade.
- **SAVE THE DATE, Sun, July 24:** **Peoples Church History Day:** We create a timeline, tell stories, share refreshments, dream about the future.

2 Li'l Fishes

Each Tues, Thurs, Sat and Sunday, a free hot lunch is served downstairs in Anderson Hall. We're working on providing organic sandwiches and salads on other days. All are welcome

Minister's Notes:

Love Triumphs!

Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling

One of our friends stopped by the office the other day to talk. "I'm confused," he told me. He described seeing a burly guy walking down the street carrying a pot of pretty flowers. "He was a man's man, you know? He could have been a bouncer." So our friend – maybe he was waiting for a bus – watched as this man walked up to a house and rang the bell. "He must be the flower delivery man," he thought to himself. But when the door opened, another man leaned out and kissed the man carrying the flowers, and then they went inside.

"I'm confused," he said to me. "How am I supposed to act around *them*? How do I talk with them about relationships?"

I think he was just trying to figure out where I stood on the issue, because he was doing a good job on his own of figuring this out. He nodded when I suggested it was a little like talking with a person of another race, or from another country – until you know a person well, it's best to try just to treat her as another human being, and try to sort out your inner feelings and ideas from reality.

And he told me of some of his experiences talking with a co-worker who is in a same-sex relationship. At first, he said, he asked a lot of – perhaps intrusive – questions. But now that she and her partner are planning to have a civil union ceremony, he said, he talks with her about relationship issues, and they give each other advice. Sounds to me like he's doing fine without my advice.

"I guess habituation helps," he said, "As you get more familiar with differences like this, it's less scary."

For young people, it seems to be a no-brainer – there's nothing here to be concerned about. But many of us are still getting used to the idea.

I think if we can connect with the heart side of the issue, it can be a lot easier. The Unitarian Universalist Association has a campaign going on called "Standing on the Side of Love," which encourages us to stand with gays and lesbians in their struggles

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Minister's Notes, cont'd

for justice, and with immigrants – especially dark-skinned people, who face discrimination based on their skin color, their accent, their immigration status.

“Standing on the Side of Love” reminds us that ours is a religion based on the heart. It’s hard to imagine the enormous love that the spiritually gifted bring to their ministries – whether it is Mother Theresa, the Hindu “hugging saint” known as Amma,¹ or Jesus of Nazareth – unless we’ve experienced it.

But maybe we can ask for a little help, and make an effort to embody it, or at least stand on the side of love, and not on the side of fear or anger or hatred.

The picture: two elderly men in tuxedos stand hand in hand, a cloud of pink petals raining down on them and others in the crowd, silhouetted against the blue sky and downtown skyline in the Trib photo.

They were one of thirty-three couples who took part in a group civil union ceremony at Millennium Park yesterday, as people were able for the first time in Illinois to get hitched, or near to that as possible. They had been together 38 years.

Not everyone is happy about this, of course. Catholic Charities dropped its adoption service, when the courts said they could not discriminate against same-sex couples wishing to adopt.

And the law does not fix every problem. The 1996 federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) denies federal recognition of gay marriages and gives each state the right to refuse recognition of same-sex marriage licenses issued by other states. It also denies gay and lesbian partners access to the federal benefits given to their partners.

Every once in a while, we seem to get things right. We take an action that tears down a wall, that opens a door, that lets in the light, that includes someone who has been excluded.

“O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!” as Lewis Carroll might have said.

peace,
Jean

¹ The Hindu spiritual leader Mata Amritanandamayi – see <http://hinduism.about.com/cs/gurussaints/a/aa092803a.htm>

p.s. Look for Jean's sermons on YouTube.

Peoples Church History Day

Did you or someone you know go to Sunday school here, or sing in the choir, or know Dr. Bradley personally and have stories to tell?

In July we'll have a taste of the 2012 Centennial Homecoming – celebrating 100 years since the Peoples Church has been in Uptown

Food and drink, an elegant slide show of Preston Bradley and church history, re-enactments of significant dates, and storytelling from YOU.

We'll be sending out invitations, but save the date, **Sunday, July 24, noon to 3pm**. It will be an interesting, interactive, intergenerational time.

Coffeehouse

“Mix Sandy Andina (Chicago's resident singing/guitar-and-dulcimer-slinging smart aleck) with Stephen Lee Rich (Madison, WI's friendly neighborhood yodeling cowboy), add harmony and humor, then shake and stir. Result: Andina and Rich!” (from <http://andinaandrich.com/home.html>)

For Second Friday, June 10, come to the 6pm Taizé service to unwind from your hectic week; stay for the Coffeehouse, 7pm, with live music and cheap eats – coffee and Ludie's yummy treats. Don't miss this great act, upstairs in Molly's Café.



The Peoples Church of Chicago

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Calendar – June 2011

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|---------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 IL UCC Annual Mtg Oakbrook – thru Saturday | 4 Uptown Chamber of Commerce Day of Svc |
| 5 10am Service Noon - Trustees | 6 | 7 6:30pm Treasures | 8 | 9 10am – Worship | 10 6pm – Taizé service, Coffeehouse | 11 |
| 12 10am Service 2-5pm UUs for Social Justice mtg in Pk Forest – pgm on economic justice | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 1:30pm 2 Li'l Fishes | 17 | 18 |
| 19 10am Service Noon – PC History Day planning mtg | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 6pm Movie Night: “Requiem for a Dream” | 25 9-11 Hunger Walk 10 – PBC Board mtg 11am-1pm joint mtg of PBC and PC 7pm Joseph Bures piano recital |
| 26 10am Service | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |