



# ON THE STREET

## The Peoples Church of Chicago Newsletter for September-October, 2009

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*"A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience"*

### CALENDAR

#### Film/Movie Night –

- ? **Fri, Sept 25, 6pm: "Wall-E"** – the cute trash compactor that saves a dying Earth and finds love in the process.
- ? **Fri, Oct 23, 6pm:** The classic romantic comedy "**Claudine**" starring James Earl Jones and Dianne Carroll.

#### Upcoming Services

- ? **Sundays 10am:** Worship Service, with stories and poetry and music.
- ? **Fourth Sun, after svc:** Potluck & **Sacred Conversation on Race** – a dialog to further understanding and reconciliation.

#### Other Events

- ? **First Friday, Oct 4, 6pm: Taizé service** – in Molly's Café, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.
- ? **Sat, Sept 26, 7pm:** Joseph Bures, **Classical Piano Recital.**
- ? **Sun, Oct 11, 1-4pm:** Interfaith celebration, Treasures of Uptown – see enclosed flier.
- ? **Sat, Oct 17, 8am-1pm:** UCC Chicago (CMA) **Annual Fall Meeting**, 1st Cong. UCC, Elmhurst – on **Cong. Vitality.**
- ? **Sat, Oct 17, 10am-2:30pm:** **UU Social Justice** leaders meeting, Hinsdale Unitarian Church.
- ? **Sat, Oct 31, 7pm:** Joseph Bures, **Classical Piano Recital.**

#### *Minister's Notes:*

#### **Beginning again in love**

*Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling*

Dr. Preston Bradley, I understand, spent his summers traveling Europe – I'm not sure if he just vacationed, but I suspect he used much of his time to speak to people there, as he did here in the States.

In hindsight, the issues of his day seem much clearer – the bitter racism of the Ku Klux Klan, the horrors of Nazism in Europe, the struggle for Civil Rights, the Vietnam War.

What are the great issues of today? Global warming, the economic crisis, war, religious strife, famine. The details have changed, but the broad sweep of spiritual issues remain: insouciance, greed, hatred. We are more aware now, and we are more connected to one another now, all over the world.

Religious hatred remains a serious source of violence in the world today. We know that hatred between different religious groups can be healed – the violence between Irish Catholics and Protestants has largely abated, for example.

Violence is fueled by fear, by ignorance, by a sense of threat. We believe that education and dialog can help ease people's sense of unease around differences, and so we are embarking on an inter-religious adventure we are calling "Treasures of Uptown."

We're kicking it off on Sunday afternoon, October 11<sup>th</sup>, with lunch and conversation among attendees first, then singer/songwriter **Kristin Lems** performing, and **Rev. Dirk Ficca** talking about the role of interfaith dialog, and Christianity in particular, in healing the world, and sharing with us plans for the 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions, meeting in Melbourne in December.

This is to be the first of a series, with representatives from some of the varied faiths in our community speaking, and always with food and entertainment representing different cultures or ethnic groups.

I hope you'll join us for this first gathering, and keep an eye out for future offerings in the series.

*cont'd...*

### Minister's Notes, cont'd

There are plenty of strident voices demanding more walls, more guns, more control of others' voices.

But other, smaller, voices tell us that we are on the verge of a new era, an era of peace and democracy, reconciliation and economic justice. All over the world we are becoming aware of new ways of touching one another, of connecting and making decisions together that we didn't have before.

We humans are capable of both the worst and the best – and when we fall down it isn't out of stupidity or venality – it's because we are out of touch with the Big Picture. It's because we don't feel connected to others, and especially not to that something larger than ourselves that we've come to name the Divine, God, the Universe.

A sage, a scholar of the Kabbalah, said, some twenty years ago, though it rings true today, "We are living in a time in which the whole future – not only of Israel but of humanity – is at stake." (The Kabbalah, as you may have heard, has been embraced by Madonna and other figures from popular culture.) The Kabbalah, medieval commentary on the Hebrew Bible, is a treasure of the mystical branch of Judaism.

"[W]e kabbalists," this scholar went on, "understand that the time has come to share what we know. In the pain and struggle of our time, a planetary spiritual civilization is struggling to be born. It will bring together in a way none of us can yet imagine all the highest teachings of all the greatest mystical traditions to give humanity what it needs to meet the terrible challenges it faces and to prepare it for a wholly new and wonderful flowering that the prophecies of many religions foresee."<sup>1</sup>

May it begin with us!

peace, *Jean*



<sup>1</sup> Quoted from Andrew Harvey in the Foreword to *Zohar: Annotated and Explained*, trans. Daniel C. Matt, p. xi.

## Social Justice Leaders' Gathering



Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice

**Social Justice Leaders' Gathering** for networking, best practices, collaboration & more

**Saturday, October 17, 2009**

10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Hinsdale Unitarian Church**

17 Maple St., Hinsdale

- 10:00 Registration and light refreshments
- 10:15 Intro, each congregation's social justice work
- 11:15 What's working well; problem areas
- 12:15 Lunch (donation) with networking groupings
- 1:00 What U.U.s for Social Justice has to offer
- 1:30 Chicagoland Marketing Initiative and your cong.'s social justice work - Mike Murschel
- 2:00- 2:30 Chicago Area U.U. Council (CAUUC) and how it can help – Margaret Shaklee

**For more information, call 773-643-8061.**





### 2 Li'l Fishes

Each Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, a free lunch is served in Anderson Hall. All are welcome. If you would like to help, phone Will Pruitt, volunteer coordinator, 773-754-6102.

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# *Calendar – October 2009*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2  6pm: Taizé svc, Molly's Café	3	4 10am Service 11:30 PC Trustees
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 10am Service 1-4pm – food, music, speaker: <b>Treasures of Uptown</b>
12	13	14  5:30-6:30: Music in Molly's Café	15	16	17	18 10am Service
19	20	21	22	23  6pm – Film Night "Claudine"	24	25 10am Service 11:30am Potluck Sacred Conver- sation on Race
26	27	28  5:30-6:30: Music in Molly's Café	29	30	31  7pm Joseph Bures Classical piano	