

# Windmill

Mount Vernon Unitarian Church SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

To affirm and  
promote the  
inherent worth  
and dignity of  
every person

... is a Welcoming Congregation. Its Mission is to inspire a transforming journey, to embrace our interconnectedness, and to build a loving community of fairness, equality and respect.

## Taking Note . . .

by The Reverend Kate R. Walker



In August I attended a four-day training on *Adaptive Leadership* in Boston at the Unitarian Universalist Association headquarters. The building is located at 25 Beacon Street, at the top of Beacon Hill, right next door to the Massachusetts State House. For those “in the know,” we simply call the UUA headquarters “25.”

Beacon Hill is one of America’s most prestigious and historically significant pieces of real estate. From presidents of major universities to U.S. senators and leading U.S. historical figures, Beacon Hill leads in expense and high culture.

The UUA has other buildings on Beacon Hill. There is another office building at 41 Mt. Vernon Place, which is two blocks from “25.” And there are the adjacent Eliot and Picket Houses, a bed and breakfast right behind “25.” That’s where I stayed for this trip; it’s open only to UUs.

“25” wasn’t our original headquarters, but we’ve had this one a long time, since 1926. Before that we Universalists were located down the street at #16. UUs have been on Beacon Hill for a very long time. In addition to our headquarters, we have three prominent area Boston churches within a short walking distance, all with their own histories.

Our Unitarian and Universalist histories are tied to the history of Massachusetts, as well as the country. This can be seen by the number of statues and historical tour stops that are tied to prominent UUs and frequented by the general public. For example, one is a statue on Boston Common of Wendell Phillips, noted orator, abolitionist, and Unitarian. For those who take the time to enter “25,” they’ll see the pul-

pit that stands in the Chapel. It was used in what is now known as the Arlington Street Church (UU), and was used by the Massachusetts State legislature to (among other things) debate the Bill of Rights and ratify the U.S. Constitution.

I am a proud UU, and I felt really strong and connected to my UU community while sitting in the headquarters of our association. I could feel the deep history surrounding me as I walked the halls, and then around Beacon Hill and Boston Common. I recommend to all UUs to take a trip to Boston and stop at “25” for a tour (or take a virtual tour at <http://uua.org/aboutus/>, click on “Visiting Boston”).

I think it’s important to know our UU history—so much so that I’ve recently accepted the position as President of the UU Women’s Heritage Society. To further my belief in history, I’m going to include UU history notes in a special section of the *Windmill*.

However, I’m also aware of a lesson I’ve recently learned from the **Rev. Peter Morales**, our new President of the UUA. In his studies of what makes an organization succeed or fail, he learned that it’s about celebrating the successes that makes the difference. In an unexpected twist, those organizations that focus on celebrating their success over and over again don’t learn to let go and focus on new and exciting endeavors. In an acrobatic failure, they never let go of one ring in order to reach for the next ring. Success then comes from looking to the future while letting go of the past, particularly if success lies there. Easier said than done. If UUs are going to succeed, then we need to dream big, and let go ....

Cheers, **Kate Walker**

**MOUNT VERNON  
UNITARIAN CHURCH**

MINISTER  
The Rev. Kate R. Walker

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Please note: MVUC will begin two Sunday services at  
9:30 am and 11:15 am, effective September 13.

**Program Highlights  
Mark Your Calendar!**

Good Companions  
11:45 am to 12:45 pm—BYO Lunch  
12:45-1:45 pm—Speaker

Tuesday, September 8: No Meeting—Elaine Bronez is taking  
time off to spend with her visiting son and granddaughter.

Tuesday, September 22: Pat Jackson, *Our History from the Time  
of the Masons to Our Own Holy Hill*. Pat has gathered many won-  
derful articles about the history of the growth of our church. We  
will have a discussion with the assistance of Sally Montanari, as  
well as Mimi Stevens and others who wish to contribute.

Lunch-with-a-Book  
Sunday, September 13, after the second service  
Village Wharf Restaurant in Hollin Hall Shopping Center

Ingathering Picnic  
Sunday, September 13, 5:00 pm

Coming Soon! Small Group Ministry begins this fall. Watch  
for details in the next Windmill and the webpage.

**Katie Tyson Fund**

The Katie Tyson Fund has been initiated to train and devel-  
op leaders among Unitarian Universalist youth and young  
adults. Electronic donations can be made at  
<http://www.mbdoua.org/news/?article=159>. Checks can be  
made out to: Mass Bay District, with "Katie Tyson Fund" in  
the memo line, and mailed to: Massachusetts Bay District  
Office, 182 Main Street, Watertown, MA 02472. Questions?  
Call 617-393-4216.

## Religious Education (RE)

By Meagan Henry, Director of Religious Education (DRE)

### Adult Religious Education Classes Fall 2009

Consult the church website, [www.mvuc.org](http://www.mvuc.org), for a full listing of all adult activities.

#### Basic Bible Babble

Rev. Kate Walker

Tuesday, September 22

7:00-9:00 pm in the Commons

This is a two-hour crash course on the basics of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, otherwise known as the Bible. We'll cover the who, the how, and a little bit of the why. For those who rejected this collection of ancient stories long ago, we'll get an idea of how liberal religious folk can use the Bible for inspiration and guidance. Contact **Rev. Kate Walker**, 703-765-5950 ext. 104, [minister@mvuc.org](mailto:minister@mvuc.org), if you have questions. For further study, you're encouraged to attend an in-depth study with **Peg Bartel** that continues through the fall.

#### Bible Course

Peg Bartel

First and Third Mondays, September 21–May 17

7:30-9:00 pm, Hollin Hall Morning Room

The class will focus on the Jesus Seminar research and study the five gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Thomas). The approach will be both scholarly and based on spiritual messages contained in the gospels. We will look at the historical context to understand why a particular gospel or passage was written the way it was. For example, the Gospel of Matthew was the primary text for the Jews that were followers of Jesus; therefore, it focuses on the fulfillment of the Hebrew scriptures. Outside videos and materials will also be used to enhance our understanding of the time and culture in which the New Testament was written. For more information, contact **Peg Bartel**, 703-799-1208.

#### Grief And Loss

Pete Bloom and Kris Rosenthal

Three Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am: October 18, 25,  
and November 8, Hollin Hall Blue Room

What can we do to comfort and support someone who is grieving? How do we know what will be comforting and what will not? We may feel we are walking on eggshells, afraid we will say or do the wrong thing, be inappropriate,

*Continued in next column*

offend or somehow make another's pain worse. We may be afraid of "losing it" ourselves if we should feel or show emotions when we are with the bereaved. We may feel apprehensive or uncomfortable at the possibility that some of our personal grief may surface if we are to attempt to comfort others.

This is not a grief support group; this is a course focused on helping us understand and be more comfortable with the journey of grief and our attitudes and emotions about loss. We will explore how we can support others in their grief, and seek support for ourselves. We will draw upon research about bereavement, the teachings of religious and cultural traditions, and our own life experiences. We are interested in finding the means to participate with compassionate presence in comforting and healing communities. For more information, contact **Meagan Henry**, [dre@mvuc.org](mailto:dre@mvuc.org).

### Children's Religious Education Teacher Training

Are you planning to teach RE this Fall? Have you ever wondered what Children's RE is all about? Please join **Meagan Henry** for the Children's Religious Education Teacher Training on September 19th from 9:30 am-2:30 pm in the Commons and Chapel.

### Ingathering Sunday

**September 13, 9:30 am and 11:15 am**

All families are invited to attend Multigenerational Worship Services together. We will have the "Gathering of the Waters" ceremony, so please bring some water from your summer travels.

RE Social Justice Children's Chapel is Sunday, September 20, 9:30 am and 11:15 am, in Hollin Hall. Following the Story For All Ages, children Pre-school age and up will participate in a Social Justice Children's Chapel with guest speaker **Chris Bamante** from New Hope Housing.

### September Children's RE at a Glance:

9/6 – Summer Fun (Labor Day weekend)

9/13 – Ingathering Sunday, Multigenerational Worship

9/20 – Children's Chapel, Pre-K–5th Grades

9/27 – First Day of Children's RE Classes

Hello MVUC Family,

I take great pleasure in writing this as your new official Director of Music. I am looking forward to a great year of music and worship with you at MVUC. One of my many travels this summer was a great week in Portland, Oregon, for the UU Musicians Network annual conference.

Even with a 32-hour transit adventure and daytime temperatures between 98 and 105 degrees, I had the most amazing week reconnecting with so many talented musicians! They so freely shared music, ideas, and energy. I hope to share some of this with you. **Mimi Stevens** helped me with a luncheon of Washington area UU musicians while there. We are laying groundwork for a large city-wide UU concert in the future.

We have many things planned here this year—a joint musical Sunday with Paint Branch UU, a visit from a liturgical dance group this fall, slipping more singing into our RE programs, and a fun holiday pageant called *The Spirit of the Christmas Tree*. And we have a brand-new digital keyboard to make more joyful noises!

I hope you will each consider opportunities to participate with music this year, whether it be singing, playing drums, youth groups, holiday events, or just attending, or even making financial contributions. Music can be a great lift of heart during difficult days.

### Choir Resumes!!!

Choir will start up after Labor Day. Ingathering is Sunday, September 13; our first rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 9. I am also having a “choir retreat morning” on Saturday, September 12, 9:30 am-1:30 pm. Lunch will be provided. This gives us a great chance to read ahead on music for fall, and also to visit a bit. As always, new members are welcome.

~Mark Zimmerman



### September: Community

*People had changed, or rather fridges had changed them. Mrs. Munde felt that being able to store food for longer periods had broken down the community spirit. There was no need to share now, no need to meet every day, gathering your veg or killing a few rabbits.* ~Jeanette Winterson, *Boating for Beginners* (1985).

Back in the early 1990s Jerry Mander wrote *In the Absence of the Sacred*, a critical look at the impact of technology on community. As an example of how to maintain a healthy and sacred community, he offered the “Indian Nations,” who apparently in his idyllic estimation managed to evade the evils of technology.

What I remember most about his book is his romantic description of a pre-radio, pre-television America that used to sit on the front porch and talk with neighbors. Now, each member of the family has her or his own TV and computer in their bedroom, resulting in not only family being estranged from each other, but neighbors hardly knowing who is across the hedge. The front porch has moved to the back and a sense of community is lost.

But Mander may need to write a sequel with the advent of Facebook, Twitter, and the international role-playing gaming industry. The definitive definition of “community” has defied sociologists for centuries in part because it keeps changing. Community is as much an adjective and verb as it is a noun. What does community mean to you?

Where does it happen? Is it sacred?

~Kate Walker

### A Piece of UU History

On September 6, 1847, Unitarian Transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau completed his residence on Walden Pond.

On September 8, 1553, the revolutionary religious leader John Calvin wrote to another Swiss minister that Spaniard Michael Servetus was injuring public good, not only because of his own rude conduct, but also because large numbers of people were expressing agreement with his anti-Trinitarian views.

On September 22, 1662, John Biddle, known as the “father of English Unitarianism,” died at age 47.

## Activities On and Off the Hill

### Keeping The Commons Open for Coffee Hour

Remember how crowded Coffee Hour used to be before we took out two kiosks, replaced large tables with narrow tables for sign-ups and displays, put the coffee pots in the opening to the kitchen, and opened up the wall after second service? These changes really have made a huge difference, and we want to keep it that way. If you need to have table space for a church-related display, sign-up, or to sell something, please contact the volunteer receptionist weekday mornings, and she will sign you up for a table to use. Please do not ask Norman to add a table, nor add additional tables in the Commons yourself. There are four narrow tables in addition to the food table and greeter table. Two tables are reserved for RE. The other two tables are available for other activities of the church. Thank you for your cooperation, and if you have any questions, check with **Sandy Peterson** at 703-768-2565.

### It's Coming! The MVUC Leadership Seminar Fall Session

MVUC's Leadership Seminar, always fun and a model for UU churches around the country, is back for its fall session, on Friday and Saturday, October 23-24. This Friday evening-Saturday morning session is for anyone interested in how things work at MVUC and especially for those who would like to learn more about having effective meetings, building community, and working together. Meals are provided. Over 50 of us have enjoyed the course over the past two years—maybe this is your year to join us! Check the web site (under *Members* tab, *Leadership*) for detailed information on the program and points of contact to sign up. There is a minimum and a maximum class size, so early registration is welcome. Questions? Ask **Bill Clontz**, **Tamara de la Camp**, **Ron Brandt**, **Georgia Pourchot**, or **Lincoln Cobb**.

### One More Chance to Be Part of the MVUC Photo Directory Supplement

Are you new to MVUC or were you unable to get your photo taken for the MVUC photo directory? You are in luck! We have added one more day, Monday, October 5, for you to have your picture taken. You do not have to be a member of the Church to be included in the directory. There is no cost to you or MVUC, and you will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a directory supplement for participating.

For your convenience, you can sign up online. Just go to [www.mvuc.org](http://www.mvuc.org) to "Get information and schedule photo appointments for the directory supplement HERE." When you click "HERE," you will see some simple directions. It will take only a few minutes to sign up. If you have any questions or can't make any of the dates, please contact **Joan Darrah**, [jedarrah@aol.com](mailto:jedarrah@aol.com), or 703-768-5751, as soon as possible.

### Holiday Shop November 21

#### Mark Your Calendar

Plans are beginning for the Holiday Shop!

- Be sure to check your closets, your basements, etc., for scarves, belts, purses, and other items (no clothes) that can be sold to benefit MVUC. Also, check your jewelry boxes for old and unwanted jewelry for resale (this has always been a good money-making area for the Holiday Shop).
- Please donate decorative items for the Holiday Shop boutique (upscale/retail).
- Also, *Desperately Needed!*
  - Canning jars (Mason and Ball jars, or similar).
  - Pint-size or 1/2-pint size (used for all of the chutneys sold at the Holiday Shop).
  - Especially needed: 1/2-pint sized jars with wide tops.

Please bring all items to the Hollin Hall kitchen with your name on it and note that is for the Holiday Shop.

Thanks to all for contributing to this annual event benefiting MVUC! ~**Anne Ulm**, Holiday Shop Chair, 703-751-6210 or [asulm@aol.com](mailto:asulm@aol.com)

### Town Hall Meeting on Reaching for Health Care Reform

Sunday, September 20, 4:00-6:00 pm

River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
6301 River Road, Bethesda, Maryland 20817

Plan to attend this informative program sponsored by Montgomery Health Care Action (MCHA), a pro-reform organization, and co-sponsored by the UU Legislative Ministry of Maryland, plus other organizations. MCHA plans to bring together many interested citizens for a public discussion with well-known experts. If you have questions, please contact: [healthcare@uulmmd.org](mailto:healthcare@uulmmd.org), or MCHA at [www.rruuc.org/healthcare](http://www.rruuc.org/healthcare), or Virginia at [vmr9202@comcast.net](mailto:vmr9202@comcast.net).

### Editor Needed for *Windmill*

After three years as Editor of the *Windmill*, **Marlene Churchill** is stepping aside to give someone else the opportunity to serve in this capacity. Beginning with the November issue, the *Windmill* will need a new person to gather articles, edit them using desktop publishing software, and work with the proofreaders and webmaster to produce the newsletter each month. Please consider volunteering your time and talent to help continue this vital communications tool for MVUC members. Anyone interested should contact either Marlene at [marachu@verizon.net](mailto:marachu@verizon.net), or 703-768-1143, or **Ron Brandt**, Administration Program Coordinator, 703-765-4779.

## Partner Church News

The Unitarian Church of Mawlat, our partner church in India, purchased a plot of land to expand their school with a new building to house grades eight through ten. They broke ground and constructed a new building. We received a lovely letter from Recover Sawian, the headmaster of the Unitarian School of Mawlat, thanking us for our financial support in this effort. Pictured is a plaque commemorating our support and a view of the new school building. Now the children of Mawlat will be able to continue their education in their own village through the tenth grade.

MVUC's Partner Church Committee will continue our support for the upcoming school year with a contribution of \$2,000 to pay for teacher salaries not covered by the Indian government, books, student uniforms, teacher and student winter gifts, an excursion, and medical support. Thanks to all of you who support our partner church program!

**Meagan Henry, Alvin Macomber,** and I enjoyed a wonderful trip with other UUs in the Washington, DC, area to Budapest and Transylvania in late July. We spent three days in our partner church village in Szentháromság, where we visited with scholarship students and their fam-

ilies, made homemade bread in a wood-fired oven, shared a community goulash supper, and met with the new minister, church board and scholarship students. We toured historical and religious sites, including the headquarters of the Unitarian church in Koloszvár, where we saw the First Unitarian Church and the rock from which Francis David proclaimed "God is One;" and the ruins of the castle where he was imprisoned and died in Déva. We hope to have an intergenerational group trip next summer—stay tuned for more information in the coming months.

It is clear that education is an increasing priority for the families and students in our partner church village. We have ten new students who will attend high school, trade school or university who need sponsorship support. If you are interested in sponsoring a student, or sharing a sponsorship with another church member, please contact **Lisa Gillispie**, (703) 799-1847 or [lisagillispie@earthlink.net](mailto:lisagillispie@earthlink.net). I will be contacting current sponsors with information about their students and to plan for the coming year. Thanks for your support and caring.

~**Lisa Gillispie**  
MVUC Partner Church Chair



Pictured above is the new school building built by Mawlat UUs for its students in grades 8-10; shown on the left is the plaque commemorating MVUC's support in this undertaking.

## Activities On and Off the Hill

### We Say "Good-Bye and Good Luck!"

After four years of being an active member of MVUC, **Paige Redlinger** is leaving us to move back to Iowa, and we will miss her greatly. From the moment she walked onto the Hill, Paige gave her heart to MVUC, and particularly to the youth of our congregation. She served tirelessly as Youth Advisor to our Young Religious UUs (YRUU), mentoring them during their regular meeting hours, attending conferences, and organizing interesting debates. We are sad to see her go, but we send her on her way with this community's love, and we wish her the best of luck in her new endeavors.

~Membership Development Committee, on behalf of the wider MVUC community

### Lunch-with-a Book Resumes Meetings

The first meeting of Lunch-With-a-Book will be held Sunday, September 13, after the second service at the Village Wharf Restaurant in Hollin Hall Shopping Center. The meeting will be a chance for all those interested in sharing what books they've read this summer. Please come and share what you've read and liked. For more information, contact **Louise Werner-Rhoades** at [louron13@cox.net](mailto:louron13@cox.net), or at 703-6191369.

### Youth Service Projects Supported in the U.S. and Canada: Pay It Forward Foundation Mini-Grant Program

The Pay It Forward Foundation was established to inspire students to realize that they can change the world, and to provide them with opportunities to do so. Pay It Forward Mini-Grants are designed to fund one-time service-oriented projects that are identified by youth as activities they would like to perform to benefit their school, neighborhood, or greater community, and that include learning goals for the youth participants. Projects must contain a "pay it forward" focus—that is, they must be based on the concept of one person doing a favor for others, who in turn do favors for others, with the results growing exponentially. Schools, churches, and community youth groups (with an adult sponsor) in the U.S. and Canada may apply for funding. The application deadlines are September 15 and February 15 of each year; however, requests may be submitted at any time. Visit the Foundation's website, [www.payitforwardfoundation.org](http://www.payitforwardfoundation.org), to download the Mini-Grant guidelines.

### Get Updates on Health Care Reform from the White House

Reforming health care should also involve you. Think of other people who may want to stay up-to-date on health

care reform and other national issues and tell them to join here: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/EmailUpdates>. Health care reform can't come soon enough. We spend more on health care than any other country, but families continue to struggle with skyrocketing premiums and nearly 46 million are without insurance entirely. It is a priority for the American people and a pillar of the new foundation we are seeking to build for our economy.

### Looking through the Green Lens



#### Easy Green! September 2009

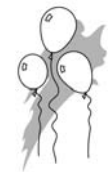
In order to achieve a more sustainable world, we each need to increase our "Ecological Intelligence." Each item that we buy has the hidden cost of environmental impact to produce and transport it. If we think about lifecycle assessment, we can better understand and compare products. Greenpeace says that for each one trash can of "stuff" we throw out, about 70 cans of trash were produced to make our "stuff." That is scary! But, there is a web site that lists over 70,000 food, toys, personal care, and household products to help us make more informed choices and compare products: [www.goodguide.com](http://www.goodguide.com). Good luck! Just a thought.  
~Wendy Burns

### Caring Associates

Contact information for the Caring Associate for the week and Caring Associate Coordinator (CAC) can be found each week in the Order of Service and in the Member Services area of the church website. As always, the MVUC staff and volunteers are willing to assist you during normal business hours. Please direct any questions or concerns to **Betsy Stephens** ([betsys2@verizon.net](mailto:betsys2@verizon.net)) or **Meg Clontz** ([meg@theclontz.net](mailto:meg@theclontz.net)).



### RE Youth September Birthdays!



8 Erin Lager	17 Maeve Bradley
8 Faten Hasan	19 Abie Pedrick
8 Kathryn Machanic	20 Bryce Woolf
8 Sally Henrehan	20 Starling Carter
9 Mollie Passacantando	20 Thomas Magri
9 Maxine Piatt	24 Isabelle Caballo
9 Michaela Piatt	25 Evie McNulty
9 Dillyn Zindler	26 John Rademacher
14 Fiona Penn	27 Olivia Hansell

Continued in next column



## OUR LARGER WORLD NEWS

### Social Justice Programs at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

*Love is the teaching of this church, and service is its prayer.*

#### 2009 Regional Social Justice Awards

UUs for Social Justice and OpenDoor Housing Fund co-sponsored a second annual recognition of outstanding accomplishments by individual UUs who work to make the world a better place. Ten congregations submitted 20 nominations of amazing feats of faith and justice. We commend our winners and all nominees. We hope you will join us in celebrating these leaders and in hearing their inspiring stories. The 2009 awards go to:

Collaborative Program Award: Children in the Fields Committee, River Road UU Congregation.

GLBTQ Award: **Joan Darrah**, Mount Vernon Unitarian Church.

Giraffe Award (for stretching his/her capacity for social justice over a long period of time and for sticking his/her neck out for others): **John** and **Chris Sutton**, UU Church of Arlington.

Economic Justice Award: Ending Global Poverty Task Force, UU Congregation of Fairfax.

Youth Award: YRUU Class of 2009, UU Congregation of Columbia.

UU Interfaith Affordable Housing Award: **Larry Platt**, K&L Gates, for 20 years of pro bono legal work.

The awards will be presented on Sunday, October 25, starting at 5:30 pm, at Positano Ristorante Italiano in Bethesda. Contact **Rev. Cynthia Snavely** at [info@uusj.org](mailto:info@uusj.org), or 301-588-1951. Tickets are \$80.00 for a four-course dinner. The Second Annual Social Justice Awards Benefit Gala feeds the UUSJ Collaborative Fund; go to [uusj.org](http://uusj.org) for details.

#### MVUC Member Joan Darrah Wins UUSJ GLBTQ Award!

The Social Justice Council and **Rev. Kate Walker** nominated **Joan Darrah** for the 2009 UUSJ GLBTQ Award, and she won! We are so proud of Joan for the many efforts she led with her team to advocate for the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT). Here are some of her more notable achievements: 1) created a congregational task force to advocate for the repeal of DADT; 2) won acceptance of an Action of Immediate Witness (AIW) at the 2007 General Assembly; 3) worked with a large number of other congregations throughout the country before, during, and since the 2007 UUA General Assembly to generate support for the repeal of DADT; 4) developed informational packets and petitions for use by MVUC and other congregations; 5) conducted workshops for Joseph Priestley District conferences and other congregations; 6) testified as a witness at a Congressional House Armed Services Committee hearing in 2008; 7) appeared as a guest on several national radio and TV

*Continued in next column*

programs to explain why DADT is not only obsolete and discriminatory, but also detrimental to national security; 8) met with elected representatives, such as Senator Jim Webb and the Obama transition team, to advocate for the repeal of DADT; 9) continues to reach out to other religions and organizations to encourage them to join the fight for repeal; and 10) is recognized throughout the UU community as the lead spokesperson for repeal of DADT.

Joan will be presented the award during the second Annual Social Justice Awards Benefit Gala of UUSJ on October 25, 2009, at the Positano Ristorante Italiano in Bethesda. Anyone can attend the gala; and if you support Joan's work, we encourage you to do so. Contact **Rev. Cynthia Snavely** at [info@uusj.org](mailto:info@uusj.org) or 301-588-1951, if you wish to attend the gala.

#### New: Social Justice Movie Series

Social justice work requires commitment, perseverance, and knowledge. While many people's lives seem too busy with work and family, once they become aware of acts of injustice, many people make time to get involved. The key words are "becoming aware" of what is going on in our back yards, at the county, state, and federal levels. On and off, we are surprised to hear that people we consider educated and "on top of things" have little knowledge of legislative or executive decisions that directly affect their lives. For instance, fewer and fewer women are aware of the restrictive laws that govern their reproductive choices in the state of Virginia. Those of us who do not follow immigration closely are little aware of the hoops through which immigrants are asked to jump in order to get a work permit, let alone a green card. Even fewer of us are aware of how gay couples are affected by their lack of rights, compared to straight couples. Did you know, for instance, that a gay person cannot visit his or her sick partner in hospital because s/he is not considered "a family member?"

These issues are sometimes hard to comprehend, and hard to educate about, unless the right education tool is available. This is why the Social Justice Council has decided that a movie series would be an appropriate and efficient tool to raise awareness about the many injustices that persist in our lives. In September, we will view a PBS documentary about the language of hate and intolerance that anti-choice and anti-gay proponents put on the airwaves. *Rage on the airwaves* addresses the power of radio and TV shows to influence people into violent actions, such as the 2008 shooting in the UU church in Knoxville, Tennessee.

In October, we will watch *Poisoned Waters*, a PBS documentary about the disastrous effects of the Eastern Shore chicken indus-

*Continued on next page*

## Social Justice Programs at MVUC

(Continued from page 8)

try on the Chesapeake Bay. You will rethink eating chicken from Delmarva after seeing the movie. In November, we will view *For the Bible Tells Me So*, a documentary about five Christian, church-going families and how they handle the realization of having a gay child. Whether you have a gay child or member of the family, or you know someone who does, this movie is an eye-opener. In December, we will view *The Visitor*, a movie about a college professor who discovers a pair of immigrants living in his apartment and learns how the immigration hoops caused them to be in this situation. As we struggle to understand immigration issues in this country, this movie puts a human face on current challenges. The Social Justice Movie Series is scheduled for the second Friday of the month, 7:00-10:00 pm, in Hollin Hall Fireplace Room. Join us! Contact **Georgia Pourchot**, 703-721-0595.

### UUs Can Help Families Hit by Foreclosure

OpenDoor Housing Fund, successor to the Unitarian Universalist Affordable Housing Corporation, has been hard at work helping capital area families keep a decent roof over their heads during the economic downturn. Without a quick response from OpenDoor, 13 families at Randle Heights would have been forced out of their homes. In the spring of 2008, the residents of the apartment in Southeast DC, were shocked to learn that the developer had abandoned their project, leaving an incomplete renovation and a defaulted loan. When the bank decided to foreclose on the property in September 2008, OpenDoor helped the Tenants Association gain bankruptcy protection and is continuing to work closely to refinance the project and find a new development team to complete the project.

MVUC has an institutional investment in OpenDoor, and a long history of supporting this organization through special collections and individual contributions. If you would like more information about how to join the many UU congregations and families who make safe, socially responsible, and interest-bearing investments in a local Community Development Funding Institution, contact **Kathy Latulippe** at 301-588-5533 or visit [www.opendoorhousingfund.org](http://www.opendoorhousingfund.org).

### Feed the Homeless VIC-HOP Is Almost Upon Us

For three years now, MVUC has been feeding the homeless in the VIC-HOP (Ventures in Community Hypothermia Program) format from December until the end of March. The program is organized by Fairfax County professionals and run by volunteer churches who are members of Ventures in Commu-

nity, an interfaith group along the Route 1 corridor. MVUC partners with St. Mark's Episcopal Church in this endeavor. In past years, we were fortunate to have over 100 MVUC members involved in this program, with several Church committees and groups participating actively, including the Junior Youth group (grades 6 through 8) and Young Religious UUs (our high school students). If you are new to our church and would like to get involved, here is what VIC-HOP is about. Starting in December through the end of March, on Thursday nights, we prepare dinner and breakfast bags for 35 people. We also provide overnight volunteers who spend the night at the shelter, located at Rising Hope Methodist Mission Church on Russell Road (across from Aldi store). There are guidelines for dinner preparation and overnight shifts on our website; check the Route 1 page under Social Justice. A sign-up sheet is now available on the bulletin board at the back of the chapel (and a few dedicated volunteers have already signed up for the toughest nights, Christmas Eve and New Year's Day; **thank you again, Brandt Family!** If you wish to speak with someone about VIC-HOP, please contact **Helen Lounsbury**, 703-346-4401.

### The Welcoming Congregation Committee Is Being Reconstituted. Join Us!

The Social Justice Council has become aware that not everybody in our congregation knows or understands the meaning of our Welcoming Congregation status. In short, to be a Welcoming Congregation is to be explicitly and intentionally welcoming of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender persons (BGLT). We gained our certification from the UUA as a Welcoming Congregation years ago, and in the meantime, our congregation has grown and changed its demographics. We need to restate the obvious: We welcome everyone, irrespective of sexual orientation, gender, socio-economic status, race or ethnicity. Welcoming Congregation is specifically designed to welcome BGLT persons, and a committee is being reconstituted to accomplish this mission. We owe a debt of gratitude to **Celia Barnett**, who researched and interviewed members and friends of MVUC, and spoke to other churches about how they intentionally welcome BGLT persons. You are invited to join this committee and lend your voice and creativity to ensure that everyone who comes through our doors feels welcomed and accepted. For more information, please contact **Georgia Pourchot**, 703-721-0595.

### Vilma Morrissey

We are grieved to announce that Vilma Morrissey, a long-time member of MVUC and a faithful worker on the *Windmill* crew, died on Saturday, August 22. More information will be furnished in MVUC's weekly e-mail newsletter.

Continued in next column

*Sermons for Your Re-Hearing*

Each Sunday's service is recorded and available on CD. If you would like a copy, please speak with **Raleigh Romine** or **Joanne Ell**.

**A Month of Sundays**

*Effective September 13, services will be conducted at 9:30 and 11:15 am in the Remington Chapel*

September 6*The Spirit at Work***Peter Pocock***(Service at 10:00 am)*September 13*Fire in the Belly*

**Rev. Kate R. Walker, Meagan Henry and Mark Zimmerman**  
(Gathering of the Waters)

September 20*Lines of Connection***Rev. Kate R. Walker**September 27*From You, to Me, to Us***Rev. Kate R. Walker**

**Mt. Vernon  
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**Reminder to All MVUC  
E-Mail Users**

To receive all weekly bulletins and special notices, please promptly notify **Esther Dickinson** ([esthergertrude@verizon.net](mailto:esthergertrude@verizon.net)) whenever your e-mail address changes.

*Thank you!*