



All Souls

www.all-souls.org

*Creating
a diverse,
spirit-growing,
justice-seeking
community.*

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Religious Progressives, Unite!

Robert Hardies, Senior Minister

By now, most of you will have heard the good news: on May 17-20 of this year, All Souls Church will host a national gathering of religious progressives called the Network of Spiritual Progressives.

The Network is led by Rabbi Michael Lerner of *Tikkun* magazine and Cornel West of Princeton University. Together with the folks at the *Tikkun* community, Lerner and West are organizing religious progressives to offer an alternative to the Religious Right.

For more information about the Network of Spiritual Progressives, visit their website at www.spiritualprogressives.org.

It is an honor for All Souls to host this remarkable event. It is an opportunity for us to host up to 1,000 activists from across the country, and to play a strategic role in shaping the future of the religious progressive movement in America.

I hope that you will plan now to attend this conference from May 17-20. All Souls members will receive a discount on

the registration rate. For those willing to work at the conference, scholarships are available. To help out with working on or planning the conference, contact Louise Green at volunteers@allsouls.ws.

On Martin Luther King Sunday we were reminded that during the Civil Rights movement it was folks who organized in churches that set a people free. I hope that the organizing that happens in our church this May will also bear significant fruit.

Love,

Invitations to Connection

Shana Goodwin, Associate Minister

At the heart of my ministry with you is seeking new and better ways to connect members of the congregation to one another. We have several programs which seek to create space for meaningful small group conver-

sation and camaraderie. There are adult spiritual development classes, Roots and Wings classes (which explore beliefs, UU and All Souls history, covenant, worship, and more), and covenant groups. Over the course of the winter/spring

and into next fall you will hear about two new initiatives we are piloting in hopes of involving as many of you as possible. The first is a newly expanded orientation program for newcomers that will offer more *continued on page 2*



ALL SOULS CHURCH

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BUILDING HOURS

Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Invitations to Connection ...

continued from page 1

information and connection than the current 3- hour session can hold. It will be a 3 session class which includes conversation about volunteerism, spiritual deepening, and the meaning of membership. The second is an effort to improve the breadth and depth of our covenant group program by offering training for facilitators and multiple opportunities for those drawn to covenant groups to uncover topics for starting new groups or ways to join existing groups. This new reinvigoration of our covenant group ministry will begin with an interest session for all those who want to learn about facilitating or joining a group after church on Sunday, March 19th at 1pm. Please plan to attend. I am excited about these new opportunities. May we come to know and care for one another in ever more substantial ways.

Blessings,

Joseph Priestley Annual Conference in Crystal City

Save the date! The Joseph Priestley District Annual Conference will be held in Crystal City this year, on March 31 and April 1. This meeting of mid-Atlantic area UUs will be informative, fun, and family-friendly. Watch the All Souls Weekly and March Newsletter for more details.

The nation-wide gathering of UUs, General Assembly, will be in St. Louis this year — June 21-June 25. Registration opens on March 1, details will be forthcoming.

Silver Souls Extravaganza Revealed!

Here is the early bird heads-up for the All Souls-Silver Souls "Voices Lifted in Song" Concert to celebrate "DC Emancipation Day" on Easter Sunday, April 16th at 2:30 PM at our church. Prior to the concert Silver Souls will be serving a special Easter Luncheon.

We encourage families and friends to join us on this special Sunday — the 144th Anniversary of the District of Columbia's Emancipation Day and Easter Sunday. Renown international artists soprano Christina Clark, baritone Tobias Scharfenberger, and All Souls Jubilee Singers will lead the festivities

In the following weeks, Silver Souls will be distributing forms to advertise in an attractive souvenir booklet at a table on Pierce Hall. All Souls is a dynamic community. This is an excellent opportunity to make more connections.

Mentoring Children of Promise

Become an Amachi BIG Brother BIG Sister. Children today face problems many of us never had to deal with growing up. Today more than 2.5 million children nationwide are left without the love and support of a parent due to incarceration. The fact is that many of these children will follow in the same pattern of intergenerational incarceration if they do not receive some type of support along the way. But in these challenging times, Big Brothers Big Sisters offers a way to help.

Research shows the positive impact an adult mentor has on a child at risk for drug use, poor academic performance, and repeating the cycle of incarceration. You can make a difference today! Volunteer one hour a week to guide a child along a path filled with possibility and hope. Your involvement as a Big Brother or Big Sister can change a child's life, and it can change yours! For more information contact Jeffrey Palacios at (202) 783-5585 x16 or email jpalacios@bbbsnca.org Also check our website at www.bbbsnca.org.

Speak Up for the Environment

Our church is in the process of becoming a nationally-recognized "Green Sanctuary". Part of this process is to develop an ambitious action plan for all aspects of our life together -- worship, education for children and adults, music, the way we run our building and what it looks like, what we are doing to improve our neighborhood and the wider world, etc. We'd love to hear your suggestions and to test some of our ideas with YOU. We will have 2 listening sessions after church. Stay 5 minutes, or stay for the entire conversation (no more than 45 minutes). SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12 and FEBRUARY 26th. Look for the location in the church bulletin or in the Harvard St. entrance. You are also welcome to send suggestions by email to: pamelasparr@infoconex.com. Deadline: February 28th.

March 12 Neighborhood Justice Sunday

On Sunday, March 12th celebrate All Souls Neighborhood Justice Sunday with 100 members of All Souls Church (and friends from Foundry United Methodist and Church of the Pilgrims) to kick off the Neighborhoods First! Get Out the Vote campaign organized by the Washington Interfaith Network(WIN) and All Souls All Vote. Volunteers will hit the streets all afternoon in the first round of walks to meet and talk with our Ward 1 neighbors about their priorities for neighborhood improvement and investment. To sign up and find out how else you can use your talents for this important mayoral/city council election year campaign, contact Brenda Barron at 202-667-7422 or bb0911@yahoo.com.

Environmental Justice Sunday: Feb. 26

Be sure to stay after Rev. Louise Green's sermon on global warming to participate in our "Beat the Heat" fair in or around Pierce Hall. Discover how much All Souls contributes to global warming. Calculate your impact! See the racial justice map of the impact of global warming. Buy energy efficient light bulbs! Learn easy things to do at home, work and school that make a difference. Find out how you can influence national UU policy in this area. Talk to some inspiring national experts who are also ASC members! Tell us what our church should be doing!

Reserve April 8th for All Souls Seder

This is an important celebration of the freedom from oppression, from whatever source. And it is fun!

We do singing, toasting (bring wine!), and the kids search for the Afikomen (a prize gets awarded to whoever finds the hidden Matzo, but no adults can search).

Come yourself. Bring your families, your children! Your neighbor's children! Your friends!

For further questions, or to volunteer, contact Steven and Sharon Newburg-Rinn, stevennr@verizon.net or 202-543-6629, or Delabian Rice-Thurston, 202-726-1518, delabian@aol.com.

A Treasure in the Basement

There are treasures downstairs at All Souls Church, and one of them is M.O.M.I.E.'s TLC (Mentoring of Minorities in Education's Total Learning Cis-tem). Founded in 2000 by Rev. Ayize Sabater, M.O.M.I.E.'s TLC is a highly individualized mentoring child development initiative that is open to all elementary school aged children but emphasizes work with minority young people. Rev. Sabater has built an initiative modeled on his own experience of significant adult mentors who encouraged the development of his genius through transformative educational interactions. M.O.M.I.E.'s TLC employs a 3-pronged change strategy that includes 1) direct, high-quality teaching for at-risk children; 2) advocacy training for parents and lay-leaders; and 3) multi-media and interactive presentations to engage children and others.

One project that exemplifies M.O.M.I.E.'s TLC's combination of approaches is its annual Children's Gallery of Black History. In 2006 the Gallery will again be held at All Souls Church from February 12th through February 18th. The Gallery is a fun way for children to learn Black history, presenting elements of African and African American history and culture in interactive ways that offer children creative and adventurous experiences. Last year, The Black Nurses Association, the Student National Dental Association, the National Park Service, NASA, and Keely's Boxing & Youth Center have all contributed special exhibits enjoyed by over 400 neighborhood children. The Gallery will open on Sunday, February 12th from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., followed by a Gala reception at 3:30pm in Pierce Hall at All Souls Church to which all members are invited. The Gallery then continues for a week, when students, parents and guests can enjoy the Gallery together.

Again, this year M.O.M.I.E.'s TLC will hold the Children's Gallery of Black History from Sunday, February 12 through Saturday, February 18, with an opening Gala reception on February 12th at 3:30 p.m. Plan to visit the Children's Gallery of Black History after worship on

Sunday, February 12th between 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., and join M.O.M.I.E.'s TLC at the opening Gala reception at 3:30 p.m. in Pierce Hall. A Dialogue on Race and Ethnicity (ADORE) will visit the Gallery during the week for its regular meeting, and members are invited to join ADORE for that visit as well.

You can learn more about M.O.M.I.E.'s TLC and the Children's Gallery of Black History by visiting their website (<http://www.momiestic.com/>) or you can contact Chitra at 202-285-7937 or Robbin at 202-722-1485.

All Souls Auction ... April 1, 2006

Join us for the All Souls Auction on April 1, 2006. Don't be fooled—the Auction is a great opportunity to meet other church members while having fun supporting the church. The auction planning team is currently looking for individuals to help with fun and time-limited tasks, like publicity, decorations, catering, entertainment, and merchant solicitation. We will also need many volunteers on the day of the auction. To volunteer, send an e-mail to all-soulsauction@yahoo.com or speak with auction co-chairs Susan Milner, Louisa Smith, and Marilyn Schuyler.

Make donations to the auction beginning Feb. 5 at www.all-souls.org/auction, or on a paper form at the auction table after church. Not sure what to donate? Consider:

Host a meal or activity in your home: crab feasts, picnics, brunches, high tea, salon discussions, sing-alongs, charades, Karaoke Night, murder mysteries, poetry reading, wine tasting or beer-making parties, regional or ethnic dinners, such as BBQ, Greek, Iranian, Indian ...

Family- and Child-centered activities: art, scrapbooking, spa parties, magic, science experiments, lego projects.

Trips: nature hikes, Civil War battlefields, basketball games, Zoo, Air and Space Museum, Wheaton Park.

Tickets to plays and concerts, sporting events.

Services: help with taxes, writing a will, cleaning or organizing your closets, gardening help, handyman services, computer support, child care, party planning, house painting, music lessons, knitting, cooking, heavy lifting.

Original artwork: painting, sewing, jewelry ...

Visit the table after church to discuss donations.

BookNook Monthly

by Ruel J. Eskelsen, BookNook Chair

Visit the Book Nook in the hall adjacent to the garden on Sundays after service and browse and buy! All sales proceeds go to benefit All Souls Church. This month we want highlight two books on the writings and thought of James Luther Adams. Adams is considered by many to be the most influential theologian in the UU religious movement. Adams translated several significant work of Paul Tillich from German to English. You can learn more about Adams' life as well as other prominent UUs in the online dictionary of UU Biography: <http://www.uua.org/uuhs/duub/index.html>

Transforming Liberalism: The Theology of James Luther Adams by George Kimmich Beach, \$18.00

Several anthologies of Adams' work have been published over the years, but this synthesis of Adams' thought by Beach captures a grand synthesis of a major theological thinker of the 20th century. The book was reviewed in the Jan/Feb 2005 UU World and is online at: <http://www.uuworld.org/2005/01/bookshelf.html>

The Essential James Luther Adams: Selected Essays and Addresses, edited and introduction by George Kimmich Beach, \$14.00

This is much like a "pocket guide" of James Luther Adams original writings organized in topical sections, Faith and Freedom, Time and History, Association and Action and a section on Further Resources for those who want to seek out the larger works of Adams' writings.

The BookNook is always looking for volunteers to help staff the Nook. If you love talking books with people it's the perfect venue. Contact Ruel J. Eskelsen at 202.86.9416 or rueleskelsen@yahoo.com.

Book Discussion Group Studies Golden

The next meeting of the Book Discussion Group will be at 4 pm Sunday, Feb. 12. The book will be *Migrations of the Heart* by Marita Golden. Starting in March, complete details of the book group's upcoming meetings will be in the Sunday morning insert to the order of service. They will not be in the newsletter. The Book Group normally meets on the second Sunday of the month. Please join us for any book that interests you, even if you read it a long time ago.

Ethical Dialog for February 2006

Feb 5 Who or What is a "Stakeholder"?

Is this term a new formulation of the 'post' or 'stick', or of "a financial interest or share"? A third option in a second definition in an old dictionary suggests a stake as "a share or interest in any enterprise". If the latter is possible, who are the 'stakeholders' in the Katrina reconstruction? Of a church such as All Souls?"

Feb 12 Culture, Modernity and the Ethics of Globalization

Are the "values and images of Western mass culture, like some invasive weed, threatening to choke out the world's native flora"? (Kwame Anthony Appiah) Or, is globalization also a 'threat' to homogeneity? Is the cosmopolitan citizen of the world a realistic and good (ethical) model?

Feb 19 Terror, Caliphates, Islam and the Future

Does the Terror War replace the Cold War? Is Islam an Enemy in the Modern World, or a potential resource for Peace? What should UUs and All Souls know about and do regarding this other religious faith?

REflections & Caring

REflections

The most critical role for the teacher is to be a fellow pilgrim on this learning journey. You will not know everything, in fact, you will learn much more than you know now. Your job is to believe in your students' ability to succeed and support their efforts. However, you and your students will hit a wall at times and even fail. Help the class pick itself up, dust off and collectively continue to work towards making a difference.

—The Giraffe Project

The Giraffe Project, a process to help teachers design social justice learning, was brought to ASC by Elizabeth Arnold a while ago and the response has been excellent.

One Intermediate class (3rd-5th graders) is "looking at the ethics of eating animals, animal testing, and the role of animals on earth. The class will also try to look at the effects of global warming and pollution on animal species," while the other Intermediate class plans to do collective work in environmental justice. The Middle Schoolers have decided to work in the area of civil rights, specifically tied to Rosa Parks and the High School class has indicated an interest in the prison system. Our younger classes will be learning about and helping in the area of homelessness.

Some of their work will be tied to justice work already being done by ASC folks, but we are hoping that some of you might be interested in becoming fellow pilgrims with us, teachers and students. ***Animal rights, environmental justice, civil rights and the prison system***—do you have experience in any of these areas that you will be willing to share?

We are looking for folks who realize that the "most important factor in teaching service learning is dedicating oneself to learning and growing with the children -- BUT NOT DESIGNING THE PROJECT OR CARRYING IT OUT as its director. Are you someone who can keep faith in your ability to change and be willing to model learning and failing? If so, then join us in becoming part of the accomplishments that flow from doing something with great personal meaning."

Don't be afraid -- say yes.

Special Caring List

In 2005, 276 cards were sent from the Caring Table. We're grateful to the many members and staff who've sent us news, the faithful volunteers who work each Sunday at the table, to members who've contributed cards, stamps, return address stickers and compassion for their fellow members. We often receive thank you notes. An especially poignant one came from a member who is now in prison in Indiana who used to be a participant in our caring work. It read in part, "Now that I'm on the other side of the caring table, as it were, I can attest to the wonderful feelings and memories and energies that come from a note signed by many in the act of care. I miss you all."

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the members of our congregation who are unable to get to church any more: Mary Jane Fisher, Virginia Gray, Loretta and Wesley Hanes, Mary Louise Robbins, Marianna Sewell, Marietta Sharp, Larry Stone, Emilie Wiggins.

Notes or cards would be welcome. Addresses are in the church directory (available at the Information Table in Pierce Hall). You can also visit the Caring Table to sign cards for those homebound. To visit shut-in members, contact Rev. Shana Goodwin at church (202-332-5266).

From the Archives ...

The All Souls archives have found a safe and secure home in a room behind the gym. Mostly new file cabinets are mounted on cinder blocks. The sorting continues. Our most recent "find" is an order of service from 1915. Two Roots and Wings classes and dozens of members have helped with the church's reclaiming of its history. Should you wish to help, contact Bob or Molly Freeman at 301-656-0948 or mollyfreeperson@aol.com

Member News

Henry and Sarah Tate send greetings from Florida. At this writing we are enjoying the sunshine while stumbling over boxes and various other disaray. We miss you all a lot. We are attending 1st Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Palm Beach, a small and very friendly group. Love to you all.”

Congratulations are in order for Mark McKevez who received a Masters in Architecture degree from the University of Marylans, to Wendy Webb who has a new job with hospice, to Erin Shannon and mike West who’ve announced their engagement, to Bob and Molly Freeman on their 50th wedding anniversary, and to Charlie Mason who was 95 this month.

We were about to say a fond farewell to Rose Kurland when we heard she’d be back to visit during the month. Welcome back to her and to Bob and Ingrid McDonald who’ve returned from three years in Jordan.

We hope Chris Herman will soon be free of foot problems, that Amanda Poppei’s shoulder will heal well, that Norm Williams will receive positive results from recent tests, that Edna Lingreen’s recovery from a broken hip will go well and that Gretchen Goodrich will soon sport a clean bill of health.

Our fondest thoughts are with Jessie Bakeman, Mary Bonner, the Hanes family and Trellis Waxler as they continue to struggle with critical illness.

We send loving sympathy to Darrell Duane and Holly Ahearn on the loss of their fathers, to David Jackson, Jeff Richardson and Karen Williamson on the death of their mothers.

Finally we announce with great sorrow the death of Bob Myers on December 26th. A story in pictures of his life is over the fireplace in Pierce Hall. His life represented the ongoing struggle for peace and justice in the world.

Newsletter Deadline Change!

The new newsletter deadline is the second Friday of every month, rather than the third, to allow the church to save money on postage. Don’t miss the date!

Getting Started at All Souls

The Welcoming and Membership Committee invites those interested in learning more about and/or joining ASC to the following sessions.

Step 1. Introduction. Join our Associate Minister, Rev. Shana Goodwin, to learn more about UUs and ASC. After service on March 5, from 12:45 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Step 2. Orientation. Those interested in joining ASC are invited to this three-hour session, where you will explore your spirituality, learn about ASC, and tour the church. Those who wish to join can sign the book of members. Wed., March 15, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Step 3. New Member Ingathering Sunday: New members are formally introduced to the congregation during this special Sunday Service on March 19, 2005.

All are welcome to attend these sessions. Attendance does not constitute a commitment to join All Souls. It is not necessary to pre-register for these sessions. Questions? Contact Lynne Heltman at (202)363-1478 or asc-newmembers@verizon.net.

ALL SOULS

The deadline for *All Souls* is the second Friday of the month. Notices, articles and letters may be submitted anytime. E-mail, Elizabeth Preston at elizabeth_mae_preston@hotmail.com

Editorial policy: articles and letters about church activities and programs submitted by church members and friends of ASC will be published in *All Souls* in a timely manner. Due to space constraints, lengthy articles may be edited, and articles not time-sensitive may be held for subsequent issues.

Illustrations provided by Mark Mitchell.
Editor Emeritus: Lorie Allion

Publication Deadlines:

February Issue: January 13
March Issue: February 10

Editor: Elizabeth Preston

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All Souls Unitarian Church Services

Services begin at 10:50 a.m. unless otherwise noted

Feb. 5 • *The Meaning of Life: The Hope* • Rev. Hardies

This is the last in a three-part sermon on “The Meaning of Life.” Ultimately, our spiritual searching brings us to an affirmation of life’s preciousness and its meaning.

Feb. 12 • *Claiming Our Allegiances* • Rev. Goodwin

We are often asked to think about where and with whom we stand, and just as frequently told that any disagreement with the majority is unacceptable. How do we align ourselves with causes and people while maintaining our integrity?

Feb. 19 • *Theological Origins of America’s Divide* • Rev. Hardies

To understand the current divide among progressives and conservatives—between red states and blue—scholars increasingly point to theological differences that date back 200 years. How does theology effect politics? What role have our UU ancestors played in this theological debate?

Feb. 26 • *Environmental Justice Sunday: Mother is Melting*

Rev. Louise Green, Director of Social Justice Ministries

The effects of global warming are evident on a planetary scale, so nature as we know it is shifting. How might this change us, as global residents, social justice seekers, & a spirit-growing community?

MISSION & ENDS STATEMENTS

Mission Statement of All Souls Church

To create a diverse, spirit-growing, justice-seeking community that transforms ourselves and our world into one great family of all souls.

Ends Statements: *By 2008 we will be able to say of our congregation:*

1. Church members of all ages discover and articulate the source of love in their lives and cultivate the ability to act on that love in ever-expanding circles.
2. All Souls is an ever-more diverse congregation, overcoming the barriers that divide the human family.
3. Our building and grounds are welcoming, comfortable and accessible to all who seek their use in congruence with our mission.
4. All Souls Church is a congregation where members generously share human and financial resources to support our growing mission and ends.
5. All Souls Church is a leader in the Unitarian Universalist movement, by witnessing to UU values in our nation’s capital.
6. The Columbia Heights/Adams Morgan/Mt. Pleasant neighborhood is a more just and compassionate community because of All Souls’ prophetic leadership.
7. All Souls Church is a vibrant and joyful community of communities where all seekers find connection, support and spiritual growth in groups large and small.

Return Service Requested

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