



Sugarloaf Congregation of Unitarian Universalists

A spiritual community that welcomes questions

Sugarloaf News

April 2009

SCUU NEWS

Ministerial Selection Marches Toward It's Conclusion

Finding and hiring a new Unitarian Universalist Minister is a long, and well planned process. In late April our Ministerial Search Committee, that had been at it since last summer, was thrilled to announce that Rev. Megan Foley had accepted our invitation to Candidate at SCUU during the week beginning May 10. She will conduct the services on May 10th and 17th. The intervening week will be a busy one for her and SCUU, for it is then that all kinds of small group meetings are scheduled so that she and as many of us as possible will have a chance to get well acquainted. The full schedule is being finalized even now. Then, after that second service, we hold a Congregational Meeting to vote to formally call a minister to serve us one half time beginning in August.

That vote on May 17 is *important* to all, so members and friends should

all *circle that date* on your calendar and plan to be part of the milestone in our church life.

More on Rev Foley page 2

It's "MAY MADNESS" Time Again!

May is a wonderful time for an auction, and our annual auction this year is **Saturday, May 30th** in the UU Church of Rockville (UUCR) at 100 Welsh Park Drive in Rockville. Our silent auction will begin at 5:30 PM, followed by dinner and the live auction. The evening will end at 8:45 or 9 PM, much earlier than it did last year. We'll all appreciate that!

The auctioneer this year is Tibby Middleton, formerly of the UU congregation in Fredericksburg, Virginia, now working her magic in Frederick, Maryland. She is also Samantha Porter's sister and Holly Middleton's mother, so she knows Sugarloaf well, and is most anxious to make our auction a success.

In addition to our usual wonderful selection of auction items, we hope to offer more in two other areas. The first is "Services." All of us can do something, and all of us can USE something. What can you do that other people would be willing to pay for – computer help, yard work, tutoring, childcare, automotive, carpentry, electrical or plumbing expertise, catering, cooking, financial or tax consulting, coaching – anything you know how to do that someone else would be willing to pay to have.

The other area is "Vacations & Timeshares." Many of us have access to vacation weeks, timeshares and other travel opportunities that would do really well on the auction, and hopefully all of us will have a chance to bid on some great adventures and vacations.

The cost of the auction is \$25, and includes dinner and dessert. We'll have several entrée selections to choose from, including vegetarian

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Sugarloaf Congregation of Unitarian Universalists

www.scuu.org • office@scuu.org

Worship and Religious Education Sundays at 9:15am & 11:15am • 16913 Germantown Rd., Germantown MD 20875-0320

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SCUU NEWS

dishes of course, plus a cash bar with wine, beer and soft drinks. Childcare for the younger children will be provided, while the older kids can attend the auction with their parents' permission and supervision.

We'll begin accepting auction items during coffee hour (10:15) on Sunday, May 3rd, and all donations must be made by **Sunday, May 24th**, in order that the catalog can be printed for the following Saturday. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call Samantha Porter at (301) 515-2893, or email her at missinglinks@verizon.net. Make sure the date is on your calendar, start getting your auction items together, and prepare for a WONDERFUL time of "MAY MADNESS" on Saturday, May 30th.

Trivia Night a Hit!

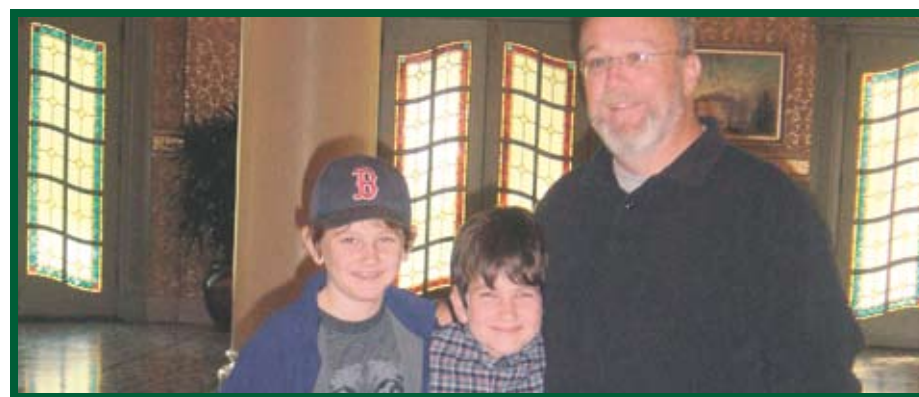
SCUU had a tremendous turnout for Trivia Night on Saturday, March 21st, and it turned out to be lots of fun. We usually meet for church services, committee meetings, chalice groups and all of the other things all of us do at Sugarloaf, but that night we just met to enjoy each other's company, have something to eat and drink, and find out how much we didn't know about Trivia categories. It was great! Tom Cooke was our MC, and



Welcome Rev. Megan Foley



Megan performing a wedding during her time at River Road



Meet the two sons and the dad, Neil Donovan.

you can't see anyone on TV any better at this than Tom was. He came out totally dressed for the occasion wearing a jacket and bow tie, and with his wonderful voice and stage presence put on quite a show. The Fundraising Committee (Dick and Suzanne Britzenhofe, Tom Cooke, Samantha Porter, Betsy Riggs, Gwen Stamper and Kathleen Walker) plus

other SCUU stalwarts who came and pitched in to get the Yurt set up and decorated, made the evening the total success it was. We not only had a great time, but thanks to everyone's generosity made \$455 towards our continuing goal of keeping SCUU afloat.

More trivia continued page 5

April Calendar Plus

For the most up-to-date listings, go to www.scuu.org/calendar

9:15am First Service	April 22 Chalice Group, 10am	May 4 7pm Chalice Facilitators
10:15am Coffee hour		
11:15am Second Service	April 23 7pm Ministerial Search Committee	May 5 7pm Sunday Services Committee
11:15am Mavericks RE Classes		
Wednesdays Throughout April 7:15pm Choir Practice	April 24 7pm Chalice Group	May 11 5pm Potluck with the Candidate
April 17, 7pm Wicca Class	April 27 7:30pm Board of Trustees	May 14 5pm Meeting with the Candidate
April 18, 10am Worship That Works Workshop	April 30 7:30pm Ministerial Search Committee	May 15 5pm Meeting with the Candidate
April 20. 7:30pm Green Sanctuary Committee	May 1 7:30pm Music In the Yurt	Deadline for the June Newsletter May 15
April 21, 7pm Spirituality Group	May 2 10am Worship That Works Workshop	Deadline for the May Newsletter ASAP



OAKLEY CIRCLE:

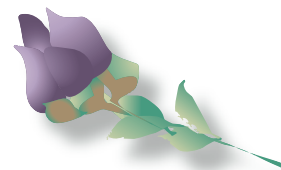
April 17th at 6:30pm for the Wicca class. The Oakley Circle / Temple of the Sacred Arts – in the Yurt.

SUNDAY FLOWER DONATIONS

Anyone who wants to bring flowers for a Sunday service please contact Kathleen Walker by email at dillerdwellers3@verizon.net, by phone, 301-916-1792, or in person. The flowers may commemorate someone or something or simply be offered. A mention of the donation will be made in the Order of Service

GERMANTOWN HELP

Our next delivery date for Germantown Help is Wednesday, May 6. People are always needed to help box and deliver food in Germantown – it only takes 1-2 hours a month. We especially need another driver to deliver food. Call or email Kathleen Walker if you can help in June or any month in the spring and summer. You can also help by donating non-perishables for the food bank – there’s a bin in the back of the yurt



NEW SUPPORT GROUP

Do you sometimes feel that simply getting through the day requires Herculean effort? A new support group for people living with mental illness has formed, and our first meeting was quite interesting. Our next meeting will be on Thursday May 21st from 6:00pm to 6:30pm in the yurt. Confidentiality is requested. Contact Jennifer Ives at jivesdc@hotmail.com or 301-916-7123.

WOW NEWS

The next WOW Dinner is the second Saturday of the month in the SCUU yurt. Orientation begins at 5:30. We encourage everyone, especially new friends, new members & visitors, to attend a WOW and to join a Circle. For details, contact Adam Styles, or Google “Sugarloaf WOW” or “SCUU WOW” or go to <http://scuuwow.blogspot.com>.

*Reminder: It's Flower Communion Time!
Bring a flower or two to service April 19th!*



Chris Hager brought these beautiful spring flowers to the April 5 service in memory of her father who died on April 7, 1979

It is Flower Communion time: To you know where your flowers are?

What is the “Board of Trustees”?

Like most UU congregations, SCUU is a constitutional democracy whose members elect a governing body to carry the congregation’s vision, and to act on its behalf, between congregational meetings. This governing body is called the “Board of Trustees”. Trustees are elected for 2-year terms at our annual congregational meeting (which happens this year on **May 31**). Throughout the year, the Trustees make policy decisions and act to ensure that policies are implemented— in practice, SCUU’s intrepid committees do most of this work of implementation, and have considerable autonomy in doing so. The board holds monthly meetings on the last Monday of each month. Meetings are open except when the board goes into closed session to discuss personnel issues or other sensitive issues. The Trustees are listed on the back of your order of service.

Annual Congregational Meeting, May 31, 2009

According to our by-laws, SCUU holds an annual business meeting in May of each year, where “May” traditionally is interpreted to mean “June”. This year the board has interpreted “May” more literally, but bows to tradition by opting for the last possible day. A detailed agenda with supporting material will be distributed by May 10. The tentative agenda includes

- Approval of minutes of previous meetings (2008 annual meeting; February 1 budget meeting; May 17 meeting to vote on calling a minister).
- Election of new board members and nominating committee members.
- Approval of the FY2010 budget, including the special provisions of Option B, which puts limits on spending and calls for a realistic business plan for raising revenue from rentals and fundraising.
- Revisions to by-laws recommended by the board, including a reduction in the number of elected board members from 8 to 6, and a provision for the board to approve minutes of congregational meetings within 3 months (rather than waiting up to a year for the next congregational meeting).
- Approval of the SCUU Covenant of Good Relations that has been our chosen guide to being our better selves for the past 5

Editor’s note:

“In The Spot Light” will be offered in the next newsletter. Our esteemed contributor to that column and many others, has over extended herself as we are all in the habit of doing from time to time. In addition, her father past away the evening of April 8th 2009. He was 101 years old. Samantha Porter will be in our thoughts at Flower Communion.

On Longing



Kathleen Walker was the lay leader for her sister Ellen Dionna’s thought-provoking service called “Longing” on April 5. Ellen’s prayer: “May there be times when I empty the chalice of my heart so I may feel the echoes of my longing. May I tarry with the longing, resisting temptation to fill the aching hollow with mediocrity. Out of that precious void of unknowing may I rekindle the flame of faith

More photos of this service on page 5

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Several people later commented that we should have more events like this, so watch for future announcements, and plan to join us, because at Sugarloaf we really put FUN into FUNdraising!

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Susan Vaughan expresses a longing.



Sarah Phelps speaks from the heart

Congregational Meeting May 31st

years. While the covenant represents aspirational guidelines rather than rules, the board recommends that we adopt this covenant officially as a way to hold ourselves and each other accountable to our shared vision of a beloved community.

- Consideration of a Safe Congregations Policy, Phase 2 (Draft), which proposes to extend our existing Phase 1 policy by addressing a further set of concerns for the safety of children and vulnerable adults.

Notices of action by the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees wishes to notify the congregation of some actions relating to the repercussions of Hugh Stamper's arrest and conviction last fall.

Before doing so, we wish to express our deepest thanks to all of those who participated in responding to these events as a spiritual community. We thank the members and friends who attended meetings to listen, and to speak, from the heart. We thank the members and friends who reached out in loving kindness to support those affected— an effort that still continues. We thank Gwen Stamper for her courage and dignity. We thank Myron Andes for his steadfast guidance. We thank the response team members and the lay leaders who worked long hours behind the scenes. By drawing on our spiritual, emotional and intellectual resources, SCUU has survived the first stages of a difficult ordeal.

Some individuals from the congregation have offered written or videotaped testimony in regard to Hugh's upcoming sentencing. Given that SCUU has not taken a position on sentencing, and recognizing the potential for misunderstanding, the board took the precautionary step of sending a letter to both the Defense and the Prosecution, explaining that SCUU has not taken a position on the sentencing but that our members are free to speak for themselves as individuals.

When a congregation faces a crisis, conflicts may erupt, and extreme behavior may emerge in response to the stress. In this regard, the board is obliged to report that an SCUU member persists in making false, demeaning, and damaging claims against SCUU's clergy and lay leaders in regard to how SCUU responded to Hugh's arrest. The board has asked this member to attend covenant training, and to seek reconciliation with those who have been hurt. If the member refuses or otherwise fails to participate, the board will limit this member's participation in SCUU activities until the matter is resolved.

A Spiritual Community That Welcomes Questions

April & May Sunday Services

April 19, 2009

Flower Communion

Rev. Myron Andes

We celebrate the things that save us: Beauty and Community.

Bring a flower, or get one in the service. In this Intergenerational Service we will make a bouquet together, then leave with the gift of a flower from someone else. Flower Communion is a special ritual unique to our Unitarian Universalist heritage.

April 26, 2009

Food Matters:

Eating better, Living Greener

Keith Gillis

Details to be announced

May 3, 2009

“Nurturing Hope”

Gus Vandermeeren

Hope is a necessary ingredient for a joyful and productive life and congregation.

What are we doing to build up hope? Are we responsible for nurturing it in others? By being conscious of the forces that affect hope, we can act to increase it in ourselves and our community.

May 10, 2009

Mother’s Day for All of Us

Rev. Megan Foley

Mother’s Day is a joyful and complicated holiday that means something different to each of us – and often offers tantalizing options like sleeping in, going to brunch, and skipping church. Don’t do it this year, says Megan! Come to SCUU, meet your new ministerial candidate, and learn a new perspective on Mother’s Day which will make it – even more than usual – worth your while.

May 17, 2009

The Both/And Church

Rev. Megan Foley

So many times in our everyday lives we are encouraged to choose one thing over another: *either* one option *or* the other one. Luckily for those of us in faith communities, we can make room for more than one option at once, even if they seem to contradict. Join Megan as we take a look at how such a thing is possible.