

On The Inside:

Page 3

Easter Celebration Arrives in April

Page 4

Kirtan Twice with Krishna Das and Jai Uttal

Page 5

Unlimited Good Fortune (Part 2)

Page 6

Reincarnation for Evolving Beings

From Our Minister. . . Answering the Call

Dear Friends,

April is just jam-packed with opportunity after opportunity provided for you to have an extraordinary Holy Easter and to continue to build upon that energy.

The one variable ingredient is YOU! As the late, great Stretton Smith, creator of the 4T Program is often quoted, "Life is a lavish banquet, but you have to get up and get it for yourself."

We are constantly offered such opportunities to develop and grow into the magnificent fullness of our spiritual nature. The troubling part is how few actually fully partake of that banquet feast.

Is it a sense of lack of deservability? Is it a sense of too much trouble? "I'll get to it when I'm older." Perhaps it's, "Let me live in the world of the sirens' call a little longer." Maybe you think the cost—financial, time, commitment—is too high. On and on can go our litany to remain small.

I think of the words from the beginning of **A Course in Miracles**: "All are called, but few answer."

You, dear one, have been called. Are you answering?

Loving you,



Where's the Present?

By David Alexander

As a child I, like most children whose families celebrate Christmas, waited in almost unbearable anticipation for Christmas morning to open my presents. Although my parents did not have an excess of funds, they were always quite generous with me. So I started thinking about that special morning months ahead of time.

I was learning quite early to let my ego drive my life. Why? Because whenever I was obsessing over my Christmas presents, I was not in the *present*.

The present moment is a difficult concept for metaphysicians. *A Course in Miracles* talks in depth about being in the present: "You would destroy time's continuity by breaking it into past, present and future for your own purposes." The Course also says that our spiritual work, specifically forgiveness, allows us to be in the present.

In order smell to the roses every day, we must let go of the past and stop focusing on the future. The world that unfolds in front of you each and every moment of every day is infinitely more rewarding than those pasts and futures over which you have no control.

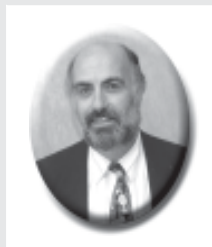
We need to always have our spiritual life at the forefront of our mind by forgiving, meditating, and loving and having compassion for each person we encounter.

Always remember that the best present you can ever give yourself is the present moment.

Award-Winning Brian Henke at Undergrounds April 7

By Greg Benedetto, Music Director

April is traditionally the month we celebrate Mother Earth as the beauty of a new spring unfolds around us, and to help us celebrate, Brian Henke, award-winning virtuosic, fingerstyle guitarist, will perform his unique guitar style music at the Undergrounds, on the lower level of Unity Of Greater Cleveland on Friday, April 7. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and



the music begins at 7:30 p.m.

He has shared the stage with an eclectic array of performers such as Yes, Linda Ronstadt, Richie Havens, the Kingston Trio, and many of the world's best acoustic guitarists.

"To call Brian Henke amazing is an understatement" – *Northcoast Voice Magazine*. On Friday, April 7, 2006 at 7:30 p.m., come to the Undergrounds, at Unity Of Greater Cleveland with guitarist Brian Henke. Refreshments and light snacks are always available. Child care is provided. For more information, phone 216-751-1198 or log onto http://www.unitygreatercleveland.com/unity_undergrounds.htm.



Make plans, as well, for the 2nd Annual Chorus In Miracles Concert and live CD recording on Friday, May 12 !

“Most Sacred Holiday” Season Here

Rev. Joan Gattuso calls Easter “the year’s most sacred holiday.” This season of rebirth begins with Palm Sunday on April 9, and it will conclude with Easter Sunday on April 16.

Spiritual events include the Palm Sunday Service; Maundy Thursday Service on April 13; Good Friday Service on April 14; 34-Hour Prayer Vigil from Friday to Sunday; and Easter Sunday services.

Join Rev. Joan in making this a season to remember. Music Director **Greg Benedetto** has rehearsed uplifting music for our music group, A Chorus in Miracles. To round out this wondrous experience, our children have a wonderful presentation on Easter Sunday. Here’s the order of events:

Palm Sunday Service, April 9 (9:00 and 11:00 a.m.)

This is a Sunday of celebration and expectancy, as the Easter season begins for all of us at Unity of Greater Cleveland. Rev. Joan sees it as a “journey of triumph,” as it sets the tone for the remainder of this sacred week.

Maundy Thursday Service, April 13 (7:00 p.m.)

This metaphysical reenactment of the Last Supper is unique and very moving. The communion service includes the significance of the 12 Apostles and the ritual of purification in which Jesus and they engaged.

Because of the nature of this service, you MUST sign up in advance. Please do so early, because space is limited. Please arrive early for this service centered and in a peaceful consciousness.

A first-time participant in a Maundy Thursday service wrote:

“I want you to know how inspired and impressed I was at your Maundy Thursday program. I have been in churches all my life, but that program was unlike any I had participated in. Thank you.”

Good Friday Service, April 14 (7:00 p.m.)

This is the second year for the Good Friday Service to be held Friday evening, instead of during the day as in past years, so more congregants will be able to attend. Its format will be similar to that of a regular Sunday service, and you can continue to prepare for a glorious Easter by taking part in this inspiring service.

Rev. Joan’s provocative title for Good Friday is “A View from the Mountaintop.”

34-Hour Prayer Vigil, April 14-16 (8:00 p.m. on)

Bridging the sacred time from the Good Friday Service to Easter Sunday morning is the 34-hour Prayer Vigil. We are requesting as many congregants of our church as possible to sign up for this awe-filled, inspiring time of prayer and meditation in our sanctuary.

This holy time gives you the opportunity to renew your spirit and to assist in filling our sanctuary with prayerful God energy. Celebrate this renewal by giving an hour between 8:00 p.m. Good Friday evening and 6:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday morning.

Easter Sunday Service, April 16 (9:00 and 11:00 a.m.)

This sacred day brings us a renewal of spirit, a rebirth of consciousness. Make certain to attend this service guaranteed to bring the God light in us all to the surface.

Krishna Das and Jai Uttal Present Kirtan on April 26 and 30

A unique opportunity exists to experience "Kirtan," one of the oldest sacred music traditions of the world, with **Krishna Das** on Wednesday, April 26, and on Sunday, April 30 with **Jai Uttal** and **Daniel Paul**. This technique can carry you effortlessly to a place of quiet, to stillness. Jai has been leading Kirtans worldwide for other 30 years.

The Kirtan call-and-response chanting genre comes from India. Using ancient Sanskrit mantras, the Kirtan calls upon sacred energies which serve to quiet the mind, remove obstacles, and bring you back to the center of your being.

Although the Kirtan involves music, the underlying art of Kirtan chanting is not actually about musical ability or training; it is about the heart. The purpose of this music is to move you from your head to your heart. Both presentations are \$20.00 and begin at 7:00 p.m.

Chorus In Miracles Unity Of Greater Cleveland Night with the Indians!

By Greg Benedetto, Indians Fan

On Friday Night, June 23rd, 2006, in front on an already, almost sold-out crowd, the Chorus In Miracles will be performing the National Anthem ahead of the Cleveland Indians/Cincinnati Reds inter-league baseball game.

The National Anthem will be sung just before 7:00 p.m. A block of specially-priced, \$ 10.00 tickets has been reserved in our name in the bleachers, overlooking the picnic area and the Indians' bullpen. All you have to do is pick up a special order form at the church, and follow the instructions to mail it in to the Indians, with your payment. If you're ordering tickets for more than one person, make sure to put them altogether on the same order form. You'll receive your tickets in the mail as long as you act now! Don't delay – seats for this game are truly going fast and tickets must be ordered before May 23rd or the remaining seats will be released for public sale!

From Children's Church **Spring, Easter Baskets and Uniteen Retreat**

Happy Spring!

What a busy time of the year for Youth Education. Everything from Easter Preparation to Unitreat. This year Youth Education will also be engaged with our Easter Basket collection project. I am encouraging our families to participate



with their children in creating a family basket for a child in need. What a fun project, and a great opportunity to minister to our children about the importance of reaching out to those who have different and often challenging lives right here in our very own community. Young children have the cognitive ability to understand the concept and spirit of giving, sharing and reaching out to others less fortunate.

What an exciting time for our Uniteens as they prepare for the Great Lakes Region 2006 Spring Unitreat. Many of you have learned about this event from our service announcements. Unitreat is a weekend retreat for Uniteens providing an opportunity to grow spiritually, socialize and build new friendships. Activities include large and small group funshops, team building, crafts, free-time sports, singing, meditation, dancing, prayer, fun and fellowship.

You can help support our Uniteens by contributing to our fundraising opportunities, supplying sponsorship money, or volunteering your time to volunteer as a leader. For more information about this event please contact Linda Julian, or see Wendy Johns for ways you can help support Uniteens.

Yours in Unity,

Wendy Johns, Youth Education Director

Uninterrupted Good Fortune, Part 2, April 22

Join **Rev. Joan Gattuso** with “Uninterrupted Good Fortune, Part 2” on Saturday, April 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Nearly 50 congregants took the first workshop with the resulting rising of spiritual insights and soul-level breakthroughs.

The second workshop promises to be just as full of ancient teachings—brought to you in a very approachable, understandable manner. Some of the topics to be covered include:

- ◆ The Four Noble Truths.
- ◆ The Eight-Fold Path.
- ◆ The powerful Portable Shrine meditation.

The workshop will also have much question and answer time and small group interaction. **David Alexander** will assist Joan.

The suggested love offering is \$50.00. Also, the workshop will be professionally video-taped for future sale as a trilogy, including Part 1 and Part 3.

Easter Highlights Rev. Joan’s Lessons in April

Easter is the highlight of April, although **Rev. Joan Gattuso** has inspirational lessons on the other Sundays, as well. **David Alexander** is the speaker on April 30. Here is the lineup:

April 2: “Made in. . .” (Rev. Joan Gattuso). We are actually made in the nature of the Divine.

April 9 (Palm Sunday): “Make Your Plan for Enlightenment” (Rev. Joan Gattuso). Jesus was programmed for enlightenment, and so are you.

April 16 (Easter Sunday): “The Billion-Spoke Wheel” (Rev. Joan Gattuso). Here’s where you meet at the center of oneness.

April 23: “Personal Retreat” (Rev. Joan Gattuso). Here’s how to develop a practice that keeps you centered.

April 30: “My God Is Alive” (David Alexander). Rather than being a static idea, God is always loving, vibrant and reachable.

Easter Basket Outreach and Volunteer Opportunities

By Wendy Johns, Volunteer Director

I would like to extend a special thank you to our outreach volunteers who are busy planning and collecting Easter Baskets for the Cuyahoga Families and Children Services. Thank you **Andrea Gidycz, Edie Le Downe, and Renay Chesler**, who have served on the outreach planning committee, for your time, energy and commitment to see this project through.

Clare, we miss you, and are praying for you. **Clare Randolph**, our Hospitality volunteer on Sunday, will not be returning this month, since she is caring intensively for her mother. Please hold her in your prayers. In Clare’s absence, if you are interested in helping with Hospitality, please let me know. Your service will be appreciated.

Attention all volunteers! You are cordially invited to attend a “Working Together” afternoon retreat with yours truly, Sunday April 30 at 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. At this meeting we plan to study our current volunteer system, discuss the upcoming recruitment event on May 7th, and better ways to improve our communication as a team. Please R.S.V.P. by April 28.

“Reincarnation: Tool for Evolving Beings” in April

Is reincarnation a universal law? How can reincarnation be used in our lifetimes to support growth, understanding and consciousness? Does reincarnation overcome death? Join Licensed Unity Teacher **Gloria Ross** as she presents “Reincarnation: Tool for Evolving Beings” on Thursday, April 6, at 7:00 p.m.

During the class we will define and explore reincarnation as understood within Unity teachings. We will identify Bible passages that support reincarnation. Our discussion will take us from the senses to the spiritual and what part reincarnation plays in that evolution. Our class will uncover what relationship, if any, reincarnation has to fear and death.

Join Gloria for her presentation on an interesting and—at times controversial—topic.

“CCCC” April 28th

The film *One* will be shown at the Friday, April 28, Spiritual Cinema Meeting. The movie begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring your dinner to eat during viewing, and a discussion of the film will follow.

Spiritual Cinema provides the opportunity to see entertaining, enlightening works with like-minded people. Don't miss it!

Toastmasters Returns To Unity

If you are interested in improving your communication and presentation skills, for business or just for fun and confidence, plan to attend an informational kick-off meeting on Tuesday, April 4, at 6:30 p.m. We will meet on the lower level at the church. For more information, log onto our website!

From the Bookstore Two Books from Dr. Wayne Dyer

The Unity's Bookstore has two offerings from prolific metaphysical author Dr. Wayne Dyer. One is for adults (*10 Secrets for Success and Inner Peace*) and one for children (*Incredible You!—10 Ways to Let Your Greatness Shine Through*)

In *10 Secrets*. . . Dr. Dyer states that if these ten principles are mastered and practiced daily they will guide you to a sense of tranquility. They allow your spirit to guide you. He explains how to *know* God rather than to just settle to know *about* God.



Dr. Dyer categorizes thoughts that weaken and thoughts that strengthen us. He defines the thoughts that weaken such as shame, guilt and apathy and what happens when you live with these negative low/slow frequencies. He advises that our thoughts come with an

accompanying energy, so we should *shift* to those thoughts that empower us. “Once you realize what you think about is the source of your experience of reality, then you’ll begin to pay more attention to what you’re thinking.” Our thoughts determine whether we’re being empowered or weakened.

The concepts for the children’s book *Incredible You!* were interpreted by Dr. Dyer from *10 Secrets*. . . Dr. Dyer believes, “It’s never too early for children to know they are unique and powerful beings. They should know they have everything they need within themselves to create happy, successful lives.”

The concepts in this book are numbered and set in rhyming verses. Each point is brought to life with vibrant illustrations. The questions at the end of the book will enable children to be aware, connect, and explore their feelings. They encourage children to connect ideas to their lives and to discover how *incredible* they are.

Purchase both books at the UGC Bookstore for \$14.95 each.

Rita

Our Newest Members

The newest members of Unity of Greater Cleveland pose next to Rev. Joan. They became members in February and are, left to right, Bernice Houston, Dena Young, Sharon Penro, Anthony Nickerson-EI.



Welcome to Rudi Barnes

We are pleased to welcome our new secretary Rudi Barnes to the staff. Rudi comes to us from Indiana where she worked in Chicago for over 11 years. She is originally from Alabama and holds a BS Degree in Communications from University of Alabama. Welcome Rudi!

www.unitygreatercleveland.com



Be sure to check out our new web site. We've given it a greater purpose. As we continue to offer classes, workshops, concerts... announce new members, goings on's and other information - you'll find it all here. Including the ability to order tickets and preregister for workshops on-line. So add it to your favorites and be sure to tell your friends.

We'll keep you updated each month as we continue to grow and enhance our site.

Unity of Greater Cleveland Volunteer & Staff Directory

Founding Minister: Joan M. Gattuso

Board of Advisors:

Chair: Hank Roth

Vice Chair: Liz Parks

Treasurer: Mary Ann Davis

Secretary: Sandy Deck

Prosperity Partners: Minnie Bowers and Ed Erbach

Practitioners - Cynthia Bowers, Pamela Ellison, Jeanne Hood, Georgia Hyde, Bob Javorsky, Nona Oriti, Milly Owens, Zita Farrell-Andrews, Karen Shepherd

Fund Development Committee Chair: Mary Ann Davis

Projects Manager: David Alexander

Executive Director: Felicia Martinez

Secretary: Rudi Barnes

Volunteer Coordinator: Wendy Johns

Accountant: Kim Heiman

Minister's Sunday Assistant - Paul Landis, Gloria Ross

Youth Education Director - Wendy Johns

Youth Education Assistant: Kathy Morgan

0-3 years old - (Head Teacher)

4-5 years old - Evelyn Canton (Head Teacher)

6-10 years old - (Head Teachers)

Uniteens (11-13 years old) - Frank Kenner (Head Teacher)

Y.O.U. (14-18 years old) Co-Sponsors - Linda Julian, Sarah Nank

Bookstore Manager - Rita O. Jackson

Volunteers - Mary Jo Nigro, Margaret Miller, Shirley Nelson, Ranonda Jones, Vivian Miller, Kathy Sullivan, Margo Viragh, Katie Augustine, George Miljevich, Mindy Bartholomae, Michael Powers, Loretta Williams

Newsletter - David Alexander

Greeter Coordinators - Dianne Harris and Elizabeth Parks

Music Director & Soloist - Greg Benedetto

Pianists - Lisa Bell Benedetto, Jan Patetta

Percussion - Roy King, Baba Jubal Harris

Bass - Ed Lemmers

Sound System - Bob Jones, Bob Patetta,

Florist - Blooms

Hospitality - Barbara Dunbar, Carl Kornicks, Paul Landis, Clare Randolph, Frank Rupsic, Dennis Walker

Meals on Wheels - Andrea Gidycz

Web Site Manager: Scott Dockus

Sunday Service Times - 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (nursery at both services) Children's Church, Lightstreamers, Uniteens, and Y.O.U. - 11:00 a.m.

Church Location and Telephone:

3350 Warrensville Center Road
Shaker Heights, OH 44122

216 751-1198 or 800 468-8012

Dial-a-Prayer - 216 751-1199

FAX - 216 751-1460

E-mail: unity@unitygreatercleveland.com

Web site: www.unitygreatercleveland.com

April 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10 am - ACIM 9 & 11 am Service: "Made in. . ." (Rev. Joan Gattuso)	3 7 pm - A Chorus in Miracles rehearsal	4 12:30 Silent Unity Prayer Service	5 6:30 pm - Yoga (Gerri Maynor)	6 7 pm - "Reincarnation" (Gloria Ross)	7 7 pm - Undergrounds Coffeehouse (Brian Henke)	1/8
9 10 am - ACIM 9 & 11 am Service: "Make Your Plan for Enlightenment (Rev. Joan Gattuso) [Palm Sunday]	10 7 pm - A Chorus in Miracles rehearsal	11 12:30 Silent Unity Prayer Service	12 6:30 pm - Yoga (Gerri Maynor)	13 7 pm - Maundy Thursday	14 7 pm - Good Friday Service: "A View from the Mountaintop" 8 pm - 34 Hour Prayer Vigil begins	15 All day - Prayer Vigil Continues through 6 am Easter Sunday morning
16 10 am - ACIM 9 & 11 am Service: "The Billion Spoke Wheel" (Rev. Joan Gattuso) [Easter Sunday]	17 7 pm - A Chorus in Miracles rehearsal	18 12:30 Silent Unity Prayer Service	19 6:30 pm - Yoga (Gerri Maynor)	20 7 pm - "Wisdom of Gandhi" (Rev. Joan Gattuso)	21	22 10 am - "Uninterrupted Good Fortune" (Rev. Joan Gattuso and David Alexander)
23 10 am - ACIM 9 & 11 am Service: "Personal Retreat" (Rev. Joan Gattuso)	24 7 pm - A Chorus in Miracles rehearsal	25 12:30 Silent Unity Prayer Service	26 7 pm - Kirtan with Krishna Das	27 7 pm - "Wisdom of Gandhi" (Rev. Joan Gattuso)	28 6:30 pm - Spiritual Cinema	29
30 10 am - ACIM 9 & 11 am Service: "My God Is Alive" (David Alexander) 7 pm - Kirtan with Jai Uttal						



3350 Warrensville Center Road
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**For information on upcoming
events: www.unitygreatercleveland.com**

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The Wisdom of Gandhi

It is our joy and privilege to offer this seven-week study series that highlights Mahatma Gandhi's spiritual practice to make nonviolence a force in everyday life. Rev. Joan presents these teachings, along with music from our music staff in a one-hour program. Join us on seven Thursdays beginning April 20th at 7:00pm. Given on a love offering.

"We must be the change we want to see in the world." Gandhi