

Volume 22, Number 7, July, 2006

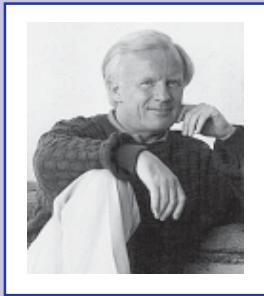
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From Our Minister. . . . Living and Loving in a Noble Life

Our church’s theme for 2006 is “Living a Noble Life.” If you are living a noble life, how does your love differ from an ordinary person’s?

*On a recent Sunday a most loving couple, **Gay and Quentin Quereau**, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. We honored them spontaneously in front of the congregation for their deep commitment and true love.*

Everyone was touched by their love, a reflection of God’s love.



*Later in the day my husband David and I co-officiated at the wedding of **Felicia Martinez**, our church’s executive director, and **Frank Kenner**, a long time member of our congregation.*

Felicia was widowed young with three small daughters. Her youngest has a physically challenged body and must use a wheelchair. Felicia has overcome enormous challenges and has been triumphant due to her faith and tremendous capacity to love and to remain loving in every situation. This is noble behavior.

For an ordinary person without spiritual understanding life would have unraveled when tragic and difficult times arose. A noble one realizes there is suffering in life (the First Noble Truth of Buddhism) and also realizes there is a way through and out of the suffering (the Third Noble Truth).

To overcome adversity a noble being must engage a number of steps on the Buddhist Eight-Fold Path. They would likely be Right View, Right Thought, Speech, Right Action, Right Effort and Right Mindfulness. It takes all of the preceding and an unwavering faith in the goodness of God to see one’s way through enormous

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Be a Compassionate One **By David Alexander**

If you look at this month's "On a Personal Note," you'll see that family members of several congregants made their transition. Those of us who have been on this earth plane for several decades have almost certainly experienced the death of a friend or loved one.

So we understand that, for the moment, grief is uppermost for those who had these losses. We must not feel sorry for these congregants. The only appropriate spiritual response is genuine compassion.

Compassion is seeing them through the Christ within you to the Christ within them. Compassion is joining with them, not in their grief, but in the oneness we all share. If you encounter one of these folks, give them words of kindness, words of understanding and a loving hug.

It is important *not* to say, "I know how you feel," because you do not. You may have had a similar experience, but our feelings vary widely in similar situations. A more appropriate response may be, "How can I support you?" or "What do you need that I can help you with?"

Whatever you say to someone who has experienced such a loss, say it from a place of God-love within you. The love of God flows through us all, and it is at these times of grieving when it is most important that love—and no other feeling—comes from you to them.

When you are a compassionate being, you experience the unity that our teachings and church are all about. When you are a compassionate being, you live fully, you are whole, and you are a blessing.

Opportunities Abound in the Music and Arts Ministry

By Greg Benedetto, Music & Arts Director

- The 2006 Great Lakes Regional Music Conference being hosted by Unity of Greater Cleveland has been postponed until Fall. Look for details.



- **WANTED:** Dynamic Music Ministry, that's us, actively seeking an equally dynamic gospel pianist, in addition to **Lisa Bell Benedetto**, to accompany the weekly Chorus In Miracles

rehearsals and our periodic Sunday morning performances, once every four to six weeks, AND Christmas Eve. Contemporary Gospel experience a necessity. Contact Greg Benedetto at the church.

- **WANTED:** Singers to join a dynamic chorus! Why wait until September. Step up and make your commitment now to join our musical family. "If you can laugh, you can sing!" Must be a team player, able to blend with the others, have fun and be open to new and exciting music. It's not your grandmother's church choir! We feature the exciting music of Agape, the 60's, 70's and 80's, and original music.
- **Discover the Music Within You!** Learn how to enhance and become more confident with your "inner musical voice," or perhaps how to play the piano, the guitar, or learn how to read music. It's all fun, and richly rewarding.

For all of these opportunities, contact Greg at the church office or sign up in person.

Dana Cummings Ordained

Roger Goodwin, outgoing President of the Association of Unity Churches, officially ordains “Rev.” Dana Cummings on June 8 in Unity Village (left hand photo). On the right Rev. Joan Gattuso and our new Associate Minister are beaming together shortly after the ceremony.



“The Power of I AM” with John Maxwell Taylor

John Maxwell Taylor returns to our church to present a workshop all about empowerment in “The Power of I Am” on Sunday, July 16, at 1:30 p.m.

Based on his book of the same title, the afternoon will help you:

- Connect easily and hold your own with everyone you meet.
- Stop being drained by “energy vampires.”
- Feel the “I AM” presence during difficult times.
- Increase your level of being and personal magnetism to bring out the best in others.

The “I AM” gives strength and confidence to your personality, helping you be seen for who you really are. You can eliminate stage fright, fear of others, and have your personality reflect the beauty and strength of your soul.

John is an award-winning actor and acclaimed author who is known internationally for his portrayal of Carl Jung in the play *Forever Jung*. He will also do a book-signing during the day. The suggested love offering is \$20. For further information call the church at 216 751-1198.

“Divine Law Meditations” with Stephen Neal Szpatura

Stephen Neal Szpatura returns to our church with a fascinating three-part series, “Divine Law Meditations.” It begins Thursday, July 12. The teachings of the popular Unity author Catherine Ponder offer peace, hope and healing in countless ways.

Join this comfortable meditation/exploration circle for a series of evenings devoted to empowerment, development and self-healing based on Catherine’s gentle but powerful work. You can prosper yourself this summer by attending this open class.

Stephen is a licensed minister, Shamanic practitioner, dreamwork consultant, sacred path teacher and transformational psychic. He works with clients on spiritual direction, intuitive development and life-path issues. He taught the popular dreamwork series for our church.

The suggested love offering is \$35 for the series or \$15 a class. Call 216 751-1198 for further information.

Minister's Letter

[Continued from page 1]
challenges.

The love that was expressed at Felicia's and Frank's lakeside ceremony was palatable. Perhaps it could only be so profound because of all that occurred before.

We are a close spiritual family, many of us having been together for 20 or more years in our church. We love each other and we love the bridal couple. Their love embraced us all, and our love embraced them.

The evening was a celebration of love, a recognition of noble behavior and what happens when we hold on to our spiritual practices through all adversities. An ordinary person will quickly abandon spiritual principle in the face of difficulties. A noble one never will.

Living in love must bring its return for Felicia and her daughters. It's an opportunity for a new life filled with hope and promise. I can never recall seeing a happier groom than Frank. He waited for years for Felicia to be ready to date and then to make a new commitment, and he fully embraced her three girls. For all of them life is good. God is good. And tomorrow looks very bright.

Loving blessings,



From Children's Church

"Journey to Oz" Continues

The month of July continues the magical "Journey to Oz". In July the children will meet **Baba Jubal** who will demonstrate and introduce the Inner Peace Drum Circle. This may seem unusual for some who have taken the traditional Journey to Oz, but remember, Dorothy meets many characters along her journey who serve as a reminder that, "There's no place like home."



Youth Education still has many opportunities for staffing. There are several openings to teach, coordinate and assist our youth. Please support us in your prayers and meditation for committed volunteers who will generously give their time and love to serve Youth Education and its vision to support, and recognize the spirit of God within.

If this is the time for you to step up and volunteer in Children's Church, please see me on Sunday or call me at the church (216 751-1198).

Yours in Unity,



Wendy Johns; Youth Education Director

Thank you, Hank!

By Rev. Joan Gattuso

Hank Roth is resigning as a Board member after 14 years of faithful service.

In all but one of those years Hank served as chairman. It is with hearts full of love and gratitude that we lovingly thank him and release him from this long-held responsibility.



Hank has served in an impeccable manner, and now it is time to pass that responsibility on and enjoy his new freedom.

Hank, we love and support you, just the way you are, in all your power and magnificence.

“Loving What Is” Series Begins in July

Join **Bob Churilla**, practitioner-in-training, as he presents an intriguing new series, “Loving What Is,” on five Tuesdays beginning July 11.

You will learn how your thoughts are behind your suffering. During the class you will become more aware of the stories you tell and the thoughts behind your suffering.

Through a process of inquiry developed by author Bryon Katie, you will discover how to turn around your negative thoughts about couples and family life, work and money, self-judgment and many other areas of living. Learn how to change your thinking about the challenges in your life and how to experience lasting peace and clarity in your thoughts.

For additional information call the church at 216 751-1198.

Burning Bowl Service on Sunday, July 2

The powerful Burning Bowl Service gives you the space to witness all your blocks to love disappear in forgiveness. You can release all that stands in the way of your fulfillment and begin the second half of this year with a clean slate.

On a Personal Note

By Greg Benedetto

Going to the chapel, and we’re - gonna get mar-r-ried.

John Maxwell Taylor, our July 16 guest speaker, and **Emily Mueller** were married in California in May. They will reside back here in beautiful Cleveland, Ohio.

Executive Director **Felicia Martinez** and **Frank Kenner** were married on June 4, in a beautiful sunlit ceremony overlooking Lake Erie in Bratenahl, Ohio (See the picture at right).

Also, **Mary Faktor** and **Michael Adrian Wickiser** were married, as was the daughter of **Adrienne Gerspacher**.

On a sadder note, we hold these people and their loved ones in our prayers: Long-time congregant **Dennis Walker** passed away suddenly in June. **Clare Randolph’s** son and **Ashley Randolph’s** brother **Jerome** made his transition. **Lisa Harmon’s** mother made her transition, as did **Judy Charlick’s** mother and **Frank Kenner’s** father.

Afi Odelia E.Scruggs and **Sheryl Thomas** have had articles published in the June issue of Smart Health Magazine, www.cleveland.com/smarthealth.

Joan and **John Fletcher** have moved to the state of Washington. Their forwarding information is as follows. 1006 Palisades Dr., Eastsound, WA, 98245. Their email address is JJFletch@hotmail.com.

Remember to send “personal notes” pertaining to you or someone else to Greg via phone, e-mail or in person, at the church office. All information is verified before submission.



Carl Kornicks July's Volunteer of the Month!

**By Wendy Johns
Volunteer Coordinator**

July's Volunteer of the Month is **Carl Kornicks!** Carl has been with Unity of Greater Cleveland for 15 years and has served us in several volunteer ministries.

Carl currently serves with our Volunteer Sunday hospitality team. Carl is that handsome gentleman serving you with a smile and a cup of coffee. Please take the time to recognize Carl for his generosity and service for Unity of Greater Cleveland.

Congratulations to our June volunteer of the month, **Betty Phillips.** Betty we love you and thank you for all that you do for Unity of Greater Cleveland.

Thank you for nominating your favorite volunteers, and remember to keep those nominations coming in as we approach our August volunteer of the month.

Dinner and a Movie Friday, June 30

The final Dinner and a Movie Night until September will be held on Friday, June 30, at 6:30pm in the Social Hall of Unity of Greater Cleveland.

The title of our film is *Everything Is Illuminated.* This is an offbeat and funny film made in Eastern Europe for about 50 cents. Nevertheless, it's a great meditation on dealing with our pasts, and you'll love the dog in it.

From the Bookstore

Finding Extraordinary Moments in Ordinary Times

By Shirley Nelson, Bookstore Volunteer

When we live in harmony with the earth and nature and God, we establish a place in the world that is joyous, peaceful, and loving. Every day healers are born from this soil—homemakers, people who mow their lawns, people who line up at the post office, and those who buy milk at the convenience store.



**Rita O. Jackson
Bookstore Manager**

These are the people whose lives are shared with us by Ann L. Hallstein in *Every Day Healing – Finding Extraordinary Moments In Ordinary Times.*

“We don’t have to make a pilgrimage to Medjugorje or Lourdes to be healers” says the author. “Healing comes

through God’s presence, which can be found anywhere, anytime ... It awaits any who are open to it, in the moments that happen in ordinary days.”

Every day healing occurs in communities and among family and friends and often slips by unnoticed, transforming us at our core and expanding our capacity to love. This type of healing is like water that seeps into the cracks and crevices of our souls and touches those tender spots that are often hidden.

We experience this globally through large catastrophic events that leave an indelible imprint in the fiber of our being, causing us to heal collectively—one body, one mind, and one spirit. And we experience it individually, one heart at a time, opening the passages that deepen our sense of compassion towards self and others. In this book we are reminded that ordinary spaces are dwelling places for extraordinary graces.

Yoga Introduction July 12, Followed by Eight-Week Series

Gerri Maynor, a popular practitioner and student of the healing arts for 20 years, once again presents an introduction to yoga and an eight-week series on Wednesday, July 12. Hatha Yoga is designed to support both beginners and seasoned students alike. The class will consist of breathing, stretching, asanas (postures), meditation and chanting. Anyone can practice yoga, no matter the age, level of fitness, health, body weight or religion.

On a physical level yoga enhances well-being and brings balance, strength and vital energy. For the mind you may expect improved memory, concentration and greater clarity. On a deeper level it balances and stabilizes the emotions and increases self-awareness. The series is \$72.00, and individual classes are \$10.00. Register at church or by telephoning 216 751-1198.

John Maxwell Taylor, David Alexander Join Joan in July

John Maxwell Taylor and **David Alexander** join **Rev. Joan Gattuso** as Sunday presenters in July. Be sure to put each of the five Sundays of the month on your calendar. The schedule:

July 2: "Having Your Life Work All the Time" (Rev. Joan Gattuso). What would you talk about?

July 9: "Enjoy the Fun Planet" (David Alexander). Time is ticking so, take the opportunity to experience all the joy life has to offer.

July 16: "Mastering Life Through the Power of I AM" (John Maxwell Taylor). Hear an in-depth presentation on personal empowerment in the real world.

July 23: "The Show-Me Prayer" (Rev. Joan Gattuso). Here's how to pray for what you REALLY want.

July 30: "Treat Yourself as the Living Christ" (Rev. Joan Gattuso). Who would you be? How would your behavior change? What would you do?

Unity of Greater Cleveland Volunteer & Staff Directory

Founding Minister: Joan M. Gattuso

Board of Advisors:

Vice Chair: Liz Parks

Treasurer: Mary Ann Davis

Secretary: Sandy Deck

Prosperity Partners: Minnie Bowers and Ed Erbach

Alternates: Katie Augustine, Linda Julian

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

0-3 years old - JoJo Salupo, Debbie Reesing,

Michele Federico, Carly Patetta

4-5 years old - Stephanie Barry, Felicia Martinez

6-10 years old - Kim Chapple, Wendy Johns,

Sharon Penro

Uniteens (11-13 years old) - Frank Kenner

(Head Teacher), Susan Cristal, Chrystal Latorre,

Freddie LaTorre

Y.O.U. (14-18 years old) Co-Sponsors -

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 - Carl Kornicks, Paul Landis, Clare

Randolph, Frank Rupsic, Todd Mueller

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

July 2006

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---------------------------------|--|---|--|-----------|---------------------|
| 2 10 am - ACIM 9 & 11 am Service: "Having Your Life Work All the Time" (Rev. Joan Gattuso) [Burning Bowl Sunday] | 3 (OFFICE CLOSED) | 4 | 5 6:30 pm - Yoga (Gerri Maynor) | 6 7 pm - "Embracing the Feminine Nature of the Divine" (Karen Shepherd) | 7 | 1 / 8 |
| 9 10 am - ACIM 9 & 11 am Service: "Enjoy the Fun Planet" (David Alexander) | 10 | 11 12:30 Silent Unity Prayer Service 6:15 pm - Toastmasters | 12 6:30 pm - Yoga (Gerri Maynor) | 13 7 pm - "Divine Law Meditations" (Stephen Neal Szpatura) | 14 | 15 |
| 16 10 am - ACIM 9 & 11 am Service: "Mastering Life Through the Power of I AM" (John Maxwell Taylor) 1:30 pm - "The Power of I AM" workshop | 17 | 18 12:30 Silent Unity Prayer Service 6:15 pm - Toastmasters | 19 6:30 pm - Yoga (Gerri Maynor) | 20 7 pm - "Divine Law Meditations" (Stephen Neal Szpatura) | 21 | 22 |
| 23 10 am - ACIM 9 & 11 am Service: "The Show-Me Prayer" (Rev. Joan Gattuso) | 24 | 25 12:30 Silent Unity Prayer Service 6:15 pm - Toastmasters | 26 6:30 pm - Yoga (Gerri Maynor) | 27 7 pm - "Divine Law Meditations" (Stephen Neal Szpatura) | 28 | 29 |
| 30 10 am - ACIM 9 & 11 am Service: "Treat Yourself as the Living Christ" (Rev. Joan Gattuso) 12:30 - Unexpected Income Meeting | 31 | | | | | |



3350 Warrensville Center Road
 Shaker Heights, OH 44122
**For information on upcoming
 events: www.unitygreatercleveland.com**

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