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## From Our Minister. . . Serve Others As Yourself

Dear Ones,

The beginning of summer seems to be the perfect time to do a "Living a Noble Life" reality check. As we examine our progress, let us remember we are looking at Reality—our spiritual Reality based on the Divine. Reality is not the world of the ego or "samsara" as the Buddhists say.

As we progress along the path to Living a Noble Life, we must pursue an advanced and key component in the practice of caring for others. The Dalai Lama has stated: "In the beginning of practice our ability to serve others is limited. The emphasis is on healing ourselves, transforming our minds and hearts. But as we continue we become stronger and increasingly able to serve others."



This noble view of serving others is very different from the popular Western view, including Judeo-Christian thought of being of service. It is not a co-dependent view which the unenlightened may interpret it to be. Rather it is a deep and profoundly spiritual way of seeing all others as self. And since you are me and I am you, then of course I shall care for you and love you as myself.

Jesus taught, "Love others as I have loved you." Buddha taught exchanging yourself for others. Gandhi practiced this as he selflessly and ceaselessly served the Indian people. Ram Dass, who also teaches this, tells a story of trying to explain to his father how he sees all others as his brothers. In **A Course in Miracles** it teaches, "The Holy Spirit teaches the miracle of oneness, and before His lesson division disappears."

There is a point where all [Continued on page 3]

## Is it Reality or Illusion?

By David Alexander

What is real? In many of the spiritual studies incorporated in Unity "illusion" is used to describe our world. Some students believe because of that, we do not have to take anything that happens in our world seriously. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Although in an ultimate sense our world is illusionary, it is a place where we can practice reality. Another word for reality is "love." And another word for reality is "joy." And yet another word for reality is "peace."

**Rev. Joan Gattuso** is completing a seven-week series on Mahatma Gandhi on June 1. That gentle little man was loving and peaceful in the midst of turmoil. When he was attacked, he was peaceful. When he was outnumbered, he was loving. He was joyful in the middle of sadness. He knew the world we live in wasn't ultimately real, but he also knew that he needed to be real in the world.

We are real when we greet hate with love, when we greet gloominess with joy, when we greet war with peace. We are real when we unconditionally love everyone we encounter. If you believe it is difficult, you are right. But it is not impossible. When we have feelings other than love, all we need do is call on the God-like qualities within us to forgive ourselves and change the feelings to love.

Jesus was loving when he was embroiled in turmoil. Buddha was loving when he encountered skepticism. Martin Luther King was loving when he was attacked.

We can be loving, joyful and peaceful, but we have to practice. In our prayers and meditations we always need to focus on the God within to touch these eternal, "real" qualities.

Try it. You'll be in ecstasy when you find reality.

## Our Church Hosts Unity Regional Music Conference

Unity Of Greater Cleveland will host Music Directors, Musicians, Ministers, and related staff attending the Great Lakes Unity Regional Music Conference June 8-11. This is an annual conference that has rotated sites around the region for the past nine years. As part of the conference, participants will be the featured artists at the Undergrounds on a special night, Saturday, June 10, and also at the Sunday Morning services on June 11.

The Unity churches across the country are divided into geographical regions. The Great Lakes region is among the most active in this case. In fact, in addition to Ohio, potential attendees include churches from South Carolina and Colorado, as well as the region's Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Michigan, and parts of Iowa and Missouri.



Early arrivals will meet here Thursday evening, June 8, with workshops and programs Friday and Saturday. Presentations will

include Hatha Yoga and Chanting, with our own **Gerri Maynor**; Drumming with **Baba Jubal Harris**, Video Ministry with **Anthony Nickerson-EI**, Coffeehouse Network with **Greg Benedetto** and others, the "Nature" In Music with **Brian Henke**, Networking, Open Forums, Song Sharing, lots of music and more!

Plan on attending this special Undergrounds on Saturday, June 10, to enjoy the wide array of talented performers from across the region. Refreshments and light snacks are available, and child care is provided.

\* \* \*

Don't forget to see the Chorus in Miracles singing the National Anthem at the Indians game on June 23.

## “Uninterrupted Good Fortune, Part 3” June 24

Make certain you join **Rev. Joan Gattuso** with “Uninterrupted Good Fortune, Part 3” on Saturday, June 24, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Nearly 70 congregants took the first two workshops with the resulting rising of spiritual insights and soul-level breakthroughs.

The third workshop, like the two before it, promises to be just as full of ancient truth teachings—brought to you in a very approachable, understandable manner. Some of the topics to be covered in depth include:

- The practice of Tonglin.
- Who and what are Hungry Ghosts?
- Inner Disarmament.
- The Three Dharma Seals.
- How to get to the Other Shore.

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

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

## “Embracing the Feminine Nature of the Divine”

Join Practitioner **Karen Shepherd** as she presents a powerful five-week series, “Embracing the Feminine Nature of the Divine.” Karen, who is also a Licensed Unity Teacher candidate, begins the class on Thursday, June 8, at 7:00 p.m.

Explore the role of the Divine Feminine in the birthing of the Christ Consciousness. In order for humanity to birth the next phase of conscious evolution, the masculine aspect of God-Energy (intelligence, will and power) must consciously take on a partner, the feminine aspect of God-energy (intuition, compassion and love).

Working together in consciousness, they will prepare the way for the initiation of humankind into a paradigm of wholeness, balance and freedom.

The series is based on the book of the same name by Rev. Toni Boehm, and the book is available in our bookstore. The series is \$60. For further information call the church office at 216 751-1198.

### *Minister’s Letter.* . . .

[Continued from page 1] *great teachings converge and are all the same. Seeing and serving others as self is one such point.*

*Don’t be harsh on yourself if you are far from this idea, but do be willing to practice it. And a good technique to use in your practice is “. . . just like me” whenever you are exhibiting judgments or grievances toward another. When you remember to use “just like me” enough times, you will begin to get used to it and begin to feel the connection, the oneness, more than the old familiar feeling of separation.*

*Our dear friend the Buddhist teacher and translator Lama Chonam says that the awakened mind thinks of others before self. Start where you are with the spiritual goal in sight, and this summer you shall make soul advancements in Living a Noble Life.*

Loving blessings,



## On a Personal Note

by **Greg Benedetto**

Youth Education Director **Wendy Johns** and **Evelyn Canton** attended a teacher training, "Bringing The Bible To Life," presented by Rev. Diane Venzara, on April 29 at Unity Church Centre in Girard, OH.

Nine **UGC Uniteens** attended a Uniteen Retreat in Jackson, Michigan on May 5 - 7. Thank you **Chrystal** and **Freddie La Torre** for all your help on the trip. See the related item and photo.

Congratulations to congregants **John** and **Joan Fletcher**, who are celebrating the birth of their first grandchild. Their daughter, Elissa, gave birth to Grace Fiona Rookey on April 14. On a sadder note for those of us they leave behind, the Fletchers will be moving away by mid-June, heading to the Northwest coast and specifically, Orcas Island, Washington (State). Best wishes and bon voyage, John and Joan!

Soloist and Chorus accompanist **Afi Scruggs** has been chosen for an eight-week teaching opportunity in Italy this summer. Sponsored in part by both Loyola College in Maryland and Berry College in Georgia, Afi will be spending the first 4 weeks in Cagliari, Italy and the next 4 weeks in Camerano, Italy, teaching Journalism, Storytelling and Web Design. Congratulations, arrivederci and addio, Afi.

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.

## From Children's Church

### Summer Program "Journey to Oz"

Summer time fun begins in Children's Church. The month of June marks the beginning of the curriculum the "Journey to Oz." The purpose is to introduce and substantiate the "Truth" secret that all we ever need to succeed in life is right with us. Through the Christ Spirit within, the real Wizard, we can do all things. This is the only place we need to look.

The metaphysical interpretation of "Oz is within. . . I am the. . . wizard. . . There's no place like home" must be learned and remembered in order to enter into the consciousness of the Most High.



As we enter this special Land of Oz, we will discover that within us resides characteristics of Dorothy, Every man and Every woman. Symbolically on our own spiritual journey we have left, as did the prodigal son, for the "far country"

in order to find the secret of the abiding place of true happiness. Just like the Scarecrow, Tin Man and Lion, we feel that everything would be just right if only we had a magical power or formula, a magic wand to change things.

We set out on the yellow brick road full of promise only to find, as Adam and Eve did upon leaving the Garden of Eden, that we are severely tested along the way. The Wicked Witch—Negative thinking and fear thoughts—keeps putting up obstacles of increasing difficulty. Often, just like Dorothy, we are tempted to sit down in the field and lose heart.

Suddenly, however, just when the going seems to the roughest, when odds seem the most insurmountable, and the difficulty too great, love finds a way! Our good Glinda thoughts—our own higher Self, who has been with us all along—comes shining through to show us the way and remove the obstacles. We have only to call on this higher Self, and in so doing we discover that our higher Self will lead us to our home of freedom and happiness within.

Yours in Unity,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy Johns".

Wendy Johns  
Youth Education Director



## Uniteens Back from Retreat

A huge THANK YOU to **Chrystal and Freddie LaTorre** for chaperoning 9 Uniteens at the Great Lakes Spring Uniteen Retreat May 5-7. They had a fantastic time and met Uniteens from around our region. Pictured above left to right: **Alex Kent, Jordon Williams, Gaby Martinez, Freddie LaTorre, Chrystal LaTorre, Antonio LaTorre, Kenny Bish, Joe Manfredi, Carlos Crespo, Greg Morgan-Wolfe.** **Brian Brenner** scooted home before the photo was taken.

## Unexpected Income Program Begins

Give your personal abundance a major boost this summer by enrolling in the Unity of Greater Cleveland 2006 Unexpected Income Program, a plan for prosperous people, June 1 through August 31, 2006.

Open yourself to the law of giving and receiving by joining this program. Participants agree to affirm the abundance prayer twice daily. Our Practitioners and prayer group will also be praying daily. Each participant then agrees to share the increase that comes to them in the form of a gift of 10 percent *off the top* to Unity of Greater Cleveland. Unexpected income is any increase of money over and above any current, normal, expected income.

Join today—this could be your success story: “The I.R.S. wanted their payment of \$500.00 *now*. That same day a check for \$511.00 arrived from the I.R.S. Must be their error but I accept the miracle and honor my pledge.”

Join us to pray together and share support and success stories on the following Sundays after the 11:00 a.m. service: June 18, July 30 and August 27.

## Rev. Joan, Pam Ellison Featured in June

**Rev. Joan Gattuso** speaks three of the four June Sundays. Practitioner **Pam Ellison** is the featured presenter on June 11, Practitioner Sunday. Here is the lineup:

**June 4:** “Remembering to Forget” (Rev. Joan Gattuso). Learn how your Self and soul can actually practice forgetting.

**June 11:** “Living in the Present Moment” (Pam Ellison). If you spend too much time thinking about the past or worrying about the future, learn some easy tips to change and live fully in the present.

**June 18:** “Your Mind Is Like Flat Beer” (Rev. Joan Gattuso). It’s an old Tibetan/German joke. What does it mean for you?

**June 25:** “Splitting the Atom of Self” (Rev. Joan Gattuso). What will happen when we split our narrow view of self?

## Prayer Works!

By Gloria Ross  
Licensed Unity Teacher

Bob Churilla, longtime member, Licensed Unity Teacher candidate and practitioner-trainee, started his legal career in family relations and divorce cases. He wanted to change his focus and concentrate on peaceful negotiations and get into the mediation field. As he started out, he had to establish a client base and referral sources.

Close to that time of change, he took the opportunity to participate in the 4T program at Unity of Greater Cleveland. In applying prosperity principles and spending time in his prayer life, he received a variety of blessings. He developed a number of government contracts for mediation during this time and a number of college teaching opportunities came his way. He even got a contract with a California company doing online mediation from the comfort of his home office.

Bob has been encouraged by answered prayer and continues to rely on his faith and prayer to see him through to prosperity and a successful mediation career.

Prayer works!

## Garden Help Needed

If you have a gardening talent, our church needs your volunteer assistance to beautify and tend to our church's planted spaces. Please contact Felicia Martinez at 216 751-1198 to lend a green thumb. Thanks in advance.

## From the Bookstore

### *The Great Silent Grandmother Gathering* in Our Bookstore

*The Great Silent Grandmother Gathering* by Sharon Mehdi is a story for anyone who thinks she can't save the world. This book comes highly recommended by **Rev. Joan Gattuso** who featured the charming book in her Sunday, May 14, lesson.



"On a buffety, blustery early summer day, when the news was bad and the sky turned yellow, a strange thing happened in the town where I live." And so this enchanting and moving story begins before it powerfully transforms the world.

Grandmothers not speaking. Not looking at squirrels. Not munching on coconut candy. Not anything at all sits the town on its collective ear. It began on Sunday in a world where the news is bad, the world askew and getting askewer. But by Saturday there was no fighting anywhere in the world. The gatherings were peaceful and spontaneous. Can you guess the purpose of the Great Silent Grandmother Gathering?

This tiny book all began in a café with a pen, a napkin and a grandmother's desire to give her granddaughter something especially special. She wanted her granddaughter to always remember that she had a grandmother who loved her.

And from this little story for a granddaughter came a message, a message that peace is possible.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rita".

Rita O. Jackson, Bookstore Manager



# Volunteer Fair Set for June 25

Here's how to make a difference in our church. There are many, many elements that go into making our church as successful as it is: our greeters, the wonderful classes we offer, our newsletter, making our presence known in the community, maintaining and remodeling our building, running our bookstore, providing refreshments, teaching our youth, and holding events so we can get to know each other.

And those are just some of the volunteer needs of our church. Says **Rev. Joan Gattuso** regarding volunteering: "It is through serving that we are able to deeply connect with others spirit to spirit. It is through our giving that our souls are nurtured."

We want YOU to become the blessing. We are holding a Volunteer Fair on Sunday, June 25, after each service. There will be several booths, each representing a different volunteer opportunity. We simply ask that you step up to a booth that appeals to you, find out just how much we can use your time and talent, then sign up. You'll love it!

## Nominate Your Favorite Volunteer in June

By Wendy Johns, Volunteer Coordinator

I share this quote with you this month, because I found it to be most inspiring in order to carry out some of those task/busy work/no brainers that you have to contend with in life:

*God Realization does not begin in a cave high atop the Himalayas. It begins in the pots and pans of the kitchen. Treat your entire task, however small, as opportunities to see God and to serve Him. This is a sure way to liberation.*

This quote is by Swami Sivanada, and if you would like your own personal copy to hang in your kitchen maybe (smile), I would be happy to make a copy for you.

June will begin the first month of our new Volunteer appreciation segment. Nomination forms and a box have been placed just outside our sanctuary for you to voice your appreciation for that very special volunteer. Because this is May when I am writing this article, I don't know who will be chosen for June's most favorite volunteer. Nevertheless I do have many favorites here at Unity, and I can't wait to share them as I feature them every first Sunday.

Thanks to so many of you who have signed up to serve Unity's outreach and events this year. I am very appreciative of you for coming forward to make our Unity more "you in Unity."

## 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

**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 -** (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

**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, Dennis Walker, 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

# June 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7 pm - "The Wisdom of Gandhi" (Rev. Joan Gattuso)	2 7 pm - Drum Circle (Baba Jubal)	3
4 10 am - ACIM 9 & 11 am Service: "Remembering to Forget" (Rev. Joan Gattuso)	5	6 12:30 Silent Unity Prayer Service  6:15 pm - Toastmasters	7 6:30 pm - Yoga (Gerri Maynor)	8 Regional Music Conference 7 pm - "Embracing the Feminine Nature of the Divine" (Karen Shepherd)	9 Regional Music Conference	10 Regional Music Conference  7 pm - Undergrounds Coffeehouse
11 10 am - ACIM1 9 & 11 am Service: "Living in the Present Moment" (Pam Ellison)	12	13 12:30 Silent Unity Prayer Service  6:15 pm - Toastmasters	14 6:30 pm - Yoga (Gerri Maynor)	15 7 pm - "Embracing the Feminine Nature of the Divine" (Karen Shepherd)	16	17
18 10 am - ACIM 9 & 11 am Service: "Your Mind Is Like Flat Beer" (Rev. Joan Gattuso) 12:30 - Unexpected Income Meeting [Father's Day]	19	20 12:30 Silent Unity Prayer Service  6:15 pm - Toastmasters	21 6:30 pm - Yoga (Gerri Maynor)	22 7 pm - "Embracing the Feminine Nature of the Divine" (Karen Shepherd)	23 7:00 pm - Chorus in Miracles singing National Anthem at Jacobs Field	24 10 am - "Uninterrupted Good Fortune, Part 3" (Rev. Joan Gattuso)
25 10 am - ACIM 9 & 11 am Service: "Splitting the Atom of Self" (Rev. Joan Gattuso)  [Volunteer Fair after each service]	26	27 12:30 Silent Unity Prayer Service  6:15 pm - Toastmasters	28 6:30 pm - Yoga (Gerri Maynor)	29 7 pm - "Embracing the Feminine Nature of the Divine" (Karen Shepherd)	30 6:30 pm - Spiritual Cinema, "Everything Is Illuminated"	



3350 Warrensville Center Road  
Shaker Heights, OH 44122  
**For information on upcoming  
events: [www.unitygreatercleveland.com](http://www.unitygreatercleveland.com)**

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