

# *The Grosse Pointe Unitarian*

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**October 16, 2011**

**10:30 AM**

**Play to Live**  
Tonya Wells

We know that play is essential to the development of children. Tonya Wells, one of our Worship Associates, will explore how play is also essential to our adult relationships, our work, our health and to living out our values as Unitarian Universalists. As a catalyst for learning at any age, we need to include play to live well.

**October 23, 2011**

**10:30 AM**

**Women Hold Up Half the Sky**  
Reverend Shelley Page  
Worship Associate: Tonya Wells

The empowerment of women around the globe is a key priority for the United Nations as it seeks to encourage peace. Come and learn about the special efforts to empower women that are happening with the support of the Unitarian Universalist-United Nations Office, our faith's dynamic voice at the United Nations. And stay afterward to hear a special forum about the power of microfinance to empower women, with UU Ann Hanus from Salem, Oregon.



## Wanderings

Dear GPUC Members and Friends,

I am very pleased to let you know that we collected \$1104 last week at our Association Sunday worship service! Your strong support of our Unitarian Universalist professional associations and the new collaborative initiatives for team ministry represents a wonderful investment in the future of our faith. Our October 2nd worship service highlighted the need for continuing professional development for me as your minister, Julie Artis as your Director of Religious Education and Joseph Palazzolo as your Music Director. You can look forward to our growing collaboration in worship and the life of the congregation beyond Sunday. Thank you for that generous financial and spiritual support.

Association Sunday this year focused very specifically on raising funds and awareness for the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network and the Liberal Religious Education Directors Association, so Julie and Joseph joined me at the pulpit to share their professional development experiences. We each talked about how “we are better together.” But there is more to the “we” at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church than Julie, Joseph and me. This church is very blessed to have Jill Crane serving as Adult Religious Enrichment Director, Candy Dunn as Administrator and Willie Barber as Custodian. “We” are a team of dedicated staff who work hand-in-hand with the congregation to create this amazing dynamic community. Indeed, one of the reasons that I accepted your call to minister here was that the staff is committed, professional, caring, competent, flexible, adventuresome, supportive, willing to learn, adaptable, creative, respectful, good natured, big hearted and able to laugh with abandon. So, let it be declared, GPUC has a great staff and we’ve only just begun our collaborative adventures together. Stay tuned for our further adventures as we deepen our relationships, continue to grow and learn from each other and find new ways to co-create our Beloved Community with all of you.

Blessings,

Reverend Shelley Page



## Religious Education Lessons

### Religious Education News

This past week, I had the opportunity to attend a workshop with the Ministers and DRE's in the Heartland District. We gathered at the Potawatomi Inn in Angola, Indiana. The focus of the workshop was to encourage us not to think as "silos" in our congregations, but rather to focus on programs where we work together as teams. Multigenerational services are an example of how our congregation's programs will be working together. We had the privilege of hearing Reverend Erika Hewitt, Parish Minister at Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Goleta, California share her knowledge on multigenerational services. She has written a book entitled "*Story, Song and Spirit*," which has fun and creative worship services for all ages included as part of the focus.

The philosophy of a multigenerational service is rooted in stories and storytelling. Storytelling has been the primary mode of sharing and passing down information about heritage and tradition since the beginning of human history. We also see moral decision-making, group norms, values and critical thinking in the stories. Stories in villages were generally told in a town square. Our church is our town square where we plan to give our young and old stories to think about and apply to their lives. We hope that all who hear the stories live healthfully and find goodness and contentment in their lives.

Also, this past week I shared an afternoon with our Senior High Youth Group at the Detroit Institute of Arts. We had a private tour with Alan Darr, a GPUC member. He took us on an inspirational tour of Art in Religion. The tour of the DIA will provide our youth great information and linkage to the Senior High curriculum on World Religions.

### Religious Education Lessons

**Lower and Upper Elementary** students will be studying *Hinduism* on Sundays, October 16th and October 23rd.

**Junior** students will be studying *The Early Protestants (Luther, Calvin, Erasmus)* on Sunday October 16th and will study *Other Protestant Religions* on Sunday, October 23rd.

**Senior** students will attend church on Sunday October 16th and on Sunday, October 23rd, the students will gather at the home of Ann and Dave Ottenhoff at 7:00 p.m. to study *Art/Architecture in Religion*.

Julie Artis, Director of Religious Education



## Adult Religious Enrichment

### **Spirit Play**

Mark your calendars for Friday, November 4th as Rev. Shelly Page will present another Friday evening gathering; this one called, "Poetry From the Heart." We will create some poetry on the spot as a group through some fun and low-key activities as well as share spiritual poetry that is meaningful to us in new and surprising ways. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the foyer.

### **Microfinance Social Justice Forum**

Learn about Microfinance Social Justice Work! Please sign up for this forum with Ann Hanus which will be held Sunday, October 23rd at 12 noon. Refreshments and childcare will be provided. The primary goal of the UU Congregation of Salem, Oregon Microfinance Project is to raise awareness about the moral imperative to connect with people around the world and to help poor individuals and families earn a sustainable living. By lending money, primarily to women and by linking the loan requirements to actions that will lift households out of poverty, micro-finance can transform families and communities. Ann Hanus, co-chair of the UUCS Microfinance Congregation, will discuss how their congregation made a difference in the lives of people in Laos and how other congregations can initiate their own microfinance project. Ann is a friend of Rev. Shelley and the person who introduced her to Unitarian Universalism. She will be visiting the area and has offered to share her microfinance experiences with us.

### **Unitarian Universalist Common Read**

This year's selection is: "*Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation*," by Eboo Patel. A remarkable account of growing up Muslim in America from one of the most prominent faith leaders in the United States, "*Acts of Faith*" is a hopeful and moving testament to the power and passion of young people, and of the world-changing potential of an interfaith youth movement. The Unitarian Universalist Common Read encourages all UUs to read and discuss a single book. John Artis will lead the discussion. The 2010-2011 common read, "*The Death of Josseline*," spawned discussion groups and social action and heightened awareness of the challenges facing undocumented immigrants in the American Southwest. As soon as John Artis reviews the UU Association discussion guidelines, I will announce dates for the discussion. Until then, read and enjoy. We are hoping our teens will join us in reading and discussing this book! For those of you who have already signed up, the books are in! Please contact Jill Crane to get your copy. Books are \$10 each and payment is required at the time of sale.

**Sunday Morning Meditations**, led by Zachariah Bobby, continue at 9:30 a.m. in the Religious Education wing. Child care is provided starting at 9:25 a.m. Zach asks that you bring comfortable clothes, an open mind and a cushion.

**The Writing Workshop**, facilitated by Mary Beth Smith and Pat Gillis, meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month in the church library from 5 until 7p.m. Mark your calendars for October 17th and November 7th. Bring your writings for discussion, and receive helpful hints, or just come and listen. Advance sign up is not necessary, but if you need child care, please make arrangements with Julie Artis in the RE Wing ahead of time.

### **New UU Classes Forming:**

Many folks who are new to our faith want to learn more about Unitarian Universalist history, theology, social justice, denominational matters, and simply what it means to be a UU. We are forming a six-session series of two-hour classes with Rev. Shelley to help you explore these issues. These sessions will be geared toward people who are new to our faith, and toward those considering membership. We will meet Sunday at noon with lunch provided for a \$3 donation. There is a new sign-up sheet in the lobby, but if you have already signed, up, there's no need to do so again. We will contact you soon, regarding the start-up date.

### **Women's Book Discussion Group: "Let the Great World Spin"**

On Thursday, October 20, at 5:30 p.m., Barbara Moran will lead a discussion on "*Let the Great World Spin*" by author Colum McCann. Published in 2009 by Random House, the novel has been touted as an allegory of the events of 9/11. It is a novel about life and death, love and grief and about hope. Taking place in New York City in 1974, on the day that Philippe Petit walked on a tightrope between the World Trade Center towers, the story merges the lives and losses of seemingly unrelated people. The chapters tell the stories of different characters; some related to each other closely, some remotely. They are all somehow touched by the events taking place in the 110th floor of the two towers. Discussion Leader: Barbara Moran – Refreshment Assistants: Ann Parker and Pi Irwin  
Book Lists are available in foyer.

### **Men's Book Discussion Group**

If you are interested in re-forming a Men's Book Discussion Group to meet (possibly) on Monday evenings, please indicate on a sign-up sheet in the lobby and/or see John Artis.

*Attending Adult Religious Enrichment events enlightens us and broadens our sense of fellowship.*

Jill Crane, Director of Adult Religious Enrichment

## **Imagining the Future**

During the past couple of years, Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church has undergone an enormous amount of change, and change stirs a lot of different emotions...excitement, anxiety and stress just to name a few. With the calling of our new settled minister, Reverend Shelley Page, some of us might be under the assumption that the conversation about the future of the church has been settled. In reality, we are just beginning a new journey of examination that will challenge every member of the congregation to explore their hopes and dreams for the future of GPUC. That is why I hope you are able to attend an important All-Congregation meeting with Heartland District Executive, Rev. Dr. Lisa Presley on Friday evening, October 28th from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Besides food, fellowship, and fun, Rev. Presley will also be guiding us through an interactive dialogue to talk about where we have been, and our vision of the church in the future. Childcare will be provided, but we also want to include our Upper Elementary, Junior and Senior students in the discussion. Their ideas and insights might surprise us.

-- John Owens, President, Board of Trustees

## **Chat with Rev. Shelley**

We'll be getting to know each other in many ways in the days to come. Sometimes it's nice just to have an informal chat and share some food together. I'll be eating at different places on different days at different times around the area. I'm picking places with flexible seating and inexpensive pricing. Feel free to just drop in and join me so we can simply chat. Upcoming occasions include:

- Thursday, October 13th, 8-9 a.m. Breakfast at Harry's at 15506 Mack Avenue in the Park
- Tuesday, October 18th, 6-7 p.m. Dinner at Steve's Back Room, 24317 Jefferson Avenue, Saint Clair Shores.

## **Alliance Lunch October 11**

The first Alliance lunch of the season is Tuesday, October 11 at noon in the Olympia Brown Annex. Speaker is **Dr. Christine Liff**, who is on the staff of Michigan Neurology Associates. Her subject is "Normal Aging of the Brain or Alzheimer's." If you're forgetting things, are you just getting old or is Alzheimer's Disease taking over? Dr. Christine will discuss some guidelines that may give you reassurance. Luncheon starts at noon, program thereafter, with time for Q&A.

Please call Shirley Reeves, 313-822-4651, for reservations. Your guests, as always, are welcome.  
-- Ruth Cain for the Alliance

## **All Congregation Pot Luck**

Join us Friday, October 28th from 6 until 8:30 p.m. for an *All Congregation Pot Luck Supper* in the Olympia Brown Center, also known as the Annex. Please sign up in the foyer, indicating what dish you'll bring, and remember to make enough for 8 or more people. Please indicate how many family members will be attending and whether or not you'll need child care for young children.

-- Jill Crane for Religious Enrichment

### **Scarab Club Program at GPUC**

The Scarab Club will present a program called *Feast of Fools & More* on November 13<sup>th</sup> from 4-5p.m. Tickets will be on sale in the lobby from October 16th through November 13th.

-- Mindy Fossati

### **CPR Training**

If you missed last fall's CPR training sessions or if you wish to participate in refresher training, please give your name to our Office Administrator, Candy Dunn. If there is ample interest in this life saving skill, we will schedule another class with Beaumont Medical Transportation officers, who presented such excellent classes for us last year. This would be a one-evening commitment and would include instruction in how to use the church's new AED (Automatic Electronic Defibrillator) device.

-- Jo Ann Kelly for the Care Committee

### **Resale Shop News: A Plea for Help**

The little shop at the back of the parking lot continues to do a brisk business. The loyal volunteer crew, donors, consignees and regular customers keep the shop humming and the money flowing in, which allows the shop to donate \$1,400 to the church and \$100 to the Ravendale Community Center each month. Unfortunately we will soon be losing one of our co-chairs. Kathy Wilson will be moving away and we must replace her at the shop. We are looking for a few good people who would be willing to work as cashiers and sales room organizers. As any one of our crew will testify, we have a friendly and fun-filled work atmosphere, not to mention free coffee, wonderful desserts and occasionally a cup of homemade soup at lunch. Interested future workers should call Margo Bishop, Kathy Wilson or Juli Moore.

--Juli Moore for the Resale Shop

### **Celebrating Faith Inclusion**

The Michigan Roundtable for Diversity & Inclusion as part of its ongoing LGBT Faith & Equality initiative will be hosting the "Celebrating Faith Inclusion" Breakfast. This event will take place at the Troy Marriott Hotel, 200 West Big Beaver in Troy, Michigan at 8am, Friday, October 21st. Prominent LGBT Faith & Equality Activist Jacob Reitan will present the keynote address. Mr. Reitan, a Minnesota native, gained national prominence along for participating in the award winning film documentary "For the Bible Tells Me So." Mr. Reitan is the Founder of the Soulforce Equality Ride a nationwide bus tour where young activists visit schools across the United States that discriminate against LGBT individuals – with these brave activists engaging in respectful protest and dialogue to create positive change. Recently, Mr. Reitan created and developed the "Right to Serve Campaign" where he recruited and trained activists to challenge "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" at military recruitment centers around the country. Based on the success of this program and by invitation of the White House, Mr. Reitan was in attendance as President Obama signed the bill to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Reverend Shelley will be attending this breakfast and invites any and all congregation members to join her.

-- Reverend Shelley