

The Grosse Pointe Unitarian

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church
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newsletter@gpuc.us

November 1, 2009

10:30 AM

Day of Remembrance

Reverend Mitra Rahnema and Jim Moir

Many experience grief in silence, without a way to honor the experience of loss that comes with life. Today we will remember those we have lost and consider how we mourn. Please feel free to bring a picture or item of a loved one you have lost, we will build a communal altar during the service.

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November 8, 2009

10:30 AM

The Power of Our Story

Reverend Mitra Rahnema

The telling, enacting, or embodying of historical and mythical events makes up the living text of our lives. Identity is formed by stories received from our culture via our families, our peers, and our history. Stories make meaning. Come this Sunday and let us talk about the stories of our communities.



Minister's Musings

Dear Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church Members and Friends,

Fall activity is brewing in every corner of the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Community. We are seeing new faces each Sunday, members are sharing of themselves in beautiful ways, our children are busy with field trips and deep thinking, the Alliance has begun its monthly programming, the Auction committee is infusing us with anticipation, the Search committee is gathering the voices of the community, the Membership committee is coming up with innovative new practices, unseen organizers are keeping the ushering, greeting, coffee care, clean up, flowers, and much more running smoothly, our Board is engaged with all the workings of the church, a youth choir is forming...the list of vibrancy can go on and on. It is an exciting and invigorating web of activity that I witness with great joy and awe.

I am reminded of the words of the Rev. John Buehrens who said, "To be human is to be religious. To be religious is to make connections." As we work together to build a vibrant religious community I hope we are also making those connections. This past Sunday morning, I asked everyone to talk to someone they did not know until you found something in common. Then I asked you to tell me about it. The responses you gave described the connections made and a "heightened sense of personal life" as the First Humanist Manifesto calls for. It is only appropriate that I share some of the responses; what you have in common:

We played the flute in school.
We are currently in school.
We have parents who were teachers.
We have relatives in Maine.
We come here for the community.
We love the color purple.
We like math and cards.
We work with youth.
We found the diversity in our careers fulfilling.
We are artists.
We have connections to New York City and Chicago.
We were raised Unitarian.
We have connections in Illinois and St. Louis.
We teach each other.
We have children.
We know this is just a small sample of so much more! Thank you for jumping right in and making

We have allergies.
We have a common interest and study in the role alcoholism plays in society.
We love life-long learning.
We do not have children.
We share our illnesses with each other.
We are nurturers.
We had catholic parents.
We grew up in a small farm community.
We have a changed view of camaraderie.
One note described how in 1945 one member worked on the key punch machine (the first computer) at Wayne State and the other member who was born that year, grew up to be a computer programmer!

connections. Thank you for telling me about it. Thank you for the gifts of life you bring to Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church. I am struck with joy and awe!

Much love,
Rev. Mitra Rahnema



Religious Education Lessons

Lower and Upper Elementary: On **Nov. 1** will study Beginning Myths: A Story from the Early Greeks and on **Nov. 8** they will study Beginning Myths: Two Stories from the Hebrews.

Juniors: On **Nov. 1** will continue with Principle #5-To respect individual conscience and uphold democracy with John Engstrom.

Nov. 8 with Ann Ottenhoff the students will have a prep for the Auction. (Making posters for the junior Auction room, go over assignments)

Seniors: On **Nov. 1** Ann Ottenhoff will meet in the GPUC parking lot to go down to COTS at 8:30 a.m. On **Nov. 8** the seniors will help with the GPUC Auction. Please check with Sonja Franchett for assignments.

"FESTIVAL of LIGHT" program on **Dec. 13** at 10:30 a.m. All parents will be receiving the students' assignment sheet and costume sheet this week. Please go over the information and you and your student sign the agreement and return it to Mrs. Artis. Janis Garan will help me with costumes. Please give us a call if you need help. Students need to be in class on **Nov. 29** and **Dec. 6** for rehearsal.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov. 1-Food Sunday

Nov. 8-4:30 pm Auction with Childcare (must sign up)

Dec. 13-"Festival of Light" program

If you have questions, please call or email me at julieartis@hotmail.com

--Julie Artis-Director of Religious Education



Adult Religious Enrichment

MEN'S BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The men meet Monday, **Nov. 2** at 7:30 in the church library to discuss "*The Mother Tongue: English and How it Got That Way*" by Bill Bryson. The book wittily compiles the history and origins of the English Language and the language's various quirks. The book discusses the Indo-European origins of English, the growing status of English as a global language, the complex etymology of English words, the dialects, etc. The men are looking for new members and welcome you to join them. No sign up necessary.

WOMEN'S BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The women meet Thursday, **Nov. 19** at 5:30pm in the church gallery. Hanne Nielsen will lead a discussion on "*The Yacoubian Building*" by Alaa Al Aswany. Aswany offers a colorful picture of contemporary Egypt. Built in the 1930's, the building was an "architectural gem" which housed the "cream of society." But it underwent considerable changes over the decades that followed. Beside the large, fancy apartments, a second separate community developed on the roof, where, what had originally been rooms for storage and laundry were eventually converted into tiny, spartan residential units. These, along with the stores on the ground floor, made the Yacoubian a place where many levels of society crossed paths. (P. S. This is not a book about architecture!)

Refreshments provided by Doris Cook and Carolyn Griffiths.

We ask for a \$2 donation towards refreshments, sign up in foyer on Sunday mornings or email Jill Crane.

SOMETHING NEW!

Friday Evening Theological Chat ... **Nov. 20**, 7:30pm until 9 at the church "*What it Means to be Human*", hosted by Rev. Mitra Rahnema and Jill Crane, Director of Adult Religious Enrichment. To be human, must we know pain, joy, love, or loss? Does humanity mean acknowledging helplessness or understanding compassion? Are we more than the sum of our parts? What DOES it mean to be human? You are invited to the first in a series of casual theological chats with your minister and fellow members. We will pose some questions and then simply discuss our thoughts. The premises of discussion are:

- Whoever is present is supposed to be there. It is always a perfect group of people offering exactly what we need.
- Whatever is said is supposed to be said; remember to both talk and listen.
- Differences of opinion are to be engaged with while also respected. Dialogue and debate with a loving heart and good humor is welcome.
- Sharing your heart as well as keeping an open mind to multiple experiences is

encouraged.

- Laughter is also a wonderful religious community activity.

We look forward to seeing you there. Sign up Sunday mornings or at Jill's email
Refreshment donation --- \$3

Jill E. Crane, Director, Adult Religious Enrichment
VillaJilla@sbcglobal.net

GET SIGNED UP NOW!

Church Auction/Party
Sunday, November 8, 2009, 4:30 PM

Come join the fun as the church holds its biannual fundraising auction/party on Sunday, **November 8**. There will be drinks and hearty hors' oeuvres, entertainment by our Youth Choir, silent and live auctions, and a tin can auction. There is a bid for every budget- in fact, you don't have to bid at all, you can just come and enjoy the fun, the fellowship, and the food. It's a great way to get acquainted with our church, our members, long-time and new friends and, who knows, you may walk away with a bargain-bid item! Our auctioneer tells us that the live auction will be a blend of auctioneering, magic and fun that you won't want to miss. So come to the auction and have more fun than you can probably remember having in a long time. There is a \$10.00 admission charge per person. Sign-up in the foyer. The admission charge entitles you to wine, hors' oeuvres, and a chance to participate in the fun. Now is the time to also sign up for the various parties that are being held throughout 2009-2010.

--Paul Lipsitz for the Auction Committee

MEMORIAL GARDEN DONATION

A generous donation for the Memorial Garden has been made by Diane Abbott, in remembrance of her husband C. Richard Abbott, in celebration of his birthday.

TIME CHANGE - FALL BACK

Before going to bed this Saturday night, please remember to set your clocks **back** one hour. This will ensure that you get to church on time, Sunday, **November 1**.

NOVEMBER IS HABITAT MONTH

GPUC is one of the 12 churches that make up Habitat Grosse Pointe Partners, a support group for Habitat Detroit. We are hosting the **Nov.4** monthly meeting at 7:00pm in the Annex, to which all are invited. The group sponsors a Second Saturday build day each month, and **Nov. 14** is our turn to serve as host church. We most likely will work indoors at the operations center, but this can change. If you are interested please contact Sam Smith by email smsmith508@aol.com

KUDOS TO BLOOD DONORS

Those representing GPUC at the Fall Blood Drive, sponsored by the G.P. Community Blood Council on Wed., Oct. 21st, were Marty Amlin, Mark O'Keefe, Jennifer Semanision, Lynn Baker-Hunter, and Dora Efstathiou. Our many thanks for this important contribution.

--Pat Freiwald, for Outreach

NEWSLETTER EMAIL ADDRESS & DEADLINE DATES

Congratulations and thank-you to all who submitted your GPUC Newsletter articles to our new email address, newsletter@gpuc.us. All articles received by noon of the deadline date will appear in the newsletter. The following is a list of the deadline dates for the remainder of the calendar year:

November 8 th	November 22 nd
December 6 th	December 20 th

-- John Owens for the Newsletter Editors

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Tuesday, **November 3**

While there is no presidential race this year, there are many important local issues and races that deserve your attention.

Get Out and Vote!