



Adult Religious Education Fall/Winter 2007

Unitarian Universalist Church
of Bloomington, Indiana

Registration: Register for classes beginning Wednesday, August 23, by signing up on the bulletin board at the Courtyard entrance. You

may also register by calling 332-3695 or e-mailing Carol Marks, Church Administrator, at admin@uubloomington.org. Please note that in some instances class sizes are limited, so register early.

How to purchase required texts: Some class offerings require a book. You may purchase these through our Booktable (chaired by Mike Betson, forestfolk@AOL.com) two weeks in advance of the first class meeting. Profits from the Booktable go to buy new books for the Library.

What About Child Care? Child care can be arranged for most events if parents reserve at least 10 days in advance of the first class meeting. Reserve on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or indicate you will need child care when you call 332-3695 or email admin@uubloomington.org.

Writing About Your Life: How to Get Started (or Get Unstuck)

One Tuesday Session, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., October 23 - Library

There are many reasons and many ways to write about one's life, and many ways to begin. If you have been thinking about a project—a story from your life or a family memoir, or perhaps a personal essay--or if you're in the middle of something and not sure how to move ahead with it, this session could give you the boost you need. We will look at the basic forms of life-writing and address the issues that most often get writers stuck. (am I using the most effective form, how much of the truth should I tell, how do I know when I am done, etc.). The session will be half presentation and half discussion, with plenty of time for questions about particular problems. There will be a handout with some finger-exercises to get you started on your own, or to get you going again. Open to ages 15 and up; younger by permission.

Coordinated by John Woodcock. Enrollment Minimum - 5, no Maximum

Discovering a Sense of Place

Eight Tuesday Sessions, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., September 4, 11,18,24, October 2, 9, 16, and 23 - Room 207b

"Of all the memberships we identify ourselves by (racial, ethnic, sexual, national, class, age, religious, occupational), the one that is most forgotten, and that has the greatest potential for healing, is place. We must learn to know, love, and join our place even more than we love our own ideas. People who can agree that they share common commitment to the landscape/cityscape - even if they are otherwise locked in struggle with one another - have at least one deep thing to share": *Gary Snyder. Required reading: Northwest Institute Reading and Discussion Group, A Sense of Place*, \$16. Coordinated by Beckie Wagner (who will order the books), Enrollment Minimum - 6, Enrollment Maximum - 12

Engaging our Theological Diversity

Five Wednesday Sessions, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., September 12, 19 and 26, October 10 and 17 – Room 105

Engaging Our Theological Diversity resulted from a four-year study of Unitarian Universalisms across the land by the UUA's think tank, the Commission on Appraisal. Download at <http://www25.uua.org/coa/ArtIIReview/P+PReview-5SessionClass.doc> (**Required**). Participants may read it either before or during the course, according to the class plan to be made available well in advance or handed out at the first meeting. Let's see what messages it has for this congregation and for Unitarian Universalism. Coordinated by Rev. Barbara Child. Enrollment Minimum-10, no Maximum

Christopher Hitchen's *God is not Great:*

How Religion Poisons Everything

Two Saturday Sessions, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., October 20 and 27 - Library

This book is a great read, has been included on bestseller lists, is represented on Google with thousands of entries, and has received wide attention abroad. Hugo Kunoff will lead the discussions, at least in the beginning. Participants will be strongly encouraged to subject the book to wide-ranging discussion. Because of Hitchens' highly controversial views and convictions, the discussions are expected to be lively, but hopefully not confrontational. **Recommended: *God is not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything***. Coordinated by Hugo Kunoff. Enrollment Minimum - 5, Maximum Enrollment - 12

The Flipside of Godspeak: Theism As Constructed reality

**Three Saturday Sessions, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., November 3 - Library,
November 10 - Room 105, November 17 - Library**

Voltaire once said "if God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent him". Is God the "great maybe"? In short, is there such a being as God? Or do we, in fact, create or construct God? This offering consists of a series of brief lectures based on *The Flipside of Godspeak*, followed by total group discussion. We will focus on the God theme as it impacts the experiences of class members who have wrestled with questions relating to theistic belief. **Recommended:** *The Flipside of Godspeak*, by John Crosby, Wipf & Stock, Publishers. Enrollment Minimum - 8, no Maximum

The UU Principles: What For, and What Next?

**Five Tuesday Sessions, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., November 13, 20, 27,
December 4 and 13 - Library**

What are the UU Principles (Article II of the UUA Bylaws, Principles and Purposes)? How did they come to be in their present form? What are they for? How are they used by UUs? How important are they to our understanding of what it means to be a UU? Are they, as some have argued, really a creed in disguise as a covenant? Are changes in order? We will explore these and related questions.

Recommended: Read before the course begins *With Purpose and Principle: Essays About the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism*, Edward Frost, ed.

(Skinner House, 1998) and Article II of the UUA Bylaws, at

<http://www.uua.org/aboutus/bylaws/articleii/index.shtml>.

Coordinated by Barbara Child. Enrollment Minimum - 10, no Maximum

The Meaning of Peacemaking in Our Lives: An introduction to the UU Peacemaking Study Action Program

One Saturday Session, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., October 6 - Library

The Peacemaking Congressional Study Action Issue (CSAI) was adopted at the June 2006 GA for a four-year cycle of study and action. This purpose of this workshop is to engage members and friends in an initial sharing of personal experiences and views relating to peace and violence, and to build awareness of, and interest in, the Peacemaking CSAI program. This class will start with the "Introductory Workshop" material; the remaining material is best addressed in a small group ministry format. Coordinated by Mike Betson. Enrollment Minimum - 3, No Maximum

