

The Bhagavad-Gita: Exploring the Essence of Hinduism

Four Tuesday sessions, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., in Room 207B: Mar 3, 10, 24, 31.

Facilitated by Chris Haynes

"The Bhagavad-Gita is an empire of thought and in its philosophical teachings Krishna has all the attributes of the full-fledged monotheistic deity and at the same time the attributes of the Upanishadic [atheistic] absolute." -- Ralph Waldo Emerson.

This series explores the most widely revered scripture of Hinduism. Participants are invited to draw upon other religious traditions and their own lives as we find meaning in this little book of ancient wisdom.

Suggested Reading: The translation and commentary by Eknath Easwaran is recommended, but any translation may be used.

Enrollment: minimum - 5; maximum – 12

Workshop on Understanding Conflict

One Saturday session, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., in the Library, March 28

Facilitated by Ed Greenebaum

While conflict carries the risk of hurt and loss, it is also an opportunity for learning and creativity. Through presentation, group discussion, and exercises in subgroups, participants in Understanding Conflict learn ways of thinking about conflict, which will enable them to promote constructive conflict resolution, whether in the role as an independent mediator (for example, as a volunteer mediator for CJAM) or as a member of the connected social groups to which they belong (work, family, and community).

Readings: The facilitator will provide materials for this workshop and for later reading.

Enrollment: minimum - 4; no maximum

Dances of Universal Peace

Monthly on third Mondays, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall, beginning January 19. Facilitated by Sura Gail Tala

The dances are simple movements in a circle that use sacred phrases of many spiritual traditions from around the world. For more information, see <http://dancesofuniversalpeace.org>.

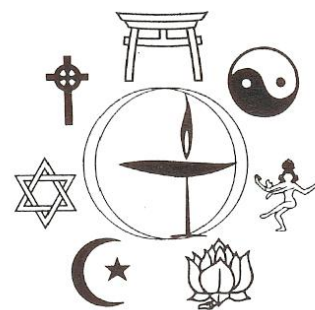
Abwoon Study Circle

Eight Monday sessions, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Jan 26; Feb 9, 23; Mar 9, 23; Apr 13, 27; May 11. In Room 105. Facilitated by Sura Gail Tala

This circle will include study, chanting, sharing, meditation, and possibly dancing. Abwoon is the Aramaic word for the power of the universe to give birth to new life every moment.

Suggested Reading: *Prayers of the Cosmos, Meditations on the Aramaic Words of Jesus*, by Neil Douglas-Klotz

Enrollment: minimum – 8; no maximum



Adult Religious Education Prospectus Spring 2009

Unitarian Universalist Church
of Bloomington, Indiana

Registration: Register for classes beginning Wednesday, January 7, by signing up on the bulletin

board at the Courtyard entrance. You may also register by e-mailing Office Assistant Shara Ferrantelli at office@uubloomington.org or by calling 332-3695. Some class sizes are limited, so register early.

How to purchase required texts: Some classes **REQUIRE** a book. You may purchase these books (with a 10% discount) through our Booktable (chaired by Kevin Rottet, krottet@indiana.edu) in advance of the first class meetings.

What About Child Care? Childcare can be arranged for most events if parents reserve 10 days in advance of the first class meeting, and if at least two families request childcare for a given class or event. Reserve on the sign-up sheet, call 332-3695, or email office@uubloomington.org.

Exploring Paganism

Eight Tuesday sessions, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., in room 210: Jan. 13, 20, 27; February 3, 10, 17, 24; Mar 3. Facilitated by Beckie Wagner and Jerry Nees

Earth-centered religions form the sixth source of spirituality recognized by the Unitarian Universalist Association. Spiritual teachings of earth-centered, or Pagan, religions celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of Nature. The class will feature lectures, discussions, journaling, and guided meditations. Topics will include the earth-centered sacred year; Pagan perceptions of the Divine; holidays and worship styles; what magick is and how it works; and ethics.

REQUIRED READING: *Paganism: An Introduction to Earth - Centered Religions*, by River and Joyce Higginbotham. Enrollment: minimum - 6; maximum – 12

Mindfulness Meditation

Six Wednesday sessions, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., in Room 207B: Feb 4, 11, 18, 25; Mar 4, 11. Facilitated by Jon Peters

For people with little or no experience in meditation to mindfulness meditation practices, including: sitting and walking meditation, mindful eating, and mindful breathing. Enrollment: minimum – 3; no maximum

The Historical Jesus in the Five Gospels

Five Wednesday sessions, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Room 105, Feb 18, 25; Mar 4, 25; Apr 1. Facilitated by Bob DeVoe

The historical Jesus is the Pre-Easter Jesus. How does one discern this historical Jesus in our only sources of information about him, the gospels written by Post-Easter Christians who were centered on the resurrected Christ? What are the techniques that biblical scholars use to distinguish words that Jesus actually spoke from words put in his mouth by gospel writers? This course will explore such questions and look into the five gospels (Mark, Matthew, Luke, John and Thomas) for what was most likely spoken by Jesus.

REQUIRED READING: *The Five Gospels: The Search for the authentic Words of Jesus*, by Robert W. Funk et al.

Enrollment: minimum – 5; maximum – 15

Science and the Wonders of the Universe

Four Monday sessions, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., in Room 210: Feb 2, 16; March 2, 16. Facilitated by Noretta Koertge

Science seeks to describe and explain the natural world. But do such analyses detract from the feelings of awe and wonder that we often experience when we contemplate nature? Keats thought so, writing that "[science] will clip an Angel's wings, conquer all mysteries by rule and line...". On the other hand, philosophers, theologians and scientists claim that scientific understandings can actually increase our appreciation of the universe. The author – Richard Dawkins - is best known as a militant atheist and tireless promoter of the power of neo-Darwinism. However, in this book he exhibits an emotional and almost romantic response to a variety of scientific discoveries.

REQUIRED READING: *Unweaving the Rainbow: Science, Delusion and the Appetite for Wonder*, by Richard Dawkins

Enrollment: minimum – 5, maximum – 12

The Next Steps Class

One Tuesday session, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the Library: March 24. Facilitated by Libby DeVoe

For those who have completed the Exploring UU class, and/or signed the Membership Book, this class will be a guide to the next steps in finding your niche and feeling at home in the congregation. Members of church groups will describe what their groups do and how you can join their activities. There will be time for questions and a chance to get acquainted with church leaders and other new members in a small group setting.

Enrollment: minimum - 5, maximum – 20

Spirit in Practice: a Tapestry of Faith Series

Ten Thursday sessions, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., in the Library:

Feb 12: Toward a Rich and meaningful UU Spirituality

Feb 19: Personal Spiritual Practice

Feb 26: Communal Worship Practices

Mar 5: Spiritual Partnerships

Mar 12: Mind Practices

Mar 26: Body Practices

Apr 2: Soul Practices

Apr 9: Life Practices

Apr 16: Justice Practices

Apr 23: Looking Back and Moving Forward

Developed in response to many Unitarian Universalist adults' desire to engage in life-giving spiritual practices, the ten workshops of *Spirit in Practice* provide avenues for deepening spirituality and affirming spiritual growth in the congregation. Participants are invited to reflect, share, and grow together, exploring ways to nurture their connections with the sacred in everyday life.

As one in a UUA series of *Tapestry of Faith* curricula for adults, *Spirit in Practice* weaves Unitarian Universalist values, principles, and sources with four "strands:" spiritual development, ethical development, Unitarian Universalist identity development, and faith development. Each workshop will be offered by different facilitators, and each can be taken individually. Sign up only for the ones you are interested in!

Suggested reading: This curriculum may be downloaded free from <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/spiritpractice/introduction/index.shtml>

Menu for the Future

Six Saturday sessions, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., in the Library: Jan 17, 31; Feb 14, 28; Mar 7. In Room 105 on Mar 14. Facilitated by Cynthia Schultz and Anne Veldman, and sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Task Force

Food connects us intimately with the world around us and provides a concrete entry point into the discussions about many ecological and ethical concerns we face today. In 2008, the UU General Assembly selected 'ethical eating' as our next Association-wide study topic. In this class, the readings and discussions will consider food from many perspectives. Participants will learn more about modern food systems and reflect upon their own role as eaters in the global marketplace.

REQUIRED READING: *Menu for the Future* (Northwest Earth Institute) will be purchased by the Green Sanctuary Task Force, and donations will be requested.

Enrollment: minimum - 6; maximum - 20.