



# News from Unity of Greater Cleveland

Volume 25, Number 9, September, 2009

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Andrew Harvey  
Returns This  
November

## From Our Minister

### All About Compassion

Dear Friends,

While spending a week at the Chautauqua Institution as the guest Unity minister, I enjoyed an afternoon lecture where three spiritual leaders of note shared their thoughts on compassion.

They were Robert Thurman, the distinguished chair of Indo-Tibetan Buddhist studies at Columbia University (and a friend I greatly admire), Rev. James Alexander Forbes, minister emeritus of Riverside Church in New York City, and a Hindu Swami. These three, learned and spiritually aware men each came from his own diverse background.

What brought these three together was nothing less than compassion—how compassion and the acts of compassion make better and more loving human beings.

What a contrast to the self-proclaimed metaphysical teacher I had met a few days before. Said she, “There’s too much talk now about compassion. I’m tired of hearing about it!” I said little in response, because I knew a discussion would lead only to disagreement.

One who does not value compassion is one who has of yet not experienced the deep and often painful lessons life offers on our road to awakening and liberation.

We can be truly compassionate, be it to a loved one or to a stranger, when life has tempered our hearts. We care for the one who is suffering as if she was our own beloved. Here is where we love and assist another in healing old or new wounds.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama is frequently speaking on the value and spiritual importance of compassion. Compassion has a high position in the dialogue of nearly all valid spiritual teachers, as was evident that sunny afternoon in Chautauqua with a Buddhist, a Baptist and a Hindu.

May you open your heart to others and be happy.

Love,



## From the Bookstore

By Vivian Miller, Bookstore Manager

For the last 20 years, Loretta LaRoche has been delighting readers, audiences, and PBS television viewers with her wacky and wise insights about life, love, and the



insanity of the modern world. Now, in her most deeply personal book yet, Loretta addresses the most exciting challenge that we all face—one that she now finds herself facing every day: *How do we age well? And can humor, dignity, honesty, wisdom, and other virtues ease the path?*

With her trademark humor and practical wisdom, Loretta tackles how to live a long, healthy, juicy life—using herself and many of her friends and mentors as metaphors. Filled with practical advice, lifestyle skills, wisdom, and spirituality, *Juicy Living, Juicy Aging . . .* is a mental health spa that will inspire you and your family to live with joy, harmony, and peace while you still have the time!

## **World Day of Prayer**

Join your Unity friends around the world in prayer for peace during the 16<sup>th</sup> annual World Day of Prayer on Thursday, September 10, 2009, at Unity of Greater Cleveland for a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

We have the opportunity to share the highest blessing we can with family and friends. We can honor them with our prayers and act on their behalf. During this special time, we have the chance to grow spiritually and contribute to global transformation. How? By going within through prayer, then reaching out to help others. This year's theme for World Day of Prayer reflects a commitment to both spiritual growth and social advancement:

**Reach in. Reach out. We can change the world.**

## **A Golden Idea**

Here's a golden idea. On Sunday, September 20, you can rid yourself of those unused bits of gold (and silver) you have around the house—a bracelet you never wear, an earring that lost its mate, jewelry you're just simply through with. And you'll help the prosperity of our church.



On that Sunday Michael Saxon, an independent jewelry designer for Saks Fifth Avenue, will be on hand after the service to appraise the jewelry you bring in. He'll value it for you, and the church will give you a letter for that all-important tax deduction.

So start sorting through your jewelry now. Your church will benefit greatly.

## **Kirtan Chanting September 25**

Dave Stringer comes to our church on Friday, September 25, at 7:00 p.m. for an evening of Kirtan chanting. We've hosted Kirtan chanting before, and Dave has been hailed as one of the most innovative artists of the new American Kirtan movement.

His sound marries the transcendent mysticism of traditional Indian instruments with the exuberant, groove-oriented sensibility of American gospel, and he is regarded as one of the most gifted singers in the genre.

All are welcome to attend this spiritually centering and uplifting evening. Tickets are \$20.

## **Drum Circle Returns September 11**

The drum circle led by **Baba Jubal Harris** returns on Friday, September 11, at 7:00 p.m.

This drum circle offers you the opportunity to learn to drum in the spirit of peace, love and unity. Says Baba, "I express my love and devotion to God through the music of the drum. I have studied with master drummers in West Africa and America for over 25 years." Bring a drum with you. If you do not have one, there will be instruments available.

## **25th Anniversary Indoor Picnic**

Join us Sunday, September 13, after church for an indoor picnic to celebrate Unity of Greater Cleveland's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a significant milestone. Please sign up on the sheet provided to let us know what favorite dish you will be bringing.

## “Write for Your Lives” Workshop September 26

Stuck with your manuscript or story idea? What you need is “Write for Your Lives,” the name of an inspired workshop by Joe Sestito on Saturday, September 26. Based on his book, *Write for Your Lives: Inspire Your Creative Writing with Buddhist Wisdom*, the workshop is 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. with a break for lunch.

The workshop corresponds with the international release of the book in the United Kingdom, United States and Canada. Robert Thurman wrote the introduction to Joe's book.

Says Joe, “Practically everyone with whom I engage in conversation at Unity services either has completed one or more manuscripts, is somewhere in the process of completing their first, or at least has the desire to write for publication.” He adds that many, however, run into “roadblocks” along the way and become stuck, either by being unable to complete the writing or being unable to find a reputable publisher.

Joe adds, “No small amount shall be accomplished in this weekend workshop, as the desired impact goes beyond helping participants write and have their books published. That includes boosting their sense of mission to have a positive global impact.”

The cost of the workshop is \$40, which includes Joe's book.

## Spiritual Cinema Returns with “Henry Poole Is Here”

Spiritual Cinema returns to our church on Friday, September 18 at 6:30 p.m. with “Henry Poole Is Here.” A world weary Henry Poole buys a house, caring little about its lack of amenities. He eats pizza and drinks. Recent stucco work has left a brown stain in a patio wall, and, to Henry's irritation, Esperanza, a neighbor, is certain she can see the face of Jesus in the stain.

She brings her priest, then others. Meanwhile, Henry hears his conversations replayed over the fence in another neighbor's yard. It's Millie, about 7, mute, clutching a tape recorder. Henry tells Millie's mom why he's sad and angry. The face on the wall seems to shed a tear of blood. Is Henry beyond feeling any emotion? The movie is rated PG.

Bring your dinner to eat while you enjoy the movie. Please sign up in advance.

## Unity of Greater Cleveland Volunteer & Staff Directory

**Founding Minister:** Joan M. Gattuso

**Board of Advisors:**

**Co-Chairs** - Sandy Deck and Elaine Sleas

**Secretary:** Connie Machan

**Treasurer:** Calvin Reid

**Prosperity Partners:** Paul Barr, Freddy

LaTorre, Al Manger, Andy Miller

**Licensed Teachers** - Gloria Ross,

Karen Shepherd

**Practitioners** - Cynthia Bowers, Pamela

Ellison, Dawn Falkenstein, Georgia Hyde,

Bob Javorsky, Vivian Miller, Sheryl Thomas

**Assistant:** Felicia Martinez

**Administrative Assistant:** Rudi Barnes

**Accountant:**

**Minister's Sunday Assistants** - Paul

Landis, Rudi Barnes

**Youth Education Directors** - Chrystal LaTorre,

Marcia Bufford

**Nursery (0-3 years old)** - Michelle Federico, Betsy

Coss

**Lower/Upper Elementary (4-10 years old)** -

Marcia Bufford, Sherry Foulkes, Michelle Hurt,

Felicia Martinez, Betty Phillips,

Janet Wasserman

**Uniteens (11-13 years old)** - Freddie LaTorre

**Y.O.U. (14-18 years old) Sponsor** - Chrystal

LaTorre, Andy Miller

**Bookstore Manager** – Vivian Miller

**Volunteers** - Ranonda Jones, Karen Owens,

Michael Powers, Joyce Shaw

**Greeter Coordinators** - Detlev von Schwerdtner

and Liz Parks

**Sound System** - Felicia Martinez

**Florist** - Blooms

**Hospitality** - Carl Kornicks, Paul Landis,

Todd Mueller

**Meals on Wheels** - Open

**Web Site Manager:** Tim Machan

**Sunday Service Time** - 11:00 a.m. Children's

Church, including the Nursery, 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](mailto:unity@unitygreatercleveland.com)

**Web site:** [www.unitygreatercleveland.com](http://www.unitygreatercleveland.com)

# September 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:00 pm - Toastmasters	2 12:30 pm - Unity Prayer Service 6:30 pm - Yoga	3	4	5
6 10 am - ACIM 11 am Service: "Compassionate Acts" (Rev. Joan Gattuso)	7 LABOR DAY	8 6:00 pm - Toastmasters	9 12:30 pm - Unity Prayer Service 6:30 pm - Yoga	10 7:00 pm - World Day of Prayer	11 7:00 pm - Drum Circle (Baba Jubal)	12 10 am - Volunteer Cleaning Crew
13 10 am - ACIM 11 am Service: "What Would It Take?" (Rev. Joan Gattuso) 12:30 p.m. Anniversary Picnic Celebration	14	15 6:00 pm - Toastmasters	16 12:30 pm - Unity Prayer Service 6:30 pm - Yoga	17	18 6:30 pm - Spiritual Cinema	19
20 10 am - ACIM 11 am Service: "Who Do You Talk To?" (Rev. Joan Gattuso)	21	22 6:00 pm - Toastmasters	23 12:30 pm - Unity Prayer Service 6:30 pm - Yoga	24	25 7:00 pm - Kirtan Chanting (Dave Stringer)	26 10 am - Volunteer Cleaning Crew 10 am - "Write for Your Lives" (Joe Sestito)
27 10 am - ACIM 11 am Service: "Wasted Lives" (Rev. Joan Gattuso)	28	29 6:00 pm - Toastmasters	30 12:30 pm - Unity Prayer Service 6:30 pm - Yoga			



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

## Rev. Joan Speaks All Four Sundays in September

Rev. Joan Gattuso presents four Spirit-centered Sunday lessons in September. They are all designed for your betterment on your path. Hear them all.

**September 6:** "Compassionate Acts." Here is a sure way to continually transform your consciousness.

**September 13:** "What Would It Take?" You can get "it" by turning your consciousness around and growing up spiritually.

**September 20:** "Who Do You Talk To?" Do you chat with God, or are you stuck with your ego?

**September 27:** "Wasted Lives." Are you subconsciously addicted to suffering? Many are and don't even realize it.