Opening Words & Meditations

Congressman Dennis Kucinich: “Peace is Inevitable”

New York, NY (June 13, 2012) -- Appearing on a live broadcast of Brian Lehrer Radio Show at The Green Space, Congressman Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) called for a new approach to peace. He explained H.R. 808, his legislation to establish a Cabinet-level Department of Peace. H.R. 808, which seeks to address the causes of violence both nationally and internationally, currently has 52 cosponsors.

“The Department of Peace creates a structural response to violence in our society. The Department of Peace puts into practice conflict resolution in all our human contacts. It requires a shift in our thinking that we are not ‘our brother’s keeper’ but that we are an aspect of our brothers and our sisters.

“Nations and leaders may take a detour into war, but we have a duty to challenge that. We must challenge violence on the national scale. But what gives us our authenticity as individuals is that we have peace in our own lives.

“War in the microcosm is domestic violence, gang violence, violence in schools and violence against gays. Society is sated with war. It starts with individuals and our perceptions of violence. Violence is a learned response. Nonviolence can be a learned response.

“The main message of the Department of Peace is that we are not chained to this wheel of violence. War is not inevitable. It is not inevitable that we descend into some circle of Dante’s hell. That is the core of the Department of Peace: the faith in the evolution of human consciousness.”

H.R. 808 would establish a Secretary position to advise the President on peace building strategies in times of international conflict. It would establish a Peace Academy, modeled after military service academies, which would provide instruction in peace education, and offer opportunities for graduates to serve in programs dedicated to domestic or international nonviolent conflict resolution. It would also provide funds to support and expand domestic programs that provide training in known best-practices such as mediation, alternative dispute resolution techniques, and nonviolent communication programs in our public schools and in the public sector workforce.

Congressman Kucinich also addressed the legacy of the wars which have consumed our nation for the last decade:

“We went to war against a nation that didn’t attack us based on choice. A million innocent Iraqis died as a result. That is a significant number, and there are consequences for that. If America is to shed the shackles of war, we need to go through a period of truth and reconciliation.

“We have to recognize that we are still choosing war. We chose war in Iraq. We chose to go to war in Afghanistan. I think it was right to strike the training camps, but we chose to stay at war for more than a decade. And we are choosing to possibly go to war with Iran.

“If you go deep - and I spent the better part of the last 10 years, every single day challenging these wars - what I have learned is that people in Washington just don’t understand that there is another way to end conflict without killing people.

“When we look at Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya, which was a war of choice, and after you wreak havoc on these countries and then you sing Kumbaya and work at conflict resolution, there is magical thinking there. If we create these wars, we are not accepting the consequence of what we have done. To leave it to peace keepers and conflict resolution experts, we are way disconnected from our own actions. We have a country that has not been able to shed our imperial instincts. The idea that we can dominate the world through a global war on terror is insanity.

“All our peace-building efforts will fall apart as long as we believe we can control the world through the use of force. We must acknowledge that every time we drop a bomb, it expands the war and ripples into the future ultimately coming back to us.”
EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ALL ACTIVITIES
ALL ACTIVITIES ARE AT THE CHURCH UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

July
1 Sunday 10:30 a.m. Reverend Karen Bruno “How We Make Choices in Our Lives”
Rev. Karen Bruno, retired UCC minister, worked in a small liberal UCC church in the mountains outside of Denver and was also a Hospice Chaplain for several years. Karen also worked for over 30 years in Human Services and brings her search for spiritual connection to her everyday experiences.

8 Sunday 9 a.m. Board Meeting (all are invited)
10:30 a.m. Rev. Colin Bossen, UU Society of Cleveland “Pilgrimage as Practice”
The Rev. Colin Bossen has served as the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland since 2007. He is the author of two religious education curricula and his essays and articles have appeared in a variety of publications including “UU World” and “Huffington Post.”

12 Thurs. 7:30 p.m. Concert: Occidental Gypsy (see Melanie or Fate for tickets)

13 Friday 4:30-7 pm Bring items to church for Rummage and Bake Sale

14 Saturday 9a to 1p Summer Rummage and Bake Sale with Lunch

15 Sunday 10:30 a.m. Dr. Walter Kania

22* Sunday 10:30 a.m. Martha Eaffney from Martha’s Farm (www.marthasfarm.com) “The Sacramental Aspect of Food”
Along with her husband Peter, Martha runs Martha’s Farm just north of Olivesburg, which she describes as “Your friendly farm connection in Ashland County.” Martha and Peter specialize in pasture-based farming, fresh produce, cut flowers, and baked goods.

29 Sunday 10:30 a.m. Rev. Karen Bruno

August
5 Sunday 10:30 a.m. Currently Open

12 Sunday 9 a.m. Board Meeting (all are invited)
10:30 a.m. Diana Sharp (editor, The Bellville Star)

19 Sunday 10:30 a.m. Dr. Walter Kania

26* Sunday 10:30 a.m. Palm Park Blessing of the Animals Service
*Whole Church Worship/Kenya Coins Collection

Birthdays for July/August

J3 Jack Ehrmantraut 17 Kaiden Waltz A3 Ann Kilgore 12 Kristi Ehrmantraut
4 Jonah Ehrmantraut 18 Alana Mizer 4 Ruth Moody 20 Jonah So
5 Judy Shaffer 19 Eric Hansen Sylith Waltz 24 Lillian Love Sprague
Chuck Rhodes 21 Susan Mizer 9 Fate Christian 25 Joan Richmond
6 Jackie Moore 23 Paxton Reid So 10 Linda Wilson 30 Jennette Rhodes
June 2012
Financial Report

Revenue
Collection
- Offering $430.07
- Pledges 1,213.00
- Huruma Foundation (Kenya Coins) 59.00

Total 1,702.07

Expenses
- 2,057.30
- - 400.23

Average Attendance in June: 43

June Pledge Report

Pledged Paid Difference
$1,466 $1,212 -$253

2011-2012 Fiscal Year

Pledged Paid Difference
$18,724 $18,472 -$252

2012-2013 Pledges Received
- 15 Units 20 Members $15,720

End of Fiscal Year (July 2011 - June 2012)
Financial Report

Revenue
Collection
- Offering $7,758.65
- Pledges 18,717.05

Total 26,475.70

Other Fund Raising Projects
- 3,006.00
Store Sales 154.35
Huruma Foundation (Kenya Coins) 761.55
Other Revenue 315.50

Total Contributions 30,713.10

Expenses
- Association Dues 3,840.00
- Charity Expenses 2,004.00
- Church/Grounds Maintenance (Roof/Shed) 19,300.44
- Education Expenses 37.30
- Insurance 1,854.00
- Office Expenses 1,347.00
- Professional Fees 4,355.00
- Publicity/Bulletin 37.50
- Telephone/Internet 831.26
- Utilities 2,329.91
- Worship Expenses (Speakers/Musicians) 9,499.36
- Youth Supplies 14.40
- Bank Service Charge 45.00

Total Operating Expenses 45,495.64

Total Net Revenue - All Funds - 14,782.54

Transfer from Savings (for Roof/Shed) 16,174.00
(Approved by Board Action)

Total for Fiscal Year after savings transfer + 1,391.46

Monthly and Fiscal Year financial reports are from Treasurer Chuck Rhodes. Please see Chuck is you have any questions. The Pledge report is done by Pledge Chair Mike Garber.
At the Whole Church worship for Earth Day, the children's religion class led us in song. Quinn Bartsch read the opening words. Melanie Seaman read "The Lorax" for the children's moment.

On our Flower Ceremony day, the Easter Bunny showed up (Ann Kilgore with real rabbit) and Eric Sargent (with Teasha) rounded up the kids for an old fashion Easter Egg hunt.
Camping, swimming and a church cookout at Kokosing Lake and Campground. We missed getting a picture of Adam and Teresa with Ben and Lilly and Bryan with the boys, Quinn & Cole.

That's our newest member, Karen Gotter, with Lydia and Daniel's baby, Louis.
Taking Pictures With Dinosaurs

Here's the proof they are looking for at the Creation Museum that man and dinosaurs live together. (Hopefully you read that sentence with all the sarcasm intended).

Sorry, I have to crush you!

Don’t look behind you!

Run, Ben! Standing still is not working!

He looks friendly. See if you can scratch his nose.
An Evening with Occidental Gypsy  
Thursday, July 12, 2012  7:30 pm  at All Souls  
Tickets $12 advance / $15 at the door

The name Occidental Gypsy (Western gypsy) embodies the concept behind Gypsy Pop. The group has taken the Gypsy sound that originated in Eastern Europe and brought it Over Here to blend it seamlessly with contemporary American music. Interestingly, Gypsy Swing was created by taking American Jazz to the East and blending it with the Gypsy Folk tradition. Now almost a century later Occidental Gypsy is bringing the music back home.

Occidental Gypsy is pioneering the sound of Gypsy Pop. Their mélange of uptempo, high-energy rhythms of Gypsy, melded with the catchy melodic hooks of Pop delivers a thrilling auditory experience to listeners.

Occidental Gypsy was originally formed by brothers Brett (lead guitar) and Jeff Feldman (bassist) as a straight-ahead Gypsy Jazz Quartet. Through the release of Over Here and the addition of new members, the band has taken on a far more diverse, sophisticated, and eclectic sound. The group is fronted by Berklee trained singer and rhythm guitarist Scott (“Scottie”) Kulman, and supported by two Berklee students: violinist Jakub Trasak from the Czech Republic, and percussionist Francisco Vielma from Venezuela. The circumstances that brought this ensemble together are far from ordinary. Brett and Scottie serendipitously met on a park bench. Scott’s grandmother had approached the guitar-slinging Brett at the same park bench months earlier, speaking highly of her grandson’s musical talent. Scottie introduced Francisco and Jakub to the band.

An Occidental Gypsy performance includes so much more than just music. Scottie, Jakub, Brett, Jeff, and Francisco are incredibly energetic and charming entertainers who interact with fans on a personal level, and incorporate audience participation into every show. On stage, the dialog between band members is never less than entertaining, especially between the quick-witted Scottie and Brett who playfully tease one another to no end.

Live, the band compliments original material with expertly arranged gypsified covers. Occidental Gypsy’s unique approach to pop, jazz, and dance music stems from the influence of Gypsy Swing founders, Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli. The members of the group possess a deep knowledge and reverence for the Gypsy style and feel honored to bring their music to the ears of new audiences. And now, with an ever-growing list of performances, and presence online through website and social networking pages, Occidental Gypsy’s fan base is constantly expanding.

---editor’s note: I had planned to be there to help but my daughter is getting married! ---
Notes from the Ohio-Meadville District

Summer Spirituality Conference
Looking for a way to develop and deepen your spiritual exploration? Join UUs from the region at the Summer Spirituality Conference July 29-August 1, 2012 at Notre Dame Retreat House overlooking Canandaigua Lake in New York. Learn more at:

Are you interested in Leadership Development?
The Central East Regional Group is looking for a few leaders who would like to be trained to be facilitators of the Harvest the Power curricula. Facilitators would train congregational representatives to lead the program. The training will take place August 17-19, 2012. For details on the application process and to learn more about the Harvest the Power curricula, please visit:

Leadership Day 2012
All congregational leaders - staff, committee chairs, board members and more - are invited to join the OMD for our annual Leadership Day on Saturday, October 13, 2012 at First Unitarian Church of Cleveland in Shaker Heights, OH. Details on registration and program will be available later this summer. Mark your calendars now!

The Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

• The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
• Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
• Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
• A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
• The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
• The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
• Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.