



PULSE e-Bulletin

PROMOTING UNITARIANISM IN
LONDON & THE SOUTH-EAST

JANUARY 2010

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*"The future
always arrives a
little before you
are ready to give
up the present"
author unknown*

Happy New Year and welcome to our new-look PULSE e-Bulletin. My name is Stella Eve, I'm a member of the Horsham congregation and I've taken over from Paul Rees as editor. I'd love to hear from you about what you think of the new format and any suggestions on the type of content that would be useful. Please email me at stella@frankeveconsulting.co.uk



District Minister
Rev David Usher

Guardian Columnist to be Guest Speaker

The District is delighted to announce that the noted Guardian columnist, Madeleine Bunting, will be the Guest Speaker at the District Winter Quarterly Meeting on Saturday, 23rd January Essex Hall, 1 - 6 Essex St, London WC2R 3HY. She will speak about the new

atheism and its antipathy towards religious belief which precludes intelligent and interesting conversations about god, faith and the legitimate role of the church. Her talk will allow time for questions and discussion. The service will be led by the District Minister, Rev. David

Usher, and will feature the fine tenor voice of Matthew Smith, former General Secretary Information Officer and now a member at Newington Green. The programme will start at 1.30pm and refreshments will be provided.

Brighton congregation appoints Lay Leader

The Brighton congregation has formally appointed one of its own members, Jef Jones, as Lay Leader. Jef has been an active member of the congregation for

several years, leading services there and for other congregations within the District, and attended the first Course in Congregational Leadership. He is also a member of

District Council. Jef's appointment will be on a 0.4 time basis. Jef's other work is in the field of sexual health in the city of London.



Andy Pakula will celebrate the formal commencement of his ministry on 16th January

Islington/Newington Green celebrates start of new ministry

On January 16th the combined Islington/Newington Green congregation will celebrate the formal commencement of the ministry of Rev. Dr. Andrew Pakula. Andy has been student minister with the congregation for the past two years, during which time it has enjoyed remarkable growth in mem-

bership, attendance, programme and public profile, and it looks forward to its continuing prosperity. The service will be held at Newington Green Church at 2.00pm with special music, and then the congregation is invited to progress (weather permitting) to the Islington Church for the reception. There will

be a host of ministers participating in the service - Rev. Linda Hart, Rev. Peter Hewis, Rev. Ant Howe, Rev. John Midgley, Rev. Jim Robinson, Rev. Sarah Tinker and Rev. David Usher as well as numerous local dignitaries and leaders.

Yoga Retreat to be held at Southend



The District is sponsoring a Yoga Retreat for the weekend of February 5 - 7, 2010, to be held at Southend Unitarian Church. Gary Leggett, a member of the Southend congregation, is a highly qualified and experienced yoga teacher, and he has generously

offered to lead the Retreat for yoga practitioners of all levels. Very favourable rates have been procured at a nearby hotel, and in addition to yoga there will be opportunities for free time, worship, socialising, and exploring the town. The Retreat is being promoted not

only within the District but throughout the denomination, and also amongst the local yoga community of Southend and environs. Contact David Usher now to reserve your place or use the reservation form that was sent through with this bulletin



Valentine Talent on Show

Unitarian congregations in North and West London are coming together for an evening of home-grown entertainment - a Talent Show with a Valentine's theme. There are many ways in which you can participate.

Be a star. The organisers are looking for

songs, skits and poetry (3 minutes maximum) with a Valentine theme. Spaces are limited. Contact Kate Buchanan by 15 January. Kateboo@gmail.com or 07870 322519.

Be a volunteer. Organisers are also looking for volunteers to help set up and run the bar.

If you are interested, please contact Margaret Perry. Margaretperry14@hotmail.com or 020 7284 0790.

Be a fan. Put the date in your diary and come along. Previous Talent Shows have been great successes. Money raised will be for various Unitarian causes.

Susie Orbach is 2010 Richard Price Lecturer

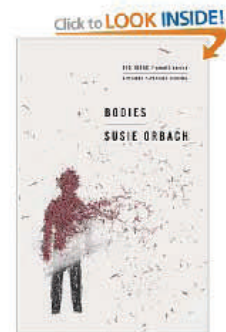
The 2010 Richard Price Memorial lecturer is [Susie Orbach](#), psychotherapist, psychoanalyst, writer and social critic. Susie's first book, published in 1976, was *Fat is a Feminist Issue*, and she was a co-founder of the The Women's Therapy Centre. For ten years she had a

regular column in the Guardian newspaper on emotions in public and private life. She is an ideal person to give the lecture, given our celebration this year of Mary Wollstonecraft's 250th anniversary. Susie's latest book, [BODIES](#), offers a critique of the beauty, diet, style and phar-

maceutical industries as well as current thinking on the 'obesity' crisis.

Date/Time/Place:
Wednesday 27 January 2010, at 7.30 pm at Newington Green Unitarian Church N16 9PR

Tickets: £15 (£10 concessions). [Click here to purchase tickets on Ticketweb.](#)



Susie's new book *Bodies*

New Congregational Leadership Course starts January

The successful Course in Congregational Leadership will again be offered this winter. The four session course is offered to anyone wanting to assume a more active leadership role in congregational life.

Please inform David Usher of your interest as soon as possible. It is preferable for par-

ticipants to attend all four sessions, but part-attendance is also possible

The four sessions are:

January 30 Worship, led by Rev. David Usher at Hampstead

February 20 Rites of Passage, led by Rev. Jane Barton at Brighton

March 13 Leading Small Groups, led by Rev. Jim Robinson at Sevenoaks

March 27 Building Community, led by Rev. Art Lester at Horsham

*"Going to church doesn't make you religious any more than standing in a garage makes you a car."
anonymous*

Unitarians go to the Theatre

David Usher has ten tickets to see *The Power of Yes* at the Lyttelton Theatre, South Bank at 7.30pm on Monday 15th February. These tickets cost just £10, and are

available to PULSE Unitarians on a first come, first served basis. *The Power of Yes* is a powerful dramatisation of the recent banking crisis and has received very strong

reviews. Please contact the David Usher for your tickets, and send him a cheque payable to him.



The Power of Yes by David Hare

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Unitarianism is a liberal religious faith

Unitarians are religious people, heirs to a historical tradition of over 400 years, who recognize and seek wisdom in all the world's great religious, philosophical, and artistic traditions.

Unitarian congregations offer weekly worship services that draw upon the breadth of these great sources of inspiration.

Unitarians believe that each individual is on their own spiritual journey, but that together we can journey toward wholeness.

The LDPA (Pulse) serves the 28 Unitarian congregations in Southeast England, including 9 congregations in London. For more information please go to www.ldpa.org.uk or www.unitarian.org.uk

*"I have an almost complete disregard of precedent and a faith in the possibility of something better. It irritates me to be told how things always have been done... I defy the tyranny of precedent! I cannot afford the luxury of a closed mind. I go for anything new that might improve the past."
Clara Barton*

IMPULSE goes virtual

To save money, and to ensure as wide a readership as possible, the District Quarterly newsletter, IMPULSE, will be distributed in a variety of ways. It is available on the District website: www.ldpa.org.uk.

It will be emailed to everyone whose email address we directly have. (If you receive the monthly eBulletin, we have your email address. If you don't, we don't. Please let the District Minister know

your email address so you can be included on the mailing list.)

It will be emailed to Church Secretaries, who will be asked to forward it to those within their own congregation who are on their own email address list. And some hard copies will be posted to all congregations for collection by those who either do not have email or prefer to receive their District newsletter in that form. But please be

aware that printing and postage are the major costs in producing IMPULSE, and distributing it primarily by email will save the District more than a thousand pounds per year. Money which can then be put to good use in other ways.

