

PULSE e-Bulletin

Promoting Unitarianism in London & the South-East



MARCH 2011

District Administrator:

Stella Eve
stella@frankeveconsulting.co.uk
6 Elgar Way, Horsham,
West Sussex, RH13 6RH
01403 269964

District Minister:

Rev. David Usher
davidusher@dpa.org.uk
(01732) 455143 or
07905 158372
10 Bradbourne Road,
Sevenoaks, Kent TN13
3PY:

Website:

www.ukunitarians.org.uk/pulse



District Minister
Rev David Usher

Dear Friends,

Three years ago, the District set itself the task of achieving six goals in five years. One of those goals was to increase the numbers of Unitarians in the District by 50%. We started with a base membership of 636, which has now increased to 716, a net increase of 80 or 12.5%. The target number for the AGM in 2013 is 954, which will require a further 33% increase on our present number. Although numerical growth is a District goal, it is dependent on congregations to make it happen. Rev. Jane Dwinell, who visited the district two years ago, articulated five main points which ALL congregations, no matter their present size, should aspire to and which, if done, will ensure good health and growth. They were:

- 1. Ensure that everything is of good quality – worship, music, literature.*
- 2. Always assume that there might be someone present for the first time. Never use “insider” language.*
- 3. Make sure your systems are healthy and appropriate. Do not tolerate bad behaviours.*
- 4. Have a vision of the size you want to be. If you currently have ten members, what would it require to grow to fifteen?*
- 5. Have a mission beyond yourself, a social justice programme with which the congregation can be closely associated.*

These five things are simple, achievable and good practice for our congregations.

See you in church!

David

District Annual Meeting 19th March

This will be held at Essex Church, Kensington, on Saturday 19th March, starting at 1.30pm with a service led by several ministers active in the District. The programme will feature a screening of the video made of the Light the Fire weekend held in January.

There will be some vacancies on the District Council due to some people standing down after giving many years of excellent service, so please consider allowing yourself to be

nominated. All nominees must have the endorsement of their congregations. The Constitution requires that congregations outside the M25 be adequately represented, so that is a particular need. Council meets in the early evening every two months, on a day to suit members. Congregations are asked to send brief reports about their year and send to the District Secretary, Michael Allured, in advance of the Annual Meeting.

World Sacred Music Festival



Latif Bolat presents Sufi music from Turkey on Sunday 13th March



Indian Kathak dance - 'ONE' on Saturday 2nd April

Brighton's unique World Sacred Music Festival has been bringing people of all beliefs and cultures together through music since 2004.

Their mission is "to promote understanding across boundaries of religion, ethnicity, language and nation by providing opportunities to experience moments of genuine transformation through sacred music and arts".

They support and promote local musicians and also bring international artists from all over the world to the UK. They aim to inspire and entertain as well as to inform and challenge, and take workshops and performances into local schools and prisons.

You can find out more at www.worldsacredmusic.org

Sunday 13 March 7.30pm Latif Bolat Sufi music from Turkey

Turkish singer, composer and Sufi scholar Latif Bolat delighted audi-

ences at the 2008 festival. Now he returns to Brighton to take you on a unique journey through Turkey's mystical landscape, brought to life with music, words and images.

Venue: 7.30pm, Brighton Unitarian Church, New Road, Brighton BN1 1UF. Plus pre-concert talk: 6.45pm

Tickets £10 (concs £8) available in advance [online](#)

Saturday 2 April 7.30pm Indian Kathak dance - 'ONE'

'One' incorporates the magic of Kathak using ancient and classical dance vocabulary together with contemporary global influences. Amina and her ensemble of highly respected musicians will use costume, body, space and music to take you on a memorable journey towards oneness with the divine.

Venue: 7.30pm, Sallis Benney Theatre, Grand Parade, Brighton
Tickets £12 (concs £9) available in advance [online](#)

EUU Spring Retreat in Spa, Belgium.

This Spring's theme will be A Humanist's View of Spirituality PATHS TO UNDERSTANDING presented by The Rev. Dr. Walt Wieder.

The Kaiserslautern UU Fellowship is hosting this event which will be a fun-filled, thought-provoking, inspiring weekend retreat with EUU members and friends from around the world.

Saturday afternoon's workshops are a perfect way for you to share with or learn from other retreat participants.

EUU provides a number of partial or

even full grants, as do some fellowships. Please contact Peter Jarrett at Treasurer@europeanuu.eu to inquire about assistance. For those in a position to support this program, you will find a box on the registration form to indicate your donation amount.

Register: www.europeanuu.eu/registration/2011_spring_spa/

More information: www.europeanuu.eu/retreats/spring-2011-retreat1

New District Administrator

After being in the post for a year, Stella Eve has indicated that she intends to resign as District Administrator due to the pressure of her other work commitments. Stella has done a superb job as Administrator, particularly in her work with IMPULSE and this monthly eBulletin, and we are very sorry that she feels the need to resign. We thank her most warmly for her competence, enthusiasm and unfailing good humour. She has kindly agreed to stay in the post until her successor can be appointed.

A new District Administrator is required to work an average of ten hours per week. Duties and skills include computer literacy, particularly

familiarity with desktop publishing, a knowledge of Unitarianism in the District and the ability to work at home and be largely self motivated.

Please apply to the District Minister, Rev. David Usher, no later than 8th March.



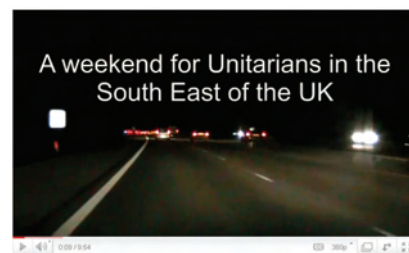
The Rev Jeff Gould addressing the workshop at Hampstead.
(Photo: Jim Corrigan)

Video of Light the fire weekend

Part of the programme for the Light the Fire Weekend was the making of a video of the event. This ten minute video is now available on

the internet at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UAL3gGR7ViY>.

It is well worth a viewing!



Pastoral Leaders Group

This will hold its next meeting, re-scheduled from February, on Thursday 3rd March at Essex Hall. The participants in the Light the Fire

Weekend will reflect on and share their experience of that event, and what longer term applications there might be from it.

GA Annual Meetings

Don't forget to register for these, to be held at Swansea University, 15 – 18 April. All congregations are entitled to send voting delegates, the number depending on the size of congregation, but non-voting visitors are also most welcome. Congregational Secretaries have been sent registration form.

“The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between parties either – but right through every human heart – through all human hearts.”

Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Journey to Compassion Retreat



Global Retreat Centre,
near Oxford

World Congress of Faiths, International Association of Religious Freedom and The Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University are extending an invitation to join them on a 'Journey to Compassion' at the Global Retreat Centre, near Oxford 8-10 March 2011.

During this time of reflection there will be sessions on:

- Compassion, inspired by the Charter of Compassion (Tuesday 4.30 p.m.)
- Forgiveness (Wednesday morning)
- The Inner Journey (Wednesday 4.30 p.m.)
- 'A Heart for the World' - How do we show greater compassion in our life and in our work? (Thursday Morning).

There will also be times for personal conversation, meditation and quietness as well as opportunities to enjoy the beautiful grounds of the Global Retreat Centre.

'Journey to Compassion' will be held at the Global Retreat Centre, Nuneham Park, Nuneham Courtenay, Oxon OX44 9PG. Arrivals are from 3.00pm on Tuesday 8th March with departures after lunch on Thursday 10th March. The Global Retreat Centre generously offers hospitality but your donations will be greatly appreciated. All meals are strictly vegetarian

Please reply to Georgina Long at email_interfaith@uk.bkwsu.org if you would like to attend and they will then send you the registration information, places are limited so an early response is recommended.

Spring visit to the National Gallery!

Saturday 12th March 2011

'Lent' is the theme, looking at paintings reflecting this.

Guides will be: Maja Langford (of Hampstead Unitarians) who will place the paintings in their art historical context, and Jim Corrigan (of Golders Green Unitarians) will look at the spiritual aspect (with help from David Morgan).

Meet at 11.00 am in the main entrance hall of the Gallery (via Trafalgar Square entrance).

ALL WELCOME!

Organised by: the London District Liberal Christian Affinity Group.
(Further information: Jim Corrigan on 020 8361 1843).

New Group to start at Godalming

The Meadow congregation which meets at Godalming is starting a Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life Reading Group. Using Karen Armstrong's new book, they will be exploring the meaning, cultivation, and practice of compassion in our everyday lives.

Date: Twelve monthly meetings starting in March 2011

Place: Godalming Unitarian Chapel, Meadow, Godalming

www.unitariangodalming.org.uk

Contact: [Louise @ louise.baumberg@googlemail.com](mailto:louise.baumberg@googlemail.com)
or Sheena on 01483 427204

“Dear Scheherazade...” Elizabeth Gaskell in her own words

Understand why Charles Dickens called Mrs Elizabeth Gaskell (1810–1865) his “Dear Scheherazade” on Thursday 24 March & Friday 25 March 2011 at DR WILLIAMS’S LIBRARY, 14 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0AR Tel: 020 7387 3727

For the first time the Lecture Hall will be the venue for two nights of theatre devoted to the novelist behind Cranford and North and South. In this unique setting, Gabrielle Drake’s one-woman show portrays Mrs Gaskell using extracts from the author’s novels, short stories and letters.

This intimate performance will capture Mrs Gaskell balancing a literary career with the responsibilities of being the wife of one of Manchester’s leading Unitarian ministers.

Mrs Gaskell will be shown in all her variety- as novelist, mother, biographer, hostess, traveller and correspondent.

Booking forms can be downloaded at <http://www.dwlib.co.uk/dwlib/friends/Gaskellinvite.pdf> Tickets are £17.50 each (including interval wine, juice and snacks) and must be paid for in advance. Tickets are non-refundable and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. All bookings will be acknowledged. Friends of Dr Williams’s Library were posted out details of this event last week and bookings have been arriving steadily ever since. Please book early to avoid disappointment.



Dr Williams Library

Concert at Golders Green

Saturday, 26th March 3pm

Golders Green Unitarians invite you to a performance by Gerard Brooks, professor of organ at the Royal Academy of Music and Director of Music at Methodist Central Hall Westminster.

Tickets: £10 including light refreshments. All proceeds to the GGU listed organ fund

Venue: Golders Green Unitarian Church 31.1/2 Hoop Lane, Golders Green, London, NW11 8BS The church has disabled access nr station, Golders Green on the Northern line. For more information go to <http://www.ggu.org.uk/concerts.html>

KESUU Spring Meeting

Saturday May 7th 2011

Hosted by Tenterden Unitarian Church

Service from 11.15 am to Noon
Lead by the Reverend Ashley Hills.

Lunch from Noon to 1 pm

Please bring your own lunch, tea and coffee will be provided.

1 pm to 2.30 pm - Meeting of KESUU

To discuss the onward progression or winding up of KESUU.

From 3pm David Embry kindly invites us to his wonderful home to view the flowers and animals at Lyndhurst Farm, High Halden.

Wedding Fair opportunity 20th March—volunteers needed



Following the recent Wedding Fair at Westgate Chapel, Lewes, the Rev. Andie Camper is organising a Unitarian stand at the Biggest Sussex Wedding Fair, to be held in the halls of Brighton Race Course, Freshfield Road, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 9XZ. The district is keen to promote Unitarian rites of passage and so have sponsored this stand. Andie Camper is looking for volunteers to help on the stand, distributing the excellent leaflets provided by Essex Hall. There will also be pictures of LDPA churches and wedding photographs running as a slide show. Most people have never heard of Unitarians and have no knowledge of how we differ from other Churches, so this is an excellent opportunity to raise people's awareness and encourage people to

have a wedding in one of our splendid Chapels and Churches. Congregations from in the south of the District which are most likely to benefit due to their location include Brighton, Hastings, Ditchling, Lewes, Horsham, Godalming and Billingshurst.

People often join our congregations following their wedding/blessings and having discovered why we are Unitarians.

Can you help? The event runs from 11am until 4pm, and volunteers are needed. Also can people please send by email pictures of their chapels/churches and weddings to be displayed.

Contact Rev. Andie Camper andie-camper@gmail.com or phone 07956581837



International Service and Dinner Sunday, 27th March

A Service and Dinner to celebrate the great diversity of national and cultural influences within Unitarianism in London will be held at Essex Church, 112 Palace Gardens Terrace W8 4RT on Sunday, 27th March. The Service will begin at 5.00pm, and will include readings and music from around the world.

Dinner will follow. Please bring a dish to share, preferably one which is indigenous to your national identity. All are cordially invited, but particularly if you have an international element to your identity. It would be helpful if you could RSVP to the District Minister beforehand, to help with planning.

Watch the Documentary Film 'Starsuckers' at New Unity 1st April

Starsuckers is a feature documentary about the celebrity obsessed media. It uncovers the real reasons behind our addiction to fame and blows the lid on the corporations and individuals who profit from it. Director Chris Atkins, BAFTA nominated for his other film 'Taking Lib-

erties', will be in attendance to answer questions after the film showing. For more information go to <http://www.ukunitarians.org.uk/pulse/events-events.shtml> or contact Amy Shannon @ amy.unity@gmail.com

PULSE e-Bulletin

Promoting Unitarianism in London & the South-East



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.ukunitarians.org.uk/pulse or www.unitarian.org.uk

Calendar

March

Thursday 3—1.00pm Pastoral Leaders Group, Essex Hall

Saturday 12— 11.00 Spring visit to the National Gallery meeting at main entrance

Monday 14—6.00pm District Council, Essex Hall

Saturday 19—1.30pm District Annual Meeting Essex Church, Kensington

Sunday 20—Wedding Fair Brighton Race Course contact Rev. Andie Camper for more details

Monday 21—Deadline for April – June issue of IMPULSE

Saturday 26— 3.00pm Concert by Gerard Brooks, Golders Green

Sunday 27—5.00pm International Service & Dinner Essex Church



To subscribe to the e-bulletin, email pulse@frankeveconsulting.co.uk with the word 'subscribe' in the subject line. Requests to unsubscribe can be sent to the same address. Contributions are welcome "We Unitarians value the freedom of thought, to explore and understand faith from each individual's perspective. Therefore every word spoken and written ultimately reflects the thoughts and beliefs of the person speaking or writing. We welcome your responses in the spirit of mindful discussion and debate."