



# New Garden Community Church

## Unitarian Universalist - a labor-peace church

312-405-9470 ♦ [minister@NewGardenUU.org](mailto:minister@NewGardenUU.org) ♦ [www.NewGardenUU.org](http://www.NewGardenUU.org)  
meeting at 6pm, UE (United Electrical workers), 37 S. Ashland, Chicago

March 22, 2007

*"Love for the Earth, Justice for the People"*

### Calendar:

**THIS SUNDAY, March 25, 6pm –**  
**RECLAIMING DEMOCRACY**

Mary Zepernik, from the progressive thinktank **Program on Corporations, Law and Democracy** (POCLAD), speaks on rising democracy movements reclaiming rights stolen by corporations over the past 100 years.

- **Sunday, April 1, 6pm** – film, end of the non-violence series: **"A Force More Powerful"** – 100 years of nonviolent direct action.

**Spirituality Book Discussion Group**  
**Tuesday, April 3, 6-8pm** – Read the chapter on Mysticism in William James classic *Varieties of Religious Experience*. Meet at the back table, Westgate Coffeehouse, 924 W. Madison. Y'all come!

- **Sunday, April 8, 6pm** – We celebrate Easter and Passover with our UU seder – bring food! Celebrate!
- **Tuesday, April 10 and 24, 7pm** - Nonviolent Communication (**NVC**) practice continues. If you want to learn to cool your hot temper or stiffen your spine, phone Jean for info: 312-405-9470.
- **Sunday, April 15, 6pm** – Larry Kotula speaks on his idea of "The Sustainable City."

### Dancing Peace

Tuesday evening some 5000 people gathered in Chicago and walked down Michigan Avenue to Daley Plaza to protest the continuation of the Iraq war. The media, sensing the turning tide, I suppose, covered the action better than usual.

The event included some stirring speeches, a little chanting, a little singing, a few bullhorns, lots of signs – the best were the home-made ones with their more pungent or quirky messages:

"War makes us go to pieces – doesn't lead to peace"

Some signs of hope, for me:

At peace vigils, usually led by religious folks, there are always candles and singing. At peace marches, usually led by secular folks, there are signs and chants. At this gathering, I saw candles for the first time – a sign that the two movements are starting to come together!

There were Latinos, chanting in Spanish and handing out fliers for April 13 & 14<sup>th</sup> events to get better pay from McDonald's for Immokalee FL tomato workers – a coming together of the immigration rights people and the peace people

And my favorite part of the march – the All-American Anti-War Marching Band and Flag Corps, a bunch of artists and musicians and all-around free spirits twirling their odd flags and playing non-military music, more like a New Orleans funeral than a marching band. They were dressed in pink fright wigs, striped tights, painted faces, and tall sparkly Uncle Sam hats. Is this finally a coming together of overly-serious radicals, and the artists we need to make this movement more real?

One of them told me they got some dirty looks from some of the marchers. But if you ask me, this marching band is the direction we need to go – more art, more music, more fun! in our very serious effort to make the world a better place.

There have been two very instructive articles in *In These Times* the past two months. In February, an excerpt of Stephen Duncombe's book *Dream: Re-imagining Progressive Politics in an Age of*

*Fantasy*, and in March, Zack Exley's article, "What Lessons Can Progressives Learn from Evangelicals?" Both articles have something to offer those of us who have been casting about for a new way to "do" what we care most about, when we can see that the old ways are not effective or satisfying.

Duncombe says that we should look to the geniuses of advertising to begin attaching specific ideas to our dreams in an associational way – not a "rational" way. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a master at doing that. People are full of dreams of a better life. We have done a miserable job of

connecting our ideas to those dreams, even though that is precisely what we hope to achieve.

Duncombe says that "protests should literally demonstrate the ideal that you want to actualize." To me the marching band, with its free spirit, its anti-authoritarian messages, its joy, does just that. Let's have a lot more rejoicing in our efforts to make a world we want to live in – after all, the way we live now is the way we will live "then."

peace, Jean

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