



# 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

April 19, 2007

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

### Calendar:

#### **SATURDAY, April 21, 9-noon:**

Neighborhood green space **Spruce Up** day, corner of Ogden and Ashland. Bring garden gloves and garbage bags, garden tools, seeds and bulbs to plant, for "guerrilla" gardening. Call Jean if you want to help: 312-405-9470.

- **Sunday, April 22, 6pm** – to celebrate **Earth Day**, as part of the service we show "**A Quiet Revolution**," a 30 min. documentary of Nobel Peace prize winner Wangari Maathai, whose group planted millions of trees in Kenya, and spurred economic empowerment for local people.
- **Sunday, April 29, 6pm** – a **Fifth Sunday** - A comedy film and improv sandwich: "**West Bank Story**" - a musical comedy take off of "West Side Story" (Romeo & Juliet)... Some **improv games** from our resident improv talent Ron Kroll... Then a bit of the documentary "**The Yes Men**," who impersonated the WTO and got away with it.
- **Sunday, May 6, 6pm** – "**Another World is Possible**" - Rev. Jean Darling speaks about her trip to Mexico City and Cuernavaca to witness NAFTA effects firsthand and meet some of the people who have taken this economic lemon and made lemonade.

#### **Spirituality Book Discussion Group**

**Tuesday, May 8, 6:30-8pm** – We'll revisit the chapter on Mysticism in William James classic *Varieties of Religious Experience*. Meet at the back table, Westgate Coffeehouse, 924 W. Madison. Phone 312-405-9470.

- **Sunday, May 13, 6pm** – The "**First Person**" series continues with **David Karcher** talking

about his spiritual journey, starting with his Prussian grandfather who ran away from the military to start anew in America.

All services followed by potluck supper and conversation.

### What Democracy Looks Like

I hope you've caught some of the powerful PBS Frontline series this week "America at a Crossroads," about terrorism and the war in Iraq. I was amazed by "The Case for War," the program showing the views of Richard Perle, who some call the architect of the war in Iraq. Perle is an old-style anti-Communist liberal (I hesitate to use that word for him), who has his head in the clouds – some people would say somewhere else.

To my surprise I realized that he's a utopian – meaning that he believes in some wonderful eschatological future ("democracy"), in which all evil will have been conquered and we will live in paradise. Sound good? The catch is that he believes we should do whatever it takes to get there. It's frightening – that a man of obvious good will would have such certainty about the use of force to create his dream.

Instead, I'd rather work on making paradise right now. What we do *now* is the future we are creating. You want peace? Be peaceful, help others find peace. You want war? Make weapons, arm everyone in sight, act belligerent. It sounds simplistic, but it's just the extension of the Golden Rule. It may be simple, but it ain't easy.

A more hope-filled event was the celebration last Friday that the Coalition of Immokalee Workers held after McDonalds signed an agreement with them that will increase tomato pickers' wages, give



*Giant puppets depicting justice and dignity, and activist tomatoes pursuing Burger King, who holds fistfuls of money.*

farm workers a voice and establish zero tolerance for wage theft, beatings and other abuse.

In a recent talk I had mentioned the tomato workers, and a gentleman came up afterwards to ask how much they made in an hour. "I bet they make more than me – I bet they make \$15 an hour." He had calculated in his head that you could pick one tomato a second, and a tomato weighs about a pound, right?

I told him that he should check their website for the facts, but I didn't think they made more than about \$60 a day – a long day.

I've since found out that the average worker can pick 125 (32 lb.) buckets of tomatoes in a workday (that's two tons of tomatoes, y'all), and is paid 40 to 45 cents for each one. At 40 cents a bucket, That's 1.25 cents a pound – \$0.0125/lb. Their raise puts them up to \$0.0225/lb, or 72 cents a bucket. At that rate, daily wages go from \$50 a day, to \$90, something approaching a living wage.

I wish I had asked the man about his sense of his own deprivation – he was angry at not being paid

what he thought he was worth, obviously, and resentful that a movement would be asking him to help other people, when he needed some help and understanding for himself.

One of the speakers at the Friday celebration pointed out that the two jobs of slaves in former times were house servant and field hand – two jobs that have been excluded from the Nat'l Labor Relations Act, so that these workers are denied collective bargaining rights, minimum wages, and all the other protections of the NLRA. Dolores Huerta, widow of Cesar Chavez and organizer in her own right, said, looking at the crowd of nearly 1000 people from all over the East and Midwest, "This is the new Civil Rights Movement!"

I hope that we can see ourselves as allies – that holding another person back is not how to improve our own working conditions. I hope we can withhold our judgment of another person's ease or difficulty until we've walked in their shoes.

peace, Jean

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Rev. Jean Darling  
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