

# Roslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel



## Bulletin

**FEBRUARY 2010**



This is a Unitarian Chapel. Our religion is a spiritual journey and each one of us is an explorer. Reason is our map and conscience is our compass. Loving kindness is our way in the world.

**Services:**

**Morning Service: Sunday at 11:00 a.m.**

**Evening Service: Sunday at 7:00 p.m.**

Children's Chapel: We begin together as one community. Following a special story for the children, they then leave for their own activities in the hall. (11.00 a.m. service only.)

**Deadline for submissions for February Bulletin is**

**Monday 22 February 2010**

**[RHUCbulletin@yahoo.com](mailto:RHUCbulletin@yahoo.com)**

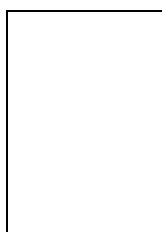
## FEBRUARY SERVICES

Every Sunday 11am and 7pm in the Chapel



### 7 February – “*The Still Small Voice of Conscience*”

Conscience is our moral sense of right and wrong. For almost everyone it rests quietly inside of us ready to guide us. But faced with the pressures of the world (both external demands and internal fear) we compromise our conscience. This service is about identifying and following the still, small voice of conscience.



### 14 February – “*When is Enough, Enough?*”

Bankers taking huge bonuses after tax payer have bailed them out ... Tiger Woods having everything a person could possibly want and still chasing after more sex ... Nations realizing the dangers of climate change yet rushing ahead with carbon obsessed life styles ... The personal bad habits we all continue even when they are damaging to self and others ... Why do we keep chasing after what does not make us happy? And what will make us happy?



### 21 February – “*Called to be Saints*”

The Unitarian tradition does not have formally recognized “Saints”. This is partly because we proclaim the “priesthood of all believers”, that is, everyone is a minister (in some form or way) and anyone can be a saint. Our guest preacher Reverend Ashley Hills will explore how this insight can be lived out in our daily lives. Ashley is a retired Unitarian Minister whose distinguished career has included serving six British Unitarian churches.



### 28 February – “*The Ethos of Rosslyn Hill Chapel*”

Since 1692, Rosslyn Hill Chapel has changed dramatically (as has the world around the chapel). But there is an ethos in the chapel community which has remained constant. It has to do with how we treat one another. It has to do with core affirmations we trust as we face the messiness of life. This service (preceding the Annual General Meeting of the Chapel) will explore our spiritual ethos.

## CHAPEL ACTIVITIES IN FEBRURY

**CHILDREN'S CHAPEL** meets every **Sunday** at the **11am service**. New children are always welcome.

**CHAPEL YOUTH GROUP** will meet again on **Friday 12 February 7.00pm** in the chapel, led by Jim Robinson.

**CHAPEL CHOIR** rehearses each **Wednesday evening at 7:30pm** in the chapel. New voices are always welcomed into the choir. No audition necessary.

**TAI CHI CLASS** is held each **Wednesday 5:45pm** in the chapel.

**CHANTING AND MEDITATION** evening will be held **Tuesday 2 February 7:30pm** in the chapel, led by Reverend Danielle Wilson.

**JESUS STUDY GROUP** will meet **Thursday 4 February 7:30pm** in the chapel. We will study Paul's two letters to the Corinthians. The evening will be led by Jim Corrigan and Jim Robinson.

**SPIRITUAL HEALING** will be offered on **Sunday 7 February 12:30 – 1:30**, in the chapel hall following the morning service. This is a gentle "laying on of hands" which affirms that Spirit can work through the hands and prayers of one person to help facilitate healing in another. This does not in any manner replace traditional or complementary medicine or counselling.

**SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE** meets on **Tuesday 9 February at 7.30pm**. For location of the meeting contact Leighton Cole who is the new chair of the committee.

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** meets on **Thursday 11 February at 7.30pm** in the chapel. Members of the chapel are welcome to attend but as a courtesy contact the chair Paul ver Bruggen.

**STITCH AND STORY GROUP** meets on **Thursday 11 February 20.00 – 22.00** at Georgina's home (Tel:8444 0655) and on **Wednesday 24 February 1.00-3.00 pm** at Ingrid's home (Tel: 8455 0162). This is a time to knit, crochet, or craft for charity and enjoy good conversation. Bring your own project or we will help you start one.

**LABYRINTH WALKING MEDITATION** will be offered on **Sunday 14 February, 2.00pm to 4.00pm**, in the chapel. Facilitated by Rev. Danielle Wilson.

**CHAPEL BOOK GROUP** will meet on **Thursday 18 February at 7:30pm**, at the Magdala Pub, South End Green, Hampstead. We will be discussing Nathaniel Hawthorne's famous American novel "*Scarlett Letter*". Please feel free to attend even if you have not read the book or have known it for many years. The issues raised in the book will elicit a lively discussion! And a strong argument can be made that Hawthorne was a Unitarian.

**CHAPEL POETRY GROUP** will meet on **Thursday 25 February 7.30pm** at Maja Langford (Tel: 020 7794 5124). Bring along a poem to share, written by yourself or a favourite author.

**URBAN UNITARIANS** (formerly the 20 or 30 something group) continues to meet for various activities throughout London. If you would like to know about their programme of events contact Kate at [kateboo@gmail.com](mailto:kateboo@gmail.com)

## CHAPEL LECTURE OF THE MONTH

When: **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 7.30pm**

Where: **In the Chapel**

Title: ***“Faith and Freedom: Writing About Religion”***

Speaker: **Michael Arditti** - novelist, short story writer, and critic. Having begun his career writing plays for the stage and radio, he was for many years a theatre critic for the Evening Standard and is currently a regular book reviewer for the Daily Mail, the Daily Telegraph and the Independent. His novels are *The Celibate* (1993), *Pagan and Her Parents* (1996), *Easter* (2000), *Unity* (2005), and *The Enemy of the Good* (2009). His short story collection *Good Clean Fun* was published in 2004.

## PUTTING CHRISTMAS TO BED

**MANY GRATEFUL THANKS** to the stalwart helpers who dismantled the Christmas decorations in the Chapel on Saturday and Sunday 2nd/3rd January: Jim Robinson, Ken Levy, Kathee Myers, Marie Haywood Segal, Ros Osmond and Hugo Harrabin. (Ann Finer)

Unitarian chapels in North and West London are coming together for an evening of home-grown entertainment -  
A talent show with the theme of love, romance and St Valentine.



Join us for a very special night of songs,  
poetry and musical interludes.

**Help us raise funds for Unitarian causes!**

**Tickets: £6 (includes light refreshments)**  
For ticket information contact Kate: [kateboo@gmail.com](mailto:kateboo@gmail.com)



## NEWS FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Any member of the Chapel is welcome to attend the Management Committee (MC) meetings as an observer. The next meeting will be on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010, 7.30 pm.

### Management Committee Meeting Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2010 Paul ver Bruggen Chair

**Willoughby Road Project** The application for planning permission for the site has now been registered with Camden Council. There should be a decision on 29<sup>th</sup> January.

**Minister Search Committee** The closing date for applications from the UK has now passed. Danielle Wilson (Chair of the Search Committee) said some interest had been expressed. She reminded that MC that if no suitable UK applicant were found, the post would be advertised in the EU and then in the USA.

**Meet the Management Committee** Topics which might be discussed at these occasional gatherings after a Sunday Morning service, when a couple of members of the MC are available after the service to talk over some matter of importance to the Chapel were considered. A good number of people had stayed to talk about the Budget but there had been no take up of the opportunity to talk about the revised Code of Conduct after the service on 22<sup>nd</sup> November (at which the Code had been handed out.) It was noted that The Code of Conduct and also Guidelines for Conflict Resolution would be presented at the AGM.

**Car Park Clamping Notice** Some members of the Chapel have commented on the aggressive tone of the notice in the car park and note it is not clear when parking is allowed. This is unwelcoming for visitors to the Chapel. It was agreed a clear message was essential. Kathee Myers will look into alternatives and bring a revised notice to the MC for discussion.

**Minister's Report** Average attendance in 2009 was, for the Morning Service, 67 adults and 13 children, at the Evening Service, 18 adults.

Arrangements for the Transition period are in place as regards Sunday worship (morning, evening and Children's chapel) and Caring. Jim and Shirley Malin represent the Chapel on an Interfaith Group. Shirley will carry on with this.

Julie Williams Krishnan is moving to Boston and her place as chair of the Social Action committee has been taken by Leighton Cole.

**Administrator's Report** Sharron Conduit, our new Administrator, reported the following repairs: there was a new door the hall, the hall ceiling had been repaired and the sound system overhauled. A faulty speaker will be replaced.

It was agreed, regarding charges for the use of the chapel/hall for events, which fall outside the usual pricing categories, the Minister and the Administrator would work together to establish a hire rate for the specific occasion.

The RHUC AGM is on 28<sup>th</sup> February. It was noted that certain documents need to be circulated to the membership beforehand including the Agenda and a Notice regarding who needs to stand down from the Management Committee and who can stand for election. As Chair, Paul Ver Bruggen will generate these documents.

Jim thanked Sharron – to unanimous agreement - for the great job she was doing in her new role.

**Treasurer's Report** In Glen Kendal's absence, Paul asked for any questions about the quarterly accounts to be emailed to Glen. The Organ/Piano fund has been opened.

**Chair's Report** Following a recent inspection of the Academy School, Ofsted had issued a separate report about security arrangements, requiring measures to be put in place to prevent members of the public using Chapel grounds as a short cut. The MC discussed alternatives. John Lawrence offered to speak to Garth Evans, the head of the Academy School. John will draw up a proposal and circulate it to the MC for discussion.

**AOB** Jim said the state of the gravel, which Kathee Myers had pointed out was in need of attention, was being looked into. Jim will speak to the Head of the school following some complaints about cars being tampered with in the car park. Kathee wondered if the Contact list could be condensed into columns, to use less paper.

### From the Search Committee

We continue to meet fortnightly, on Sundays. We have received a few expressions of interest from possible U.K candidates and we are moving ahead with these, during the month of February. (**Margaret Perry**)

## OUR FAITH IN ACTION



**Haiti** - The entire Sunday collection on 17 January (morning and evening) - £501.56 - was given to the UK Disaster Emergency Committee for relief efforts in the country of Haiti.



[amnesty.org.uk](http://amnesty.org.uk)

- In January the Social Action Committee sponsored a letter-writing table after several services supporting prisoners of conscience through Amnesty International. 100+ number of letters were written and sent. Thank you to all those who participated.



**Stitch & Stories** – Seven packages containing dolls and blankets were sent to to KwaZulu Natal (South Africa), to Scotland (Loving Hands!) and to two Bulgarian Orphanages by Ingrid Tavkar on behalf of all the chapel knitters. Thank you once again to all the knitters who contributed to these projects.



Leighton Cole has now received a warm invitation from Rev. Mark Kiyimba to visit the Unitarian Universalist Church in Masaka, Uganda (along with the school and orphanage). This is the next step in our being partner churches (following Rev. Kiyimba's visit to us in the autumn).

### REPORT ON LECTURES SERIES IN 2009 AND PROPECTS FOR 2010

Rosslyn Hill's monthly lecture series has now been running since 2004. In 2009 speakers included Owen Bennett Jones, the veteran BBC World Service correspondent and presenter; Michael Goldfarb, formerly London Bureau Chief of US National Public Radio; Ozcan Keles, Director of the Dialogue Society; and Munisha, my Buddhist daughter! In addition we broke ground with a number of Question Time sessions in which politicians of all parties were able to meet the electorate away from election time.

Although I will continue to be personally involved with the lecture programme in 2010, my role will be more passive than up to now. James Chiriyankandath and I are now co-chairs of the lectures sub-committee, which has expanded in size with the addition of other new members. The next event will be a talk on Monday, February 1, by the well-known novelist, short story writer and critic, Michael Arditti on 'Faith and Fiction; Writing about Religion' This will be a joint event with the Hampstead Authors Society. We hope to arrange at least one Question Time session with politicians before the forthcoming General Election. The lectures subcommittee will next meet after the morning service on Sunday, 14th February, and anyone interested in contributing to future activities is very welcome to attend. **(Will Hopper)**



## Could you 'pitch' your faith?

***"It doesn't matter whether you're selling Jesus or **Buddha** or **civil rights** or 'How to Make Money in Real Estate With No Money Down'. That doesn't make you a human being; it makes you a marketing rep. If you want to talk to somebody honestly, as a human being, ask him about his kids. Find out what his dreams are – just to find out, for no other reason. Because as soon as you lay your hands on a conversation to steer it, it's not a conversation anymore; it's a pitch. And you're not a human being; you're a marketing rep."*** (The Big Kahuna- Roger Rueff 1999)

It is often said that Unitarians do not "do evangelism". On one hand it is an attraction of our sensible and humane liberal faith that we are not compelled to go out and proselytise in the streets. On the other hand, part of the purpose of our Urban Unitarian group is to make the case for growth and outreach in our movement. Whilst Rosslyn Hill is a thriving community, the message we hear from other unitarian congregations is that standing still is not an option. For this reason, General Assembly meetings now have a specific focus on Growth and Renewal. One of the initiatives that came out of the 2009 annual meeting was the idea of a "lift pitch" to take our message to our friends and colleagues.

The idea is as follows:

- Wear your "chalice logo" badge into work.
- If anyone is curious and asks what it is, come up with an articulate, one sentence reply that encapsulates what it means to you. It needs to be short enough to be able to communicate in a journey in an office lift – hence "lift pitch".

Examples include:

- "It is my personal guiding light that connects me to all other Unitarians in the world. A symbolic shared flame of light, love and hope for a better world".
- "The Chalice is the symbol of the worldwide Unitarian movement. It is our caring community holding and nurturing the living flame of our spiritual lives"

In the spirit of learning to articulate and share our deepest beliefs, the Urban Unitarians invite everyone to have a go at writing your "lift pitch".

If you forward them to [urbanunitarian@googlemail.com](mailto:urbanunitarian@googlemail.com) we will put them up on our weblog.

For more inspiration: [www.unitarian.org.uk/info/growth.shtml](http://www.unitarian.org.uk/info/growth.shtml).



## Events in Rosslyn Hill Chapel in October

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm - "Verdi and Friends"** - An evening of solos and duets with ELIZABETH CONNELL– soprano and JONATHAN BARRY – baritone. Extracts from La Traviata, Tosca, Macbeth and Simone Boccanegra. Tickets £15.00 at the door

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 4pm - Songs of Japan** - Saori Nakazawa Soprano and Ryosuke Karaki on Piano. Admission is free.

## SMAULL SONG: 16<sup>th</sup> January 2010

The recent wintry conditions had withdrawn sufficiently to allow a virtually full house to enjoy a repeat of the concert given at the annual Summer School held on Islay, west of Glasgow. The music director of this intrepid troupe is Mary Hill, that heroine of the world of opera and voice production, who was assisted on Islay by Richard Jackson, Sheila McGraw, Paschal Allen and Russell Smythe.

The evening tantalised us with excerpts from Offenbach's "The Song of Fortunio", Lortzing's "The Opera Rehearsal", and Tchaikovsky's "Queen of Spades" and Eugene Onegin. The twelve singers, who included several young professionals and some seasoned amateurs, had been produced to such a high standard that it was virtually impossible to tell the difference.

One of the highlights was provided by Nadine Mortimer-Smith whose well-rounded and plangent tone provided exactly the right nuance for *Ich trage meine Minne* of Richard Strauss.

In an extract from Nicholai's "The Merry Wives of Windsor" it was Jess James who impressed with his mellifluous tenor. Another tenor, Matt Long, then provided a beautiful line with his rendition of Debussy's "Colloque sentimental".

The performance of Rachmaninoff's Vocalise, in a choral arrangement by Britten, enabled us to hear some quite large voices honed down to provide a burnished tone; the arranger using several vocal techniques, such as humming, to produce a mood of intense nostalgia in this radiant melody.

One of the excellent features of this group is their ability to be completely in character. Especially good in this respect was Mariel van der Knoop, who multi-tasked as singer and accompanist alongside the thoroughly competent Mary Hill.

Smaull Music's evening ended with a beautifully dolorous account of Graham Peel's "The Dodo" sung by Mark Wilkinson and an intensely satisfying "An die Nachtigall", of Brahms, sung with an exquisite poise by Marjorie Ouvry.

Let's hope that Smaull Song come back soon to Rosslyn Chapel with its fine acoustic and well tuned concert grand.  
*Christopher Mason*

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ROSSLYN HILL CHAPEL

Our AGM will be held on **Sunday 28 February starting at 12:30pm**. There will be a light buffet lunch available in the chapel between the end of Sunday service and the beginning of the AGM.

The **Agenda** for the AGM is as follows:

1. Devotional.
2. Welcome and Introduction to the meeting
3. Establish a Quorum
4. Approval of minutes of February 2009 AGM
5. Annual reports presented by the Minister followed by questions
6. Report on the Sale of Willoughby Road followed by questions
7. Report on Minister Search Committee activities followed by questions
8. Presentation and vote on Code of Conduct
9. Presentation and vote on Conflict Resolution procedure
10. Presentation of annual report and financial accounts and approval by congregation
11. Election of Management Committee (Board of Trustees) Members
12. Election of delegates to the AGM of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches
13. Appointment of representatives to the London District and South Eastern Provincial Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches (LDPA)
14. Close of meeting.

**Note: A buffet lunch will be provided in the side aisle!!**



### Rosslyn Hill Chapel Directory

<b>Chapel Office</b>	<b>Sharron Conduit</b>	<b>(020) 7433 3267(Tel)</b> <b>(020) 7435 7457(Fax)</b>
<b>Chapel Email</b>	<a href="mailto:admin@rosslynhillchapel.com">admin@rosslynhillchapel.com</a>	
<b>Chapel Website</b>	<a href="http://www.rosslynhillchapel.com">www.rosslynhillchapel.com</a>	
<b>Chapel Address</b>	Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel Office, 3 Pilgrims Place, London NW3 1NG United Kingdom	
<b>The Minister</b>	The Reverend Jim Robinson, The Manse, 3 Pilgrim's Place, London NW3 1NG (020) 7435 3506 Email address: <a href="mailto:maryjimrobinson@btconnect.com">maryjimrobinson@btconnect.com</a>	
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**Registered Charity 1131346 / Registered Co. No. 05992717**

Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel is in London's Hampstead village on Rosslyn Hill between Willoughby Road and Pilgrim's Lane. It is 440 yards down Hampstead High Street on the same side of the street as Hampstead Tube Station. The 46 and 268 buses stop nearby.

## FEBRUARY DIARY

(\* = Further details elsewhere in Bulletin)

### Monday 1 February

19.30 - Lecture of the month\*

### Tuesday 2 February

19.30 - Chanting in the chapel\*

### Wednesday 3 February

17.45 - Tai Chi class in the chapel\*

19:30 - Choir rehearsal in the chapel\*

### Thursday 4 February

19.30 - Jesus Study Group\*

### Friday 5 February

19.00 - Chapel Youth Group meet in the chapel\*

### Sunday 7 February

11:00 - Morning service - "*The Still Small*

*Voice of Conscience*"\* - Rev Jim Robinson

19:00 - Evening service - Rev Jim Robinson

### Tuesday 9 February

19:30 - Social Action Committee meets\*

### Wednesday 10 February

17.45 - Tai Chi class in the chapel\*

19:30 - Choir rehearsal in the chapel\*

### Thursday 11 February

19.30 - Management Committee meets\*

20.00 - Stitch & Stories Group meet \*

(for details contact Georgina 020 844 0655)

### Saturday 13 February

20.00 - Talent Show\*

### Sunday 14 February

11:00 - Morning service - "*When is Enough,*

*Enough?*"\* - Rev Jim Robinson

14.00 - 16.00 Labyrinth Walking Meditation\*

19:00 - Evening service -\* Rev Jim Robinson

### Wednesday 17 February

17.45 - Tai Chi class in the chapel\*

19:30 - Choir rehearsal in the chapel\*

### Sunday 21 February

11:00 - Morning service - "*Called to be*

*Saints*"\* - Rev Jim Robinson

19.00 - Evening service - Rev Jim Robinson

### Wednesday 24 February

13.00-15.00 - Stitch & Stories Group meet

(for details contact Ingrid 020 8455 0162) \*

17.45 - Tai Chi class in the chapel\*

19:30 - Choir rehearsal in the chapel\*

### Sunday 28 February

11:00 - Morning service - "*The Ethos of*

*Rosslyn Hill Chapel*" \* - Rev Jim Robinson

12.30 - Lunch in the side isle\*

13.00 - General Annual Meeting\*

19.00 - Evening service - "*Rev Jim* Robinson

**"Every gardener knows that under  
the cloak of winter lies a miracle -  
a seed waiting to sprout,  
a bulb opening to the light, a bud  
straining to unfurl.  
And the anticipation nurtures our  
dream."**

*(Barbara Winkler)*

