

HUUF Sunday Services for November

November 1 – 9 and 11 a.m.

The Kenyan Perspective. Eddie Mwanzia

Eddie Mwanzia will speak on Kenyan religions and traditions; the culture of the Akamba people; his personal life experiences; some of the issues facing rural Kenyans today; and some of the interventions (both historically and currently) undertaken to address these issues. He will also discuss UONGOZI, a group he helped form and its place in and views on the intervention process. Eddie describes himself as an idealist at heart. He was born 38 years ago in the small village of Kisayani. At a young age he realized he had to do something for the people of the surrounding community whose plight was glaringly obvious. In 2004, Eddie, along with a small group of dedicated people, formed UONGOZI – the Center for NGO Studies, Leadership & Management. It works with poor, rural communities to strengthen their capacities to articulate their needs and mobilize resources toward self-management and reliance.

November 8 – 9 and 11 a.m.

Pain and Grace - The Dimensions of Forgiveness. Naseem Rakha

Author and award-winning journalist Naseem Rakha will talk about her bestselling novel *The Crying Tree*, a story about the death penalty and forgiveness. After covering an execution for public radio in 1996, she tried to understand the role capital punishment plays in our society and the toll it exacts on individuals and communities. What happens when individuals come to forgive the perpetrator of a crime and no longer want the condemned to be executed, and what happens to those individuals who must carry out this sentence? As a journalist, Naseem's stories on environmental and social issues have been heard on several NPR's shows. She lives in Oregon with her husband, son and many animals, and attends the UU congregation in Salem.

November 15 – 9 and 11 a.m.

From Fundamentalism to Freedom. Marc Adams

Marc Adams grew up the son of a fundamentalist Baptist minister in an environment in which evangelical Christians like Jerry Falwell were considered left-wing liberals. At age 16 he rebelled against his parents by attending Falwell's Liberty University, where he hoped to change from homosexual to heterosexual. Marc is a widely respected authority on fundamentalism, the religious right and gay civil rights. His nonprofit group, HeartStrong, a social justice organization providing hope and help to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students persecuted in religious educational institutions. HeartStrong's work has resulted in more than 1,000 lives saved since 1998. His presentation covers a serious side of life, illuminated with humor and all-encompassing human compassion. Marc is the author of nine books including the autobiographical *The Preacher's Son* and *(lost)Found* as well as *The Dos & Don'ts of Dealing with the Religious Right*.

November 22 and 11 a.m.

Inclusiveness: Welcoming Our Mentally Ill Community Members – Panel presentation

Lea Nagy and Marianne Pennekamp, along with a local mentally ill client in recovery, will describe their personal experiences, local resources and ways to integrate the mentally-ill more fully into our community. She is a longtime member of the National Association for the Mentally Ill/ Humboldt (NAMI) and is its current vice president and works for the Mental Health Branch of the Department of Health and Human Services, serving as a liaison between families and individuals and the mental health system. Marianne Pennekamp, a member of the County Mental Health Board, will describe changes in how mental illness can be approached as a journey to recovery by clients and providers alike. A mentally ill community member will also share his/her own recovery experience.

November 29 – 9 and 11 a.m.

I'm Coming Home; the Quest for Community - Dr. Karen Melander-Magoon

Community is the holy space in which we live with our neighbors and the earth itself and beyond. Dr. Karen Melander-Magoon returns to us from San Francisco. In her studies, writings and songs, she draws multi-layered Sufi stories, Christian, Hindu and Buddhist traditions and the secular and spiritual values that allow us to reach out to each other. Karen has a master's in education and counseling from Boston University, a master of divinity equivalency through the G.T.U., and she completed her doctor of ministry from San Francisco Theological Seminary last year. She is chairman of the UU Forum of the First UU Society of San Francisco, continues to compose and perform, plays piano and sings regularly for retirement communities. She wrote the songs and poetry she will perform during the service.