

Professional Development Day – Tuesday, Aug 5

Singing Our Living Tradition...Literally and Joyously!

Rev. Dr. Mark Belletini

Our Unitarian and Universalist shared heritage goes back as far as the very musical Arius of Alexandria in the fourth century and moves all the way forward to the next Associational Hymnbook less than a decade from now. During this magnificent history, our ancestors debated, created, educated, envisioned, transcended, tore down, lifted up, rebelled, institutionalized, struggled, bureaucratized, covenanted, and most importantly, sang. Using our own hymnody as both source and expression, both mnemonic help and pleasurable experience, Mark will engage us all with the amazing flow of our history as strength for our work. All those who register for the class will be sent a suggested reading list.

Rev. Dr. Mark Belletini is the Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus OH where he has served for the last decade. Prior to that he served the UU congregation in Hayward CA for 18 years, and as Assistant to Diane Miller in San Francisco. He has also taught UU history, worship and the gospels at Starr King School, worship at Meadville/Lombard during a winter intensive, and was Chair of the Hymnbook Resources Commission that produced Singing the Living Tradition

Certification candidates: Professional Development Day is a required course for you, though you do not have to pay extra for it. When you register for the conference check the box in order to register for PDD but DO NOT add in the \$50. That cost is covered in your \$350 tuition.

Pre class reading assignment

Pick at least two of the following and commit to reading them. The others are recommended - even skimming them is good. Ministers skim all the time, and it's amazing what one can learn that way.

1. [Arius in the Mirror](#):

The Alexandrian Dissent and How It Is Reflected in Modern Unitarian Universalist Practice and Discourse (attached)

2. Any book on Universalism that you can find in your library (by Williams, by Miller, by Cassara)

3. The new book on Transcendentalism by Philip Gura (or another one if one is already on your shelves)

4. Wm Shultz's book on the Making of the Humanist Manifesto

5. Warren Ross' The Premise and the Promise (UUA history)

6. Charles Howe's For Faith and Freedom (European UU History)

Post Class Assignment

The assignments will be to write four one page mini-biographies about each of four U or U or UU women and men who were part of our history and who had something to do with music, or had strong opinions about music, or wrote music or texts for music. (I'm

thinking of both historical folks like Ken Patton, Edward Hamilton Sears, Rabindranath Tagore, Julia Ward Howe, Norbert Capek, Sarah Flower Adams, Samuel Longfellow, F. L. Hosmer, Jacob Trapp, Waldemar Hille, H. Hedge, Bettye Wilder, or even modern living folks like Jim Scott, Joyce Poley, Ric Masten, Heather Lynn Hanson, Mary Allen Walden, Nick Page, Shelley Jackson Denhem, Howard Box, Tom Benjamin, Wm. Albright, Alicia Carpenter, John Andrew Storey, Lynn Unger, Jason Shelton, Jeannie Gagne, Les Kleen, Ysaye Barnwell etc.)

Some of these might entail calling living persons to get their UU music story. But just one page each. All of these might be useful one day if they could be gathered as help for producing a Biographical Dictionary of Unitarian Universalist Music. I bet Skinner House might publish something like that. – *Mark Belletini*