

# The Sojourner

newsletter of the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown

1565 South Keim St  
(610) 327-2662

Pottstown, PA 19465  
uupottstown.org

## April 2007

### Sunday, April 1, 2007

#### **Called to Grow**

Speaker: Patricia Hall Infante,  
JPD Director for Growth and Extension  
Lay Leader: Stefanie Fulwood

Patricia Infante takes us along on her journey from lifelong UU to religious educator to UU evangelist with a passion for growing the faith.

### Easter Sunday, April 8, 2007

#### **"The Velveteen Rabbit"**

*An Intergenerational Service*

Lay Leader: Jeanne Bautista

Proudly featuring the Fiasco Players, we will be experiencing a dramatization of the childhood classic, "The Velveteen Rabbit", adapted from the original story by Margery Williams. As with the transformation of the Velveteen Rabbit, no profound change within us occurs without some pain. But when we have courage and openness, transformation allows us to live lives that are more worthwhile, and more fulfilling and that make us more "real."

### Sunday, April 15, 2007

#### **The Pearl-- Or Can Belief Change Reality?**

Lay Leader/Speaker: Cougar

Hypnosis, the placebo effect, visualizations that cure cancer, and for some, outright magic--there is evidence that beliefs reshape reality. But our mechanist, materialist worldview is hardly comfortable with this. This service will sketch practical, rational starting points for how

"reshaping" might work.

*Third Sunday potluck will follow the service*

### Sunday, April 22, 2007

#### **Emergence--Or Can Reality Talk to You?**

Lay Leader/Speaker: Cougar

Walking in the woods, thinking about a troubled relationship, your eye catches a dead branch falling. It catches on the edge of a trash can, breaks up, and the largest piece falls in. You are suddenly clear that the relationship must end. Was this an omen? An accident? Re-introducing concepts from last week's service will shed light on this.

### Sunday, April 29, 2007

#### **After the Ecstasy, the Laundry**

Lay Leader/Speaker: Emily Quarles

Jack Kornfield studied as a Buddhist monk in Thailand, Burma and India. His book, "After the Ecstasy, the Laundry" is a study of the modern spiritual journey. A spiritual awakening may change the way we look at the world, but it does not put us outside of the world. We are still humans, with the same personalities, relationships and needs that we have always had. Join us as we look at the balance between the life of the body and the life of the spirit.

# *President's Message*

This month, I'd like to give a few updates of happenings around the UUFP...

The building and grounds committee is actively working on replacing the social room floor. The Board felt that it was important to do this emergency work, as the tiles were becoming unglued, and people were starting to trip over them, causing a safety issue. The Aesthetics committee has recommended colors of flooring to the team. We're very fortunate to have skilled members of our congregation who will be donating their labor to replace the tiles with wood flooring. We will be covering the cost through unused money in the current budget and interest income earned over the past year.

We are pleased to be sharing our space with the Al-anon group for their regional spring conference on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

The aesthetics committee is continuing to evaluate commercial dishes for use at the UUFP. We anticipate that we will have a recommendation by April's board meeting on cost and patterns.

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, we will be having a second congregational meeting on the specific topics of ministry and the 2007-2008 budget. Please make every effort to attend this meeting and discussion. The preliminary budget will be made available for review on Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be having a second year of interim ministry in 2007-2008, and we need to determine as a congregation our direction for this.

On the evening of April 21<sup>st</sup>, we will be having our spring service auction. Please donate of your time, services and funds in this major fundraiser of the year. See information elsewhere in the Sojourner for details.

I also want to extend a personal wish to my friend and UUFP member, Clayton Mowrer, as he leaves for a tour of duty in the Middle East. Our thoughts are with you, and with Emily – we're blessed to have you both in our community. Be safe and be well.

In closing...

With every breath I take today, I vow to be awake;

And every step I take, I vow to take with a grateful heart--

So I may see with eyes of love into the hearts of all I meet,

To ease their burden when I can, And touch them with a smile of peace.

Source: [Blue Iris Sangha](#)

With affection,  
Carla Johnson

Our minister Colin Bossen is on paternity leave this month. In case of pastoral emergencies he can be contacted at [cbossen@mindspring.com](mailto:cbossen@mindspring.com) or (202) 276-3579.

Colin will return in May.

# *Transition Team Report*

Mary Alsayegh, the Transition Team chairperson, presented the proposed model of governance for UUFP, on February 18th, to UUFP members and friends at a special meeting after the service. The model was also presented in brief, at our congregational meeting on March 18th. The congregational vote on March 18th approved our proposal to try a new type of leadership management for one year to help us streamline our endeavors so that we can run UUFP more effectively. We would like UUFP to operate more intentionally with the dual purpose of shared ministry and leadership continuity. Our vision is toward the health and growth of our fellowship. The

schematic of the governance model is printed in our February Sojourner and is posted in the foyer near the Welcome Table. Please review it and ask the Transition Team members any questions you may have.

The next step in this process was also approved when we voted in the new slate of officers on March 18th. We will implement this plan for a year then evaluate it and see if this is how we'd like UUFP to continue to operate. If in one year's time we decide that this works for us we will engage in the process of revising our by-laws, as they would need to be updated to conform to our new way of managing UUFP.

We have become a more complex organization and need more people to engage in our shared ministry. The proposed structure offers 15 members a part of the leadership at UUFP. This is a combination of our Board of Directors, a seven-member team and the eight-committee chairpersons. Together they can help provide leadership that is engaged in an active process of communication through quarterly committee meetings with the President Elect (the Vice President). The minister will continue to be a part of our shared ministry as we walk through one more year of interim ministry before calling a settled minister.

There are new positions listed on the right hand side of the schematic. As we grow these positions will be further defined and then filled by volunteers or staff personnel.

Currently we do not have the position of President Elect filled for the year 2007-08. The nominating committee, the minister, the Board, and the Transition Team will discuss how this affects our proposed governance plan and will make the appropriate adjustments.

I hope you all had a chance to discuss and question this proposal at the February 18th informational meeting and the congregational meeting on March 18th. The Transition Team members and the Board of Directors are available to address any additional questions or concerns.

Please consider our mission statement, printed below, and our UU Principles and Purposes as you look upon this new structure. We want our style of governance to reflect who we are and to guide us as we grow.

## **UUFP Mission Statement**

*We, the community of the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown, welcome people of a variety of visions. We encourage growth in ourselves and our children through study, through the sharing of personal experiences and ideas, and through engagement with the wider community.*

*As we celebrate life, we strive to respect and support one another in our search for truth and goodness, and to care for one another with compassion and love.*

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Our new governance model should help us abide by our mission, help us accomplish goals and engage in so-

cial events in a spirit of mutual trust and fellowship. Our vision of growth and shared ministry will be enhanced if we have the steps in place that encourages trust of one another and our leadership. It will help us manage our space and our fellowship experience at UUFP.

Please take another look at the schematic and see if this new structure makes sense to you. If not please ask the Transition Team and the Board of Directors' any questions you may have.

Transition Team Members:

Mary Alsayegh-Chair, Colin Bossen- Interim Minister, Carla Johnson- UUFP President, Bob Jones, Kay Price, Linda Pallay

Current Board Members:

President-Carla Johnson  
Vice President-Jeanne Bautista  
Treasurer-Al Jenkin  
Secretary- Mary Alsayegh  
Sunday Service-Stephanie Fulwood  
Religious Education -Lynn Medley  
At Large- Matt Molyneux

Thank you, see you at the Fellowship!  
Linda Pallay

## *Aesthetics Committee*

I just wanted to take a minute to let everyone know that the Aesthetics committee is going to hang pictures this month. I know everyone is tired of looking at blank walls, myself included. We wanted to be very deliberate with what we put up and where hung items would live. We're going to do a UUFP "Nostalgia" wall in the social room. We're going to hang pictures and other items that reflect the ongoing history of UUFP.

We've also decided to shake things up a little bit and move the library, in hopes that it's new location might draw visitors as well as members to peruse our wonderful selection of books. It's still a project in process, so feel free to give me ideas and suggestions.

Respectfully,  
Stefanie Fulwood

## *Kitchen Help Needed*

Kitchen helpers are needed for Sunday coffee hour. Please contact Judith Van Beek if interested in helping. Any help is welcome, even if you are unable to commit to a regular Sunday. An occasional contribution of a snack would also be appreciated. All we ask is that you give Judith or a member of the team advance notice so that we are not doubling up on food.

Judith Van Beek, Sunday Teams

## *Our Gardens*

If, from now on, anyone comes to the Fellowship for ONE hour or more during the day, please call me at 610 754 7832 a half hour or more before you expect to arrive. This will give me a chance to work in the flower beds for a while - you are not expected to help - just be there!! I don't promise, but will try to get in some time that way.

Also, the Gardens Committee would like to borrow an edger during the month of April. If anyone owns one and is willing to loan it out, please call Dorothea Hamlin.

Your contribution will be much appreciated!

Thanks,  
Dorothea Hamlin , Gardens Chair

# Religious Education Notes

## Family Chalice Lighting

As we light this chalice, we play hide and seek with Mother Nature.

We remember something we saw today that was green and new.

We remember something we saw that was bright and sunny yellow.

We remember something we saw that was pink, red, purple, violet, or blue like jewels in a treasure box.

We remember something we saw that was unexpected, and made us smile.

As we light this chalice, and welcome the early signs of spring.

Dear RE Families:

The Pre-K class, led by Linda Pallay, this month will learn about the world we live in, including the lessons My World Has Darkness, My World Has Light, My World Has Sand and Soil, My World Has Trees, and My World Has Flowers. The 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade class, led by Mary Alsayegh, will continue their studies of the Christian faith, learning the stories of Mary and Martha, the teachings of Jesus, the crucifixion of Jesus, the resurrection of Jesus and the role of Mary Magdalene, and the story of the Good Samaritan.

*Parents please note: The K-3, led by Suzanne Molyneux, has joined what was previously called the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade class, led by Mary Alsayegh, until we have more students for the class. If you have any questions about this, please contact Lynn Medley at 215-527-5903.*

## **Annual Easter Egg Hunt!**

On April 8<sup>th</sup> we will hold our annual Easter Egg Hunt. *Parents (or other cheerful onlookers), please bring individually wrapped candy on or before April 8<sup>th</sup> to be placed in toy eggs and hidden in the side yard by the playground. Our 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade class will hide them, and the Pre-K will hunt, but there should be candy enough for all!*

*Please join us after the service for the fun!*

Happy Spring!  
Lynn Medley, RE Chair

# Sunday Service Committee

## Meditation from Terasa Cooley

In this time of anticipated spring let us allow ourselves to extend the anticipation -- to value the time of budding before blooming, of seeding before sprouting.

This is a time of revelation: the revealing of that which is eternal, which we see every year, but still need to be reminded to see it in a new way.

There is also the revelation of that which is new. Every spring we encounter something never before seen. It is that very newness which embodies hope and potential for the wholeness which is yet to be.

Let us allow spring to unfold slowly that we may appreciate the true mystery of rebirth and renewal.

It is a time of renewal. Sunday Service Committee recently had a very productive meeting with Colin regarding conscious choices for our Sunday morning format. Our next step is to include RE, Choir and the Sunday morning teams in the discussion so that all of the parts flow into a harmonious whole. We're all really excited. I'm also personally very excited about some contacts made at the JPD level and the guest speakers that this will bring to our Fellowship.

We're starting this month off with Pat Infante and hope to have more social justice related speakers later this summer, including a "Songs of Justice" service that Marianne and Carla are presenting. The new growth of spring is certainly reflected in the Sunday Service Committee.

Brightest Blessings,  
Stefanie Fulwood

## DONATION FORM FOR UFPF SERVICE AUCTION : April 25, 2007

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Name and Description  
(Include retail value and opening bid amount)

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Retail Value: \_\_\_\_\_ Opening Bid: \_\_\_\_\_

- This event can only be successful with your **donations** and **participation**.
- We welcome your creativity--artwork, food creations, services, crafts and dinners--whatever you can think of.
- Set realistic prices, but don't shortchange the value of your item.
- If you need additional forms, they will be available in the lobby.
- Donation slips can be turned in to the basket on the table at the back of the sanctuary, or emailed to myarnall@comcast.net. They will be accepted up to Sunday, **April 8th**. Please contact Marianne Yarnall with any questions.

## **UUFP Annual Service Auction**

**Date: Saturday, April 25, 2007**

**Time: 7:00 pm until ???**

**Doors open at 7 pm, Noisy Auction begins at 7:30 pm**

**Auctioneer: Dave Donahue**

### **Here's how it will work:**

- A donation of \$5.00 will get you an assigned bidding number, catalog, entry to both the silent and noisy auction, and access to a potpourri of snacks and drinks (of the non-alcoholic sort). You are invited to BYOB should you prefer libations of another sort.
- Items to be auctioned will be posted in the Fellowship building during the month of April, and catalogs of items being auctioned will be available one week prior to the event.
- Instructions for bidding for items involving more than one person will be included in the catalog and explained before the start of the **noisy** auction.

### **Here is what you can do to help make this a successful event:**

- We are asking for your donations:
  - For the **noisy** portion of our auction, we are looking for fun and interesting events, items and services. Dinners, indoor/outdoor/sporting/entertainment events and lessons of all sorts have been popular in the past. Artistic and handcrafted items, larger plants, are big sellers as well. We are also inviting you to donate services (provided by yourself or others) such as massage, yard work, cleaning, babysitting, etc. Please consider donating items that draw from your many talents, hobbies and interests.
  - For the **silent** auction, please consider donating handcrafted items, homemade food such as jellies, breads, cakes, cordials, plants, or other similar items.

This event is a major source of fundraising income for our congregation and a much anticipated social event, so please open your hearts (and eventually your wallets), think creatively about what you are able to donate, and **don't forget to mark your calendars in pen!**

Donation slips (see next page) can be turned in to a basket on the table at the back of the sanctuary, or emailed to [myarnall@comcast.net](mailto:myarnall@comcast.net). They will be accepted up to Sunday, **April 8th**.

*Please contact Marianne Yarnall with any questions.*

## About Us

## Who's Who at the UUF

### Sojourner Policy/Deadlines

The Sojourner is the voice of the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown. Notices pertaining to the Fellowship, its activities and members, and denominational news may be submitted to the Fellowship in writing or by email.

**The submission deadline is the 15th of each month.**

**Please note the email address for the Sojourner:  
UUFNewsLetter@aol.com**

**Interim Minister:** Colin Bossen

### **Board of Directors:**

**President:** Carla Johnson

**Vice President:** Jeanne Bautista

**Treasurer:** Albert Jenkin

**Secretary:** Mary Alsayegh

**Sun. Services:** Stefanie Fulwood

**RE:** Lynn Medley

**At Large:** Matthew Molyneux

### **Committee Chairs:**

**Caring Committee:** Ruth Daly

**Aesthetics:** Stefanie Fulwood

**Finance:** Judy MacDonald

### **Fundraising Committee:**

Jeanne Bautista

**Hospitality/Kitchen:** Open

**Publicity:** Open

**Membership:** Kay Price

**Ministerial Committee:**

*see Transition Team*

**Social Justice:** Open

**Sojourner Editor:** Kay Price

**Transition Team:** Mary Alsayegh

**Website Updates:** Bob Gross

**Choir:** Marianne Yarnall

**Building/Grounds:**

Matthew Molyneux

**Sunday Morning Teams:**

Judith Van Beek

**Gardens:** Dorothea Hamlin

**Address changes and email changes:** Address changes? If you have changed your home or email address please send your updates to **uufmailings@aol.com**.

## *Meditation Moments...*

*The human mind can create conflict.  
It can also create peace.  
To find peace in the world  
We must find peace in ourselves.  
- There is no higher happiness than peace.*

*Buddha*

Come join us for meditation the first Tuesday of the month  
in Fellowship Hall from 7pm - 8:30pm.

No experience is necessary, just a desire to take some quiet time for centering and development of inner calmness.

*Any questions, please call Sally Martin 610-323-3067*

# April 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00 Congregational Mtg: 11:30	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Meditation with Sally: 7-8:30  Membership Mtg: 7:00	<b>4</b> Transition Team Mtg: 7:00	<b>5</b> Yoga: 7:00	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00  Easter Egg Hunt: 11:30	<b>9</b> Board Mtg: 7:15	<b>10</b> Women's Group: 7:00	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Yoga: 7:00	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00 Sunday Service Mtg: 11:30 <i>3rd SunPotluck</i>	<b>16</b> Transition Team Mtg: 7:00	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Yoga: 7:00	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> UUFP Service Auction: 7:00
<b>22</b> Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00  Aesthetics Workday: 11:30	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Yoga: 7:00	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00  JPD conference	<b>30</b>					

JPD Spring Conference  
27th -29th in Harrisburg

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
FELLOWSHIP OF  
POTTSTOWN

*1565 South Keim Street  
Pottstown, PA 19465*

Phone: 610-327-2662

Email:  
uupottstown@aol.com

*Pottstown Cluster food pantry collection during service  
every third Sunday of the month.*