

The Sojourner

newsletter of the *Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown*
1565 South Keim St Pottstown, PA 19465
(610) 327-2662 uufp.jpd.uua.org

January 2007

Sunday, January 7, 2007

Deep Dreams

Lay Leader: Emily Quarles

January is traditionally the time of new beginnings. As the days get longer, we feel the pressure to make resolutions to become newer, better versions of ourselves. Yet we often abandon these resolutions soon after making them. Sometimes it seems that we make our resolutions by rote based on societal expectation, rather than choosing things that have meaning for us.

Together we will explore ways to uncover our underlying dreams of who we would like to be.

Sunday, January 14, 2007

Be Our Guest

Special Guest Speaker

Lay Leader: Stefanie Fulwood

Join us in welcoming a guest minister speaking for the first time at our Fellowship. We are sure you will find this service enlightening and stimulating. Be ready to discuss your views and voice your thoughts after this special service.

Sunday, January 21, 2007

The Case for Reparations

Minister: Colin Bossen

Lay Leader: Bob Jones

In the United States and throughout the world people of color suffer more from poverty, lack of access to education and environmental degradation than their brothers and sisters of European descent. This situation is a direct result of the structural violence of slavery and colonialism.

This service will explore what needs to be done in and by our own country to set the situation right and create a world where all women and men can meet as equals.

Third Sunday potluck will follow after the service

Sunday, January 28, 2007

Off the Grid

Led by Jeanne Bautista

How reliant are you on technology? Do you think you are really eco-friendly? We will use excerpts from Morgan Spurlock's 30 Days episode "Off the Grid" to spawn conversation as we educate and challenge ourselves toward more conscious decisions about how we relate to that interdependent web of existence, of which we are a part.

From the Minister's Desk:

The New Year has come. Another year of life has passed. Now is a time to embrace the excitement of change, to celebrate all that we accomplished and experienced as joyful in our lives and to mourn that which we have left undone and those who are no longer with us.

The New Year does not just mark change, it presents us with new opportunities. For the Fellowship the New Year is a chance to continue to be intentional about transition. As part of my work as your interim minister over the coming year I will be focusing on issues of membership. I will be doing this in three ways: by working to build a strong membership committee, by helping the congregation clarify its path to membership and by working with you to develop a congregational covenant.

The Fellowship currently lacks a clear path to membership. Such a path is essential if the congregation is to thrive and grow. Over the next month or so I hope to work with the Board to establish a membership path. The path might include such things as requiring new members to attend the new member class, meet with the minister or Board President and making a pledge before signing the membership book. As part of my efforts to help you create a clear path to membership this month I will be offering the first new member class that the Fellowship has held in awhile. I will offer the class again in March, May and July and I hope it will become a continuing part of the life of the Fellowship.

Over the next several months I will also be working with the congregation to develop a covenant. Covenants are a way for members of a congregation to express their common loyalties and commitments. They are an expression of how we choose to be together as a religious community and help focus congregational energy and direction. As part of this covenanting process I'm pleased to offer my first adult religious education class starting this month and continuing into early March. The class will be a good way to learn more about covenants and our Unitarian Universalist tradition.

I hope that you will be able to take advantage of these and other opportunities during this interim year. This year and the next are a chance for the Fellowship to lay the foundation for its future. I hope that as we work together we can continue to take the time to be intentional about the choices the congregation makes and to enjoy each other's company. Doing so will see the congregation celebrating not just this New Year together but many more to come.

love,

Colin

Colin Bossen
Contract Minister
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown
<http://members.aol.com/uupottstown/>
202.276.3579 (cell)

President's Message

Sending New Year's Greetings to you. This month, I'd like to bring you up-to-date on some activities that the board has been involved in over the past month.

We are working to reduce actual board meeting time and being more productive during that time. In December, we tried a process of all board, minister and committee reports being submitted for review by the Friday prior to the Monday board meeting. The final agenda was posted on Saturday. This went pretty well for the first meeting, and we will continue to work on improving the process as we move forward.

One of our goals for this year is to be much more intentional about our path to membership, and fully define what it means to be a member, and to make clear how one becomes a member. We have not had a fully functioning membership committee for some time, and identifying a chairperson for the committee was a high priority for the board and transition team. I'm pleased to announce that Kay Price has agreed to become Acting Membership chair. Kay will not serve on the board, but will be active in coordinating and defining the work of the Membership committee for the rest of the year. Thanks to Kay for agreeing to do this very important work.

It's hard to believe, but we are already looking at the 2007-2008 Fellowship year. As we agreed last summer, we feel we need two years of interim ministry to help us be better prepared for a settled minister. Our current interim minister, Colin Bossen, is only able to serve with us for one year. We will be contacting the JPD office to let them know that we will be in need of interim ministry again next year. We will be following the same process as last year, where a task force of the board interviews the candidates that JPD gives to us for consideration. The board then contracts with the interim minister for the defined period of service.

The transition team has been tasked to begin looking at a revised board structure to begin for 2007-2008. The team will be providing communications to the congregation on what our proposed structure is in the next month or two, and prior to the March congregational meeting. We received advice from Reverend Tom Chulak, UUA consultant, that it's better to try out a new structure first, and then if it works to adjust the by-laws after the fact. This is the process we would like to follow, with congregational approval.

Finally, we are hoping to put together a team of 3-5 people to attend a series of Healthy Congregation workshops. The same team must attend an all-day workshop in Wilmington, Delaware one Saturday a month for 5 months. We feel this will be beneficial to our community. I'll let you know next month if we're able to enlist team members to participate.

In closing, I wish all of you safe and joyous journeys as you travel your own spiritual paths in 2007.

Peace,

Carla Johnson

From the Fundraising Front:

Many thanks go out to all who supported our Fair Trade sale! This has been a great success for our fellowship, and we are very proud of being able to give to our global community. We raised over \$400 for our fellowship through this effort. Yay, team!

Also, thanks to those who were willing to come out to our Friendly's Night on December 18th. We know it was a busy holiday season, and are very grateful for your continued support for such a relatively easy fundraiser. It was a slow night for Friendly's, but we still made \$183. Our next Friendly's Night is February 27th-- we hope to see you there!

Please mark your calendars for UUFP's 2nd Annual Art Show on February 24th (it will be a busy week for us!). If you are an artist or know one who would be interested, please contact me, so we can get the registration process going.

One last note-- we are looking for folks to volunteer for a task force to plan this year's Service Auction, taking place on April 14th or the 21st. There was much discussion last year about what should have been done, and we would love to put your good ideas into action.

- Jeanne Bautista
Fundraising Chair
(610) 970-2750
jmbbautista@msn.com

Unitarian Universalist Covenants: History and Theology

January 21, February 4 and 18 and March 4
from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Led by Minister Colin Bossen

Over the four hundred year plus history of Unitarian Universalism the most enduring feature of our congregational lives are our covenants. Covenants help us to create congregations where we feel safe and supported in our religious journeys.

This class will be a precursor to a process that will hopefully lead to the adoption of a covenant for the Fellowship in late spring. In the class we will be reading and discussing Alice Blair Wesley's book "Our Covenant" and selections from Conrad Wright's "Walking Together." Cost of registration is \$25.00 and includes the books.

Registrations must be received by January 14.

Redner's "Save-A-Tapes"

We are still collecting Redner's "Save-A-Tapes". Every time you shop at any Redner's just show your "Save-A-Tape" card and the Fellowship receives 1% of your total purchase. Bring the tapes to the Fellowship and place them in the box on top of the piano in the social hall.

Questions? See Peggy Jones

New UU Class

January 7, 2007, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Led by Minister Colin Bossen

If you are new to our Fellowship, new to Unitarian Universalism or both, this is a class for you! We will gather together after the service to share stories of our religious journeys, learn a little about the Fellowship, Unitarian Universalism and what it means to be a member of the congregation.

A light lunch will be served.



Martin Luther King

DAY OF SERVICE: SERVE, ADVOCATE & CELEBRATE WITH UUs

***UUs FROM PHILA-
WILMINGTON WILL GATHER TO
HONOR DR. KING***

Join other UUs from across the Philadelphia-to-Wilmington Region for the Martin Luther King Day of Service on January 15, 2007!

- ◇ Gather at Unitarian Society of Germantown, 6511 Lincoln Dr., Phila. 19119 at 8:30 am. (Parking lot entrance on Johnson Ave.) Enjoy coffee & donuts.
- ◇ 9:00 Dedication Service before moving into Action
- ◇ Return for Lunch at "USG" by 1:00

Come prepared for indoor or outdoor work. Ages 7 and up are welcome!

Theme: We'll honor Dr. King through several service projects, some with an "Increase the Peace" focus: *reaching out to work with others against the violence that damages too many in all our cities, neighborhoods - and our world.*

Sign up at the USG Social Action Table after church service or by e-mail to Marietta Tanner, mariettan@aol.com

This I Now Believe...

I now believe in Santa Claus. Not just Santa Claus but the Easter Bunny, Tooth Fairy and all the other mystical, magical creatures and characters of my childhood. This moment of clarity came to me after a conversation with my older daughter the other night.

A few nights earlier she put a lost tooth under the pillow without anyone's knowledge. Once this was realized the tooth fairy magically solved the oversight the following night. This was not a traumatic event in the house, but an opportunity to challenge common thinking.

My revelation started with the question, "Daddy, is the tooth fairy, Santa Claus and Easter Bunny real?" "Well, what do you believe?" I quickly responded. She explained to me that she heard from her friends that it's really just your parents that do all this stuff and these characters aren't real. But she couldn't imagine that it's just your parents doing all these things, it had to be magical. I was challenged to answer with a response and began to think it through.

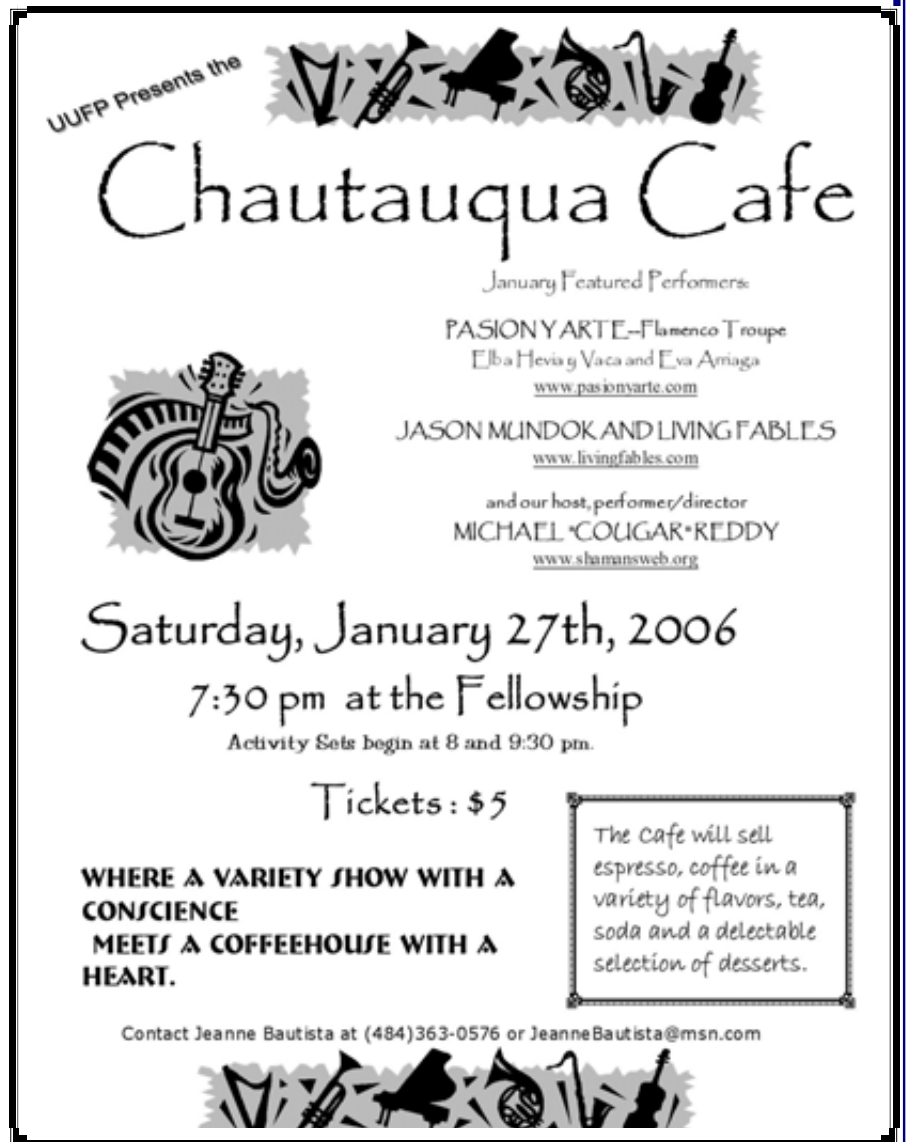
I recall from my childhood not a distinct belief in Santa Claus but memories of the energy, excitement and good will of the time of year. One of our traditions included inviting people we knew without family or holiday plans to celebrate with us. I also remember the way we would open one gift on Christmas eve, then we were sent off to our rooms to tussle and turn in our beds as we waited for day-break. Those feelings and memories are very real and still give me a smile.

My final response to her went something like this:


I believe these characters exist in spirit of what they inspire. It's the faith in the idea and feelings they create that make them real. The level of belief in these holiday characters may change as we grow, but I believe in what they make me feel. I look forward to sharing with family & friends and the spirit moves me to do so. The spirit, faith and belief helps me to step back and enjoy what is truly important in life.

And that is something worth believing.

Matthew Molyneux,
UUFP Board Member



UUFP Presents the




Chautauqua Cafe

January Featured Performers:

PASIONARTE—Flamenco Troupe
Elba Hevia y Vacca and Eva Arriaga
www.pasionarte.com

JASON MUNDOK AND LIVING FABLES
www.livingfables.com

and our host, performer/director
MICHAEL COLIGAR+REDDY
www.shamansweb.org




Saturday, January 27th, 2006
7:30 pm at the Fellowship
Activity Sets begin at 8 and 9:30 pm.

Tickets: \$5

**WHERE A VARIETY SHOW WITH A
CONSCIENCE
MEETS A COFFEEHOUSE WITH A
HEART.**

The Cafe will sell
espresso, coffee in a
variety of flavors, tea,
soda and a delectable
selection of desserts.

Contact Jeanne Bautista at (484)363-0576 or JeanneBautista@msn.com



Sunday Service Committee

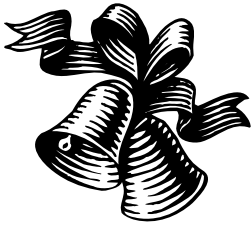
Wassail! Wassail!

The new year is a time of promise. It is a time to bring good fortune into our lives and homes. It's a time to wassail the fruit trees (from the saxon *wase haile* meaning *good health*); to bring good health into the coming year.

A simple wassail recipe from John and Caitlin Matthews:

Heat 3 to 4 pints of ale or beer
Add 1/2 cup of sugar and
1/4 cup of mixed spice (cinnamon and cloves are best)
Add 2-3 cut up small, sweet apples
Add 1-1/4 cup pineapple juice
Add 1-1/4 cup orange juice
Add the juice of 2 lemons

Place over a slow flame; then, before it begins to brew, take off the heat and whip up some cream. Let this float on top of the brew like foam. Now go out to the tree (or trees) with a few friends (it doesn't have to be, but fruit bearing trees are tradition) and wet the roots liberally with the brew. Pass the rest around and sing a wassailing song or lift your glasses to the tree and shout "Huzzah!" three times as loudly as you can.



"Ring out wild bells to the wild sky
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The Year is dying in the night
Ring out wild bells and let him die."

~ Tennyson, Ring Out Wild Bells

Sunday Service Committee is finding our own wild bells of the new year. We're being challenged by ourselves, our new minister, our Transition Team and our congregation to find our own wild bells of growth and develop a tune to ring out in peals echoing over all who choose to listen. It's not just our tune. It's the heartsong of this Fellowship. It's the song others will come to hear and will speak to them.

We don't know what it sounds like yet, but when we find it, it will have a resonance for all of us here at the Fellowship, not just our committee. This song we seek has had a lot of disheartening words thrown at it like structure, format and consistency. A good song has all of those things and still leaves room in the middle for the drum solo and the guitar riff. But what comes to mind for me is "Simple Gifts." We're searching for a simplicity that will strike a note we can all hear; a simplicity that will give us a strong foundation for growth. And as I have been simplifying my own life, this seems like a really great place to start the new year.

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'tis the gift to come down where you ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
It will be in the valley of love and delight.

Refrain:

When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed.
To turn, turn will be our delight,
'Til by turning, turning we come round right

'Tis the gift to be loved and that love to return,
'Tis the gift to be taught and a richer gift to learn,
And when we expect of others what we try to live each day,
Then we'll all live together and we'll all learn to say,

'Tis the gift to have friends and a true friend to be,
'Tis the gift to think of others not to only think of "me",
And when we hear what others really think and really feel,
Then we'll all live together with a love that is real.

Bright Blessings,
Stefanie Fulwood
Sunday Service Committee

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:
UUFNews@aol.com**

Interim Minister: Colin Bossen

Board of Directors:

President: Carla Johnson

Vice President: Jeanne Bautista

Treasurer: Carole Hovis

Secretary: Mary Alsayegh

Sun. Services: Stefanie Fulwood

RE: Lynn Medley

At Large: Albert Jenkin,
Matthew Molyneux

Committee Chairs:

Caring Committee: Ruth Daly

Aesthetics: Stefanie Fulwood

Finance: Judy MacDonald

Fundraising Committee:

Jeanne Bautista

Hospitality/Kitchen: Open

Publicity: Ron Hovis

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



Meditation Moments...

"Each morning we are born again.

What we do today is what matters most.

Jack Kornfield

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

January 2007

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|-------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|--|-----|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Yoga 7:00 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00 New UU Class: 12-2:00 | 8 Board Mtg: 7:15 | 9 | 10 Sunday Service Mtg: 7:00 | 11 Yoga 7:00 Womens' Group: 7:00 at UUFP | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Yoga 7:00 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00 <i>3rd Sun Potluck</i> Covenant Class: <i>3-5:00</i> | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Yoga 7:00 | 26 | 27 Chautauqua Café: 7:30-10:30 |
| 28 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

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.*