

The Sojourner

newsletter of the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown

1565 South Keim St
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Pottstown, PA 19465
uupottstown.org

November 2007

Sunday, November 4, 2007

Samhain Intergenerational Service

Lay Leader/Speaker: Stefanie Fulwood

Once again we gather in community to celebrate the interconnected web of life that binds us all together. Please join us in this annual service to honor those who have passed on during this last turning of the wheel.

All are welcome, all will be honored.

Sunday, November 11, 2007

40th Anniversary Celebration

Rev. Paul Langston-Daley



Join us as we celebrate 40 years of Unitarian Universalism in Pottstown. We honor the past and the legacy of the founders.

Look to the future and the legacy we will leave behind. We will celebrate the present and the mission of our Fellowship.

Join us as we lift our voices in song and celebration

Sunday, November 18, 2007

The early UUs informing us through Una's words in *Ahab's Wife*

Presenters: Lynn Medley and Stefanie Fulwood

What are the forces that guide Una's spiritual journey in the early 19th century? Her spiritual quest flows through times that were ripe for the growth of both Unitarian and Universalism; with the abolitionists, scientists, with the deep thinkers found in the lake poets, reflected throughout the book. These are our roots. Una questions whether spiritual and moral issues are the same or different, whether you can separate spirituality from morality. The central question of spirituality and the influence of the communities that she grows through give us a unique perspective on our early roots.

Third Sunday potluck will follow the service.

Sunday, November 25, 2007

Roots and Wings

Rev. Paul Langston-Daley

As Unitarian Universalists we have something called Congregational Polity. What is that? What does it mean for this congregation? Our history is rich and provides deep roots allowing our congregations to take wing, spreading the good news of Unitarian Universalism.

(This service was planned for October and was changed.)



From the Minister's Desk

Going through my mail this week I received a newsletter from the Coventry Hills Church of Christ. I started to throw it away, but changed my mind and decided to see what they had to say.

I found an interesting and useful article called Just for Today. It lists reminders for daily living that are consistent with the kind of society we, as UU's, seek to create- one that is peaceful, thoughtful, and respectful. The theology of this church is not my own, but I was able to find common ground with this conservative Christian church.

There are universal themes found in many religious traditions around the globe and these themes were expressed in this article. I offer a few of these daily thoughts for your consideration this month. (*I have edited them slightly and left off the biblical reference- but would be happy to offer specific references in tradition(s) in which you may be grounded or interested.*)

Just for Today:

I will not strike back. If someone is rude, if someone is impatient, if someone is unkind, I will respond with compassion.

I will be careful about what I say. I will carefully choose and guard my words, being certain that I do not spread gossip. I will speak responsibly, with equity and compassion.

I will treat others the way I wish to be treated. I will practice the "Golden Rule" with *everyone* I encounter.

I will raise the spirits of someone who is discouraged. My smile, my words, my expression of concern and support can make a difference to someone facing a challenge.

I will grow spiritually. I will spend more time in study, prayer and meditation. I will retreat from life pressures and distractions to find communion with the Great Mystery of life.

Recognizing and holding up Universal Truths is part of our tradition. In a culture that often feels cynical and mean, we can, as Ghandi said, be the change we wish to see. We understand the common human need to be in relationship with one another. We choose *how* we will be in relationship with one another. We do not always choose as well as we would like, but we can strive for something better.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we have much for which we can be grateful. We have each other. We have a faith that encourages us and sustains us. We have hope that together we can learn and grow. Even in our trials and tribulations we have open minds, loving hearts and giving hands. We have much for which we are grateful. Just for today may we remember our gratitude. Just for today may we live from that gratitude. Just for today may we offer that gratitude to others so they may find peace, faith and hope in their own lives.

Shanti,

Paul

Rev. Paul Langston-Daley, Minister

President's Message

When I first started attending the UUFPP in 1995, I did so in search of a religious community where I could raise my children. My husband and I had stopped attending church on a regular basis; but I felt compelled to provide a structured spiritual upbringing for my children. I was baptized as a baby in the Lutheran church and again as a teen in a non-denominational conservative Christian church. My husband, who has a Christian mother and a Muslim father, was raised learning about both religions. We tried several different Christian institutions, but we didn't feel comfortable hearing derogatory comments about non-Christian religions. Then we discovered Unitarian-Universalism at UUFPP.

My reasons for attending the UUFPP have changed over the years. I believe in the Unitarian Universalist principles, and I love that our UU tradition draws wisdom from the world's religions to inspire our spiritual life. To me, UUFPP provides a framework that promotes a free and responsible search for truth and meaning in my life. I attend UUFPP because this religious community provides me with both intellectual stimulation and spiritual nourishment. Bottom line is that it provides a faith community that embraces my spiritual philosophies.

With that being said, I know there are things we can do to create a better community. We have already taken a step towards creating a Beloved Community when we voted to accept our covenant and abide by its established guidelines on how members interact with each other as a community. What does it take to build and sustain a Beloved Community? After hearing Rev. Paul's sermon on this topic last month, I have to question if we are a "pseudo community" or a "true community" that recognizes and acknowledges differences? According to M. Scott Peck, author of *The Different Drum*, a true community is accepting and inclusive; it seeks out diversity, welcomes other points of view, and embraces opposites. I think it's fair to say that as a community we have some work to do.

One of the Board's objectives is to work on community building. The Board has approved instituting a Committee on Shared Ministry (CoSM). The CoSM is a Board level committee and is responsible for evaluation of shared ministry, as well as advising the Board and Minister of issues. The initial focus for the CoSM will be to work with Rev. Paul to develop a process for conflict management (of past conflict) and community building. Carla Johnson has been appointed chair of the CoSM, and the committee had their first meeting last month. You will hear more about community building activities when the CoSM gets off the ground. The Board also approved the initiation of Peaceful Resolutions as a task force of Committee on Shared Ministry. CJ Rhoads will chair this task force.

So there may be some changes we have to make to create a better community... to reconcile conflict, and to make our community more welcoming to others. There may be some fears in regard to change and what it will mean to our valued intimate community. But I believe that through the experience of striving for a true community we will find ways to work things out if we face each other openly and honestly.

So in the spirit of Thanksgiving, I am thankful for the community we have, and I am thankful that our congregation is taking steps to become a true Beloved Community. Have a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP OF
POTTSTOWN

40TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

The Congregation of the
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown
Invites you to join us in Celebrating our 40th Anniversary

Saturday, November 10, 2007

Welcome reception – 5 pm
Dinner – 6 pm
Entertainment – approx 7:30 pm

Older children are welcome to attend the party.
There will be childcare and a child-friendly meal for the
younger children in the RE wing.

Please RSVP by November 2nd if you are able to join us.

Dorothea Hamlin
610-754-7832
40thAnniversary@uupottstown.org

Special 40th Anniversary Service
Sunday, November 11th at 10 am

Let's Celebrate!



Early Days...Charles Leyrer,
Alexander Downie and Bob
Jones at the Grange Hall in 1967

Coming up - November 10th is the 40th Anniversary Dinner and November 11th is the 40th Anniversary Service Celebration. In order to pay for the dinner, we've decided to solicit donations rather than charge a cover price or sell tickets. There will be a special passing of the basket for people to donate what they can. We estimate the cost of the dinner to be around \$800, but we will scale up or down depending upon how much is donated. Please be as generous as you can.

We are also looking for help. Contact Judith van Beek (610-286-2116, jjvb@worldlynx.net) if you are willing to help with the food. Contact Marianne Yarnall (610-326-1317, myarnall@comcast.net) if you are willing to do something for the talent show program. Contact Bob Jones (610-326-9226, jonebo41@yahoo.com) if you are willing to play one of the founders in the Founders Play that Bob is writing (newer members (after 1995) only). For anything else, contact CJ Rhoads (610-468-5039, Finance@uupottstown.org).

UUFP Calendar

November 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Yoga: 7:00 Women's Group: 7:00	2 Movie night: <u>Blade Runner</u> 7:00	3
4 Choir:8:30 Service: 10:00	5	6 Meditation with Sally: 7-8:30 Membership Mtg: 7:00	7	8 Yoga: 7:00	9	10 40th Anniversary Dinner and Celebration: 5:00--
11 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00 Chi Gong: 11:30	12 Board Mtg: 7:00	13	14	15 Yoga: 7:00 <i>Sojourner Deadline</i>	16	17
18 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00 Circle of Healing: 11:30	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving	23	24
25 Choir:8:30 Service: 10:00	26	27 Sunday Service Mtg: 7:00	28	29 Yoga: 7:00	30	

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

Transition Team

The Board of Directors has voted to dissolve the Transition Team for this year. The committee was needed during the transition period of changing our governance structure and while searching for a minister. We now have our new minister Rev. Paul Langston-Daley and we have continued to monitor and change our governance structure to fit our needs. The committee that is now needed at UUFP is a Committee on Shared Ministry. This committee will help to evaluate how we are doing as a congregation with our shared ministry with Rev. Paul and how he is doing with his shared ministry with us. It is not the Ministerial Committee we had in the past that served as a support system for the minister. This committee will be involved in evaluating how we feel we are doing as a congregation with our shared ministry.

The Transition Team thanks you for all of the support you have given us. We are delighted that we were able to assist UUFP through the initial phases of transition. Your support was paramount to the successful changes we have made along the way.

Thank you,

The Transition Team: Mary Alsayegh, Carla Johnson, Bob Jones and Linda Pallay

UU Action Committee News

The UUFP congregation collected a special offering to give to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Blanchard Valley in Findley, Ohio. Their small congregation was affected by a flood and lost many of their supplies. We have sent a check for \$225 to their congregation to assist with their work.

Thanks to all for your support, and the sharing of your personal resources.

Blessings.

Carla Johnson

UU Action Committee Chair

Gardening Committee

Dorothea Hamlin is looking for suggestions for the foyer container for the anniversary. The geraniums at the entrance will be going "downhill" by then.

We would also like to thank people for being willing to share their plants with the fellowship. If you would like to donate a plant please contact Dorothea and confer with her as to whether the gift will be appropriate to be added to our collection.

I would also like to thank those who have helped with the deadheading, the weeding and edging at the fellowship.

Thank you,

Dorothea Hamlin

Women's Group

The meeting date for the Women's Group has changed to the first Thursday of each month @ 7 PM. Please join us for spirituality, community and growth as we continue with "Rise Up and Call Her Name". This month, November 1st, we will continue our studies that come from African creation myths. In Yoruba, which is now called Nigeria, the Yoruban goddesses or Orisha (aw ree shah) Oshun, Yemaya, and Oya are considered the most female-empowering deities in African Spiritual traditions. These Orisha are "honored in other religious practices around the globe that trace their roots to West Africa." The goddesses we will study this month were chosen by the authors because of "their powerful qualities, their prominence, and their accessibility". Some say ; "The Yoruban religion has a number of levels, like the layers of an onion. The most spiritual and longest existing is at the center". Be sure to mark your calendars and join us as we continue our spiritual journey.

Linda Pallay

Listening to Chaos- A Healing Circle

The new Committee on Shared Ministry would like to invite the members and friends of the Fellowship to join together on November 18th following the service in a *Circle of a Healing*.

Trust is essential for any community to have depth and real meaning. Trust requires that we take risks and that we remain mindful of one another. With that understanding, the Committee is offering an opportunity to build a greater level of trust within the UUFP community. This is an opportunity for each of us to work on our personal spiritual growth and support others in their spiritual growth.

The circle will be facilitated and provide a structured format in which each person will have a chance to express how they feel they have been hurt, harmed or unsupported at the Fellowship and how we might work together to bring healing. Even if you do not feel you have been personally hurt, if you know someone who has, you have been affected. This is an opportunity for us to listen to one another, to speak from our hearts, and to offer ourselves to one another openly and honestly to bring deep healing and reconciliation to our beloved community.

If you have questions about this circle, please contact Rev. Paul or Carla Johnson (Chair of the Committee On Shared Ministry.)

First Friday movie night!

Rev Paul will be coordinating a UUFP movie night beginning November 2nd at 7:00 PM.

The first film to be shown will be "Blade Runner" starring Harrison Ford. This film explores issues of cloning, belonging, inherent worth and dignity.

This event will be BYOP (*bring your own popcorn*).

Hope to see you there.

Holiday Shoppe at Thomas Paine UU Fellowship

Saturday, Nov. 10, 3-7 p.m.

3124 Ridge Pike
Collegeville

Come shop in a relaxed setting with craft vendors, your favorite home distributors of jewelry, candles and kitchen needs. Stop by our bake table and purchase a take-home dinner! Enjoy a cup of cider or mulled wine while meeting other UUs.

Meditation Moments...

The breeze at dawn has secrets to tell you...don't go back to sleep.

-Rumi

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

Who's Who at the UUF

Minister: Rev Paul Langston-Daley

Board of Directors:

President: Mary Alsayegh

Past President: Carla Johnson

Board Secretary: Linda Pallay

Finance Secretary: CJ Rhoads

Treasurer: Albert Jenkin

Board Member: Lynn Medley

Board Member: Bob Gross

Board Committees:

Committee on Shared Ministry: Carla Johnson

Peaceful Resolutions: CJ Rhoads

Congregational Committees:

Committee Council Chair: Stefanie Fulwood

Stewardship:

Chair: CJ Rhoads

Treasurer: Albert Jenkin

Fundraising: Vacant

UUAction:

Chair: Carla Johnson

Welcoming Congregation: Don Davis

Programs:

Chair: Stefanie Fulwood

Sunday Service: Stefanie Fulwood

Choir: Marianne Yarnall

Women's Group: Linda Pallay

Chautauqua Team: Cougar

Member Services:

Membership: Kay Price

Caring: Ruth Daly

Greeters: Judith Van Beek

Facilities:

Chair: Matthew Molyneux

Building and Grounds: Matthew Molyneux

Aesthetics: Stefanie Fulwood

Gardens: Dorothea Hamlin

Communications:

Chair: Vacant

Newsletter: Kay Price

Website Updates: Bob Gross

Social Life:

Chair: Vacant

Sunday Coffee Teams: Judith Van Beek

Religious Education:

Chair: Lynn Medley

Important email contacts:

Minister@uupottstown.org- Rev Paul Langston-Daley

President@uupottstown.org - Mary Alsayegh

PastPresident@uupottstown.org - Carla Johnson

BoardSecretary@uupottstown.org - Linda Pallay

CommitteeCouncil@uupottstown.org - Stef Fulwood

Office@uupottstown.org - Albert Jenkin

Mailings@UUPottstown.org-Judith Van Beek

Newsletter@uupottstown.org - Kay Price

UUAction@uupottstown.org - Carla Johnson

Programs@uupottstown.org - Stefanie Fulwood

MemberServices@uupottstown.org- Kay Price

Facilities@uupottstown.org - Matthew Molyneux

Communications@uupottstown.org - Cougar

Rentals@uupottstown.org -Stefanie Fulwood

Finance@uupottstown.org - CJ Rhoads at UUF

Stewardship@uupottstown.org - CJ Rhoads at UUF

PeacefulResolutions@uupottstown.org— CJ Rhoads

Sharedministry@uupottstown.org: Carla Johnson

Webmaster@uupottstown.org - Bob Gross

Change of email, phone or street address? Email your new contact information to mailings@uupottstown.org or hand over new info in person to Judith Van Beek.

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: newsletter@uupottstown.org**

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP OF
POTTSTOWN

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Phone: 610-327-2662

Email:

office@uupottstown.org

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