

The Sojourner

newsletter of the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown

1565 South Keim St
(610) 327-2662

Pottstown, PA 19465
uupottstown.org

April 2008

Sunday, April 6, 2008

Gambling on Gratitude

Rev. Paul Langston-Daley

The poet, Mary Oliver asks us, "What is it that you plan to do with your wild and precious life?" How shall we live in this world? Do we enter each day with resentment, fear, numbness or doubt? Or, do we begin the day with a sense of wonder? What gifts will the world bring me today, and what gifts do I have to offer in return? To shift ones perspective, to live a life of gratitude makes a difference not just for ourselves, but for the whole world.

How we live matters.

Sunday, April 13, 2008

The Psychology of Laughter

A collaboration of Emily Quarles- Mowrer ,
Bob Jones and friends

Have you laughed today ? How many times ?
How long and how hard ? What caused your
laughter ? Have YOU caused anyone to laugh
today ?

Our panel of 'psychologists' will consider the
many aspects of laughter, give examples and
demonstrations. Be prepared for special music,
skits, surprise and, perhaps, shock.

Leave cares aside this morning. Life gets to be
too serious. Can we live up to this 'hype' ?

Come out and see.

Sunday, April 20, 2008

Earth Day Celebration: The Lorax

an integrated worship service

Rev. Paul and members of our community

This service for all ages will celebrate the beauty
and wonder of the natural world in a dramatic
reading of Dr Suess' powerful story of greed
and responsibility. Following the service we will
be planting trees on the property with the
Religious Education class as a symbol of healing
following the oil spill.

Third Sunday potluck will follow the service.

Sunday , April 27, 2008

Jason Mundok from "Living Fable"

Stefanie Fulwood Lay Leader

Join us as we explore the ancient and modern
art of storytelling through song. Jason Mundok,
a musician and songwriter from Lancaster, PA,
will join us for our Sunday morning service and
lead us on this exploration.

Spirituality and music, particularly music that
tells a story, has been intimately linked
throughout history. We will discuss examples of
music that have touched the souls of people
throughout history and where musical
storytelling fits in our modern world of digital
media and instant entertainment.

Jason will be performing specially selected
music throughout the service.



From the Minister's Desk

Longer days, warmer weather and the return of the bountiful colors of spring!

This time of year is my favorite; it is full of possibilities and potential. I am delighted by your open and forthright process as we move forward with our vision and mission. You have come together to find common values that will guide us as we move forward to spread our beacon of hope to the larger community.

The growth we envision will be a challenge and we discussed some of those challenges at our last Town Hall Meeting. We know that there will be some anxiety about roles, about our place, and about how well we know everyone. I am working with the Committee On Shared Ministry and the Board to develop a sustainable growth plan. (We invite anyone with ideas to talk with us as we proceed.) I hope to create an even stronger environment of belonging as we build our beloved community. I remind you all of the stages of building community and encourage each of us to breathe deeply and listen to one another when we feel chaos or conflict closing in. Chaos and conflict are an inevitable part of building strong community and it is essential that we each feel safe enough to speak our truth. That safety comes in knowing that we will be heard and respected. We know that we might not all agree, but we also recognize the value in our diversity. If we remember that individually we don't necessarily have all the answers, but that the best answers often come from our collective experience and knowledge, we will do well.

This month we will vote on our mission and vision statement- a statement that passed the straw poll UNANIMOUSLY! Please take time to review the statement again before the meeting on April 20th and speak with me if you have any reservations about it. With this new statement will come a commitment to next year's budget- and that will mean investing in the future of this congregation. We will present 3 options for next year- a conservative "No Growth" Budget, a "Moderate Growth Budget" and an "Aggressive Growth Budget". These budgets will be explained in detail at the April meeting. The budget selected by the congregation will be the one used for our pledge drive. Your commitment to the future of the Fellowship begins NOW! We cannot succeed without that commitment- in time, energy and pledges. The growth we seek will require the participation of all of us -together!

We have the drive, the desire and vision to be a voice of hope, love and compassion in the greater community. You have come together recognizing that this Fellowship is not your own, but belongs to your children and your grand children. Let us build a priceless legacy to pass on to them, one that calls us all to be and to become our best selves. Next year will offer challenges, but it will also offer a deeper sense of belonging, hope, love and great joy as we grow together and reach out to others.

Together we can, Together we must, Together we will.

Shanti,

Paul

Rev. Paul Langston-Daley, Minister

610-850-3364

Minister@uupottstown.org

President's Message

This month I would like to give an update on some activities taking place at the UUFP.

I am extremely grateful for both the monetary and moral support that we have received from the JPD congregations for our oil clean-up! We have received approximately \$10,000 from individuals, UU congregations and the JPD Pottstown Relief Fund. UU World also placed an article about our oil spill clean-up effort on the web. Regarding the clean-up, the UUFP has sent a letter responding to the DEP report and letter requesting a description of the steps that have been taken and will be taken to remedy the situation. We are required to clean up to an Act 2 standard and file a Final Cleanup Report at the end of this process. We requested estimates from two contractors to investigate and remediate any remaining contaminants found in the fuel oil tank area. Such actions will commence as soon as the weather permits.

We are pleased to be sharing our space with the Al-anon group for their regional spring conference this month, and also with a Home School co-op who is renting our rooms for their school once a week.

The Nomination Committee is working to fill positions on the governing board for the 2008-2009 year. Some of the current Board members will remain on the Board next year due to rotating terms. The positions remaining include one at-large board member (Lynn Medley), with the President-Elect moving to the President position, and the President moving to the Past-President position. Since the President-Elect position was not filled last year, the Board asked me to remain as president and Carla Johnson as Past-President for next year. The congregation will be electing the following Board positions for the 2008-2009 year: President-Elect for a three year term, Secretary, Treasurer and an at-large board member for two year terms, and Finance Secretary for one year. If the Nomination Committee approaches you to fill a position on the Board, please consider sharing your talents to help build our community.

Our current governance model was adopted last year and put into place in July. We were trying this structure for a year prior to modifying our bylaws. At the end of the first year, the structure was to be evaluated, tweaked, and modified for the 2008-2009 year. At this time leadership acknowledges the benefits of this model but also recognizes that our congregation is too small to make all aspects of this model work as designed. The Committee on Shared Ministry and the Board will be meeting this month to develop a "bridge" governance structure until we are large enough to support the current governance structure. The proposal will be presented to the congregation.

In March, the Board and Rev. Paul met with Pat Infante, JPD Director for Growth and Extension, to discuss development of a long-range plan and growth strategy for the UUFP. Our vision and mission work is an important step in this process. On April 20th we will hold a congregational meeting on the specific topics of our Vision and Mission statements and the 2008-2009 budget. The congregation will be presented with multiple budget options: a maintenance budget, a moderate growth budget and a bold growth budget. We need to determine, as a congregation, which budget is sustainable and will help us reach our vision and mission.

On the evening of May 31st, we will be having our Spring Service Auction. Please donate your time, services and funds in this major fundraiser of the year.

I would like to close with a statement made by President Sinkford at the UUA General Assembly event last June, "...It is only if we commit to a shared vision that we can begin to move toward the Beloved Community that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., envisioned." He said what helps us work toward the beloved community are congregations that work together.

Let's work together toward a Shared Vision and Beloved Community. Together we can make a difference.

In Faith,

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown

Mission and Vision Statement

Join us on April 20th following the service as we vote on our new Mission and Vision Statements. These statements were developed using the concepts from the Town Hall meetings. The language has been simplified to make it easy for all of us to remember the Mission, including the children. The Mission and Vision statements are designed to help us focus our energy and set priorities for the future. We will also be voting on 3 choices for the budget for next year. Copies of the budget options will be available prior to the meeting.

Our Vision _____

We seek to...

- Build a congregation based on compassion, diversity, service to the community, and spiritual riches.
- Expand our ministry and staff to support quality worship services, excellent music programs, office administration, and a thriving Religious Education program for children, youth and adults.
- Grow in an organic and sustainable manner to become a pastoral size congregation within 2 to 3 years, reevaluating at that time a move to a program size congregation.

Our Mission _____

The Mission of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown is to carry the saving message of Unitarian Universalism to the world by:

- Providing a sanctuary for our members in times of need and a place for celebration in times of joy.
- Reaching out to all seeking a personal religious path and helping each other grow in spiritual maturity.
- Promoting green living.
- Easing the suffering in the greater Pottstown community, seeking justice by joining our voices with those who need us.

Religious Education Notes



Family Chalice Lighting:

*One day "Right will dwell in the desert
and justice will abide in the orchard.
Justice will bring about peace;
and right will produce calm and security.
My people will live in peaceful country,
in secure dwellings and quiet resting places."*

Isaiah 32:16-18, New American Bible

Curriculum

Our curriculum this year is covering the UU 7 principles in depth, using different approaches each week to build on different learning styles. This month our topics are:

We will be continuing the 6th Principle:

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all:

Build a fair and peaceful world.

April 6th Build a fair and peaceful world: Peace & Love

April 13th Build a fair and peaceful world: Justice

And beginning our 7th Principle:

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part:

Take care of our earth.

April 20th Intergenerational Earth Day Service -

Staged reading of Dr. Seuss's The Lorax & tree planting!

April 27th The months and the seasons - each has its place

April Events

Earth Healing Ceremony

After the staged reading of Dr. Seuss's The Lorax (how fun is that?!) on **April 20th**, RE is sponsoring a healing ceremony during which we will plant trees as a gesture of the UUFP's continued commitment to the web of existence of which we are a part. Join us for this special ceremony!

Last Month's Events in Review

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our annual Easter Egg hunt! Thank you, also, for those of you who contributed goodies of the edible and non-edible kinds!

Can't wait to see you at RE!

Lynn Medley, RE Chair



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP OF POTTSTOWN

PLEDGE DRIVE KICKOFF AND TALENT SHOW

(or Untalented Show as the case may be)

April 19, 2008

Cocktails & Reception – 6 pm

Entertainment – 7 pm

Children are WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED to show off their talents
(even if they have none to show off).
Adults are all officially strong-armed
into sharing their non-talents as well.

Fun For All

**Please let Jenn Mossholder know what task you are willing to do, and
what non-talent you would like to perform (by April 14).**

Jenn Mossholder
110 Ava Circle
Gilbertsville, PA 19525
610-906-1928
jenn@mossholder.com

*The Kickoff Talent Show is themed for the pledge drive,
but canvassing starts the next day.*

There will also be a congregational vote regarding the budget on April 20, 2008.



Building and Grounds Maintenance

I seem to have acquired the role of "Facilities Chair". This is a much needed role but I definitely need help. As our building ages, we need to keep it in attractive condition. With Spring almost here, there are many things to do, (e.g.) grass cutting and trimming. "Facilities" includes Aesthetics, Garden and Kitchen Committees. We will be organizing Saturday work parties to accomplish some of these needed tasks. Please show your sense of "ownership" of our beautiful complex by assisting when asked.

Thanks,
Bob Jones, Facilities Committee Chair



UUFPA Annual Service Auction To Be Held

Date: Saturday, May 31, 2007

Time: 6:00 pm until ???

Doors open at 6 pm, Noisy Auction begins at 7 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 other libations.
- Catalogs of items being auctioned will be available one week prior to the event so you can figure out your bidding strategies!
- 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:

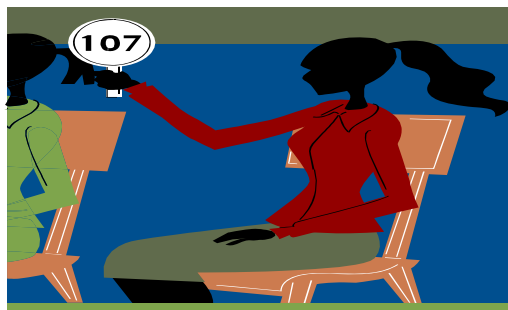
- We are asking for your donations:

For the **noisy** portion of our auction, we are looking for fun and interesting events, items and services. Dinners, indoor/outdoor/sporting/entertainment events, weekend getaways, vacation home sharing 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. We'll also be accepting donations of used books to sell at the low price of: hardbacks for \$1, paperbacks for \$.50.

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. They will be accepted up to Sunday, **May 18**. Please contact Marianne Yarnall with any questions.





UFP AUCTION DONATION FORM
May 31, 2008

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.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

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

Retail Value: _____ Opening Bid: _____
(for your tax purposes)

Silent Auction Item(s) to be Donated:

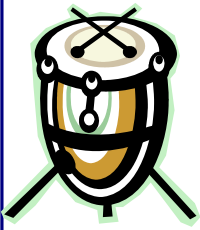
Item: _____ Starting Bid: _____
Item: _____ Starting Bid: _____
Item: _____ Starting Bid: _____

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, **May 18**.

Please contact Marianne Yarnall with any questions.

BE CREATIVE!

Drum Circle



The March Women's Drumming Circle was a huge success! Over 40 women from all over the area (some as far as Harrisburg) came to UUFP and

drummed away during a very rainy day. It was my first Circle and I came away with such a feeling of inner-peace, it was remarkable. We hope to have future Drumming Circles at the UUFP, suiting a variety of people.

A big "thanks" goes out to Linda Pallay, Marianne Yarnall, Bonnie Donahue, Courtney Daley and Carla Johnson. As a side note, we also received some "outside" donations toward our fuel spill costs.

--Jenn Mossholder

Women's Group

The women's Group has been busy making soap and candles these past few months and also having a lot of fun.

This month we are going to do some planning for the summer and the coming year to see where we are headed.

We will meet on April 3rd, the first Thursday of the month, in the Nursery/Lounge. All women members and friends of UUFP are welcome to attend. We will review the video of the goddesses we have studied so far this year after our business discussion.

Currently we have 5 members and were joined by another UUFP member this past month who says she hopes to join us as often as she can! We meet all year long, have our annual Women's dinner celebration in January and have informal gatherings, sometimes at each others house, during the summer months.

Please contact Linda Pallay or Bonnie Donohue if you wish to join us.

Linda Pallay



Our Gardens

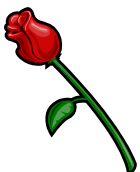
Springtime is a busy time in our gardens. As usual, we can use help with weeding and planting. We will also need donations of shredded pine bark mulch — about 16 bags should do, and need help with spreading it.



Watch for an announcement in the bulletin for when we will be spreading the mulch.

Many thanks to all those who helped to haul away the logs and debris from the tree service. It helped to clear the way for mowing when the time comes.

Thanks to all of those thoughtful people who have donated flowers for our shelf in the sanctuary. Please don't forget to take them home with you when the service is over.



Any questions or offers of help, please call Dorothea Hamlin, Gardens Chair

Thinking of Joining the UUFP?

Pick up a copy of our "Path to Membership" at the welcoming table.

In Memory of...



Peggy Jones' mother,
Catherine Strickland Stetler,
who died on February 18th
at the age of 99.

She had resided at Manatawny Manor nursing home for several years.

Our condolences to Peggy and her family.



**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Of
Pottstown
1565 S. Keim St. Pottstown, PA 19465
(North Coventry Township)**

Saturday, April 12. 7 pm

Music & a Message Concert Series

Little Sister

Little Sister is a small band of friends who love to sing and play music together: folk, rock, reggae, blues, country. Where harmony, melody and message unite, we are there to entertain and uplift our listeners. Come hear us!

Join us to celebrate Earth Day and enjoy wonderful live music.

Concert tickets are \$5 and a donation of canned goods to the Pottstown food bank

-or- \$10. Children under 13 admitted with canned goods only.

Contact Information

Carla Johnson. 610-326-1317

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COURSE: LISTENING TO OUR LIVES

This is a 9 week commitment and we will meet from 6-8pm.

Tuesday Nights: April 1, 8, 15, 29

May 6, 13, 20, 27 and June 10

(A small fee of \$20 per person for the course will be used to cover childcare costs)

Rev. Paul is offering LISTENING TO OUR LIVES. This course is an exploration of, and a chance to deepen your spiritual path, to discover what your challenges are in finding and committing to a spiritual path and discovering where your heart truly lies. The course is designed to help us listen to the life within us, the life between us, the Life beyond us—to covenant, to promise to ourselves, and each other, to listen fully, with compassion, with attention, with awakening...

The aim of the course is to have you know your creed. Not creed in the sense of "I believe X or I don't believe Y", more than just intellectual truth. We will go back to the original sense of creed, related to what we believe with our hearts, our whole selves.

First Friday Movie Night

April 4 at 7:00 PM



I Now Pronounce You

Chuck and Larry

(2007)

When two testosterone-fueled firemen attempt to register as domestic partners in order to bypass the bureaucratic red tape preventing one of them from naming his own two children as his life-insurance beneficiaries, their low-key ruse turns into headline news in this quirky matrimonial comedy. Chuck Levine ([Sandler](#)) and Larry Valentine ([James](#)) are two New York City firefighters whose longtime friendship has endured many a five-alarm fire. All that widower Larry wants is to ensure that his two children will be taken care of if anything should happen to him on the job, and all that single blaze-battler Chuck wants is to carry on with his carefree life of noncommitment. Having once rescued Larry from certain death in a particularly fearsome inferno, beholden Chuck feels forever indebted to his brave friend and has vowed to repay the favor when the time is right. When Larry discovers that the only means of circumventing the civic red tape that could throw his children's futures into jeopardy is to take Chuck as his lawfully wedded husband, his obligated pal reluctantly agrees to step up to the alter with the understanding that the arrangement will be a well-kept secret between themselves and the justice of the peace. A potentially fatal flaw in their presumably foolproof plan is soon revealed, however, when an overzealous bureaucrat decides to question Chuck and Larry's partnership. Subsequently forced to embark on a mandatory honeymoon and pose as starry-eyed newlyweds, Chuck and Larry quickly discover just how important it can be to stick by a friend in his or her time of need. ~ (edited) Jason Buchanan, All Movie Guide

Running Time: 116 mins

Please plan to arrive early. The film will begin at 7pm.

Who's Who at the UUFPP

Minister: Rev Paul Langston-Daley

Board of Directors:

President: Mary Alsayegh

Past President: Carla Johnson

Board Secretary: Linda Pallay

Finance Secretary: vacant

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 Chairs: Rev Paul Langston-Daley, Mary Alsayegh

Stewardship:

Chair: Vacant

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

Member Services:

Membership: Kay Price

Caring: Ruth Daly

Greeters: Judith Van Beek

Facilities:

Chair: Bob Jones

Building and Grounds: Bob Jones

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

Board@uupottstown.org - Board members

Council@uupottstown.org - Comm Council members

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 - Bob Jones

Rentals@uupottstown.org - Stefanie Fulwood

Finance@uupottstown.org - CJ Rhoads at UUFPP

Stewardship@uupottstown.org - Mary Alsayegh

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**



UUFPP Calendar

April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Listening to our lives: 6-8 Membership Mtg: 7:00	2	3 Yoga : 7:00 Women's Group: 7:00	4 Homeschool Co-op: 9:00 AM Movie Night: "Chuck and Larry" 7:00	5
6 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00	7 Committee Council Mtg: 6:00 PM	8 Listening to our lives: 6-8	9	10 Yoga : 7:00	11 Homeschool Co-op: 9:00 AM	12 Little Sister 7:00 pm
13 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00	14 Board of Directors Mtg: 6:45	15 Listening to our lives: 6-8 <i>Sojourner deadline</i>	16	17 Yoga : 7:00	18 Homeschool Co-op: 9:00 AM	19 Al-Anon Rental: 7:30 AM Talent Show: 6:00
20 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00 Cong Mtg: 11:30	21	22 Sunday Service Mtg: 7:00 PM	23	24 Yoga : 7:00	25 Homeschool Co-op: 9:00 AM	26
27 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00	28	29 Listening to our lives: 6-8	30			

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP OF
POTTSTOWN

*1565 South Keim Street
Pottstown, PA 19465*

Phone: 610-327-2662

Email:

office@uupottstown.org

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