



April 2009

The Sojourner

newsletter of the **Unitarian- Universalist
Fellowship of Pottstown**

1565 South Keim St
Pottstown, PA 19465
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www.uupottstown.org

Sunday, April 4, 2010

A UU Understanding of Passover and Easter

Rev David Farrington

Passover and Easter always occur simultaneously, but at widely differing times. They occur together because they are inextricably linked by the common history of Jews and Christians; they occur annually at different times because they are determined by the Jewish (lunar) calendar.

This sermon asks: Beyond history and calendar, what message might UUs take from Passover and Easter?

Sunday, April 11, 2010

Family Constellations A New Horizon in Healing

Speaker: Michael Reddy, PhD

Families form systematic "constellations," in which the needs of the group come before those of the individual. Roles we play in the group persist into later life, and may or may not support our individual health and happiness. Constellation Work reveals deep, often hidden loyalties. It helps us realign our family systems, so that ancestral love flows and supports our current success.

Learn how diseases, chronic conditions or problems, mysteriously persistent failures of almost every kind are being changed strikingly for the better with this recently developed technique.

Sunday, April 18, 2010

Unitarian Christianity: An Overview

Rev David Farrington

Continuing the exploration of our Unitarian Universalist roots in Christianity and Judaism, this sermon looks at the early "liberal" optimism of our Unitarian and Universalist forebears and asks, in the words of an ancient Jewish shepherd, "Who are we that we should be noticed?"

Third Sunday potluck will follow the service.

Sunday, April 25, 2010

When I say, "God" ...

Rev David Farrington

When I say "God," what do you hear? What image comes to your mind? Having explored the UU meaning of Easter and Passover and taken a look at the origins and substance of UU Christianity and using the Bible as a source, many likely imagine their minister to be a Christian. Yet he sees himself as a religious humanist. Why then, does he put so much emphasis on our Judeo-Christian heritage, scriptural writings and the like?

Today is the day he will try to make it all clear.



From the Minister's Desk

Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

-John 20:25

The Disciple Thomas became known as “Doubting Thomas” because of his demand for physical evidence – *proof* – of Jesus’ resurrection. Thomas was, of course, “Unitarian” because the trinity (and “Trinitarian”) would not be invented for well over two hundred years; no one in the first century questioned that God existed as a unity. And we might also think of Thomas as one of us because he constantly questions, demands proof, takes nothing at face value.

I was reminded of Thomas recently when a parishioner inquired about my planned Easter sermon. The query was followed with an interesting observation: “Unitarian ministers seem to have a problem with Easter...” It is difficult, and for several reasons. The diversity of theology among parishioners, for example. Even if we are theists, preaching the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection strains credulity. Preaching the “Passion of Christ” as a metaphor for the promise of new life leads to such issues as how we understand death. Is it final? Is there life after death? Or, are we reincarnated until we finally “get it right?”

For many, Easter is the Christian equivalent of pagan festivals celebrating the return of the high sun, long days and the season of rebirth. It is easier to talk about the crocus and daffodil – the return of Life from Death – than “the Savior.” But how do we to reconcile such a diversion with our claim of being “inheritors of the Judeo-Christian tradition?”

So, what do Unitarian Universalists – ministers and members – believe about Easter? And, how do we celebrate it? For many the best way is to stay home, fill the starter trays with potting soil and sew some seeds -- beginning the renewal of life right there on their window sills. If they “take,” well... close the church, nourish the new life and resume theology and philosophy after the leaves “turn” and drop from the trees.

We are a diverse group we Unitarian Universalists! I look forward to a service that celebrates the joy of new life, however we choose to celebrate it. And regardless of what you believe or how you celebrate it, I am confident we all look forward to green grass, budding leaves and the ultimate disappearance of mud.

Happy Easter!

Blessings,

Dave

Rev. David W. Farrington
610-850-3728

President's Message

I cannot tell a lie. I was having a very difficult time thinking of something to write for my president's message and my lovely wife would not write the message for me. She did, however, offer some advice. When her Mother, in the course of thirteen years as Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Oneonta, would have writer's block she would pick an inspirational poem and relate it to the work of the Church. The Reverend Judith Quarles passed away last year on April 9th, the day after our third wedding anniversary. I am writing this President's Message in her memory.

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I--
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference
...Robert Frost

I personally love this very famous Frost poem and I will not pretend that I have some profound deeper meaning to add to his simple but beautifully crafted words. Taking the road less traveled is a philosophy that has certainly served me well and has led to me living an interesting life. More importantly I think that Unitarian Universalists are drawn to the road less traveled and I think that as a Fellowship we need to advertise that we are a welcoming place for those that also prefer to follow the path that bent in the undergrowth. I miss Judy Quarles very much, but I am thankful that she brought such a wonderful daughter into this world for me to love. I am also thankful for the example she provided me that showed me the value of living life by Unitarian Universalist principles, guided by reason and your own conscience.

With Love,

Religious Education Notes



Family Chalice Lighting:

Together we light this family flame to remind us:
To show our love for each other every day,
To live with gratitude in our hearts,
and thanks on our tongues, and
To take care of each other, as families should.
We light this family flame to remind us of our love.

When and Where?

Kindergarten through 6th grade meet weekly from 9:30-10:20 in the RE wing. Our Youth Group (7th-12th graders) meets on the Second Sunday of each month to discuss a movie during the 10:30 service in the Teen Room in the RE wing. Look for the movie of the month on the door of the Teen Room!

Curriculum

Our curriculum this year was developed in-house to fit within a 13-year progression of skills we would like to see our children develop over their time with us in RE and Youth Group. Topics to be covered each week in April are listed below:

RE

- April 4 Easter - no RE, but Easter Egg hunt after service!
- April 11 This Land Is Your Land: Environmental Responsibility
- April 18 Environmental Dominoes: From Biosystems to Global Warming
- April 25 Earth Day Composting Project

Youth Group - Second Sunday

- April 11 Principle 7: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

April Events



Ea ster Egg Hunt

April 4th

[THANK YOU](#) to Linda Pallay for teaching in March!

Join us this month! All are welcome.

Lynn Medley, RE Chair



UUFP Calendar

April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Yoga 7:00	2	3
4 Choir 8:30 Adult RE 9:30 Service 10:30	5 Meditation 7:30	6 Women's Group 7:00	7 Membership Mtg 7:30	8 Yoga 7:00	9	10
11 Choir 8:30 Adult RE 9:30 Service 10:30	12 Meditation 7:30	13	14	15 Yoga 7:00 <i>Sojourner Deadline</i>	16	17
18 Choir 8:30 Adult RE 9:30 Service 10:30 <i>3rd Sunday Potluck 11:30 UUFPBoard mtg 12:00</i>	19 Meditation 7:30	20	21	22 Yoga 7:00	23	24
25 Choir 8:30 Adult RE 9:30 Service 10:30 <i>Pathways to Membership 12:00</i>	26 Meditation 7:30	27	28	29 Yoga 7:00	30	



**It's Not Just
a Fundraiser,
It's a Party!**

20th Annual UUFJ Fun Stuff and Service Auction

Saturday, April 24, 2010

**Doors Open 6:30 p.m.
Noisy Auction Bidding Begins at 7:00 p.m.**

Auctioneering Services Donated By

**DAVID
DONOHUE**

**\$5.00 Donation
Donation includes bidding number and childcare
Food provided by "potluck"
BYOB (we'll provide coffee, water and sodas)**



Getting to Know UU: An Interview with Liz Casals and Sam Dulay by Deni Gross

Married for ten years, Liz Casals and Sam Dulay live in South Coventry Township with their five-year-old son Max, newborn daughter Violet Rose, and cats Dax and Pekoe. For the past two years, Liz has worked as the Director of Market Research at SunGard Higher Education, an IT company serving colleges and universities. Previously a medical photographer at the University of Pennsylvania, Sam is currently at home tending to Max and Violet Rose.

After searching for several years for a community which shared their beliefs, Liz and Sam began attending UUFP about a year ago and became members last November. They enjoy the Fellowship because it allows them to, in Liz's words, be themselves and raise their children surrounded by people who share the same values. Liz and Sam find Reverend Dave's sermons inspiring and credit this as one of the reasons they decided to join.

Liz has long been interested in social justice issues, particularly those related to poverty. Since joining the Fellowship, she has been active with the Social Justice Committee, working extensively on developing an outreach program related to microfinance. Sam has worked with the Communications Committee and hopes to also help out with the website and any Fellowship photography needs.

Liz and Sam admit that raising two small children leaves them little time to pursue other interests, but they do both enjoy reading, video editing and bike riding. Sam once road 100 miles to raise money for a charitable cause and is passionate about environmental and conservation issues. An avid photographer, he enjoys taking pictures of his favorite subjects – the kids and the cats.

As Unitarian Universalists, we at UUFP embrace diversity and welcome the fact that both Liz and Sam share a Filipino heritage. Interestingly, Liz's mother was a young, teen movie star in the Philippines and once danced with the famous actor, Marlon Brando, when *Mutiny on the Bounty* premiered there.

We are always happy to welcome young families into our UUFP membership and encourage everyone to get to know the Casals-Dulay family. They look forward to sharing their lives with UU!

The Women's Group

The Women's Group is changing to a new evening. We are changing the night to the first Tuesday of each month starting in April. We will meet April 6th @ 7pm in the conference room which is located to the right as you enter the foyer. A portion of this month's meeting will be our business meeting. After the business portion of the meeting Bonnie Donohue will present another guided meditation by



Grandmother Elspeth. We are continuing our meditation with Elspeth using the CD "Out of the Forest Spirit Journeys with Elspeth". It is a very peaceful and affirming meditation. Elspeth Odbert or Grandmother Elspeth is the author of this double CD. She conducts workshops on spiritual growth and enrichment. She has a reputation for offering ..."honest advice and earth-based "mountain wisdom".

Please join us for meditation and discussion.

Namaste,

Linda

Women's Group Chair



You are invited to attend...

For folks who remember a long ago spaghetti dinner when Shana Blake Hill, then a student at Owen J. Roberts High School, entertained us with her golden voice, there will be another chance to hear "Blake." After graduating from Oberlin Conservatory, she went on to study with the Los Angeles and San Francisco Operas. She is now a featured soloist who tours internationally, and she will be singing with the Philadelphia Orchestra at the Kimmel Center for several performances during the last week of May.

Robin Ward, Sally Martin and I plan to go. Blake will be singing "The Phoenix," a work by Asian American composer Bright Sheng for soprano and orchestra. Also on the program will be the Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto #3.

Please contact me at 610-385-6324 or ejoki@ceinetworks.com if you would like to join the party! So far we have not chosen a performance time or seats.

Lisa Jokiel

Pathway to Membership Classes

You've come to our fellowship, visited the sanctuary for a few Sunday services, walked the grounds, and possibly even joined us for an event or two. You find the Seven Principles uplifting and rejuvenating. You're interested in the long line of religious liberals spanning from before the founding of our country until present day. You want to know more, but aren't sure where to find the answers. An upcoming series is just the thing.

An introductory series for prospective Unitarian Universalists will begin Sunday, April 25, 2010 in the Minister's study.

This series of discussions will be conducted by Reverend David Farrington and will be held on Apr 25th, May 9th, May 16th and May 23rd at 12 noon. The class will focus on our spiritual heritage along with introductions to other important aspects of being a Unitarian Universalist.

The Pathways to Membership classes are informative and fun so please contact me (dfarrington@uuma.org) for more information and to join us.

Who's Who at the UUFP

Minister: Rev. David Farrington

Board of Directors:

President: Clayton Mowrer

Vice President: Tara Boroson

Past President: Mary Alsayegh

Board Secretary: Linda Pallay

Treasurer: Paul Nemeth

Board Member: Lisa Hill

Board Member: Mary Ryan

Board Committees:

Committee on Shared Ministry:

Chair: Marianne Yarnall

Congregational Committees:

Committee Council:

Chair: Tara Boroson

Stewardship:

Chair: Paul Nemeth

Bookkeeper: Courtney Daley

UUAction:

Chair: Carla Johnson

Worship:

Chair: Lisa Jokiel

Choir: Marianne Yarnall

Member Services:

Membership: Miranda Van Horn

Greeters: Judith Van Beek

Sunday Coffee Teams: Judith Van Beek

Newsletter: Kay Price

Website Updates: Bob Gross

Facilities:

Chair: Jon Price

Religious Education:

Chair: Lynn Medley

Important email contacts:

Minister@uupottstown.org– Rev David Farrington

President@uupottstown.org – Clayton Mowrer

VicePresident@uupottstown.org– Tara Boroson

PastPresident@uupottstown.org – Mary Alsayegh

BoardSecretary@uupottstown.org – Linda Pallay

Board@uupottstown.org - Board members

Committees@uupottstown.org– Committee Council

Office@uupottstown.org – Office staff

Mailings@UUPottstown.org–Judith Van Beek

Newsletter@uupottstown.org – Kay Price

UUAction@uupottstown.org - Carla Johnson

Programs@uupottstown.org – Lisa Jokiel

MemberServices@uupottstown.org– Miranda Van Horn

Facilities@uupottstown.org – Jon Price

Finance@uupottstown.org - Paul Nemeth

Stewardship@uupottstown.org - Paul Nemeth

Sharedministry@uupottstown.org: CoSM

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