

April 2011

The Sojourner

newsletter of the Unitarian-Universalist
Fellowship of Pottstown

1565 South Keim St
Pottstown, PA 19465
(610) 327-2662
www.uupottstown.org

*There will be a 15 minute period of silent meditation before services.
Please enter the sanctuary quietly.*

Sunday, April 3, 2011

Wise Fools

Speaker/ Lay Leader: Emily Quarles-Mowrer

April 1st in my house was traditionally a day to be wary. My first April Fools memory was my sister waking me early on a Saturday morning to look for my Easter Basket. I was very sad when I realized that there was no candy at the end of my search. We often think that to be foolish is a bad thing. But there are some things that fools have going for them, like trust, open-mindedness and innocence. Together we will look at the lessons we can learn from fools.

Sunday, April 10, 2011

Who Betrayed Jesus: Judas Iscariot?

Rev David Farrington

The gospels of the Greek Scriptures (New Testament) tell us that Jesus was betrayed by one of his twelve trusted disciples, Judas Iscariot for thirty pieces of silver. Yet the *Gospel of Judas*, tells a very different story. This non-canonical (non-Biblical) work comes to us from the Gnostics – a Jewish sect to which many modern scholars believe Jesus may have been a part. Join us as we begin our Easter season exploration of modern Biblical scholarship.

Sunday, April 17, 2011

Who Betrayed Jesus: The Jews?

Rev David Farrington

Caiaphas was the High Priest of the Jewish Sanhedrin – a kind of supreme court of which Caiaphas was the Chief Justice. Jesus' ministry and message ran counter to the interests of the wealthy Sanhedrin and their desire to maintain the *status quo* and keep peace with their Roman overlords and so, the Bible tells us, they paid Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus. Likewise their historic rivals, the Pharisees – orthodox Jewish priests who resented Jesus' message and liberal ministry. Both had cause to want Jesus dead. What does history tell us? Was it the Jews who killed Jesus?

3rd Sunday potluck will follow the service.

Sunday, April 24, 2011

Who Betrayed Jesus: The Romans?

Rev David Farrington

Pontius Pilate was charged with maintaining civil order and Roman law as the Roman prefect or governor of Judea; Herod Antipas was a subordinate in charge of the Galilee. Both had an interest in maintaining law and order and only the Romans could execute criminals. The Jewish Pharisees and Sanhedrin wanted the Romans to get rid of Jesus. What does literary criticism suggest? Other sources? Were the Romans responsible for Jesus' death?



From the Minister's Desk

Who betrayed Jesus?

As we approach the most holy season in the Christian calendar, this can be a timely question. How "we" answer it depends largely on who "we" are.

Why is the answer to one of the most central questions of Christianity more subjective than objective?

If one were a fundamentalist Christian, the answer would be straightforward – Judas Iscariot. That is what the gospels tell us, so that is the answer. How can one question that?

But if you were a Biblical scholar, your response might be very different. Why is this so?

Because Biblical scholars approach the Bible as a literary and historical work rather than as a sacred text to be understood literally and without question. In short, scholars use a system of Biblical criticism. ("Criticism" as in critique – examining a work from different perspectives and authorships. What did the author intend? How successful was s/he? How do other sources tell the same story?)

Literary criticism, for example, examines the work to discern authorship, intent, genre and the like.

Historical criticism examines a particular work from the perspective of history – what do historical sources, independent of Biblical authorship and intent, tell us? For example, Josephus was a Jewish historian who lived in the time of Jesus. He wrote the history of the Jews in the post exilic period. His work tells us much about the relationship between Rome and Jerusalem, especially leading up to and after the destruction of the temple in 70 C.E.

Biblical criticism can have both narrow and broad meanings. The broader meaning of biblical criticism incorporates literary and historical as well as (narrow) Biblical criticism. The narrower meaning entails looking at any particular book or verse, phrase or even word and comparing it with other, similar ones found elsewhere in the Bible.

So, for example, if we look at the Gospel of Luke we find the parables of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son, yet they appear nowhere else in the Bible. By contrast, the parable of the Sower appears in all three of the so-called synoptic gospels. And in each instance it has a unique and different setting and meaning.

What do these differences mean? Why is the same story told in only one or, in other instances, in multiple gospels? This is the work – and fun – of doing Biblical criticism!

While I could never qualify as a Biblical (or any other kind of) scholar, I have long been intrigued by Biblical criticism and particularly how it can truly deepen our religious or spiritual understanding of Judeo-Christian scripture.

The series of sermons I am doing this month on *Who Betrayed Jesus* uses Biblical scholarship (broad usage) to explore this question and, hopefully, serve to stimulate enough interest in the topic to start another adult religious education program on the topic of Biblical criticism. As always, I value your responses to my work – they enrich my choices of topics and activities.

Blessings,

Dave

610-850-3728/dfarrington@uuma.org

The UUFPP Growth Team

The UUFPP board has created a growth team task force. This group, consisting of Carla Johnson (chair), Mary Alsayegh, Rev. David Farrington, Linda Pallay, Randy Van Horn and Majid Alsayegh (financial consulting) has been meeting on a regular basis for the past several months.

We are looking at several items in particular. One is the financial health of the UUFPP community and what it will take in terms of membership, pledges, and income to make us fiscally sound. Another is exploring the meaning of community – what is our purpose as a Fellowship, how do we treat each other, how do we treat those coming through our doors, what can we do better?

We have had a number of meetings on finances, including a meeting with Rev. Ralph Mero (former UUA staff member) to review our 2010-2011 budget, our current actuals, and likely scenarios for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. We are also trying to think outside the box for creative ways to move forward.

Randy has taken the lead on many of the items that are more related to membership. (And aren't we all honorary members of the membership committee?!) They are reviewing some UUA created videos on growth. Look for more to come in this area.

Recently the growth team sponsored a town hall meeting on Sunday, March 28 to share some of this information and further details. If you have any questions or ideas about our growth or the UUFPP growth team please see one of the task force members.

In faith,
Carla Johnson



Welcoming New Members

The Membership Services Committee is pleased to announce that on April 17th we will be welcoming our newest members during the Sunday Morning Service and honoring them at the Pot Luck Lunch afterwards.



Religious Education

*It's April!!!! The year is running away already.....
come into RE and run with us!*

There is always something going on in RE these days. In March we celebrated St. Patrick's Day with Laurie Young, Chinese New Year with CJ Rhoads and had lots of fun. The dragons we made for Chinese New Year are really neat! Salt dough 3 leaf clovers, made by Laurie, were painted for St. Patrick's Day and they came out beautiful!

The Teen Class facilitated by Deni and Bob Gross once again engaged in thoughtful discussion about "my spiritual journey". The topic will continue into April. The teens were asked to think about the following questions before coming to their meeting on March 13th and April 10th. What does this idea of a spiritual journey mean to you? Does the journey necessarily involve going somewhere in the physical sense? If so, where would YOU go? What would you take with you?

At the teen April meeting, the Gross' hope to have a visitor show slides and talk about his spiritual journey -- a 2,500 mile, six-month-long hike from Mexico to Canada. If the speaker can't make it, the class will still talk about his journey and will see pictures from it.

The Nursery once again was staffed by our many volunteers from UUFPP: those dedicated to helping in RE, along with those mentioned above are: Bev Jensen, Jon Price, and Carolynne Geragosian.

Thanks so much for your time and dedication to our youth. I firmly believe that one of the ways our fellowship grows is through the RE program. Thank you for offering your gifts of time and love.

With appreciation and thanks,

Linda



Meditation Moment...

"For dealing with the rigors of life, the mind of meditation is a wonderful ally."

- Jamgon Mipham Rinpoche

Simply Sitting meets on Mondays at 7:30 pm. Visitors always welcome.

Introduction to Mindfulness Meditation is offered on first Mondays of the Month.

Popcorn Theology



"Whale Rider"

Set in New Zealand this is a contemporary story of love, rejection and triumph as a young Maori girl fights to fulfill a destiny her grandfather refuses to recognize.

Keisha Castle-Hughes was nominated for best actress in a leading role for her portrayal of Paikea (Pai) at the 2002 Academy Awards.

This film also won the BAFTA (The British Academy of Film and Television Arts) Children's award for best feature film in 2003.

It is rated PG-13 and runs 101 minutes

Join us for a viewing and discussion of this delightful family movie.

Friday, April 15th at 7 pm at the UUFP.



Coffee, Coffee, Coffee...

Don't miss the opportunity to buy the same wonderful fair trade coffee we serve at our Sunday morning Coffee Hour to enjoy at home.

New supplies of chocolate have arrived! We've got Caramel Crunch, Dark Chocolate with Orange, Dark Chocolate with Almonds, Extra-dark Chocolate, and Milk Chocolate with Hazelnut. ...and coffees as usual.



We'll also be starting a used book sale at the Coffee Kiosk. You'll be able to browse our books and/or donate your gently used books for the sale.

Find the Coffee Kiosk after Sunday Service at Coffee Hour.



Dick and Lisa Jokiel in Recital

On Sunday afternoon April 3rd, 2011, at 3 PM at the Fellowship, the Jokiel duo will present a vocal and piano encore program of favorites. Dick's vocals will include some German folk songs, Schubert Lieder, The Holy City, Road to Mandalay, and some Broadway tunes, concluding with Old Man River. Lisa will present Rustle of Spring and Clair de Lune. The program will take an hour, with no intermission.

Coffee and goodies will follow.

Sometime after a break, for the truly dedicated classical fans, Lisa will play her not-quite-ready-for Carnegie Hall version of the entire Moonlight Sonata. It is a fifteen minute piece; the friends of the truly dedicated classical fans can visit in the Social Hall during that time!

Invite a friend or two!

We are asking a free will donation to benefit the Fellowship.

Joseph Priestley District Assembly

Stewards of Faith:

Justice Making, Leadership Development, and All-Ages Ministry



April 9-10, 2011

New Saturday-Sunday format!

**Hilton Harrisburg
One North Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101**

**Online Registration Available At:
www.jpduua.org**

Featuring:

Keynote Speakers

Rev. Dr. Fred Muir

***Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church
of Annapolis, MD***

and

Rev. Meg Riley

***Minister, Church of the Larger
Fellowship***



1

Note: a copy of the complete JPD Assembly brochure is available on the fellowship bulletin board outside the sanctuary doors. Registration information is included.



What's happening at Murray Grove

*Murray Grove: peaceful, affordable space –
perfect for retreats and family reunions*

Drum and Dance Fest, July 15-17, 2011: *Express yourself creatively and spiritually!* All levels welcome! LEARN Afro-Brazilian, Latin and West African Drumming, African Dance and Belly Dancing, plus Drum/Dance Jams, Facilitator Performances. Drum under the full moon around our fire circle. Come for the whole weekend, or Saturday only. Visit murraygrove.org or call for the details.

Heritage Week at Murray Grove, July 31-August 5, 2011 - Workshops conducted by **Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Strong** - 2010 winner of the **Angus H. MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education** - on Universalist, Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist Religious Education History and General History with **Rev. Carol Haag, Director of Sacred Worship** and **Rev. Dr. Carol Taylor, Director of Sacred Nourishment**.

Attendance at Heritage Week will qualify as a structured learning experience for the "Philosophy of RE - UU" competency, and as a significant structured learning experience for the credentialed level.

In your free time, rest and relax, and have fun at Murray Grove! Walk the labyrinth, enjoy a pool party and live entertainment, sing around the fire pit, go to local beaches, lakes and creeks, walk the nature trail, play games and enjoy arts and crafts. \$375 per person, double occupancy, including meals; \$350 early bird before July 1, 2011. Limited single occupancy \$125 extra. Call to register.

Please ask us about volunteering and bartering opportunities.

Don't miss our new quarterly electronic newsletter, the Hand-in-Hand!
To receive it, email newsletter@murraygrove.org, or call us!

For information and registration:
Murray Grove Retreat and Renewal Center
PO Box 246, Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734
609-693-5558
murraygrove@murraygrove.org ; www.murraygrove.org

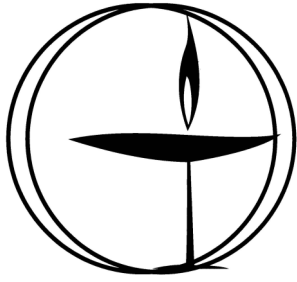


Redner's Save-A-Tapes

Remember to save your register tapes if you shop at Redner's. The fellowship collects a profit of 1% of the total accumulated from the tapes.

In order to qualify for this program you must sign up for a "Pump Perks" card, (this process takes about 2 minutes.) which also helps to save you money on gas. Each time you purchase groceries at Redner's be sure to use your "Pump Perks" card.

Then place your register receipts in the White Redner's box located in the fellowship room. Peggy Jones will collect the receipts, add up the total amount spent and turn in the receipts for cash.



UUFPP Calendar

April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Choir 8:30 Adult & Ch RE: 9:30 Service 10:30	4 Meditation 7:30 <i>1st Monday Intro to Meditation</i>	5	6 Membership Mtg: 7:30	7 Yoga 7:00	8 UUFPP Board Mtg: 7:00	9
10 Choir 8:30 Adult & Ch RE: 9:30 Service 10:30	11 Meditation 7:30	12	13	14 Yoga 7:00	15 Popcorn Theology 7:00 <i>Whale Rider</i>	16
17 Choir 8:30 Adult & Ch RE: 9:30 Service 10:30 <i>3rd Sunday Potluck 11:30</i>	18 Meditation 7:30	19	20	21 Yoga 7:00	22	23
24 Choir 8:30 Adult & Ch RE: 9:30 Service 10:30	25 Meditation 7:30	26	27	28 Yoga 7:00	29	30

Who's Who at the UUFP

Minister: Rev. David Farrington

Board of Directors:

President: Tara Boroson

Vice President: Lisa Hill

Past President: Clayton Mowrer

Board Secretary: Linda Pallay

Treasurer: Mary Ryan

Board Member: Mary Alsayegh

Board Member: Carla Johnson

Board Committees:

Committee on Shared Ministry:

Chair: Marianne Yarnall

Congregational Committees:

Committee Council:

Chair: Lisa Hill

Stewardship:

Chair: Mary Ryan

Bookkeeper: Open

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: Clayton Mowrer

Religious Education:

Chair: Linda Pallay

Important email contacts:

Minister@uupottstown.org – Rev David Farrington

President@uupottstown.org – Tara Boroson

VicePresident@uupottstown.org – Lisa Hill

PastPresident@uupottstown.org – Clayton Mowrer

BoardSecretary@uupottstown.org – Linda Pallay

Board@uupottstown.org - Board members

Committees@uupottstown.org – Lisa Hill

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 – Clayton Mowrer

Finance@uupottstown.org - Mary Ryan

Stewardship@uupottstown.org - Mary Ryan

Sharedministry@uupottstown.org - Marianne Yarnall

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

1565 South Keim Street
Pottstown, PA 19465

Phone: 610-327-2662

Email:

office@uupottstown.org

Website:

<http://www.uupottstown.org>

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