

August 2006

The Sojourner

newsletter of the Unitarian-Universalist
Fellowship of Pottstown

1565 South Keim St
Pottstown, PA 19465
(610) 327-2662

Sunday, August 6, 2006

Shivaloka (Lisa Peters) performing Kirtan

Lay Leader: Stefanie Fulwood

Shivaloka blends traditional harmonium and ektar with inspired and original guitar. We invite the voices who join us this Sunday to tap into their hearts and find the hidden springs of Love through music. Participating in Kirtan, the ancient yogic practice of chant, is a way to enjoy the group consciousness of devotion and upliftment, as well as diving intimately into yourself. That yearning to express your being through love is the beginning of this practice of praise through song. It is done by people of all faiths and walks of life and helps to deepen your own spiritual practice, whatever path you follow. Come join us and experience the stillness within.

Sunday, August 13, 2006

Having Faith in Reason

Lay Leader-Clayton Mourar
Speaker-Emily Quarles Mourar
Special music-Harpist, Betsy Scott Chapman

Secular Humanism is a non-theistic philosophy that favors the use of scientific methods of inquiry, democracy, and human compassion to seek solutions to human problems. Please join us as we explore the history and tenets of Secular Humanism as they apply in today's world.

Sunday, August 20, 2006

Vision Shared

Lay Leader: Jeanne Bautista

Today's fortune cookie: Traveling two different directions at once gets you nowhere fast. Where are you coming from? Where are you going? Whether in a marriage or in a community, if you don't have a common goal in mind, the partnership will be very challenging. We will discuss ways to define our goals and communicate them.

Third Sunday potluck will follow after the service

Sunday, August 27, 2006

Solar Energy Has a Promising Future, But Why Wait?

Speaker: Nick Pine

There is increasing consensus that we need alternatives to fossil fuels, even among those who have expressed little concern in the past (witness President Bush's call for us overcome our "addiction" to oil). In this service, Nick Pine will review why it is critical that we conserve energy and develop alternative sources, explain how solar heating of homes is feasible and some possible reasons why it is not currently implemented. This talk will give us tools to follow the environmental principle, "think globally, act locally".

Our Search for Ministry

We have spent the past few months saying goodbye to our minister of 6+ years, Rev. Greta Brown. A celebration of Greta's ministry and parting ritual was held on Friday, July 7th, and it was good to be able to share our joys, friendships and sorrows. During the service, the Polaris Pack shared the following reading:

To the Four Directions

Spirit of the East, spirit of air, of morning and springtime; Be with us as the sun rises, in times of beginning, times of planting. Inspire us with the fresh breath of courage as we go forth into new adventures.

Spirit of the South, spirit of fire, of noontime and summer; Be with us through the heat of the day and help us to be ever growing. Warm us with strength and energy for the work that awaits us.

Spirit of the West, spirit of water, of evening and autumn; Be with us as the sun sets and help us to enjoy a rich harvest. Flow through us with a cooling, healing quietness and bring us peace.

Spirit of the North, spirit of earth, of nighttime and winter; Be with us in the darkness, in the time of gestation. Ground us in the wisdom of the changing seasons as we celebrate the spiraling journey of our lives.

Joan Goodwin

As we have said our goodbyes, we are also preparing for new beginnings. The next phase of our ministerial journey has begun. The board met with Rev. Dr. Richard Speck, our JPD (Joseph Priestley District) District Executive to discuss our options for ministry. Based on board and congregational feedback, we determined that we are looking for an interim minister, who will be a minister with us for no more than 2 years. The board was advised to create a sub-committee to form our search committee. This was done, and consists of: Carla Johnson, Carole Hovis, Mary Alsayegh and Jeanne Bautista. We have completed an interim ministry application on the UUA ministry website, and have submitted to Rev. Speck for review. We will be working with him to identify possible candidates, the sub-committee will interview candidates and present any for hiring consideration to the board. The congregation will be advised as we progress through this process.

Please contact anyone on the sub-committee with any questions or to get updates.

Carla Johnson
UUFP Board President

President's Message

Even though it's summer, it's been quite a busy month at the UUFP.

Kay Price and I attended the UUA General Assembly in St. Louis at the end of June. It was great to be among so many UU's. The UUA sponsored several President's events which I was able to attend – from a President and Moderator's reception to special workshops where I was able to meet with other Board Presidents from around the country. It was very helpful to be able to share ideas and issues. Kay and I represented the UUFP in the banner parade where all of the congregations march through the large hall with our banners. We heard the cheers from our neighboring congregations in the JPD as we were marching! Much of my time was spent in Plenary sessions which are the business sessions of the GA. The greatest news out of this was the change in Social Action items, which will be moved to a 4-year period of study and action rather than a 2-year period. There were many presentations, services and events. I encourage you to check them out on the UUA website: www.uua.org. I also strongly recommend this experience for next year when GA will be in Portland, Oregon.

The board is continuing its work through the summer. We are beginning plans to update our UUFP website. We have a board retreat on the first Saturday in August where we will be looking at short-term and long-term goals for the congregation, as well as setting our agenda for the year. We have continued to work on our safe congregation and childcare policies. We have selected our ministerial search sub-committee and are actively working on the next steps towards choosing an interim minister.

We have called a congregational meeting for Sunday, August 6th. At this meeting, we will be re-visiting the approved budget, and looking for an increase in the ministerial budget so that we can hire a minister at 1/3 time rather than 1/4 time. The board strongly believes that it is in our long-term best interest to bring on a minister with as much time as we can possibly afford. We hope for and ask for your support in this work.

We've had several of our older members who have died in the past month. Jim Daly and Donal Peterson will be greatly missed. My heartfelt sympathies go out to Ruth Daly and Mary Ann Peterson. I am glad that our community was able to provide space for their family and friends to remember and celebrate their lives.

As I close, I reflect on the relationships and community that have been such a part of the last month. We've said our goodbyes to Greta as our minister. We've said our goodbyes and celebrated the lives of Jim and Don. Others in our community have shared their joys and sorrows. I believe we have been truly our best in the last month, and I have great hopes that this spirit of love and striving for the greater good will remain with us.

In Faith,
Carla

OUR SUMMER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

It is too hot to take a vacation---put that saved money to work by getting Bob and Matt on the cool roof to lay some new shingles. (You might even be one of the privileged who are asked to help—wow!) Seriously folks, the “older roof” shingles are well beyond their estimated life, costs continue to rise, and Bob is still agile. We plan to order the shingles as soon as possible and install during a few weekends in the Fall. The floor tiles in the Social Hall also need repair and the REAL EXCITEMENT is that UUFP could purchase a cupboard-full of dishwasher friendly dishes for your dining pleasure.

So what is the connection between roof replacement, peeling floor tiles and new place settings all in the same capital campaign?! Well, Matt and I will tell you: How about this ? – The roof leaked, soaked the floor causing the tiles to pop and we used all the dishes trying to catch the water. Huh, well we tried!

Here is the real deal: Rather than dip into our savings, the Board of Directors is strongly supporting a Capital Campaign over the next few months. The roof shingles will cost approximately \$3000 and an additional \$1000 should cover most of the cost of floor tile repair and allow us to purchase the durable place settings. Our trusty treasurer indicates that if each current pledging member contributes \$100, the \$4000 goal would be met. It would be great if this could happen during August and September. Please indicate “Capital” on your contribution.

Thanks for listening—a lot more detail is on the way!

Ron Hovis, Campaign Chair

Notice:

***UUFP Congregational Meeting
Sunday, August 6, 2006 at 11:15 a.m.***

The Board of Directors of the UUFP have called a meeting to:

- ◆ ***discuss and vote on a budget modification***
- ◆ ***provide information on our current search for a minister***
- ◆ ***give a capital campaign update.***

Please plan to attend this important meeting.

From Sunday Service Committee:

Pull up a beach chair and
a frothy drink.

While the Sunday Service Committee is lounging around this summer not meeting, we're cooking up some great services for the coming months including guest ministers from UU Germantown and elsewhere. We're also expecting someone to come and perform Hindi Kirtan, call and response devotional chanting.

Enjoy your summer.

CHIGONG

Every Sunday throughout the summer a small group will be gathering next to the Peace Pole to practice Chigong, a Chinese health exercise.

Donations to the church are gladly accepted. Although often the group will be led by CJ Rhoads, you are encouraged to gather every Sunday even if there is no one to lead the session.

We will begin around 11:30.

Feel free to join us.

Please wear comfortable loose clothing.

Social Justice Committee

TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

What goes together better than peanut butter and jelly, summer and the beach, or Brad and Angelina?

How about small group ministry and social justice?

We'd like to try something revolutionary at UUFP -- combine our love of small discussion groups with our passion for attempting to solve the problems of the world.

If you're interested in forming a small group ministry that meets once a month to discuss and act upon social justice issues, please contact us...and we'll see what develops.

Bob and Deni Gross
Co-Chairs UUFP Social Justice Committee
cfpeace@hotmail.com

The Social Justice Book Discussion has been rescheduled to Tuesday, September 5th.

We will meet at the Fellowship at 7:30 to discuss
"The Left Hand of God"
by Rabbi Michael Learned.

All are welcome.

Call Carla Johnson or Kay Price
for further details

In Appreciation

Thank you for the great comfort you have given me following Jim's death. There were gifts of food, visits, telephone calls, sympathy cards and hugs. Many helped with Jim's memorial service; any suggestion from me was met by not one, but two, three or four people readily following through.

It has helped during this emotional time to feel your concern and love. I am so lucky to belong to this Fellowship with such caring members.

Ruth Daly

About Us

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:
UUFPNewsletter@aol.com**

Who's Who at the UUF

Minister: Open

Board of Directors:

President: Carla Johnson

Vice President: Jeanne Bautista

Treasurer: Carole Hovis

Secretary: Mary Alsayegh

Sun. Services: Stefanie Fulwood

Membership: Open

RE: Suzanne Molyneux

At Large: Albert Jenkin, Matthew Molyneux

Committee Chairs:

Caring Committee: Ruth Daly

Aesthetics: Bob Hakun

Finance: Open

Fundraising Committee:

Jeanne Bautista

Hospitality/Kitchen:

Marianne Yarnall

Publicity: Ron Hovis

Ministerial Committee:

Inactive at this time

Social Justice: Bob & Deni Gross

Sojourner Editor: Kay Price

Website: Bob Gross

Choir:

Building/Grounds:

Matthew Molyneux

Sunday Morning Teams:

Judith van Beek

Gardens: Dorothea Hamlin

Meditation Moments...

"One conscious breath is enough to make some space where before there was the uninterrupted succession of one thought after another."

Eckert Tolle from "A New Earth"

Bringing awareness to one, two or three breaths several times during the day is an excellent way to bring more spaciousness into your life.

Come and join us for meditation in Fellowship Hall
the first Tuesday of the month, from 7 - 8:30pm.

Questions call Sally Martin 610 323-3067
or email me with "meditation" in the subject line at sallyvm@flash.net

No experience necessary and feel free to bring a friend.

In Memorium...

Two of our members passed away recently.

We will remember these extraordinary men for their unique and valued character, and also for the positive contribution they made to our fellowship.

They will be missed.

Donal G. Peterson

May 2, 1914 - July 5, 2006

James A. Daly, Jr.

June 21, 1923 - July 9, 2006

August 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 Yoga: 7:00	4	5 Board Retreat: 8:30-5
6 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00 Congregational Mtg: 11:15	7	8 Meditation with Sally: 7-8:30	9 Women's Group: 7:00 (<i>Bonnie Donahue's house</i>)	10 Yoga: 7:00 Board Mtg: 7:15	11	12
13 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00	14	15 Friendly's Fundraiser 4-9:00 pm	16	17 Yoga: 7:00	18	19
20 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00	21	22	23	24 Yoga: 7:00	25	26
27 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00	28	29	30	31 Yoga: 7:00		

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP OF
POTTSTOWN**

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uupottstown@aol.com

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