



August 2009

The Sojourner

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

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

Sunday, August 2, 2009

RE Performance Sunday: Inner Voice

Lay Leader: Lynn Medley with the RE students

This Sunday the students from RE will tell three stories that illustrate characteristics that help them identify and call on an inner voice to which to listen in moments of crisis, indecision, or opportunity. We will participate with them throughout this service to remember the essence of the inner voice that guides us as UUs, regardless of background or belief. This is not a service just for parents – the wisdom of youth comes through to inspire us all.

Sunday, August 9, 2009

A Ministry of Mediation

At Thomas Paine: 10:00 AM

Reverend Nathan C. Walker

Did you hear about the threat of a racist and homophobic band playing at that First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia that would attract skinheads and protests from militant anti-racist groups? Yikes!

Reverend Nate will explain the strategy that was used to bring resolution through mediation.

Countering the effects of our culture, so quick to judge, he will explore the potential of dialogue in realizing one of our cherished Unitarian Universalist ideals; preserving the inherent worth and dignity of all people, even those with whom we disagree.

*The Thomas Paine congregation's 2nd Sunday potluck
brunch will follow the service*

Sunday, August 16, 2009

Unitarian Universalists and the Buddhist Practice of Mindfulness Meditation

Lay Leader: Miranda Van Horn

It is, perhaps, surprising to learn that Emerson and Thoreau were responsible for the introduction of the Lotus Sutra to North Americans and that Thoreau practiced a form of mindfulness meditation. In this service we will investigate some of the history of Buddhism in America and consider the possible application of its philosophy, psychology, and practice to the spiritual lives of Unitarian Universalists today. This service will include a guided mindfulness meditation.

*Thomas Paine members and friends are invited to our
service and potluck lunch.*

Sunday, August 23, 2009

The Nature of God

Speaker: CJ Rhoads

Lay Leader: Mary Ryan

How can atheists, agnostics, Catholics, Protestants, evangelicals, Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, pagans, and every other religion of the world all be “right” and “true” all at the same time? CJ Rhoads will explain the conundrum, and share some recent discoveries about the nature of God.

Sunday, August 30, 2009

Put Off Thy Shoes

Rev David Farrington

The God of the Hebrews commanded Moses to “put off thy shoes” because he was in sacred space. This sermon seeks to explore what constitutes sacred space for Unitarian Universalists and provides a brief history of our Flaming Chalice.

Please note: new Sunday Service time is 10:30 AM

President's Message

As you may already know, a new president has been chosen. You may have been surprised by the fact that the new president is someone who has not been a member of the board in the past. I can assure you that it is unlikely that any of you were more surprised than me. I have been away for most of the past year and because of this fact, I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself. Also, I want to ask anyone who feels that they do not know me very well to introduce themselves to me before or after service.

I was born and raised in Chugiak, Alaska. My parents were both raised in very strict religious households that caused both of them to raise their children in a very secular way. I came to the East Coast to attend Cornell University and even though my academic endeavors were not very successful, this is when I met the most important person in my life, my wife, Emily Quarles. She was a life long Unitarian Universalist and her Mother, Judy was a Unitarian minister. Obviously, this is how I was introduced to Unitarian Universalism and luckily, this was a religion that I could feel comfortable with. I find that it fits my own upbringing and my tendency to rely on reason rather than blind faith.

Emily and I bought a house together in Gilbertsville in October of 2002. In that same month a close friend of mine, Megan Heffernan, was killed the Bali bombings. She was an aid worker who had dedicated her life to the service of others. Her example caused me to evaluate the value of service in my own life. In my desire to contribute more I joined the Army Reserves in March of 2003 and I started pursuing a Math Education degree as soon as I got back from Basic Training.

After I got engaged to Emily in May of 2006 I decided it was time to start going to the Fellowship with her, and I joined UUFP not long after. From April 2007 to May of 2008 I was called to active duty and served in Kuwait. I finally got my degree from Alvernia University in December of 2008 and most excitingly I have just accepted a position in the Upper Perkiomen High School math department.

I would also like to take the opportunity during my first message, to state what an honor it is to be asked by the congregation to be President of the Board. I was inspired by the fact that we have all come together to increase our pledges to save full time ministry in this fellowship. Although I have come to this position with very little knowledge of how the fellowship is governed in theory and in practice, I have been extremely impressed by the dedication of all of the people who are working on the committees and the board. It is because of this knowledge that I am confident that we will have a productive and successful year.

**With Thanks,
Clayton**

Rev. Dave Farrington is currently on vacation and study leave.

He will be returning to the pulpit on August 30th.





Notes of Abundance

Notes of Abundance is a place to share our thanks for one another and to celebrate the abundant gifts that are given at the Fellowship every day. Join us in this new, joyful, way to recognize one another. Submit your ideas to a committee chairperson, or a letter directly to the Sojourner.

Note to Dorothea Hamlin

Dear Dorothea,

I'd like to thank Dorothea Hamlin for all the hard work she has done over the years at UUFP. When I first arrived at UUFP Dorothea was busy at work in the kitchen, helping with the set up and clean up each Sunday. Later she moved outside to the gardens and has shown us her green thumb from season to season!

Thanks to you Dorothea our grounds bloom with beauty each year.

With love and appreciation,

Linda Pallay



The Women's Group

On August 6th we will meet at Bonnie Donohue's house @ 7 PM for a summer swim. We will have our formal check in and then relax in the pool. The meeting will be held at Bonnie's house rain or shine. Please call Bonnie @ 610-845-2834 for directions and to tell her you will be attending. Remember to bring your bathing suit and towel and join the Women's Group for this informal get together.

The Women's Group is busy planning the fall schedule. We are continuing our study of Goddesses around the world and are expanding the study to include more about the culture the goddess represents. The new Women's Group session will begin on **September 3rd @ 7pm** in the Lounge/Nursery room at UUFP.



Lisa Schneider will start our first session and introduce the Native American culture and goddesses. Spider grandmother is one of the Native American goddess. "She was responsible for the stars in the sky. She took a web she had spun, and laced it with dew. She then threw it into the sky, and the dew became the stars." Please join us and see the exciting line-up we have planned for the fall. All women are welcome to join at anytime.

Thank you for your donations to the Women's Group DVD drive. The drive will continue throughout the 2009-2010 fiscal year (July1, 2009-June 30, 2010).

Linda Pallay, Chair



GETTING TO KNOW UU: An Interview with Tara Boroson

by Deni Gross

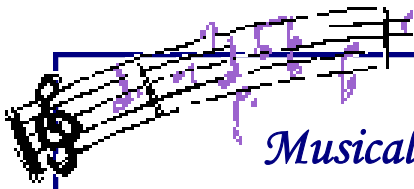
If there are two words that seem to describe Tara Boroson, they are energetic and eclectic. With a diverse range of interests and talents, Tara is an extremely active member of the Fellowship. Although she joined less than two years ago, Tara has already served on the Board as a member-at-large, is the Fellowship's current vice-president and heads Committee Council. She also manages the publicity booth and is UUFP's certified kitchen manager. Eventually, she'd also like to work with the Sunday Service Committee and choir. Tara greatly enjoys being part of a non-dogmatic, spiritual community that she feels is able to do so much good in the community and the larger world.

Attributing her attitudes on service to her activist father, Tara explains that he instilled in her "a drive to volunteer and participate in the community." She had, until quite recently, served as president of the board of directors of a natural parenting group called Circle of Families and was also active for many years in the Society for Creative Anachronism, dedicated to researching and re-creating pre-17th century European history.

Tara, her husband Craig, and their two daughters Talia and Anika, aged seven and five respectively, live in East Vincent Township in an old stone farmhouse that Tara calls her "dream house." Here she works as a stay-at-home mother, home-schooling the children. When the girls aren't swimming, biking, playing basketball or hiking; Dido and Ravi, their kittens, and Acorn and Mohawk, the guinea pigs, keep them company.

Tara explains that the family does not currently own a television, microwave or clothes dryer - items they "gradually stopped using and eventually got rid of to reclaim some space." Rather than watching TV, Tara prefers to spend her time weaving, embroidering, knitting, and gardening,. Having studied theater, physics and environmental science and previously been employed as a software developer and database specialist, Tara is qualified to tackle just about anything, including her newest venture - training to soon participate in a triathlon.

If "UU" haven't yet met the delightful Boroson family, please introduce yourself and share your interests. You're bound to have something in common!



Musical Fundraiser!

The game is afoot again! Plans are in the making for a splendid program called
"An Afternoon with the Fine Arts".

Long time friend and former member of the Fellowship Robin Ward is joining me in designing a recital program that will include vocal and instrumental solos and ensembles in a wide variety of musical styles, some dance, and an audience choral anthem reading section.

Gladys Smith will coordinate a display of artworks, some of which can be purchased. Naturally there will be refreshments and camaraderie in the social hall afterwards.

Bring all your friends, relatives and co-workers to the Fellowship on
Sunday, October 4, 2009 at 3 PM!

Read next month's Sojourner for more information!

Lisa Jokiel

A Special Thanks...

To Rev Dave for diagnosing and repairing our coffee maker. Many thanks.

It works great! You don't know how much you miss something until it's gone!

From the Kitchen Crew



Facilities Update

- Oil spill: By the time this is published, all of the barrels containing oil spill cleanup materials will have been properly disposed of. What will remain is incidental. A new tank will be ordered and installed in August or September and an enclosure will be built by Eagle Scout volunteers.
- Mowing: The selfless efforts of Rich Daley, Paul Nemeth, Bob Hakun and Ted Jensen in mowing this summer are gratefully acknowledged.
- Painting: We will get the color right and finish painting the corridors this fall.
- Coffee Maker: A wide awake thank you goes to Rev. Dave for fixing the coffee maker.
- Also, a green "thumbs up" goes to Dorothea for her continuing help with maintaining the gardens, Bob Hakun for keeping the picnic and playground area clean and well-groomed, Tara in managing the kitchen license renewal, and everyone else who helped keep the building and grounds afloat during the past year.

Jon

Who's Who at the UUFP

Minister: Rev. David Farrington

Board of Directors:

President: Clayton Mowrer

Past President: Mary Alsayegh

Board Secretary: Linda Pallay

Treasurer: Paul Nemeth

Board Member: Lynn Medley

Board Member: Mary Ryan

Board Committees:

Committee on Shared Ministry:

Congregational Committees:

Committee Council Chairs:

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

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:

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**



UUFP Calendar

August 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2 Choir: 9:00 Service: 10:30	3	4	5 Membership Mtg: 7:00	6 Yoga: 7:00 Women's Group : 7:00 Sun Service Mtg: 7:00	7	8
9 Choir: 9:00 10:00 Service at Thomas Paine <i>Potluck at TPUUF</i>	10	11	12	13 Yoga: 7:00	14	15 <i>Sojourner Deadline</i>
16 Choir: 9:00 Service: 10:30 <i>3rd Sunday Potluck: 11:30</i>	17 Board of Directors Mtg: 6:45	18	19	20 Yoga: 7:00	21	22
23 Choir: 9:00 Service: 10:30	24	25	26	27 Yoga: 7:00	28	29 Brd of Dir/ Comm Coun Retreat: 10:00
30 Choir: 9:00 Service: 10:30	31					

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP OF
POTTSTOWN

1565 South Keim Street
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Website:

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