

February 2012

# The Sojourner

newsletter of the Unitarian-Universalist  
Fellowship of Pottstown

1565 South Keim St  
Pottstown, PA 19465  
(610) 327-2662  
[www.uupottstown.org](http://www.uupottstown.org)

*There will be a 10 minute period of silent meditation from 10:15-10:25 before services. Please enter the sanctuary quietly.*

## Sunday, February 5, 2012

### Topic to be Announced

Speaker/Lay Leader: Tara Boroson

*Please plan on attending the Annual Congregational Meeting immediately following the service at 11:45.*

## Sunday, February 12, 2012

### The Stockdale Paradox

**Speaker:** Rev. Kent Matthies

Unitarian Universalists throughout Pennsylvania are working for justice in the following areas: economic, immigration, environment, and gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual. In some of these areas the facts on the ground can be quite daunting. Will we ever really make a difference?

Come hear how a true war hero, Jim Stockdale's experience and philosophy can help us have faith that we will prevail, while dealing with the stone cold facts.

Rev Matthies is Minister of the Unitarian Society of Germantown in Philadelphia and President of the UU Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network.

## Sunday, February 19, 2012

### Separating the Wheat from the Chaff

Rev Dave Farrington

As the political season heats up we are once again seeing our would be leaders appealing to family, and ultimately, biblical values. This sermon probes what these messages are meant to convey and how we as Unitarian Universalists might regard them and the Bible in general.

*3rd Sunday potluck will follow the service.*

## Saturday, February 26, 2012

### Dwelling in the Presence of the Sacred

Rev Dave Farrington

Many of us were raised in traditional religions and struggled to incorporate unto ourselves what was often unbelievable. The religious gods failed many of us and later the secular ones as well. So as adults without gods or God many of us struggle to dwell in the presence of the sacred. This sermon invites you to explore your religious journey through this lens.



## *From the Minister's Desk*

We will shortly celebrate our annual Valentine Dinner, Dessert and Social – a UUFP love fest! It is our participation in a tradition the roots of which can be traced to 496 and the celebration of some thirteen martyrs of the Christian

Church, about whom nothing is known. Some believe it was meant to replace a pagan holiday much as Christmas supplanted Saturnalia. It acquired its present association with erotic love in the fourteenth century under the influence of Geoffrey Chaucer in the age of courtly love – a form of erotic love between unwed partners in courts of Europe during the high middle ages.

For all of its varied religious and secular history, the Valentine's Day we inherit is a light-hearted way of telling another we love, or desire a loving relationship with, them. We share flowers and confections and often ornate greeting cards or my favorite kind, the ones we bought by the box full and shared in grammar school stuffing them by the handful into the Valentine card box artfully created by a loving teacher.

The ancient Greeks had several words to describe love. *Eros*, of course, meaning passionate love; *agape* signifying unconditional love; *philia*, friendship or brotherly love, and *storge* the kind of affectionate love a parent feels for a child.

Valentine's Day can be a somewhat frivolous, silly thing or something more serious, or perhaps both as each has value in its own right. On the serious side we have Kahlil Gibran's beautiful description of marital erotic love:

You were born together, and together you shall be forevermore.  
You shall be together when the white wings of death scatter your days.  
Ay, you shall be together even in the silent memory of God.  
But let there be spaces in your togetherness,  
And let the winds of the heavens dance between you...  
Sing and dance together and be joyous, but let each one of you be alone,  
Even as the strings of a lute are alone though they quiver with the same music.

And speaking on how he might one day be eulogized, The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. captured the essence of agapic love:

I'd like somebody to mention that day that Martin Luther King Jr. tried to give his life serving others. I'd like for somebody to say that day that Martin Luther King Jr. tried to love somebody. I want you to say that day that I tried to be right on the war question. I want you to be able to say that day that I did try to feed the hungry. I want you to be able to say that day that I did try in my life to clothe those who were naked. I want you to say on that day that I did try in my life to visit those who were in prison. And I want you to say that I tried to love and serve humanity.

Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major. Say that I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter.

So, on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> let us come together and enjoy dinner, dance and socializing. Let us be a little silly and enjoy the traditional frivolity of Valentine's Day.

But let us also remember that love is a gift that comes in many forms including eternal togetherness and being a drum major for those values that make us true Unitarian Universalists.

*Rev. Dave*

610-850-3728/dfarrington@uuma.org

# *President's Message*

Our retreat planned for January was cancelled due to weather so at this writing we are rescheduling. We will keep you posted on our new date and also of the results of the retreat. The purpose of the retreat is for long term planning and visioning for UUFP. Please pass your ideas to any board member regarding how you'd like to see UUFP grow over the next five years. What do you envision for UUFP? What type of message should we pass onto our local community about our beloved community? What should our ministry, as a congregation, be? The board will keep you posted on any ideas that come out of this meeting session.

It's that time of year where we start to project and think about our budget for the following year. Please think about your contributions to UUFP, in action, practice and the monetary gifts you offer. We cannot survive without your full contribution. So many of us wear many hats or have worn a variety of hats to help us accomplish our work at UUFP. Give some thought about your role and your pledge and see if you are able to increase your gift in any way. We have built a community where we enjoy seeing each other each Sunday and gather together for fun events or charitable works, encouraging visitors and active friends to join with us. Our dedication to UUFP enables us to continue the work we have set out to accomplish. "Do you ever wonder why it feels so good to give? Because when we give, we are filled with a sense of abundance, not lack."<sup>1</sup>

Martin Luther King Jr. day some of you joined Carla to assist in the much needed work of our larger community. It was a day of contribution to the larger whole. A day of reflection on the trials of those less fortunate than ourselves. A day of peace and contemplation about the changes that sometimes wreak havoc in our lives or of those around us. A day that allows us to extend a helping hand to a neighbor. A day of remembrance, looking at how far we've come and how far we still need to go. It is nice to know that there are people in our community and our world who will contribute to those in need. Thank you all for your generosity and caring.

Hopefully you were safe and sound during our January snowstorm. It's nice when Mother Nature shows her beauty. Living in our area we are fortunate to witness the change of the seasons. At this writing it looks like we are also blessed with Mother Nature's version of a snow clean up with warm weather right around the corner! Enjoy the seasons all bundled together in one this winter!

*Linda*

*1. from a service by Carol Cole-Lewis, president of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lake County, Sunday, 28 September 2008*



## *Religious Education*

Religious education (RE) classes for teens and children are held every second Sunday of the month at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

The RE department wishes to extend a warm welcome our Sunday school visitors, friends and families. It was fun having you with us in class and in the Nursery!

Please note that RE will be held on the *first Sunday* of the month in February for both RE classes.

In January CJ Rhoads started a 3 month series on Pacem In Vita with the teen class. She will continue this curriculum on **February 5** and **March 11**. CJ describes "Pacem In Vita (known as Making a Better Future program) as a leadership and conflict resolution curriculum for high school students. They learn better ways of dealing with conflict as well as how to plan for their future along with Taijiquan and Qigong moves".

**February 5:** Lisa Jokiel will lead the Elementary class adding her musical talents to the lesson "In Harmony". The lesson explores the sixth UU principle: "...The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all." This UU principle when translated for children: "We believe in working for a peaceful, fair and free world", helps them to understand how to play, work and sing together, each one adding a different part and each one adding to the whole.

Religious Education (RE) is looking for adults to assist in the program. We need people who are willing to help plan the RE class schedules, plan and assist with special events, decide what curriculum to use next year, compile attendance. If you feel you can assist in any way please contact Deni or Bob Gross regarding your interest, either in person or via email: [RE@uupottstown.org](mailto:RE@uupottstown.org) or speak with Linda Pallay. Thank you.

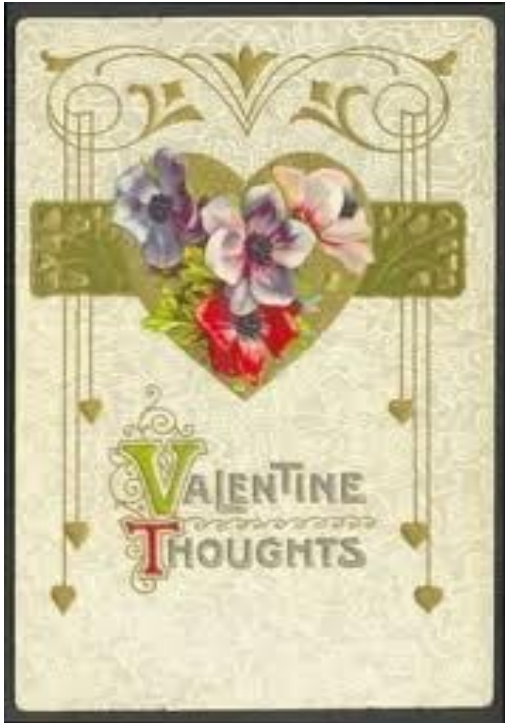
Our Nursery is open every Sunday throughout the year from 9:30 to 11:30 am. Learning to play with others and TLC is "lesson of the day" in our Nursery! All young children are welcome.

Thank you,

*Linda*

*We're thinking*

# *Valentine Thoughts!*



*Hoping you'll  
bring a friend and  
join us for the  
UUFZ*

## *Valentine*

### *Dinner, Dessert and Social*

- 6:30 p.m. Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at UUFZ
- Menu: Lasagnas, Salads, Breads & Valentine Desserts
- Post-Dinner Social and a visit from Odyssey Quartet

*dessert contributions appreciated, BYOB*

*Please don't stay away because you've missed the RSVP date! email now,  
mvhbluebird@comcast.net or call Miranda at 610 469 0490.*



## *Let's Read!*

Starting Sunday January 29 Adult RE will meet to discuss a new book, "Broken Buddha" by Meg Barnhouse.

All are welcome to participate.

### **Broken Buddha by Meg Barnhouse**

"Broken Buddha" is the sixth book of stories by Meg Barnhouse. Meg Barnhouse is a Unitarian Universalist minister and singer-songwriter who writes about life with edgy humor and infectious hopefulness. Pick up this book and open it anywhere. Odds are good you'll find a thought you've always felt you might be the only one thinking. She is to-the-bone honest and at the same time affectionate towards our human quirks and confusions. People have their own way of reading Barnhouse's stories. Some devour the book and then give copies to their friends. Some people read these stories to each other in the car, others read one story a night to end the day feeling right. What might you do?

Spring

### **The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona Borderlands by Margaret Regan**

Dispatches from Arizona – the front line of a massive human immigration – including the voices of migrants, Border Patrol, ranchers,, activists, and others

For the last decade, Margaret Regan has reported on the escalating chaos along the Arizona-Mexico border, ground zero for immigration since 2000. Undocumented migrants cross into Arizona in overwhelming numbers, a state whose anti-immigrant laws are the most stringent in the nation. And Arizona has the highest number of migrant deaths. Fourteen-year-old Josseline, a young girl from El Salvador who was left to die alone on the migrant trail, was just one of thousands to perish in its deserts and mountains.

With a sweeping perspective and vivid on-the-ground reportage, Regan tells the stories of the people caught up in this international tragedy. Traveling back and forth across the border, she visits migrants stranded in Mexican shelters and rides shotgun with Border Patrol agents in Arizona, hiking with them for hours in the scorching desert; she camps out in the thorny wilderness with No More Deaths activists and meets with angry ranchers and vigilantes. Using Arizona as a microcosm, Regan explores a host of urgent issues: the border militarization that threatens the rights of U.S. citizens, the environmental damage wrought by the border wall, the desperation that compels migrants to come north, and the human tragedy of the unidentified dead in Arizona's morgues.

*Books are available through Amazon or the UUA bookstore.*

Adult RE meets on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am - 10:15 am in the UUF Library.



## *Memory History Cabinet*

### *How to Build a Church!*

You need a willing and devoted builder, a generous and dedicated group of volunteers and plenty of can-do spirit!

Our new display is made up mostly of photographs. On display is a booklet on building a church by members of the UUFP in 1982. We will also try to acknowledge all the people who contributed money and time in building this fellowship.

*Check us out!*

*Peggy*

## *Thank You from Ben, Jonae and Karem!*

The Hatch family wishes to thank everyone for their caring and support during the holiday season. "The gift you gave allowed us to do the same for those we love!"



*Love and many thanks,*

*Miranda's son Ben, her daughter-in-law Karem and granddaughter Jonae*



## *Friendly's Night for the UUFP*

There will be a UUFP night at the Friendly's Restaurant at Route 100 and Shoemaker Road on Monday evening, **March 26th, from 5 to 8 PM**. Invite all your friends, neighbors, and relatives to join us and eat there during those hours. **TEN PERCENT** of the pre-tax checks will be donated to the Fellowship.

*Let's dine together for fun and fund-raising!"*



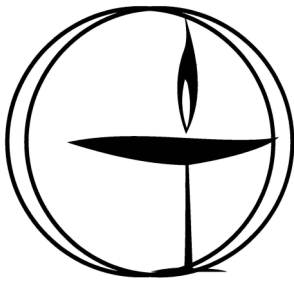
## *Meditation Moment...*

*To undertake a genuine spiritual path is not to avoid difficulties but to learn the art of making mistakes wakefully, to bring to them the transformative power of our heart.*

—Jack Kornfield

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

**Introduction to Mindfulness Meditation is offered on the first first Monday of each Month**



# UUFPP Calendar

## February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Membership Mtg: 7:00	2 Yoga 7:00	3	4
5 Choir 8:30 Adult & Ch RE: 9:30 Service:10:30 Cong Mtg: 11:45	6 Meditation 7:30 <i>1st Monday Intro to Meditation</i>	7	8	9 Yoga 7:00	10 Board Mtg: 7:30	11  <i>Valentine's Party</i> 6:30
12 Choir 8:30  Adult RE: 9:30  Service:10:30	13 Meditation 7:30	14	15  <i>Sojourner Deadline</i>	16 Yoga 7:00	17	18
19 Choir 8:30 Adult RE: 9:30 Service:10:30  <i>3rd Sunday Potluck: 11:30</i>	20 Meditation 7:30  <i>President's Day</i>	21	22 Committee Council : 7:15	23 Yoga 7:00	24	25
26 Choir 8:30  Adult RE: 9:30  Service:10:30	27 Meditation 7:30	28	29			

## Who's Who at the UUFP

**Minister:** Rev. David Farrington

**Board of Directors:**

**President:** Linda Pallay

**Vice President:** Open

**Board Secretary:** Tara Boroson

**Treasurer:** Mary Ryan

**Board Member:** Carla Johnson

**Board Member:** Jon Price

**Board Committees:**

**Committee on Shared Ministry:**

Chair: Marianne Yarnall

**Congregational Committees:**

**Committee Council:**

Chair: Rev Dave Farrington (interim)

**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: Jon Price

Committee Council Rep: Frances Provost

**Religious Education:**

Children's RE Coordinators: Bob and Deni Gross

**Important email contacts:**

Minister@uupottstown.org – Rev David Farrington

President@uupottstown.org – Linda Pallay

VicePresident@uupottstown.org – Open

BoardSecretary@uupottstown.org – Tara Boroson

Board@uupottstown.org - Board members

Committees@uupottstown.org – Open

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 - Mary Ryan

Stewardship@uupottstown.org - Mary Ryan

Sharedministry@uupottstown.org - Marianne Yarnall

Webmaster@uupottstown.org – Bob Gross

RE @uupotstown.org- Deni and 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](mailto:office@uupottstown.org)

Website:

<http://www.uupottstown.org>

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