

The Sojourner

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

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

July 2006

Sunday, July 2, 2006

Celebrating Interdependence Day

Minister Greta Browne

While celebrating our love for this country and our appreciation for those who have worked to bring freedom, democracy and well-being for all to this nation, we acknowledge our interdependence with other nations and other species for continuing life on this planet. Come share with us a time to reflect on the true meaning of freedom, democracy and world leadership.

Sunday, July 9, 2006

The Power of Soft

SPEAKER: CJ Rhoads, D. Ed

CJ Rhoads shares the lessons of her life that transformed her from an unhappy, overbearing, hard-bitten business owner and driven individual to a successful and happy person who wields the "power of soft." CJ is a new member of UUFP. She is an associate professor in the college of business at Kutztown University and founder of Enterprise Technology Management Associates, an information management consulting firm.

Sunday, July 16, 2006

UUFP Millionaire and other Games

Lay Leader: Mary Ryan

Game Show Host -- It's a Surprise!

Everyone (at least almost everyone) likes TV game shows, so we're going to put a UU spin on them by asking questions about Unitarian-Universalism and the UUFP. Everyone in the congregation -- children and adults -- will be participating and prizes will be awarded. It should be a fun morning and a great way to learn more about Unitarian-Universalism and the UUFP.

Third Sunday potluck will follow after the service

Sunday, July 23, 2006

"A Seekers Handbook"

Lay Leader: Bob Jones

Today we examine a variety of approaches in seeking truth, meaning and value in our lives. There are agencies such as The Institute Of Noetic Sciences which explore the frontiers of human consciousness using multiple ways of knowing--including intuition, feeling, reason and the senses. We'll delve into this and other agencies which may use other than the standard scientific discipline.

Conducted by fellowship members.

Sunday, July 30, 2006

Psychology of Ritual

Presenters: Stefanie Fulwood and

Marianne Yarnall

Join our presenters in a discussion of the role that ritual plays in our lives on a psychological level.

From the Minister's Desk

"Auld Lang Syne" is an extremely old **Scottish** song that was first written down in the 1700s. **Robert**

Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And never brought to mind
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And days of auld lang syne?

And there's a hand, my trusty friend,
And gie's a hand of thine,
We'll take a cup of kindness yet.
For auld lang syne.

Burns is the person whose transcription got the most attention, so the song is associated with him. A good translation of the words "auld lang syne" is "**times gone by**." So (incorporating a couple of other translations) when we sing this song, we are saying, "We'll drink a cup of kindness yet for times gone by."

I've never talked much about it, but my father was proud of his Scottish heritage and loved to sing the songs he learned as he grew up. I probably absorbed more than I realize from his love of things Scottish, and it was "Auld Lang Syne" that came to mind as I sat down to write this last Sojourner letter to you.

What I want to do is to give you the wishes of my heart for all of you as we part ways. I will see you here and there and we will keep in touch, I know. But this is one of the last moments when I still have the ability to address you as your minister and I find my heart full of hopes and visions for you.

I wish you a wonderful summer off on little or big adventures - and much good cheer as you start your new year in September. I hope that there will be many bright young faces for the Children's Minute at the Ingathering Service.

I wish you much success with the Polaris Pack project. May you find your direction, clear and bright, so that all those thirsty souls that show up on your doorstep will feel the energy and clarity of your purpose and vision.

I hope that you will find ways to use your wonderful property, and I wish you peace and calm so that your energies can go into some of the dreams you've been holding, such as a memorial garden, a labyrinth, a nature trail.

Likewise, I wish you the time and energy to reach out into the greater Pottstown community as you have so often talked about doing, to work for justice, the social good, and the environment. You have so much to offer: many talents, much compassion and wisdom.

There's much more I could say, and I'll speak of it as I see you in the next few weeks.

Faithfully,
Greta

President's Message

As I write this letter, I am reflecting on the passage of time. We are ending the current fiscal year. It's been a joy this year that we have been able to maintain our budget while contributing our fair share to the Joseph Priestley District (JPD) and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Thank you to all who have faithfully maintained your pledging through the year.

We have a few young folks in our community who are graduating from high school this year. Jenna Alsayegh, daughter of Mary and Majid, and Walter Jokiel, son of Lisa and Dick. We wish them all the best as they begin the next phases of their lives. We'll think of them often, and hope they stop back in to visit from time to time.

Our transition in ministry will be beginning in July. Rev Greta's last service with us will be on Sunday, July 2. A party given in honor of Greta's time with us will be on Friday, July 7 at 7 pm. Please see the announcement elsewhere in the Sojourner.

The UUFP board has begun working on the process of identifying a new interim minister to work with our congregation. We have decided as a congregation that interim ministry makes sense to us. The fundraising committee is working on ways to increase our budget through rental opportunities and other fundraisers, so that we can afford 1/3 time ministry. We've met with our JPD district consultant, Rev. Dr. Richard Speck, to outline our next steps. The board will be appointing a subcommittee of 4-5 board members to conduct this search process. This process is the one followed for interim ministry, rather than the one that we've used in the past when searching for a settled minister. Our goal is to try if, at all possible, to find an interim minister to start at the beginning of September. We'll continue to provide information as we have it through the newsletter, and through announcements at Sunday service.

Late June is the time each year when the member congregations of the UUA gather for workshops, songs, community, lectures, social justice work, and doing the business of the congregations. I'm very pleased to have Kay Price joining me this year in St. Louis. I'm sure we'll have lots to report in the August Sojourner about our experiences.

I'd like to close by thanking the UUFP Board members who served the congregation this year. These folks volunteer their time and serve our community in many ways:

- ◆ Attending many, many meetings
- ◆ Developing policies for the good of the Fellowship, trying to maintain a balance of where we are now, and where we want to go, planning for our current size and for growth
- ◆ Trying to represent the interests of all in the UUFP fairly and in good faith
- ◆ Serving on special task forces including the consultancy program and hiring a paid nursery staff person
- ◆ Remaining in dialog even when we disagree, and committing to "hang in there" when it's hard to do so
- ◆ Beginning long term planning to give us a focus of where we want to go as a congregation.
- ◆ Laughing, crying and growing together as the leadership of our faith community

Looking forward to the beginning of a new, exciting year together.

With fondness,
Carla

The Social Justice book club is reviving!

This summer we will be reading "The Left Hand of God" by Rabbi Michael Lerner. Please join us on **Tuesday, July 11th at 7:30** at the Fellowship. We'll discuss the first few chapters, and pick our next meeting time. All are welcome!

"Addressing the central mystery of contemporary politics -- why so many Americans vote against their own economic interests -- The Left Hand of God provides an invaluable, timely, and blunt critique of the current state of faith in government. Lerner challenges the Left to give up its deeply held fear of religion and to distinguish between a domination-oriented, Right-Hand-of-God tradition and a more compassionate and hope-oriented Left-Hand-of-God worldview. Further, Lerner describes the ways that Democrats have misunderstood and alienated significant parts of their potential constituency. To succeed again, Lerner argues, the Democratic Party must rethink its relationship to God, champion a progressive spiritual vision, reject the old bottom line that promotes the globalization of selfishness, and deal head-on with the very real spiritual crisis that many Americans experience every day. " Quote from HarperCollins website



"Freedom Summer:
a
Civil rights Journey"

[READ MORE NEXT PAGE](#)

JOIN US FOR A WEEK THAT
COULD CHANGE YOUR LIFE

Third annual civil rights journey set for historic southern cities

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is excited to announce the third annual civil rights journey through several southern cities, offering a chance to learn firsthand about the struggles of the 1960s.

The intergenerational trip will bring people together from around the country to travel by bus to historical sites that were significant during the civil rights movement. The inspirational journey will begin in Atlanta and move to Selma, Montgomery, and Birmingham, Ala.

The **Freedom Summer camp: A civil rights journey** is scheduled for July 8-15, 2006. Participants will also hear the stories of people who witnessed historic events firsthand. Civil rights activists will bring to life the struggles of those who risked their lives to register black voters and to demand other rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

It will conclude with a service component assisting our Atlanta-based community partner, Georgia Citizens Coalition on Hunger.

At the second Freedom Summer camp last year, 65 youths and adults from around the country heard the messages of many civil rights warriors who were on the front lines of the struggles of the 1960s. They said the stories inspired them to become electoral activists last year and to make social justice a part of their everyday lives.

"I think the most powerful experience was walking across the bridge in Selma, knowing what people there had faced, and also meeting the mayor of Selma," said Chris Griesmer of Davis, Calif. "To know that he was a youth back then during the civil rights movement and now he's the mayor of Selma is a pretty inspiring thing."

Freedom Summer application information

Participants must be age 14 or older. Participants are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from Atlanta. However, rides provided by UUSC staff to and from airports or train stations can be arranged in advance.

The fee for the camp is \$500, which helps offset the cost of housing, food, and transportation during the program.

To apply for a JustWorks camp, you can [download an application](#) or [read more about our camps](#). You may also request an application or receive further information by contacting us by e-mail at justworks@uuscs.org or by calling Nguyen at 800.388.3920, ext. 201.

JustWorks camps are short-term projects that help volunteers examine and understand the causes and damaging effects of injustice. Participants work directly with people in the communities they serve, gaining a better understanding of social justice struggles.

While learning about human rights issues and promoting intercultural understanding and reconciliation, volunteers are taught advocacy skills to address issues of poverty, discrimination, and racism. It is UUSC's hope that participants will make use of these skills in their congregations, campuses, and communities. The JustWorks program is an important element in our mission to advance justice and protect human rights in the United States and around the world.

Since 1996, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has operated more than 25 JustWorks camps across the United States. Our program has provided hands-on learning for more than 2,500 people from around the country, as well as overseas, to work on issues of racial, social, and economic injustice.

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 UUFP

Minister: Greta Browne

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: Stefanie Fulwood

Finance: Open

Fundraising Committee:

Jeanne Bautista

Hospitality/Kitchen:

Marianne Yarnall

Publicity: Open

Ministerial Committee:

Inactive at this time

Social Justice: Bob & Deni Gross

Sojourner Editor: Kay Price

Technology: Open

Choir: Ross Landy

Building/Grounds:

Matthew Molyneux

Sunday Morning Teams:

Judith van Beek

Gardens: Dorothea Hamlin

You're Invited to a Farewell Party for Greta

*Join us for a celebration
of Greta Browne's ministry with the UUFP
on
June 7, 2006*

- ◆ *Gathering at 7:00 pm at the Fellowship*
- ◆ *Outdoor Service from 7:15-7:45*
- ◆ *Refreshments from 7:45-8:45*
- ◆ *Bonfire, drumming, singing at 9:00 (weather permitting)*

If the ground is dry enough, feel free to bring a tent and camp over for the night on the rear grounds of the Fellowship.

Questions? Contact a Polaris Pack member: Carla Johnson, Bob Jones, Linda Pallay or Kay Price

July 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00	3	4 <i>Meditation canceled</i> <i>Happy 4th!</i>	5	6 Yoga: 7:00	7 Farewell Party for Greta: 7:00	8
9 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00 Caring Comm: 11:30	10	11 Social Justice Book Club: 7:30	12 Women's Group 7:00	13 Yoga: 7:00	14	15
16 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00 <i>Third Sunday Potluck</i>	17	18	19	20 Yoga: 7:00	21	22
23 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00	24	25	26	27 Yoga: 7:00	28	29
30 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00	31					

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP OF
POTTSTOWN**

*1565 South Keim Street
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Email:

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