



July 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 services will start at 10:30 AM beginning July 5th

Sunday, July 5, 2009

Independence Day: The Most UU of Holidays *Intergenerational Service*

Lay Leader: Mary Ryan

The Fourth of July is when we celebrate our Founding Fathers notice of intent to fight for freedom from British rule. The list of signers of the Declaration of Independence includes many we include in our UU history, most notably its author Thomas Jefferson. Many of our UU principles are contained in that document. This service will talk about that link. We'll also just enjoy singing some good old American (?) tunes. (Sorry no fireworks!)

Sunday, July 12, 2009

A Rosary for UUFP?!

Rev David Farrington

In Roman Catholic doctrine, the purpose of the Rosary is to "help keep in memory certain principal events or mysteries in the history of our salvation, and to thank and praise God for them." In this, my last service before taking vacation and study/preparation time, I want to celebrate our time and especially our achievements together - a joyous and fun-filled celebration is planned!

Sunday, July 19, 2009

The Politics of Eating

Lay Leader: Emily Quarles-Mowrer

Once upon a time, the only politically charged question at the grocery store was, "Paper or plastic?" Now it seems that every grape and Fig Newton is called into question. Where did the national obsession with politically correct eating come from and how does it impact our daily lives? We will explore the impact of books such as "The Omnivore's Dilemma" and "Fast Food Nation" as well as the history of food production, and government legislation and dietary fads that affect our food choices.

Third Sunday potluck will follow the service.

Sunday, July 26, 2009

European Paganism 101

Lay Leader: Tara Boroson

The change from Paganism to Christianity was not the "global search and replace" action that it's often believed to be. Gradual changes often allowed the religions to be practiced together, and only slowly for Christianity to gain control of the continent. Understanding the contexts that fostered these early religions can help us understand how they relate to our modern needs and contexts.



From the Minister's Desk

Small churches can be full of surprises, can't they?

Consider the Pottstown Fellowship. Less than a year ago, a far-sighted Board saw growth as the only viable option for assuring the Fellowship's survival. Agreeing, the congregation approved full-time ministry as a means of attaining numeric and financial development.

In less than six months of full-time ministry, there has been significant progress. Five people have joined our community and several others, while deferring actual membership, have pledged and otherwise support the Fellowship with time and talents. We are grateful for their presence, involvement and creativity.

Yet there was from the beginning, a weak link in the survival chain – funding. The commitment to hire a minister full time was predicated on increasing pledges, building rentals and securing a line of credit as a back-up. Following the modest gains in pledging during the canvass and with no significant increase in rental income, the decision was recently made to invoke the 90 day clause in our contract. This allows either party to abrogate the contract with 90 days notice and without cause.

Though disappointed, I was not surprised. It is very common practice to balance church budgets by reducing the major cost – almost always clergy.

In an effort to reconcile Fellowship needs and finances with those of the Minister, three alternatives were put before the Congregation. The first would have full time ministry through January 2010 and then no professional ministry; the second would have full time ministry through November 2009 and three-quarter time thereafter. The third option would continue the present full-time arrangement, exhausting savings and going into the line of credit for nearly \$14,000.

It is the discussion and action following the presentation of these proposals that separates UUFPP from the churches I have previously served or even heard about. Most startling was one member's observation that if we were not going to succeed, then we should "go out with a bang." Another offered to increase her pledge and others followed suit. In the end, the decision was made to continue the present program – and face down and conquer the financial risks implied!

To say I am grateful for this rare display of UU faith and endorsement of the often subtle – and not always appreciated -- work of ministry would be a substantial understatement.

Now, of course, the real work begins. Volunteers are already hard at work contacting members and friends alike to make initial, or increase existing pledges. Using our human resources -- not the least of which is your individual and collective courage and enthusiasm -- we must ensure that we close any remaining financial gap that would cause us to go into debt.

I have been talking to members about possible fundraisers. I have also been consulting with the Communications Group and Vice President-elect (Chairperson of the Committee Council) to do long range planning to ensure our success in the larger community, where increased exposure is certain to bring additional members and friends into our fold.

Enthusiasm and courage are the primary fuels that assure church growth in spirit, mission and numbers. You have shown you have both these qualities and are willing to take risks to put them to work. Let us use the summer to plan for all of next year. In the fall, we'll fasten our seat belts for a challenging ride -- one we hope will justify the faith last year's Board demonstrated in committing to full time ministry and significant church growth and which you ratified at the recent annual Meeting.

Blessings,

Dave

Rev. David W. Farrington, Consulting Minister, UUFPP

Religious Education Notes



Family Chalice Lighting:

Come into the circle of love and friendship.
Come into the community of justice & goodness.
Come and you shall know peace and joy.

RE Ends for the Summer

Our 2008-9 curriculum from the Unitarian Universalist Association has come to an end for the summer. For the months of July and August we will have no formal RE classes, with the exceptions of:

- play practice for a summer RE service, and
- a kid's meditation opportunity with Tara Boroson.

The dates and whereabouts for these have not yet been finalized, so please look for announcements in the Sunday bulletins and posted around the Fellowship.

The nursery will continue to be open, and the ages of the children in the nursery will extend upwards to include five year olds (children entering first grade in the fall). Older children will be expected to attend service, or, as has happened in the past, parent volunteers sometimes trade off weeks to watch the kids play. Either way, they must be supervised.

June in review



Our second annual Father's Day Pancake Brunch was oh-so-sweet! Dads enjoyed a meal of pancakes, bacon, turkey sausage, and fruit, and the kids enjoyed serving them even more. An enormous thanks to Courtney Daley for helping with set-up, cooking, and clean-up, to Linda Pallay for her help with the food, and to Kay Price for doing the bulk of the dishes! Thanks, too, to Michaela Nemeth and her friend Sierra, Kayleigh Daley, Talia Boroson, and Baxter Sewall for the excellent service. Thank you, Anika Boroson and Joseph Daley, for help with the décor!

Wishing you a meaningful summer!

Lynn Medley, RE Chair

New Members

The Hill Family

Welcome to Maggie, Rod and Lisa Hill who recently joined our Fellowship. Rod discovered the UUFPP when he dropped off a donation for "Toys for Tots" in December 2008. He was intrigued by what he saw and picked up a visitor's packet. After visiting a few times he was recruited to sing in the UUFPP choir. He is now involved in helping out with the microfinancing program and also leads the new communications group at UUFPP.



The Hill family have lived in New Hanover Township for the past 6 years, having moved from Baltimore MD. Lisa is studying to become a nurse practitioner in Gerontology at the University of Pennsylvania. She will complete her studies in August. Maggie, an aspiring artist, is in 10th grade at St. Pious in Pottstown. Rod manages a training program for The Graduate School. He enjoys photography. All of the Hills enjoy hiking in the great outdoors.

Miranda Van Horn and "Meg" Phelps

Miranda and her mother Meg found our Fellowship through the roadside sign on Keim St and Hoffecker RD. Both Miranda and her mother were members of a Unitarian Fellowship in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Before that Miranda's parents were members of a Unitarian Fellowship in Newark, Delaware.

Miranda is a retired adult services Librarian. She loves being retired but at the same time misses her work as a librarian. Miranda lives with her husband, Gary in East Coventry. After living in Cherry Hill they are enjoying their new home and feel closer to nature. Miranda attends a Buddhist Temple in Philadelphia and is about to participate in her third meditation retreat. She would like to start a weekly meditation practice at the UUFPP for all who are interested.

Meg is a retired registered nurse who now resides at Manatawny Manor in Pottstown. She is on the residents council and also belongs to the cooking club at Manatawny Manor. Both Miranda and Meg are birdwatchers and have traveled extensively on birding trips.

Our Gardens

Mother Nature blessed us with the rainy season; no need to water our three new trees this Spring!

After several years of considering the vine on the curve of the driveway as a Vinca, it bloomed this year - it is a Honeysuckle!!! During the last month German & Oriental Iris have bloomed; Golden Yarrow, Red Hot Pokers, perennial Primrose, Yucca, and white Primroses (under the U.U.F.P. sign) are blooming now.

A volunteer is needed to care for the Daylily bed, to weed, fertilize, and mulch. A volunteer is also needed to treat the weeds between the bricks at the front door and along the North side of the building. Vinegar and detergent are available to kill the weeds making it easier to pull them after turning brown.

If you are willing to volunteer, please see me after Sunday service.

Thanks to all of you who have graciously helped me over the past month.

Happy Gardening!

Dorothea Hamlin





UUFP Calendar

July 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Yoga 7:00 Women's Group: 7:00	3	4
5 Choir: 9:00 Service 10:30	6	7	8	9 Yoga 7:00	10	11
12 Choir: 9:00 Service 10:30	13	14	15 <i>Sojourner Deadline</i>	16 Yoga 7:00	17	18
19 Choir: 9:00 Service 10:30	20	21	22	23 Yoga 7:00	24	25
26 Choir: 9:00 Service 10:30	27	28	29	30 Yoga 7:00	31	

Happenings at Murray Grove

Murray Grove Homecoming: A Mid-Atlantic UU Celebration

Saturday, September 26, 2009, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Rev. Meg Barnhouse, Unitarian Universalist Evangelist, Storyteller and Musician
New interim minister at Princeton

Music • Workshops • Fellowship • Fun
Under the big white tent!

Pre-Homecoming Concert featuring **Rev. Meg Barnhouse and Kiya Heartwood**
Friday, September 25, 2009 - 7:00 pm

Post-Homecoming Service Party
September 26-27, 2009

Wind down from the excitement of Homecoming, in fellowship and service, together with others of like mind and heart.

FAMILY GET-A-WAYS at MURRAY GROVE – get back to simplicity!

Enjoy a mini-vacation at your Mid-Atlantic UU retreat center in the peaceful NJ Pine Barrens, on the site where Universalism began: available mid-weeks; comfortable and affordable; fun: pool (in season), athletic fields, nature walks, barbeques, fire circle; near beaches, boardwalks, Six Flags, canoeing, restaurants and parks

Support your UU retreat centers!

2nd Annual Murray Grove Drum and Dance Retreat! *Express yourself creatively and spiritually!* August 14-16, 2009

Workshops on Afro-Brazilian, Latin and West African Drumming, and African Dance and Belly-Dancing: *Ancient practices with roots in ritual, religion and celebration!*

Only \$250 per person for the weekend, double occupancy, including meals! (\$225 if registration is received before July 1, 2009!)
Or sign up just for the Saturday afternoon and evening session for \$75. Space is limited, so register early!

Save the dates:

WORK WEEKEND – October 11-12
UU NEW YEARS at Murray Grove, with Rev Craig Hirshberg – December 31, 2009-January 1, 2010

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



GETTING TO KNOW UU: An Interview with Don Davis by Deni Gross

A native of Pottstown, Don lives in Phoenixville with his 13-week-old, 45-pound mastiff puppy, Bentley, and two African grey parrots, Spencer and Tristan. The parrots have already visited with Fellowship children in R.E. class. Don majored in Veterinary Technology at Jenkintown's Manor College. Although he hasn't yet earned his degree, he would like to continue his education and work in either wildlife conservation or an animal behavior field. Currently, Don is employed as an account coordinator for a facilities management firm.

About eight years ago, Don joined the Fellowship, attracted by many aspects of liberal religion. "Not very fond of the bible thumping that goes on in other religions," Don finds Unitarian Universalist philosophy refreshing. At one time a member of the Welcoming Congregation Committee, Don is now considering joining the Caring Committee - not surprising given his compassionate nature. He characterizes his time at UUFP as "a good learning experience," enriched not only by the like-minded people he's met, but also by those with differing opinions.

In his spare time, Don is working with Bentley to prepare him to eventually compete in dog shows. Bentley and "Dad" have visited some shows in order to acclimate the puppy to this new and exciting environment, where they have already made some friends. The Caring Committee has also approached Don about possibly bringing Bentley to nursing homes in the future, appearing as the official Caring Committee "therapy dog."

In addition to his concern for animals, Don's passion is politics. He was involved in John Kerry's presidential campaign and again in the 2008 election. During the primaries, Don supported Hillary Clinton and met her daughter, Chelsea.



Don meets Chelsea Clinton

Don invites readers to visit his personal website, which contains pictures of his pets and other information. Go to www.greyburd.com. Don's cheerful, outgoing personality makes him a wonderful asset to the UUFP community. Please take some time to get to know him. He and his animal friends look forward to learning more about UU, too!

The Women's Group

The Women's Group has ended the second unit of a study, for this year, of various goddesses throughout the world. Our last meeting was on the Goddess Amaterasu. During the meeting we learned about a Japanese poetry form called Tanka and about shide, strips of paper, used during various Shinto rituals. The shide are zigzag folded paper used to mark the "boundary between the sacred and the profane".

Below are poems made up by the women of the Women's Group. They are in the Tanka format. They are made up of 5 phrases and have a total of 31 syllables. The five phrases have either 5 or 7 syllables per line and are in the form of: 5, 7,5,7,7. Tanka is said to have stemmed from a Shinto deity who sang the first Tanka poem.

*The young sapling bends
As blowing winds force yang wood
Clouds tumble above
Meadow grasses lay over
The fall winds roughly come through*
-Bev Jensen

*I love to hug.... a
Tree. Tall and green, beautiful
I love to hug.... a
Tree. It revives me yes
And makes me feel whole again.*
-Bonnie Donohue

*We're the Women's Group
With love and trust we gather.
Sharing life's events
We come closer and combine,
Our hearts and minds forever.*
- Linda Pallay

*Sacred and profane
Rice rope with the shide surround me
I hope to find peace
Boundary between good and evil
Between light and dark*
-Lisa Schneider

*Laughter echoed, a
Frozen corpse upon my ears.
They laugh now, they do.
But what of days to come?
Will they weep for all they lost?*
-Lee Van Zandt

The Women's Group that will start a new session in the fall. Please watch for an announcement in August /September Sojourner. Have a safe and happy summer.
Bonnie, Lisa, Lee, Bev and Linda

Healing Network

If you or someone you know is physically ill or struggling with a mental or emotional problem, you may ask to have that name added to the TRIUNE OF LIGHT Healing Network. While not a project of the UUPF, the network offers its services completely **free of charge** to all interested persons, including members of UUPF, their families, friends, co-workers, etc. Network members come from a variety of backgrounds -- some are trained Reiki healers; some are traditional medical professionals; some are a combination of both. They perform long-distance, absentee healing and keep patients' names on the healing list for as long as you request.

The only information you need to provide is the full name of the person requiring healing. No details of the illness or any other personal information is requested. Please feel free to send healing requests to the TRIUNE OF LIGHT project coordinator, Deni Gross, who will then forward the information to network members. Talk to Deni in person at the Fellowship, phone her at 610-404-1185, or send an e-mail to cfpeace@hotmail.com.

Former patients have reported excellent results after being added to the healing list. Please note, however, that the network makes no claims to being a replacement for any form of medical care, medicines or therapy, nor does it encourage participants to discontinue seeing their current health care providers while on the healing list.

Deni Gross
Caring Committee

Who's Who at the UUFP

Minister: Rev. David Farrington

Board of Directors:

President: Clayton Mowrer

Past President: Mary Alsayegh

Vice President: Tara Boroson

Board Secretary: Linda Pallay

Finance Secretary: Paul Nemeth

Board Member: Lynn Medley

Board Member: Mary Ryan

Board Committees:

Committee on Shared Ministry: Carla Johnson

Congregational Committees:

Committee Council Chair:

Chair: Lynn Medley

Stewardship:

Chair: Paul Nemeth

Bookkeeper: Courtney Daley

UUAction:

Chair: Carla Johnson

Worship:

Acting Chair: Rev. David Farrington

Choir: Marianne Yarnall

Member Services:

Membership: Courtney Daley

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 – Mary Alsayegh

PastPresident@uupottstown.org – Carla Johnson

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

MemberServices@uupottstown.org– Courtney Daley

Facilities@uupottstown.org – Jon Price

Finance@uupottstown.org - Paul Nemeth

Stewardship@uupottstown.org - Paul Nemeth

Sharedministry@uupottstown.org: Carla Johnson

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:

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