

June 2006

The Sojourner

newsletter of the Unitarian-Universalist
Fellowship of Pottstown
1565 South Keim St
Pottstown, PA 19465
(610) 327-2662

Sunday June 4, 2006

Welcome to New Members and Reflections on Ministry

Reverend Greta Browne

It is a fine thing to welcome new members into the community of the UUFP. Rev. Greta Browne is happy to preside at this celebration, and she will take the occasion to reflect on what it has meant to her to be the minister at the UUFP for several years.

Sunday, June 11, 2006

"Obsessed With Reality"

Lay Leader: Al Jenkin

Presenters: Ron Downie, Charles Bast and Bob Jones

Piano Soloist: Jenna Alsayegh

Children's Minute: "On a Dreamer's Holiday"
Solo by Bob Jones, accompanied by Ross Landy

You and I, as UUs, spend a lot of time in our lives trying to find out what life in our universe is all about, right? We study, meditate, gain experience and come to some tentative or firm conclusions or beliefs, right? This forms our sense of reality. Could it be that our sense of reality is not always *reality*?

Well, the planner of this service is "**Obsessed With Reality**" and this will be our consideration today.

This service is rescheduled from snow day, Feb 12th.

Sunday, June 18, 2006

"Beyond Sustenance"

An Outdoor Service,
weather permitting

Lay Leader: Jeanne Bautista

Come celebrate being outdoors and the coming of summer! The service will be followed by our Third Sunday potluck, which will be a picnic out back. Our discussion topic of the day is food, and its role in religious life and practices. Whether it is shared together, such as Communion or a Seder meal, or the power of fasting, food binds a community together.

Come for the discussion, stay for the potato salad!

Sunday, June 25, 2006

Happiness Is...

Lay Leader: Mary Ryan

The old Peanuts cartoon said it was a warm puppy and to some it really is. We're going to talk about what makes us happy when we are sad or just happy in general. Discussion will be open to all -- young and old. It will be a fun, light and easy-going service for the summer.

From the Minister's Desk

It's been hard this month for me to get started on this message. As our relationship slowly changes each task takes on a new meaning and I almost wish I could start all over again. Perhaps it's like when your kid goes off to college and you wonder if you and he and the others around you will be alright. You always knew it would come to pass, it's really for the best, you're proud of him or her, but does this parting really have to happen? Can you go back to when this child was ten, or five, or two?

Will you, the members and friends of the UUFP, be alright? Certainly. You're in the middle of an exciting two-year exploration, with the help of Rev. Tom Chulak, of who you want to be and how you want to move into the future. This is a wonderful moment to define your niche in the greater Pottstown area, as the religious community that offers a certain set of traits and objectives to the progressives and free-thinkers that are either already here or moving into the region.

Each of us has at a moment in our lives, some long ago and others more recently, discovered Unitarian Universalism and said, "This is for me". We know how that felt and all the hopes and expectations it represented. We also know how frustrating it can be to find that our community doesn't always live up to those expectations. So as you work with Tom and the Polaris Pack, remember to forge again that vision that first brought you to this place. And as you look for a new minister, make sure you can articulate your dreams and hopes, and speak of the direction you want the UUFP to take.

Will I be alright? Sure. Since I started working ¼ time as your minister, I've been putting my energies into other endeavors. I have a few more clients in my Marriage and Family Therapy private practice. I've been teaching Public Speaking at Cedar Crest College and am thinking about trying to pick up some other classes there or at area colleges, of which the Lehigh Valley has many. I can keep busy with volunteer work as a community activist, which I do as a community minister of the UU Church of the Lehigh Valley. I'm really proud of my work with the Alliance for Sustainable Communities where I'm working with others on a project to bring a major Alternative Energy Center to our area, perhaps to be located at the old Bethlehem Steel property near where I live.

My thoughts are with you and I look forward to the special work of saying good-bye in ways that honor the time we have spent together, and help us understand how we can live out our UU principles in all we do.

Faithfully,

Greta

PS - I would love to visit with any of you who want to get together between now and the 15th of July. I intend to come down to Pottstown every Thursday afternoon and stay into the evening, so email or call me if you would like to meet with me at S. Keim Street or elsewhere.

President's Message

It's been an event-filled month, with many exciting and thought-provoking activities.

- ◆ Top on our list has been the processing of Rev. Greta's departure, and what that means to us as a congregation. We on the Board have all expressed our sadness that we will not see our friend on a regular basis any more, as well as thanks for the 6-year journey that Greta has shared with us. A celebration of Greta's ministry is planned for July 7th. I hope that you can all attend. It should be a very healing and fun party where we'll reflect on our past together, and look towards what lies ahead as our paths diverge. We are very blessed to be able to do this transition in such a spirit of partnership and love.
- ◆ The Board has begun dialog with our District staff and Rev Tom Chulak for options in our search for our next minister. We are hoping to outline our needs in a quick timeframe so that we can begin our search process fairly soon. Our opinion is that we do not want to slow down the progress we are making in our Consultancy work. We are working to have a high level plan to present to you for discussion at our Congregational meeting on June 4th. Please plan to attend this very important meeting as we begin the next phase of our UUFP journey.
- ◆ The Board has asked the RE committee to come up with an RE/Safe Children policy. The task force of Linda Pallay, Suzanne Molyneux and Mary Alsayegh has been working very hard to come up with guidelines for working with our children and youth. There will be a presentation of this at the June meeting as well.
- ◆ We are working on a plan to get new Board members acclimated to the UUFP so that they are better able to serve as a Board member. This will include training on such things as the UUFP budget, committees, Board member responsibilities, how to run a meeting, how we fit into the UUA and JPD structures, etc. The Board will be having a retreat on August 4th, and this will be part of the activities we will be doing.
- ◆ A transition process has begun for old to new Board members. Lisa Prescott will be replacing Bob Hakun on the Board for membership and Jeanne Bautista will be replacing Ron Hovis as Vice President. In addition we have two new at-large members: Albert Jenkin and Matthew Molyneux. I'm very thankful that a large majority of Board members have agreed to remain on the Board to provide continuity as we continue our process of transformation.
- ◆ The last item I want to let you know about concerns the Wellsprings congregation. They are gearing up to begin their services in January, 2007. As part of their activities, they are beginning a UU advertising campaign in the area. The UUFP will be mentioned as one of the 5 local UU congregations in a large ad they are placing in the Daily Local newspaper on May 28. We are very fortunate to be included in this campaign at no cost to us. As a result of this campaign as well as more to come, we will be expecting a higher level of new folks to be visiting us. Think of what you as a person, a committee member, as a leader of the UUFP can do to make their visit be welcoming. People are hungering for a liberal spiritual home. Let's help them find us, and when they do, make them glad they did!

In peace,
Carla

Sunday Service Committee



Sunday Service Committee is appealing to you, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown, to think very seriously about Sunday services since we will soon be functioning without a minister.

There are six members on the Sunday Service Committee right now and 52 Sundays in a year. That means that without a minister, we are responsible for producing approximately 9 services a year, that's 2 more per person (give or take) than when we had a quarter time minister. That's a lot of work for something that is so important to our health as a Fellowship and our future growth.

So, I am coming to you during this interim time, to ask you to bring us your ideas, your energy and hopefully even yourselves. I know we've surveyed the congregation before to get your service ideas, but you probably have new ones. If you aren't comfortable leading a service yourself, then contact me or someone else on the Sunday Service Committee (Bob Jones, Allan Pallay, Mary Ryan, Jeanne Bautista or Cougar) and let us know the great topic or speaker idea that has been percolating in your head for awhile now. But what we would really appreciate, is if you want to help us with one service or several. Help us not get burned out and help us produce exciting, nourishing services that bring not only ourselves, but new folks as well.

Stefanie Fulwood
Sunday Service Committee Chair

An Invitation to a Farewell Party for Greta

Friday evening, July 7

*Please join us for a celebration of
Greta Browne's ministry with the UUFP.*

*We'll be sharing lots of memories of all of our good times and
work together. We'll also have a ceremony for us to release
each other from our covenant. Of course food and beverage
will be supplied.*

More details to come as the time gets closer.

Caring Committee News

*Linda Pallay's mother, Marion Young, passed away on
Saturday, May 20th. She was 86 years old.*

Please join us in conveying our condolences to Linda and her family.

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:

Who's Who at UUFP

Minister: Greta Browne

Board of Directors:

President: Carla Johnson

Vice President: Ron Hovis

Treasurer: Carole Hovis

Secretary: Mary Alsayegh

Sun. Services: Stefanie Fulwood

Membership: Bob Hakun

RE: Suzanne Molyneux

Committee Chairs:

Caring Committee: Ruth Daly

Aesthetics: Bob Hakun

Finance: Open

Fundraising Committee:

Jeanne Bautista

Hospitality/Kitchen:

Marianne Yarnall

Publicity: Open

Ministerial Committee:

Dan Bacon, Ron Hovis, Michelle Dougherty-Landy, Vince Fulwood

Social Justice: Bob & Deni Gross

Sojourner Editor: Kay Price

Technology: Open

Choir: Ross Landy

Welcoming Congregation: Open

Building/Grounds:

Matthew Molyneux

Rentals: Open

Sunday Morning Teams:

Judith van Beek

Meditation Moments

"If you take care of each moment, you take care of all time."

Jack Kornfield

Living in the moment can be challenging!

Meditation helps us with this, so if you feel like taking "some moments", come join us on the first Tuesday of the month in the Fellowship Hall from 7-8:30 pm for simple meditation.

For information please call Sally Martin ,
or email sallyvm@flash.net with "UUFP Meditation" in the subject line.

All are welcome and no experience is necessary.

June 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Yoga: 7:00	2	3
4 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00 Congregational Mtg: 11:45	5	6 Meditation with Sally: 7-8:30 Sunday Service Mtg: 7:00	7	8 Yoga: 7:00 Board Mtg: 7:15	9	10
11 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00 Caring Comm: 11:30 Fundraising Mtg: 11:45	12	13	14	15 Yoga: 7:00	16	17 Earl Graham is 98 years old today!
18 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00 <i>Third Sunday Potluck</i>	19	20	21 Women's Group 7:00	22 Yoga: 7:00	23	24
<div style="border: 1px dashed gray; padding: 5px; background-color: #e0e0e0;"> UUA General Assembly June 21-25 </div>						
25 Choir: 8:30 Service: 10:00 <i>Final day UUA General Assembly</i>	26	27	28	29	30	

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP OF
POTTSTOWN**

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