

The Sojourner

newsletter of the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown

1565 South Keim St
(610) 327-2662

Pottstown, PA 19465
uupottstown.org

June 2007

Sunday, June 3, 2007

Celebrating Membership

Contract Minister: Colin Bossen

Lay Leader: Bob Jones

This service will be a special celebration of the membership of the Fellowship. It will provide a chance to welcome new members and thank the congregation's outgoing and incoming leaders for their work. In the process we'll explore what it means to be a member of a Unitarian Universalist congregation and how we have understood membership in the past.

Sunday, June 10, 2007

Poetry: Life's Mirror

Speaker/Poet- Andy Downie

Lay Leader- Ron Downie

Music- Kay Rutter, Harp

Welcome again to Andy, a distant member of our fellowship (living in New Jersey). Every so often we persuade Andy to visit us with his favorite poets and poetry. He has been professor of English Literature at The County of Morris, N.J. Community College for more than forty years.

The Downie brothers will be joined by harpist Kay Rutter on this gala morning.

Sunday, June 17, 2007

Your Father is not Homer Simpson

Lay Leader/Speaker: Emily Quarles-Mowrer

It seems like Fathers get short shrift in today's society. The incompetent dad is a sit-com staple. Of course we all know that our own fathers are smart, capable men. But it is okay to laugh at Hal from "Malcom in the Middle" or Arthur Spooner on "King of Queens." That stereotypical sit-com dad would be considered completely inappropriate if you were to substitute almost any other category of person. This Father's Day, we will talk about the evolving roles of Fathers.

Sunday, June 24, 2007

The Outdoors, Our Sanctuary

Lay Leader: Jeanne Bautista,

with panel discussion

Service Held Outside, with Picnic to Follow!

Come celebrate your love for the interdependent web of existence as we explore what a sanctuary is for us. Everyone is touched by different elements of nature, and this service will give voice to several different perspectives.

Please join us following the service for a picnic/BBQ, which will take the place of the Third Sunday Potluck this month. Bring on the potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans and watermelon, baby!

From the Minister's Desk

This year has been a time of transition for both me and my family and for the congregation. My personal journey has included being granted preliminary fellowship by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, a call to the Unitarian Universalist Society of Cleveland, my first settled ministry, the birth of my son and now, at the end of this month, my ordination by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Long Beach. All of those changes have been a lot for me to process and I am very appreciative of the support you have given me during this time.

The journey of the congregation over the last year has been no less eventful and I have accompanying you on it. I have learned a great deal from you and, as I think became clear at our retreat with Rev. Dr. Tom Chulak, we have accomplished a lot together. I believe that the work you have done this year has poised the Fellowship for an exciting future. At the open session Rev. Dr. Chulak led, it was clear that the Fellowship had made progress in several areas: Sunday services, the membership committee, the governance structure and conflict resolution. In addition, many mentioned the Chautauqua Cafe as something that had contributed a great deal to the congregation's life and presence in the wider Pottstown community over the last several months.

Despite all of these accomplishments several areas of future work were identified over the weekend. They included focusing more intentionally on stewardship, implementing the new congregational governance structure, and reaching and collaborating with other nearby Unitarian Universalist congregations.

My time with you ends soon and I won't be able to work in any sustained way with you on these issues. However, I do hope to at least set you on the path to creating a congregational covenant before our time together ends. On June 10th and July 1st there will be a series of two workshops designed to help you articulate a possible congregational covenant. Such a covenant would not be a statement of belief. Rather it would serve as a guide in how you act together as a community.

In the workshops we'll ask questions such as:

- Why do you come to the Fellowship?
- What do you see as the purpose of the Fellowship?
- How can we work together to best fulfill that purpose?
- What inhibits us from meeting that purpose?

I look forward to working on the covenanting process with you.

love,

Colin

Colin Bossen
Contract Minister
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown
<http://members.aol.com/uupottstown/>
202.276.3579 (cell)

President's Message

Well, here we are. This is my last article to you as Board President. It's been quite an interesting and eventful two years. We have made much good progress as a Congregation towards becoming a healthier, more vital community.

In the past year, we have revised our governance structure, creating a new smaller board. We revised our committee structure to have eight main committees with the committee chairs creating a new committee council. We will continue to work on implementing this in the coming year.

In September, we started our work with our interim minister Colin Bossen. During our time together we have looked at the Sunday service model, defining ways to make our services better and stronger. We made some changes to the running of our board meetings, including better time management, so that we are using people's time efficiently, as well as forming a spiritual base for our meetings.

Our RE program is stronger and we have more children attending. This is great news for our long-term growth and vitality.

We have raised the funds for and installed a new roof. We are in the midst of installing new hardwood floors in the social room. We are in the process of purchasing new dishes for use in the UUF.

A team of people from the congregation just completed the Healthy Congregations workshops, and will be working to bring these practices back to the congregation.

We started our Chautauqua Café program, which has brought in much talent and beauty to our space, and has been a source of new visitors as well.

We completed a series of covenanting workshops and will be continuing this process through the summer to define how we want to be with each other in community.

The fund raising committee hosted a beautiful art show which the Pottstown Art Guild was so impressed by, that they are going to help co-host it next year.

The board and various committees helped to create or revise policies on Safe Congregations and Membership. We will continue in the next year to work on our policies so that our decision making processes and guidelines are known and accessible to all.

The membership committee has been revitalized, people are being contacted and welcomed, the directory is being published regularly, and special membership events are being planned.

Membership in the choir has grown and the group is practicing on a weekly basis prior to services (and is open to all with an interest in singing).

I'm sure I haven't listed all of the wonderful, inspiring work that has happened in this past year. I know for some it has been a sacrifice of time from other pursuits and loved ones. Hopefully it has been a labor of love, and fulfillment as we strive to create a community of spirit for ourselves and those who will come after us.

In Faith,

Carla Johnson

Transition Team Report

UUFPP held our final consultancy meetings with Rev. Tom Chulak, growth consultant from the Unitarian Universalist Association, on May 11th and 12th. Tom has worked with our congregation over the past two years and has helped us move to a healthier place with the long-term goal of congregational growth. The evening's session was open to the entire membership and its focus was on shared ministry at UUFPP.

Many members attending the final meeting expressed their thoughts on shared ministry at UUFPP. The general consensus from the members is that there is increased energy, commitment and enthusiasm, as well as feelings of increased stability at UUFPP. The attendees listed many accomplishments over the past year that have led to the positive energy at UUFPP: the Transition Team's work on the Governance structure, quality Sunday Services, Chautauqua Café, activation of Membership Committee, RE improvements, active Choir, Kindling the Flame joint choir participation, Healthy Congregation workshops, revised website, building improvements (roof and hardwood floor), and the vote by the congregation to approve half-time ministry for the 2007-2008 year.

Rev. Tom Chulak led a "shared leadership" workshop for the UUFPP leadership on May 12th. The message was that the future of UUFPP relies on shared leadership and having a clear vision. At the workshop we spent a good amount of time articulating our vision by listing characteristics of our past culture and comparing/contrasting to our future vision of where we want to be. The new Board of Directors and Transition Team identified five goals to be the focus of our work this year.

1. Implement Governance structure for the Board and Committee Council
2. Develop Behavior Covenant
3. Develop Mission and Vision
4. Build a healthy congregation
5. Improve Stewardship

The Board of Directors shared its goals with the newly formed Committee Council during the leadership workshop in the afternoon. Under our new governance model, the Board of Directors is responsible for the long-term planning based on the mission and vision of the congregation. With input from members, it develops the goals for the congregation and monitors progress toward the goals.

In the new governance model the Committee Council is comprised of eight committee chairpersons from the following committees: Stewardship, Programs, Member Services, Facilities, Communications, Social Life, UU Action and Religious Education. Each committee chairperson will share the UUFPP goals with the respective committees. It is the committee chairperson's role to work with committee members to develop a plan for activities that will help implement the goals as determined by the Board. As Committee Council Coordinator, Stefanie Fulwood will act as liaison between the Board and the Committee Council. She will organize council meetings and pass information between the Board and the Committee Council.

Updated job descriptions have been distributed to each committee chairperson for review. The

cont...

Transition Team has written job descriptions for new positions created as a result of the Board and Committee restructuring and has revised the job descriptions that were impacted by the adjustments to the congregation's governance structure.

I am very proud of what we have accomplished this past year at UUFP. I am confident that we will continue in our mission to build a healthy congregation. As we embark on this important upcoming year, let's work hard on our goals, yet make sure we also have fun and take the time to nurture one another in our individual spiritual journeys. Our current mission statement reads, "...As we celebrate life, we strive to respect and support one another in our search for truth and goodness, and to care for one another with compassion and love."

I want to thank Rev. Tom Chulak for his valuable assistance over the past two years in helping us become a healthier congregation and guiding our passage to growth. I'm also grateful for our interim minister, Colin Bossen, and the many members who have contributed to the well being of our fellowship and who are making our transition a success.

It is our energy, commitment and enthusiasm that will create a vibrant organization and generate growth. I'm looking forward to an exciting year at the Unitarian Fellowship of Pottstown!

Mary Alsayegh
Transition Team Chair

Covenant Workshop, Part 1

June 10, 2007, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm
Led by Colin Bossen

For the past several months we have been talking about the possibility of creating a congregational covenant. This workshop will take us down that path. During the workshop we will discuss what a covenant is, why we might want to have one and together begin to articulate what such a covenant might be. The second part of this workshop will be offered July 1.

Plan on coming to the UUFP's

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, June 3, 2007 at 11:30 PM

- There will be an update on our ministerial search which is being conducted for the upcoming year. Board President Carla Johnson will offer an explanation on "acting" ministry vs. "interim" ministry.
- Annual reports will be given for all of the committees and a review made of our new Membership Policy.

All are invited to come and participate in this important meeting. Be a part of helping our Fellowship to grow and make positive changes for the future.

A quorum for this meeting will be 40% of eligible voting members in attendance (20), and a majority of 51% will be required to pass motions. Absentee ballots will be accepted: in writing, signed, dated and designating the member to vote on the absentee's behalf, and given to Mary Alsayegh, Secretary.

Please bring finger foods to share during the meeting

Sunday Service Committee News

As my children finish up their school year, I look back and realize how fast this past year has whizzed by me with so much happening in both my personal life and my Fellowship world. The Sunday Service Committee has worked hard, not just to bring some high quality programs to our Sunday Mornings, but also to be very intentional about our Sunday morning liturgy. We're still in that process, but I think everyone has noticed an increase of consistency in certain elements and ways that we present them. It may appear to all of you; members, friends and guests as a little thing, but we've worked hard with Colin to find what works best, not just for us but also for all those attending our services. It's been a rewarding process and my feeling is that we have accomplished a lot this year to support our goal of growth.

We've also worked on the sound systems. "Where are the new microphones?", you're asking yourselves. Well, we're still doing research. The Sunday Service Committee is working collaboratively with our new Communications Chair, Cougar, to ensure we are making the best choices for the Fellowship. We're keeping in mind the needs of Sunday services in general, visiting speakers, those who are hearing impaired as well as the Chautauqua programs, which have not only drawn guests to the Fellowship, but have offered other resources for Sunday morning services. You'll see results from this continuing process over the next few months. Thanks for sticking in there with us.

Overall, I feel really positive about our work this year, which could not have been accomplished without all the folks who contributed to our efforts.

I would like everyone to take a moment to thank our Sunday Service Committee members for all of their hard work this year:

Allan Pally	Cougar	Jeanne Bautista
Bob Jones	Mary Ryan	Emily Quarles-Mowrer

Allan Pally left the committee earlier this past year and Jeanne Bautista, who stuck with us longer than I hoped for, given all of her other responsibilities, is leaving us this month. They each brought their own talents and perspective to the committee which will be sorely missed in the coming months.

I'd also like to thank Colin Bossen for his invaluable input, Marianne Yarnall for her wisdom in having lead the committee previously and her collaborative efforts with the choir, Judith Van Beek for her input on behalf of the Sunday morning Greeters, and Lynn Medley for working so cooperatively with us regarding the children.

It's been a great year and next year will be even better.

Thank you everyone.

Bright Blessings,
Stefanie Fulwood
Sunday Service Committee Chair

Religious Education Notes

Family Chalice Lighting:

We light this chalice to remind ourselves to treat all people kindly because they are our brothers and sisters.

We light this chalice to remind ourselves to take good care of the earth because it is our home.

We light this chalice to remind ourselves to live lives full of goodness and love because that is how we will become the best people we can be.

Dear RE Families:

Summer is here, and RE is out! Our tradition is to have families of older children take turns with children on the playground or otherwise on the grounds of the Fellowship. We do, however, have Jenna Alsayegh joining us in the Nursery for childcare. Please make her feel welcome!

Thanks!

We have many people to thank for a successful RE year this year.

Our most sincere thanks, of course, goes to **Mary Alsayegh** and **Linda Pallay**, not only for their thoughtful lessons and planning this year, but for guiding our RE program so long with vision, dedication, and love.

I hope you'll take a moment at social hour to thank Mary, Linda, and Suzanne Molyneux, this year's lead teachers, and the following guest teachers for their gifts to our program and our children:

Jeanne Bautista
Ruth Daly
Don Davis
Bob Gross

Stefanie Fulwood
Ron Hovis
Carla Johnson
Clayton Mowrer

Emily Quarles-Mowrer
CJ Rhoads
Marianne Yarnall

Finally, thanks to the Sunday Service Committee and Colin for their efforts with the Children's Minute each week, and our intergenerational services this year!

As always, if you have questions about RE, or would like to know how to get involved, feel free to contact me at (215) 527-5903.

With Love,
Lynn Medley, RE Chair

Multiple Intelligences Workshop

Saturday June 23rd, 3-5

Join us for the follow-up to the March Sunday Service entitled
**Multiple Intelligences Theory and The Search for Truth:
How the Way We Learn Affects the Way We Seek**

Conducted by Lynn Medley and Stefanie Fulwood

Snacks provided

Sitter in the works (TBA)

Description: Our culture puts much emphasis on the “nurture” part of the nature/nurture question when it comes to spirituality. Are we Unitarian Universalists because of psychological aspects of past spiritual experiences that “drove” us to be UU, or do genetic and neurological predispositions to cognitive strengths and weaknesses dictate our path? *Are we running, or seeking?*

Workshop participants will:

- √ Complete a learning style inventory (if you did this on March 25th and still have it, please bring it!)
- √ Learn characteristics of their dominant learning styles
- √ Identify types of spiritual traditions that appear to be best matched with different learning styles
- √ Discuss ways to incorporate multiple intelligences, and multiple ways of seeking, into our UU congregation

If you'd like attend the workshop, and your friends are always welcome as well, we'd appreciate knowing ahead of time so we can prepare adequately. You can call Lynn Medley (215 527 5903) or email Stefanie Fulwood (Fulwoods@comcast.net), or let either know after an upcoming Sunday service.

Race, Class and Unitarian Universalism

June 9, 2007, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Led by Colin Bossen

At the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly in 2006 delegates passed the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Delegates to General Assembly are charged to work with their congregations to hold at least one program over the next year to address racism or classism, and to report on that program at next year's General Assembly

In response to this resolution Colin will host an evening discussion on the history and future of the Unitarian Universalist Association's work for racial and economic justice and how this work might effect our community. Some materials for the evening discussion will be available in advance so if you plan to attend please RSVP at cbossen@mindspring.com or (202) 276-3579.

History of the Fellowship Project

In 1967 the UUFP was founded. Since that time, hundreds of people have dedicated thousands and thousands of hours to building our wonderful UU Community - both figuratively and physically!

On November 11th, we will be celebrating our 40th Anniversary and honoring all of those people who have had a hand in the development of UUFP. Some of us have been talking about getting together to work on a history project to prepare for that celebration. Won't you please help us out?

Here are some of the things that need to be done.

1. A list of all the people who contributed to the Fellowship during the early years (say, the first twenty years of growth), and what they did or what role they played.
2. Stories of the early days - special times as well as conflicts that threatened us, and how we overcame adversity.
3. Pictures, items, remembrances - from the early days.

We are especially interested in the "unsung heroes" - those people took it upon themselves to do some needed task or (tasks) for years and years without necessarily seeking the spotlight. Since sometimes the only people who realize all the work that was done is the people who did it, don't forget to speak up (this time) if you were the one who did the work!

Once we gather all the information, we will pick 3 or 4 days this summer where we will set up a video camera at the Fellowship and interview people about their stories and the people who began it all. We will also travel a bit to interview people if they have left the Fellowship or moved, so include everyone. If they have died, we'd like to interview people who knew them, so if you have contact information for family members, please include that as well.

We will also gather and take pictures of special items and organize them for display at the celebration. Of special significance would be old committee minutes, board meeting notes, early budgets, pledge drive items, etc., so don't forget to seek out treasures from your attic or basement. (We haven't yet decided where we will store everything yet, so for now just think about how you can contribute to the history project. Later on we will let you know the logistical details. All items will be returned after the celebration in November.)

After all the interviews, we will create a short play that will be put on by members of the congregation (playing the parts of the older members of the congregation) for the celebration itself. We also plan to create a banner-timeline that marks major events in the formation of the Fellowship's values.

Furthermore, we will create a DVD edited from all the interviews that tells the story of the founding of the Fellowship.

Since most of the organizers of this project are the "newer" members of the Fellowship, we need to rely upon the "older" members of the Fellowship to provide us with all the necessary information and to help organize everything. The more people get involved, the better and more accurate the information will be. Won't you please help?

Regards,
The UUFP History Project Group
CJ Rhoads, contact person

About Us

Who's Who at the UUFPP

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:
UUFPPNewsletter@aol.com**

Interim Minister: Colin Bossen

Board of Directors:

President: Carla Johnson

Vice President: Jeanne Bautista

Treasurer: Albert Jenkin

Secretary: Mary Alsayegh

Sun. Services: Stefanie Fulwood

RE: Lynn Medley

At Large: Matthew Molyneux

Committee Chairs:

Caring Committee: Ruth Daly

Aesthetics: Stefanie Fulwood

Finance: Judy MacDonald

Fundraising Committee:

Jeanne Bautista

Hospitality/Kitchen: Open

Publicity: Open

Membership: Kay Price

Ministerial Committee:

see Transition Team

Social Justice: Open

Sojourner Editor: Kay Price

Transition Team: Mary Alsayegh

Website Updates: Bob Gross

Choir: Marianne Yarnall

Building/Grounds:

Matthew Molyneux

Sunday Morning Teams:

Judith Van Beek

Gardens: Dorothea Hamlin

Address changes and email changes: Address changes? If you have changed your home or email address please send your updates to uufppmailings@aol.com.

Meditation Moments...

"Half an hour's meditation a day is essential, except when you are busy.

Then a full hour is needed."

-St Francis de Sales

Come join us for meditation the first Tuesday of the month
in Fellowship Hall from 7pm - 8:30pm.

No experience is necessary, just a desire to take some quiet time for centering and development of inner calmness.

Any questions, please call Sally Martin 610-323-3067

June 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Aesthetics Workday 10-2
3 Choir 8:30 Service 10:00 Congregational Mtg 11:30	4	5 Meditation with Sally 7:00-8:30 Membership Mtg 7:00	6 Sunday Service Mtg 6:30	7 Yoga 7:00	8	9 Race, Class and UUism 7-9
10 Choir 8:30 Service 10:00 Chi Gong 11:30 Covenant Workshop 12-2	11 Board Mtg 7:15	12 Transition Team Mtg 7:00	13	14 Yoga 7:00	15	16
17 Choir 8:30 Service 10:00	18	19 Women's Group 7:00	20	21 Yoga 7:00	22	23 Learning Styles Workshop 3-5
				UUA General Assembly in Portland Oregon		
24 Choir 8:30 Service 10:00 <i>Potluck Picnic</i>	25	26	27	28 Yoga 7:00	29	30
GA						

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP OF
POTTSTOWN

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