

June 2011

# The Sojourner

newsletter of the Unitarian-Universalist  
Fellowship of Pottstown

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[www.uupottstown.org](http://www.uupottstown.org)

*There will be a 15 minute period of silent meditation before services.  
Please enter the sanctuary quietly.*

## Sunday, June 5, 2011

### **Singles Prejudice**

Speaker/ Lay Leader: Mary Ryan

The prejudice society continues to show toward singles may be one of the most deeply ingrained and subtle of the prejudices that we seek to eradicate in our efforts to treat everyone with respect.

This service will seek to demonstrate how our culture unconsciously discriminates against people who are single.

## Sunday, June 12, 2011

### **Who Betrayed Jesus: The Thrilling Conclusion**

Rev David Farrington

Having looked at the Biblical account of Jesus' betrayal and examined the motivations of the Jews and Romans, we seek to draw a conclusion to our question: Who betrayed Jesus? Was it the people and interest groups we have studied or was it another person or interest? Where does Biblical scholarship finally lead us?

Come and enjoy the exciting conclusion to our series!

## Sunday, June 19, 2011

### **Hospitality as a Spiritual Practice**

Rev David Farrington

The UUA has identified some practices which lead to congregational numeric growth and they are summarized in a DVD which we will share and discuss.

*3rd Sunday potluck will follow the service.*

## Sunday, June 26, 2011

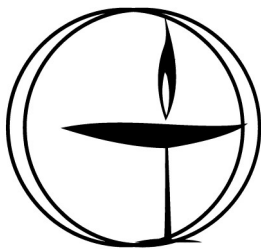
### **Compassion and Responsibility**

Rev David Farrington

Dorothea Hamlin won the sermon topic of her choice in our recent auction - and this is it!

Are compassion and responsibility antithetical or complimentary? In either case, what are the implications? And what meaning might we take from them in our own spiritual practice and community?

Thanks Dorothea! I look forward to the challenge.



## *From the Minister's Desk*

Soon God will make His way from the churches, temples and synagogues to the gardens. There we will have our Spiritual Encounter and only the most faithful will appear in the shadow of houses of worship, 'Tis a good time for all who share even a tad bit in Transcendentalism *a la* Emerson, Thoreau and others.

It is time for gardening, vacationing, barbequing and such. And UU churches especially tend to relax into the season as well. It is a time to slow down, relax and perhaps reflect a bit.

When I reflect on our year I am pleased. We had our challenges for sure, but it was a good year. I am struck with our spiritual growth, our religious maturation. When the pulpit is open for congregational participation, our discourse is varied yet civil; similarly with our Town Hall and other meetings: like good UUs we agree to disagree and we are a little less apprehensive and enjoy it more. And of course, our fundraisers, work days and pot luck collations are the work of a few but always joyous to the many.

I have highlighted the work of individuals at times during the year and will not repeat accolades here. Suffice it to say that lots of folks contribute in many ways, regularly and frequently.

Our major challenge is what I call "achieving critical mass." By this I mean that we have too few people to achieve our worthy goals of numeric and financial growth. We are precariously close to the half dozen to a dozen that would make the critical difference.

That handful of people would enable us to relieve those who are tired from their burdens, to rest a spell and spread out the work of the Fellowship and generate the money we need to satisfy our religious education, administrative and ministerial objectives. Not a whole lot, but a handful more. I am hopeful that greater exposure on the web site and social networks will move us steadily in that direction and a year from now we will celebrate our expansion toward the fulfillment we seek.

Our recent town Hall meeting moved us towards this goal. We need to shift our efforts away from hoping for new members, over which we have little control, towards increasing our visibility in the community with acts of social justice, fundraisers and facility rentals. These efforts may bring people to us, stimulate their interest and curiosity and encourage them to join us as friends and ultimately, hopefully, new members.

The good news of Unitarian Universalism basically sells itself. But we need to focus on attracting people to the light. I believe we have set the stage to do this by refocusing our energy away from affording full-time ministry and toward these goals. My confidence that we can do it is based on nearly three years of immersion in our Fellowship and the unending demonstration of your commitment to make it as we wish it to be.

Have a great summer. And remember, I am only as far away as a phone call and want to be of service to any in need - no matter how great or small the need.

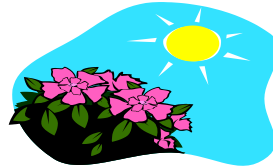
Blessings, *Dave*

610-850-3728/dfarrington@uuma.org



## *Religious Education*

**SUMMER IS AROUND THE CORNER** and we're hoping you enjoy it!!



The RE department (!) is sending a fond thank you to all who helped out during the year in RE. Mostly we'd like to thank those who attended RE and had fun in the process: Maggie, Cassie, Kelly, Talia, Anika, Rory, Janae, Max and Violet!! Enjoy your summer and tell us of your summer fun when we reunite in September.

Thanks go out to: Bob and Deni Gross for their unwavering support of our teens and the second Sunday classes they lead throughout the year. Thanks also to those who helped out in the Elementary Class and the Nursery and behind the scenes: CJ Rhoads, Christine Burnley, Rev. Dave, Bonnie Donohue, Mary Alsayegh, Michelle Effgen, Max Devlin, Jon and Kay Price, Carla Johnson and Marianne Yarnall, Carolynne Geragosian, Maggie Hill, Tara Boroson, Lisa Jokiel, Miranda and Gary Van Horn and Spencer, Bev Jensen, Lisa Schneider, Desiree Heath, Clayton Mowrer, Laurie Young, Ken Butler and Jon Dreazen.

WOW! What a crew we have. Thanks to each and every one of you for supporting our youth!

See you in September!!,



*Linda*



## *Meditation Moment...*

*When you run into someone, instead of thinking, "Oh, there's so-and-so, still doing that same old thing," try thinking, "There goes the Buddha."*

-Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche

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

**Introduction to Mindfulness Meditation is offered on first Mondays of the Month.**



## Popcorn Theology

June 17 @ 7 pm in UUFP Social Room



Please join us for community, lively discussion and just plain fun as we watch *Shadowlands* for our movie of the month. It is a 1985 television film, written by William Nicholson, directed by Norman Stone and produced by David M. Thompson for BBC Wales.

Its subject is the tragic and true story of the love affair between Oxford don and British author, C. S. Lewis and American poet Joy Gresham.

"The story follows Lewis as he meets an American fan, Joy Gresham, whom he befriends and eventually marries. The story also deals with his struggle with personal pain and grief: Lewis preaches that one should endure suffering with patience, but finds that the simple answers he had preached no longer apply when Joy becomes afflicted with cancer."

Academy Award Nominations: Best Actress--Debra Winger, Best (Adapted) Screenplay.

*Linda*



## Our Gardens

A big THANK YOU!! To all the hard working gardeners who helped out on Sunday, May 22nd. Lots was accomplished including dividing the irises on the south side of the fellowship, pruning dead stems from flowering bushes and pulling and composting pounds of weeds.

Special thanks go to Judy McDonald, Lyn Bassett, Frances Provost, Maggie Hill, Bob Hakun and Jon and Kay Price. Also a big shout out to Bonnie Donahue for managing the food prep for our hungry workers.

With all that was accomplished, there's still more to be done. More weeding and then mulching is next on the agenda.

All those willing and able to help, join us on Sunday, June 12th after services for free exercise, fresh air and delicious hoagies!

Thanks,

*Dorothea Hamlin*



## Coffee, Coffee, Coffee...

**Book Sale!!!**

**Curl up with a cup of wonderful coffee, chocolate, and a good read!**

The Membership Committee is now accepting donations of books for the Book Sale table to be set up next to the Coffee Kiosk on Sunday Mornings.



Bring us books you've enjoyed but don't have room for ....or don't have a use for.

Then...visit the Book Sale and the Coffee Kiosk on Sunday mornings to buy fairly traded, organic coffee, chocolate products and books that your UU friends have enjoyed.

*Find the Coffee Kiosk after Sunday Service at Coffee Hour.*



## Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's auction. It was a great success and we have raised \$4,000 to date.

Special thanks goes to Dr. David Donohue for his usual outstanding auctioneering and to Cassie Werth and Carolynne Geragosian for keeping track of everything and putting together the lists of purchases. And thanks to the choir for getting the sanctuary ready for service on Sunday morning after we were too pooped to do it on Saturday night.

There are still some services for sale. An email will be sent out soon with prices for various items that you can purchase.

Thank you again to everyone for their help, good humor and time, talent and treasure!

*Mary Ryan*

*Your Auction Coordinator who has almost regained her sanity!*



## GA 2011

This year's General Assembly will be held in Charlotte, NC. It will mark the 50th anniversary of the merger of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America.

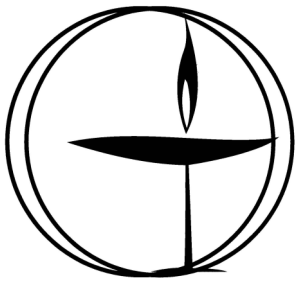
Thousands of Unitarian Universalists from across the country will remember the people and events that brought into being the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) in May 1961, and reflect on our denomination's relevant achievements and struggles since then, and to chart new aspirations for the future.

This year's featured speaker for the **Ware** lecture will be **Karen Armstrong**. She is one of the world's leading commentators on religious affairs and a best-selling author, whose books have been translated into forty-five languages. *Adult RE at UUFP has read and discussed at least one of her books.* Her early work focused on the monotheistic faiths of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, but she has since begun to explore the eastern religions.

Her books include: *Through the Narrow Gate*, an autobiographical work; *A History of God*; *Jerusalem: One City, Three Faiths*; *The Battle for God, A History of Fundamentalism*; *Islam, A Short History*; *Buddha*; *The Spiral Staircase: A Memoir*; *A Short History of Myth*; *The Great Transformation: The Beginning of Our Religious Traditions*; *Muhammad: A Prophet for our Time*; *The Bible: A Biography*, *The Case for God*.

Armstrong's latest book is *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*.

Anyone wishing to access live feed of the events at GA this year through their smartphone, tablet or computer can go to [www.uua.org/ga/mobile](http://www.uua.org/ga/mobile).



# UUFP Calendar

## June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Membership Mtg: 7:30	2 Yoga 7:00	3	4
5 Choir 8:30 Adult & Ch RE: 9:30 Service: 10:30	6 Meditation 7:30 <i>1st Monday Intro to Meditation</i>	7	8	9 Yoga 7:00	10 UUFP Board Meeting 7:00	11
12 Choir 8:30 Adult & Ch RE: 9:30 Service: 10:30 <i>Gardening 11:30</i>	13 Meditation 7:30	14	15 <i>Sojourner Deadline</i>	16 Yoga 7:00	17 Popcorn Theology: <i>Shadowlands</i> 7:00	18
19 Choir 8:30 Adult & Ch RE: 9:30 Service: 10:30 <i>3rd Sunday Potluck</i>	20 Meditation 7:30	21	22	23 Yoga 7:00	24	25
26 Choir 8:30 Adult & Ch RE: 9:30 Service: 10:30	27 Meditation 7:30	28 Sunday Service Comm Mtg 7:15	29	30 Yoga 7:00		

## Who's Who at the UUFP

**Minister:** Rev. David Farrington

### **Board of Directors:**

**President:** Tara Boroson

**Vice President:** Lisa Hill

**Past President:** Clayton Mowrer

**Board Secretary:** Linda Pallay

**Treasurer:** Mary Ryan

**Board Member:** Mary Alsayegh

**Board Member:** Carla Johnson

### **Board Committees:**

#### **Committee on Shared Ministry:**

Chair: Marianne Yarnall

### **Congregational Committees:**

#### **Committee Council:**

Chair: Lisa Hill

### **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: Clayton Mowrer

### **Religious Education:**

Chair: Linda Pallay

### **Important email contacts:**

Minister@uupottstown.org – Rev David Farrington

President@uupottstown.org – Tara Boroson

VicePresident@uupottstown.org – Lisa Hill

PastPresident@uupottstown.org – Clayton Mowrer

BoardSecretary@uupottstown.org – Linda Pallay

Board@uupottstown.org - Board members

Committees@uupottstown.org – Lisa Hill

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 – Clayton Mowrer

Finance@uupottstown.org - Mary Ryan

Stewardship@uupottstown.org - Mary Ryan

Sharedministry@uupottstown.org - Marianne Yarnall

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  
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Website:

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