

May 2011

The Sojourner

newsletter of the Unitarian-Universalist
Fellowship of Pottstown

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Pottstown, PA 19465
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*There will be a 15 minute period of silent meditation before services.
Please enter the sanctuary quietly.*

Sunday, May 1, 2011

May Day, Beltaine, Walpurgisnacht.... International Workers' Day?

Speaker/ Lay Leader: Tara Boroson

May Day, by any of its names, is one of the most important days of the Pagan calendar. It is also the secular holiday of International Workers' Day. Chance? Probably... but that doesn't mean it wasn't a meaningful coincidence. Let's explore the meaning of renewal and sacred time in our search for justice and equity.

Sunday, May 8, 2011

Are You Listening?

Speaker: CJ Rhoads

Lay Leader: Mary Ryan

Listening can be a spiritual practice that enables you to get closer to yourself, others and the powers that be. CJ will share her tribulations with listening as well as practical advice on how to improve your listening skills.

Sunday, May 15, 2011

To Be Announced

Rev David Farrington

As our second Town Hall Meeting will follow worship, this service will focus on ministering to the issues that we expect to be discussing at the meeting.

Sunday, May 22, 2011

Who Betrayed Jesus: The Jews?

Rev David Farrington

Caiaphas was the High Priest of the Jewish Sanhedrin – a kind of supreme court of which Caiaphas was the Chief Justice. Jesus' ministry and message ran counter to the interests of the wealthy Sanhedrin and their desire to maintain the *status quo* and keep peace with their Roman overlords and so, the Bible tells us, they paid Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus. Likewise their historic rivals, the Pharisees – orthodox Jewish priests who resented Jesus' message and liberal ministry. Both had cause to want Jesus dead. What does history tell us? Was it the Jews who killed Jesus?

3rd Sunday potluck will follow the service.

Sunday, May 29, 2011

Who Betrayed Jesus: The Romans?

Rev David Farrington

Pontius Pilate was charged with maintaining civil order and Roman law as the Roman prefect or governor of Judea; Herod Antipas was a subordinate in charge of the Galilee. Both had an interest in maintaining law and order and only the Romans could execute criminals. The Jewish Pharisees and Sanhedrin wanted the Romans to get rid of Jesus. What does literary criticism suggest? Other sources? Were the Romans responsible for Jesus' death?



From the Minister's Desk

As I sit to write this newsletter article I am aware of three things: it will be published on Easter Sunday, the heroic efforts of Linda Pally to ensure that we have a nursery for our church family and that we are approaching the critical annual fundraising events of the auction and the all member canvass leading to the Annual Meeting and the future of our Fellowship.

For our orthodox Christian sisters and brothers, Easter is the highest holiday on their calendar. And there is no small reason for that. After all God had been made incarnate by the Father and sent to earth in human form where he was persecuted, crucified and miraculously resurrected from the dead.

While Linda's efforts were not as dramatic, they were nearly as heroic. She has struggled all year to ensure the continuation of our nursery. Regularly asking for volunteers, there were times when members stepped forward to serve and others when they did not. Nonetheless she persevered. More often than not – faced with the prospect of parents providing nursery care to their own children, or no coverage at all – she filled the void personally. Continually sacrificing her personal desires to participate in worship, renew friendships and leave church feeling inspired, Linda persevered.

In the end a viable candidate for the position was forthcoming. And a generous member who shared Linda's desire to maintain the program, offered an anonymous gift with the provision that it be matched. On a Sunday morning before services, the word spread and by days end the gift was matched and the future of the nursery assured – at least for a while.

What UUFP will look like next year (church and fiscal year 7/11-6/12) will be largely determined by the upcoming fundraisers. Surely the greatest expense is full-time professional ministry – me. Difficult and painful as it has been, the Board has done its duty and risen to the challenge. I have similarly been forthright about my financial realities and life factors that would bear on my decision. We have discussed alternatives to full-time ministry that would continue my ministry among you. In short, like Linda, your Board and Minister are deeply committed to UUFP and want what is best for it commensurate with our budget. To do otherwise would be irresponsible, no matter how difficult or painful.

In the end, all of this is about you – the congregation, the individuals and families that make UUFP the wonderful Fellowship it is. Your history with ministry has been somewhat spotty. There have been identifiable peaks and valleys in the overall success of the Fellowship, due in some part to individuals with widely varying views of the purpose and mission of UUFP. Unanimity has rarely characterized your proceedings. Welcome to Unitarian Universalism!

It is Easter – a time for faith. For us, it is less a time for faith in miracles than for faith in each other. In Linda Pally we have a wonderful model of faith in action. UU faith means that when you believe in something you do everything you can to keep it alive. And if it dies, you resurrect it.

This is our time for UU faith. For broadly varying reasons, UUFP means a great deal to all of us. We want it to continue. For the most part, we do not want it to go back – to return to some prior state. We would like to continue with full-time ministry and grow the congregation to support our mission of service to each other and justice in the larger world.

Assuming that in these hard times people are pledging to the fullest extent possible, and we are still short of what our budget requires, we need to be creative, we need to find new ways to satisfy our mission and budget. You provided excellent suggestions of how we might achieve that end. Your President is committed to organizing and moving the most effective of them forward.

Now is the time for us to turn on the Linda Pally within ourselves. Like her, and the women who visited the tomb of Jesus, we are not content to let good things die. And we won't. For we, too, are a people of faith – faith in ourselves and each other. And confident that our reason for being is good and just and must continue.

Be of good faith!

Blessings, *Dave*

610-850-3728/dfarrington@uuma.org

President's Message

After a trying winter, I greet you with gleeful tidings of spring! It's true! The tulips have bloomed, we're a few weeks from early strawberries, the world has come alive again! And with the coming of spring comes spring cleaning – shaking the cobwebs out of our rafters, our heads, and yes, our Fellowship.

We've had a slow winter around here, no doubt. Finances have been more than tight, and that has restricted both our ability and, perhaps, our will to get out there and get motivated. But a few weeks ago we sat down together for an excellent brainstorming Town Hall Meeting, where we discussed both the ramifications of staying on our current financial path, and possible solutions to this crisis. Many clever ideas, small and large, were posited: ideas for fundraisers, ways to improve our Fellowship's visibility in the community, and ways to bring people in the door. I now challenge you, who love our community and our spirit and are passionate about living our ideals together, to shine as leaders here within UUFP.

The board, the Committee Council and I need you to spearhead some of the efforts that we all know are desperately needed. Leadership can appear overwhelming when it seems like a year (or years) long commitment, but many of these are opportunities to shine in a discrete but critical project at a time when your Fellowship needs you the most.

There have been a number of ideas kicked around, such as using our facility for a barbecue, clam bake, hosting an ice cream social, or other similar traditional fundraisers. The season is drawing nigh for such an event, and goodness, do we ever have the place for it! I would love to see a team of people, each supporting each other and taking the lead on a single event, putting together several of these over the next six months.

Bonnie Donohue has often suggested that we improve our visibility through new signage on rt. 100, and has volunteered her family to provide a sign. We need someone to take on researching permits and acquiring space to erect such a sign.

One role that is vital to our progress is rental coordinator. This is no doubt the longest term commitment we're looking for – but even this isn't a life sentence. We need someone to take calls and emails for rentals, occasionally show the building (or arrange for someone else to show the building) to potential renters, and advertise the space in the community. It would be a handful of hours a month, certainly not a constant chore.

There were more ideas raised at our meeting than space here will permit me to expound upon. But if none of these have caught your fancy, I challenge you to come up with a way that you can help us move into 2011/2012 with passion and joy instead of fear and frustration! If you'd like to volunteer for one of these positions, or propose an idea of your own, please see me, Lisa Hill (in her role as head of Committee Council), Rev. Dave, or any other member of leadership. We're eager to get this ball rolling, and we need every shoulder we can get to tip it.

In service,

Tara Boroson



Religious Education

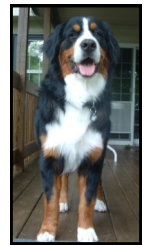
RE is excited to announce the hiring of Max Devlin as our Nursery care worker. Max is currently a nanny for an infant and has also worked as a nanny for a child from infancy through toddler-hood! He is excited to offer his services to UUFP on Sunday mornings during Sunday service.

The Nursery will be open from 9:20 to 11:30 each Sunday. Please be sure to stop by the Nursery and welcome Max to our fellowship.

In April the Teen Class, facilitated by Deni and Bob Gross, presented slides from a hiking trip their son, Chris, took on foot from Mexico to Canada! His spiritual journey -- a 2,500 mile incredible hike on the Pacific Crest Trail took six months. The class will talk about his adventures and view portions of his trip that were made into a documentary and aired on the National Geographic TV Channel!!

Spencer

The Elementary class was led by Miranda Van Horn in a discussion about Henry Bergh a UU friend of the animals. The children and UUFP members were delighted to meet Gary, Miranda's husband, and Spencer, the Van Horn's mountain dog.



Jon Dreazen lead the children in a Passover Seder which included haroset. "Seder means "order" in Hebrew, and the Seder meal has several components symbolic of the story retold each year. The meal always includes haroset, a condiment made of fruit, nuts, and honey. Its thick, chutney-like consistency symbolizes the bricks and mortar the Jews had to prepare when they were slaves, while its sweetness represents the joy of freedom that followed their slavery. The tradition of eating haroset as part of the Seder dates back at least 1,500 years."

Jon Price guided the children in a fun time activity of painting Easter eggs to prepare for the coming Easter holiday!

During the month of April the Nursery was staffed by CJ Rhoads prior to her brother (!) being hired as our Nursery helper.

In May Christine Burnley will lead the Elementary class in Mexican Huichol. It's a Mexican art tradition with yarn. "In Huichol art the gods and spirits are represented by sacred symbols such as the deer, the eagle, the snake, and the peyote. The unique visions of their communication with their gods come alive in their yarn paintings". Our children will have the opportunity to create their own special vision through this art technique with Christine.

Thanks go out to Bob, Deni, CJ, Miranda, Craig, Jon D and Jon P for helping inspire our children and RE students.

The last teen class for the current year will be held on May 8th @ 10:30. The class is going on an orienteering field trip where they will learn to navigate through the woods/areas with compasses and maps!!!! The last class for the Elementary class will be held on May 15th. As always, our Nursery will be open every Sunday during service throughout the year.

With appreciation and thanks,

Linda



Town Hall Meeting

There will be a town hall meeting on May 15.

We will be discussing the draft budget for 2011-2012, ministry for 2011-2012, and the results of the pledge campaign.

Please make every effort to attend as we do this important work of our UUFP community.

UUFP Board of Directors



"Got Strings" Recital!

Everyone is welcome to attend an exciting musical performance featuring cellists and bassists, including the fellowship's own cellist, Kelly Werth (Carolynne's daughter)!

These wonderful musicians are all students of Elizabeth O'Brien, an accomplished cellist and assistant director of the youth orchestra, "Got Strings".

Please join us and support these musicians at this recital as they showcase their music.

Saturday, May 14, 2011, 3:30 p.m.

Admission is free.



Another Garden Party!!

We accomplished lots at the "Garden Party" in April but there's more to do. Dorothea is willing and able to minister as manager of the Garden Beds once again on May 22nd after service.

So if you're willing and able to help again, let's join her to get even more done.

Someone will make a run for hoagies and drinks will be provided at the fellowship. Once again, bring your garden tools and wear your work clothes. It will be a wonderful opportunity to work with an experienced gardener.



Coffee, Coffee, Coffee...

Don't miss the opportunity to buy the same wonderful fair trade coffee we serve at our Sunday morning Coffee Hour to enjoy at home.

Beginning this month we will be accepting book donations at the Coffee Kiosk. The books will be sold at the Kiosk on Sunday Mornings.

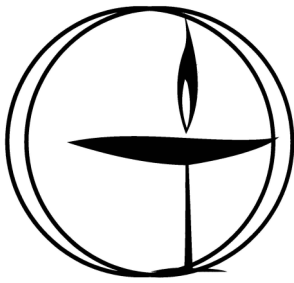


Donate: clean books in good condition...especially books you've read and enjoyed but don't want to house anymore.

Browse: Unitarians donate interesting books. Come browse our selections!

Buy: Some coffee, some chocolate, and a good read!

Find the Coffee Kiosk after Sunday Service at Coffee Hour.



UUFPP Calendar

May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Choir 8:30 Adult & Ch RE: 9:30 Service 10:30	2 Meditation 7:30 <i>1st Monday Intro to Meditation</i>	3	4 BYOT <i>Build Your Own Theology 7:00</i> Membership Mtg: 7:30	5 Yoga 7:00	6	7
8 Choir 8:30 Adult & Ch RE: 9:30 Service 10:30	9 Meditation 7:30	10	11 BYOT 7:00	12 Yoga 7:00	13 UUFPP Board Mtg 7:00	14 "Got Strings" Recital 2:30
15 Choir 8:30 Adult & Ch RE: 9:30 Service 10:30 <i>3rd Sunday Potluck 11:30 Town Hall Mtg 11:45</i>	16 Meditation 7:30	17	18 BYOT 7:00	19 Yoga 7:00	20	21
22 Choir 8:30 Adult & Ch RE: 9:30 Service 10:30	23 Meditation 7:30	24 Sunday Service Comm Mtg 7:00	25 BYOT 7:00	26 Yoga 7:00	27	28
29 Choir 8:30 Adult & Ch RE: 9:30 Service 10:30	30 Meditation 7:30	31				

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