



September 2009

# The Sojourner

newsletter of the **Unitarian- Universalist  
Fellowship of Pottstown**

1565 South Keim St  
Pottstown, PA 19465  
(610) 327-2662  
[www.uupottstown.org](http://www.uupottstown.org)

Sunday, September 6, 2009

## Labor of Love

Lay Leader: Mary Ryan

Come dressed for work in your best/worst jeans and t-shirts. There will be a short service and a divvying up of tasks.

Miranda Van Horn will lead us in a brief meditation and then we will get to work sprucing up the place for next week's Ingathering Service.

Lunch will be provided for the hungry crew. If the weather is nice we may even picnic on the north side of the property.

The more the merrier, and we'll get more done.

See you there!

Sunday, September 13, 2009

## Ingathering Service and Water Communion

Rev David Farrington

A welcoming back to established friends and members and extension of a welcoming hand to people exploring our Fellowship for the first time.

Please bring a sampling of water from your travels (or home) and a bit of a story, telling us something of your summer.

Sunday, September 20, 2009

## Our UU Roots and Wing

Rev David Farrington

Designed for people exploring Unitarian Universalism for the first time, our service explores those tenets of our religion which hold us close and those that set us free.

*Third Sunday potluck will follow the service.*

Sunday, September 27, 2009

## Latina Wisdom and Police Stupidity

Rev David Farrington

Recent political events, or at least recent events that became politicized, offer an opportunity to explore who we are as Americans and perhaps learn something from our public behavior about our history as a people.



## From the Minister's Desk

Well, it's time to get back to work. I know this because while I am still enjoying family and some uncommonly wonderful New England weather, I'm thinking of goals, sermon topics and newsletter articles. So it is, indeed, time to get back to work.

Vacation was great – if you discount the travel experience. I went to Newfoundland via Montreal. Having passed through U.S. security, I thought I was done. Not so. In order to change planes I was obliged to go through Canadian security as well as customs. I had purposely packed light not thinking that having only hand-carried luggage might be stressful to my arthritis. I had counted on those little carts being available, which they were -- until you got to the escalator. Felt like I was walking to Newfoundland.

Once there I got to spend time with friends and relatives. I was asked to speak at the Avalon Fellowship (the Easternmost of North America) in St. John's (the capital) and that went very well. Anticipating our Ingathering Service, I gathered some water from the North Atlantic while visiting the easternmost part of the continent, Cape Spear. Evidently Canadian water is explosive, as I was obliged to leave it with the nice security people at the airport. Hopefully water substitutes are acceptable at UUFP.

Alas, summer is spent and it is indeed time to get back to work. Given our commitment to continue full time ministry it is obvious we need to raise some dollars. I'm confident we can do that, but in a new way.

In the past it seems that someone offered up an idea, got it "approved" and did the best they could to organize, publicize and execute the event. I'm hopeful we can allow people the creative opportunity to suggest a fund-raising idea, have it developed through the myriad resources of the Committee Council, publicized by our Communications Group and executed by the rest of us, everyone who has a stake in UUFP.

Sharing tasks and working together builds community and sharing the workload prevents burn-out – while also reducing the fear of suggesting positive ideas for growth and development, lest one gets saddled with the entire workload. It is a stimulating challenge that I look forward to sharing with you.

Blessings,

*Dave*

Rev. David W. Farrington  
Consulting Minister, UUFP  
610-850-3728  
dfarrington@uuma.org

# President's Message

It has been an interesting and exciting time for me this last month. Mary Alsayegh has done a wonderful job helping and training me to take on the responsibilities of being President of the Board. I had a steep learning curve becoming familiar with the Fellowship governance structure, but I am happy to report that I have learned enough to get the job done with plenty of help from the other members of the board. I have also had the privilege of getting to know the board members and committee heads much better. I am impressed by everyone's knowledge of their jobs and the hard work they put in. I feel that the helpful and welcoming atmosphere that everyone has, puts us in good stead for the rest of the year and beyond.

While I have become more knowledgeable of how the Fellowship operates, I also have become much more aware of the goals we are trying to achieve as a Fellowship and how many of the committees and individuals are working to attain these objectives. First and foremost I want to encourage everyone to try to spread the good news of the Fellowship. We have so many good people who are members and friends of the Fellowship but we can always use more.

Our UUaction committee is finding ways for us to get involved in the community, and I would like to encourage all of us to support these worthwhile causes as much as we can. I am personally looking forward to the Habitat for Humanity project. We also have many great events coming up, including the Fall Festival of the Fine Arts on October 4<sup>th</sup>, led by Lisa Jokiel and a Wine Tasting on October 11<sup>th</sup>, led by Paul Nemeth. These are great opportunities to bring in friends and family who may be interested in the finer things in life. We should also continue to bring people to services that have a message that may resonate with them and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Potluck is a great event for those that like great food and fun conversations.

I would like to quickly thank those that I have seen do great things in these last few months. Mary Alsayegh has done a great job of training new board members, including myself, and committee heads. She has also been invaluable to me as an all-purpose sounding board and question answering service. I would like to thank Tara Boroson for updating the job description and clarifying other governance questions; Paul Nemeth and Courtney Daley for updating and simplifying our finances and financial software; Jon Price for his continued work on the fuel spill; and all the members, friends and visitors who helped spread the pile of dirt on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Finally, I would like to thank Kay Price who takes off work to put the Sojourner out and who puts up with my last minute submissions. I know I am leaving out many whose contributions need to be recognized. Be assured I will continue to be involved and I am sure that I will have the opportunity to thank every member and friend of the Fellowship at some point for the great job they have done in keeping our community strong and healthy.

With thanks,

*Clayton*

# 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 Begins Again! And at a new time!

Our 2009-10 RE year will begin again - on September 20th - the week after Ingathering Sunday. We are making some exciting changes this year; take a look...

- **New RE Time!** With the Service now at 10:30, we will be holding **RE at 9:30**. This has many advantages, and forces a few changes. The most obvious change is that RE is no longer during service. For this reason, we will have Nursery coverage during both RE and Service. During Service, it will extend upwards in age to include our kindergarteners. Please, no older children. Older children will be expected to attend service. If you have concerns, or ideas, about making this work, please see Lynn Medley!
- **Youth Second Sunday!** We are adding a special RE gathering just for our older kids, youth ages 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grades (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> welcome). We are calling this Second Sunday, an easy reminder that they will meet the second Sunday of each month at the 9:30 RE time. We will be taking a book club approach to the adult version of the 7 principles, with specific learning objectives. We are also inviting the Thomas Paine youth to join us. We would love to build this age group - we encourage you to bring friends of this age for Second Sunday RE! Because our first RE day does not begin until the third Sunday in September, we are going to do a special Second Sunday just for Youth in September - Youth *will* meet on September 13<sup>th</sup>!

Welcome Back!

Lynn Medley  
RE Chair



# UUFP Calendar

## September 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Membership mtg: 7:00	3 Yoga: 7:00  Women's group: 7:00	4	5
6 Choir: 9:00  Service: 10:30	7	8	9	10 Yoga: 7:00	11	12
13 Choir: 9:00  Service: 10:30	14 Board of Directors mtg: 6:45	15 <i>Sojourner Deadline</i>	16	17 Yoga: 7:00	18	19
20 Choir: 9:00 Service: 10:30  <i>3rd Sunday Potluck: 11:30</i>	21	22	23	24 Yoga: 7:00	25	26
27 Choir: 9:00  Service: 10:30	28	29	30			



## FALL FESTIVAL OF THE FINE ARTS

Great news! We have been VERY LUCKY in planning this Festival. Fellowship Friend EILEEN TIPPING has agreed to participate in our program. Eileen is a successful singer, songwriter, and entertainer in the Phoenixville area. She has performed for us at the Fellowship many times. We welcome her back with open arms!



As you know from reading last month's Sojourner, ROBIN WARD, professional pianist and chorus director in Boyertown, will be sharing some classical music with us. Robin's daughter, SHAINA WARD, will be able to come home from Chestnut Hill College to present some Broadway songs. Shaina, a former Pottstown Teen Idol, is an experienced stage and church soloist.

Many and various additional musical offerings from members and friends are scheduled. Salem UCC choir members are joining us as well. Poetry and dance will enhance the afternoon. Tell your singing friends that there will be an audience choral anthem reading of Brother James Air; Here I Am, Lord; and Wonderful World.

Doors will open at 2:30 PM so that folks can enjoy the art display before the 3 PM musical program begins in the main room. Gladys Smith is busy coordinating the art show..

Following the musical presentation we will share refreshments and conversation. During that time Dick Jokiel will offer an informal simultaneous chess demonstration.

Business card ads are now being accepted for the printed program. They cost \$20 per ad. Please ask friends and business associates whether they would like to have their business cards in our program. Send the cards and checks made out to the UUF of P, to Lisa Jokiel, P.O. Box 136, Douglassville, PA, 19518.

Please call me at 610-385-6324 with any questions.

Come, bring MANY FRIENDS, and be surprised!

See you there!

*Lisa*

### *The Women's Group*

The Women's Group is starting up the fall session on September 3rd @ 7pm at UUFP in the Lounge/Nursery room. Lisa Schneider will lead this session and introduce the Native American culture and goddesses.



**Iyatiku** is the corn goddess of the Keresan Pueblos. From *shipap*, her underground realm, mankind first emerged. To provide food for them, she plants bits of her heart in fields to the north, west, south, and east. Later the pieces of Iyatiku's heart grow into fields of corn.

She is associated with compassion, agriculture, and children. Her symbols are Beans, Cavern, Corn, Seeds and Soil.

Please join us as we continue our studies of the many goddesses

Linda Pallay,  
Women's Group chair

## *Social Justice News*

### JUSTICE ADVOCATES GATHER FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Members of the Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network (UUPLAN) will gather at the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Reading on Sept. 12.

The all-day annual meeting will include:

- Agenda setting for the coming legislative year. Which issues will we rally our UU troops to work on in Harrisburg?
- Training on how to talk to your legislator, with role playing exercises.
- Calendar setting for in-district visit days and teleconference meeting for UUPLAN liaisons.
- Tending the roots: developing UUPLAN infrastructure.

If you want to pursue progressive policies for all Pennsylvanians, join us! We are already working on GLBT and health care issues and will select an additional issue based on the passion expressed in Reading on Sept. 12.

#### **Join us!**

Contact Carla Johnson at [cjoutdoors@comcast.net](mailto:cjoutdoors@comcast.net) if you would like to attend UUPLANs annual meeting.

Visit [www.uuplan.org](http://www.uuplan.org) to learn more.



### *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 UUFP, the network offers its services completely **free of charge** to all interested persons, including members of UUFP, 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](mailto: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



## *UUFP Wine Tasting*

If you enjoy wine and are interested in learning a bit more about it, please plan to attend the wine tasting at UUFP "**Exploring Cabernet Sauvignon**" on Saturday, October 10, 2009 at 7pm (doors open at 6:30pm).

At least eight different Cabernet Sauvignon wines will be tasted and discussed. Wine selections will be from the Pennsylvania state stores; so, if you like what you've tasted, you should be able to easily find more of the wine locally.

Some cheese, crackers and fruit will be provided. Tickets will be available for advance purchase for \$25 per person. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

Please consider inviting friends to the UUFP who might not know about it.

*Cheers!*

Paul Nemeth



## *Pottstown Cluster*

The Pottstown Cluster is asking for donations of the following items:

- Jelly (to go with all of that peanut butter)
- Low sugar foods
- Low sodium foods
- Gerber apple juice
- Soy "Good Start" formula
- Laundry detergent
- Baby wipes
- Disposable diapers
- Plastic grocery bags (used but clean)
- Large paper bags

Gladys Smith will be emptying the donation basket after service on the first Sunday of each month. We are asking that people place their items in the basket beginning on the 2nd Sunday of each month, in order to build up a sizable amount of items to be delivered.

Thanks goes to Albert Jenkin for his generous donation of our new Cluster basket. Please help to fill it up for those who are less fortunate.

UUAction Committee



## *Notes of Abundance*

*Thanks to*

*Bob Hakun*

Special thanks go to Bob Hakun who has served in so many ways at our fellowship over the years.

Bob has been caring for the grounds on the north side of our property for many years. This includes the playground and picnic area. If you have ever sat on the bench in this tranquil area you may have noticed his work.

Recently Bob power washed all of the playground equipment and put it back together. He also regularly puts down fresh mulch in this area whenever needed.

Bob helps with the mowing and does all of the trim work around the rocks and trees. He has been instrumental in preparing for past art shows and helps to produce the fellowship directory. He has served as chair of the Membership committee and other committees throughout the years.

Thanks Bob, for your "behind the scenes" work at the fellowship!

## Who's Who at the UUFP

**Minister:** Rev. David Farrington

### **Board of Directors:**

**President:** Clayton Mowrer

**Vice President:** Tara Boroson

**Past President:** Mary Alsayegh

**Board Secretary:** Linda Pallay

**Treasurer:** Paul Nemeth

**Board Member:** Lynn Medley

**Board Member:** Mary Ryan

### **Board Committees:**

**Committee on Shared Ministry:** Carla Johnson

### **Congregational Committees:**

**Committee Council Chair:** Tara Boroson

### **Stewardship:**

Chair: Paul Nemeth

Bookkeeper: Courtney Daley

### **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: Jon Price

### **Religious Education:**

Chair: Lynn Medley

### **Important email contacts:**

Minister@uupottstown.org – Rev David Farrington

President@uupottstown.org – Clayton Mowrer

PastPresident@uupottstown.org – Mary Alsayegh

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

Programs@uupottstown.org – Lisa Jokiel

MemberServices@uupottstown.org– Miranda Van Horn

Facilities@uupottstown.org – Jon Price

Finance@uupottstown.org - Paul Nemeth

Stewardship@uupottstown.org - Paul Nemeth

Sharedministry@uupottstown.org:

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

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Phone: 610-327-2662

Email:

[office@uupottstown.org](mailto:office@uupottstown.org)

Website:

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