

September 2010

The Sojourner

newsletter of the *Unitarian-Universalist
Fellowship of Pottstown*

1565 South Keim St
Pottstown, PA 19465
(610) 327-2662
www.uupottstown.org

Sunday, September 5, 2010

Labor of Love

Lay Leader: Lisa Jokiel

Wear your work clothes for this Sunday! After a short service, we will set to work getting our physical plant ready for the 2010/2011 year. Please be in touch with Clayton Mowrer about what needs to be done and which tasks you feel you can perform.

Lunch will be provided.
Let's work and have fun together!

Sunday, September 12, 2010

Water Communion

Rev David Farrington

This will be our traditional ingathering service using a ritual first developed by the famed Unitarian minister, the Reverend Carl Seaburg. Everyone is invited to bring a small amount of water (fresh water only, please!) from their summer adventures. By merging our waters into a single vessel and sharing a little something of their significance, we are symbolically re-establishing our unity as a religious community. Newcomers and guests will receive a brief introduction as the service begins.

Sunday, September 19, 2010

Celebrating Laylat al-Qadr, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

Rev David Farrington

The Sunday Service Committee is exploring the idea of having opening prayers for the Installation from the major religions represented in our congregation: Judaism, Christianity, Islam and paganism. As there is much ado about Islam in our nation at this time, I hope this will enable us to honor and explore some of its major holidays and rituals throughout the coming year. We will begin with Laylat al-Qadr, the holy night marking the anniversary of when the verses of the Quran were revealed to the Prophet. We will also refresh our knowledge of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year and Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

3rd Sunday Potluck will follow the service.

Sunday, September 26, 2010

Forgiveness

Rev David Farrington

Although Yom Kippur has passed, it is always appropriate to look at its central theme – forgiveness. How do we begin again in love? Often wounded by friend and stranger alike, how do we heal? Yom Kippur ritually reminds us of our capacity for repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation – and our obligation to behave in forgiving, loving and just ways.

President's Message

The dog days of August are past. From where I sit today I find the days are finally cooling, the dusk is settling earlier and earlier, the pears and apples are dripping from my trees. My chickens may be frustrated by longer nights in their coop, but after this scorcher of a summer, I am eager to welcome autumn!

I lucked into a pre-season taste of autumn this month. We had a long visit with friends who are at least as close as family, sorely missed since they moved to northern Vermont five years ago. We swam in a glacial lake on August 17, and tasted kale sweetened by the first frost on August 21. My friends are still in love with their home and farm, the co-ops and independent bookstores, the highly innovative farms and programs, the fact that they can legally marry! But they are surprised and frustrated by isolation and the lack of a living community that suits them. Even the UU church (forty snowy minutes from their home) felt more like a place to go consume a sermon and a song than a community, as they left after coffee hour for the long drive back to "real" life of jobs and unsatisfying physical communities. They hope to move closer to a more urban area to find a stronger community network, not merely a scattered network of people who know they want community but don't know how to bridge the distances and the demands of extra-communal exigencies.

To our grandparents, community was survival. Where we begin with emotional support and shared values, they began with shared resources and labor: not just painting the bathroom or borrowing a coffee grinder, but sharing equipment and a team of horses and working into the night to harvest the entire community's wheat before the rains fell. Shared knowledge was critical community capital: how many cabbages and potatoes to plant, how to build a root cellar, where to hunt for pheasant; how to raise a child, to care for the elderly and convalescent, to grieve and lay to rest those we lose; how to build a house, what kind of barn works best for the kind of farming we can do in this climate and geography. Community was not merely a choice " I'll be friends with this lady in Media and this guy in Elverson and this family in East Greenville ", but a living reality.

Our communities today are not merely distributed, as my friends in Vermont are finding; they are also primarily social instead of creative; commercial, even, in the case of communities based on consumer trends. In *Radical Homemakers*, author Shannon Hayes discusses the unworkability of these communities, their effects on depression and anxiety and a growing sense of aimlessness. I feel an urgent need for our entire society to critically address and reevaluate what we mean by community today. I doubt we can (or would want to) return to the sort of community my grandparents practiced. My neighbors don't want to be UU and I don't want to be Baptist; I don't want to practice their style of chemical horticulture and they don't want to raise chickens. I'd much rather find people who share my values rather than grudgingly compromise my values to suit my neighbors. But how do we compromise the stresses of distributed community, and support our fundamental need to feel productive and creative, not merely to be consumers?

We need to see the challenges of our community clearly and critically if we are to overcome them and survive, if we are to be a true community and not just a place for a nice sermon every Sunday, in order to grow our community and to take full advantage of the richness it may add to our lives. This is our challenge if we wish to make our chosen community succeed; but may also be our calling to be an example, a seed of wisdom, to the greater community who struggles as badly or even worse than we do. We are people who choose to come together to build community with each other, not merely people looking to buy community like we buy a pair of jeans. We are unusual (not unique, certainly, but unusual) in our understanding of the full scope of the challenge and our dedication to rising to it.

With peace in my heart,

Tara



Religious Education

Welcome back to UUFP religious education after a summer of family, friends and fun!

Classes will start on September 12th for the Elementary age group and September 19th for the Teen Group. The Nursery is always open and will continue to operate from 9:30 to 11:30 am each Sunday.

Desiree Heath will lead the Nursery children in cooperative play and offer TLC along the way.

The Elementary group will be coordinated by Linda Pally with many UUFP volunteers offering their gifts and talents throughout the year. The children will learn about our world through the curriculum "Holidays and Holy Days" which celebrates the various religious holidays around the world.

Teen Group Planning Meeting:

Bob and Deni Gross will lead the teen group. There will be a planning meeting for all teens and their parents on September 19th from 9:30 to 10:30 AM in the teen room. The group will decide if they want to continue to meet on the second Sunday of the month or if another date is more suitable. Please bring your calendars and planning minds to the meeting.

The design of the class will be a small group ministry where ideas of religion, spirituality, ethics and social justice are explored and discussed. The discussions will help our teens sort through many ideas and ideologies so they can discover their place in our world. The group will be engaged in thoughtful discussion centering around the questions in the UU World magazine. UUFP volunteers will also offer their talents and join in the discussions throughout the school year.

Linda Pally



Meditation Moment...

Appreciate the richness of your life and develop it into a cadence and harmony that enriches others.

—the **Sakyong**: Jamgon Mipham Rinpoche

Join us for Simply Sitting Monday evenings at 7:30 in the UUFP Library



Adult Religious Education

The adult Religious Education (RE) group meets most Sunday mornings from 9:30 - 10:15 in the RE area of the Fellowship. During the week we read a pre-assigned section of the book, and then meet, discuss and share thoughts. We begin each session with a Chalice lighting and reading.

All are welcome. Feel free to drop in and join a discussion!

For more information, or to get your email added to the group list, contact Carla Johnson at 610-888-4932 or cjohnson1390@comcast.net.

We will be starting the fall session on Sunday, September 12 with "A Short History of Myth" by Karen Armstrong. We started this book in early summer, but were not able to study it much with vacations, etc, so we're going to start at the beginning. Book summary from BookBrowse.com

This brilliant, readable synthesis of the history of mythology and the function it serves to humanity is the launch title of the groundbreaking publishing event, The Myths. "Human beings have always been mythmakers." So begins Karen Armstrong's concise yet compelling investigation into myth: what it is, how it has evolved, and why we still so desperately need it. She takes us from the Paleolithic period and the myths of the hunters right up to the "Great Western Transformation" of the last five hundred years and the discrediting of myth by science. The history of myth is the history of humanity, our stories and beliefs, our curiosity and attempts to understand the world, which link us to our ancestors and each other. Myths help us make sense of the universe. Herald-ing a major series of retellings of international myths by authors from around the world, Armstrong's characteristically insightful and eloquent book serves as a brilliant and thought-provoking introduction to myth in the broadest sense -- and explains why if we dismiss it, we do so at our peril.

In case you want to get ahead on your book finding, this book will follow "A Short History of Myth":

"The Cathedral of the World: A Universalist Theology" by Forrest Church.

On September 24, 2009, Forrest Church succumbed to a three-year battle against esophageal cancer. As his final gift, the beloved minister and acclaimed author wrote one last book, leaving behind a clear statement of his Universalist theology and liberal faith. The Cathedral of the World draws from the entire span of Church's life's work, recasting public addresses and adapted book chapters, articles, and several previously unpublished pieces into a single argument. Giving new voice to the power of liberal religion, Church invites all seekers to enter the Cathedral of the World, home to many windows but only one Light.

Carla Johnson
cjoutdoors@comcast.net

JOIN US for an EVENING of DANCE ENTERTAINMENT!

Let's get to dancin'. It's been way too long since we danced!



GERRY KUDACH, a "DANCIN' DJ," will host several hours of fun and festivity here at the Fellowship on Saturday evening, September 18, 2010, 7 to 11 PM.

Gerry and his dance partner, both competitive ballroom dancers, will showcase various styles of dance from the very popular to the Viennese Waltz, throughout the evening. You don't even need to dance to have a good time! In addition, the very energetic Gerry dances most of the time his music is playing, to encourage people to get up and try each dance! Naturally, we'll include the group dances - Electric Slide, Macarena, Chicken Dance, Hand Jive, Alley Cat, Bunny Hop, etc.

We will have light refreshments and BYOB.

What to wear? Jeans to black tie. You decide. Give us some variety!

Admission - \$10 per person, \$15 per couple.

Send your favorite dance titles to Gerry's friends, Dick and Lisa Jokiell, at ejokiell@ceinetworks.com Gerry will have them lined up for you.

Call 610-385-6324 with any questions.





The Women's Group

The Women's Group is taking a brief planning break to explore new ideas of study and reflection for the year. Currently we are exploring a webpage brought to our attention from a UU Women's Group in New England. It's called "Women on the Edge of Evolution" and can be found at the following link:

<http://womenontheedgeofevolution.com/access/access.php>

The link offers audio discussion on various topics that we would like to explore, for example:

Dr. Elisabet Sahtouris, an evolutionary biologist, discusses the notion that "Anyone Who Knows How to Run a Household Knows How to Run a World" and Elizabeth Jarosz, business expert, discusses women's place in the work force in "Women Redefining the World: Integrating Work & Life to Create a New Society".

We invite you to take some time to explore the website and then contact Bonnie Donohue or Linda Pallay if you are interested in joining the Women's Group as we explore these topics throughout the year. We will listen to a session each month during the meeting and follow it up with lively discussion. Our first meeting will be on October 5th. We will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of each month @ 7 pm. Our meetings are held at UUFP. All women are welcome to join for any or all sessions.

Thank you, Linda and Bonnie



Coffee, Coffee, Coffee...

When you buy Equal Exchange Organic Coffee from our Coffee Kiosk you're getting lots done; you're helping to ensure economic justice for small farmers, you're contributing to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, you're donating to our Fellowship,.....**and** you're getting a bit of grocery shopping done.

Check a few things off your list!



Buy from our Coffee Kiosk!

Sold Sundays at our Coffee Hour!



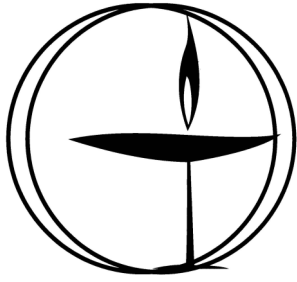
Women's Group

Auction Item for Pottery Making

The Women's Group is holding the first session of pottery making on September 18th at the fellowship from 12- 5 pm.

Please bring your creative ideas and your appetite as we will start with lunch at noon!





UUFP Calendar

September 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Membership Mtg 7:00	2 Yoga 7:00	3	4
5 Choir 8:30 Service 10:30	6 Meditation 7:30 	7	8	9 Yoga 7:00 Committee on Shared Ministry 7:00	10	11
12 Choir 8:30 Adult & Ch RE 9:30 Service 10:30	13 Meditation 7:30 	14	15 <i>Sojourner Deadline</i>	16 Yoga 7:00	17	18 Pottery Making 12-5 Dancin' DJ 7-11
19 Choir 8:30 Adult & Ch RE 9:30 Service 10:30 <i>3rd Sunday Potluck</i>	20 Meditation 7:30 	21 JPD Social Justice Tele- conference 7-9 PM	22	23 Yoga 7:00	24	25
26 Choir 8:30 Adult & Ch RE 9:30 Service 10:30	27 Meditation 7:30 	28	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: Open

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 – Open

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
FELLOWSHIP OF
POTTSTOWN

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Website:

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