

UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP OF WEST CHESTER
501 S HIGH ST
WEST CHESTER PA 19382

 **the**
FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester

Telephone: 610-692-5966 Web: www.ufwc.org

Our Mission: *As a diverse liberal faith congregation, we make a difference in our lives, our children's lives, and the wider community by creating an environment for spiritual growth and fulfillment, for building meaningful connections, and for actively advancing peace and justice in the world.*

SUNDAY SERVICES July 2010

July 4 at 10 a.m.

DEAR SIR

David Long, Tom Buglio, Curt Hoganson

On this Fourth of July, we will examine the correspondence between the second and third Presidents of the United States. John Adams, a Unitarian, and Thomas Jefferson, a would-be Unitarian, exchanged hundreds of letters over a span of 50 years on such subjects as history, economics, government and religion. Join us for a thought-provoking hour as we hear excerpts from the letters.

July 11 at 10 a.m.

TO PRAY OR NOT TO PRAY

Group Discussion

This service is an opportunity to discuss the above topic. Readings and hymns will address the topic, but in place of a sermon, we will break into small groups to discuss prayer. Did prayer have a place in your previous religious or spiritual experiences? How did that influence your view of it now? Do you ever pray? If so, why? What form do your prayers take? Do you think there is a place for prayer in Unitarian Universalist congregations?

July 18 at 10 a.m.

**THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST EVANGELIST:
A CONTRADICTION?**

Rob Sartain

We've heard about sharing the "good news that is Unitarian Universalism." What does that mean for us as lay people, though? Indeed, what good news have we, with our different beliefs and from our diverse backgrounds, to share? Come Sunday to enjoy some food for thought.

July 25 at 10 a.m.

**THE MEDICINE WHEEL
A GLIMPSE OF ANOTHER WAY TO APPROACH LIFE**

Diane Minka

What is it? What are the concepts supporting such a belief? How can this approach to life bring more meaning to my life, increase my sense of connectedness and belonging, and help me evaluate life differently?

Summer Sunday Services at 10 A.M. No Religious Education

THE SONG OF DEBORAH

As we make our way into the heat of the summer (it sure feels like it's here already!) I hope you will take time to be and not to do for a while. There is a great array of services planned for the summer time and they will be more low key but provide no less food for thought and spirit. Find ways to stay connected to one another. Also find ways of reaching out and helping those in need – the needs certainly are growing even among ourselves.

General Assembly this coming week will bring with it a lot of change – the first completed year of our new President, some consolidating of our district services, a slightly different from usual schedule of events and plenary sessions, and many new ways of doing things.

Those of you interested in seeing more of the business of the UUA and special events at GA are invited to check out the website <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/index.shtml>. There you will find out what is going on and what you will be able to watch live on the web.

I have to trust that we will all hold one another in covenant and come together as one no matter what the decision [on the 2012 GA in Phoenix].

Pres. Peter Morales has weighed in with his thoughts about bringing GA to Phoenix in 2012 which are on the front page of [uua.org](http://www.uua.org). It promises to be a lively debate. I have to trust that we will all hold one another in covenant and come together as one no matter what the decision.

I cannot stress that last statement enough. Congregations in the UUA have seen division over the Vietnam War, over the Sanctuary movement, and over wars past and other issues.

This is a time to practice deep listening, compassionate thinking, and holding up our values of “the inherent worth and dignity of every person, justice, equity and compassion in human relations, and the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process in our congregations and in society at large.” Three of our principles

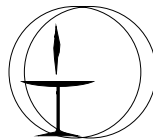
are tightly connected to this issue. I will keep you posted as to the decisions made and how they came about.

As in the past, when we come together on the Sunday after Labor Day I hope you will bring with you wisdom or a story that you have learned over the summer. For years many of our congregations have celebrated “homecoming” with a water communion which is a way to share travels in the story of where the water was collected.

I became aware several years ago that talking of our travels heightens awareness of our economic means – or it did for me – and I realized that sharing what we learn is far more valuable than where we’ve been. So whether you have the opportunity to travel or not, the collecting of wisdom can happen anytime, anywhere. I look forward to seeing you refreshed and reinvigorated in the fall.

May your summer bring great wisdom, cool breezes, verdant gardens, lots of fun, good friends, and much love.

– *Deborah*



DEBORAH'S SUMMER SCHEDULE

Deborah will be at General Assembly from June 22-28. From July 2-29 she will be available for emergencies. From July 30-August 22 she will be on vacation. During her vacation the Pastoral Care team (email: pastoral-care) and Board will have contact information for other ministers in the area should there be an emergency.

The Fellowtarian is the monthly newsletter of the
Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester

501 S. High St., West Chester, PA 19382 Web: www.ufwc.org

Rev. Deborah Mero, Minister 610-692-4043 email: minister
Barbara Robinson, Office Administrator 610-692-5966 email: office
Diane Cohle, President email: president
Pam Baxter, Dir. of Religious Ed email: dre
Steve and Linda Sander, Editors email: fellowtarian

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I can hardly believe that I have completed one year of my two-year term as president of the board. It has been a busy year – with some goals (developed at last year’s Board retreat) accomplished – but there is still more to do. I am looking forward to a little rest this summer before starting another church year.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Reverend Deborah Mero for her hard work this year. Through her leadership and commitment to the UFWC, she has carried-on many of our traditions and accomplished many things. One of her greatest endeavors has been to increase our presence in the wider community of West Chester. I want to also acknowledge my fellow board members, especially the ones who will leave at the end of this year: Vice-president Betty Grosse, Secretary Eileen Kelly-Meyer, and Trustee Juan Leon. I appreciate their dedication and willingness to serve. Many thanks go to Mike Miller for his skill in the financial area and to Mark Steel for his coordination of all of the work completed by the committees. I am so grateful to be working alongside of all you where much of the work gets accomplished.

We still have many things on our list to accomplish. I encourage you to support our fellowship financially and by volunteering your time. Together with all of your help, I am certain that we will continue to work on our mission to create spiritual growth, to build meaningful connections, and to advance peace and justice in the world.

– Committed to working with you
to achieve our mission,
Diane

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The UFWC Annual Congregational meeting was held on Sunday, June 6, with 65 members and several friends in attendance. Among the business conducted at the meeting was the election of officers for the 2010-2011 church year. The new Board will include these members: President – Diane Cohle, Secretary – Sandy Schaal, trustees – Rick Marts, Fred Frayer, Curt Hoganson, Helena Graham, and Dirk Troltenier. The Vice President will be chosen by the Board at its first meeting in September.

Other business conducted at the annual meeting included: approval of the proposed budget; appointment of delegates to GA; approval of a bylaws change to allow the annual meeting notice to be sent electronically (email) to members who agree to receive it that way; and a discussion of the issue to be decided at GA this year, whether GA 2012 should be held in Phoenix, Arizona, as planned, or held elsewhere in protest of SB1070. Many expressed opinions and ideas, with the conclusion that our delegates will be free to decide according to their own conscience. Also, copies of the extended Ends statements developed by the Board this year were handed out, in the interest of time, and will be available on the UFWC website.

The June Board meeting was held on June 15 at the Cohle residence. New board members were invited to an informal barbecue which included bidding farewell to three members whose terms end this month – Betty Grosse, Eileen Kelly-Meyer, and Juan Leon. The primary business item of this meeting was brainstorming of possible goals for the Board in the coming year. These will be selected and expanded during the leadership retreat in August. There will be no Board meeting in July.

Members and friends of the Fellowship are encouraged to share comments and concerns with Board members, as well as to attend Board meetings if interested. The Board meets on the second Tuesday of the month in the office. Meeting minutes are posted to the members section of the UFWC website after approval by the Board.



YOUTH GROUP

After celebrating our graduating seniors at the Bridging service and many Youth Group members in their Coming of Age ceremony, the Youth Group wrapped up activities this year with a final movie night sleepover in the sanctuary at the end of June.

Though we have finished meeting for the year, we have one JPD gathering left: SummerCON in Rockville, Maryland July 9-11. The registration deadline has passed, and we’re set to send two cars of youth and adults. If you’re registered to attend, watch your e-mails for details.

In addition to the UFWC youth and adult service at the Joseph Priestly District level of youth programming, the congregation is also lending some space this summer, hosting the August meeting of the District Youth Steering Committee. Thanks to all who keep UU youth programming so vibrant within our district.

Questions? Want to get on our e-mail list? Please e-mail: youth-group.

REmarks – R. E. UPDATE

If you'd like to add some Unitarian Universalist-inspired books to your summer reading stack, here are two of my favorites, which help with the fine art of UU parenting.

In ***Tending the Flame: The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting*** Michelle Richards explores rituals, traditions, spiritual practices, our seven principles, and "Big Questions and Tough Stuff."

It's a book you can open to any page and find something useful and inspiring.

In particular, I think the chapters on each of the seven UU principles are wonderfully rich. Richards uses the original, adult wording: "Justice, equity and compassion," and "Spiritual growth in our congregations," for example, rather than "Be kind in all you do," and "We're free to learn together." Starting there, she opens up a deep discussion of the facets suggested by each principle, bringing the essence of each principle within the grasp of children. In the process she explores ways to help children wrestle, for instance, with the fact that there is much violence in the world in which we are trying to build peace.

In ***The Gift of Faith: Tending the Spiritual Lives of Children*** Jeanne Nieuwejaar, explores the importance of raising children within a faith community; making, as one reviewer says, "a simple, compelling case for religious community becoming a center of spiritual stability in our lives – especially for our "little ones" thrown into a frantic, muddled world."

If you ever have questioned

whether it was worth giving your children that extra nudge to get them out the door on Sunday morning,

SUMMER ICE CREAM SOCIALS

The RE Committee is scheduling dates for two summer Ice Cream Socials – one in July and one in August. Please check upcoming *Connections* for the dates. Note: people of all ages are welcome – please join us.

I think this book will convince you. Says Nieuwejaar of pre-adolescents (the age at which kids are most likely to put up a fuss), "There are several sources for this resistance, and it is important to understand them and not simply

take at face value the child's complaints that he or she finds church school stupid and boring...They are testing, among other things,

their parents' priorities, finding out what they really believe in..."

Sound too heavy for summer reading? For me, these books read the way a mug of hot cocoa goes down on a cold winter day – warm, sustaining, nurturing. Both books are available from Skinner House Books www.uua.org/skinner. I will also add a copy of *Tending the Flame* to the hallway library downstairs. The *Gift of Faith* is already there.

Happy, safe travels these next couple months, and happy reading! If you do read one or both of these books, I would love to know your thoughts and experience with them.

– Pam Baxter
Director of Religious Ed.

FINANCIALLY YOURS

Congratulations and thank you to all who helped to create the UFWC 2010-2011 budget passed at the Congregational Meeting on June 6. Congratulations and thank you to the members of the Stewardship Committee: Pam Sapko (Chair), Betty Grosse, Gerry Giess, Jim Mac Fadyen, Dirk Troltenier, and Ralph Mero. Ditto to the members of the Finance Committee: Cyndy Bullaughey, Janine Galen, and Linda Sander. And thank you to all who made pledges and gifts to maintain our programs and facilities and to pay our staff. It took a second effort which is not something we like to do, but if you heard the second appeal by WHY? this weekend you know that we were not alone in having to try harder to raise funds. It took a sustained effort, but we succeeded.

Our experience with the Budget should remind us again that Stewardship is a process that must occur year round and be the concern of all members and friends. Therefore, if you have an interest in helping with Stewardship, or if you have some suggestions about how Stewardship should be conducted, please see me or a member of the committee.

Speaking of help wanted, we are still looking for an Income Treasurer to replace Cyndy Bullaughey who is retiring after 13 years of service. Thank you, Cyndy! The Income Treasurer collects and deposits monies in Fellowship bank accounts, records contributions against pledges and periodically prepares pledge statements, reconciles accounts with the Expense Treasurer and participates in a monthly Finance Committee meeting. This is an important job and we really need help to fill it. If you are looking for a place to serve the Fellowship, and you can contribute about 10-12 hours a month, and you are pretty good with numbers, we are looking for you. Please contact me, Mike Miller, and let's have a chat.

STONES IN THE SAME WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

Each event, each action is another stone in the wall of social justice

It's officially summer. I don't know if it's the heat, vacations or something else, but we tend to slow up our social justice efforts throughout the summer. The problem is that the lives of our most marginal community members continue to be hard. With that in mind, you can still help by participating in the Food Collection Project and Share-the-Plate contributions.

The summer is a time to recharge and renew commitment to our social justice efforts. Maybe you have been meaning to participate more. We know that our members and friends have expressed a clear and strong preference to be connected to a congregation that has social justice at its core. Being connected to and actually helping us carry out our mission are two different things. One is passive and one is active. For those of you who want to put your UU values and principles into action, we are committed to providing you with opportunities to do just that. For everyone else we ask you to continue supporting our projects and get involved in some small way – something to think about as you dip your toe into the ocean or however you are spending your time this summer.

– Ed Cohle, Social Justice Chair

SHARE-THE-PLATE GENEROSITY

Share-the-plate continues throughout the summer. Much thanks to all who have contributed generously in the past. **The share-the-plate recipient on July 18 (third Sunday of the month) is Home of the Sparrow.** Home of the Sparrow serves homeless, disadvantaged and abused women and children, helping them move from homelessness to self-sufficiency. They provide intensive services, including safe, stable housing, case management, life skills training, education and outreach programs to help women and their children achieve independence.

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION PROJECT

Our next monthly food collection is **Sunday, July 4**. Look for collection baskets in the lobby. Suggested items for July are family sized juices. Reminder: Please check expiration dates. Items past expiration cannot be distributed. As always, other donations are gratefully accepted, too.

LUNCH GROUP

Lunch group will meet Friday, July 9, at 11:30 a.m. at Panera Bread, 1103 West Chester Pike, near Shop Rite. Newcomers are welcome. To be added to the e-mail reminder list, contact Linda Sander at email: lunch-group. The reminders are an easy way to RSVP, so we can save enough seats for everyone. If you don't have e-mail or you change your mind at the last minute, come anyway. Everyone is welcome.

UUSC UPDATE

If you just joined the Fellowship within the past year or two (and everyone else, too), we ask you to read this and consider joining the UUSC. Just visit the UUSC website (www.uusc.org); spend some time there, and you can't help but be humbled (and impressed) by the aid going to the "small" people, the people that the big charities have forgotten.

Remember, it's the only Human Rights organization that begins with the letters "UU", and it imparts our values (the seven principles). And it does so with humility and compassion. If you're not yet a member, time is running out.

You can join online (don't forget to mention UFWC as your congregation) and join the dozens of other UFWC members and friends in the UUSC. If you're thinking of joining, please do so by June 30. We'd very much like to surpass the 75% membership level this year.

ADULT EXPLORATION POSSIBILITY?

On our last very hot Sunday for the church year we took a whirlwind trip through some of our history. It is filled with theological meanderings and some startling turns that traveled from a biblical foundation to Transcendentalism to Humanism to now. Much of that history appears in excerpts of documents compiled by Rev. David Parke in *The Epic of Unitarianism* (available at uuabookstore.org). Do our current Principles and Sources give us enough of a foundation to answer the big questions of life?

Rev. Galen Guengerich from All Souls Unitarian Church in NYC has been busy formulating the questions and contemporary responses to them and there is much to think about. Several of you expressed interest on Sunday morning to explore the questions together. I'm envisioning a series that takes these questions and looks both at how we have answered them in our historic theological past (which will give us an opportunity to read many of our historic documents in full) and how today's approach might be different. So far, five of you have said you would like to help plan the series with me. I'm thinking we would spend seven months, one per question starting in October. Whether we do this with a small group ministry model or with a large group discussion model will be determined by the planning team. It will NOT be didactic lectures. If you are interested in joining this team please send me an e-mail.

In any case, here are the questions you may wish to ponder yourself over the summer:

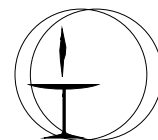
- How do we know what we most truly know?
- What is the nature of existence and how do we fit into the picture?
- What in the world is divine – if anything?
- What is the uniquely human challenge?
- What is the purpose of faith and the role of religion?
- What does it mean to be a religious community?
- How shall we live in order to transform the world?

– Rev. Mero

GAME NIGHT

Our next Potluck and Game night will be on Friday, July 2, at the Fellowship. Join us at 6:30 p.m. for dinner or after 7:00 for games. Everyone is welcome – families, individuals, couples, children. Bring a dish and beverage to share. (Don't forget the beverage because we never know how many are coming so we don't know how much to bring. Besides, we don't know what you want to drink.)

Bring a friend, too. Please note that there will not be a game night in August. We will resume in September. If you have any questions contact Nancy Artus at email: game-night.



PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Life offers challenges to everyone. Some we are able to handle on our own. But there are times when a helping hand is welcome. Whether a meal, a ride, or someone just to listen is needed, the UFWC Pastoral Care Team is here for you. Now that summer is here, we want you to know that we will be too.

The Pastoral Care Team includes Amy Spear, Sharon Sweitzer, Fatima Patel, Cindy Heck, Jon McCormack, John Gribbin, Eileen Kelly-Mayer, Bruce Neff, and Ellen Schipul, chair. They have the qualities to be compassionate companions learned through their own life experiences. Ongoing training and workshops will hone their skills to serve under the guidance of both Deborah and Ellen. All communications with the members of the team will be held in confidence.

The best way to contact the Pastoral Care Team is email: pastoral-care. Briefly share your need and contact information, and one of the Pastoral Care Team will contact you. Of course, if you have an emergency, or require an immediate response, be sure to contact Deborah or any of the members of the Pastoral Care Team.

Allow us to take your hand, and walk along side of you through the difficult places life sometimes leads.

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

All email addresses @ufwc.org unless otherwise noted.

Jun 30	Wed	Last Day for UUSC 2010 Membership Drive. See p. 5.
Jul 2	Fri	Potluck & Game Night. 6:30-9 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 6.
Jul 4	Sun	First Sunday Food Collection. Lobby. See p. 5.
Jul 5	Mon	Independence Day. Office closed.
Jul 8	Thu	Social Justice Committee. 7:15-9 p.m. Office. Contact Ed Cohle, email: social-justice.
Jul 9	Fri	Lunch Group. 11:30 a.m. Panera Bread. See p. 5.
Jul 11	Sun	Safe Harbor Dinner. 6 p.m. Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. To help, contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: safe-harbor
Jul 18	Sun	Share the Plate Sunday. Benefits Home of the Sparrow. See p. 5. Library Advocates. 7 p.m. Office. Contact Ralph Mero.
Jul 19	Mon	Women's Circle. 7-9 p.m. Youth Group Rm. Contact Debby Kern, email: womens-circle

EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP BOOKS FOR 2010-2011

MEETINGS RESUME SEPTEMBER 12*

September 12: *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery. Led by Ruth MacFadyen and Susan Gast

October 10: *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows. Led by Fred Frayer

November 14: *Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali. Led by Pam Sapko

December 12: *Smoke Signals* (film). Led by Ruth MacFadyen

January 9: *Food, Inc.* (film). Led by Pat Shorten

February 13: *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford. Led by Pat Shorten

March 13: *Cry the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton. Led by Fred Frayer

April 10: *Mennonite in a Little Black Dress* by Rhoda Janzen. Led by Dena Beeghly

May 8: *The Help* by Katherine Stockett. Led by Shelly Case



*We will meet on the second Sunday of the month in 2010-2011.

Please feel free to contact us at e-mail: diversity-book-group, or call Shelly Case or Ruth MacFadyen. All are welcome.