

UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP OF WEST CHESTER
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 **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

September 2010

September 5
10 a.m. Only

BACK TO SHUL:
A BRIEF, CHALLENGING RETURN TO RELIGIOUS ROOTS

Brett Goldman

LAST SINGLE SERVICE OF THE SUMMER. As Unitarian Universalists, returning to our religious origins – even for a short visit – can be a complex event. I experienced a mix of feelings upon spending a Saturday morning back in synagogue for the first time in several years. Memories, angst, some humor, and guilt over one particular situation are all part of my look through the UU lens at going back to *shul* (Yiddish for synagogue).

September 12
9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

INGATHERING – A CELEBRATION OF COMING TOGETHER:
A CELEBRATION FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Deborah Mero

As we return to begin our new year we all have experiences to share, things that we have learned, and perhaps thoughts about what we each want to both contribute to and receive from our religious community in the year to come. What will we each bring to the feast? Please bring your selves, your hopes, your wisdom, and a food contribution to the West Chester Food Cupboard as we join together and kick off the new year. **DOUBLE SERVICES RESUME TODAY.**

NOTE: Our Annual Picnic is today at 12:30 p.m. in Hoopes Park. See p. 6 for more information.

September 19
9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

TWO BROTHERS

Rev. Deborah Mero

The Jewish New Year and Day of Atonement will have passed by this date, but traditionally one of the biblical stories told during the High Holidays is that of the two brothers, Isaac and Ishmael. With all of the anger and fear filled with religious antipathy that has been expressed recently, it is important to take a look back at what started the “family feud” that sadly continues to this day. Perhaps we can find a way beyond feuding. **NOTE: Religious Education begins today at 9 a.m.**

September 26
9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT WE TRULY KNOW?

Rev. Deborah Mero

When we start asking questions and looking for answers, how do we even begin? Unitarian Universalists in general tend to think we know the answers. What makes us think we have found truth? In this age of information how do we sift the wheat from the chaff? And what part, if any, does faith play in this?

Services and Babysitting at 9 AM and 11 AM. Religious Education at 9 AM only.

THE SONG OF DEBORAH

I'm sure that when I was back in the days of grade school at least one — if not more — of my teachers must have given me the proverbial assignment of writing the essay, "How I Spent My Summer Vacation." Of course at the ripe old age that I find myself, I can't remember any of those summer vacations, but the ones I've had over the past ten or so years have indeed been memorable. Summer gives me the opportunity to renew, revitalize, and gain some new perspectives on the life around us.

I hope and trust that it will be a great year for us all to stand on the side of love and justice.

Last Summer Ralph and I traveled south to Baltimore and Williamsburg, Virginia. We learned a lot about history, which gave us some new perspectives. This summer we went north to Canada and to the Finger Lakes region of New York. That was after General Assembly in Minneapolis and various trips in and around home. We ventured into Philadelphia to take one of the neighborhood Mural Project tours as well.

A thread that ran through almost all of our travels and adventures was immigration and how it has shaped our cities, our neighborhoods, and our country. Now it is shaping the conversations we are having as Unitarian Universalists as well as our national political discourse. I'll have much more to say about this and what I learned and experienced this summer on Sunday, August 29 as well as various times throughout the year.

Over a year ago the UUA began a campaign called "Standing on the Side of Love." It was origi-

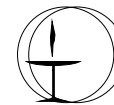
nally aimed at promoting marriage equality for all, but it was never intended to be limited to that cause. This summer the campaign took on the face of welcome and solidarity with those who came to the United States looking to make a better life for themselves and their families.

Arizona is currently the hottest spot (literally and figuratively) where the legal battle is being waged, but it was not the first, nor will it be the last. A few of us from UFWC joined with people from the New Sanctuary Movement and other groups to stand on the side of love in Philadelphia. They liked our banner so much we were asked to head the small march to the Customs House (ICE headquarters). It was the beginning step of much more to come in the way of education, coalition building, and action so that our Commonwealth becomes and remains a place where all are respected and welcomed.

The march was about welcoming the stranger, the seeker, the pilgrim. We UU's are about the same thing. I look forward to our Ingathering Service, where we can welcome one another and those new to our community as we start the year together with energy and love. I hope to see every one of your smiling faces as we embark on our journey to provide an environment for spiritual growth for ourselves and our children, build meaningful connections among ourselves and with others in the area, and be a catalyst for peace and justice in our community and the world.

At our leadership retreat we will begin to chart the course, but this will be an endeavor for us all. We encourage you to bring your ideas, your talents and your commitment. I hope and trust that it will be a great year for us all to stand on the side of love and justice.

— Yours in faith,
Deborah



PAKISTAN FLOOD RELIEF

The flood in Pakistan has gotten little coverage in proportion to the catastrophe it really is. For an idea of just how large an area/population it covers, take a look here:

http://howbigreally.com/dimension/environmental_disasters/pakistan_floods#10012

The UUSC is asking us to donate directly to its partners in the area. Check out this link for an update: www.UUSC.org/pakistan/statement

Doctors Without Borders is also active in the area along with many other agencies. If you can, please give: www.doctorswithoutborders.org

UUSC UPDATE

Please support the UUSC effort in Pakistan. Here's the latest report: "The increased scale of the disaster has severely complicated the global humanitarian response. More and more areas are inaccessible to aid, including whole areas in northern Pakistan." At least 4 million people need emergency shelter, and millions more need food, water, and basic health services. The current aid response is insufficient to meet the vast needs of the survivors, of whom nearly half are children.

To help, go to the UUSC website, www.uusc.org/pakistan/statement. Also please consider renewing your membership or joining UUSC. Remember it's the only Human Rights organization in the world that starts with the letters "U.U.". For more information contact Robin Garrett, Linda Sander, or Tom Townsend.



GLEANNING

Don't forget that UFWC is on the Chester County Food Bank's list for Monday, August 30 at 8:30 a.m. at Pete's Produce. We picked over 500 pounds of tomatoes last year. Let's do even better this year. Pete's is on State Route 926 east of West Chester. Specific directions are: going east on 926, turn LEFT onto Westtown Rd. After about 1/4 mi. look for a sign that says "Farm House". Turn RIGHT at the sign. Gleaning is in the field on the right, and parking is available. For more information contact Tom Townsend.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope that you enjoyed the lazy, hazy days of summer and found time for some relaxation and rest. The board has not met since our June meeting. I did have the opportunity to meet with our three new board members. I would like to thank Helena Graham, Curt Hoganson, and Dirk Troltenier for volunteering to take a leadership role as a member of the board.

We are busy planning our annual retreat. This year it will include members of the board, the executive team, and chairs of the committees. We will meet on Friday evening, August 27, and Saturday, August 28. This extended time will give us the opportunity to focus on the work that needs to be done during the 2010-2011 Fellowship year. Meredith Higgins, from the Joseph Priestly staff, will facilitate our discussions.

At our June board meeting, we made a list of possible goals for the 2010-2011 year. These include the following:

- Continue to explore safety measures
- Finalize long-range plan
- Explore additional ways for the board to communicate with the members of the congregation
- Develop a process to measure and monitor our ends
- Look for ways to increase volunteerism
- Restructure committees to reflect the three pillars of our mission
- Clarify relationship between executive team, council and board
- Investigate sustainability policies and green sanctuary initiatives
- Explore different ways to conduct stewardship campaigns
- Develop a plan to demonstrate our commitment to anti-racism in the world and in our local community

At the retreat other ideas may emerge. Our objective will be to leave the retreat with a list of prioritized goals and a clear way to accomplish them. I encourage you to support our congregation by communicating your thoughts to the leadership and by volunteering your time to accomplish our goals. Together with all of your help, I would say that I am certain we will continue making progress toward accomplishing 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

SEPTEMBER FOOD COLLECTION

Our monthly food collection is on Sunday, September 12. (This is the second Sunday instead of our regular first Sunday because double services start on the 12th.) Look for collection baskets in the lobby. *Suggested items for September are oil, sugar, cake, and cookie mixes.* Reminder: Please check expiration dates. Items past expiration cannot be distributed. As always, other donations are also gratefully accepted.

REmarks RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

It surprises me every year how complex a process putting together the RE calendar is – reviewing the schedules of six school district for holidays and vacations; weaving together regular class days with intergenerational services and Group RE days; creating separate teaching calendars for the 6th/7th grade and OWL classes, which each run on a their own schedule; and arranging orientation meetings for parents, teachers and parents of OWL students. Into that mix we add rehearsals and performing dates for the Intergen Choir.

Over the years I've learned that it's important to get the calendar right – busy parents and volunteers need to know they can rely on it! But it's still just a tool.

RE doesn't happen until the children come running down the hall on Sunday mornings, bringing their energy, their ideas and their questions; their silliness and their earnestness; their sense of injustice and fairness; their impatience and their compassion. It doesn't happen until teachers sit around a table with the children, telling stories, asking questions, leading crafts; engaging in sharing wisdom back and forth; sharing parts of themselves and modeling what it means to be Unitarian Universalist.

Our teaching theme this year is Unitarian Universalist identity. Through age-appropriate curricula, all the classes will be exploring – and will have opportunities to practice – what it means to be UU. I say "classes" rather than "children," because based on feedback from prior years, I know that the adult volunteers will be learning right along with them.

I'm looking forward to a year of exciting exploration and learning, and simply of being in the company of the children of our Fellowship, who bring their own wisdom along with their wonderment, and help make our congregation the very special place that it is.

UPCOMING RE DATES:

RE Work Party – *Come help clean up our basement classrooms on Saturday, September 11, beginning at 9:00 a.m. We'll also move the furniture off of the carpets, which will be professionally cleaned on the 13th.*

Furniture Re-Moving Day – *Saturday, September 18, 9 a.m. This is a short work-party event to move the furniture back into place, ready for RE on the 19th.*

RE Begins – *Sunday, September 19, 9 a.m. Please have your children bring any Pennies for Peace and Quarters for Water they've collected over the summer.*

"Ice Cream Sunday" (Parent Orientation) – *September 19, 10:10 a.m.*

OWL Class – *dates to be announced.*

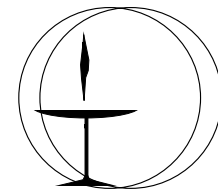
YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group, START YOUR ENGINES! :) Calling all high school-aged teens! Looking for a place to really be yourself? To ask tough questions, have engaging conversations, raise money for charity, do something worthwhile in the community, and laugh a lot with people who accept you for who you are? Face-to-face, without even having to type anything? Give your texting thumb a rest, and come to Youth Group. Don't worry if you've never attended before – the door is always open.

On Sunday, September 12, we'll have our first Youth Group meeting at 10:45 a.m. downstairs in the Youth Group Room. Bring your questions, energy, and ideas.

Coming attractions in October: our annual trek to raise money and awareness at the Philly AIDS Walk (on Sunday, October 17) and sending a contingent of teens and advisors to the JPD Youth Steering Committee's Fall CON, that same weekend. Please remember that we like to see active participation in UFWC youth group meetings and activities in advance of attending a district CON.

Join us downstairs in the Youth Group Room at 10:45 on Sunday mornings, starting September 12. Questions? Contact Rob Sartain at email: youth-group.



– Pam Baxter
Director of Religious Education

THE AUCTION IS COMING!

A live and silent auction, a raffle, catered food, beer and wine, entertainment, excitement and suspense – it is all coming to UFWC October 23 beginning at 6 p.m. This is a fundraising as well as a “fun-raising” event, where services are offered from members of the UFWC community and local businesses. Proceeds support the Fellowship. Our own Mike Miller and Ed Cohle will be back as auctioneers. They promise moments of laughter, snickering, groaning, and occasional dead silence. They may even have time to auction off a few items between their antics.

Sounds like too much fun, right? How about joining the team? We are in need of the following people:

- Solicitors of Business Donations
- Raffle Coordinator
- Babysitting Coordinator
- People to make phone calls to congregants
- People to help the night of the auction



Send a message to **email: auction** if you can help in any way. To make the auction a success we need the following from you:

1. Your personal donation(s). Examples of types of services offered are listed in the box on this page. Please either use the online donation form (preferable), send the information to email: auction-donations, or complete and turn in a printed form available at the Fellowship (look for an envelope labeled “AUCTION DONATIONS”). Submit your donations by September 30 to be included in the book. Later donations are accepted but appear in an addendum.
2. Think of at least one local business to whom you can personally deliver a solicitation letter. You can pick up copies of the letter at the fellowship or download it from our website.

Thank you for helping to make our auction a success. Questions may be directed to Nancy Artus (email: auction) or Dan Meyer (email: auction-donations).

FOLK SINGING

The next folk singing get-together is Saturday, September 25, at 8 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. All are welcome. No singing talent or experience is necessary. Bring a munchie, if you wish. Maps are in the foyer. Contact Steve at email: folk-singing.

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

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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

CALLING ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRS

If you know when you will start your monthly meetings please contact Barbara at email: office to request your start dates. Also include any special event dates your committee has planned for the coming year. Our calendar fills up fast, and it is a first come, first served process.

If you are a new committee chair at UFWC, please include your name, e-mail address, and phone number so we can update the *Whom Do You Contact?* list and the website.

COFFEE HOUSE

The next Coffee House is Saturday, September 18, at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship. The featured act is Eileen Tippin and Jake Michael, singer-song writers from the West Chester area. Performers should arrive early to sign up for a time slot. Contact Judy Perri at email: coffeehouse.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION NEEDED

Please check your previous Directory information for its accuracy. If there are any changes, which include names, new members of your family, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses or items to be removed from the Directory, send your changes to email: directory.

GAME NIGHT

Join us for a Potluck dinner followed by games on September 3 at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. This is for individuals and families; people of all ages come. Bring a dish and a beverage to share as well as any game you have a hankering to play. We play old games like Scrabble or new games like Quiddler. I can't tell you what we will be playing, because we play the games you bring that night.

This is an informal event with no agenda other than to relax and have a good time. Paper products are provided. There is no need to call ahead or be on time; just come! Bring a friend if you wish; this is a great way to introduce someone to the Fellowship.

Contact Mary Yeager if you have any questions at email: game-night.

CALLING ALL SINGERS AND LOVERS OF MUSIC

The Spirit Singers, UFWC's adult choir, will resume our music-making and fellowship starting Thursday, September 2. We rehearse from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. in the sanctuary three Thursday nights a month and sing one Sunday a month (usually the third Sunday.)

We are always looking for new members and would like to welcome you to join us. You do not need to read music and no audition is required. Please contact Helen Meacham (email: choir) if you have any questions about this activity. We look forward to bringing you into our circle of singing.

ANNUAL PICNIC

We hope you will join us for our Annual Picnic on Sunday afternoon, September 12. This Sunday is traditionally our gathering in after our summer's excursions/adventures/vacations/or...? The picnic will be at Hoopes Park, which is on the north side of the West Chester borough. We will feast on burgers (various kinds), hotdogs, chicken, and vegetarian fare. Buns, condiments, drinks, and paper products will be provided.

We ask for a donation of \$4 for adults and \$2 for children to cover the cost of the food and the park rental. Bring a salad or dessert to share. We are hoping for a good turnout, so you might want to bring lawn chairs and/or blankets as well. As usual, a light rain will not stop us. Worse weather will result in us all picnicking in the sanctuary.

All ages are welcome. There is plenty of space and playground equipment. We encourage you to carpool since there are a limited number of parking spaces near the park.

Bring any game or sport you would like to play. We usually have a pick-up softball game going as well as frisbee, bocce, and basketball. We will start at 12:30 and finish up around 3:30. This is a great chance to get caught up with old and new friends. You won't want to miss it. Contact Mary Yeager if you have any questions at email: picnic.



EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

Next Meeting: September 12 at 7-8:30 p.m.

Book: *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery

Discussion Leaders: Ruth MacFadyen and Susan Gast

For more information please contact Shelly Case or Ruth MacFadyen at email: diversity-book-group. All are Welcome.



SEEING ERIN OFF IN STYLE



Our hymnist until recently, Erin Behler will join us one last time at the UFWC picnic on Sunday September 12, for our official sendoff. At that time we'll present her with a cash gift to show our appreciation for her five years with us. If you are interested in contributing to this gift, you are encouraged to submit a check payable to UFWC, with "hymnist gift" on the memo line. You may mail this in, or drop it in the basket on Sunday mornings. (Allow our treasurers enough lead time before the 12th to process your gift.)

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

All email addresses @ufwc.org unless otherwise noted.

- Aug 30 Mon Gleaning.** 8:30 a.m. at Pete's Produce. See p. 3.
- Sep 1 Wed Religious Education Committee.** 7 p.m. Youth Group Room. Contact Sue Quake, email: RE
- Sep 3 Fri Potluck & Game Night.** 6:30-9 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 6.
- Sep 6 Mon Labor Day.** Office Closed.
- Sep 9 Thu Social Justice Committee.** 7:15-9 p.m. Office. Contact Ed Cohle, email: social-justice.
- Sep 10 Fri Lunch Group.** 11:30 a.m. Panera Bread. See below.
- Sep 11 Sat RE Work Party.** 9 a.m. See p. 4.
- Sep 12 Sun Sunday Food Collection.** Lobby. See p. 3.
- Annual Picnic.** 12:30-3:30 p.m. Hoopes Park. See p. 6.
- 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
- Exploring Diversity Book Group.** 7-8:30 p.m. Office. See p. 6.
- Sep 14 Tue Board Meeting.** 7 p.m. Office. All are welcome. Contact Diane Cohle, email: president
- Set 18 Sat Furniture Re-Moving Day.** 9 a.m. See p. 4.
- Coffee House.** 7-10 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 5.
- Sep 19 Sun Share the Plate Sunday.** Benefits Domestic Violence Center of Chester County.
- Religious Education Begins.** See p. 4.
- RE Parent Orientation (Ice Cream Sunday).** 10:10 a.m. Downstairs. Contact Pam Baxter, email: DRE
- Sep 20 Mon Women's Circle.** 7-9 p.m. Youth Group Room.
- Sep 23 Thu Religious Services Committee.** 7:30-9 p.m. Office. Contact Gerry Giess or Diane Minka, email: religious-services
- Sep 25 Sat Folk Singing.** 8 p.m. at the home of Steve and Linda Sander. See p. 5.
- Sep 27 Mon Parent Support Group.** 7 p.m. Office. Contact Sharon Meyer-Conroy, email: parent-support.
- Sep 30 Thu Auction Donation Booklet Deadline.** See p. 5.

Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

- Spirit Singers** Practice begins September 2, 7:30-9 p.m. Generally the three Thursdays before the third Sunday (which is when they sing at services). No practice on the fourth Thursday. Contact Helen Meacham, email: choir. See p. 6.
- Youth Group** Beginning Sunday, September 12. Most Sundays, 10:45-noon. Youth Group Room. Email: youth-group. See p. 4.

LUNCH GROUP

Lunch group will meet Friday, September 10, at 11:30 a.m. at Panera Bread, 1103 West Chester Pike, near Shop Rite.

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. If you don't have e-mail or you change your mind at the last minute, come anyway. Everyone is welcome.

WOMEN'S RETREAT DATES

This is a very early heads up on calendar dates for retreats this year:

Jan 7-9 – Women's Retreat I – For those who did not attend last year and are interested

May 20-22 – Women's Retreat II – For those who have attended Retreat I.

If you hope to come, set those dates aside now. More information will follow in due time.