

 **the FELLOWTARIAN**

Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester

Web Edition – No Personal Phone Numbers or Addresses

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SUNDAY SERVICES

November, 2005

November 6

BEYOND CATEGORICAL THINKING

**Ministerial Search
Committee**

Fair participation by everyone in social and economic life has been a cherished Unitarian Universalist vision for centuries. It seems a small step to “walk the walk” when choosing those who will lead our spiritual journeys. This Sunday morning service will address the issues of prejudice and fairness as they pertain to our ministerial search process.

November 13

**WARREN G. HARDING
AND YOUR NEXT MINISTRY**

Rev. Larry Smith

Everyday you make hundreds of unconscious decisions based upon information you have received over a lifetime. What happens though when they are based upon faulty or dated assumptions? How do we recognize our own prejudice?

November 20

AFFIRMING JUSTICE AND COMPASSION

**Rev. Larry Smith
Tom Townsend**

A highlight of our church year is the annual intergenerational kickoff for the “Guest at Your Table” program. Let’s begin the holiday season and celebrate this joyous occasion together as we join to support OUR charity, the UUSC. Boxes will be distributed; get one for your table.

November 27

STUMP THE HYMNIST

**Erin Behler
Michael Werner**

Our new hymnist this year is Erin Behler. She has volunteered to join us for this fun service, which has become a UFWC tradition. Have you ever wondered how Larry picks the hymns to match his sermon? Do you have a favorite hymn that you haven’t sung in a long time? Can you challenge Erin and Michael with an unfamiliar tune? Join us for a morning of song and a chance to focus on the talents of our new hymnist.

FROM YOUR INTERIM MINISTER

As I look at upcoming happenings around the church I am reminded that our work together in this interim ministry period is very brief and that much has been accomplished. I have seen more change in the past year in this church than I have ever seen in any Unitarian Universalist congregation—and I have been affiliated with or served ten congregations thus far. The most important change is that this church is more open to possibility than it was before the interim period. In other words, I think that this congregation is doing great!

Now that I have told you that you are doing great, let me share with you some of the “growing edges” you might want to consider for your future ministry. These ideas are not intended for this year but are “seeds” that I hope you will consider planting in your future ministry.

Social Justice: West Chester has a racially and ethnically diverse population yet this is not represented by the membership of this congregation. I do not imagine that this church is consciously discriminating against minorities but has not extended itself much into its larger community. The Extension Department of the UUA offers resources for congregations wishing to work on issues of racism and cultural diversity.

The only social justice project that the congregation has approved as a body is voting to become a Welcoming Congregation. One of the members of the Social Justice Committee recently pointed out that sometimes the fact that the Fellowship is a Welcoming Congregation is one of the best-kept secrets in West Chester. Again, resources exist to help the church become more public in its

ministry to and advocacy for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender folks and their allies.

Campus Ministry: Due to its proximity to West Chester University, this congregation is well situated to extend welcome to students yet no outreach is currently going on. That this congregation is so close to a university but does not extend itself to them is, frankly, almost a sin of omission. Harsh words, I know. I feel though that this congregation has more opportunity for outreach within two blocks of its building than most churches have within ten or twenty miles. The Joseph Priestley District employs a consultant for young adult and campus ministry. She would love to work with this congregation around these issues.

Long Range Plan: I believe that within two years of your settled minister's arrival that the Fellowship will need to come up with another long range plan. Churches need to revisit the long range planning process every three to five years and by then it will be time. The most pressing need will be planning for the building. Currently, the church building eats away at the energy of the congregation due to lack of space, leaky basement and resultant mold growth, and lack of aesthetic quality. The congregation will need to rethink the church building and provide additional space in the neighborhood for a minister's office, board and committee meeting rooms and classrooms if the congregation is to grow. The other alternative is to move to another facility entirely.

It seems to me that when the Fellowship moved into the current building years ago that it was moving into a building that suited the ministry that it served then. Since that time though, it has become

more and more difficult to fulfill its ministry there. It seems to me that sometimes the church fits its ministry to the resources of the building, a Procrustean solution at best.

What is the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester known for in this community? What would you like to be known for? You have an abundance of blessings and more possibility than any church that I have ever been affiliated with. The only limitations on your future ministry here are the ones you decide upon. As your interim minister it is my responsibility to share with you my impressions and to suggest possibilities. The Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester is a caring, resourceful community. I believe that the best days are yet to come—if this congregation expands its ministry.

As November is the month for Thanksgiving, I would share with you that the church might feel grateful to have so many possibilities, so many blessings. As we consider our blessings, let us also resolve to share them. This is a great church and it could be even greater!

— See you in church
Rev. Larry Smith

PRELIMINARY AUCTION RESULTS

Thank you for participating in this year's Annual Auction. The congregation's hard work and generosity made the event a monumental success. At press time, the unofficial tally is a record at \$11,772.

— Chris Benner

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am delighted to report that we now have a Bridging Team in place and working with our consultant, Rev. Tom Chulak, on issues related to our transition from a pastoral to a program-sized church.

Bruce Koepcke is enthusiastically leading the team, which also includes Rob Sartain, Mary Yeager, and board vice president Bob Scott. I'm excited about the insights they bring to our Fellowship and very appreciative of their willingness to serve in this important area. A report on their activities and plans thus far is in another article in the *Fellowtarian*.

Included in their plans are meetings with Rev. Chulak on Friday night and Saturday, November 4 and 5. This is the only weekend that Rev. Chulak was available to meet with the team and the Fellowship leadership. Part of the session on November 5 is open to the entire membership; part of it is open to the Fellowship Council, and part of it is for only the Board and Bridging Team.

On Sunday, November 6, the Search Committee has planned a service and workshop on "Beyond Categorical Thinking" that will be led by a team of UUA facilitators. Their three-hour workshop in the afternoon, open to the entire membership, should offer important insights to us all as we go through the search process.

It makes for a busy weekend - and certainly, in the best of all possible worlds, I'd prefer not to see two such important events running back-to-back. Unfortunately, due to the schedules of the workshop leaders involved, the close timing was unavoidable. I urge you to take a close look at your calendar and try to set aside time for one or both of these events.

While the timing is unfortunate, these two events point to the fact that we are indeed "off and running" on an exciting new year, one in which we are focused on the dual goals of calling a new minister and making the changes necessary for growth. Another important initiative has also gotten off the ground with the first meeting of our Fellowship Council, comprised of the chairs of all our Fellowship Committees. Bob Scott is leading this effort to improve communications, foster cooperation among committees on inter-related Fellowship activities, and revise and/or create accurate and updated procedures and policies. The Council is an important piece in our growth planning for this year.

Finally, I can't sign off on this column without saying that it is being written right after a very successful and enjoyable service auction. We raised a great deal of

money - approximately \$10,000 - and had a lot of fun besides. Many, many people contributed to its success, all of whom chair Chris Brenner thanked at the conclusion of the evening. But it takes someone to organize the overall effort, delegate the various tasks, and make sure there are no gaps in planning. That someone was Chris. I happen to know that she had some major family commitments in the midst of the planning, but like the energizer bunny, she kept going! On behalf of all of us, thank you Chris.

I'd add that the fun was as important as the money in this event. Let's keep focused on our vision and our goals, but always remember to have fun along the way, and to support one another in our life's journeys. See you in church,

— Flo Miller

BOARD OF TRUSTEES - OCT 11, 2005

Mark Steele of the Ministerial Search Committee presented a prospective letter of agreement for a settled minister to the board. A discussion ensued, and several modifications were suggested. A motion was passed approving the amended letter of agreement.

Tilo Stahl of the Building Committee presented a proposed design for a new sign for front of the Fellowship building. After some discussion, the design was approved with a few minor modifications.

A motion was passed approving the rental of the building to an organization called the Pagan Arts Initiative. They will present a Winter Solstice Celebration on Saturday, December 10. This will be a ritual performance of song and spoken word based on older traditions of welcoming the sun's return and the dawning of the New Year.

The formation of an ad hoc committee was approved to review possible grant applications, such as Veatch and Chalice Lighters. Social Justice and growth are two areas that might qualify for grants. The committee will have a six-month lifespan.

The Reverend Ken Beldon and Jim Reilly of the new WellSpring Unitarian Church introduced themselves to the board, and discussed the start up strategies for the church. The leadership of the new church is looking forward to positive and mutually supportive relationships with all the area UU congregations.

— Paul Sapko, Secretary

NOTES FROM UNDERGROUND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

We are up and running with double services! In spite of the uncertainty of not knowing how many children will attend each service, everything is running smoothly. Thanks to the RE Committee, teachers and parent volunteers for all the work that has gone into planning this and that continues to go into conducting two RE programs each Sunday.

Our ninth graders, engaged in the Coming of Age program this year, are investigating the lives of famous and not-so-famous Unitarian Universalists, learning the ways in which they lived lives of principle and contributed to Unitarian Universalism.

Our seventh/eighth graders, working with the Neighboring Faiths curriculum, have started off by delving into Judaism. They visited the Jewish Family Services in October and are planning a trip to a local synagogue. Next month, they head into the world of Islam.

In the other grades, we have been enjoying the expansiveness allowed by the Way Cool Sunday School (WCSS) program. The first two Sundays of the month are devoted to Group Worship/Learning and Social Action. So far, we have explored the symbolism and history of the flaming chalice, created our own set of "pillars" based on the UU Principles, and made Halloween cards and filled treat bags for the children at the Holland Glen Hospice in Montgomery County.

Throughout the year, we will continue exploring UUism, cook up meals for the Safe Harbor homeless shelter, and find other ways to support the children at Holland Glen.

The WCSS approach is helping us be more intentional about what we do on our Children's Worship Sundays. Rather than having just three or four of these Sundays during the year, we now have ten built into the schedule. The obvious question is, "What do we want to accomplish on those Sundays?"

It is my intention to use the group time on the first Sunday of each month to continue to explore and learn about the basics of Unitarian Universalism: What's a Unitarian? What's a Universalist? Where did we come from? What do we do? How do we worship? We'll look at symbols and rituals and, on our Social Action Sundays, learn first hand one of the ways in which we can be UU's, i.e., service to others.

A brief history of the symbol of the flaming chalice:

The ancient symbols of a chalice and a flame were brought together in 1941 by an Austrian artist, Hans Deutsch, to serve as a logo for the Unitarian Service Committee (USC), which had been created to help people in eastern Europe escape Nazi persecution. A recognizable symbol was needed both to help people in need recognize aid (the flaming chalice on a truck or house indicated safety and help), and to represent the USC to government agencies on official documents and papers.

The Reverend Charles Joy, executive director of the USC, told Deutsch that they needed a symbol for their papers, "to make them look official, to give dignity and importance to them, and at the same time to symbolize the spirit of our work." In time, the flaming chalice came to repre-

sent Unitarian Universalism itself, with the double circles that sometimes surround the chalice representing the merging of the Unitarians and Universalists in 1961.

To do at home: Parents, talk with your children about the symbol of the chalice. What does the chalice symbolize? The flame? Also, continue coming out for our RE Family Socials and other church social events, and help support existing and developing friendships.

— Pam Baxter
Director of Religious Education

BABES IN NEED OF DEDICATION?

Lately the Sunday services have been punctuated by the cries and grumbling of infants. What music it is to your minister's ears! However, it should be noted that if some of them are to be dedicated, the time is NOW! The minister will assist in dedicating infants but toddlers are too old. They tend to wiggle away or talk back during the ceremony. If you would like your infant to be dedicated please contact the minister very soon (610-692-5966).



BUILDING A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE NEW BRIDGING TEAM ESTABLISHED

When Tom Chulak, the UUA's consultant for growth, conducted our first workshop for growth in August, our congregation identified six areas that need to be addressed if we are to realize our dream of being a growing and strong religious fellowship:

- Governance
- Leadership Development
- Public Witness/outreach/justice
- Spiritual Development
- Public communications/marketing
- Identity

With Tom's guidance, the Board of Trustees has appointed a small team of congregants to work closely with Tom to act as liaison between the consultant and the Board. The team consists of Bruce Koepcke (Chair), Rob Sartain, Bob Scott, and Mary Yeager.

Tom will be with us again on November 4 and 5 to conduct a working session with the Bridging Team, the Board, and the Fellowship Council. The meetings will take place at the Fellowship on Saturday November 5 beginning at 10:00 a.m. The day will be divided into three sessions — the first for the Team and the Board, the second to include the Fellowship Council, and the third, beginning at 1:00 p.m., will be open to any and all members of the congregation who would like to learn more about the details of the growth initiative at this stage. A light lunch will be served beginning at 1:00 p.m.

This is an exciting time for our congregation, and we need to be sure that our bright future is well thought out and planned as we move forward. All the members of the Bridging Team are pleased and proud to be a part of this new initiative.

—Bruce Koepcke

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Do you have musical talent that you wish to share with the congregation? The music committee had their first meeting on Thursday night, October 13, and they discussed these issues:

- How best to integrate music with the themes of each service.
- How to stimulate a variety of music throughout the main congregational schedule — September to mid-June.

In addition to piano and our church choir, we can look forward to solo violin, organ, string ensemble, ethnic drums, solo vocalists and trios performing this year. If you would like to perform, please let us know by emailing Elaine Friedlander (email: music), and a committee member will be in touch with you.

— Tom Buglio



MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

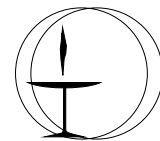
Please plan to join us on November 6 for the *Beyond Categorical Thinking* program – see the separate article in this issue with all the details, and RSVP to let us know you'll be participating.

Also, on December 11 in the afternoon, we'll have a Ministerial Search Committee "Talk Back" social event where we'll share some food and drink, and the survey results, with the congregation. And you'll have a chance to share your thoughts and concerns with us. More details to come – watch for them in the *Fellowtarian*, in the Order of Service and in email.

Our Congregational Record (CR) is now available to ministers on the UUA website and soon, we'll receive a list of all interested ministers. We're currently wrapping up work on the packet, which we'll exchange with these interested candidates and launch into the next phase of our search.

While we look forward to the coming social event in December, the committee is available and interested in hearing your views and concerns at any time. Please feel free to approach us during coffee hour or via email to search-committee.

— Eileen Kelly
Ministerial Search Committee



MANY HANDS WORKING FOCUS ON FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS

For the foreseeable future, the Fellowship Board will be taking time out of its monthly meeting schedule to recognize the many volunteers who are contributing to our community in so many ways.

We made the decision to do this because of the exceptionally high level of commitment among our members right now. There are so many to be recognized that we could not possibly name them all at one time or in one program. By naming a few individuals or committees every month, the Board hopes to be able to at least “make a dent” in the thanks due to our volunteers.

For October, the Board is recognizing the Building Committee, headed by Tilo Stahl and Bob Radcliffe; the Personnel Committee, headed by Sue Gast; and Heidi Buss, a member of the Caring Committee.

The work accomplished by the Building Committee is massive and evident in every corner of our Fellowship home. This summer alone, they did a beautiful job of refinishing the floor in our basement RE area. They have made a truly Herculean effort to keep water out of the basement and are continuing to monitor that situation. (In bad rain storms, when the rest of us are warm and dry at home, you can bet someone from this committee is checking on the Fellowship building.) They are making other plans for improvements to our building. And meanwhile – on a regular basis – they recruit a veritable army of volunteers to help with clean-ups, painting, and other maintenance jobs. There are many people involved

besides Tilo and Bob, and the Board thanks them all. But to Tilo and Bob, we send special accolades.

The Personnel Committee, including Linda Sander, Jeff Kriebel, and Kathy Neery in addition to Sue Gast, has completed a comprehensive Personnel Manual that will serve us well as our paid staff grows. This 21-page document required the committee to research, read and adapt manuals available through the UUA and other churches. It took months of work, all of it invisible to the wider membership. We’re making that work “visible” now with our recognition for a job well done. If you wish to take a look at the finished product, it’s posted on the members’ area of our website.

You may have noticed Heidi Buss taking notes during Caring and Sharing at our services. These notes are being relayed to the Fellowship Caring Committee so that they can keep track of happenings within our personal lives that might need a follow-up. Heidi also lets Larry know if something was shared in first service that he might want to light another candle for in second service. This somewhat “invisible” job has very visible consequences in terms of our identity as a caring community. Thank you, Heidi, for this valuable service. And thanks to the Caring Committee, chaired by Deanna Koepcke and Dianne Herrin, for following up on matters that call for either our congratulations or our caring support.

-- Flo Miller

NEW UU CLASS

Are you curious about the history of Unitarian Universalism? Do you want to know more about what our Fellowship offers? Do you have any questions about how our Fellowship is run? All this and more will be discussed at the New UU class.

The New UU class is a series of two meetings. The first lasts about an hour; the second lasts about two hours. The class was developed for those who are new to Unitarian Universalism or to our Fellowship, but “old” UU’s are also welcome. The class will be held at 12:30 p.m. (after the 11:00 a.m. Sunday service) on November 13 and 20. A light lunch will be provided. Childcare will be available if you request it at least one week in advance.

We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to become better acquainted with Unitarian Universalism and with our Fellowship. If you plan to attend the New UU class in November, please let Fred Frayer know. Fred is a co-chair of the Membership Committee, and can be reached at email: membership. Besides the number of people who plan to attend, please mention whether you have any special dietary needs. In addition, if you will need childcare, let Fred know how many children you will bring, and how old they are. RSVP by Monday, November 7.

If you are interested in the New UU class, but cannot attend in November, please let Fred know that, as well. The class will be offered again in February.

BEYOND CATEGORICAL THINKING

“Will the new minister hear me? Will my concerns and needs be met? Will the minister understand what I’m living with? How will the community respond to our minister?”

In answering these questions, a picture of the “ideal minister” (categorized by age, gender, gender identity, nationality, physical ability, race, and sexual orientation) comes to mind. With this picture in place, it can be easy to unintentionally exclude ministers who fall into certain categories. At times, as we get caught up in comparing candidates to our “picture,” we can even forget what it is we hoped for in a minister.

On the weekend of November 6, 2005, The Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester will participate in the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop offered by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) for congregations involved in the search for a new minister. The Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester Search Committee invited all congregational leaders, members, and friends to participate in this workshop.

The Beyond Categorical Thinking program is designed to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair discrimination in the search process for a new minister. This program includes a Sunday morning service with Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop facilitators followed by a three-hour workshop. In the workshop, participants will:

- Consider the hopes, expectations, and concerns they have for a new minister
- Learn more about the ministerial search process, and

- Explore how thinking categorically about people sometimes interferes with choosing the best candidate
- Come to the Fellowship on Sunday, November 6, at 12:30 p.m., to participate in this UUA-sponsored workshop. Lunch will be provided for participants. Babysitting will be provided if requested in advance. If you are

able to attend, please notify Heidi Frayer.

The selection of a minister is important. The Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop is another opportunity for everyone in our congregation to be a part of that process. This experience will provide guidance for the Search Committee in our work.

HAVE YOU MET MIRA TRYON?

When did you join? September 11, 2005.

Why did you join? I was looking for community and a place to belong with people who share my thoughts and views. I was raised Catholic and knew very early that I was not suited there. It took some time and exploration to find Unitarians.

Where do you live, and how long have you lived there? I was born and raised in Media, Pa., and moved all the way to West Chester in 1974. I’ve lived in West Goshen since 1994.

What are your job/hobbies/interests, or what do you enjoy doing in your free time? Yoga and massage are my jobs as well as lifestyle. I also work at Matlack Florist in the outdoor plant department communing with flowers, soil and nature. I enjoy biking, walking, hiking, crossword puzzles, reading, conversation, nature, new experiences and hospice volunteering.

Are you involved in Fellowship committees/activities or plan to be? I’m on the Membership Committee, choir, teach Yoga and pitch in wherever I can help.

Tell us about your family/pets. I live with two cats, Topaz and Sophia. My son, Michael, is married and lives in Wilmington with his wife and 9-month-old son Christopher. My son, Bill, is married and lives in Chadds Ford with his wife and daughters Eva (3) and Alexandra (8 months).

Any future plans/changes in your life expected? After I win the lottery...! Otherwise, I am perfectly content. Well, maybe, something to share my contentment with would be a nice change.

What adjectives would you use to describe yourself? Mellow, thoughtful, conscientious, Unitarian.

What else would you like people to know about you? If anyone wants to try a new restaurant, bike a new trail, take a hike, go to a blues festival or anything else — give me a call. I am open to living life.



SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

The Social Justice “Fair” was held on Sunday, October 2. On the same day was the annual Chester County PrideFest, and there were eleven Fellowship members who attended this event.

Coming Events. Once again this fall we will participate in two events to support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), which is OUR charity.

The first is the sale of holiday greeting cards after each service. There are four beautiful designs again this year, three of which were created by UUs. These have been ordered and will be available as soon as they are received. To see what they look like, visit the UUSC website (www.uusc.org).

The second is the “Guest at Your Table” project. Once again we will have a special, intergenerational service to launch this important celebration the Sunday before Thanksgiving (November 20), and the boxes will be collected in January. So plan to take home a box and put it prominently on your table!



Meals at Shelters — Chefs Needed. There are not enough people signed up for the preparation and serving of meals at two local shelters. First of all, there is a new schedule. Previously, the term extended from March to March, but now it extends from November to November. So regardless of whether you are continuing to participate or if you are joining this project for the first

time, please contact Catherine Sachs. Here are the details:

Our Fellowship prepares and serves dinner at the Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter every second Sunday of the month and lunch for the Salvation Army every fourth Saturday. It works like this: For each meal, we have one “Lead Chef” and two “Helper Chefs”. The “Lead” arranges the menu and contacts the others. The “Helpers” assist in cooking a portion of the meal. The “Lead” usually serves the meal at the shelter and the “Helpers” are welcome, but not required to help serve.

Generally, a person or family signs up to be a “lead” one time a year and a “helper” two times a year. It is fine if you want to do more or less than that or if you only want to be a “lead” or only want to be a “helper”. Salvation Army is open to chefs of all ages and chefs must be at least twelve to help at Safe Harbor.

To get on the schedule for this year...email Catherine Sachs ASAP at safe-harbor and let her know:

- Name, address, phone, email
- Preference for Safe Harbor or Salvation Army
- Number of times per year you'd like to be scheduled
- Type of “Chef” you'd like to be (Lead or Helper)
- Months you know in advance that are BAD for you (the schedule runs from November 2005-November 2006)

Special note to new people:

Welcome! There are many of us that have been doing this for a while and it's a very easy way to make a small commitment to our community. If you're unsure of what or how much to make, where to go, or whatever — we'll help you. Usually we put new people on as Helpers before we schedule them as Lead Chefs.

REGIONAL UU YOUNG ADULT ANTI-OPPRESSION TRAINING

**Radically Inclusive, Spiritually Alive, Justice Centered
November 18-20
Friday 5:00 pm to Sunday 9:00 am
UU Church of the Restoration
6900 Stenton Ave, Philadelphia PA 19150**

Anti-Oppression work is a spiritual practice. One of the ways in which we live our Unitarian Universalist faith is through justice making. This introductory training will focus on linked oppressions and the connection between anti-oppression work and spirituality. There will be programming for the advanced learner as well.

For information and registration: www.ConnectUU.com.

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

It has been an excellent month, and are looking forward to an outstanding year. Since our first meeting, we've:

- welcomed several new members, including youth not yet affiliated with the Fellowship,
- been to the Annapolis Con and met 50 UU Youth from around the District,
- sent four leaders to Harrisburg for training,
- played some excellent games,
- been interviewed by the Ministerial search committee for our ideas on characteristics necessary for a minister,
- conducted fundraising for the Philadelphia AIDS walk, and
- got planning underway for the haunting of the basement in collaboration with the RE and Fun and Fellowship Committees

A hearty group of us went on the AIDS Walk on the 16th. We met at the Malvern Train station, rode into Philly, handed in our collections - and learned that we had exceeded our fund-raising goals and once again contributed more than the year before.

The most exciting event of the month is the haunting. For the first time ever, three separate church groups, the RE Committee, the Fun and Fellowship Committee, and the Youth Group collaborate on a major event. The October Halloween Celebration includes games, two films, and a haunted basement. It's huge! It also provides us with ideas about other potential collaborations that we could encourage.

What is next? We've a lot being planned. How about:

- a discussion on abortion,
- our own social action selection process,
- a pizza and movie discussion night,
- two concerts,
- a discussion on intelligent design,
- attending at least two more CON events within the District,
- costume bowling,
- a major Martin Luther King Day event,
- a trip to Chinatown for a New Year's Day dinner celebration,
- a discussion on assisted suicide, and

- lots more

Intrigued? Want to learn more about why UU Youth get the highest SAT scores of any denomination? Want to just hang out and make a contribution to the community? What is stopping you?? The youth group is open to youth from 8th through 12th grade. If you have any questions, please send them to email: youth-group or feel free to contact any of the youth leaders. We meet almost every Sunday evening, from 6 pm until 7:30, downstairs in the Fellowship. Be there.

A HAUNTED HALLOWEEN NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

The Fun and Fellowship Committee, the RE Committee and the Youth Group, announce that on Friday evening, October 28, the Fellowship will be turned into a place of horror. No, not another basement flood event or series of committee meetings. A combination of Halloween games, scary movies and a haunted basement.



Have you been downstairs when it is dark? That is scary enough. Wait until you see what can be done. Much mischief, mayhem, murder, mutilation, and mortification, and all that just in the new RE office alone!! Come and enjoy a night out with your friends and family.

Games start at 6:00 p.m., and the initial scary movie will start around 7:00 p.m. (not too scary, of course), with the haunting at intermission. A scarier movie will be held after the haunting.

Watch your e-mails and the Order of Service for more details. Light snacks will be available, cheap, including fresh hot popcorn from the Youth Group's very own professional popcorn machine. A donation of \$5 per person, \$10 per family is requested. Be There.

BICARB BISTRO

The date is set! (Saturday, November 12) The media has been notified! (*The Fellowtarian*) The competition is preparing. That's right, it's almost time for the Fellowship's Annual Bicarb Bistro. This Fellowship tradition showcases our members and friends culinary skills. In the spirit of Universalism, anyone may enter this competition. In the tradition of Unitarianism, everyone gets to vote.



Don't let all the hoopla scare you. The Bicarb Bistro is a fun social event held each fall where you may make a dish to be sampled by everyone who attends. The entries are numbered, and the voting is anonymous. After everyone has sampled the entries, ballots are collected and tallied (chad or no chad). The winners receive fabulous prizes.

Everyone else gets to enjoy our Fellowship friends and to go home with a full tummy.

Our two categories this year are "Just like Mama used to make" and pies. "Just like Mama used to make" may refer to your favorite food when you were growing up or it can be your favorite "comfort" (main dish) food.

Those bringing food should arrive at 6:00 p.m. People will be taking a small sampling of the food, so small pieces are requested. Vegetarian dishes are welcome (and wished for). Those who come just to eat should arrive at 6:30 p.m. and are asked to donate \$3/person to defray costs. The Fun & Fellowship Committee provides a tossed salad and beverages. (Beer and wine will be available — \$1 donation/drink).

We are also lucky to have some live entertainment that night. A Fellowship member has donated a Service Auction purchase of a piano player's performance for the evening. This is an evening we can all look forward to.

There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer. Contact Mary Yeager, email: fun.

FOLK SINGING

Folk singing is scheduled for Saturday, November 19, 8:00 p.m., at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. All are welcome. No experience or talent necessary. Bring a munchie, if you wish. Contact Steve, email: folk-singing.

CARING CORNER

- Our warmest congratulations go to Beth, Brad, and Taite Daniels on the arrival of their newest family member. Anna was born on September 22. Everyone is doing very well!
- We are pleased to announce the birth of Sam Michael Golub, the second grandson of Fatima and Erach Patel. Sam was born on October 2 to Pareez and Michael and is baby brother to Eric. Congratulations to the entire family!

EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Sunday, November 20, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Kerri Petterson will lead our discussion of *Tortilla Curtain*, by T.C.Boyle. This novel tells the tale of Delaney Mossbacher who one night swerves his car into Candido Rincon resulting in the collision of their two alien worlds: affluent Californian meets the precarious existence of the illegal Mexican immigrant. After the car accident, the parallel lives of the two men continue to veer menacingly close until their fates finally intersect. This story offers many viewpoints on diversity besides the obvious. We will also choose our movies for December and January and welcome your suggestions. Please join us!

Contact Ruth MacFadyen or Shelly Case.

BOOK CLUB NOTE

Alex Kotlowitz author of our October Selection, *There are No Children Here: The Story of Two Boys Growing Up in the Other America*, will be at Downingtown High School West Monday, November 7 at 7 p.m. Mr. Kotlowitz is this year's Guest for the 7th Annual Downingtown School District's Author Lecture Series which focuses on diversity.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Downingtown High School West is located at 445 Manor Avenue. Contact Ruth or Shelly.

SIMPLICITY CIRCLE

What do we most deeply seek in our varied lives? Simplicity Circle meets monthly to focus on our strivings for a life of meaning, one that goes beyond the clutter and wasters of precious time and energy. What are we really after? What can we find that provides a sense of profound and lasting satisfaction? Individual experiences and answers will vary, and definitions will not be all the same. It is in the being together like this that we begin to find the answers for ourselves.

We will continue to touch base with previous themes that have helped to simplify our lives. We will ask, "How do we decide what is necessary and important?" To assist us, we have begun reviewing Carol Jones' "Tips for Living an Inspired Life", such as, "Find the Best Fit, Yank Weeds From Your Mental Garden, Be Who You Say You Are." Action plans can include simply asking ourselves what is really important?

Current membership includes some from previous years and new members joining. We meet after the 11 a.m. service the first Sunday of the month. Contact Heidi Buss, email: simplicity).

LUNCH GROUP REMINDER

Don't forget that the Lunch Group has a new date and place — **third** Friday (November 18 this month) at the **Exton** Atlanta Bread Company (Main Street Shopping Center). It still meets at 11:30 a.m. Contact Linda Sander (email: lunch-group) to be placed on the reminder email list. All are welcome. Details at www.ufwc.org/lunch_group.htm.

FALL CLEAN UP DAY

Building Committee Requests the pleasure of your company at Fall Clean up Day, November 5, 2005. We start at 9:00 a.m. and will work until 3:00 p.m.



Leaves need collecting, shrubs need clipping, grass needs cutting, rugs need cleaning, bathrooms need sprucing up, storage cabinets need painting, walls need repair, plaster needs plastering, windows need cleaning, Air conditioners need storage, storm windows need installation, stone walls need repair, and Bob needs a life. HELP!

There will be a potluck lunch around 1:00 p.m. for those who can stay. Even if you can only spare an hour, we can find a place for you to help.

Contact Building Chair Bob Radcliffe, email: building.

HOLIDAY PARTIES

The Holidays are a great time for catching up with old friends and making new ones. Our current tradition at the Fellowship is to have gatherings in members/friends homes in November, December, and/or January.

You can volunteer to host a gathering in your home over the holidays. All you need to provide are the beverages and an appetizer. Your guests will each bring another appetizer and - an instant party. It is that simple.



To host a party, sign up by e-mail or at the table in the foyer. We would like to get the dates for the Holiday gatherings on the calendar by November 6 so contact us this week. Please consider hosting a party at your home. We look forward to seeing you at a Fellowship Party this holiday season. The Fun & Fellowship Committee would be happy to answer any questions you might have. Contact Nancy Artus, email: fun.

YOGA

Yoga classes will resume beginning Thursday, October 27, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. downstairs. Focus will be on stretching, breathing, flexibility, mind/body awareness and relaxation. All levels are welcome because you are encouraged to listen to and honor your own body. The fee is \$8.00 per class. Call Mira Tryon. See you there!

POTLUCK AND GAME NIGHT

Our next Game night is Friday, November 4, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship building. Everyone is welcome; just bring a dish and a beverage to share as well as any game(s) you would like to play. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. followed by games usually around 7:00. Contact Craig Talbot (email: fun) if you have any questions.

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

- Oct 28 Fri A Haunted Halloween Night at the Movies.** 6:00 p.m. See p. 9.
- Nov 2 Wed RE Committee.** 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Fellowship. E-mail: RE.
- Nov 3 Thu Fun and Fellowship Committee.** 7:00 p.m. Mary Yeager's home. Contact Mary Yeager, email: fun.
- Finance Committee.** 7:30 p.m. at the Fellowship. Contact Erach Patel, email: finance.
- Nov 4 Fri Potluck and Game Night.** 6:30 p.m. at the Fellowship. See p. 11.
- Nov 5 Sat Fall Clean Up Day.** 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Everyone's help is needed and appreciated. See p. 11.
- Bridging Workshop** led by UUA Growth Consultant, Tom Chulak. 1:00 p.m. meeting for all members. Morning meetings for the Board and the Fellowship Council. Light lunch provided. See p. 5.
- Nov 6 Sun Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop** sponsored by UUA and the Ministerial Search Committee. 12:30-3:30 p.m. Lunch provided. See p. 7.
- Simplicity Circle.** 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship. See p. 11.
- Social Justice Committee.** 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. Contact Tom Townsend, email: social-justice.
- Nov 8 Tue Board Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship office. All are welcome.
- Nov 12 Sat Bicarb Bistro.** 6:30 p.m. (Contestants arrive at 6:00 p.m.) See p. 10.
- Nov 13 Sun New UU Class.** 12:30 p.m. See p. 6.
- Safe Harbor Dinner.** Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. See Social Justice News, p. 8.
- Nov 11 Fri Chester County Peace Movement's "Second Friday" Film Series.** *Bringing Down a Dictator*, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship.
- Nov 18 Fri Lunch Group.** 11:30 a.m. at Atlanta Bread Company, Exton. See p. 11.
- Nov 18-20 Fri-Sun Regional UU Young Adult Anti-Oppression Training.** UU Church of the Restoration, Philadelphia. See p. 8.
- Nov 19 Fri Folk Singing.** 8:00 p.m. at the home of Steve and Linda Sander. See p. 10.
- Nov 20 Sun New UU Class.** 12:30 p.m. See p. 6.
- Exploring Diversity Book Discussion Group.** 7:30-9:00 p.m. at the Fellowship. See p. 10.
- Nov 22 Tue Building Committee.** 7:00 p.m., fireplace room. Contact Tilo Stahl or Bob Radcliffe, email: building.
- Nov 26 Sat Lunch for the Needy.** At the Salvation Army. See Social Justice News, p. 8.

Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

Choir Practice. Thursdays 7:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Yoga. Thursdays 6:00-7:00 pm. See p. 11.

Youth Group. Most Sunday evenings 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the OWL/Youth Group Room. Contact Michael Werner, email: youth-group.