 **the**
FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester

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SUNDAY SERVICES

April, 2006

April 2

KEEPING FAITH ON THE JOURNEY

Rev. Larry Smith

If life is a spiritual journey then what does one need to make it to the “promised land?” What does this journey look like for a religious community? How do we equip ourselves for the future?

April 9

IN EVERY ONE OF THOSE WORLDS I WILL BE HIS MOTHER

Rev. Larry Smith

Legend says that his conception happened by mystical means and that he ascended bodily into the heavens at the end of life. He was wise and performed many miraculous feats. This is his mother’s story—and she probably is not the one you imagine.

April 16

ALIVE AGAIN

Rev. Larry Smith

On this Easter Sunday we will consider what it means to face death and to discover life again.

April 23

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

**UFWC Youth Group and
Rev. Larry Smith**

This annual service always provides a glimpse into the minds of our youth. The Youth Group and Rev. Smith will collaborate in this service. The Youth Group will prepare a list of “Life’s Challenging Questions” for Rev. Smith. He will reply with impromptu answers, but he reserves the option to ask some of the same questions (and perhaps others) of the Youth Group members.

April 30

CANDIDATING WEEK BEGINS

Candidate Minister TBA

Our two-year quest to call another superior minister reaches its climax. Our Search Team has invited the individual they feel can best lead the UFWC to an exciting future. This will be our first chance to hear that minister. Please join us in greeting the candidate.

Services, Religious Education & Babysitting at 9 AM and 11 AM

FROM YOUR INTERIM MINISTER

The future. Everything that the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester has worked for the past two years has been about the future. Going to two services, embracing a new vision statement, considering a new system of governance, developing policies and procedures, welcoming visitors and new members, developing and sustaining leadership—all of this has been about the future for this congregation. In a sense though all the planning is also about learning ways to make our liberal faith more effective. We hope that our work will bear fruit for the Fellowship, the community of West Chester, the nation, the world.

In a meeting with the Board and the Bridging Team in February Bruce Koepke asked the Board to imagine that the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester were being given awards by the Unitarian Universalist Association ten years from now for being an outstanding congregation. What would that congregation look like? What would you, as a community, need to do to make your church into the institution that would make you even prouder than you are today of it? This is the kind of conversation that is rare in our movement but, not in this congregation these days.

You are collectively on a new journey and it will begin in two very real ways in the month of April. First, in late April the congregation will meet the candidate for the church's ministry for the first time. This will be someone chosen from a fairly large pool of ministers interested in the Fellowship who the ministerial search committee feels best represents the congregations vision and has the ability to lead you and sup-

port you in the future. I would encourage every member to meet with the candidate and hear him or her preach. Listen and ask questions. Be prepared to answer questions from the candidate as well. Your ministry together will be a shared undertaking and he or she will want to know about you too. Trust that the Ministerial Search Committee has worked hard to find the right minister for this congregation.

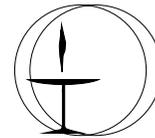
For the second part of the new journey I ask you to consider raising your pledge to the Fellowship for the coming year. This is not an easy thing for me to ask of you. I know that many members are already stretched with their existing pledges. The Fellowship does need more income though if the Fellowship's future ministry is to start well. If you can, do give generously to the congregation. By doing so you affirm that this religious community has a vision and that you support it.

April essentially marks a new journey for this congregation. I would be remiss if I did not point out also that it marks the beginning of the end of the journey that we began together in 2004. Interim ministers enter congregations knowing that they will leave in a year or two. Hopefully, at that point the congregation will have fulfilled the developmental tasks of the interim ministry process: come to terms with history, developed new leadership, renewed denominational linkages, embraced a new identity and a new vision. This church has accomplished those goals admirably.

At this point, the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester is at a critical juncture and the actions that you take, the pledges given and the new minister called, will

determine the success of your vision. In the end I ask you to support both to the degree to which you are capable. It is, after all, your future that you are deciding.

— See you in church,
Larry



CANDIDATING WEEK

NEWS FLASH!!! We will be celebrating Candidating Week from Sunday April 30 to Sunday May 7.

Plan to be around that week. The week will start with our candidate preaching for both services, there will be social events and committee meetings during the week and a big congregational social on Saturday, May 6 — many opportunities to meet our candidate! Most importantly, after our candidate preaches at both services on the 7th, there will be a congregational vote on whether to call this candidate as our settled minister.

Times of events will be announced when the week draws closer, but please plan now to be here for these important events.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Changes in our Fellowship's organizational structure have been the focus of Board discussions over the past month. Because we feel it is important that the entire congregation be informed on these changes, we scheduled an informational meeting for March 19 to answer questions and provide input. I hope you were able to attend.

We have also placed a graphic illustration of the proposed structure in the lobby with a printed brochure that provides additional information. Those materials will remain in the lobby for at least the next few weeks. In addition, members of the Board are available to talk with you about this very important issue at any time. Please don't hesitate to ask us about it.

Basically, the change frees the Board from the day-to-day operations of the Fellowship. The operational responsibility, which has been the focus of Board meetings in the past, has been time-consuming and unwieldy for a body of only eight members to handle. It also has not given the Board time to focus on our vision and goals. With the operational responsibility removed, the Board is now free to do this.

Under the new structure, the responsibility for operations lies with the newly formed Fellowship Council of committee chairs. To a certain extent, our committees have always been the operational arm of the Fellowship. But decisions were referred to the Board and there was no structure in place for the regular exchange of information from committee to committee. Now, individual committees are responsible for making decisions that fall within their area as long as those decisions

are in keeping with our Fellowship goals and are within the committee's budget. Through regular council meetings, the committees can discuss and decide matters that cross over into more than one committee area. Only issues related to policy or

those that cannot be resolved on the individual committee or council level will be referred to the Board. I will not attempt in this brief column to explain the change further, but would rather

Cont'd page 9...

LONG-RANGE GOALS UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP OF WEST CHESTER

The following long-range goals were established by the Board of Trustees in a retreat on February 25, 2006. They are to be used as a basis for planning and programming by the committees and the Fellowship Council in cooperation with the Board. They are presented in no special order here.

- Leadership. Improve the Fellowship's long-term leadership capabilities through the implementation of a governance model that is better suited to the needs of today's congregation, and the development and implementation of a program to identify and develop future leaders.
- Membership. Through our ministry and programs, attract new members at a rate that will allow the Fellowship to grow to two to three times its current size over the next 8-10 years. Build the congregation's awareness of guest and new member relationships in such a way as to improve our retention of guests significantly.
- Community Awareness. Become well-known and recognized in the community as a source of liberal spirituality and a force for social justice through our outreach programs and a consistent program of external communications.
- Diversity. Encourage diversity in our congregation (age, ethnicity and lifestyle preferences), and in our theology. Reach out to the West Chester University community to become more attractive to students.
- Congregational Health. Maintain a healthy, caring congregation by improving our internal communications, our ministries for those in need, our social activities, our financial stability, and strong and healthy relationships with the UUA denomination.
- Spirituality/Ministry. Expand and broaden our spiritual programs to provide a rich religious experience for our children and our adults through religious education, religious services, music, social justice programs and small group ministries.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

We have finished our pre-candidating weekends - whew! What is a pre-candidating weekend, you ask? It is an informative, fun, exhilarating and exhausting weekend that starts with Friday night dinner — then it continues on Saturday with tours of the Fellowship and the local area, potluck lunch and an intensive interview for 6-7 hours. On Sunday, we attend a neutral pulpit where the pre-candidate designs the service and delivers the sermon, followed by a long lunch before the pre-candidate departs. To complete the weekend, the committee meets immediately for several hours to discuss our thoughts while they are fresh in our minds. This format gave us a great chance to get to know the ministers and to help them get to know us - who we are as a congregation, our aspirations for the future, and how our ministries might fit together.

Now we're entering the most important part of our year-long process —choosing among these very qualified individuals to select our candidate! What follows may be even harder - waiting to learn whether the one we select accepts our offer to be our candidate! If they accept our offer, then the negotiating team will iron out any issues with the letter of agreement - though all of the pre-candidates were impressed with the fairness and thoroughness of our draft letter. Assuming all this goes well, we'll FINALLY be able to announce a candidate! We're hoping to be able to make this announcement in the near future.

Many thanks to all for your thoughts, candles and support during this past year. Keep them coming — we're almost done!

— Your Ministerial Search
Committee

MATCHING PLEDGE FUNDING

We are very excited that an anonymous donor has offered to help boost our pledge drive this year by matching the giving from members and friends who significantly increase their pledge over last year. What this means is that your increase or first time pledge will count for **double** throughout the next fiscal year. What a wonderful opportunity for us at this important time for our Fellowship. Here is how it works:

- Any new, full-year pledge (even if you pledged partially for last fiscal year) will be matched provided it is at least \$500. Examples:
 - If you are a new member or friend and you decide to pledge \$150 per month or \$1,800 for the year, the whole amount will be matched.
 - If you had a partial pledge last year (pledged after November 2005), you still qualify for matching on next year's pledge.
- Any increase in your annual pledge of \$300 or greater will be matched. Example:
 - If you pledged \$1,800 (\$150 per month) last year and increased to \$2,100 (\$175 per month) this year, your \$300 increase will be matched.
- Any increase of 20% or greater will be matched. Example:
 - If you pledged \$600 (\$50 per month) last year and you increase your pledge to \$750 (\$62.50 per month) this year, your increase of \$150 will be matched.
- Make a one-time donation during the pledge drive of \$500 or more, and it will be matched.

This great friend of the Fellowship is willing to commit up to \$25,000 in matching funds if we can do our part to raise our own giving to support our new minister and all the programs we are hoping for. If you would like more information, please contact Bruce Koepcke, Stewardship Chairman or Erach Patel, Finance Committee Chairman.

STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES FOR APRIL

The Stewardship Team is requesting your presence at our annual Celebration Dinner on April 1, and at one of thirteen special gatherings for stewardship to be held throughout the month of April. At the dinner, which is a catered affair, you will be able to enjoy fine wine and great food, and be entertained by the Vintage Blend Quartet and Ed Cohle's video masterpiece. You won't want to miss it.

Each of the gatherings is an opportunity to discuss the financial needs of the Fellowship and complete your pledge on the spot. Last year these sessions were well received, and we had some fun while we did the serious business of giving to our church. You will be able to sign up for a gathering using the sheets at the back of the sanctuary through the end of April.

It is through our giving that we are able to sustain and nourish this special place in our lives. We ask each family to look into their hearts and, "give until it feels good."

LET'S CELEBRATE: WE RECEIVED A CHALICE LIGHTERS GRANT!

By this time, most of you have probably heard the wonderful news that we have been awarded a three-year \$20,000 Innovative Growth Chalice Lighters Grant from the Growth and Extension Committee of our Joseph Priestley District. We will receive \$10,000 the first year, \$6,000 the second year, and \$4,000 the third year of the grant.

The Fellowship has received extremely positive input on the grant application from Tom Parker, a member of the Thomas Paine Fellowship who is serving as liaison to the committee. According to Tom, several committee members commented that our application was among the best they'd ever seen in terms of detail, thoroughness, and backup materials.

As I said in a prior e-mail to our members and friends, this is a wonderful way to launch a spring season of historic happenings in our Fellowship. Receipt of the grant is also an enormous tribute to the energy and commitment that is so very visible in our congregation today. Innovative Growth Grants are not awarded for doing nothing. ... You have to be able to present a compelling case for the use of the money in a well-planned program for growth that is unique in its approach and replicable by other congregations. We were able to do that.

What happens next? We face the challenge of allocating the money wisely in the areas to which the grant is directed.

For starters, we all need to understand that the grant cannot be applied to general areas of the operating budget that are supported with your pledges, including salaries, building mainte-

nance and improvements, materials and supplies, regular Sunday services, and the religious education program. We continue to need your support for that through our Stewardship Campaign.

Rather, the grant is framed specifically around the work being done by our Bridging Team in cooperation with our consultant, the Rev. Tom Chulak. As the grant is written, then, the money will be applied to the Bridging Team's areas of focus, including organizational structure, leadership development, outreach/social justice, publicity/marketing, spiritual development, and our unique identity as a congregation. You will be hearing more about our allocation of the grant money in those areas as the Board works with the Bridging Team to determine the programs and resources available.

In summary, without this grant the efforts of the Bridging Team might have been rendered ineffectual due to the lack of sufficient funds to support their work. At the same time, the initiatives coming out of the Bridging Team are important in terms of meeting our growth goals. The grant monies, then, will supplement and strengthen our ongoing effort to grow but will not replace existing sources of income. Please keep that in mind as we begin our Stewardship Campaign.

Finally, I'd like to thank Erach Patel, Cyndy Bullaughey, Linda Sander, Bob Scott, Pam Sapko and Fatima Patel for their assistance in writing the grant. The Bridging Team – whose work is the very reason for the grant – is recognized elsewhere in this newsletter.

— Flo Miller



WHAT IS CHALICE LIGHTERS?

Chalice Lighters is a program of the Joseph Priestley District of the UUA that is designed to support church growth. Grants are awarded for land or building purchase, major building renovations, hiring professional staff, organizing a new congregation, or innovative growth initiatives. The grants are funded by individual "Chalice Lighters," or UUs who agree to contribute at least \$20 for each of three "calls" a year. Your Fellowship President and a number of other West Chester UUs are Chalice Lighters. Additional participation from our membership is encouraged; for more information, visit the Joseph Priestley District website at www.jpduua.org and click on Chalice Lighters.

NOTES FROM UNDERGROUND – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

Do you know what is required to become a Unitarian Universalist minister? I interviewed Reverend Larry about this recently in preparation for a series of discussions with the children about our potential new ministerial candidate. Some of the requirements are more than what I was aware of, and I think the children will also be surprised to learn what it takes.

As an ongoing part of Social Action Sundays, the children from Pre-K through 6th grade will be fundraising for the Heifer Project, the Arkansas-based organization that provides livestock, bees, tree seedlings and training to families in need throughout the world. Last month we viewed a segment from 60 Minutes that focused on a young girl from Uganda whose family received a goat from the Heifer Project. From the money earned by selling the surplus milk, Beatrice was able to go to school and eventually earn a scholarship to both a prep school and college here in the United States.

Our main fundraising efforts will be during several coffee hours throughout the year, where the kids will be selling muffins, cookies and origami peace cranes. Look for the first appearance of these items on Sunday, April 16.

The 7th/8th grade Neighboring Faiths class finished up their exploration of Buddhism and are now turning to the Mennonites and Amish. They will be attending a service at the Frazer Mennonite Church and touring the Amish community in Bird-In-Hand.

We are coming down the home stretch of our first year of double services, and at this point it's hard to remember Sunday mornings ever being different. We still face the challenge of sometimes having unbalanced atten-

dance from one service to another, but I have come to see that as an opportunity. The children are what make the difference, and whether we have five or fifteen at a service, good things always happen. Surprisingly, it is often the sessions with fewer children where we are

able to go more in depth and focus more intently on our projects, and it also provides an opportunity for different aged children to work more closely together.

— Pam Baxter
Director of Religious Education

BABYSITTING JOB OPPORTUNITY

The RE Committee is hiring babysitters for the Nursery at both services, and also for Congregational meetings and events. Sunday time slots are from 8:45 to 10:15 a.m. and from 10:45 to 12:15 a.m., or you may do the entire morning. A babysitting course/certificate is helpful, but not required. Please contact our Director of Religious Education, Pam Baxter(email: DRE) for more information or to arrange an interview.

CLEAN-UP REMINDER

If you hold/attend a meeting or event downstairs, please restore the area to the way it was when you arrived, i.e., move tables and chairs back to where you found them. Clean up any food spills, and either take your food trash out with you or place it in the metal trashcan with cover (labeled "Food Trash") located in the area near the refrigerator. There is also a trashcan for recyclables in this area. Please rinse food/drink containers before putting them into the recycling bin. Thanks for your help!

SPRING WORK PARTIES

Spring is coming once again, and our building has its needs. On our March 18 workday we will concentrate on finishing some renovations in the RE space as well as a general cleaning and throwing out of the excess material built up over the winter.

With Candidate week coming during the first week in May, we will concentrate on Spring Cleaning inside and out during the workday on April 29.

Any help is greatly appreciated on either workday, even if you can only show up for an hour. Team leaders for specific projects will need lots of labor to help with simple tasks, so don't hesitate to volunteer.

Remember, our goal isn't just cleaning up and fixing a building. Our goal is a vibrant home for UU faith in action.

— Bob Radcliffe
Building Committee



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MARCH 14, 2006

The Board of Trustees met on the evening of Tuesday, March 14. A discussion took place regarding two upcoming workshops of interest to the Board. The "Kindling the Flame Workshop" will host discussions of various topics of interest to UU leadership. It will take place at UUCDC on May 13, and Cheryl Pittenger will attend. The second workshop, "Energy Cost Reduction Workshop", will be held on April 15. This workshop will provide information on improving church buildings energy efficiency, and will be attended by Diane Maguire and Sue Stedman.

The Board examined a report provided by Kora Stahl, who is heading up an effort to identify all holders of keys to the Fellowship building. The Board is looking to come up with policies regarding the holding of keys.

Cheryl Pittenger updated the Board on the progress of the Office Refurbishment Committee. Furnishings have been identified and priced at various office supply dealerships, and a floor plan has been created. The Committee hopes to make purchases in April, and then to begin upgrading the office.

Larry Smith has completed his evaluation of the Congregation and of his Ministry. He shared the results of this evaluation with the Board.

— Paul Sapko, Secretary



BOARD RECOGNITION

The Board this month would like to recognize the Bridging Team for their truly indispensable contribution to our Fellowship during this time of transition.

The recognition is especially timely because the Bridging Team provided the framework for the grant we have just received from the Chalice Lighters of the Joseph Priestley District.

The team – chaired by Bruce Koepcke with members Rob Sartain, Bob Scott, and Mary Yeager – has been working since the beginning of the church year with our UUA consultant, the Rev. Tom Chulak. All too often, consultancies turn into a few workshops with little or nothing happening in between. Not so in this case. Working with Tom and on their own, the Bridging Team has thoroughly tackled the issue of our organizational structure, with leadership development now coming under their scrutiny. Other topics wait in the wings.

As a result of the Bridging Team's efforts, the Board is beginning to work with a new organizational model that is far more suited to a program-sized church than the more informal, small church process we've followed in the past. This organizational change is essential if we are to succeed in meeting our growth goals, but the Board could not possibly have addressed the issue on its own. I've discussed the new structure and our work with it a bit more in my President's Column this month.

Speaking in general, the effective use of a consultant working with a specially appointed Bridging Team to help achieve growth captured the attention of our Joseph Priestley District of the UUA. We were encouraged to seek our Chalice Lighters Grant using the team as a model. In the future, we would hope to present this as a replicable approach to growth to other UU congregations. We are indeed making a name for ourselves in the denomination.

I would add that the grant money is necessary to support the work of the Bridging Team – but that work must come first. Without their extraordinary efforts, we would have nothing to fund, and our growth initiative would be lacking in a number of important areas. On behalf of the entire Fellowship, thank you Bruce, Rob, Bob and Mary.

— Flo Miller For the Board of Trustees

DON'T FORGET TO STOCK UP...

...your grocery card supply and help support the Fellowship. After each service the Fellowship sells grocery cards for Acme, Giant, Giunta's, Shoprite and Superfresh. Simply write a check or use cash and, in return, receive cards or certificates for the same amount. Spend them at your favorite grocery store exactly like cash. The Fellowship earns 5% of your purchase amount. The Fellowship benefits and it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

Also, please save your Acme receipts. The Fellowship gets an additional 1% of the receipt amount. In 2005 the Fellowship made over \$400 just from Acme receipts! It all adds up!

For more information on the grocery card program and how it benefits the congregation, please call Rob Sartain.

YES, YES, AND YES YET AGAIN!!

The most amazing thing has happened! Our delegates to the JPD Youth Steering Committee Conference on the weekend of March 10 in Oakton, Virginia, learned that our small Youth Group had won our Fellowship its **THIRD CONSECUTIVE YES AWARD!!** This is a very rare feat, accomplished by only one other

congregation in our district, Annapolis. What does this award mean? It means that our congregation has fostered a Youth Group that has achieved very high goals for youth empowerment, leadership, education, fellowship, social action, and worship. Our delegates to the JPD Spring Conference will receive

this award in a special ceremony. We should all be very proud of our youth, and of our Fellowship. Take the time to thank one of our youth today.



YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

While we were pretty relaxed in February, March and April will more than make up for it. We started off March with a discussion on gender identity and social mores. Then, on the weekend of March 10, Chili Shorten, David Werner, Taylor Steel and Michael Werner attended the annual JPD Youth Steering Committee Spring Conference in Oakton, Virginia.

In addition to learning that our congregation had won our **THIRD CONSECUTIVE YES AWARD** (see the other article), we also had an opportunity to run for offices in the District Youth Steering Committee (DYSC). You should be very proud that all of our attendees were identified and selected for some key posts within the DYSC. Chili is now one of the co-chairs of DYSC, and will be representing the Youth of our entire District in some special events. David was elected Registrar for DYSC, and will be responsible for contacting youth throughout the District. Taylor Steel was elected a Cluster Leader, and will be working within the District to organize events within our cluster of congregations. Michael was also elected to serve as an adult advisor to the youth on DYSC. Con-

gratulate them all on these awards.

The month continued with additional discussions and planning for our major Spring events. These will include a hiking day at Ridley Creek State Park on April 1st, participating in the Annual Canvas dinner on that same evening, conducting a very cool Youth Sunday on the 23rd, and then having the new Minister candidate to ourselves for a question and answer session.

Sound interesting? Want to get involved? The Youth Group meets almost every Sunday evening from 6:00pm to 7:30pm in the basement of the Fellowship. All youth in the Fellowship are welcome. If you have any questions, please call or e-mail Michael or David Werner (email: youth-group).

LIONS, TIGERS, AND BEARS, OH MY!!

Perhaps a Water buffalo or a chicken? On Friday night, April 21, at 6 p.m., the Youth Group are hosting our final Battle of the Bands for this season. This concert will showcase five local bands, representing several local high schools. Proceeds will be donated to Heifer International by the Youth Group. Already the proud owners of several water buffalo, multiple rabbits, and perhaps some chickens, the youth group would really like to send off a major gift to Heifer Project to end the year. The concert starts promptly at 6 p.m. (or thereabouts) and will end around 10 p.m. A donation of \$5 is requested. If you cannot attend the concert but would like to contribute towards our goal, please contact Paul Giess.

JO ANN ORBAN MEMORIAL FUND

The UFWC has donated the monies collected by the Fellowship in the Jo Ann Orban memorial fund to the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition based in Boca Raton, Florida. We want to again acknowledge the great contribution Jo Ann made to our community and our great sadness at our loss of her, and in particular our continued support for John and his family.

— Bob Scott

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Check out www.UFWC.org to see pictures of members and friends of UFWC putting in windows on a Habitat for Humanity house in Coatesville during February. Thank you to Becky Toole, Connie Bain, Jen and Mike Stevens for a job well done.

Our next Habitat for Humanity workday is Saturday, June 17 in Coatesville. We will work together on location, doing anything from framing to painting. You must be 15 years old. While you do not need to be experienced, you must be willing to learn. Skilled workers are always welcome.



To volunteer or for more information about working with other UU members on a Habitat for Humanity home, contact Mary Hepokoski (email: habitat).

There is also a new “all women’s build” starting in May. If you are female and interested, visit habitatchestercountypa.org.

FROM THE PRESIDENT, CONT'D FROM PAGE 3

that you review the printed brochure and/or bring your questions directly to me or another member of the Board. I do want to stress, however, that the Bridging Team proposed this model after extensive study and discussions with both the Board and our UUA consultant, the Rev. Tom Chulak. The Board devoted almost an entire nighttime meeting and several hours in retreat with the Bridging Team on February 25 to discussing the model further.

We believe we are moving in the right direction, but we also know that the proposed structure may need to be adapted as we work with it. For that reason, we have accepted it as a “working model.” Our hope is that a year from now we will have a better idea of the final structure. We’ll be looking at the bylaws then to see if any revisions are needed in that area. In the meantime, we welcome your open input.

At our February 25 retreat, in addition to reviewing the new organizational structure, the Board

set long-term goals for our Fellowship. Incorporated within those goals is the input we have received from several initiatives over the past few years, including the long-range plan, the work done on our vision statement, and the congregational survey conducted as part of the ministerial search process. The goals are all linked to growth, as are these initiatives, but further delineate the areas in which we will concentrate. They have been shared with the Fellowship Council with the request that they be used as a planning tool when programs and priorities are set. I’ve listed them for you in an article on page 3.

Meanwhile, I look forward in the coming weeks to our Stewardship Campaign, followed by candidating week and a vote on a new minister. These are very exciting times for us. I urge you all to stay involved and active as we begin a new chapter in the history of our Fellowship.

— See you in church,
Flo Miller

DINING OUT FOR LIFE

Dining Out for Life is a nationwide dining event where restaurants donate a portion of their proceeds to local HIV and AIDS-related services. Over 200 Philadelphia-area restaurants are participating this year on Thursday, April 27. As we’ve done in past years, Fellowship members and friends will gather for a fun evening of food, conversation and fellowship. This year, we have a reservation at The Drafting Room, 635 N. Pottstown Pike, in Exton, at 6:30 p.m.

To join our group, please call The Drafting Room directly at 610-363-0521 and mention that you’re part of the party from the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester. One-third of our food bill that evening will be donated by the restaurant to local services, so please come join us! It costs you nothing beyond a nice dinner out with your friends. Last year over \$250,000 was raised throughout the Philadelphia area; we hope to raise even more this year. If you have any questions, please call Rob Sartain.

We look forward to dining out with YOU!

Find your treasure at the
2006 UFWC

Flea Market

**Saturday, May 20
8:00 a.m. to Noon**

Details in the May
Fellowtarian.

...and don't forget to start
collecting your items for
donation.

CELEBRATION DINNER DID YOU RSVP?

The Celebration Dinner to kick-off our stewardship campaign is April 1.

Please RSVP by March 24, to Kathy Neary (email: celebration-dinner). We need to know if you are coming.

If you didn't receive an invitation, would like to attend, and you are considering making a financial pledge of support please let Kathy know and she will add you to the list. It promises to be a fun evening as we celebrate our religious community and enjoy socializing together, great food and special entertainment.



CARING CORNER

Dorothy Wavrek recently had eye surgery, and seems to be recuperating very well, reports Tom Townsend.

Condolences to Eugenie Mukeshimana and her daughter Mystica on the loss of Eugenie's mother on March 2 in Rwanda. Eugenie especially requests your thoughts and prayers as she and her daughter were unable to return home for the funeral.

Also condolences to Debby Kern and her family as they grieve the death of Debby's father, Frank Schatz, at the age of 101, on March 2. Those who wish to commemorate his passing may send contributions to the Kimmel Center, which he loved very much. The address is 260 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY SPECIAL OFFER

In an effort expose and promote the Small Group Ministry program, we want to offer something a bit different for the next two months. During the months of April and May the meetings will be held jointly and will be open to all UFWC members and friends. On these days we will try to form into random groups of 6-10 people for discussion of the topics listed below.

In April, the meetings will be on the first and third Wednesday (April 5 and 19) from 7-9 p.m. In May the meetings will be on the second and fourth Thursdays (May 11 and 25) from 7-9 p.m. We hope that you will join us to get a taste of the Small Group ministry process.

The topic for the April meetings will be:

April 5 What is Religion to me?

April 19 Chance, Karma, Destiny & Grace

More information about these topics, check the UFWC website under Small Group Ministry

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY PROGRAM OPENS DOORS AND MINDS

The Small Group Ministry Program is the opportunity at the Fellowship to get to know other members in a more intimate setting. No, it is not a support program, but discussion topics promote increased understanding of other individuals personal and spiritual paths. This program has been around UUA congregations for a number of years and was initiated at UFWC by Rev. Kate Rohde 4 years ago. Initially, three groups were formed and while one group disbanded this past summer, two other groups of 6-10 members continue to meet twice a month. Adding members to existing groups or even adding groups is a goal of the program.

EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

This month we will be discussing Searching for Hassan: A Journey to the Heart of Iran by Terence Ward. This wonderful book will take you on a tour of Iran...educating you about the history and geography of an old civilization, helping you to better experience the wealth of a different culture and its many traditions thousands of miles away, and, finally, telling the story of love between/among human beings, regardless of their nationality, race, ethnicity or religion. Nakhostin "Nikki" Javidani will lead our discussion on April 23 (please note that this is the fourth Sunday of the month rather than our usual third Sunday) from 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Contact Ruth MacFadyen or Shelly Case (email: diversity-book-group). Please join us for a great evening.

WHAT IS A UU PEEP SHOW?

A UU Peep show is a chance to show off your creativity and exquisite artistic ability. More accurately, it is a chance to have fun with those marshmallow threats we all love. Some of us like them soft and fresh from the box, others like them stale, still others like them blown up in the microwave. A Peep Show gives us new opportunities to enjoy these treats. A Peep Show is a diorama using peeps.

Come up with a story to tell or picture to show with your favorite peeps. Bring your diorama to the Fellowship on April 9 or 16. We will put them on display in the back of the sanctuary. Look for some examples on display early in April. This is a fun activity in which all adults and children are invited to participate. All who participate are also invited to a special Ice Cream Sunday Social Hour after each service on April 16. Contact Lauren Kelly (email: fun).

FOLK SINGING

April folk singing will be Saturday, April 8, at 8 p.m., at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. Come on out and have some fun. No talent or experience necessary. Bring a munchie, if you wish. Maps available in the foyer. Contact Steve (email: folk-singing).

POTLUCK AND GAME NIGHT

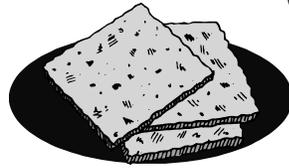
Our next Potluck and Game night will be on Friday, April 7 in the sanctuary. Join us at 6:30 pm for dinner or after 7 for games. Everyone is welcome — families, individuals, couples, children.

Bring a dish and beverage to share. (Don't forget the beverage because I never know how many are coming so I don't know how much to bring. Beside I don't know what you want to drink.) Come to think of it, bring a friend too!

I send out an email reminder a few days before to those who are regulars. If you would like a reminder, request to be added to the list (email Mary at: game-night).

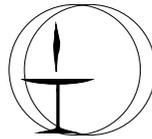
UU PASSOVER SEDER POTLUCK

Our Passover Seder, on Thursday, April 13, gives us an opportunity to share our journeys from slavery to freedom, in whatever forms those take for each of us. Dating back a couple of millennia or so, the seder is modeled on the Greek Symposium, during which some topic was under discussion — think Plato's "Symposium," where



the topic was the nature of Love. Where a Greek symposium often turned into a drunken orgy, the Jewish version is a model of temperance and moderation. The topic: freeing the hebrew slaves, by the Ruler of the Universe, with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, from Pharaoh's Egypt. Our seder offers an opportunity to share your own personal journey to liberation, for those who care to do so.

This year, the Fun & Fellowship Committee is lucky to have Bert Wylen, a new friend of UFWC, who has many years experience with seders, to help organize this event. We hope to see many families this year, as this is a holiday especially for children. Remember, it's a feast, so come prepared for dinner along with some ceremony. Sign up in the foyer or by email. Tell us the number of adults and children, and what type of dish or beverage, (it need not be kosher) you will bring. Contact Nancy Artus for more information (email: fun).



SIMPLICITY CIRCLE

We will meet again April 2, at 12:30 p.m. (first Sunday of the month). More new members have attended or shown interest. Interactions continue to be free as well as considerate and meaningful, which adds up to a satisfying, thought provoking experience that can last through the month.

Focus continues to center on our strivings for a life of meaning, beyond the clutter and wasters of precious time and energy. Together we find answers that mean most to ourselves, and in sharing we invigorate one another.

Marilyn Grossman will guide our thinking in the next meeting. Any questions or comments contact Heidi Buss (email: simplicity).

— Heidi Buss

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

- Mar 31-Apr 1** **JPD Spring Conference.** See March Fellowtarian p. 6.
- Apr 1** **Sat** **Annual Celebration Dinner.** See p. 10.
- Apr 2** **Sun** **Simplicity Circle Meeting.** 12:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. See p. 11.
Social Justice Committee Meeting. 7:30-9 p.m., fireplace room. Contact Tom Townsend, email: social-justice.
- Apr 3** **Mon** **Finance Committee Meeting** 7:30 p.m. Contact Erach Patel, email: finance.
- Apr 5** **Wed** **Small Group Ministry Open Meeting.** 7-9 p.m. All UFWC members and friends are welcome. See p. 10.
RE Committee Meeting. 7-9 p.m., Fellowship OWL room. E-mail: RE.
- Apr 7** **Fri** **Potluck and Game Night.** 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. See p. 11.
- Apr 8** **Sat** **Folk Singing.** 8 p.m. at the home of Steve and Linda Sander. See p. 11.
- Apr 9** **Sun** **UU Peep Show.** See p. 11.
Safe Harbor Dinner. Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. Contact Catherine Sachs, email: safe-harbor.
- Apr 11** **Tue** **Board Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship office. All are welcome.
- Apr 13** **Thu** **UU Passover Seder Meal.** See p. 11.
- Apr 14** **Fri** **Chester County Peace Movement Film Night.** *The War Within*, 7:30 p.m., sanctuary.
- Apr 16** **Sun** **UU Peep Show.** See p. 11.
Ice Cream Social for Peep Show Participants. After each service. See p. 11.
- Apr 19** **Wed** **Small Group Ministry Open Meeting.** 7-9 p.m. All UFWC members and friends are welcome. See p. 10.
- Apr 21** **Fri** **Lunch Group.** 11:30 a.m. at Atlanta Bread Company in Exton. Email: lunch-group to get on the email reminder list.
Battle of the Bands. Benefit concert for Heifer International hosted by the Youth Group. 6-10 p.m. See p. 8.
- Apr 22** **Sat** **Lunch for the Needy.** Provided by our Fellowship at the Salvation Army. Contact Catherine Sachs, email: salvation-army.
- Apr 23** **Sun** **Exploring Diversity Book Discussion Group.** 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the fireplace room. See p. 10.
- Apr 25** **Tue** **Building Committee Meeting.** 7 p.m. in the fireplace room. Contact Tilo Stahl or Bob Radcliff, email: building.
- Apr 27** **Thu** **Dining Out for Life.** The Drafting Room in Exton at 6:30 p.m. See p. 9.
- Apr 29** **Sat** **Spring Cleaning Work Party.** 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. See p. 6.
- Apr 30-May 7** **Candidating Week.** See p. 2.

Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

- Choir Practice** First and third Thursdays of the month, 7:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. Email: choir.
- Yoga** Thursdays 6-7 p.m. in the basement.
- Youth Group** Most Sunday evenings, 6-7:30 p.m. in the OWL/Youth Group room. See p. 8.