

 **the**  
**FELLOWTARIAN**

**Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester**  
**Web Version (No personal email or phone numbers)**

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

### October, 2006

**October 1**

**BIOMEDICAL ETHICS**

**Rev. Flo Gelo**

Rev. Gelo is a biomedical ethicist and UU minister. The topic of her sermon will be in her area of expertise, but the specifics are not available at press time. Watch e-mail and the Sunday Order of Service for further details.

**October 8**

**FORGIVENESS:  
THE HARDEST ACT OF LOVE**

**Rev. Dr. Patrick O'Neill**

Forgiveness is hard. It's hard to do, it's hard to give, it's hard to receive. It's even hard to talk about. Forgiveness is soul work on the deepest level. Despite all the practice we've had over a lifetime of telling each other we're sorry for all the intentional and unintentional hurts and harms we cause each other, forgiveness is still the hardest act of love. Dr. O'Neill's sermon explores tender territory today.

**October 15**

**RELIGION AND GUILT:  
THE UNHOLY ALLIANCE**

**Rev. Dr. Patrick O'Neill**

For better or worse, in Western civilization for thousands of years now, religion and guilt have been powerfully associated in a kind of unholy alliance. So ingrained is this linkage in our culture that many assume the two necessarily go hand-in-hand. Today let's examine why religion often gets a bad name.

**October 22**

**IS GOD LEFT-HANDED, RIGHT-HANDED,  
OR AMBIDEXTROUS?**

**Rev. Dr. Patrick O'Neill**

Leading up to this evening's Interfaith Community Dialogue (see article on page 2) Dr. O'Neill's sermon centers around issues raised in Rabbi Michael Lerner's provocative book *The Left Hand of God: Taking Our Country Back From the Religious Right*. An interesting morning at church to bring a friend! Then come join us for the Dialogue tonight at 7:30.

## PONDERINGS: THE MINISTER'S COLUMN

Wow, this place is abuzz! Or as they say in the non-profit sector, UFWC is certainly "volunteer-intensive." I've been truly impressed with the level of activity around the Fellowship this month and the high level of commitment that so many of you show when there is work to be done. As many of you have discovered over the years, one of the great personal benefits of volunteering is the bonds that are forged between members in the course of working for something they love. It is evident to this newcomer in your midst that UFWC is a much loved place, a place of deep friendships and fierce loyalties.

A lifetime of working in churches has taught me some of the joys and some of the challenges of voluntary associations. They can be funny places sometimes, with unique quirks and longtime beloved customs. A big part of the charge given to me as your Interim Minister for the year is learning how and why this operation does what it does, consulting with your leadership on ways to further realize your mission while your Search Committee goes about finding your next permanent minister.

Your leadership has been clear with me that this congregation has no intentions of standing still or marching in place until that minister is in residence here. The momentum gained over the last two years of your development is important to maintain. To paraphrase the poet, "you are not done with your changes." During this year we will be actively seeking to grow in membership, to raise the profile of the Fellowship in the wider community, to strengthen our programs, and to make our Sunday morning services for adults and for children the best they can be. We are working on our building, sprucing up and painting (no small thanks here to Bob Radcliffe and his faithful crew of helpers) with plans for a much needed office space for the next minister.

For my part, as and when I suggest changes here and there, I will make every effort to *communicate, communicate, communicate* what I'm doing and why. If by chance you disagree with something I suggest, or if I inadvertently knock over one of your favorite sacred cows around here, I trust you will let me know directly and not just mutter under your breath. We have at least a hundred and fifty different opinions around here, and unanimity about any one thing is highly unlikely. But we are all working toward the same goal – to make UFWC the best it can be. It is good to be among you! See you on Sunday.

...*po'n* (Rev. Patrick O'Neill)



## SPIRITUALITY AND POLITICS: AN INTERFAITH COMMUNITY DIALOGUE SUNDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 22 AT 7 P.M.

A panel discussion of several clergy, including Rev. O'Neill, will be the first big community event of the year. The topic will be "Spirituality and Politics: Is God Left Handed, Right Handed, or Ambidextrous?" Rev. O'Neill will invite clergy with different points of view. The new Communications Committee will advertise extensively.

This is an opportunity to be a model of how the community can share ideas peacefully, and it will be an opportunity to lift the profile of the UFWC as a place of values, education, and discussion. It will also bring new people into the Fellowship and will be a way to communicate UU values, as well as ideas from the *Left Hand of God*.

Since this is a dialogue, we will work to make it evenhanded. We will have two separate information tables on the forum night; one for the event, and one with *The Left Hand of God* and the Network of Spiritual Progressives information. Each of the other panelists may have a display, as well.

The evening will begin with introductions. Each panelist will then speak for 5-10 minutes. Then there will be questions from the audience for about an hour. After the panel discussion the audience will have the opportunity to talk together while enjoying refreshments.

If this goes well, we may decide to have community dialogues regularly in the future.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are off to a wonderful start to our new church year, with 140 people in attendance at our August 27 service (where Rev. Patrick O'Neill spoke for the first time) and well over 100 at our potluck welcoming luncheon afterwards. We also had good attendance at the first service on September 10, which I attended. The energy level is high, and we're ready for an exciting new year under Patrick's leadership!

As I write this, my husband Mike and I are preoccupied and busy with a move from our home of 27 years to a small ranch in the Pleasant Grove development of Westtown Township. As a result, this column will be relatively brief; I will not be my usual loquacious self. Details of our new address and phone will be forthcoming after settlement, hopefully on September 22.

What I want to stress at this point is the importance of your attendance at our general Fellowship workshop scheduled for October 14. This workshop will help us focus on the challenges of the new year as we continue on our transition to a program-sized church. It will be led by Rev. Robert Lathan, author of *Moving on from Church Folly Lane: The Pastoral to Program Church Shift* – a book I described in my President's column last month.

As I wrote in my column, Rev. Lathan describes beautifully the challenges involved in making the critical shift from pastoral thinking and modes of behavior into a program-sized church. Many of the challenges

he describes we have already met, but others still await us. We are very lucky to have obtained his leadership for this important workshop. Our thanks go to Patrick, who knows Rev. Lathan and arranged it for us.

We will begin the day with a brief social time over coffee and breakfast food at 8:30 a.m. The workshop will begin at 9 and end at 3. We will bring in lunch, asking for contributions to defray the cost.

Whether you are a long-time member who has held

leadership positions and/or continues to do so, or a newer member just "getting your feet" wet, you are invited to attend. In preparation for the day, you may wish to read Rev. Latham's book. Patrick has acquired several copies for sale at \$15 each. The Fellowship has also purchased five copies for general circulation within the membership. If you wish to borrow one of those copies or purchase your own copy, please see me or Patrick.

I hope to see you on the 14th – and I hope to be settled in a new home by then!

— Yours in faith,  
Flo Miller



### FRIENDS OF THE UUA

**NOTE:** *The following communication arrived from Friends of the UUA. We are reprinting it here as an informational item for our membership.*

As a supplement to periodic mailings, Friends of the UUA will be conducting a fundraising phonathon beginning the week of October 9th and continuing through mid-November. Outreach Associates, a telemarketing firm located in Pittsburgh, will be phoning members who are currently active Friends of the UUA to ask them to renew their support and to consider becoming Sustaining Friends. (Sustaining Friends agree to provide recurring monthly contributions, which increase the efficiency and effectiveness of donations as we reduce the frequency of solicitations to that group.) Our contract with this firm requires that all callers must be courteous, respectful, and succinct as they offer identified Unitarian Universalists an opportunity to support our Association directly. Your feedback about the calls will help us to monitor their quality. We have established a Friends Phonathon Hotline to facilitate that feedback: Members may call 617-948-6525 to leave a message to ask to be placed on the "no call" list or to share a comment directly with a UUA staff member.

# NOTES FROM UNDERGROUND — RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

## What is demonstrated/what is learned?

It was at a workshop on “The Philosophy of RE” that I became aware of “teaching moments.” These are unplanned moments that can occur any time an opportunity presents itself for us to live our UU principles. The concept encourages us to understand that there is much more to Unitarian Universalism than what is contained within the pages of a printed curriculum. It challenges us to be aware of our everyday actions, words, decisions, behaviors and choices.

For instance, if we “preach” the First Principle, which affirms “The inherent worth and dignity of every person,” but avert our eyes and hurry our children along when we pass a homeless person on the street, what do we demonstrate to our children in that moment? What do they learn?

If we promote the “The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process ...” but don’t go to the polls, what is demonstrated and what is learned?

If children overhear conversations about the highly-charged upcoming elections, they may not understand that because we disagree with someone else, it doesn’t mean that the other person should not have a right to voice his/her own opinion. What can we teach them as we voice our own opinions?

As we embark on a new year of Religious Education at our Fellowship, I would like to encourage not just teachers, but also parents and other members of the congregation to

take advantage of teaching moments when they occur. On a Sunday morning, maybe that’s simply initiating a conversation with a young person and asking a question.

## Safety Reminders

The safety of the children of our Fellowship is a collective responsibility, and we ask you to be mindful of the following:

- Parents: when at church, please be aware of your children’s whereabouts. On Sunday mornings, both teachers and I are typically involved in preparing for the morning’s activities and cleaning up afterward, or engaged in discussions/conferences. While we don’t ban children from the basement before or after classes, we cannot be responsible for your children outside of class time. The morning’s schedule includes children through 7th grade in the opening portion of the service. We ask parents of children from Nursery through 5th grade to retrieve them immediately after the service. (Yes, this means before coffee!)

- Groups that meet in classrooms: Most of the space in our building is shared space. When your meeting is concluded, please remove any food trash, and take with you anything that you brought to the meeting. Please leave the room as you found it so that teachers may come in and teach on Sunday morning without having to clean up first or rearrange furniture.
- Groups that meet in the Fireplace Room: The door to the outside stairs in the Fireplace Room is a Fire Exit. Please do not block the path to the door with chairs, easels or other furniture.
- As renovation work progresses on the building, we ask that awareness be raised to prevent building materials and tools from becoming attractive nuisances.

— Pam Baxter  
Director of Religious Education



## HIGHCHAIRS

The Fellowship acquired highchairs and a booster seat this year. Because storage at the Fellowship is a challenge, we are keeping the highchairs downstairs just to the right of the stairs. The booster seat is kept under the Beverage table in the sanctuary. Please feel free to use these whenever you have the need.

– Fun & Fellowship Committee

## SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

The Small Group Ministry program has had open sessions over the summer and will continue that through September and probably into October. Rev. O'Neill will attend the September 21 meeting and lead us as we make plans to establish new groups in the Fall. If you have any interest in participating in Small Group Ministry, watch for a sign-up form that will help us identify what times meetings should be held.

## CHANGED CONTACT INFORMATION FOR FLO MILLER

Fellowship President Flo Miller is moving on September 22. For at least a week, all Internet service will be down and she will not have a landline phone. All e-mail sent over that period of time will accumulate in her in-folder and will not be answered.

For all time sensitive matters, please call her on her cell phone beginning Thursday, September 21. Please avoid e-mails.

Flo's new landline phone number, when it is connected, will be made available to members. Her e-mail will remain the same as always. She will advise the membership through a general e-mail when her landline phone and Internet service are back up and running, probably by the end of September.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, September 12. Among the issues discussed was the need for a separate and private minister's office. Interim Minister Rev. Patrick O'Neill stressed to the Board that the current arrangement is far from ideal, and that the congregation will have an increased chance of engaging a permanent professional minister if we can offer a private, comfortable place for study and counseling. Several options for providing such a space were identified, and the board passed a motion to commit to completing a minister's office by August 2007. The Fellowship Council will be responsible for implementation.

In addition, the Board made the decision to give its full endorsement to the new UU congregation being established in northern Chester County. It was noted that the UUA responded to our original concerns by providing our Fellowship with a consultant.

Dates for future events confirmed by the Board include October 14 for the leadership workshop with Robert Latham, and March 17 for the stewardship canvass dinner. Also processed were issues around rental of the church to outside groups. And Board Vice-President Bob Scott reported on the progress of the Fellowship Council, which has gone over each committee's goals, and has set a new overall goal: to increase congregational membership by 15% per year.

Members of the Board are:

Flo Miller (President)  
Bob Scott (Vice-President)  
Erach Patel (Executive Treasurer)  
Deanna Koepcke (Secretary)  
Jack Butler  
Fatima Patel  
Cheryl Pittenger  
Craig Talbot

Rev. Patrick O'Neill and Pam Baxter (Director of Religious Education) also meet with the Board. Please feel free to approach Board members with your questions or comments.

— Deanna Koepcke  
Board Secretary



### JPD RACIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

The Joseph Priestley District Second Annual Racial Justice Conference will be Saturday, October 21, at the Main Line Unitarian Church in Devon. More information and a registration form may be found at <http://www.jpduua.org/>.

## **HAVE YOU MET MARSHA AND JAN BROFKA-BERENDS?**

By now, hopefully you've met Marsha and Jan Brofka-Berends. They joined the Fellowship in January 2005, ending their search for a "socially progressive spiritual community."

In fall 2004 two factors motivated them to start attending services: their move to Exton (from Lansdowne in Delaware County) the previous winter and the anticipated arrival of their first child in spring 2005. Their daughter, Sylvia, was born in May 2005, was dedicated in the Fellowship in June 2005, and has since been both visible — and sometimes audible! — at services and social events.

Neither of Jan nor Marsha is native to the area (he is from just north of New York City, and she is from southern Illinois), and they met each other — accidentally! — through the Internet. On the professional front, they are both self-described "word nerds" (editors), but fortunately they share the same style preferences, so they rarely argue about grammar and spelling.

When they aren't practicing "wordsmithery", Marsha and Jan enjoy playing with their two cats, cooking, hiking, playing games with friends, and reading. Marsha is an avid knitter, and Jan has recently taken up crocheting. It's too early to tell which yarn habit Sylvia will pick up — maybe both!

## **SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE**

By the time this goes to press, the committee will have completed our Congregational Record (CR), soon to be published on the UUA website to be accessed by ministers who are searching. The CR is their first snapshot of UFWC, including basic information on who we are and what kind of minister we seek.

Much of this work was done in last year's search, but we're updating it with all the exciting changes UFWC experienced over this past year.

Our other main focus this month is on the packet, which we'll exchange with interested candidates who have read our CR and wish to explore further. This packet contains all kinds of information about our congregation — our people, our history, demographics, work, fun times, successes and difficulties, our community and surrounding area.

For those of you who are new to UFWC, the seven members of this committee are: Cyndy Bullaughey, Ed Cohle, Curt Hoganson, Eileen Kelly, Jim MacFadyen (chair), Sandy Schaal and Mark Steel. As always, feel free to approach any of us during coffee hour or send email to search-committee.

## **"MEET AND GREET" THE MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE OCTOBER 15**

Are you new to the fellowship? Did you miss our congregational survey last year? Or, didn't get a chance to complete the survey before the deadline? Or, you did the survey, but have some new thoughts to share with us? If any of these apply to you, then come to the Ministerial Search Committee's session on Sunday, October 15.

Instead of repeating the survey this year, the committee will hold an informal session to give an overview of the search process and to give you an opportunity to voice your opinions, concerns and questions. All are welcome!

We'll begin shortly after the second service, meeting downstairs in the RE area. Light refreshments will be served.

## **FUN AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING**

The October Fun & Fellowship Committee Meeting will be on October 2. We usually meet over dinner, the first Monday of the month at Mary Yeager's home. Anyone interested in planning social events at the Fellowship is welcome. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m., and the meeting follows at 7 p.m. Contact Mary Yeager for more information.

## PLEASE DON'T FEED THE LOBBY!

By now, you have undoubtedly noticed our beautifully refurbished lobby. Many hours went into this effort. Much consideration and thought was given to color schemes, arrangements and the placement of furniture in order to present an enjoyable, comfortable and well designed space.

As this is the first thing visitors see when they enter our Fellowship building, it's important that we maintain it in its current clean condition. Please ask your children not to play on the furniture or take food into the lobby. If you are drinking coffee in the lobby, take care not to spill it or leave a stain on the tables. And it's always good practice to clean up and place in the trash any empty coffee cups or other paper products.

On behalf of the Fellowship, I want to extend thanks and appreciation to those members who participated in this project. Sheila Cain spearheaded the effort, devoting many hours to shopping for furniture and other items as well as to planning the lay out, traffic patterns, and color scheme. Sheila tells me that she intentionally chose the bold color of red against the more tranquil green to brighten the lobby. The items on the mantle were selected and arranged to be symbolic of our respect for the natural world around us and pleasure we take in it.

Hugh Illif refurbished and refinished the greeters table. He is now doing the same work on the desk, which will be returned to the lobby when ready. Hugh is a true artisan who has freely given of his talents, not

## REMEMBERING THELMA BACK

Gordon Roehrs, a founding member of our Fellowship, has made a donation to start a memorial fund for Thelma Back, who passed away in Phoenix, Arizona, on July 25 at the age of 88. Thelma and her husband Al, who died in 1982, were active members of our Fellowship in our former home on Franklin Street.

Thelma was a highly accomplished woman, so it is impossible to condense in a few sentences her many achievements. In many ways, she was a pioneer for women's rights, earning bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry from the University of Louisville at a time when women were discouraged from pursuing careers in science. She was the first female scientist hired by Joseph E. Seagram & Sons in 1942. In 1950 she moved to Wagontown with her husband and son, and she sold and managed real estate in Chester County for much of the next 50 years. She moved to Applebrook Farm near Paoli in 1964.

An ardent supporter of human rights, she was involved with numerous organizations, including Americans United for Separation of Church and State, the Pennsylvania Prison Society, the American Civil Liberties Union, and Amnesty International.

She joined our Fellowship in January of 1958 and was a member through the 1980s. Some of our older members (including yours truly) would remember her. Gordon wrote a beautiful obituary, which appeared in the *Daily Local News* on July 29. I have a complete copy of it for anyone who is interested.

If you would like to donate to Thelma's memorial fund, do so by check marked "Thelma Back Memorial Fund" on the memo line. Send it in to the Fellowship, care of income treasurer Cyndy Bullaughey, or put it in the collection plate on Sunday. We will choose a suitable memorial gift next spring.

In loving memory of Thelma,  
Flo Miller



only now but at numerous times in the past. Jim Willis is another artisan, currently working on a standing name tag holder that will replace our current wall system. Our jack of all trades, Bob Radcliffe, helped out in numerous ways. Finally, to ensure consistency in the design plan, please do not rearrange or add anything to the lobby without consulting Sheila. Thank you.

— Flo Miller

### MICHAEL LERNER VIDEO

A video of Michael Lerner's address to the Spiritual Activism Conference in May, 2006 will be shown October 27 at 7:30 p.m. Discussion and refreshments follow. The public is invited. Please help spread the word.

If you have read *The Left Hand of God*, you will enjoy seeing Michael Lerner speak. If you haven't read the book come and hear the insights that he has to offer.

## THE LEFT HAND OF GOD A NEW VISION FOR AMERICA

This month the UFWC will begin a series of discussions based on Rabbi Michael Lerner's book *The Left Hand of God: Taking Back Our Country from the Religious Right*:

- Forum, *Spirituality and Politics: An Interfaith Community Dialogue*, October 22. 7:00 p.m. (See article p. 2.)
- Video and discussion of Michael Lerner's May, 2006 address to the Spiritual Activism Conference, October 27. 7:30 p.m. (See article p. 7.)
- Book discussion series starting October 29. (See article this page.)
- Discussion on how the UFWC Social Justice Program can incorporate ideas from the book. (See book discussion article.)

**Hear Rev. Patrick O'Neill's Sermon.** "Is God Left-Handed, Right-Handed, or Ambidextrous?" on Sunday morning, October 22.

**Hear the Audio.** A sermon by Michael Lerner given March 9, 2006 at the First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon is on our website at [www.ufwc.org/LHG.htm](http://www.ufwc.org/LHG.htm).

**See the Video.** Come and be inspired. Michael Lerner's impassioned speech tells us how we got where we are, paints a vision for an America that is more loving, caring, and generous, and suggests ways we can help make it happen.

**Read the Book.** It has more details and more ideas for action than the video. For example, Appendix Two is "How to Do Politics with Spirit: Building the Culture of a Spiritual Politics Movement." There are seven copies of the book in our UFWC library, and books are available at Chester County Book Company and online.

**Be a Part of the Dialogue.** Come participate in the community dialogues at the forum and the video night and join the discussions within the Fellowship about the book and about our social justice program.

**Take Action.** Begin implementing *Left Hand of God* ideas in your own internal spiritual development and in your work to heal and transform the world.

## LHG BOOK DISCUSSION DETAILS

**Description:** We are planning a series of four book discussions. The first three will be in small groups and will take place between the end of October and the beginning of December. We have study guides provided by the Network of Spiritual Progressives which we are adapting to our needs. We plan to have a timekeeper and to keep them to 90 minutes. The fourth, and final, discussion will be about how ideas from the *Left Hand of God* can be incorporated into our own Social Justice Program. It will probably be a large meeting, with all of the groups combined, sometime in January.

**Scheduling and Registration:** Sign-up sheets and a calendar showing the dates and times of each potential discussion group are in the lobby. There will be at least one discussion group on Sundays and as many others at other times and days as demand requires. The schedule is arranged to conflict as little as possible with holidays and other Fellowship activities. Group size is limited. Registration priority will be on a first-come basis.

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Join fellow UUs in building affordable owner-occupied housing for Habitat for Humanity. We have a date for our next work day in Coatesville: Saturday October 28. Please let Mike Stevens know if you are interested. The first eight people will make the team.

Fellowship members work together on location doing anything from framing to painting. We schedule a workday about every three months, normally on a Saturday. You must be at least 15 years old. While you do not need to be experienced, you must be willing to learn. Skilled workers, of course, are always welcome.

# THE AUCTION IS COMING! THE AUCTION IS COMING!

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

This is a fund raising event where services from local businesses and from our congregation are offered to the highest bidder. Proceeds support the Fellowship. This year's auction will feature online, Ebay-style bidding prior to Saturday evening; as well as raffles, a silent auction and a live auction on Saturday night. Beverages and a light dinner will also be offered to complete the entertainment for a night out.

Sounds like too much fun, right? How about joining the team?

We are in need of the following people, as well as people to help during that evening:

- Silent Auction Coordinator
- Live Auction Coordinator
- Raffle Coordinator
- Food Coordinator
- Setup/Decorating Coordinator

So plan to come November 11, and use the attached form to make your personal donation by

October 15. And contact Sarah Klaum if you can help.

Lastly, to make this a fun family night, we will host a party for children downstairs with pizza, popcorn and a movie during the auction at no cost.

This babysitting service must be prearranged, so email auction with the names and ages of the children by October 28 if you are interested.

See you there!



## DONATION FORM -- UFWC ANNUAL AUCTION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2006

- Babysitting
- Birthday Cake
- Breadmaking
- Brunch
- Car Washing
- Career Counseling
- Chair fixing
- Childcare
- Chinese for 8
- Chocolate Cake
- Computer help
- Home made Cookies
- Fondue
- Frequent Flyer Miles
- Gardening
- Gift Certificates
- Homemade Candy
- Hot Tub
- How to...
- Knitting
- Massage
- Mending
- Mexican for 6
- Mother's Helper
- Music
- Personal Coach
- Pet care
- Plants
- Ride to Airport
- Shortbread
- Software
- Stenciling
- Summer BBQ
- Teaching
- Use of Boat
- Vacation Home
- Wallpapering
- Weekend Retreat
- Window Washing
- Yard Work

**Name of Donor:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check here if you want to offer the same item as last year**

**Service or Item:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Conditions:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include a Date if offering a meal:** \_\_\_\_\_

Services or items will be sold to the highest bidder unless a minimum bid is specified.  
 Minimum Bid (optional): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for Catalog:** October 15, 2006. Later donations will be listed in an addendum available the night of the auction. No donations can be taken the night of the auction.

**Questions** about donations should be directed to email: auction-donations.

Bring the completed form to Sunday Service or mail to:  
 Annual Auction, Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester  
 501 South High Street  
 West Chester, PA 19382

Or EMAIL: auction-donations

Thank YOU!!! Thank you for your support!

**Note:** The winning bidder may be someone you don't know. With items such as boats, special equipment or vacation homes you may want to ask for a security deposit. Services are available as arranged by donor and buyer for one year unless otherwise specified.

## AN ANSWER. NOT A QUESTION. YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Want some answers? How about social action — like the Philly AIDS Walk, Heifer Project, UNAIDS projects, SEVA, Safe Harbor Dinners and Salvation Army painting. How about fund raising projects and fellowship activities — like concerts, chili and bread cook offs, special film nights, haunted basements, and t-shirt sales. Ultimate frisbee, a cookout and tie-dying. Maybe canoeing in the Brandywine as part of a river cleanup. Rock wall climbing. Costume bowling. Arguments about abortion, consumerism, Middle East Politics, Death, taxes, the Draft. Traveling to Boston and other District churches to hang out, meet other UU Youth and learn more about being a UU Youth.



What was the question?

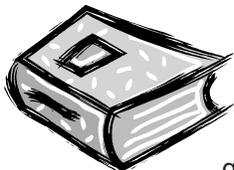
“What does the youth group want to accomplish this year”

Pretty cool answers, don't you agree? We've had an absolutely amazing start, with the largest group ever at our first meeting. With representatives from Henderson, East, Rustin, Collegium, Unionville, Downingtown East and West, Church Farm School and Vanguard (at least to start), we've got an amazingly diverse group. Intrigued? Want to be a part? Want to get answers for your questions? Want to go to CONs?

The Youth group meets almost every Sunday morning at 10:45 a.m. in the Youth Group Room downstairs in the Fellowship. Get your coffee or tea and come on down. If you have questions beforehand, ask Michael or David Werner or Rob Sartain or Chili Shorten, or send us an e-mail at youth-group. Be there!

## EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

Please join the Diversity Book Group on Sunday October 15 at 7 p.m. Debby Kern will lead our discussion of Gail Tsukiyama's book, *Women of the Silk*. This engaging book takes you back to rural China in the 1920's in a story about a young girl who is sold by her penniless family to work in the silk factory.



You would expect the story to be one of terrible sadness, but it becomes a hopeful story of strength and fellowship as the girls grow up and become strong women who change the system, achieving freedoms and dreams that they never would have known in their home villages.

All are welcome. For more information contact Shelly Case or Ruth MacFadyen, or email diversity-book-group.

## SIMPLICITY CIRCLE

Our next meeting is October 1, back to the usual first Sunday in the month at 12:30 p.m. after the service. We might meet downstairs or upstairs, depending on conditions. David Long will lead.

Focus continues to center on our strivings for a life of meaning, beyond the clutter and wasters of precious time and energy. We're asking ourselves questions, more and more directly, what do I really want out of life? Answers are varied, individual and personal.

Whether attendance is larger or smaller, an amazing energy exists. Interactions are free as well as considerate and meaningful, which adds up to a satisfying, thought provoking experience that can last through the month. This is a good group to attend by newcomers, who want to begin developing some relationships in a reflective, personable atmosphere. If you have any questions or comments contact Heidi Buss (email: simplicity).

## FOLK SINGING

The next folk singing get-together will be Saturday, October 14, at 8 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. No experience or talent is necessary. Bring a munchie, if you wish. Newcomers are always welcome. A brochure with a map is available in the foyer.

## HOLIDAY PARTIES

The holidays will be here before you know it. The holiday season is 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.

We are asking you to volunteer to host a potluck in your home. All you need to do right now is let us know what date you are willing to host a party. For the party, you provide the beverages and one appetizer; guests each bring an appetizer and presto – a party.

It may seem early, but it is important to get the dates established so that everyone can put them on his/her calendar. The earlier you respond the more likely the date that you choose will be available.

If you would like to host a party, or if you have any questions, contact Nancy Artus (email: fun). We would like to be able to publish the dates for the potlucks in the November *Fellowtarian*, so contact us soon.

– Fun & Fellowship  
Committee



## CAMPING AT RIDLEY CREEK STATE PARK

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 1

Sign up now for camping, or just dinner by the campfire, at Ridley Creek State Park, September 30. (See the September *Fellowtarian* for details.)

Send an email to camping, sign up in the lobby of the Fellowship, or call Nancy Artus. Indicate your names, the number in your party, email or phone number, whether you are staying the night, and your food donation for dinner or breakfast. Also, if you have something we can use over the picnic tables to shelter us from possible rain, let us know that, too.

Ridley Creek State Park is just 10 miles from the Fellowship in Edgemont Township, Delaware County. To get to the park from West Chester, take West Chester Pike (PA 3) to PA 352. Take PA 352 south (Middletown Road) to Gradyville Road. Turn left on Gradyville and drive 1.3 miles to the park. We have site 13A. (Site 13 is the only camping in the park.) If you get lost, call Nancy's cell.

If you decide at the last minute to come but have not signed up, that's no problem! The campsite is huge. Hope to see you there!

## FALL FOLIAGE HIKE

Join Mike and Flo Miller for a hike along the Appalachian Trail during the height of the fall foliage season. Hike approximately 9 to 10 miles with one moderate climb and some further ups and downs. Recommended for people in reasonably good shape. Kids 10 and over can do this easily — also doable for strong eight year olds.

Meet at the Verizon parking lot on High Street near Fellowship at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 21 for approximately 1½ - 2 hour drive. Car pooling possible. Wear good shoes or boots. Bring lunch and water and a jacket or sweater. Rain cancels. E-mail Mike anytime, or phone him after September 30 to let us know you're coming or to ask questions. It's a beautiful time to take a hike!



## LUNCH GROUP

The UFWC lunch group meets the third Friday of the month at 11:30 a.m. Newcomers are welcome. In October we will meet at Hunan Restaurant located in the Shop Rite shopping center at 1103 West Chester Pike, West Chester. E-mail lunch-group to be added to the e-mail reminder list. Each month we send out an e-mail reminder and tally the responses to estimate how many people will come. This helps us plan how many places to save at the restaurant. If you can't send an e-mail or if you change your mind at the last minute, come anyway. Everyone is welcome.

— Linda Sander

## FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

- Sep 30-Oct 1 Sat-Sun**      **Annual Fellowship Camping Trip.** Ridley Creek State Park. See p. 11.
- Oct 1 Sun**      **Simplicity Circle Meeting.** 12:30 p.m. after the second service. See p. 10.
- Oct 2 Mon**      **Fun and Fellowship Committee.** 7 p.m. at Mary Yeager's home. See p. 6.  
**Finance Committee.** 7:30 p.m, office. Contact Erach Patel, email: finance.
- Oct 4 Wed**      **RE Committee.** 7 p.m., OWL room. Contact Pam Baxter, email: dre.
- Oct 6 Fri**      **Potluck and Game Night.** 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.
- Oct 8 Sun**      **Safe Harbor Dinner.** Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. Contact Catherine Sachs, email: safe-harbor.  
**West Chester Chili Cookoff.** 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. UFWC will be represented.
- Oct 10 Tue**      **Board Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Fellowship office. All are welcome.
- Oct 13 Fri**      **Chester County Peace Movement Film Night. *Paradise Now*, 7:30 p.m..**
- Oct 14 Sat**      **Leadership/General Membership Retreat.** 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., with Rev. Robert Latham on our transition to a program-sized church. See p. 3.  
**Folk Singing.** 8 p.m. at the home of Steve and Linda Sander. See p. 10.
- Oct 15 Sun**      **Ministerial Search Committee "Meet & Greet".** Downstairs after the second service. See p. 6.  
**Annual Auction Catalog Deadline.** See p. 9.  
**Exploring Diversity Book Group.** 7-8:30 p.m. in the fireplace room. See p. 10.
- Oct 20 Fri**      **Lunch Group.** 11:30 p.m. at Hunan Restaurant in West Goshen. See p. 11.
- Oct 21 Sat**      **Fall Foliage Hike.** 8:00 a.m. See p. 11.  
**JPD Racial Justice Conference.** Main Line Unitarian Church, Devon. See p. 5.
- Oct 22 Sun**      **An Interfaith Community Dialogue "Spirituality and Politics: Is God Left Handed, Right Handed, or Ambidextrous?"** 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. See p. 8.
- Oct 24 Tue**      **Building Committee Meeting.** 7 p.m. in the fireplace room. Contact Bob Radcliff, email: building.
- Oct 25 Wed**      **Council Meeting.** Large RE room. Contact Bob Scott, email: vice-president.
- Oct 27 Fri**      **Video of *The Left Hand of God* Author Michael Lerner's, May, 2006 Address to the Spiritual Activism Conference.** 7:30 p.m. sanctuary. See p. 7.
- Oct 28 Sat**      **Habitat for Humanity.** See p. 8.  
**Lunch for the Needy.** Provided by our Fellowship at the Salvation Army. Contact Catherine Sachs, email: salvation-army.
- Oct 29 Sun**      ***Left Hand of God* Book Discussions begin.** See p. 8.

### Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

- Choir Practice**      First, second, and third Thursdays of the month, 7:30-9 p.m. in the sanctuary. Email: choir.
- Youth Group**      Most Sunday mornings, 10:45 a.m. OWL/Youth Group room. See p. 10.
- Yoga Classes**      Thursdays 6:15-7:15 p.m. in the basement. Contact Mira Tryon, email: yoga.