

 **the**
FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester

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SUNDAY SERVICES

July, 2007

NOTE: During the summer, there is a SINGLE service at 10 a.m.

July 1 – 10 a.m.

ALL YOU NEED IS...?

Brett Goldman

When faced with trying circumstances, we are often forced to evaluate our core purpose for life. We'll mine two highly different works of literature, Viktor Frankl's memoir *Man's Search for Meaning* and Richard Matheson's sci-fi novel *The Incredible Shrinking Man* for nuggets on finding the attitude and skills to survive life's greatest challenges. Is it love? Hope? Curiosity? In typical UU fashion, all of the above. Brett is a UFWC member.

July 8 – 10 a.m.

FOLK SINGING

The UFWC Folk Singing Interest Group

Our annual summer folk singing service will focus on songs about war and peace. As always, lyrics will be provided, and the congregation will be encouraged to join in.

July 15 – 10 a.m.

AFRICAN DANCE

Janet Peck

Experience the expressive power of African dance! Connect with your heart as Janet Peck and the Unitarian drummers inspire you to be your fullest YOU. Come dressed to dance and prepared for fun.

July 22 – 10 a.m.

COMPASSION AND RELIGION VIA KAREN ARMSTRONG

Today we will view a brief video of Karen Armstrong (author of *The History of God*) as she tells of her struggle with religion. We will then break into small groups for discussion.

July 29 – 10 a.m.

THE SEARCH FOR ONE'S AUTHENTIC SELF

Tom Sechrist

Career educator Tom Sechrist (former sixth grade teacher and Downingtown School District Superintendent, among other positions) will explore the effects for those of us whose identity does not fit the confines of traditional social norms.

Services and Babysitting at 10 a.m. only during the summer.

FROM THE PRESIDENT – IN A WEAK MOMENT...

So now I've been elected president of UFWC for a two year term. Most people I talk to about this assume I agreed to do this "in a weak moment" and show visible signs of sympathy for me, and relief for themselves that at least someone took this job (not them), and I'd be great at it, and good luck!

In fact this same phrase has been used to describe other members of our congregation who have taken on roles such as committee chairpersons, board members, volunteer coordinators, building repair people, coffee makers, greeters, RE Teachers etc.

I will admit that this tag was appropriate for me when I took the VP job, both times, mostly due to the fact that my work and family life were already somewhat overwhelming, and I feared I could not offer the needed time to this complex job in a time of such change.

But I'm sure I surprised the Nominating Committee when I answered the question, "Would you consider the role of board president next year?" with a quick, "Yes, of course."

What gives?

First, I've watched the job of board president go from absolutely ridiculous to "mostly manageable" under Flo's term. This is due to Flo and the Board being willing to start pushing back on operational topics and also to the rest of UFWC Council, committees and volunteers being willing and able to carry that ball without the Board's interference. We've made more progress in this regard in a couple of year's time than anyone thought possible.

Second, as I've said in the

past, working with the group of committed leaders at UFWC on behalf of such an important and inspiring place and mission is not really work – it's inspiring, rewarding, uplifting, nurturing, relaxing, and the best leadership training I've ever been involved in. In short it's been part of my own spiritual journey.

Third, I'm dedicated to working closely with our new Board and

Council to make each of these positions even more manageable in the future so that the combination of manageable and rewarding makes them coveted roles instead

of roles for which sympathy is extended.

Fourth, I get to work closely with Deborah as we welcome her into our home and hearts, and she us – how great is that?

Fifth, the Healthy Congregation people – trainers and trainees – will tell us that such a congregation is always accompanied by an atmosphere of giving – both in terms of finances and time and talent. I believe we're very generous as a congregation with both our time and money, although I challenge us as a whole to step up the time commitment if we're not giving all we can. Some of us are stretched way too thin. We need more help, or we'll need to back off a bit on what we're doing.

Fifth – as I've also said in the past, I'm not really here at UFWC to "be a leader". Rather I'm here because I have spiritual and social passions that I believe are given best outlet and are best served by a healthy UFWC – by which I mean one that has a pretty clear mission and vision and policy understanding so that it doesn't let

the small stuff take over from the important stuff. If I can help make this place run easier and just be better for everyone else, then I'll feel like maybe I've paid a little back for all I've gotten and continue to get out of it.

So there it is. I'm in full stop and looking forward to it.

Guess what? So are the new Board members, and the new committee chairs, and your new Vice-President. Ask them; you'll see. And watch closely how involved your past Board members stay.

So I'm humbled to be serving this congregation, and hope to do my best. But I'm not really looking for sympathy, I'm having way too much fun to fake it...

I could maybe use a few more helping hands to fill out the committees and get the coffee made, and maybe a little forgiveness in advance for any mistakes we're sure to make as we continue down the exciting road were on.

— Bob Scott, President

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee is pleased with our part in the growth of the congregation this past year. Although much credit goes to Rev. O'Neill, all of the members who took the time to meet and welcome visitors in any way contributed to convincing those potential members that this was the place for them. The larger we grow, the more organized the Membership Committee must be. We are working on how to best serve the congregation as efficiently as possible. It's a growth process for all of us.

— Mira Tryon

"I have spiritual and social passions best served by a healthy UFWC."

REmarks – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

Appreciation – Thanks to everyone who helped put together our RE Sunday service on June 10. Special thanks to Sharon Mayer-Conroy for organizing the fabulous coffee hour in honor of our teachers and for searching out the beautiful crystals and making the necklaces to complement our story of The Golden Thread. When you're not wearing your necklace, hang it at a sunny window and see how it refracts the light, and remember the message of the story: there is a truth that runs through all religions, even through they may seem fragmented and different from each other. Thank you once again to all our volunteer teachers. And thank you to all our Floating Volunteers, RE Committee members and Nursery volunteers. It was a great year!

Summer Activities – Based on input from parents, there will be no RE classes/program during the summer months. But – we want our kids and families to have opportunities to get together and have fun, to strengthen old friendships and create new ones. So, we've scheduled four RE Family Fun events. (See separate item on this page.) The events are targeted toward families, but everyone is welcome. Bring your inner child!

Child Care – The Nursery will be staffed each Sunday during the summer.

Social Action – The children from Kindergarten through fifth grade prepared a meal for the Safe Harbor homeless shelter on April 15. The food was kept frozen off-site, and brought to Safe Harbor on our regular serving date of May 13. Everyone loved the lasagna, green bean casserole and brownies, and were surprised that children had made the food. Thanks to Tylar Kelly (14) who helped

serve the meal.

A UU Creation Story? – Other faiths have their own creation stories, why not UUs? At the annual Retreat for DREs in our district last month, the program portion was presented by Michael Dowd and Connie Barlow. (Featured in the cover story of the spring 2006 UUWorld). Their mission is to help people see the divinity in evolution. Their presentation included ways to adopt evolution (starting with the Big Bang) as our UU creation story, and to bring “The Big Story” into RE classes.

Summer Reading – Looking for some good reading to take to the beach, pool or patio this summer? The 2008 UUA Bookstore catalog contains more than enough titles to keep you busy and inspired. There are many books relating to being a UU parent and developing spirituality in children. One I particularly like is *The Gift of Faith: Tending the Spiritual Lives*

of Children by Jeanne Nieuwejaar. You might also take a look at *The Book of New Family Traditions* by Meg Cox, or *How to Bury a Goldfish* by Lang and Nayer, a book of ceremonies and celebrations for everyday life. There are many lovely books of stories for children, too, including *Hide and Seek with God* by Mary Ann Moore, and *A Lamp in Every Corner* by Janeen Grohsmeyer.

Looking Ahead – Our curriculum theme for 2007-08 is world religions, including Neighboring Faiths – a favorite of students, teachers and parents – for our seventh and eighth graders. There are excellent curricula we have used before in the other grades, but I am currently reviewing some new curricula to see what their potential might be.

Have a wonderful summer!

— Pam Baxter

Director of Religious Education

GET TOGETHER WITH YOUR FRIENDS SUMMERTIME R.E. FAMILY FUN EVENTS

Thursday, June 21, 7:00 p.m. Ice cream at Chester Springs Creamery (Milky Way Farms). “Ice Cream Under the Stars,” at Milky Way Farm in Lionville. Enjoy delicious ice cream in familiar and exotic flavors (e.g. Chai Tea and Tiramisu) made from the resident dairy herd. You can even meet the cows.

Monday, July 16, 2:00 p.m. Swimming at Marsh Creek State Park. Marsh Creek has a large “L” shaped swimming pool, along with a shallow wading pool and swimming pool. A snack bar, sunning area and bathhouse are nearby; also, shady spots to put your chairs or towels. Fee: \$6 per person.

Check the August *Fellowtarian* for more details on two fun family events planned for August — Ice skating at IceLine one day during the week of August 6 and tubing down the Brandywine River on a Saturday in August.

These events are open to anyone in the Fellowship.

NEW POSITION AT THE FELLOWSHIP

If you attended the June 3 annual meeting, you know that our 2007-08 budget contains funding for a halftime (20 hour a week) office administrator. This position has become critical to our growth – as I reported at the annual meeting (and in last month's *Fellowtarian*), we need to provide more support for our committees and our minister, and we also need to develop and maintain a central Fellowship filing system.

Bob Scott and I have worked with our departing interim minister, Patrick O'Neill, to develop a job description that includes the work currently performed by our administrative assistant, Diane Vely, with considerably more responsibilities added. We shared this description with our new minister, Deborah Mero, for her input as well. It is now complete and is being advertised through the Religious Council of Greater West Chester and through some of our nearby UU churches. It represents an exciting opportunity for the right candidate, who will work with us to shape and develop office procedures commensurate with a program-sized church. If our growth continues, the position should also grow, to three quarter time and some years up the road, perhaps fulltime.

This change is an exciting one for us and will fill a critical need. As with much change, however, it has a sad side as well. Diane Vely feels it is too much for her to take on at this time. Diane has done an excellent job for us in her capacity as administrative assistant, and we would like to help her find another position in a 10-15 hour a week range. If any

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING JUNE 12, 2007

The Fellowship Board of Trustees met on June 12, 2007. Among the items for discussion was an update on the changes in the office administrator's position, and plans to advertise for the opening. One of the main duties of the position is to collect and organize Fellowship files.

In addition, Vice President Bob Scott reported on the progress toward a final bid for the porch renovation, with plans for a contract to be signed by the end of June. The Board agreed to make a final decision as to how to finance the construction within a few months, leaning toward taking a mortgage. The Vice-President also reported that a new custodian is being tried out.

Also, Finance Chair Erach Patel discussed long-range budget planning, and the Board asked that the Fellowship Council consider the estimates and offer input by the end of the year.

In regard to long-range building needs, Bob Scott and Trustee Jack Butler reported meeting with a West Chester borough official for ideas on enlarging our current building space, as well as identifying properties that may be available in the borough, should Fellowship growth warrant a new home.

This meeting was the last one for the 2006-2007 Board. Flo Miller, outgoing President, was thanked by the Board for her service to the Fellowship and the great job she did fulfilling her myriad of duties.

The first meeting of the 2007-2008 Board will be July 10. All are invited to attend. The new Board consists of Bob Scott, President; Craig Talbot, Vice President; Erach Patel, Executive Treasurer; Deanna Koepcke, Secretary; and Trustees Jack Butler, Diane Cohle, Fatima Patel, and Sandy Schaal. Please feel free to approach any of them with your comments and questions.

— Deanna Koepcke, Secretary



of you are aware of a clerical office position requiring excellent telephone skills and administrative office experience, please let Diane know by calling the church office and leaving a message if she is not in. I will be happy to give a recommendation. Also, if you see or talk to Diane, be sure to wish her God Speed and thank her for a job well done. Contact me if you have questions.

Finally, if you know of a non-Fellowship member with high level computer skills, excellent verbal and written skills, and administrative office experience please contact Bob Scott or myself for the complete job description and/or for the advertisement for the position. We hope to have this filled by mid-August.

— Flo Miller
Outgoing President

WE'RE JUST LOOKING . . .

The Board has authorized the creation of an ad hoc committee – now known as the Name Change Committee – to determine congregational interest in a name change for the UFWC. The initial task of the committee is not to find a new name but to explore what a new name might mean to our congregation. The committee is comprised of Mark Steel (Chair), Shelly Case, Diane Cohle, Heidi Frayer, and Fatima Patel.

Our exploration will include a number of issues we feel the congregation should consider during this process. These include:

- history of the Fellowship movement
- definitions of commonly used congregational names
- comparative analysis of names used by other congregations in the Joseph Priestly District as well as other Districts across the country
- ramifications of a name change including the cost, publicity, and any gains or losses we might experience within and without our congregational community.

In the next six to eight months the Name Change Committee will hold a large group as well as a number of small group discussions beginning in the Fall of 2007. These meetings will be for the purpose of disseminating the information gathered by the committee as well as providing a forum for discussion about the name change process.

Following this series of discussions, a congregational vote will be held to determine whether to proceed further with the name change process.

It is important to remember that this is a congregational decision, and as such, we are looking for as much participation as possible. The committee is anxious to provide each individual ample opportunity to learn about the process and to offer any suggestions, express concerns or ask questions. You can speak to any committee member directly, or contact them at email: name..

MISSED SOME OF PATRICK'S GREAT SERMONS?

Most services since February 25 are now available on audio CDs. The CDs may be played in an ordinary CD player or on a computer. Most of the service, including the music, is recorded and is divided into tracks so you may select which sections you would like to listen to and skip the other tracks.

The CDs are available in the back of the sanctuary. Please sign them out when you borrow one and sign it back in when you return it. Please be considerate to others and only keep a CD for one week. If you want to keep one longer or permanently feel free to copy it.

In addition, the text of most of the sermons can be found on our website at www.ufwc.org/uuserm.htm.



YOUTH GROUP

June was an exciting time for the Youth Group. A heart-warming Bridging Ceremony formed the second service on June 10th. Representatives of our entire religious community came together to recognize where our graduating seniors came from, to honor what they achieved, and to welcome them to young adulthood. It was an inspirational service, and we hope it will become a tradition in the years to come.

This month we bid adieu with deep gratitude to Michael Werner, who is “graduating” after six years as an adult advisor. We welcome four new adult advisors, Kathy McGinnis, Dan Meyer, Mark Steel and Dorothy Wavrek, who join our continuing slate of adult advisors, Kate Cuffari, Scott Klaum and Rob Sartain, in full- or part-time capacities.

Although we are winding down for the summer, we look forward to two significant events yet to come. First, we will participate en masse at the Joseph Priestley District’s youth summer CON at the Mainline Church in Devon in July. Second, we’re very excited for a party later this summer with the combined Youth Group and OWL class. We’re happy to share with the OWL class all the wonderful things we do in the Youth Group and to welcome them into our fold.

The Youth Group is open to anyone aged 14-18 who shares our values and mission. If you’re interested or have questions, please email: youth-group.

UUSC

What OUR charity is up to is highlighted on the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) home page, www.uusc.org, and it changes every week. The latest concerns an old topic, the war in Iraq. "UUSC is proud to be part of a growing peace movement in the United States that is working to bring an end to this war; to support our nation's men and women as they return from Iraq, Afghanistan, and other countries; and to rectify the grave harm caused to our nation's reputation by the events in Abu Ghraib and Guantánamo Bay and in the use of secret prisons.

As part of its opposition to this war, UUSC works with military, veterans, and human rights organizations to achieve our goals. In addition, UUSC is an active member of the *Win Without War* Coalition and regularly shares news of coalition activities with its members and supporters, and Unitarian Universalist congregations."

Here's an idea: How about a very special gift to a graduating (or any other) youth? Give him/her a UUSC membership for just \$10. You can do it online at www.uusc.org (and don't forget to indicate that your congregation is UFWC!) or see Robin Garrett, Deanna Koepcke, or Linda Sander.



STONES IN THE SAME WALL

A final meeting was held with about 20 people from the congregation on May 20 to finalize ideas from the *Left Hand of God* discussion groups. Small groups discussed several thought provoking questions. One of the products of this meeting was a covenant agreed upon and signed by everyone in attendance. We strongly feel that these are principles that should govern our relationships as we work together on projects of interest, as well as when communicating about projects and passions that didn't get picked for action at this point in time.

We Covenant:

- To use respectful language
- To listen to each other
- To acknowledge each others' ideas
- To be supportive of each other
- To trust the collective wisdom
- To mind the issues, not personalities
- To encourage, not discourage others
- To explain (and have an open) process to others
- To be sensitive to others
- To be forward thinking
- To communicate how each project is connected to the other...
...they are all stones in the same wall.

All of the projects that UFWC has done, is doing, and will do are stones in the same wall. They will all make the world a little better and, hopefully, a little more compassionate. There were strong congregational passions for projects in the areas of Global Warming, Affordable Housing, and World Peace, respectively. These will be the focus of the Social Justice Committee in addition to any current projects we are engaged in.

The Share-the-Plate recipient for July will be Open Hearth. This small organization based in Spring City provides innovative programs to help people end the cycle of homelessness and achieve financial self-sufficiency. Open Hearth supports and empowers people as they acquire affordable housing or a means of transportation, and it teaches valuable saving habits, offering a cash savings match. They are also addressing the need for more physically accessible housing.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Summer Small Group Ministry is open to all. If there are more than ten participants, we will split into two groups. July sessions are on the second and fourth Tuesdays from 7:15-9 p.m. at the Fellowship.

Topics (Thanks to Rev. Amy Bowden Freedman of Channing Church in Newport, RI):

July 10 Radical Hospitality

July 24 Spiritual Experiences

Details on the topics will be sent out later by email. Come join is! Contact Gerry Giess at email: SGM

SUMMER CAMPING TRIP SUSQUEHANNOCK STATE PARK JULY 21-22

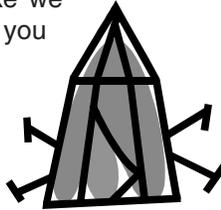
We tried Susquehannock State Park last year, but we got rained out. So we're going to try again (though we first tried getting the favorite French Creek SP campsite, but it was already taken).

Susquehannock State Park sits on a bluff overlooking the Susquehanna River in southern Lancaster County, north of the Conowingo Reservoir. You can find out more about Susquehannock on the internet at www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks. Convenient to the group camp site are a playground, a ball field and hiking trails. Unfortunately, the group camping at Susquehannock does NOT have a pavilion; hopefully we won't need one like we did last year. (Maybe a few of you have a dining fly you could bring?)

Please plan to come on Saturday, July 21 any time after 3 p.m. Even if you're not a camper or can't spend the night, you are welcome to drop by to join in the fun, make some new friends and sing a few songs around the campfire. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary, along with park flyers (or sign up by sending an email to camping). Please sign up no later than Sunday, July 15, so we can plan for adequate food. Still, you last-minute deciders are welcome to join in the fun.

There is a nominal fee to cover the cost of the campsite and food (less than \$20/family). Hamburgers, hotdogs, veggie burgers, marshmallows and non-alcoholic drinks are provided for Saturday night; bagels, donuts, coffee and juice are provided for Sunday morning. We ask you to bring a side dish for Saturday night (salad or dessert) or Sunday morning ("brunchable").

Camping equipment you may need includes a tent, sleeping bag, air mattress, camp chair, flashlight and bug repellent. We'll need coolers and firewood — let us know what equipment you can provide. If you have additional questions, contact Dan Meyer and Eileen Kelly at email: camping. We hope to see you there.



EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 16

We meet regularly on the third Sunday of the month, September through May. Plans for next year's reading and discussion topics will be announced in August *Fellowtarian*, and we welcome your suggestions.

Please don't hesitate to contact either Shelly Case or Ruth MacFadyen with your questions at email: diversity-book-group.

FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

Watch for the Fun and Fellowship Committee's article in the August *Fellowtarian*. It will tell you about all the things we do, and we will invite you to join us at L'Angolo di Tivoli Italian Restaurant the evening of August 13. That is when we will make plans for 2007-2008's fun events. We would love to have your input.

SIMPLICITY CIRCLE

We will meet after the 10 a.m. service on July 1, the usual first Sunday of the month. We ask each person to present thoughts meaningful to you regarding the theme of the day. The group chose to share about mentoring that has impacted our lives, and the ways in which we have been affected. This could include mentoring we have done ourselves.

Our May and June meetings have been smaller, due to Mother's day and other activities. This then allowed more attention for the individuals present.

This is a good group to attend by new-comers, who want to begin developing some relationships in a reflective, personable atmosphere. Any questions or comments contact Heidi Buss at email: simplicity.

THANK YOU PHIL AND MARY YEAGER

Most of you have no idea how hard Phil and Mary work to make our picnics a success. Thank you Phil and Mary, and thanks to everyone else who helped set up and clean up at our big "Farewell Patrick" picnic.

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

Jul 1	Sun	Simplicity Circle. 11:30 a.m. Fireplace Room. See p.7.
Jul 2	Mon	Finance Committee. 7:30 p.m. Office. Contact Erach Patel, email: finance
Jul 6	Fri	Potluck & Game Night. 6:30 p.m. At the Fellowship. See below.
Jul 7	Sat	Folk Singing. 8 p.m. at the home of Steve and Linda Sander. See below.
Jul 8	Sun	Safe Harbor Dinner. Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. Email: safe-harbor
Jul 10	Tue	Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Office. All are welcome.
Jul 13	Fri	Lunch Group. 11:30 a.m. at Panera in West Goshen. See below.
Jul 15	Sun	Young Adult Group. 12:30 p.m. Sanctuary. Email: young-adults
Jul 16	Mon	Swimming at Marsh Creek State Park. 2:00 p.m. See p. 3.
Jul 21-22	Sat-Sun	Annual Summer Camping Trip. Susquehannock State Park. See p. 7.
Jul 24	Tue	Social Justice Committee. 7 p.m. Office. Email: social-justice
Jul 25	Wed	Council Meeting. Large RE room. Contact Craig Talbot, email: vice-president
Jul 26	Thu	Religious Services Committee. 7:30 p.m. Office. Email: religious-services
Jul 28	Sat	Lunch for the Needy. Provided by our Fellowship at the Salvation Army. Email: salvation-army

Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

Small Group Ministry	Open sessions on Tuesdays July 10 and July 24. See p. 6.
Youth Group	See p. 5.
Yoga Classes	Thursdays 6:15-7:15 p.m., basement. Contact Myra Tryon to be sure that classes will be meeting, email: yoga

LUNCH GROUP

Lunch group will meet on Friday, July 13 at 11:30 a.m. at Panera, located in West Goshen, near Shop Rite, at 1103 West Chester Pike. Newcomers are welcome. E-mail lunch-group to be added to the e-mail reminder list. Please try to respond to the e-mail reminder so we can save enough space for everyone. If you change your mind at the last minute, come anyway. Everyone is welcome.

– Linda Sander

FOLK SINGING

The folk singing interest group will get together on Saturday, July 7, at 8 p.m., at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. No talent or experience is necessary – just a desire to have fun. Bring a munchie if you wish. Maps are available in the foyer. Contact Steve at email: folk-singing.

POTLUCK AND GAME NIGHT

Our next Game night is July 6 at 6:30 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 followed by games, usually around 7. Contact Mary Yeager at email: fun.