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**FELLOWTARIAN**

*Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester*

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

### January, 2008

**January 6**

**THERE IS A SEASON**

**Rev. Deborah Mero**

As we embark on the new year, I will begin what may turn out to be a sermon series based on Ecclesiastes 3. Yes there is a time for everything under Heaven.

**January 13**

**BEYOND THE UFWC:  
THE UUA AND JOSEPH PRIESTLY DISTRICT**

**Lay Led**

We'll explore the opportunities for spiritual enrichment, leadership development, and general congregational support available in our wider denomination, as seen through the eyes of congregational leaders who have experienced them. For those new to Unitarian Universalism, this service will provide a valuable introduction to our denominational resources; for others, it's an important refresher course. As part of the service, we will take a special collection to support the UUA.

**January 20**

**THE HIGH COST OF DREAMING**

**Rev. Deborah Mero**

Often the dreamers in our society have also been the prophets and ultimately the martyrs. On this Martin Luther King Jr. holiday it is important to look at what he had to say that wasn't just about his dreams.

**January 27**

**OUR SPIRITUAL PATHS**

**Lay Led**

In this ever-popular service, we invite three of our members to tell about their spiritual journeys. Come and learn about the intriguing differences between our lives, and look for common themes among the stories of how we came to our present involvement with Unitarian Universalism and with this congregation.

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

# The Song of Deborah

Last night Ralph and I were guests of an acquaintance of his who gave us passes for the wonderful winter festivities at Longwood Gardens. What a magical place and time. I found myself again feeling the joy of having moved to West Chester. It seems that each day something happens or I have a chance encounter that reminds me of how lucky I am to be doing something I love with a community I am coming to love in a place I am learning to love.

*"I look back with gratitude...and I look forward with excitement..."*

It just stops me in my tracks some times, and I have to take a deep breath and try to hold back the tears of joy. There is no way of you knowing this, but this is a relatively new thing for me, not the feeling grateful part, but feeling it so emotionally. I am sure the waves of emotion will wash over me again on Christmas Eve. How glorious it is to be able to feel so deeply happy.

The joy that I am feeling being with you is, of course, tempered by the fears and sometimes rage I feel at what is happening to our country and our planet as we live our day to day lives, for the most part content with our lot. I can't help but want to do whatever is in my power to do whatever is in the realm of possibility to contribute to improving the lives of others that they may share the contentment and a life not based on fear.

The system was designed to give power to the people through our elected representatives, but that only works when our representatives bother to care what their constituents think. And since we don't live in a true democracy (where decisions are made by straight votes) but in a republic, as

noted, this is what we have to work with. And again, I am grateful to be in the company of so many who wish for our country and society the peace and justice that I do. We must believe that we can make a difference, and we must act accordingly. There is lots to do.

And now we enter into the new year — what, another new year? we seem to have so many of them — we look to new things happening in our lives and in the Fellowship. We look forward and back at the same time, like Janus, the two headed god. I look back with gratitude for everything and everyone that made me what I am today and got me to this place. And I look forward with excitement for who we will be together as we find our way along the journey.

We will continue to share our traditions with one another, learn new ones and even create some along the way. And our adventure into the world of adult religious education is about to begin. You will see listed separately that Listen to Her Voice, Women in the Hebrew Bible starts in mid-January. It will be fun to learn from one another and I look forward to it.

So as we go into the new year, may we walk gently on the planet leaving as little a footprint as possible. May we be true to our values and make our decisions with that in mind. May we value one another and the stranger as well — each one of us is or has been a stranger at one time. We are part of a proud prophetic tradition. May it live on in our hearts, our words, and our deeds.

Peace, Joy, and Love to all.

— *Deborah*

## SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

There are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday groups now meeting. New group members are welcome. If interested, contact Gerry Giess at email sgm. More information can be found on brochures in the lobby.

## SINGING THE JOURNEY

The Music Committee is excited to announce that the *Singing the Journey* supplement hymnbooks have arrived and will first be used by the congregation on January 6. Our current hymnbook was published in 1993, and the *STJ* was developed by the UUA as an additional resource to express the thinking, beliefs and creativity of our denomination some 15 years later. Those of us who have sung and heard the music in the *STJ* are eagerly anticipating the experience of singing these songs with our home congregation.

About twenty people have expressed interest in singing or playing instruments in a new group that will perform and assist the congregation in learning the songs from the *STJ*. Members of the group will meet January 6 before each service to learn two songs. Those interested in joining in should meet at 8:30 in the sanctuary that day. If you don't want to stand up front during the service, just come to get a head start on learning some great music. Call Abby McGillivray Marie Steel at for more information.

## REmarks – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

**It has been a busy and exciting time in RE as usual.** Several of the classes learned about the Christian tradition of Christmas and discussed the metaphors it brings up. For example: the birth of Jesus symbolizing the birth of hope, and how the birth of every child is a miracle, as well as a symbol of hope and new beginnings.

- In the fifth/sixth grade class, the lights are dimmed for the first five minutes and the basement quiets (as much as possible) as the class practices a brief meditation.
- The third/fourth grade class continues its exploration of the Old Testament. Recently, they heard the story of David and Goliath. You can view the figures they made of David and Goliath that are hanging on the wall in the Joseph Priestley Room (former kitchen.) Teacher Caitlyn Bixler noted that “no one had a problem understanding the lesson of accomplishing big things no matter what your size/age. In the UU spirit, we also discussed alternatives to using violence (as David did in killing Goliath) in order to accomplish our objectives.”
- The Neighboring Faiths class (seventh/eighth grades) visited the Baptist Church of West Chester, hosted by Anya Brandt, one of the classroom teachers, who is a member of that church. So far, this class has explored Unitarian Universalism (including a visit to the new Wellsprings congregation in Chester Springs) and Judaism (with a visit to Keshet Israel). Their next exploration will be of Buddhism.

Check the chart on the wall in the Olympia Brown Fireplace Room to see what the class has identified as the major components of each

faith tradition as they continue on their journey of discovery. Is there a UU Holy Book? What unique “holy days” do we celebrate at UFWC? See what they have discovered!

**Children and adults** may be separated geographically on most Sunday mornings, but we work to avoid an “Upstairs/Downstairs” mentality. UFWC is the children’s spiritual home as much as the adults’. As part of that, in January we will begin looking for ways to include our young people both in our Possible Name Change discussions, and also in Rev. Mero’s Installation Service, scheduled for April 6.

**“How often should I bring my children to church?”** Is that a question you ask yourself? Because I get to see first-hand how much fun the kids have the more they are here, my response of course is, “Bring them every week!” Realistically, I’m aware that this is not always possible. There are dance recitals, visiting relatives, homework projects, and sometimes the desire to just “sleep in.”

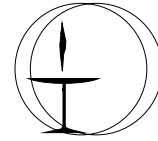
But I also know, from talking with parents, that the children who attend RE most frequently are the ones who enjoy it the most. It takes time to get comfortable in a new environment and to make friends. With just an hour once a week, that is challenging for kids, especially shyer ones.

So – here’s a suggestion. Take a look at how many Sundays each month you usually attend, and make a commitment to increase that number by one. If you haven’t been able to make it out of the door at all on Sunday mornings, come once a month. If you’ve been able to attend once a month, try for two Sundays. And see what happens. I would suggest trying for a commitment to attend at least two Sundays each month. And absolutely plan to attend our intergenerational services.

Another question I hear among parents is, “How do you get your kids out the door on Sundays?” Since many parents are challenged by the same issue, maybe we should sit down and have a focused discussion about that. I’d like to pick a date (maybe a Sunday after the 9 o’clock service), for parents and teachers to gather and see what can be learned from each other. We’ll come up with something for the kids to do while parents meet.

— Pam Baxter

Director of Religious Education



### **ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FINALLY BEGINS!**

#### **Listen to Her Voice, Women in the Hebrew Bible.**

Commencing January 16 and for each Wednesday night (allowing for the occasional scheduling conflict) we will come together to study about the women in the Hebrew Bible. We will study the *Midrash* — the stories about the stories about these 13 women and read lots of interesting interpretations of who they were and why. The course is open to all and the schedule and annotated bibliography can be found on my web page here: <http://tinyurl.com/2p7hag>. Come to any or all sessions. More information will be provided on the web site as time goes on.

## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

What does it mean to be a UU? Come to the January 13 service and find out!

We are an extremely active congregation, fully involved in life within our Fellowship walls and in outreach to the greater West Chester community. So it's easy to forget that we are part of a wider movement called the Unitarian Universalist Association. Yet the UUA supports and sustains our religious community, adding strength to what otherwise would be a "lone" voice speaking out for liberal religious values. Indeed, it would be next to impossible to list everything we receive in assistance from the UUA and our own Joseph Priestley District, which serves churches in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Virginia.

Our service on January 13 is intended to remind us of our broader connection to the denomination and to celebrate what that connection means in terms of our health as a congregation and our individual spiritual growth. Four church leaders will join Deborah, sharing their personal experiences at denominational events and workshops. Through their stories, you will gain an increased understanding into what it means to be a part of the liberal religious tradition called Unitarian Universalism.

While this is a Fellowship service with uniquely Fellowship elements, it is at the same time part of a UU effort to hold "Association Sundays" throughout the denomination. Most congregations (including those in our immediate area) held their Association Sunday in October; we delayed ours because Deborah had just arrived as our minister.

As part of the service, there will be a special collection to support three activities within the UUA: 1) a National Awareness Campaign that has included ads in national publications; 2) congregational growth grants; and 3) a Diversity of Ministry Team whose goal is to support ministers of color, Latino/a and Hispanic ministers, and the congregations that call them. All of these are special projects that require additional funding beyond the regular operating budget of the UUA.

As with all special collections, we ask only that you give if you can and what you can. Do plan on attending this important service, however. We promise an inspiring message that will strengthen our commitment to UUism and provide insights into our place in the denomination.

— Flo Miller, Denominational Affairs Chair

*Our January 13 service is intended to remind us of our broader connection to the denomination.*

## CLOSURE NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

We have had a couple of weekends when the weather forecast seemed a bit dicey, and it forced us to put together a process of letting everyone know if we will cancel the Sunday Service or any other big event due to either weather, power loss or something unforeseen.

1. An announcement will be placed on the Fellowship voice mail recording (610-692-5966).

2. The following radio and TV stations will be notified.

**Radio:** WCOJ 1420 AM  
KYW 1060 AM

**TV:** CBS Ch. 3  
NBC Ch. 10

3. You may be directly contacted by phone or e-mail.

4. If possible, a notice on the first page of our web-site will show a cancellation of services.

We hope, by using all types of media, everyone will be informed and most of all safe. If in doubt, call or check the web site.

Also, we urge everyone to always keep one "old fashioned" telephone, one that is not wireless or does not require electricity to work, plugged into a telephone outlet somewhere in your house. Should there be a power outage, you may want to be able to make or receive phone calls.

## CARING CORNER

The daughter of one of our members is expecting a baby girl early in February and is in need of most everything for the baby except infant clothes. Her wish list includes bottles, bedding, stroller (ideally with car seat), infant seat, baby swing, changing table and bureau. If you have any of these items that are no longer needed and would like to pass them on, please contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy at email: caring.  
\* \* \* \* \*

We now have a good number of Helping Hands volunteers who are willing to help people out in various ways, such as rides, food, and chores, in times of illness, crisis, or death in the family. A great big thank you goes out to all those generous people. If you would like to volunteer but haven't signed up, fill out a form on the table in the lobby, and place it in the wooden "Helping Hands" box.

If you find yourself in need of help, please feel free to ask. You can speak to Rev. Deborah Mero or anyone on the Caring Committee: Sharon Mayer-Conroy, Heidi Buss, Pat Orban, John Orban, and Diane Cohle. You can identify us by the hearts on our name tags. We can also be reached by the contact information above.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees met on December 11 for its regular monthly meeting. Board members include Bob Scott, President; Craig Talbot, Vice-president; Erach Patel, Finance Chair; Deanna Koepcke, Secretary; and Jack Butler, Diane Cohle, Fatima Patel, and Sandy Schaal, Trustees. Rev. Deborah Mero and Pam Baxter, Director of Religious Education, also meet with the Board.

Board members continued their discussion of developing a mission statement, focusing on what might be the spiritual aspect of it. They also explored briefly the process of creating an executive team as part of the Fellowship leadership.

In addition, Rev. Mero emphasized the importance of the Board meeting with new members in groups, asking for their feedback regarding their experience with the Fellowship. Also, plans were finalized for sending a team, including Diane Cohle and Craig Talbot, to the Planning for Growth Workshop in January at Murray Grove. Finance Chair Erach Patel discussed the payment process for the new office and kitchenette; the final payment will be made with a loan from a Fellowship member. And Rev. Mero raised the issue of increasing the range of access to Fellowship information and communications, as opposed to it being held by one person.

Lastly, the Board discussed the budgeting process, especially in regard to recently purchased hymnals. Also, President Scott noted that a committee is being established to prepare for Rev. Mero's installation as the Fellowship's settled minister in April.

The Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Congregants are welcome to attend and Board members are always available for comments and questions.

## FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT FUNDRAISING AT UFWC

As UFWC Vice-President, I co-chair the Fellowship Council (with Rev. Mero). This group oversees day-to-day operations at UFWC. We meet monthly to coordinate the work of our committees and generally to smooth things out. I also sit on the Board of Trustees. In recent discussions with both groups, it has become apparent that I should share this brief reminder with all our members and friends.

UFWC is a faith community, compassionate and generous in nature. We endorse a number of initiatives to help make the world a better place. In doing so, we permit a range of fundraising activities within the community. I wish to remind each of you that while these calls for your support will often be compelling, you can and should keep your giving within your means. Remember, too, that you strengthen UFWC's overall effort by pledging generously to our annual Stewardship Campaign.

I have no doubt that we can continue to be very generous to many worthy causes without placing undue financial burden on our members and friends.

— In faith,  
Craig Talbot

## COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

The UUA recommends that congregations that have recently completed a ministerial search appoint a temporary Committee on Ministry made of some of the members of the Search Committee because both the congregation and the new minister know them and have worked with them. Consequently, the Board and the Search Committee agreed that Ed Cohle, Eileen Kelly, Jim MacFadyen, and Mark Steel would serve as the interim Committee on Ministry. After Deborah spends more time with us and

*The committee encourages any member with a question or concern to speak to one or all of the committee.*

gets to know the congregation, she and the Board will select a Committee on Ministry according to our bylaws.

In this transition phase, the Committee on Ministry will advise Deborah about the congregation and about any matters that may develop that could affect her ministry, help establish strong minister-member relationships, and help seek a process of resolution for any conflicts that arise. The committee encourages any member with a question or concern about the ministry of the congregation to speak to one or all of the committee. These conversations will be kept strictly confidential.

In the longer term, the Committee on Ministry is expected to monitor, evaluate, and support the ministry of the congregation of which the professional ministry is only one part.



## DO YOUR PART TO HELP OUR HUNGRY NEIGHBORS

It is time again to renew our commitment to helping provide meals to hungry folks in our area. **UFWC** (that means you and me) prepares and serves dinner at the **Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter** every second Sunday of the month and lunch for the **Salvation Army** every fourth Saturday.

This is how it works: For each meal, we have one "Lead Chef" and two "Helpers". The lead arranges the menu, contacts the others, and cooks a part of the meal. The helpers assist in cooking a portion of the meal. The meals must feed between 25-35 people. The lead usually serves the meal at the shelter and the helpers are welcome, but not required to help serve.

Generally, a person or family signs up to be a lead one time a year and a helper two times a year. It is fine if you want to do more or less than that, or if you only want to be a lead or only want to be a helper. Salvation Army is open to chefs of all ages, but chefs must be at least 12 to help serve at Safe Harbor.

To get on the schedule for this year, e-mail Sharon Mayer-Conroy at email safe-harbor and let me know:

1. Your name, address, phone number and e-mail address
2. Preference for **Safe Harbor, Salvation Army** (or either)
3. Type of Chef you'd like to be (Lead, Helper, or either)
4. Number of times per year you'd like to be scheduled, and your availability – e.g. any months you are not available. (The schedule runs from February 2008 to February 2009.)

If you are a **veteran volunteer, please** e-mail me, so I know for sure you are able and willing to

## ARE YOU A CHALICE LIGHTER?

One of the denominational programs that has directly benefited our Fellowship and will be discussed briefly at the January 13 service is Chalice Lighters. Chalice Lighters is a program of the Joseph Priestley District of the UUA that is designed to support growth. Grants are awarded to individual congregations for land or building purchases, major building renovations, additional professional staff, new congregation start ups, 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.

The Fellowship is currently in the second year of a \$20,000 Chalice Lighters grant that recognizes an innovative and aggressive approach we have taken to growth, in part by bringing in a consultant. That consultant, the Rev. Tom Chulak, served us in the 2005-06 church year and was very helpful in guiding us through organizational changes necessary to support a larger congregation. The grant money - \$10,000 last church year, \$6,000 this year, and \$4,000 next year – is helping to fund advertising, increased staffing, and some infrastructure support (office equipment and computers).

The Fellowship has received other Chalice Lighters grants in the past to help us with building and staffing needs.

Currently, 58 members of the Fellowship are themselves Chalice Lighters, giving back to other congregations what has been given to us. While membership is purely voluntary, I encourage anyone with the means who is not currently a member to become part of this very important program. I or another Fellowship Chalice Lighter will be at a table with information after services in January and February beginning on January 13. Please stop by - or if you'd rather learn more on your own, visit the Joseph Priestley District website at [www.jpduua.org](http://www.jpduua.org). Click on the Chalice Lighters link and then on "Become a Chalice Lighter" to download a brochure and membership form.

— Flo Miller, Denominational Affairs Chair

## READY TO SIGN THE BOOK?

Those who are ready to become members and sign "The Book" are invited to speak with either the minister or Mira Tryon (Membership Committee). We will include a welcoming of new members and book signing in the January 13 Sunday Service.



continue volunteering, and so I can meet your preference in scheduling.

A special note to **new people** —**Welcome!** There are many of us that have been doing this for a while and it's a **very easy** way to make a small commitment to our

community. I'm happy to answer any questions and plenty of help is available. New volunteers are usually put on as Helpers until they are comfortable being Lead Chefs.

Try it — you'll like it. Thank you all so much.

— Sharon Mayer-Conroy

## INDOOR CAMPING JANUARY 25 SPONSORED BY THE RE COMMITTEE

The RE Committee invites parents and children (Pre-K through 8th grade) to our Second Annual Indoor Camping event. Join us on Friday, January 25, when we clear the sanctuary floor for family camping – complete with tents, games, folk singing and storytelling.

Our camp-in runs from Friday night into Saturday morning. We'll begin the evening at 6:30 p.m. with pizza and drinks supplied by the RE Committee, followed by active games and any other games we'd like to play.

At 7:30 we'll set up our tents, followed by singing and storytelling at 8:30. Lights out in the sanctuary at 9:30; however for those who aren't quite ready to go to sleep, the basement will be open.

If you cannot stay for the camping, join us anyway and just plan on leaving before "lights out."

The RE Committee will provide a simple breakfast Saturday morning of fruit, bagels and cream cheese, coffee (LOTS of it), and juice.

Campers will bring snacks and desserts. Of course free-standing tents, sleeping bags and air mattresses are a must. In addition, please bring blankets (it gets cool overnight) and lawn chairs to sit on for bingo, singing/storytelling and eating. A small fee – to be determined based upon the number of participants – will be charged to cover the food and drinks.

Please RSVP to Marie Steel by Monday January 21, including the number of people in your party. All children must be accompanied by an adult for the entire event.



## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE (UUSC) UPDATE

What do Charlie Clements, M.D., head of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), Bill Schulz, past head of the UUA and of Amnesty International, and Mia Farrow, star of Rosemary's Baby, have in common? They were all marching together in Washington on Dec. 10 to support the "Drumbeat for Darfur". And they ask that we contact our Senators and urge them to support the "Sudan Accountability and Divestment Act". For details, go to the UUSC website: [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org).

Who supports UUSC for such actions? We do, through "Guest at Your Table" and by having membership in UUSC. Remember, it's the only human rights organization that begins with "U.U." For more information, contact one of our local reps: Robin Garrett, Deanna Koepcke, or Linda Sander.

P.S. UUSC Holiday card sales are going very well. We've sold almost 100 packages — a record. But because there are a few packages left, they will be available one more Sunday after the services.

## NEW STEWARDSHIP FORMAT

Following some UUA suggestions, the Stewardship Campaign will have a new look this spring. The Gatherings of the past carried us well through the interim years. Now, with Reverend Mero in our pulpit, there will be a new stewardship model.

The main event of the campaign, which ALL of you will be encouraged to attend, will be "Commitment Sunday" on March 16. There will be lots of information prior to this, but it will be a single Sunday service with a wonderful blend of spirituality, inspiration and stewardship. This method is new for us, but has been used successfully in other congregations and serves as an energizing and galvanizing event.

Deborah's installation celebration will fall in the middle of the campaign, adding to the inspiration (more on that elsewhere).

The Annual Dinner will serve a different purpose: rather than a kick off, it will be held on April 19 and will serve as a thank you celebration at the close of our campaign. As always, good food and great entertainment will be featured.

This is but a thumbnail sketch; this new format will call for lots of preliminary education, so be on watch for information that will help you understand and share in the excitement of the Stewardship Campaign. Please contact Pam Sapko or Gerry Giess (email Gerry at [stewardship](mailto:stewardship)) if you have any questions or would like to help with any aspect of the Stewardship Campaign.

— Pam Sapko and Gerry Giess  
Stewardship co-chairs

## YOUTH GROUP

Join us! On Monday, January 21, the Youth Group will gather for our annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. We'll pick a service project to help a community organization (usually involving light physical activity and much fun) and encourage anyone and everyone from the Fellowship to chip in and help out. Details to follow. We're also planning a trip to the upcoming JPD WinterCON (January 25-27 in Alexandria, Virginia).

In December, we counted up the \$137 our concert night raised for UFWC's Habitat for Humanity house. We followed that with a serious and engaging discussion about whether there is life after death – is there a great beyond? We had a blast at our movie over-night and some great follow-up conversations about the films.

Stay tuned for more information, and please COME HELP on our service day! Questions? Contact email youth-group or call Rob Sartain or Kate Cuffari.

## SIMPLICITY CIRCLE

Our next meeting is on January 3, the usual first Sunday in the month at 12:30 p.m., after the service. Jim Hynes will lead us off, as we will continue to focus on Genuine Living and examine our lives, asking ourselves, "What does it mean to live genuinely? What are some of the pathways toward reaching our authentic core, and how do we live it out?" These paths have many dimensions.

We've been asked why we are called Simplicity Circle. Suggestions are being made about possibly changing our name and we are considering. Simplicity has many dimensions, including inside and outside, the reflective and the practical, the active and the passive, the interpersonal and imaginative. How can we best project the meaning in a simple name? What are we really after in our life? What are our deepest longings for a complete life? Getting through complexity, we seek our own personal simple path.

These discussions are significant opportunities for new friends and members to be integrated with our larger membership via a reflective and personable atmosphere. Come and join us. No preparation needed. It's a good group for newcomers, no commitment required, though continuity is best. Contact Heidi Buss at email: simplicity.

— Heidi Buss

## EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

JANUARY 20 7 – 8:30 P.M.

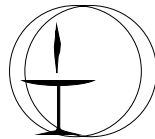
The movie *The Milagro Beanfield War* (1988), directed by Robert Redford, is set in a tiny town in New Mexico and tells the story of first one man's stand and then a community's war against a big development. This month we plan to get together to watch the movie before we meet for our discussion. Contact either of us to find out where and when — Shelly Case or Ruth MacFadyen or by email at diversity-book-group. All are Welcome.

\* \* \* \* \*

February 24 (fourth Sunday this month) – Book (Fiction) – *Digging to America: A Novel* by Anne Tyler – Leader: Pam Sapko

March 16 – Book (Non-Fiction) – *36 Views of Mount Fuji: On Finding Myself in Japan* by Cathy Davidson – Leader: Ruth MacFadyen

April 20 – Book (Fiction) – *Sky Burial: An Epic Love Story of Tibet* by Xinran Xue – Leader: Susan Gast



## GAME NIGHT

Our next Potluck and Game night will be on Friday, January 4, at the Fellowship. Join us at 6:30 p.m. for dinner or after 7 for games. Everyone is welcome — families, individuals, couples, children...

Bring a dish and beverage to share as well a game or two that you like.

(Don't forget the beverage, because we never know how many are coming, so we don't know how much to bring.

Besides, we don't know what you want to drink) Friends are welcome, so bring one or two along.

We send out an email reminder a few days before to those who are regulars. If you would like a reminder, just send a note to email: game-night saying, "Put me on the Game-Night list!" If you have any questions, you can query at the above email address or call Mary Yeager.





## KARAOKE RETURNS TO UFWC

**JANUARY 12, 7 PM – 9 PM**

Good singers, not-so-good-singers and appreciative listeners/fans are all welcome. Willingness to have fun is the only requirement. Bring an appetizer to share if you would like. Other refreshments, including beverages and donated desserts will be available with proceeds going to support Habitat for Humanity. Donations of brownies, cookies and such for sale at the dessert table are most welcome. Questions can be directed to email: fun.



## COFFEE HOUSE

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
AN EVENING OF  
MUSIC**

**WHEN:**

Saturday,  
January 19, 7-10 pm

**WHERE:**

The Fellowship Sanctuary

**WHO:**

Talented musicians playing acoustic music, 2-3 songs per performer. Sign up 6:30 to 7 p.m. First come first served.

**CONTACT:**

Judy Perri at  
email: coffeehouse  
All members and friends are  
invited to be supporters  
and/or entertainers.

## YOGA

When you have time to think about a New Year Resolution, consider joining the Yoga class at the Fellowship on Thursday nights from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. It's an hour to relax, stretch and be present with your Self (mind, body and spirit). If you've always thought about Yoga, now might be the time to try it. You might like it! For questions, contact Mira at email yoga.

## FOLK SINGING

After taking a month off for the holidays, folk singing is starting up again on Saturday, January 5, at 8 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. Bring a munchie, if you wish. Maps are available in the foyer. Newcomers are always welcome. No experience or talent is necessary. Contact Steve at email: folk-singing.



## LUNCH GROUP

Lunch group will meet on Friday, January 11, 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 don't have e-mail or you change your mind at the last minute, come anyway. Everyone is welcome.

– Linda Sander

## NEW YEAR'S DAY OPEN HOUSE CURT HOGANSON'S AND NANCY ARTUS' HOME 341 N. WOODMONT DRIVE, DOWNINGTOWN

All UFWC members and friends are welcome to a party on Tuesday, January 1 at Curt, Nancy, Hannah, and Sondra's home. This will be like most our other holiday parties in that all guests bring a dish to share, and the hosts will provide a variety of beverages and some food as well. Arrive and leave anytime between 2 and 7 p.m. Children and youth are welcome, RSVPs are not necessary. Please be aware that the hostesses will be unable to sample dishes made with wheat, rye or barley (including soy sauce with wheat, some canned broths, and malt) — feel free to contact Nancy (email:fun) for more information — but don't feel like you cannot bring a dish with these ingredients.

Directions and a map are in the foyer.

## WREATH AND POINSETTIA SALE

Thanks to all who purchased wreaths and plants, this small but colorful fundraiser raised nearly \$550 for the Fellowship. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped with preorders, decorating, sales and watering. Special thanks, too, to Cyndy Bullaughey and Eileen Kelly who provided the decorations for the Fellowship.

## FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

*All email addresses @ufwc.org unless otherwise noted.*

Jan 1	Tue	<b>New Year's Day Open House.</b> 2-7 pm Curt Hoganson/Nancy Artus Home. See p. 9.
Jan 2	Wed	<b>Finance Committee.</b> 2:00 p.m. Office. Contact Erach Patel, email finance
Jan 3	Thu	<b>Caring Committee.</b> 1-3 p.m. Sharon Mayer-Conroy's home. Contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: caring <b>Global Warming Interest Group.</b> 7-9 p.m. Lobby. Contact Diane Maguire, email: global-warming.
Jan 4	Fri	<b>Potluck and Game Night.</b> 6:30 p.m. for dinner. 7 p.m. for games. Sanctuary. See p. 8.
Jan 5	Sat	<b>Folk Singing.</b> 8 p.m. at the home of Steve and Linda Sander. See p. 9.
Jan 6	Sun	<b>Singing the Journey.</b> 8:30 a.m. Sanctuary. See p. 2. <b>Simplicity Circle.</b> 12:30 p.m. Fireplace Room. See p. 8.
Jan 8	Tue	<b>Board Meeting.</b> 7:30 p.m. Office. All are welcome.
Jan 9	Wed	<b>RE Committee.</b> 7:00 p.m. OWL room. Contact Cathy Vogt, email: religious-education
Jan 10	Thu	<b>Social Justice Committee.</b> 7:15-9 p.m. Office. Contact Ed Cohle or Linda Sander, e-mail: social-justice
Jan 11	Fri	<b>Lunch Group.</b> 11:30 a.m. See p. 9.
Jan 12	Sat	<b>Karaoke Party.</b> 7-9 p.m. at the Fellowship. See p. 9.
Jan 13	Sun	<b>Safe Harbor Dinner.</b> Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. To help, contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: safe-harbor
Jan 14	Mon	<b>Beyond War Group.</b> 7-9 p.m. Email: beyond-war
Jan 16	Wed	<b>Women in the Hebrew Bible.</b> 7-9 p.m. Fireplace Rm. Weekly classes start. See p. 3.
Jan 19	Sat	<b>Coffee House.</b> 7-10 p.m. (Performers sign up 6:30-7 p.m.) Sanctuary. See p. 9.
Jan 20	Sun	<b>Exploring Diversity Book Discussion Group.</b> 7-8:30 pm. Fireplace Room. See p. 8.
Jan 21	Mon	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.</b> Led by the UFWC youth group. See p. 8.
Jan 22	Tue	<b>Council Meeting.</b> 7 pm. Office. Contact Craig Talbot, email: vice-president
Jan 25-6	Fri-Sat	<b>RE Indoor Overnight Camping.</b> 7 p.m. to Saturday morning. Sanctuary. See p. 7.
Jan 25-7	Fri-Sun	<b>JPD Winter CON.</b> See p. 8.
Jan 26	Sat	<b>Lunch for the Needy.</b> Provided by our Fellowship at the Salvation Army. To help, contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: salvation-army
Jan 27	Sun	<b>New Member Potluck.</b> 6 p.m. Sanctuary. Details to come.
Jan 30	Wed	<b>Global Warming Web Cast.</b> 6-10 p.m. Sanctuary.
Jan 31	Thu	<b>Religious Services Committee.</b> 7:30 p.m. Office. Contact Curt Hoganson, email: religious-services

### Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

<b>Small Group Ministry.</b>	Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday groups have openings. Email: sgm. See p. 2.
<b>Women in the Hebrew Bible Course.</b>	Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. starting Jan 16. See p. 3.
<b>Choir Practice.</b>	Thursdays, 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary. Contact Barbara Kovacs, Choir Director, email: choir.
<b>Yoga Classes.</b>	Thursdays 6:15-7:15 p.m. Downstairs. Contact Mira Tryon, email: yoga. See p. 9.
<b>Peace Vigils.</b>	Saturdays 11 a.m. to noon. West Chester Court House. High and Market Streets, West Chester. Email: social-justice
<b>Youth Group</b>	Most Sunday mornings. 10:45 a.m. OWL/Youth Group rm. Contact Kate Cuffari, email: youth-group. See p. 8.