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**FELLOWTARIAN**

*Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester*

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

### February, 2008

**February 3**

**PRAYER AND THE PRAY-ER**

**Rev. Deborah Mero**

It seems like a good opportunity to look at another word in the vocabulary of faith that has multiple meanings and many layers. Everyone who attends a UU service probably has their own understanding or even trepidation about what prayer is. Some of us are turned off by just by the thought of it. But as good UU's it is a good thing to look deeper to figure out what it isn't as well as what it might be. Let us explore the concept before we either accept it or reject it.

**February 10**

**THEOBROMA, FOOD OF THE GODS**

**Rev. Deborah Mero**

Yes, today is our Feast of the Decadent Chocolate and how fitting since it was once named the food of the gods. So let us set the table, so to speak before we partake of the feast.

**February 17**

**PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE US**

**Rev. Deborah Mero**

An intergenerational service where we hope to learn from one another what the Principles of Unitarian Universalism really mean to us.

**February 24**

**COMPASSION**

**Robin Garrett and Other Lay Leaders**

This service will explore compassion, the role it plays in one's life and value system, the challenges involved in maintaining an open heart, and related ideas. In place of a sermon, ideas about compassion will be briefly offered, and then we will have small group discussions so all attending can share their own ideas in small groups. If you have a favorite quotation about gratitude or thought on the subject which you would like included, please send it to Robin . Put the word "compassion" in the subject line.

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

# The Song of Deborah

As I write this I am actually sitting behind a desk in the new office that once was a porch, watching the stray snowflake fly by the window. Glory Be. Yet another milestone along the way of settling in has been reached. Huge thank-yous to all of you who had a vision and saw it through. And a hearty, special thank you to Wayne Bullaughey who stayed on top of every detail every step of the way — and there were many, many details.

Details, yes — the place that things get hung up in and bogged down in. Some of us have the temperament to relish focusing on details. The more intricate, the better. And then there are the big picture people who want to think in grand sweeping terms. The world needs both, as the Fellowship needs both. Leadership requires the ability to be able to see the big picture but also have an idea as to how to arrange the details or recruit detail oriented people. This must be done in order to get to the big picture — lining up all of the steps and building blocks that will lead to it. Tricky business.

I have to say that the board meetings I have attended here have been quite rewarding because we have taken time to look at the big picture. As Bob Scott quoted from someone he learned from at UU University, “The main thing is making sure that the main thing is the main thing.” What a great statement. It can apply to just about everything we do, both within congregational life and in our own lives. What exactly is the main thing for you? Is it raising a family? Is it doing the best job you

can do in your work? Is it living up to the principles and values that you cherish?

I’d like to think that within our UFWC walls the main thing is to help each one of us figure out what the main thing is in our lives and provide a nurturing environment where we can follow through on those ideals, values and goals. We do it within a community setting because we are all on a journey and finding our way.

It is always better to have fellow travelers on the journey. And what we envision to be the main thing in our lives right this minute might very well change with time and circumstances. We can learn from one another because some of us have traveled on the same road and might be helpful in our finding our way.

*"It is by sharing our stories that we find ways to connect."*

The main thing for me continues to be getting to know you. It is by sharing our stories that we find ways to connect, and once we feel better connected, it is easier to accomplish things together. The main thing as stated in our vision is being a catalyst for a just and compassionate world. That’s as worthy a main thing as I have ever known. The main thing for our leadership is to remind us what the main thing is. So when we get bogged down in the details — as we always do — we need to remember why we come together as a religious community. We come to be together in doing the sacred work of building a more just and compassionate world.

— In faith,  
*Deborah*



## CONGREGATIONAL TOWN MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17 6 P.M.

Our first mid-year Town Meeting sponsored by the Board of Directors of UFWC is February 17. We’ll start with one of our famous potluck dinners at 6 p.m. Then at 7 p.m. the Board and other leaders will give a short presentation of some of our accomplishments thus far this year and plans for the remainder of the year. Then we’ll open the floor to questions and suggestions from members and friends.

This is your chance to meet your Board and get your views and questions heard, and also a great chance to get together for some of that fellowship we love so much. If anyone has suggestions in advance, please contact me directly in person or via my email address president. See you there!

— Bob Scott

## FROM THE PRESIDENT – SIX MONTH REVIEW

It's hard to believe that the current church year is only six months old — it seems so much has been going on that it must be longer. But the current board took office in July, and a new calendar year has just started. I like to look backward and forward at such junctures, take stock of how well we have done against our expectations, and, if needed, make adjustments now so we end the year where we'd like to.

This of course has been and will continue to be a special year at UFWC, the year that Rev. Deborah Mero joined us as our settled minister and opened a new chapter in all our lives. In such a transition year, the normal pace of church life is inevitably altered by the critical process of assimilation. This is both about Deborah getting to know who we are and who does what and who can be called on for what types of unforeseen needs, and about us getting to know who she is and what her strengths and needs and driving forces are. And, of course, in a well grounded congregation such as ours, we are learning how to minister to each other and support each other in this transition. I, for one, am astounded at how well this process has gone thus far. As president I am most grateful. This is due in large part to Deborah's extraordinary energy and commitment to get this show on the road. It's also due to what I perceive as an extraordinary commitment on the part of the entire congregation to reach out and help in whatever way has been needed. We clearly are blessed with the choice we made (thanks again Search Committee!), and I believe she feels the same – a testament to all of you.

Of course this transition has been accompanied by and aided in large measure by the additional focus and hours we've dedicated to our new office administrator, Barbara Robinson. It's hard now to imagine how we got along without this level of support. Barbara herself has been a marvelous addition to our family, and we are very glad to have her here. Many of you have been fortunate enough to work with her, and I'm sure you feel the same as I. Welcome again Barbara!

A few other highlights of the past six months include a very robust social action committee that's continuing to branch out, a working kitchenette, a minister's office finally completed and occupied, new initiatives on adult religious education, continued strength in our youth group, wonderful Sunday services led by Deborah as well as lay led, a monthly coffee house that's packing the house, a startup activism group, a re-energized caring committee, our new custodian Michelle, a new building committee chair, a stronger than ever choir and music program, and others too numerous to mention. This truly is a magical place. I continue to be honored to be part of, let alone be president of, it.

A pretty good year so far, but now it's time to look forward. There is much to be done in this world, and I hope and expect this Fellowship to continue to be the catalyst for improvement that we aspire to be. We have Deborah's installation coming up in April which should start to excite everyone. We have outstanding

work to do in the area of volunteer coordination and leadership training. We're working hard on further defining roles and interactions between them as we continue work on our governance model, and incorporating Deborah and her views into that model. We'll unveil a new stewardship model this year, so look for that. We're engaged in a long and, no doubt, difficult discussion on our name. And now that the honeymoon period of

*" I hope and expect this Fellowship to continue to be the catalyst for improvement that we aspire to be."*

Deborah's new ministry is winding down, it's time for us to work together with her and the entire congregation on defining and refining our shared mission and our long range plan and to continue our progress toward becoming the effective and vibrant mid-sized congregation we want to be.

I've spoken in the past about hosting a "Town Meeting" for the congregation so that we can share in a bit more detail some of the work the Board is doing and planning and get feedback and questions from the congregation. We've decided to hold that meeting on February 17, a Sunday evening meeting that will be preceded by a pot-luck dinner. See the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter for details.

We've come a very long way in the past six months. I truly look forward to the next six months as we continue together on our journey. Thank you everyone from the bottom of my heart for the collective contribution of everyone that has made my job not only easier, but a true joy for me.

— Bob Scott, President

## REmarks – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

This month, the eight members of the Religious Education Committee and I will be going on our fifth annual Committee Retreat. The Retreat is a major event, held offsite and overnight and giving us a chance both to do serious work and also to enhance connections. Over the years, we have found the Retreat to be invaluable on both counts. First, it gives us the opportunity to spend a concentrated, uninterrupted quantity of time focusing on some of the broader aspects of the Religious Education Program. Second, it provides an opportunity to deepen relationships within the group and build strength and cohesiveness that goes beyond what is possible through our monthly meetings.

Past topics have included –

- Creating a Curriculum Rotation to insure that all the children going through the program experience the same core curricula, particularly Neighboring Faiths, Our Whole Lives and Coming of Age.
- Discussing the philosophy of religious education, creating a Vision Statement and revising the existing Mission Statement and goals for the RE program.
- Exploring our own religious backgrounds and assessing our current beliefs by working through sections of an RE curriculum for adults titled, “Articulating Your UU Faith.”
- Exploring our own spirituality and spiritual practices using two curricula – “Developing Spirituality in Children” and “Parents As Spiritual Guides” – and looking at how the RE

Program helps nurture spiritual development.

During this year’s Retreat we will be looking at the individual and combined roles of the RE Committee and the DRE, and will explore changes that may be needed to help us best support our growing program. We will also explore an “umbrella” for our Social Action projects to help us better focus our efforts.

### Classroom Notes

This month, the Coming of Age class (9th/10th) begins working with their mentors on the Big Issues of life, death, the soul, God (if there is one), etc., with the end goal of articulating where they are now in their beliefs, during the Coming of Age ceremony.

The Neighboring Faiths class (7th/8th grades) has been exploring Hinduism, finishing up the unit with a visit to a temple in Delaware.

The Bibleodeon Class (5th/6th grades) continues its exploration of the Old Testament. Moses made a guest appearance several weeks ago and pitched the class on the Ten Commandments – much as he is described as doing in the Bible. If the children grow up to be as skeptical of advertisers as they were of Moses, they will be very savvy consumers!

**REminder to Parents:** We love having your children with us in classes on Sunday mornings. We also love having your occasional help as Floating Volunteer – taking attendance, serving snack and helping out in a classroom that may need extra hands for a craft project. It’s simple, it’s fun and it helps the teachers im-

mensely. Thanks to Sue Sluk and Steve Sander, the FV list is now posted in the RE section of the Fellowship website ([www.ufwc.org](http://www.ufwc.org)) so you can easily see the Sundays where help is still needed. Thank you for volunteering!

– Pam Baxter

Director of Religious Education



## YOUTH GROUP

In the midst of midterms, rehearsals, tournaments and college applications (and Guitar Hero), the teens of UFWC manage to keep our **amazing** Youth Group vibrant and busy. On the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, we painted several rooms at the Salvation Army’s shelter with help from friends from the Fellowship. Thanks to all who chipped in. We also piled in that huge white van (AND cars) and took a huge group to CONtribution, the JPD WinterCON in Alexandria, Virginia. As Rob pointed out at a recent service, UFWC’s youth might know more UUs than most of our adult members do; ask us about it.

What’s on the table for February? On Sunday, February 10, we’re preparing and serving a meal for the Safe Harbor shelter in West Chester. We’re also starting to plan for our March 9 Youth Sunday Service. As always, we’ll have games and discussions and probably snacks. Join us. Questions? Contact email: [youth-group](mailto:youth-group) or call Rob Sartain or Kate Cuffari.

## INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR REV. DEBORAH MERO

On Sunday, April 6, we will formally install Rev. Deborah Mero as our called minister.

This event ranks as among the most significant – if not THE most significant – in the history of our Fellowship. It will include out-of-town speakers and guests from the denomination as well as some dignitaries from the greater West Chester community. A formal installation service at 5 p.m. in our own Fellowship building will be followed by a reception. Because of limited space in our building, we have reserved the social hall in the West Chester United Methodist Church just up High Street from us for the reception.

While the presence of dignitaries is important – and the program will include music as well as readings and a sermon – this service is ultimately about us and our relationship to Deborah. As such, the heart of the service will involve separate pledges from Deborah to the congregation, and from the congregation to Deborah, to work together in a shared ministry. It is important that we demonstrate our support for that shared ministry with our attendance at the service. Please plan to be there.

An Installation Committee is already hard at work planning the details. We'll be sharing those details with you as we get closer to the date. We can always use more helpers, so if you would like to be part of the planning, contact me. I am also available to answer any of your questions at email: installation. Let's make this the best celebration ever!

— Flo Miller, Chair  
Installation Committee

## THE FIRE OF COMMITMENT

The theme for the 2008 Stewardship campaign, "The Fire of Commitment," seems appropriate at this point in time. We have much to celebrate and to reaffirm within our liberal religious community. After our two year search for a new minister, we look forward to our minister's Installation Ceremony. Our ranks, our initiatives and our impact are growing. Commitment is a powerful concept and one that is needed on a regular basis so we don't lose sight of the value of what we have at UFWC.

Personal affirmations will continue weekly through February and March. The Stewardship campaign itself will kickoff with a Leadership Gathering on March 8 at the Millers home to thank our leadership for their support and to solicit their help through an early pledge to the campaign.

The main event of our Stewardship Campaign, Commitment Sunday, will be on **March 16 at a single service at 10 a.m.** Along with inspiring words, fabulous music and delicious food, there will be the main opportunity to make your confidential financial pledge for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008. Of course those of you who can't attend or prefer to be contacted by a canvasser can still do that. You will receive an invitation and more information by mail. Our Fellowship depends on all of us affirming our commitment; we hope you will join us on March 16.

We will wrap up our campaign with a **Celebration Dinner on April 26.** Please plan to attend this fun annual event.

— Gerry Giess, Mike Miller and Pam Sapko  
Stewardship Chairs



## ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

*Listen to Her Voice, Women in the Hebrew Bible* continues on Wednesday nights from 7-9 p.m. All are welcome; you don't have to commit to attending all the sessions. For more information see the Adult Education tab on Rev. Mero's web site: <http://tinyurl.com/2p7hag>



## SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

There is interest in forming a daytime Small Group Ministry group. A couple more people are needed. If you are interested or have questions contact Gerry Giess at email: sgm.

There is also room for new members in the evening groups on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

## CARING CORNER

It's been a difficult month or so for many in our community. Gerry Giess and Shelley Case tragically lost their house to fire shortly before Christmas. Our hearts go out to them and also to the many who lost loved ones: Katie Farnum's grandmother died the day after Christmas. Trudy Wendt's mother died on December 29. Flo Miller's mother died on New Year's Eve, and Flo herself was in a car accident few days later. We wish a speedy recovery to John Stedman who had knee replacement surgery and is currently at Devon Manor to help him get back on his feet.

The positive side is that it is times like these that bring our community closer together through the sharing and support we give to each other. The generous outpouring of help for Gerry and Shelley was truly inspiring.

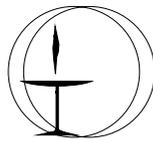
A nice contrast to the sad news is the wedding of Dan Meyer and Eileen Kelly celebrated at the Fellowship on December 30 with family and many friends. Congratulations to the newlyweds!

The Caring Committee has a new member, Ellen Schipul, who is a Hospice chaplain and grief counselor. She is available for (general) grief counseling for members and friends of UFWC.

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, Diane Cohle, and Ellen Schipul. You can identify us by the hearts on our name tags. We can also be reached by at email: caring.

## JPD MUSIC AND WORSHIP ARTS FESTIVAL

The annual Joseph Priestly District Music and Worship Festival will be held at the Unitarian Society of Germantown on Saturday February 23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. No musical talent is required — just an interest in learning and experiencing music through singing, workshops and worship services. A group of us attended last year and we had a great time. Please use the JPD link on our website to download the flier. The details and registration forms should be posted there soon. If you have questions or would like to carpool to this event, call Abby McGillivray.



## FEAST OF DECADENT CHOCOLATE

One of our favorite Fellowship events is on Sunday, February 10, when the Fun & Fellowship Committee will sponsor our Annual Feast of Decadent Chocolate. Chocolate lovers will remember this occasion fondly, and non-chocolate lovers will remember their amusement at the attraction chocolate holds for some people. Newcomers will find that the Feast is actually just a special potluck chocolate social hour after both of the services that Sunday. All are encouraged to bring their favorite chocolate treat to share. We encourage you to bring a homemade treat, but it is your choice. (A list of ingredients is helpful to anyone with special dietary concerns/preferences.) If you aren't ready to indulge so early in the day, we will have baggies so you can take home a sampling.

Since so many of us love to share our passion and recipes for chocolate, this is a popular social event as well as one of our culinary classics. If you have a friend whom you have been thinking about introducing to the Fellowship, this is the perfect day. We will have invitation cards in the lobby a week ahead for you to give to a friend (or use as a reminder for yourself).

We look forward to seeing you and meeting your friends. Contact Nancy at email: fun if you have any questions.

## NEW MEMBER POTLUCK DINNER IN LATE JANUARY

On Sunday, January 27 at 6 p.m. we will welcome over 30 new members to the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester. Yes, that's over 30 people who have joined since last January! The membership committee has been hard at work developing a new ice breaker game to play during the evening, so please come and share in the excitement.

The new members are exempt from bringing a dish to share, so the rest of us will need to pick up the slack. If possible, try to bring a dish that does not require electricity to keep the food warm, since we have a limited number of outlets for this purpose. Beverages will be provided. Please bring a main dish or dessert. See you on the 27th.

## DENOMINATIONAL DOINGS

Want to explore issues of social justice in the company of UUs beyond the confines of our own West Chester congregation? Then plan to attend the spring conference of the Joseph Priestley District of UU societies, scheduled for March 28-30 at the Doubletree Hotel in Bethesda, MD.

For newer members who may be unfamiliar with the wider denomination, the Joseph Priestley District (or JPD) includes 65 Unitarian Universalist congregations from eastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, the District of Columbia and Northern Virginia. The conference is an annual event, but the theme this year – “Voices of Justice, Hands of Change” – is especially intriguing. While there will undoubtedly be workshops on a number of subjects, the focus of worship and workshop will be around that theme. It’s a theme near and dear to many Fellowship hearts, so I’m hoping for high attendance from our congregation.

The conference also includes childcare, elementary and middle school programs, plus workshops for high school youth and a Bridging Program for graduating high school seniors. A business meeting - at which various reports are disseminated, the annual budget is approved, and members of the district Board of Trustees are elected – rounds out the program.

In addition, congregations are honored for achievement in a number of areas, with kudos being heaped on West Chester at past conferences. We’ve been honored for our high membership in the Unitarian Universalist Ser-

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting on January 8. A good deal of the discussion centered around clarification of leadership roles in relation to the policy governance model that the Board has been implementing — the Board of Trustees focuses on goals, policy-making and strategies, while the Fellowship Council, consisting of committee chairs, creates programs and activities based on those goals. Also, President Bob Scott announced plans for a congregational “town meeting,” possibly in February.

The Board discussed the UUA membership certification for the Fellowship due February 1. Membership and attendance figures must be submitted for certification, which determines the number of delegates a congregation may send to the UUA General Assembly. In addition, the Board approved Vice President Craig Talbot’s proposed change to the fund-raising policy: requests must be made at least two Council meetings before the event, unless the fundraiser is for emergency assistance, in which case, the time requirement can be waived. Also, it was announced that Bruce Koepcke has been named chair of the Building and Grounds Committee.

Reports of Board officers and the meeting minutes can be accessed on the members’ area of the Fellowship website. Also Board members are always available for comments and questions from the congregation. The Board consists of 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.

—Deanna Koepcke  
Board Secretary



vice Committee and the JPD’s Chalice Lighters Program, and our Youth Group has received the coveted YES (Youth Empowering and Supportive Congregation) Award for an unprecedented three straight years.

Full program details and registration information will be forthcoming in February. You can check it out on the JPD website at [jpduua.org](http://jpduua.org), or see me if you have questions. I’ll be at the conference; I hope to see you there!

— Flo Miller  
Denominational Affairs Chair

### SNOW REMOVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers who are willing to help shovel snow at the Fellowship, subject to availability, of course. The more the merrier and the quicker the work is done. Volunteers please contact Tilo Stahl.

## STONES IN THE SAME WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

Is there no end to your generosity? The share-the-plate program continues to provide needed funds to small community based organizations in Chester County. Almost \$400 was collected for Camp Dreamcatcher. Camp Dreamcatcher provides supportive, therapeutic and educational services to children and adolescents (and their families) who are affected by or infected with HIV/AIDS. Nearly \$1,300 was collected at the Christmas Eve service for Chester County Cares for their heating assistance program for people in need. Support of the UUSC was given through the sales of holiday cards. We sold 102 packages which is more than we have ever sold. A congregation our size is expected to sell only 28 packages. Amazing!

### GLOBAL WARMING GROUP IS CHANGING

The Global Warming Group recently developed specific goals for this year. Education and action activities will occur throughout the year. They formed as an interest group to determine their direction and focus. Once that was completed, they applied to the social justice committee to become an official sub-committee. They are now officially a sub-committee with Diane Maguire as the chair. Please support all of their activities and efforts throughout the year. See below for your next opportunity to do just that.

### SAVE MONEY, SAVE THE PLANET!

**The Global Warming Group** will show the film *Kilowatt Ours – A Plan to Re-Energize America* in the sanctuary on Wednesday, January 30 at 7 p.m. This hour-long film is free. Bring a friend! Tom Tuffey, Director of PennFuture's Center for Energy, Enterprise and the Environment, will speak after the film. The film shows how most homeowners can create an energy efficient home affordably, save on energy bills and can use a portion of the savings to purchase renewable energy. PennFuture is a public interest organization that advances policies to protect and improve the state's environment and economy. For more information, contact email: **global-warming** or call Diane Maguire.



**GW group's Tip of the Month:** Replace your fireplace screen with glass doors. They're safer and they reduce the amount of heat that escapes through the chimney from your home. Consider saving your fireplace for special occasions – it might be pretty, but it sends your heated air right up the chimney. And after a fire is completely extinguished, don't forget to close the damper.

### IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO HELP YOUR HUNGRY NEIGHBORS

There's still time to get on this year's calendar (it runs from February 2008 to January 2009) to be a UFWC volunteer. This is a very easy way to make a small contribution to our community. UFWC provides lunch on the fourth Saturday of each month at the **Salvation Army** and dinner at **Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter** on the second Sunday of each month.

See the January *Fellowtarian* for information about how it works and how to sign up. Contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy at email: safe-harbor.

### UUPLAN SELECTS LEGISLATIVE FOCUS

The new UUPLAN board met in Harrisburg on September 29. It was the consensus of the board to focus on equal rights for gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people in Pennsylvania. These groups are not protected from discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations, and education under state law — unlike surrounding states. UUs are currently working with supporters to lobby state representatives and senators to support HB1400 and SB761. Joining with "Equality PA" in this work, we will organize UUs to join an interfaith lobbying day in Harrisburg on January 29. On January 20, please stop by the UUPLAN table at UFWC to sign a petition of support for the cause and/or to learn about the January 29 Lobbying Day. To learn more about the UUPLAN, the UU statewide advocacy group, visit **www.uuplan.org**. Contact Jon McCormack, email: uuplan.

## A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD

The **Beyond War Discussion Group** has decided to pursue sub-committee status and go beyond the original intent to be a discussion/educational group. The group hopes to plant the seeds of what they learned through their course materials in various other groups in our committee. Collaborations with other groups on a regional level will add visibility to the UFWC within the community. More to come in the future.



You are still needed at the **Peace Vigil** every Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon by the courthouse at the corner of High and Market Streets. Take an hour of your time to make a statement about the need for peace in the world and the end of the war in Iraq. The Phoenixville Peace Vigil is from 5 to 5:30 p.m., every Friday at Main and Bridge Streets in Phoenixville.

## STILL GOT STUFF?

Got stuff to get rid of that has some value? Don't have the time or interest to do it? Let our **Habitat sub-committee** help! We now offer to any UFWC member or friend the service of selling your stuff on-line. Give us the information about what you want to sell. We will advertise it on the web and sell it for you. You will donate a minimum of 50% of the selling price to our Habitat for Humanity fund. You are encouraged to consider donating a higher percentage (up to 100%). Contact Tom Buglio.

## U. U. SERVICE COMMITTEE (UUSC) UPDATE

If you want your money to be used immediately for relief in a humanitarian crisis, like the Tsunami or Hurricane Katrina, then give to the Red Cross. But if you want to help with long-term solutions, then give it to our human rights organization, the **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)**. You see the "American way" is to rush in with *the* answer and know *the* way it should be handled. This totally ignores local cultures, habits, and concerns (witness Iraq as an example). UUSC supports only its partners, who aid vulnerable populations who often disappear through the cracks. For example, read the blog "Fixing vs. Empowering" on the UUSC website ([www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org), then click the link UUSC Hotwire and scroll down). There are links to five (5) groups in Indonesia. ALL are women's groups. Why? Because women have no rights in that culture (i.e., can receive no relief). And UUSC knows that a solution to more equality, fairer distribution of wealth, and lasting peace (and justice) lies with the empowerment and education of women. That's where your money goes. So re-join (or join) UUSC today. See Local Reps Robin Garrett, Deanna Koepcke, or Linda Sander for a membership form, or do it on-line. (And don't forget to indicate UFWC as your congregation!) At UFWC 75% of us support UUSC through our memberships. **Won't you help to make it 100% this year?**

P.S. Please turn in your "Guest at Your Table" boxes. There is a basket at the back of the sanctuary, or give it to a Local Rep.

## NEW GLBTQA GROUP FOR YOUTH

The **Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Allied Youth group** has started. The Social Justice Committee is co-sponsoring this effort with Planned Parenthood of Chester County. The group will meet every Thursday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the OWL room. The group is open to youth between the ages of 14 and 18 and is staffed by two experienced adult facilitators. Their mission is to provide an environment where GLBTQA youth can feel accepted and empowered and where sexual and gender identity can be embraced without fear of violence, harassment or judgment. The group promotes understanding and respect for all through education, support, advocacy, creative expression, and friendship. Contact email: **social-justice-chair** for more information.

## HEALING OUR NATION

The Human Relations Council of Greater West Chester is sponsoring a three day workshop: "Healing Our Nation: Understanding the Impact of Prejudice & Race" The workshop will be held at the YWCA in West Chester. It will be from Friday, February 22 (6:30 p.m.), through February 24. The Social Justice Committee is interested in sponsoring (i.e., paying registration fee) one person to go to this event and bring back information that may be useful to UFWC. If interested, please e-mail us at **social-justice** as soon as possible.

## WINTER BLUES GOT YOU DOWN? COME TO THE VALENTINES DANCE

Bring your dancing shoes, or just chair dance, come snuggle with someone special, bring your family and friends, and rock and roll with our own in house band "Who Needs Nigel" at the annual Valentines Dance on Friday, February 8, from 7 to 10 p.m. in the sanctuary.



## COMMUNITY DANCE BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

*What is a community dance?* It is old-fashioned country dancing for all ages and all levels of experience, particularly tailored to the inexperienced. Simple American and English line, square and circle dances will be taught and called. The music is live and up-tempo, with tunes drawn from the Appalachian, Celtic, and other great musical traditions. Bringing a partner is not necessary, in fact, you will be encouraged to change partners frequently, so you get to meet and dance with lots of people.

The dress is comfortable and casual; shoes should be flat and soft-soled. Dress in layers, it gets warm dancing.

Come enjoy this great activity and be part of an exciting, living tradition. Whether you come alone, with a friend or bring your entire family (children and grandparents love it), you'll have an afternoon you won't soon forget. Check out the photos on UFWC's website to see the fun we had at our dance last March!

*If you can walk, you can dance!*

Caller: Ridge Kennedy  
Musicians: "Rumpus" Bill Quern, Sarah Gowan, Steve Epstein and Alex Vogt  
Date/Time: Sunday, March 2, 2-4 p.m.  
Place: Fellowship Sanctuary  
Cost: \$5 /adult; \$2 /child 5-12 years old; under 5, free

This event is brought to you by the Fun & Fellowship and RE Committees. Contact Nancy Artus (email: fun) or Cathy Vogt (email: RE).

## LUNCH GROUP

Lunch group will meet on Friday, February 8, 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

## SIMPLICITY CIRCLE

Our next meeting is February 3, the usual first Sunday in the month at 12:30 p.m. Suzie Patrick will lead us off with a theme of self-discovery, as we continue to focus on Genuine Living and examine our lives, asking ourselves, "What does it mean to live genuinely?"

Our last meeting was extremely well attended, including several first-timers, and became as dynamic as any we've had. Our announcement in the *Fellowtarian* drew interest, and I received email contact from a potential first-time visitor to UFWC. We continue to consider a name change to reflect more clearly our current focus. What are we really after in life? What are our deepest longings for a complete life? Some people became interested after looking beyond the title to the content represented.

These discussions are significant opportunities for new friends and members to be integrated with our larger membership via a reflective and personable atmosphere. We keep participation well diversified, and everyone participates. 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.

## EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

FEBRUARY 24, 7-8:30 P.M.

*Digging to America*, Anne Tyler's 17th novel, is about two very different families, one all-American and the other Iranian-American, who meet by chance at the Baltimore airport, each waiting for their adopted infant daughter to arrive from Korea.

Tyler leads us through the years as the families intermingle at gatherings, cultures clash, and values are challenged. The theme of being American is explored, from various perspectives, from those who take our culture for granted to those who are trying to adapt or integrate into it.

Pam Sapko will lead our discussion. All are welcome. Contact Ruth MacFadyen at email: diversity-book-club.



## FOLK SINGING

The next folk singing get-together is Saturday, February 9, 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.

## GAME NIGHT

Join us Friday, February 1, for a Potluck Dinner followed by fun with all kinds of games. Last month some played PDQ (a word game) and Mrs. Thurston's Day Off (a card game), while others played other games, and another group played Magic the Gathering. As you can see there was a quite a variety. Other weeks, we have played Scrabble and various board games. We can't tell you what we will be playing on Friday, because it is up to those who come. Sometimes we try something new, but there are always people wanting to play old favorites.

Come and join the fun. Bring what you like to play. Don't worry about dinner. If you don't have time to cook, pick up a pizza or cookies on the way. Don't worry if you are late; we will let you join the game or start a new one. Just come. It is a great way to end the work week (or start the weekend).

Bring a dish and a beverage (for example a 2-liter bottle of soda) to share as well as any game you would like to play. We open the doors at 6:30 p.m. and start games around 7. We are usually done between 8:30 and 9:45, but you can leave whenever you are ready. In general, we have game night the first Friday of each month, but always check the calendar in case of a change. There is no need to call ahead, but if you have any questions contact Mary Yeager at email: game-night.



## COFFEE HOUSE An Evening of Music Saturday, February 16, 7-10 pm At the Fellowship

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

## GROCERY STORE CARD PROGRAM

Help support the Fellowship while you shop, without spending any extra money. Purchase a grocery card from UFWC to use in a participating store – Giant, Acme, Shoprite and Superfresh.

You buy \$100 worth of grocery cards for \$100. You use them like cash for \$100 worth of goods. But the Fellowship has only paid \$95 for the cards, so we earn \$5 (or 5% of the purchase)! In addition, Acme donates 1% of the value of register receipts that we collect, so save your receipts and place them in our collection box. See us after each service during refreshments to buy cards.



## FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

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

- Jan 27 Sun** **New Member Potluck.** 6 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 6.
- Jan 29 Tue** **UUPLAN Lobby Day.** Contact Jon McCormack, email: UUPLAN. See p. 8.
- Jan 30 Wed** **Film: *Kilowatt Ours- A Plan to Re-Energize America* and PennFutures Speaker: Tom Tuffey .** 7 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 8.
- Feb 1 Fri** **Potluck and Game Night.** 6:30 p.m. dinner. 7 p.m. games. Sanctuary. See p. 11.
- Feb 3 Sun** **Simplicity Circle.** 12:30 p.m. Fireplace Room. See p. 10.
- Feb 6 Wed** **RE Committee.** 7 p.m. OWL rm. Contact Cathy Vogt, email: religious-education
- Feb 7 Thu** **Caring Committee.** 1-3 p.m. Sharon Mayer-Conroy's home. Email: caring  
**Global Warming Group.** 7-8:30 p.m. Lobby. Contact Diane Maguire, email: global-warming. See p. 8.
- Feb 8 Fri** **Lunch Group.** 11:30 a.m. See p. 10.  
**Valentines Dance.** 7-10 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 10.
- Feb 9 Sat** **Folk Singing.** 8 p.m. at the home of Steve and Linda Sander. See p. 11.
- Feb 10 Sun** **Feast of Decadent Chocolate.** Sanctuary. After each service. See p. 6.  
**Safe Harbor Dinner.** Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. To help, contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: safe-harbor
- Feb 11 Mon** **Beyond War Group.** 7 p.m. Email: beyond-war
- Feb 12 Tue** **Board Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Office. All are welcome.
- Feb 14 Thu** **Social Justice Committee.** 7:15-9 p.m. Office. Contact Ed Cohle or Linda Sander, e-mail: social-justice
- Feb 16 Sat** **Coffee House.** 7-10 p.m. (Performers sign up 6:30-7 p.m.) Sanctuary. See p. 11.
- Feb 17 Sun** **Congregational Town Meeting & Potluck.** Dinner 6 p.m. Meeting 7 p.m. See p. 2.
- Feb 23 Sat** **JPD Music & Worship Arts Festival.** See p. 6.  
**Lunch for the Needy.** Provided by our Fellowship at the Salvation Army. To help, contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: salvation-army
- Feb 24 Sun** **Exploring Diversity Book Discussion Group.** 7-8:30 p.m. Fireplace Rm. See p. 11.
- Feb 26 Tue** **Council Meeting.** 7 pm. Office. Contact Craig Talbot, email: vice-president
- Feb 28 Thu** **Religious Services Committee.** 7:30 p.m. Office. Contact Curt Hoganson, email: religious-services
- Mar 1 Sat** **Folk Singing.** 8 p.m. at the home of Steve and Linda Sander.
- Mar 2 Sun** **Community Dance.** 2-4 p.m., sanctuary. See p. 10.
- Apr 6 Sun** **Rev. Deborah Mero's Installation.** 5 p.m. See p. 5.

### Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

- Small Group Ministry** Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evening groups and new Tuesday day-time group have openings. Email: sgm. See p. 5.
- Adult R.E.** *Women in the Hebrew Bible.* Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. Fireplace rm. See p. 5.
- Choir Practice** Thursdays, usually 7:15 p.m. Sanctuary. Contact Barbara Kovacs, Choir Director, email: choir.
- Yoga Classes** Thursdays 6:15-7:15 p.m. Downstairs. Contact Mira Tryon, email: yoga.
- Peace Vigils** Saturdays 11 a.m. to noon. West Chester Court House. High and Market Streets, West Chester. Email: social-justice. See p. 9.
- Youth Group** Most Sunday mornings. 10:45 a.m. OWL/Youth Group rm. Contact Kate Cuffari, email: youth-group. See p. 4.