



## the Song of Deborah

As I'm writing these words I'm watching the Tony Awards ceremony on TV. The Tonys are the awards for achievement on the Broadway stage and usually are the most entertaining of the television awards shows — at least in my opinion. It takes me back to my youth when I aspired to be one of those people in the audience whose name was called out for the thrill of my life. In my high school and college years I truly thought that I would be pursuing a career in the theater. My acting was just mediocre, but I loved, and I mean loved, working backstage and designing the scenery and lighting — especially the lighting. It was a magical time of hopes, dreams, and creativity. Youth is like that. Anything seems possible.

Then we grow up, and most of us find ourselves doing all sorts of things we had not prepared for nor thought about when we were young. For some of us, the path we have taken is filled with disappointments and compromises. For others, the surprising turns that our lives take could never have been hoped for nor anticipated. Life happens either according to plan or in spite of it. It happens. Things happen without warning or time to prepare. Lessons are learned — or not — and we go on. What we make of the twists and turns on the journey is really what is most important. We can welcome them and learn new ways, or we can fight them and struggle. And everything in between.

Having now more or less finished my first church year with the UFWC, I am grateful for the twists and turns on which my life journey has taken me. It's a long long

way from Broadway and the Tonys but certainly no less rewarding. I've loved almost every minute of it. And now comes time to slow down and rest and take stock of the year that has passed and pause for a while. Then it will be

time to begin preparation for a new year with all of you. The pause is an important thing for me and for us all. I think about it when I cook—in baking bread, once the ingredients are mixed the dough needs to sit for 30 minutes for

the liquid to be absorbed into the dry ingredients to make it more workable and supple; in roasting, the cooked meat needs to rest for a short while before being carved so as to add to the taste and texture. There is a quote I like to use in a sermon about the Sabbath that applies. It was written by

*I hope you all will take some time this summer to pause in your brushwork to renew your vision, stop doing for just a while and just be.*

Mordecai Kaplan:

*“An artist cannot be continually wielding the brush. The artist must stop painting at times to freshen the vision of the object, the meaning of which is to be expressed on canvass. Living is also an art. The Sabbath represents those moments when we pause in our brushwork to renew our vision of the object. Having done so, we take ourselves to our painting with clarified vision and renewed energy.”*

I hope you all will take some time this summer to pause in your brushwork to renew your vision, stop doing for just a while and just be. And then when we all return again at full force we will do so with renewed vigor, vision, and purpose. I know I will.

Wishing you an exciting, fulfilling, and also restful summer with pleasant and rewarding twists and turns on your journey.

— Peace and love,  
*Deborah*

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

**Tuesday, July 15, at 7 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.

**Tuesday, August 26, at 7 p.m. Ice Cream at Maggie Moo's in Main Street at Exton.** Maggie Moo's super premium ice cream is made fresh in the Treatery. You can create your own ice cream masterpiece by selecting one of their award-winning ice cream flavors and choosing your favorite mix-ins, such as nuts, fruits and candy. We handfold your creation right in front of you.



These events are open to anyone in the Fellowship.

## REMARKS – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

Why do robins sing in the evening? How do snakes climb? How do insects identify the right plants to lay their eggs on, so that the newly-hatched larvae will have food to eat? How do they find them? What creature made the precise rows of holes in the maple tree bark and why?

School's out, RE classes are over, and summer is here, bringing a slower pace for children – perfect for making observations in nature. By slowing down for just a few minutes a day – sometimes only seconds – it's possible for them to see things they've never seen before. The more they observe, the more questions they're likely to have.

A Commitment, and a Challenge for the Children – This spring I made a commitment to begin exploring our seventh UU Principle – respect for the interdependent web of all existence – with the children. I started bringing in items and photos of things I find in nature, e.g., giant moths, different types of wasp nests, and asking the children questions about what they observe. I've been inviting and encouraging the children to bring in things they find as well. It can be as simple as finding a really cool leaf or an intriguing rock; the main criterion is that it be something that catches their attention. I especially want to challenge the children to take advantage of summer vacation to do more exploring; to use their eyes, ears and noses and see what they can find that they've never seen before, or to look at something familiar with new eyes and learn from their first-hand observation.

Real-life Drama, in Your Backyard – It's not necessary to go to a zoo or wildlife sanctuary to observe nature in action. There's plenty of drama in the average

backyard, just on a smaller scale. No, we don't have lions, but we do have spiders and praying mantises on the prowl. We don't have peacocks and ostriches, but we have turkey vultures and red-tailed hawks. No boa constrictors, but garter snakes. Even a curbside ant hill can provide much to capture the imagination.

Where Do We Come From? What Are We? – For my part, one of the things I will be doing this summer is learning more about “The Great Story” – the story of evolution starting with the Big Bang – as interpreted and presented by Connie Barlow and Michael Dowd. This couple offers us The Great Story as a UU creation “myth” and more. The entire 7<sup>th</sup> Principle is: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence, *of which we are a part*. Barlow and Dowd's work puts humans squarely into the web in a fascinating way. I'm looking forward to going deeper into it and bringing what I learn to the children on Sunday mornings.

I invite you to put your own eyes and ears to work this summer; see what you can find, and share the experience with your children. Please do remind children to exercise proper caution. For instance, they should not attempt to pick up animals. Being able to identify poison ivy is also a useful skill. Which brings up another question: why did poison ivy plants evolve to contain an oil that causes such a bad reaction on our skin?

### Vegetable Garden Update

- Many thanks to Mark Highland, founder of Organic Mechanics company, in West Chester, for donating organic potting soil to revitalize the planting boxes on our front

lawn. The OM soil is helping the original potting soil we installed retain moisture better, and it has given the garden a definite boost.

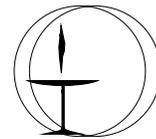
- Going into the summer months, we need several people to help keep an eye on the plants – watering, weeding and harvesting as needed. Please let me know if you are interesting in helping.
- Tom Townsend and I are teaming up to learn more about Chester County's Gleaning Project and how UFWC can get involved in helping to bring fresh produce to the hungry people in our affluent community. I'll have more information on that in the next newsletter.

### Wrapping up the RE Year

- For all those who were not able to attend the RE Sunday celebration of classes and teachers, I want to reiterate my thanks to everyone who contributed to an excellent RE year: teachers, committee members, Youth Group advisors, Coming of Age mentors, Nursery Coordinator and parent “floating” volunteers. And thanks to those who have already signed up for 2008-09.

Have a great summer – see you for ice cream!

— Pam Baxter  
Director of Religious Education



## CARING CORNER

Congratulations to all 2008 graduates! Our best wishes to you in all your future endeavors. Felicitations also to Robin Garrett on the engagement of her daughter and to Pearl Hicks on the birth of a long awaited grandchild.

Our warm thoughts and prayers go out to all who have had losses and serious illness in their families. In the past month, Cindy Rosenthal's father and Fatima Patel's brother-in-law died. Cyndy Bullaughey's sister has been diagnosed with cancer (thankfully, it is stage 1). Bob Johnston's mother is recovering from a stroke. A member of our choir, Cindy Van Doren, had surgery. Cathy Vogt's brother continues in treatment for his cancer. Let's continue to offer our support to these friends.

Members of the **Comfort Shawl Group** have already completed five shawls, one of which has been given to a member of the Fellowship, and the others are being held to have on hand to be given as needs arise. The group will not meet in July. After the meetings resume in August, the day-time meetings will be on the second Thursday of the month, instead of Wednesdays. If you would like to participate but don't know how to knit or crochet, we can teach you! If you would like to participate but can't come to the meetings, contact Sharon at email: caring for information.

The **Support Resources File** is located in the Fellowship library, and contains a wealth of information on various topics that may be helpful: care giving, medical resources, community resources, legal resources, financial management, elder services, transportation, government resources, chronic pain, substance abuse, training opportunities, special needs education, Alzheimer's, mental illness & depression, can-

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees held its monthly meeting on June 10. Among the issues discussed was the annual service auction, with a report presented by Scott Klaum, the chair of the auction committee for the past two years. He detailed previous years' income from the auction, as well as raising questions about how it could be improved.

In addition, the Board discussed the stewardship campaign, noting that there may be a similar funding gap next year, which should be addressed well in advance. A session processing this year's campaign is planned for Fellowship leadership on June 20. A general leadership retreat is planned for August. Also discussed was the Committee on Ministry and the need to explore its roles and responsibilities.

Lastly, the Board finalized plans for the annual meeting, which was held June 13, including going over motions for budget approval and by-laws changes, to be presented at the meeting. Three departing Board members, Fatima Patel, Jack Butler, and Deanna Koepcke, were thanked for their contributions. New Board members elected at the annual meeting include Eileen Kelly-Meyer, Board secretary, and Betty Grosse and Juan Leon, Trustees.

Continuing Board members are Bob Scott, President; Craig Talbot, Vice President; Erach Patel, Finance Chairperson; Diane Cohle and Sandy Schaal, Trustees. Rev. Deborah Mero and Pam Baxter, Director of Religious Education, also meet with the Board. The Board meets the second Tuesday of each month, and meetings are open to members and friends. Board members also are interested in hearing comments and questions about any aspect of the operation of the Fellowship. Board meeting minutes may be accessed at the members' area of the Fellowship website.

---

## OPEN SUMMER SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

If you have wondered what Small Group Ministry is about, or if you just enjoy conversation around a meaningful topic, join us. All are welcome to any session, 7:15 to 9 p.m. in the fireplace room. Email: sgm.

### **Thursday, July 10. This I Believe.**

Support Materials: [www.smallgroupministry.net](http://www.smallgroupministry.net)

### **Monday, July 21. Radical Affirmation.**

Support Materials: [www.sanjoseuu.org/sgm\\_content/G-GeneralSessions/G100%20-%20Radical%20Affirmation/Adobe%20PDF](http://www.sanjoseuu.org/sgm_content/G-GeneralSessions/G100%20-%20Radical%20Affirmation/Adobe%20PDF)

---

cer, special needs education, parenting concerns, life transitions, etc. Check it out!

If you find yourself in need of help, please feel free to ask. We have **Helping Hands** volunteers who can provide rides, meals, do chores, etc., for people in time of need. You can speak to Rev.

Deborah Mero, or anyone on the **Caring Committee**: Sharon Mayer-Conroy, Heidi Buss, Diane Cohle, John Orban, and Pat Orban. You can identify us by the hearts on our name tags. We can also be reached at email: caring.

## STONES IN THE SAME WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

Has UFWC gotten a reputation in the community? We are beginning to be known as the group that....(fill in the blank here with your favorite social justice value or activity). One of the things we are known for is as a welcoming congregation. We were recently contacted by a minister of a church that says it is a rainbow church in the Glen Mills area. They were planning a yearly fundraising activity and wanted to give part of the proceeds away as part of their outreach. They heard about the GLBTQA youth group we cosponsor with Planned Parenthood of Chester County and wanted to give the money to that group (no strings attached).

We are also known for our involvement in peace activities. The Chester County Religious Campaign Against Torture recently purchased two banners that proclaim "torture is wrong". There is a national effort to have these banners displayed at religious organizations in every state during the month of June. When the group decided to lend the banners to two local congregations, they immediately thought of us. I'm sure you noticed the sign now hanging on our building. Check out our picture among many of the congregations on the following website <http://www.flickr.com/photos/nrcat-banners>.

We continue to live out our faith by affecting the world around us. We continue to give you opportunities to live out your faith in the wider community. As a reminder, Social Justice never sleeps. Some of our groups continue to function full force throughout the summer. Please read the weekly Connections for any social justice summer events and activities. As St. Francis of Assisi once noted, "All the darkness in the world cannot put out the light of a single candle." Be that candle.

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

When Erika Shatz of the Nonviolent Peaceforce (NVP) made a presentation at the Fellowship in March, she mentioned that several of their peacemaking groups had no transportation to get to mediations. The Beyond War sub-committee decided to change that. With the knowledge that \$1,500 could buy a motorbike for this purpose, they felt that there was enough interest in the group to raise the money without needing a fundraising effort in the congregation.

Now, a couple of months later, the group has not only collected that amount, but one of the member's sons matched this amount, doubling the contribution to the NVP to \$3,000.

So now the Beyond War sub-committee can celebrate that two more of the peacemaker groups in Sri Lanka, Guatemala, the Philippines, Colombia, or Uganda can indeed perform their peace duties with dispatch and hopefully that much more success! It feels good to make a difference.

## A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD

The **Beyond War group** is now the Beyond War Sub-committee. To achieve this, the group completed a social justice proposal form that outlines their mission and goals for the coming year. Their mission is to promote the end of war and the peaceful co-existence between all people of the world. To be a catalyst for peaceful action in our community and within ourselves." One of their goals is to collaborate with other allied groups. They have already done this with the Chester County Peace Movement, Grove Methodist church, Nonviolent Peace Force and the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (including the local Chester County chapter). The group will remain active throughout the summer.



## INVESTING IN PEACE

Have you heard of the *Social Justice Stimulus Plan*? Imagine a world where taxpayers can choose to fund peacemaking instead of war because strengthening our nation means investing in peace, not war. \$252 of the federal tax rebate that you will receive would go to funding the government's war chest.

How about if that amount went for peace instead! That's what UUSC (the UU Service Committee) is proposing. They suggest that you send them \$252, and they will see that its use is redirected. Investing in peace will create a domino effect that will transform lives. What is it worth to you?

See the UUSC website at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org) for details. Look on the right side under "What's New" and click the "Redirect the Rebate" link.



## SIGN UP FOR *BEYOND WAR* THIS FALL

Beyond War, a lively, heartfelt exploration of what individuals can do to promote a more peaceful world, begins an eight-week study group on Monday, September 15 from 7 to 9 p.m. Each two-hour session focuses on three guiding principles: War is Obsolete, We Are One on This Planet, and The Means Are the Ends in the Making.

Beyond War sessions held at UFWC last winter proved so popular that it evolved into an ongoing Beyond War Sub-Committee whose members and other graduates will act as leaders for the upcoming sessions. Beyond War is a non-profit organization that provides education about what people and nations can do instead of war, offers future-oriented, non-blaming and compelling course materials designed to transform participants, and inspire others to do the same.

There are no fees for joining the Beyond War study group. Participation requires only reading the materials and engaging in the discussions. If you or a friend or family member are interested, contact John Gribbin.

## DELIBERATE LIVING

Our next meeting is on July 6, the first Sunday of the month as usual. We meet at 11:30 a.m. downstairs after the service.

In living deliberately, we have asked ourselves questions: What are we really after in our life? What are our deepest longings for a complete life? What are some of the pathways toward reaching our authentic core, and how do we live it out? These pathways have many dimensions. Phyllis Kryven will lead us along one such path. Curiosity is the genius we all share. Is it important to nurture this aspect of our humanity? If you're curious about this topic, join us to share our thoughts.

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 to be a part of our typical dynamic flow of good energy. No preparation is needed. No commitment is required, though continuity is best. Contact Heidi Buss at email: deliberate-living



**GW GROUP'S TIP OF THE MONTH.** You can help local farmers stay in business by buying produce at local growers markets, and by buying locally, you reduce the energy required to ship produce hundreds of miles to your grocery store. West Chester Growers Market is open each summer Saturday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Church and Chestnut Sts. To find other markets, visit [www.localharvest.org](http://www.localharvest.org).

## SUMMER CAMPING TRIP SUSQUEHANNOCK STATE PARK, JULY 12-13

Join us on Saturday, July 12, after 3 p.m., for a night of singing, sleeping and s'mores. You don't HAVE to spend the night; you can just come for the food, fellowship and singing. We'll be at Susquehannock State Park (out near Quarryville) in the group camping area.

It's not all that rustic – they actually have clean, real restroom facilities with running water. The park has great hiking trails and wonderful views of the Susquehanna River. The group camp site is convenient to a playground and ball field.

Directions to the park will be provided via email. There will be a nominal fee to cover the cost of the campsite and food (based on the number of attendees). 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').

Please sign up in the Fellowship lobby or email Dan Meyer and Eileen Kelly-Meyer at email: camping. We hope to see you there!

## POOL PARTY

Cool off at a pool party and music jam at the home of Chic Bach in Chadds Ford on Saturday, August 16 beginning at 2 p.m.



Bring your bathing suit, towel, lawn chair, a beverage and something for an outdoor potluck. All ages are welcome, but there will be no life guard. Rain date is the following Saturday, Aug. 23. Check the August *Fellowtarian* for more details and directions. Please RSVP at email: fun.

## SUMMER GAME NIGHT

July 11 is the date for our summer Game Night. (Please note that the 11th is the second Friday in July) There will not be a game night at the Fellowship in August.

Game Nights are for individuals and families. All ages of people come. This is an informal event with no agenda other than to have a good time. Bring a dish and a beverage to share as well as any game you have a hankering to play. Paper products are provided.

There is no need to call ahead or be on time; just come! Potluck begins at 6:30 p.m., and games start at 7 or later. Contact Mary Yeager if you have any questions at email: game-night.

## LUNCH GROUP

Lunch group will meet Friday, July 11 at 11:30 a.m. at Panera Bread, 1103 West Chester Pike, near Shop Rite. Newcomers are welcome. E-mail Linda Sander at email: lunch-group to be added to the e-mail reminder list. The reminders are an easy way to RSVP, so we can save enough seats for everyone. If you don't have e-mail or you change your mind at the last minute, come anyway. Everyone is welcome.

## EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP SUMMER READING IDEAS

Our group will resume meeting monthly on the third Sunday evening at the Fellowship starting September 21.\* Our first book for discussion will be *Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance* by Barack Obama. The following quotes taken from the book's jacket will give just a taste of what this book offers: "Beautifully crafted...moving and candid...this book belongs on the shelf beside works like James McBride's *The Color of Water* and Gregory Howard William's *Life on the Color Line* as a tale of living astride America's racial categories." – Scott Turow. "Perceptive and wise, this book will tell you something about yourself, whether you are black or white" – Marian Wright Edelman. Discussion will be led by Ruth MacFadyen.

If you'd like to get started on some of our other selections for the year, here is a partial list: *The Tale of Genji* by Murasaki Shikibu, *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak, *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Morten and David Oliver Relin, and *Circles of Stone* by Joan Dahr Lambert. December and January our films will be *The Rape of Europa* and *Ten Questions for the Dalai Lama*. The dates for all of the above will be announced in the next *Fellowtarian*.

**Some Other Summer Reading Suggestions.** *The Commoner* by John Burnham Schwartz, *The Street of a Thousand Blossoms* by Gail Tsukiyama, *Masks* by Fumiko Enchi, *The Good Women of China* by Xinran Xue, *Faith of Our Fathers* by John McCain, *One Thousand White Women* by Jim Fergus, *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards, *The Reader* by Bernhard Schlink, *Arc of Justice* by Kevin Boyle, *The Secret Adventures of Charlotte Bronte* by Laura Joh Rowland and *City of Falling Angels* by John Berendt.

\*Remember all are welcome to join our group at any time during the year. So please don't hesitate to contact either of us – Shelly Case or Ruth MacFadyen at email: diversity-book-group.

## FOLK SINGING

There will be no folk singing in July.

## FUN & FELLOWSHIP PLANNING MEETING AND POTLUCK

Each summer, the Fun & Fellowship Committee has a planning meeting to schedule events for the next year. Everyone is welcome to attend and share their ideas for the congregation's social activities. The meeting will be **Sunday, July 6, at 4 p.m.** at Nancy Artus' home in Downingtown. We will take care of business, then do what we do best – have fun with a BBQ and potluck dinner. RSVP to Nancy at email: fun.

# FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

All email addresses @ufwc.org unless otherwise noted.

- Jul 1 Tue **Finance Committee.** 7:30 p.m. Office. Contact Erach Patel, email: finance
- Jul 3 Thu **Global Warming Group.** 7-8:30 p.m. Lobby. Contact Diane Maguire, email: global-warming.
- Jul 6 Sun **Deliberate Living.** 11:30 a.m. Fireplace Rm. See p. 6.  
**Fun and Fellowship Committee Planning Meeting & Potluck.** 4 p.m. See p. 7.
- Jul 8 Tue **Board Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Office. All are welcome.
- Jul 10 Thu **Open Small Group Ministry.** 7:15-9 p.m. Fireplace Rm. See p. 4.  
**Social Justice Committee.** 7:15-9 p.m. Office. Contact Ed Cohle or Linda Sander, e-mail: social-justice
- Jul 11 Fri **Lunch Group.** 11:30 a.m. Panera Bread. See p. 7.  
**Summer Game Night.** 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 7.
- Jul 12-13 Sat-Sun **Summer Camping Trip.** Susquehannock State Park. After 3 p.m. See p. 6.
- Jul 13 Sun **Caring Committee.** 12:30 p.m. OWL Room. Contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: caring  
**Safe Harbor Dinner.** Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. To help, contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: safe-harbor
- Jul 14 Mon **Beyond War Group.** 7-9 p.m. Fireplace Rm. Email: beyond-war
- Jul 15 Tue **Ice Cream at Chester Springs Creamery (Milky Way Farms).** 7 p.m. See p. 2.
- Jul 19 Sat **Work Party.** All day inside and outside. Contact Bruce Koepcke, e-mail building.
- Jul 21 Sat **Open Small Group Ministry.** 7:15-9 p.m. Fireplace Rm. See p. 4.
- Jul 22 Tue **Council Meeting.** 7-9:30 pm. Office. Contact Craig Talbot, email: vice-president
- Jul 24 Thu **Membership Committee.** 7:30 p.m. Lobby. Contact Mira Tryon or Barbara Long, e-mail membership
- Jul 26 Sat **Salvation Army Lunch.** Provided by the Fellowship the fourth Saturday of the month. To help, contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: salvation-army
- Jul 30 Wed **Religious Education Committee.** 7 p.m. OWL room. Contact Cathy Vogt, email: religious-education
- Jul 31 Thu **Religious Services Committee.** 7:30 p.m. Office. Contact Curt Hoganson, email: religious-services

## Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

- Small Group Ministry** Tuesday daytime group continues during summer plus two open meetings (see above). Contact: Gerry Giess, Email: sgm.
- Yoga Classes** Thursdays 6:15-7:15 p.m. Downstairs. Contact Mira Tryon, e-mail: yoga.
- Peace Vigils** Saturdays 11 a.m. to noon. High and Market Streets, West Chester. Email: social-justice.

## Food Bank Reminder:

Members and friends have the opportunity of donating either cash or checks to the food bank any Sunday by dropping their donation in the Food Bank Box at the grocery card table.

According to the *Philadelphia Inquirer* food pantries may not

meet the food emergency needs of families this summer. Children from low income families won't be getting free or reduced meals at school. There were state and federal reductions in food assistance in 2008. The economy is troubled, and donations are lower in the summer.

Our food bank donations go to Catholic Social Services in West Chester. This food pantry was selected by the Social Justice Committee in the spring of 2003. The agency appreciates grocery cards, since fresh produce, milk, etc. are not stored at the food bank.