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Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester

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SUNDAY SERVICES

January, 2009

January 4*

HOLI-DAZE

Brett Goldman

The close of another holiday season is the perfect time to reflect on what this time of year means to different people. While some of us may enjoy the glow of family and friends celebrating together, others struggle with the complexities of personal or familial strife year after year. A few members will share their unique takes on the season, which is certain to deepen our understanding and open our eyes and hearts to the rich, diverse experiences that make our Fellowship such a special place.

**Deborah will be providing services at the Buxmont UU Fellowship as part of the JPD district sabbatical program.*

January 11

ON FAITH AND REASON

Rev. Deborah Mero

Are the two terms compatible or mutually exclusive? There are many ways in which to view the question.

January 18

A STONE OF HOPE

Rev. Deborah Mero

The last line of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s reading in our hymnal reads, "We shall hew out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope." This will be a week where hope will be the theme.

January 25

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

Ed Cohle and Kathy McGinnis

Our Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester vision states that we aspire to be a catalyst for a just and compassionate world. Join us as we explore the spirituality of making peace within ourselves, our families and our communities.

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

The Song of Deborah

I have found myself putting up more lights this year both inside and outside our house. I'm not quite sure what that is about other than my liking lots and lots of twinkling lights. They seem to brighten everything.

For more than two decades I spent my life lighting things up. First it was in the theater, then it was designing the lighting for office buildings, schools, airport additions, hotels, and even once the landscape lighting for a house on the Maine coast.

There is something about light that just seems to make everything warmer, happier, dare I say it — lighter, airier, clearer, more magical. I certainly felt the magic of it all a year ago when I first experienced Longwood Gardens' Christmas display. Coming home from our Christmas Eve service last winter I drove up Mallard Drive near my home and beheld luminaria on both sides of the street. It was a touching sight, little soldiers of light winding up the road, showing the way.

When I began the journey to change professions and study for the ministry, as you might imagine, jokes about searching for enlightenment, seeing the light, being a guiding light, etc. were in abundance among my circle of friends. As overplayed as that might have been, there must be something to it as light plays some part in every religious tradition there is. From Ra

the Egyptian Sun God to the light in our Flaming Chalice light has always found a role to play, often a central one.

Years ago I was given a lovely little book called Changing Light, the Eternal Cycle of Night and Day. It is a lovely collection of mostly poems and

*Look at a candleflame in bright noon sunlight.
If you put cotton next to it, the cotton will burn,
but its light has become completely mixed
with the sun.*

We need the dark to provide us with rest, with quiet, with shadows and contrast in order for us to both see and appreciate the light that emerges; otherwise, all of the light will just blend into itself. The beauty of the sparkling lights of the winter season is that they are

There is much to be done to spread the light and make things better than they are. I truly believe that we have been called to be carriers of the light. That is what Unitarian Universalism is about: hope and light.

seemingly suspended in a sea of darkness. As we find ourselves on the other side of the Winter Solstice where the light is growing day by day it reminds us that as endlessly dark as things may seem, the light will return and grow. It is an apt metaphor for life.

The more I think about it,

prayers edited by Ruth Gendler. It is a great meditation resource. Yet while religion and faith are mostly about finding the light, most of this book talks about sunset, night and twilight. Perhaps the key to this focus is found in one brief verse by Rumi:

putting up the lights in the middle of winter is about much more than just liking twinkling lights. It is a reminder that things can be brighter than they seem, but it takes effort to make them so. For me, the effort is always worth it. There is much to be done to spread the light and make things better than they are. I truly believe that we have been called to be carriers of the light. That is what Unitarian Universalism is about: hope and light.

May both be yours in the new year, light and hope. If you are in need of either, welcome the outreach of those who have enough to give. If you have more than your share, spread them wherever you go. The world is certainly in need.

Blessings and light to all.

— Deborah

ADULT ENRICHMENT AND LEARNING

Beginning Wednesday evening, January 14, from 7 to 9 p.m., Deborah will offer a seven week session based on Bill Moyers' series on Faith and Reason. We will watch the hour long episodes and follow each viewing with a discussion. More information will be forthcoming in *Connections*.

MISSION BASED CONGREGATION – WHAT NEXT?

As we worked through our decision as a Board at our annual retreat to move UFWC toward policy governance this year, we broke the work into pieces and set out a timeline of which piece would be done when. One key piece was to agree on a congregational mission that answers the question of what benefits occur due to our existence as a Congregation. Much of the rest of the work is driven by this.

As you'll see by reading Diane Cohle's article in this issue, we now have a mission statement to present to the congregation for approval.

Why is this so important, and what do we do with it? It is all too true that many organizations, UU congregations included, go through mission processes only to craft a beautiful statement that neither reflects them nor sees the light of day once complete. In our case, the statement being presented does strongly reflect us (in my humble opinion). It touches on our need to explore spirituality for ourselves and our children, it addresses the strong desire we have to create and nurture community both internally and externally, and it makes clear statement of our intent to actively change the world for the better and to have fun doing so.

I hope you agree with me that it's a beautiful statement that does indeed encompass our collective ideals. Perhaps most heartening to an old-timer like me, it clearly reflects the ideals of many newer

members and friends in addition to the usual suspects – a vibrant living thing we can grow into and grow with.

I want to publicly thank the committee that worked so hard to arrange all the meetings and discussions, and to collapse all that discussion into succinct statements that capture us so well. I also want to thank all in the congregation who were involved in this mass conversation reflecting who we are and what we want to accomplish. Some pretty amazing work.

It's also broad – no surprise there. We do think we can do it all as our small little community, and, to be honest, we have clearly had impact beyond our size. But the answer to 'what next' is to begin as a Board and as a congregation to tease out some specific Ends that we can agree to strive for in the short term that are consistent with the broad mission and that we can

make great progress against in a year or two. This is the real work of prioritization. We'll talk about that at upcoming Board meetings, we'll publish the results, we'll figure out how to measure progress against the ends within limitations, and we'll turn our Admin Team and our Council loose on getting those Ends achieved. This is the crux of policy governance, and we'll be spending the second half of the year as a Board finishing the work of this transition.

To be sure, we have not been sitting idly by as a congregation waiting for clarity of mission. Rather, we've been living and acting that mission that we've just put into words. But having it will allow us to focus, to prioritize, to budget clearly, to measure progress, and to use our collective resources wisely against a clear mission. Nice work everyone!

— Bob Scott
President



MEMBERSHIP

We are looking for a few more people to volunteer as ushers and greeters at Sunday services. The duties are simple, but extremely important, and the opportunity to meet new people is rewarding. You don't have to be a member, just a friendly, welcoming congregant. What we do need is a commitment — one service a month, one service every two months or whatever fits your schedule. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Mira Tryon or Barbara Long at email: membership.

REmarks – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

Pennies for Peace

If you've read Greg Mortenson's *Three Cups of Tea*, you know about his remarkable efforts to bring schools to the remote areas of Pakistan (78 schools to-date). To support his continuing efforts, Mortenson created "Pennies for Peace," a project easy for children of any age to participate in. Our 6th/7th grade class has selected this program for one of their social action projects this year. They plan to visit the children's worship circle each Sunday morning during the month of January, to explain the program and to collect pennies.

I invite you to encourage your children to start saving their pennies and bring them in when they come to the Fellowship next month. The class (and the project) is not looking for quarters or dollars. Just pennies – to show how the power of one can multiply. So even if it's just a single penny your child finds on the street, it will get added to the others and be used to promote equity and opportunity. The class will also have a poster and collection container upstairs in the sanctuary during coffee hours for adults to contribute.

For more information on Mortenson and his 15 years of incredible service to the children of Pakistan, go to www.threecupsoftea.com and click on "About Greg Mortenson."

Because it Takes a Village

Coming Soon: the RE Committee is starting an RE Blog!

Parents don't always have time for the conversations they'd like on Sunday mornings, so the committee decided to set up an RE Blog, where parents can have conversations about children and spirituality, UU parenting, supporting UU children in the non-UU world of school, sports and after school, and raising children in general. We'll let you know as soon as the Blog is up and running.

Community Service

What is Monday, January 19, 2009? It's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a national holiday, which means a day off from school and from work. But it is also Martin Luther King Day of Service, a call to commemorate the work of Dr. King by helping out on projects on local communities.

In 1994 Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act, designating the King Holiday as a national day of volunteer service. Instead of a day off from work or school, Congress asked Americans of all backgrounds and ages to celebrate Dr. King's legacy by turning community concerns into citizen action. The King Day of Service brings together people who might not ordinarily meet, breaks down barriers that have divided them, and leads to better understanding and ongoing relationships.

In the past, area UU congregations have been invited to join the Unitarian Society of Germantown in their community activities, but Philadelphia is a little far-flung for many of us to

participate. Traditionally, it has been largely the UFWC Youth Group that has pitched in in West Chester. We hope that more of us will get involved this year.

Service activities for 2009 are being coordinated locally by St. Paul's Baptist church in West Chester. Several people from UFWC, including Rev. Mero and members of the Social Justice Committee, attended a recent planning meeting. They learned that there will be some activities planned specifically for children to get involved with. We'll get details to you as they become available. In the meantime, please consider marking that day for you and your family to take part.

— Pam Baxter
Director of
Religious Education



STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

Please help us plan our 2009 campaign. Join us for a stewardship brainstorming and planning session on January 4 at 12:15 p.m. We can put your skills and ideas to work. Contact Stewardship Committee co-chairs Sandy Marts and Pam Sapko at email: stewardship.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING ASSOCIATION SUNDAY

Our Fellowship has received \$1,220 in donations from the membership to the UUA's "Association Sunday" fund. We have forwarded the money to the UUA in Boston.

A special offering to support this fund was taken at the November 16 Association Sunday service, when guest speaker the Rev. Dr. Stephan Papa urged us to "Grow our Faith" in one another, in Unitarian Universalism, and in the good we can and should do for others.

Every year, UU congregations throughout the country celebrate Association Sunday, with the offering allocated to projects determined by an extensive survey of ministers and UU lay leaders. Based on that survey, the offering this year is focusing on developing new lay theological and spiritual education programs for UUs and on developing excellence in our shared ministry.

As Denominational Affairs Chair for our Fellowship, I want to thank all who contributed to Association Sunday. If you have not yet done so and would like to contribute, it's not too late. I have donation envelopes that can be forwarded directly to the appropriate office in Boston. Contact me at email: denominational-affairs and I will get an envelope to you.

Your support strengthens our movement across the continent and, by extension, across the globe. And that can only strengthen what we do here!

— Flo Miller
Denominational Affairs Chair

CLOSURE NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE

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

- An announcement will be placed on the Fellowship voice mail recording (610-692-5966) if services are cancelled.
- The following radio and TV stations will be notified about Sunday services cancellation due to inclement weather.

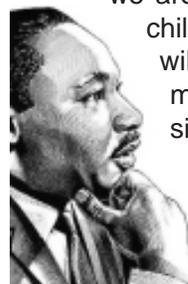
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| Radio: | WCOJ | 1420 AM |
| | KYW | 1060 AM |
| Television: | CBS | Channel 3 |
| | NBC | Channel 10 |
- You may be directly contacted by phone, or you may get an e-mail about cancellation of Sunday services.
- If possible, a notice on the first 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.

DAY OF SERVICE

Monday, January 19, the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, has become a day of service rather than a day off. There are many service projects planned in the West Chester area and



we are hoping that there will be many adults and children as well as youth group members who will wish to take part. From literacy projects to making bag lunches for school programs, to singing at nursing homes, to painting and repair activities at local social service agencies, there will be much to do. The program will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the Charles A. Melton center, and from there we will fan out to the various projects. After our work we will gather for lunch at St. Paul's Baptist Church. More information will be forthcoming in Connections. Please mark this on your calendars and stay tuned.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

The Mission-Covenant Committee has compiled all of the information from the neighborhood meetings. We hope we have captured the “spirit” of your conversations. The many words and phrases recorded by the facilitators at your neighborhood meetings and shared with the Mission-Covenant Committee were used to formulate a mission and a covenant statement that reflects who we are and why we exist as a congregation. The committee asks that you reflect on what was written to see if this captures the “spirit” of UFWC. The committee members thank the congregation for trusting us with this important task.

Mission Statement

As a diverse liberal faith congregation we make a difference in our lives, our children’s lives, and the wider community by creating an environment for spiritual growth and fulfillment, for building meaningful connections, and for actively advancing peace and justice in the world.

Covenant Statement

The members of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester covenant and affirm that in our lives together:

- We communicate with kindness and support.*
- We accept responsibility for our individual actions.*
- We build trust by acting with honesty, integrity, and respect.*
- We honor our diversity as a source of strength.*
- We actively minister to one another in times of need.*
- We challenge ourselves and each other to live the UU principles in our daily lives and to accomplish our mission.*

We serve with compassion and commitment and pledge our time, talents and treasure to the common good of the congregation.

The members of the Fellowship will vote on accepting these statements at a special congregational meeting on Sunday, January 25, at 11:30 a.m. There will be only one service on that day at 10 a.m. The members of the committee will also be available on Sunday, January 11, at 12:30 p.m. in the sanctuary to talk about the process that we have used to develop these statements and how we will be using them in our future work. If you have any questions before then, please contact one of the members of the committee: Diane Cohle, Ed Cohle, Betty Grosse, Ellen Kelly-Meyer, Jim McFadyen, Mark Steel, Eileen Shipal, Sue Stedman.

STONES IN THE SAME WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

Each project, effort or event is another stone in the wall of social justice. This does not happen by magic but is the result of many dedicated people volunteering their time, talent and treasure. I am always amazed that the busiest people always seem to find the time to do one more thing. Our social justice program is only successful to the extent that people step up, speak out and act. Helena Graham and Amy Ayers are two rather new members who have recently expressed interest in our social justice efforts. Deanna Gabe just signed the membership book and has already expressed interest in coordinating our food collection program. It is so inspiring to see new folks jumping in so quickly.

AN INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM AND MUSLIMS

Reserve your place in the Islam class, *An Introduction to Islam and Muslims through History and Scripture*, which begins January 25. The course will approach Islam from a historical and scriptural perspective, covering the foundations of the religion and then building on the economic, political and cultural institutions that arose in Muslim societies. The course spans the past to the present and will help participants better understand and give a context for current Islamic relationships and events.



This outstanding 10-week course is being offered on Sundays at the Fellowship (1 - 3 p.m.) or Grove United Methodist Church (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.). There is no charge, but prior registration is requested.

Please sign up for the time and location that is best for you, but if you have a conflict, feel free to attend the alternate class. Can't make all the classes? Come to all that you can. There are no readings required for this course. Just come and enjoy. Sign up in the back of the sanctuary or by email: islam-class (for UFWC) or arengert-AT-gmail DOT com (for Grove United Methodist).

MLK DAY OF SERVICE

Recently, Deborah and four of our members attended a meeting at St. Paul's Baptist Church. Our group was a significant presence at this meeting. We brainstormed possible projects that might occur on Martin Luther King Day, which is Monday, January 19. If you have off or can take off for the morning, there will be service projects and activities for all ages and interests throughout the area. Our efforts will culminate in a luncheon provided by St. Paul's Baptist Church.

This is a great opportunity to do something nice for our community and to further our wish to become a more diverse congregation. To be seen is to be known. For more information, see the article on page 5.

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION PROJECT

One of our volunteers, Claire Boston, took a generous collection of food to the Cares Food Network this past month, and it was gratefully accepted – with nice things said about UU's.

The staff there mentioned that “feminine toiletries” are always appreciated along with toilet tissue, soap and shampoo. These things cannot be purchased with Food Stamps though clearly they are essentials.

Please remember that we will collect canned and boxed goods the first Sunday of every month in the baskets set up in the lobby. Please do not bring in goods on other Sundays unless a special collection has been requested.

Parents, the food collection is a great chance to teach your kids the value of giving to others. Help them pick out something at the store (maybe even use their allowance to purchase it).

HOLIDAY SPIRIT WITH UUSC

Guest At Your Table boxes and *Stories of Hope* booklets are available on the table in the lobby. If you did not receive both, please pick them up today. Every week please read a story in the booklet *Stories of Hope* so we can connect with people in the United States and around the world who are working hard to advance human rights – and protect their own rights – in partnership with UUSC.

Place your *Guest at Your Table* box in a prominent spot, such as at the family meal table. And then when you gather to eat and enjoy your blessings, you can reflect on the contributions of your Guests and share generously with them.

The holidays are a time to reflect on the blessings in our lives and our wish for others to have the same in their lives. Sharing our blessings through *Guest at Your Table* ensures that UUSC's human-rights work continues throughout the U.S. and around the world, while building UUSC membership.

Tom Townsend's dream has been to motivate every member and friend of our congregation to become members in the UUSC. Will this be the year his dream becomes a reality? Join now using your *Guest At Your Table* box or go to their website at www.uusc.org.

Guest At Your Table boxes will be collected starting January 4. Please help us by converting any cash in the box to a single check before turning it in.

SHARE-THE-PLATE

The November Share-the-Plate for BLUER (a local group helping improve our environment) raised \$225.00. The January recipient will be the Friends Association here in West Chester. The Friends Association is dedicated to the care and protection of children.

Located at 206 North Church Street, the organization provides short-term housing for six mothers and their children who would otherwise be homeless. These families are sheltered in comfortable and safe units in the basement of a building that was formerly a synagogue. The mothers receive social and counseling services of many kinds, and the children are helped to get into an educational setting. Your continuing support of the Share-the-Plate program on the third Sunday of each month is helping our neighbors throughout Chester County.

GLOBAL WARMING

The UFWC Global Warming subcommittee will be doing some rethinking of their goals for the coming year. They have been discussing renaming their group, too. Diane Maguire has worked tirelessly to keep us informed, educated and involved in global warming issues. Her passion and hard work as the chair of this subcommittee has laid a foundation for efforts and ideas yet to come. A big thank you from the congregation is in order.

Diane will now turn the reigns over to Jen Stevens who will be the new chairperson of the group. The Global Warming group will not meet in January. In 2009, the group will meet quarterly, instead of monthly; next meeting to be announced. Good luck, Jen! To connect with the group, sign up for email updates and legislative alerts by sending a request to email: global-warming.



GW GROUP'S TIP OF THE MONTH: Combining errands into one trip saves you time and money. Several short trips taken from a cold start can use twice as much fuel as a longer multipurpose trip covering the same distance when the engine is warm. Trip planning ensures that traveling is done when the engine is warmed-up and efficient. From www.fueleconomy.gov.

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. Please note that the Salvation Army (at which we also served in the past) is no longer open on Saturdays for lunch.

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 by providing 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. Chefs must be at least 12 years old to help serve at Safe Harbor.

To get on the schedule for this year

Contact me, Sharon Mayer-Conroy, at email: safe-harbor. Let me know:

1. Your name, address, phone number and e-mail address
2. 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 2009 to February 2010.)

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

THE HOUSE IS NOT A HOME...YET

Our next UFWC Habitat for Humanity volunteer week is January 6 through January 10. There are many ways you can contribute besides heavy manual labor. Contact us to find our how.

The house we are co-sponsoring is framed out and



having the roof put on now, so this promises to be much drier work than last month

was. We will be working side-by-side with folks from one of our Co-Habitat partners, St. Paul's UCC, turning this into is a great opportunity to make new friends in the community.

Besides construction work, we are also looking for people to serve lunches. If you are interested in volunteering for any of those five days in early January, please contact Mike Stevens at email: habitat.

Thank you all for your continued support of this major social justice effort.

YOUTH GROUP

December was another great month for the Youth Group. We planned and hosted a kickin' Battle of the Bands to raise funds for several charities, and we got to ask some of the big questions to UFWC's young adults about life after high school. In January, we'll gather for our annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service on the morning of Monday the 19th. We're also aiming to bring a van full of youths to the JPD WinterCON in Fairfax, Virginia, on Jan 23-25. Watch your e-mail for details, and JOIN US downstairs at 10:45 on Sunday mornings. Questions? Contact us at email: youth-group.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees conducted its regular monthly meeting on December 9. The Mission sub-committee has combined the inputs from all the meetings to create Mission and Covenant statements. See the related article elsewhere in this issue of *The Fellowtarian*. Other Board sub-committees continue work on implementing Policy Governance by defining the structure of the Executive Team, the linkage between this Team and the Board, and the Ends statements that will translate our Mission into definitive goals.

Deborah would like to get more people involved in local Martin Luther King Day of Service projects this year. Other topics of discussion for this meeting included: membership and attendance trends, the formation of the Stewardship committee, and the budget process timeline which culminates in the annual meeting in June.

Current Board members include: Bob Scott, President; Craig Talbot, Vice President; Erach Patel, Executive Treasurer; Eileen Kelly-Meyer, Secretary; and Diane Cohle, Sandy Schaal, Juan Leon and Betty Grosse, Trustees. Rev. Deborah Mero, Pam Baxter, Director of Religious Education, and Mark Steel, Program Coordinator, also meet with the Board. Members and friends of the Fellowship are encouraged to share comments and concerns with Board members, as well as to attend Board meetings if interested. The Board meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, in the office. Meeting minutes are posted to the members section of the UFWC website after being approved by the Board.

NEW MEMBER POTLUCK DINNER DON'T MISS THIS ANNUAL EVENT

On Sunday, January 25, at 6 p.m. we will welcome over 15 new members to the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester. Yes, that's over 15 new members who have joined since last January. As usual, the membership committee will sponsor an icebreaker 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 only have a limited number of outlets for this purpose. Beverages will be provided. Please bring a main dish or dessert. See you on the 25th!

DELIBERATE LIVING

Our next meeting is on January 4, the first Sunday of the month as usual. We meet at 12:30 p.m. downstairs after the second 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. In December, Alex Miller from Downingtown Friend's group provided a dynamic interchange with posed questions. We hope to have more experiences with that group, visiting mutually. This time Bruce Neff, one of our newer UFWC members, will take the lead, coming from readings of his choice. Whatever the topic, he always has a scientist's perspective to add.

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. Any questions or comments contact Heidi Buss at email: deliberate-living.

GAME NIGHT

There is no Game Night in January. The next game night will be Friday, February 6.

YOGA

Yoga classes at the Fellowship are discontinued effective Thursday, December 11. Classes will resume on Thursday, January 8, at 6:15 p.m. Please consider taking an hour of your week to experience the benefits of Yoga.



Besides making a commitment for your Self, you can become more flexible, learn to relax, quiet your mind and reduce stress. An hour for \$8.00 — you're worth it. Please contact Mira at email: yoga.

COFFEE HOUSE

The next coffee house is January 17, at 7 p.m. The featured act is John Scardino and friends. Please come out and support this fun, entertaining event. There will be coffee and other beverages, snacks, and great music.



Performers should arrive early to sign up for a time slot. Contact Judy Perri, email: coffeehouse.

FOLK SINGING

The next folk singing get-together is Saturday, January 24, at 8 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. All are welcome. No singing talent or experience is necessary. Bring a munchie, if you wish. Maps are in the foyer. Contact Steve at email: folk-singing.

NEW YEAR'S DAY OPEN HOUSE

629 NORWAY RD., CHADDS FORD

Our holiday festivities continue with a pot luck open house on New Year's Day, 1-5 p.m., at the home of Chic Bach and Judy Perri. Everyone is welcome. Bring a dish to share, and bring your instrument if you are a musician. Beverages will be provided. Please RSVP to Chic. Maps and directions are available in the back of the sanctuary and through the *Connections*.

EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP

JANUARY 18 AT 5 PM

We will meet at Pat Shorten's home this month. Please bring a brown bag dinner for yourself. Pat will have beverages and dessert.

Our film is *10 Questions for the Dalai Lama*, a documentary by Rick Ray. Why do the poor often seem happier than the rich? Must a society lose its traditions in order to move into the future? How do you reconcile a commitment to non-violence when faced with violence? These are some of the questions posed to His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, by filmmaker and explorer Rick Ray. Ray examines some of the fundamental questions of our time by weaving together observations from his own journeys throughout India and the Middle East with the wisdom of this extraordinary spiritual leader. The film contains rare historical footage as well as footage supplied by individuals at great personal risk, filmed with hidden cameras within Tibet. Debby Kern will lead our discussion.

In February we will return to our usual meeting time and place, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Fellowship. Our book selection will be James Baldwin's novel *If Beale Street Could Talk*. Pat Shorten will lead the discussion.

Please feel free to contact Shelly Case or Ruth MacFadyen at email: diversity-book-group. All are Welcome.

LUNCH GROUP

Lunch group will meet Friday, January 9, at 11:30 a.m. at Panera Bread, 1103 West Chester Pike, near Shop Rite. Newcomers are welcome. To be added to the e-mail reminder list, contact Linda Sander at email: lunch-group. 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.

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

All email addresses @ufwc.org unless otherwise noted.

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| Jan 1 | Sun | New Year's Day Open House. 1-5 p.m. at the home of Chic Back and Judy Perri. See p. 11. |
| Jan 4 | Sun | Food Collection. The first Sunday of the month. Lobby. See p. 7. UUSC Guest at Your Table Box Collection Begins. See p. 8. Stewardship Brainstorming and Planning Session. 12:15 p.m. Office. See p. 4. Deliberate Living. 12:30 p.m. Fireplace Rm. See p. 10. |
| Jan 5 | Mon | Beyond War Group. 7-9 p.m. Fireplace Room. Contact John Gribbin, email: beyond-war. |
| Jan 6-10 | Tue-Sat | Habitat for Humanity Work Week. See p. 9. |
| Jan 7 | Wed | Religious Education Committee. 7 p.m. OWL room. Contact Sue Quake, email: RE |
| Jan 8 | Thu | Comfort Shawl Group. 10 a.m. Fireplace Room. Contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: caring Social Justice Committee. 7:15-9 p.m. Office. Contact Ed Cohle, email: social-justice. |
| Jan 9 | Fri | Lunch Group. 11:30 a.m. Panera Bread. See p. 11. Exploring Our Spirituality Book Group. 1:30-3:30 p.m. at home of Harriet Singer. Contact Harriet Singer or Susan Gast, email: spirituality-book-group |
| Jan 10 | Sat | Holiday Karaoke Party. 7-9 p.m. Sanctuary. Good singers, not-so-good singers, appreciative listeners/fans all welcome. Contact Nancy Artus, email: fun. |
| Jan 11 | Sun | Mission Town Meeting. 12:30 p.m. Sanctuary. Contact Diane Cohle, email: mission. 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 |
| Jan 13 | Tue | Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Office. All are welcome. |
| Jan 14 | Wed | Adult Enrichment Begins - Bill Moyers' Faith and Reason. 7-9 p.m. Contact Rev. Mero, email: minister. See p. 2. |
| Jan 17 | Sat | Coffee House. 7 p.m. Contact Judy Perri, email: coffeehouse. See p. 11. |
| Jan 18 | Sun | Share the Plate Sunday. See p. 8. Exploring Diversity Book Group. 5 p.m. at Pat Shorten's Home. See p. 11. Comfort Shawl Group. 7-8:45 p.m. Fireplace Rm. Contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: caring |
| Jan 19 | Mon | MLK Day of Service. 8:30 p.m. Meet at the Charles A. Melton Center. See pp. 5 & 7. |
| Jan 22 | Thu | Membership Committee. 7:30 pm, lobby. Contact Mira Tryon or Barbara Long, email: membership |
| Jan 24 | Sat | Folk Singing. 8 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. See p. 11. |
| Jan 25 | Sun | Congregational Meeting. 11:30 a.m. Sanctuary. See p. 6. Islam Class Starts. 1-3 p.m. Sanctuary. Contact Cyndy Bullaughey, email: islam-class. See p. 7. New Member Potluck Dinner. 6 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 10. |
| Jan 27 | Tue | Fellowship Council. 7-9 p.m. Office. Contact Mark Steel, email: program |
| Jan 29 | Thu | Religious Services Committee. 7:30 p.m. Office. Contact Curt Hoganson, email: religious-services. |

Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

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| Adult Enrichment | <i>Moyers' Faith and Reason.</i> Weds., 7-9 p.m., starting Jan. 14. Fireplace Rm. See p. 2. |
| Choir Practice | Generally the three Thursdays before the third Sunday (which is when they sing at services). No practice on the fourth Thursday. Contact Helen Meacham, email: choir |
| Small Group | Tuesday Small Group meets December 2 and 16, 1:30 p.m. Off site. |
| Yoga Classes | Thursdays 6:15-7:15 p.m. Downstairs. Contact Mira Tryon, email: yoga. No yoga January 1. See p. 11. |
| Youth Group | Most Sundays, 10:45-noon. OWL room. Email: youth-group. |