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Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester

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SUNDAY SERVICES

March, 2009

March 1 **THE POWER AND THE LIGHT** **Rev. Deborah Mero**

As we begin our annual pledge campaign, there is an electricity that runs through this congregation. What does it turn on? And how do we share the light and spread the power?

March 8 **A NOT SO SIMPLE PRAYER** **Rev. Deborah Mero**

The Serenity Prayer is one that has been used for decades by people in Twelve Step programs. It is only three lines long, yet has many layers of meaning and can provide a lifeline for anyone and everyone.

March 15 **BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH** **Rev. Deborah Mero**

Julius Caesar was warned not to go to the Senate on the Ides of March. Thus began a superstition that continues. The question is, who are the truth tellers, who are the soothsayers in our lives? And how do we know?

March 22 **YOUTH SUNDAY: IF UUS RAN THE WORLD...** **UFWC Youth Group**

Join your amazing Youth Group on a journey far into the distant future, when Unitarian Universalism is the predominant religion the whole world over. Would we have anything left to learn? Come to our annual youth-led Youth Sunday services and find out.

March 29 **UNANSWERED QUESTIONS** **Rev. Deborah Mero**

Digging back into last year's Question Box Sunday there were a few questions that deserved more thought and longer answers than the format allowed. The questions remain, Can they be answered?

And mark your calendars, Duets part Deux—Deborah's brother, singer/songwriter David Roth will be back with us on April 5 both for the morning services and for a concert in the early evening. More details will be coming.

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

THE SONG OF DEBORAH

The month that just passed has been an exciting one on so many fronts. Over fifty of our members and youth showed up on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service; Over eighty people have been attending the Introduction to Islam course, half of which are people who are not part of the UFWC population; and almost twenty of you are regularly attending the Faith and Reason sessions. The discussions have been quite lively.

This has been a really tangible display and living out of our newly adopted 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.

Whereas most faith traditions are focused on statements that say either "I believe" or "We believe," instead, we talk about making a difference in people's lives. We do so by our common work on our own spiritual selves, on our endeavors to connect in meaningful ways, and by acting on our values to promote peace and justice.

Those three things are the root of why we exist. They say a lot about who we are and where we are going. They are active, not passive, and reflect the energy level I've experienced at UFWC since I arrived.

None of that reflects the fun we had at our highest of "holy

days," our Feast of Decadent Chocolate which came after we laughed and danced and came to know that "Somebody Loves You." Pam Baxter went all out in the planning and the presenting of the story *Somebody Loves You Mr. Hatch*.

I hope those of you who were there enjoyed it as much as I did. And we have two new acting stars in our midst, Rob Sartain and Brett Goldman, not to mention the fabulous choir's adding to the service. And the chocolate! What gifted people you all are.

This is a real *Can Do* congregation. We are so blessed with an abundance of talent, and we are just beginning. We have a mission and we have the talent and the drive to grow and thrive.

Over the next month plus, you will have the opportunity to

gather with friends in the congregation old and new, to talk about what feeds you and gives you joy at the UFWC and what you would like to see us doing as we move into the future. You will get to make new connections and strengthen old ones. And you will be asked to think about what the congregation means to

you and how important it is to your life.

How does the congregation's mission align with your own? What shall we do together as we go forward? Talking with one another is something we like to do and we do well. I hope you will all find a way to engage in the conversation.

— With deep gratitude
and love,
Deborah

This is a real Can Do congregation. We are so blessed with an abundance of talent, and we are just beginning.

NEWCOMER ORIENTATION WEDNESDAYS MARCH 18 AND 25 AT 7-9 P.M.

The Membership Committee will offer a two-part Newcomer Orientation. In the first session Reverend Mero will discuss general Unitarian Universalist history and theology. In the second session Committee Chairs will describe what goes on at UFWC— structure, committees, activities, and financial support. These classes are offered to anyone who is interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and the UFWC or who may be thinking of becoming a member. The history session is also a good refresher class for long-time members or friends. To register or to ask questions, contact Mira Tryon or Barbara Long at email: membership.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to formally thank the entire Mission Committee and the congregation for all the hard work and input that led us to our new Mission Statement. Although I don't believe UFWC was ever really 'without mission' I'm glad for the process we went through for several key reasons:

First, a good long conversation among ourselves was due and is always beneficial – for any leadership to assume they know the pulse of a community without asking is naïve, and with so much change in everyone's lives it's a great thing to be explicit in getting people's current feelings. Second, the very nature of a succinct mission statement has had the effect of forcing focus and clarity on our wide breadth of potential missions.

Third, it allowed us to use the opportunity to reinforce that we are indeed a mission based congregation, that the mission is the collective wisdom of those currently in the congregation (therefore reflecting input from members new and old together), that this mission can and should be regularly reviewed and changed as the congregation changes, and that the mission will indeed direct the goals set by the Board as Ends statements and ultimately the activities of our committees and staff in areas of worship, social action, community building and outreach and ongoing operations.

When I look at our new Mission Statement, and especially when I read it along with our already beloved Vision Statement, I see clearly that we as a congregation believe we exist to serve three clear areas of focus. As I have summarized for the Board at our most recent meeting, I believe that our Ends work for the rest of this year should be to focus on

crafting distinct Ends statements in those three areas of spiritual growth and fulfillment, advancing social justice and peace, and in building and supporting meaningful connections. These statements should act as goals that will result due to our existence, should be measurable to some degree, and should serve to focus our activities collectively to achieve them as a full congregational mission.

The best advice that John Carver has for creating Ends statements is to craft broad statements first and work from there toward more specific and detailed goals. I'm asking the Board to concentrate on coming to agreement on one broad Ends statement for each of these three areas in time for our congregational meeting in June. Future Boards can then use these to further refine where needed, but having a good jumping off place is the goal for this year. We'll use input from the neighborhood meetings as we do this work to insure that we're reflecting the collective view of the congregation. I'd like to discuss each of these a bit and ask everyone for their own thoughts and inputs.

Spiritual growth and fulfillment seems clear given that we are a religious congregation. Our statement needs to target all members and friends of all age groups, and, in my humble opinion, should imply action on the part of everyone. I don't see spiritual growth as something that can happen 'to' us by just coming and listening to sermons or religious education classes, but rather something that we make happen 'for ourselves' by actively participating in all such learning activities sponsored and encouraged by UFWC.

Advancing peace and justice is again something that we do a lot of at UFWC, so this seems obvious too. However I believe we as a congregation need to be collectively aware of this aspect of our mission and how we're achieving it, whether we're focused enough or spread too thin, whether we're effectively using our limited resources against our true priorities. An Ends statement that reflects this need and allows us to measure our progress will be the goal here.

Building meaningful connections is an area that I believe deserves significant focus. I must admit that I am guilty of putting more emphasis on social justice and spiritual growth than on community activities – perhaps believing that we need to be careful to stay focused on the 'important' things and not fall into being a social club. The strength of the input and feedback during our mission meetings and other gatherings has convinced me however that we work best together when we are well connected as a congregation both spiritually and socially. I've also learned that we should pay particular attention to what building meaningful connections means to new members and friends who have recently joined us so that we don't just rely on tried and true connections but we all grow in this area together, making us strong for other work.

The Board will be working on drafts of Ends statements in these areas, and it welcomes input and feedback from everyone. Please feel free to talk to your Board members to insure we've got adequate input from everyone.

— Bob Scott
Board President

REmarks – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

Okay – without looking, can you state all seven of our Unitarian Universalist principles? You can probably remember the first one: The inherent worth and dignity of every person. And you probably remember that our seventh principle has to do with caring for the Earth. What about the others?

Sometimes it's easier to remember them in one of the modified versions that we typically teach to children, such as:

1. Each person is important.
2. Be kind in all you do.
3. We're free to learn together.
4. And search for what is true.
5. All people need a voice.
6. Build a fair and peaceful world.
7. We care for Earth's lifeboat.

One interesting way to think about the Principles – which has helped me remember them – is to consider the first and last Principles as the bases of a stone arch. This puts the importance of humans and the importance of the creatures of the Earth (all living creatures) on equal footing.

The “keystone” of the arch is Principle 4: The free and responsible search for truth and meaning. I like thinking of that concept as the center-point, because it illuminates how we are in the world and how we live together; searching and exploring and sharing ideas rather than dogmatically imposing our own.

Our relationship with others is the focus of the other four Principles: treating people fairly, a willingness to listen to other ideas (not necessarily agree with them!), supporting equal rights, and working for a peaceful existence at home and around the globe.

Our RE theme this year is Unitarian Universalism. Some of the concepts are pretty abstract and the curricula work to make them more tangible. Several weeks ago, the 4th/5th grade class made Seven Principles bracelets and necklaces – using different beads to represent each principle.

For instance, a star might represent the first principle (each person is a shining star), and a heart might represent the second (showing loving-kindness to others). A square bead, representing a ballot box might be used for Principle five: “the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process...” A spherical blue-green bead might represent the earth and our seventh Principle.

One student in the class shared the story of the many beads on her necklace with me, and demonstrated what can emerge when we are encouraged to make our own meaning of things. On her necklace,

one particular bead represented people holding hands around the earth. One large bead next to a much smaller bead represented Truth overpowering lies. And the bright blue bead on her necklace represented herself – very present in the whole big mix of the world.

Do we need to memorize the Principles? No. But is it helpful to know what they are? Of course. If nothing else, with the principles in mind you may find many more “teaching moments,” helping your children understand why you do what you do.

For instance, “You know, voting today reminds me of our fifth and sixth UU principles . One of the things UUs work toward is a fair and peaceful world where everyone has a say in the laws that govern them.”

With the Principles close at hand, you can take advantage of unexpected moments to add depth and meaning to your child's experience and understanding of what it is to be Unitarian Universalist., and to continually ask the question, “What would UU do?”

— Pam Baxter
Director of
Religious Education

PASSOVER SEDER APRIL 8

We will celebrate the Passover Seder again this year. The Seder dinner will be held on Wednesday evening, April 8. More information will be coming.

THE LIGHT OF COMPASSION STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Based on enthusiastic feedback, we are bringing back the in-home “gatherings” we have had in the past. During these meetings, small groups will socialize in informal settings, discuss our Fellowship’s goals, and learn how the budget is designed to achieve those goals. You will have an opportunity to ask questions and make your confidential financial pledge for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009.

Please try to attend one of these fun events. You will be able to sign up for a gathering at the back of the sanctuary or through Connections or the website. If you cannot attend a gathering, we promise to call on you personally. We look forward to seeing you soon.

— Sandy Marts and Pam Sapko, Co-chairs
email: stewardship

ADULT ENRICHMENT AND LEARNING

Bill Moyers’ Faith and Reason continues on Wednesday nights, February 25, March 4 and 11 at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

Reading Sacred Texts continues with *Genesis* on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 11 a.m. All are welcome.

SUUSI COMMUNITY FAIR AT UFWC

Between services on March 15 members and friends of the UFWC will speak with interested people about SUUSI – the Southeast UU Summer Institute. Visit the tables set up for various interest groups, or speak with our wandering SUUSI advocates about topics like workshops (from beer tasting to chocolate making to Wicca to yoga), child care cooperatives, nature trips, music activities, or religious services. For members of the youth group, several of our youth will speak about the experience they have had at SUUSI in the teen dorm.

If you are looking for a vacation week for yourself and your children this summer, SUUSI provides an in-expensive and safe place for your family. The cost is very reasonable. One week (Sunday morning through Saturday morning) – room and board included – for about \$75 per day for an adult and \$40 per day for a child.

SUUSI 2009: Rekindle the Flame Within
July 19-25 in Radford, VA
www.SUUSI.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees conducted its regular monthly meeting on February 10. The Executive Team presented its work on defining the roles of the team members and the team’s relationship to the Council and the Board. Other Board subcommittees are continuing the work of Policy Governance in the areas of Ends statements that will translate our Mission into definitive goals, Board Governance and Limitations policies, and communication of all of this work to the congregation. The new Committee on Ministry, comprised of Jim MacFadyen, Michael Werner, Sue Johnston and Heidi Frayer is beginning its work.

Other topics of discussion for this meeting included: the newly re-formed Communications Committee, progress on the new UFWC web site, the work of the Stewardship Committee, new chairs for the Music, Building, and Fun and Fellowship committees, and a Chalice Lighters grant application to fund a volunteer coordinator as a staff position.

Current Board members include: Bob Scott, President; Craig Talbot, Vice President; Eileen Kelly-Meyer, Secretary; and Diane Cohle, Sandy Schaal, Juan Leon and Betty Grosse, Trustees. Rev. Deborah Mero, Pam Baxter, Director of Religious Education, Erach Patel, Executive Treasurer, 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 second 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.

SPRING CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE DAY

Grab your work gloves and your paint brushes and come to the Fellowship for a morning of Spring Cleaning and Maintenance of our historic building.

Each year Building and Grounds calls for volunteers to paint, caulk, replace items and clean our Fellowship home.

We will meet on Saturday, March 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Any amount of time you can give would be appreciated by our Fellowship family. To offer your time, contact Mark Steel at email: building.



YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group had a rousing time cooking and serving a chili dinner for the Safe Harbor Shelter last month. (And we even managed not to destroy the Werners' house...)

In March, we're designing an amazing Youth Sunday service, which we'll run during both services on March 22. If we're lucky, we'll have youths from other area UU congregations coming to join in on Youth Sunday. We'll hang out for awhile after our second service for pizza and conversation.

JOIN US downstairs at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Direct questions to email: youth-group.

GET INVOLVED

The Membership Committee is always looking for ways to help members and friends get involved in the Fellowship, without necessarily joining a committee. There are many volunteer opportunities — being an usher or greeter at services, making telephone calls for events, helping out in many ways at the New Member Potluck are just a few.

If you are looking to become more involved and to meet others, let us hear from you. There is something here for everyone, and we want to help you find your place. Contact Mira Tryon or Barbara Long at email: membership.

ARE YOU TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE UFWC EMAIL RESOURCES?

The UFWC maintains a number of email distribution lists to keep you aware of and involved in our Fellowship. The following is a description of our email lists:

General Announcement Lists:

General List - Weekly *Connections* email newsletter, emergency schedule changes, last-minute announcements, etc.

Fellowtarian List - Monthly newsletter, *The Fellowtarian*, in PDF format (replacing the snail-mail version)

Members List - Notices appropriate for members only — all members are automatically subscribed

Special Interest Announcement Lists:

Youth Group List - Announcements about Youth Group activities

Lunch Group List - Announcements about upcoming lunch group dates

Folk Singing List - Announcements about upcoming folk singing group dates

Fellowtarian Contributors List - Monthly reminder to *Fellowtarian* contributors (minister, officers, committee chairs, event coordinators, etc.)

Special Interest Discussion Lists:

Social Justice List - Sharing ideas about social justice topics

Sustainable Living List - Sharing ideas about sustainable living topics (formerly the Global Warming List)

Things to Do List - Sharing ideas and suggestions for social activities and events

If you wish to be subscribed to any of these lists (or you think you should be subscribed but are not), contact Steve Sander at email: email.

In addition, contact Steve if you want to make the switch from snail-mail to email delivery of the *Fellowtarian*. This has a double benefit — it saves UFWC copying and postage costs, and you receive the issue sooner.



STONES IN THE SAME WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

Each event, each action is another stone in the wall of social justice.

It was a cold, snowy day for the **MLK day of service**. Despite this, we had an incredible turnout of children, youth and adults to work on service projects throughout the area. Over 45 of you came to the Charles Melton Community Center to start the day. 45! That's an incredible amount of people for a congregation our size. A handful of us were also on the planning committee for the day's event hosted by St. Paul's Baptist Church.

The entire event started off with a prayer by Deborah and ended the day after a lunch at St. Paul's with a prayer by Deborah. The presence of our minister and of our congregation has grown in a very short time. We forged some new relationships and have started building a foundation for great things to come.

If you were unable to join us that day, not to worry. There will be ample opportunities for you to make a difference as we progress through the year.

The **Islam course** is under way and the reception has been excellent. On any recent Sunday afternoon, you can find 70-90 people listening intently to the information presented by our instructor. More than half of the people attending are from outside the Fellowship. The participants represent a diversity of faith traditions, ethnicity and backgrounds.

We are learning many surprising facts about the relationship of Islam to other faith traditions. Did you know that you are considered a Muslim if you believe in one God and in the day of judgment? Many in our class might be considered Muslim regardless of their faith tradition.

Once again we are fulfilling the desires of the congregation to be more visible in the community, as well as further our mission to "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".

A group of UFWC members attended a UU Racial Justice Theater Event on 2/1/09 hosted by the UU Church of Delaware County and First Unitarian of Philadelphia. Members of local congregations as well as from congregations as far as Dover, DE and Gettysburg, PA attend a well done, thought provoking play in an intimate setting.

The play was about the fatal shooting of an African-American teenager and the search for the truth about what really happened. One of the actors in the play addressed the group and answered questions about the play. Participants formed small discussion groups to share thoughts about the play. An incredible dinner finished out the day.

This is an annual event so UFWC members and friends can have an opportunity to attend next year.

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION PROJECT

This is a reminder that we collect canned and boxed foods the first Sunday of every month. The next food collection will be **March 1**. The food will be donated to the Cares Food Network which will distribute it to food cupboards throughout the county. All food items should be put into the baskets in the lobby. Thank you to everyone who contributed last month. We collected four large baskets of food.



SHARE-THE-PLATE

Recently, you may have heard or read about the numerous Coatesville residents who have lost their homes and belongings to arson. **The Ministers Alliance of Coatesville**, in collaboration with numerous Coatesville churches and para-church organizations, has established a unified and comprehensive emergency relief strategy to assist families affected by the recent fires. You can help our neighbors by giving generously when the March share-the-plate collection is taken.

January Share-the-Plate raised \$315 for the **Safe Harbor Women's Shelter Capital Campaign**.

BEYOND WAR NATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE APPROACHES

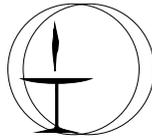
The Beyond War National Conference will be held in West Chester March 6 through March 8. Even if you are not planning to attend, you can help the conference be a success by volunteering to help. We need host houses for those from out of town who don't want the experience (or the expense) of the Holiday Inn. **Do you have a spare bedroom?** We may also need some accommodations for a few people staying over on Sunday night. **Please e-mail Kim** (email: bw-housing) and let her know what you have available and if you might be able to have someone Sunday evening, too.

We will also need **transportation** from the airport on Friday, March 6, very early afternoon and then on Sunday after the conference (late afternoon). Some people will need a ride on Monday. If you would like to provide transportation, contact Doug at email: bw-transportation.

The Beyond War sub-committee is hosting a reception on Saturday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m. for Winslow Myers, author of the recently published book, *Living Beyond War: A Citizen's Guide*. It will include a movie about peace, refreshments, and a chance to mingle with kindred spirits. There is no charge for the event and it is open to the public. For more information about the reception or conference contact John Gribbin (email: beyond-war) or Ed Cohle (email: social-justice-chair).

HOUSE BUILDING TIME

The next Habitat for Humanity work week is Tuesday, March 10, through Saturday, March 14, 8:30-3:30 each day. Come out for half a day, a couple whole days, or whatever you can contribute. The HFH house we are co-sponsoring in West Chester is targeted for completion this spring, so there won't be that many more opportunities to be a part of this exciting project. You must be 16 to work on the construction site, but we have other opportunities to help like making lunches or fundraising. Contact Mike Stevens (email: habitat) if interested in getting on the HFH email list for more details.



EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK GROUP MARCH 15 7 - 8:30 PM

"I can't get the image out of my head, this odd picture of grubby refinement." These are the opening words in Los Angeles Times journalist Steve Lopez's *The Soloist: A Lost Dream, An Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music*. Lopez is describing homeless musician Nathaniel Ayers who was playing a violin with two missing strings in a busy downtown park. Beginning with this chance encounter, *The Soloist...* is the story of their remarkable journey together. This book was selected for this year's One City One Book Program in Philadelphia. Shelly Case will lead our discussion.

April 19 our selection is *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

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

HABITAT SPAGHETTI DINNER MARCH 22

Our co-sponsor partner, the Habitat for Humanity chapter at West Chester University, cordially invites you to attend their semi-annual Pasta Dinner on Sunday, March 22, from 4-8 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 129 S. High Street. We have hosted this event at UFWC in years past, but the venue was changed because we needed a larger facility with a professional kitchen. The money still goes to the HFH house we are co-sponsoring in West Chester.

This is the final push to complete the fundraising before actual construction completes. Great food and service-with-a-smile await you, and you won't even have to break the bank! Come spend the evening solo or family style, and help raise money for a good cause.

Tickets are Adult: \$8, Students with ID: \$5, Families: \$20, Kids under 2: Free. We'll have tickets on sale at UFWC after the services the week before the dinner.

DELIBERATE LIVING

Our next meeting is on March 1, the first Sunday of the month as usual. We will meet with the Friend's group in Downingtown at 12 noon instead of in the Fellowship. We will participate in a discussion with their group, which is just forming, and who have invited us for their kick-off occasion.

Our relationship with the Downingtown Friends group started many months ago, when Alex Miller, one of their leaders, came to visit us with the desire for us to have more common times together. He has led several of our Deliberate Living meetings and was enthusiastically received. In the future we can anticipate more exchanges.

The topic is Spiritual Education, which is of equal interest and concern to them as it is to us. The title is, "Do Our Children Get a Solid Spiritual Foundation?" They are planning a panel formed by various Meeting members who have involvement in the process from different angles. It should be a large and lively event. Further details, including address, are available on request.

Our Deliberate Living meetings 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.

CARING CORNER

We note with deep sadness the death of Pat Orban, a wonderful, giving member of our congregation and of the Caring Committee. She will be missed by many. Our condolences and support go out to John, and to Pat's family.

The **Comfort Shawl Group** will no longer meet on the second Thursday of the month; it will continue to meet on the fourth Sunday at 7 p.m. All are welcome, including those who would like to learn to knit.

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**: Heidi Buss, Jen Feld, Helena Graham, Lauren Kelly, Sharon Mayer-Conroy, John Orban, and Anne Rice. You can identify us by the hearts on our name tags. We can also be reached at email: caring.



REDUCE, RE-USE AND RECYCLE AT OUR FLEA MARKET APRIL 18

The annual flea market on April 18 is a great opportunity to practice the golden rules that reduce the impact of our consumer-oriented lifestyles on the environment. At the same time you can un-clutter your house, garage, and tool shed, and help raise funds for our annual operating budget.



Items in good condition that you no longer need will be prized by someone else. Lots of our West Chester neighbors join us in shopping at the flea market. In these tough times our bargain prices will be especially welcome. But please note, we cannot accept anything that might pose liability concerns or entail extra disposal costs if not sold.

It takes no special expertise to be a flea market volunteer. Join in the fun as we sort, price, display, and sell a surprising array of great *Unitarian Stuff*. Newer members and friends always find working on this project a great way to get to know more people.

We will also host a bake sale during the flea market in support of Habitat for Humanity.

Start your spring cleaning, and we'll look for you in April.

“IF ONLY I WOULD HAVE KNOWN....”

Effective Job Search Strategies in a Competitive Job Market

By Tom Rhoads and Michael Werner

“If only I would have known: more effective job search methods...more effective means of networking...how to overcome the road blocks that seemingly hold me back from the job search or career results I really want...” And, so it is today. The economy, the job market, and the world have changed very fast and very dramatically. Traditional job search methods, including outplacement, job fairs, and internet job sites are no longer effective, efficient, or reliable methods for job search.

Today, nearly everybody knows somebody who is in a job search or who will soon be in one. With unemployment creeping higher each month, the Committee on Ministry recognizes this challenge and is hosting the program at the Fellowship as the first step to meet so many urgent and important needs in the congregation and our community.

This engaging program, *Effective Job Search Strategies in a Competitive Job Market*, will be presented March 9 from 7-9 p.m. at the Fellowship. Tom Rhoads, a professional career coach (and an admitted former colleague and friend of Michael Werner), will present the step-by-step process to a successful career transition. If you have any questions and would also like to contact Tom directly, he may be reached at TRhoads@innovationservices.com.

Members and friends of the Fellowship are all invited. Please invite any of your friends or colleagues who you believe might benefit from this seminar. Participation is free and open to our community at large, but registration is requested to ensure that sufficient space is available. Please register by sending an e-mail to Barbara Robinson at email: office.

GAME NIGHT

Friday, March 6, is our next night for food, fun, and games. Everyone is welcome. Bring a dish and a beverage to share as well as any games you would like to play.

This is an informal event; there is no need to call ahead or be there on time – just come! Contact Mary Yeager if you have any questions at email: game-night.



FOLK SINGING

The next folk singing get-together is Saturday, March 14, 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.



The UFWC Presents Music For Two Pianos Sunday, March 15

7:30 PM

Featuring

Duo Aurora — Erin Behler & Gregory Fiorentino

The Fellowship Duo — Elaine Friedlander & Donald Bristol

Music by Brahms, Saint-Saens, Adams and more

Adults \$10, Students and Seniors \$5 At Door

Proceeds to benefit the Fellowship

Contact Marie Steel, email: music



FOURTH ANNUAL UFWC COMMUNITY DANCE

SUNDAY, MARCH 22 4-6 P.M.

A "community dance" is an old-fashion country dance 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, because it gets warm dancing.

Our expert caller and story teller, Ridge Kennedy, will return for the fourth year along with the band, "Rumpus", that features our own Alex Vogt. A modest admission fee of \$5/adult and \$2/child (5-12 years old) will be charged to cover costs.

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.

This event is being brought to you by the Fun & Fellowship and RE Committees. For more information, contact Nancy Artus at email: fun. If you can walk, you can dance!



EVENSONG GATHERINGS

Are you interested in strengthening your connection with fellow UFWC members through small group discussion? Join the Evensong Gatherings, a short-term discussion group that will meet twice a month on Thursdays, beginning on February 26 through April, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., in the OWL room.

Participants will explore individual life journeys through sharing thoughts, experiences, doubts and beliefs about religious concepts. Listening is the core of this program.

We are looking for six to twelve participants committed to attending the series of meetings. Contact Terry Rothermel or Heidi Buss at email: evensong-gatherings.



LUNCH GROUP

Lunch group will meet Friday, March 13, 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.

Coffee House
An evening of Music
Saturday, March 21
7-10 pm
at the Fellowship
Featured Act
Steve Sander, Piano & Vocals
All members and friends are invited to be supporters
and/or entertainers.

Contact Judy Perri at email: coffeeshouse

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

All email addresses @ufwc.org unless otherwise noted.

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| Mar 1 | Sun | Food Collection. The first Sunday of the month. Lobby. See p. 7.
Deliberate Living. 12 noon in Downingtown. See p. 9. |
| Mar 4 | Wed | Religious Education Committee. 7 p.m. OWL room. Contact Sue Quake, email: RE |
| Mar 5 | Thu | Sustainable Living Committee. 7-8:30 p.m. Fireplace Rm. Contact Jen Stevens, email: sustainable-living |
| Mar 6 | Fri | Game Night. 6:30-9 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 10. |
| Mar 6-8 | Fri-Sun | Beyond War National Conference. Holiday Inn. See p. 8. |
| Mar 7 | Sat | Beyond War Reception and Movie. 7:30 p.m. All invited. See p. 8. |
| Mar 8 | Sun | Safe Harbor Dinner. Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. To help, contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: safe-harbor |
| Mar 9 | Mon | Effective Job Search Strategies. 7-9 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 10.
Beyond War Group. 7-9 p.m. Fireplace Room. Contact John Gribbin, email: beyond-war. |
| Mar 10 | Tue | Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Office. All are welcome. |
| Mar 10-14 | Tue-Sat | Habitat for Humanity Work Week. 8:30-3:30 each day. See p. 8. |
| Mar 12 | Thu | Social Justice Committee. 7:15-9 p.m. Office. Contact Ed Cohle, email: social-justice. |
| Mar 13 | Fri | Lunch Group. 11:30 a.m. Panera Bread. See p. 11
Exploring Our Spirituality Book Group. 1:30-3:30 pm, offsite. Contact Susan Gast or Harriet Singer, email: spirituality-book-group |
| Mar 14 | Sat | Folk Singing. 8 p.m. at the home of Steve and Linda Sander. See p. 10. |
| Mar 15 | Sun | Share the Plate Sunday. See p. 7.
SUUSI Fair. Between services. See p. 5.
Benefit Concert: Music for Two Pianos. 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 10.
Exploring Diversity Book Group. 7-8:30 p.m., fireplace rm. See p. 8. |
| Mar 18 | Wed | Newcomer Orientation Session 1. 7-9 p.m. Fireplace Rm. See p. 2. |
| Mar 21 | Sat | RE Committee Retreat. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Downstairs. Contact: Pam Baxter e-mail DRE.
Coffee House. 7-10 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 11. |
| Mar 22 | Sun | Community Dance. 3-5 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 11.
Habitat for Humanity Spaghetti Dinner. 4-8 p.m. at United Methodist. See p.8.
Comfort Shawl Group. 7 p.m. Fireplace Rm. Contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: caring |
| Mar 24 | Tue | Fellowship Council. 7-9 p.m. Office. Contact Mark Steel, email: program |
| Mar 25 | Wed | Newcomer Orientation Session 2. 7-9 p.m. Fireplace Rm. See p. 2. |
| Mar 26 | Thu | Religious Services Committee. 7:30 p.m. Office. Contact Curt Hoganson, email: religious-services. |
| Mar 28 | Sat | Spring Cleaning and Maintenance Day. 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. See p. 6. |

Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

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| Adult Enrichment | <u><i>Moyers Faith and Reason.</i></u> Wednesdays March 4 and March 11 7-9 p.m. Fireplace Rm. See p. 5.
<u><i>Reading Sacred Texts.</i></u> Second and fourth Wednesdays. 11a.m.–1p.m. Minister's study. See p. 5.
<u><i>Islam Course.</i></u> Sundays 1-3 p.m. Sanctuary. |
| 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 |
| Evensong Gatherings | Second and fourth Thursdays each month, 7:30-9 p.m. Owl Rm. See p. 11. |
| Youth Group | Most Sundays, 10:45-noon. OWL room. Email: youth-group. See p. 6. |