

UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP OF WEST CHESTER
501 S HIGH ST
WEST CHESTER PA 19382

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
ATTENTION!
Time Value — Church Material

NON-PROFIT ORG
U S POSTAGE PAID
WEST CHESTER PA
PERMIT 31

 **the**
FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester

Telephone: 610-692-5966

Web: www.ufwc.org

Rev. Deborah Mero, Minister 610-692-4043 email: minister
Barbara Robinson, Office Administrator 610-692-5966 email: office
Diane Cohle, President email: president
Pam Baxter, Dir. of Religious Ed email: dre
Steve and Linda Sander, Editors email: fellowtarian

SUNDAY SERVICES

July, 2009

July 5

**YE OLDE HYMN SING
(FORMERLY STUMP THE HYMNIST)**

**Michael Werner and
Erin Behler**

Join us for what has become a favorite summer service in which we explore our hymnal, sing our favorite hymns, learn new songs, and become one of the largest pick-up choirs in West Chester. Come prepared with your list of favorite hymns and be ready to sing. Hymnist: Erin Behler

July 12

AWARENESS

Rev. David Long

Awareness is the basis of much of our thinking, feeling, and doing. David will give some examples from history of changing awareness and then open to discussion perhaps more recent ones.

July 19

HOME

Rev. Ellen Schipul

Home – is it a place? A childhood residence? Is it a state of mind or possibly a journey? Can it truly be “found?” Come and explore the many facets of “Home” and what it means to you, as a UUWC member. Ellen Schipul facilitates a discussion through song and story.

July 26

**FROM ABOMINATION TO AFFIRMATION:
THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY OF ONE TRANSEXUAL WOMAN**

Susan Collins

Susan Collins – clinical therapist, educator, and advocate for civil rights for all – will share with us her personal and spiritual journey that has brought her from a deeply difficult childhood, adolescence and adulthood to a place of self-acceptance to be the “creative, happyish” person she finds herself to be today.

SUMMER SERVICES -- ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10 A.M.

THE SONG OF DEBORAH

It has been a very full year at the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester. You can read all about the formal details in the Annual Report (There are copies at the Fellowship and it can be found online here: <http://ufwc.org/annual-reports-0809-v2.pdf>). In addition to all of the formal reporting there is a lot that does not appear. Not reflected in the report are the dozens of meals prepared and offers of help extended and accepted by those in the congregation needing a bit of help in a trying time. (I know — I was one of them when Ralph was hospitalized.) Not appearing in the report are the relationships forged between members and friends new and old. Not appearing in the report are the cards, phone calls and hugs that have been exchanged among the people of all ages that find this congregation a spiritual home. Not appearing in the report are the various people that have helped orchestrate and coordinate the offers of help. Sharon Mayer-Conroy has had to step down from the role of leading the Caring Committee and many of the unwritten chapters of help filtered through her at one time or another. Thank you Sharon.

Also not appearing in the Annual Report is the tireless work that has been performed by Cyndy Bullaughey for well over a decade. She has been the keeper of the membership information, the pledge accounting and so much of the data and institutional memory that whenever there is a question about almost anything, Cyndy is the person who knows the answer. Cyndy was ready to leave the task of income treasurer behind a year ago but continued until there could be a smooth transition. She's done an amazing job

for a very long time. We all owe her our thanks.

Erach Patel has given his time and talent to watching over the finances of the Fellowship for the past four years. Hardly anything that involves money has happened without him having some kind of input. He has also been the "go to" person for bylaws, a job that few people willingly take on. Thanks to the work that he and Cyndy and Linda Sander have done we have kept ourselves on budget with a plan to carry forward. As Erach cycles off as Executive Treasurer he also deserves our thanks.

These were big jobs — they were ministries done with dedication and love for the fellowship. So much of what goes on is under the surface of what we see when we walk in the door on Sunday mornings. It is hard to err on the side of thanking people unless we neglect to do so. In addition, Craig Talbot leaves the Board to chair the Music committee. Nancy Artus is turning the reins of Fun and Fellowship over to Marie Steel, and the beat goes on. Thank you both for all you have done for us.

And of course, Bob Scott is turning the presidency over to Diane Cohle. I thanked Bob at the Annual Meeting and in the report

but again, Bob has given a new purpose and direction to the board as it transitions into a new way of doing and being the visionary body of the Fellowship. He did so with skill and caring. Thank you Bob!

Last Sunday I talked about ministry being something we do

together. So many of you give so much that it makes me humble to think of how outstanding your contributions of time and talent are. We are all blessed by the dedication of so many people. That is what makes this voluntary associa-

tion, this faith community, so special. To all of you who have made coffee, led a service, facilitated a group, taught our children, canvassed your fellow members, shared your talents in any way, you are awesome. THANK YOU.

As we begin to plan for next year let us do so with gratitude for all that has led us to this place and this time. We will be asking for your feedback this summer so that we can move forward together finding new and better ways to share this journey of life we are walking together. May you have a summer that exceeds your hopes and expectations.

– With gratitude and love,
Deborah

So many of you give so much that it makes me humble to think of how outstanding your contributions of time and talent are. We are all blessed by the dedication of so many people.

A HEADS-UP:

As we did last September when we began the year, we will have a communal sharing of insight, wisdom, and gifts of the spirit that we gained over the summer. Something to think about...

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's an exciting time for our congregation and I am happy to be serving as president for the next two years. Many thanks go to Bob Scott and the current board for their vision and leadership. Bob has done a tremendous job in moving us towards policy governance. As we grow, I believe it is a structure that will serve us well. Bob has given many hours of hard work to this community, and I appreciate all his time and efforts. Many, many thanks to a job well done!

I am committed to this congregation. As a member since the 80's, I know that it is everyone's responsibility to keep the UFWC strong. At this time in my life, I am able to devote more time to furthering our mission and ends. It is exhilarating to think of making decisions based on our mission:

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.

I am looking forward to carrying out the responsibilities of president. Thank you for your vote of confidence in me.

– Diane Cohle



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees conducted its regular monthly meeting on June 9. The primary agenda item was the annual Board review, a discussion of lessons learned in the past year, which included the Mission process and development of policies needed to truly execute Policy Governance. The bulk of this policy work is now complete and can be used by the incoming Board going forward.

The annual congregational meeting on June 7th was well attended, with a busy agenda! Bylaws changes approved by the membership at the meeting can be found in the members section of the UFWC website in the very near future. The Ends statements and policies will be posted on the website as well.

Other topics of discussion for this meeting included: saying thank-you and farewells to the outgoing members, as we prepare to welcome the new Board. Outgoing Board members are: Bob Scott, Craig Talbot (and Erach Patel, Treasurer); new trustees are: Rick Marts and Fred Frayer. Continuing Board members include: Diane Cohle (now President), Betty Grosse (now Vice President), Eileen Kelly-Meyer, Secretary, Sandy Schaal, and Juan Leon. Rev. Deborah Mero, Pam Baxter, Director of Religious Education, the Executive Treasurer (now Mike Miller), 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.

YOUTH GROUP

Thanks to all who participated in our youth bridging workshop and service in June. It was an incredibly rewarding and meaningful way for our whole congregation to celebrate the accomplishments and new paths of the high school graduates from UFWC families. To our grads, we wish you all the best for your work and studies in the coming year. Congratulations!

- Daniel Butler - going to West Chester U.
- Elisa Cawley - going to Temple U.
- William Griffin - working.
- Leila Hejazi - going to U. of Michigan.
- Hannah Hoganson - going to Lehigh U.
- Clara Iliff - going to West Chester U.
- Sarah Ann McGillivray - going to Temple U.
- Jed Miller - working and going to Delaware County Community College.
- David Quake - going to Penn State Altoona.
- Kelia Larson Scott - going to U. of Delaware.
- Taylor Steel - going to Columbia College Chicago.
- Liedeke Sweitzer - going to Delaware Technical and Community College.
- Max Williams - going to Temple U.

We have wrapped up another fabulous year of community, service, spirituality, leadership development and fun with the amazing Youth Group at UFWC. Over July 10-12, we will bring a group to the JPD SummerCON, and we also hope to have a Youth Group summer activity in July or August. Watch your e-mails for details and HAPPY SUMMER! Contact email: youth-group.

REmarks – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

Summer is here! What will your children be doing during their vacation?

At UFWC, summer means vacation from RE classes as well as from school, but since being Unitarian Universalist represents a way of life and not just something we do on Sunday mornings at the Fellowship, I want to touch on some ways you can keep “being UU” present for your children.

- First, take a close look at this and the August issue of the Fellowship for any kid-friendly services. Also keep in mind that older children can get a lot out of adult services as well, and that your interest in bringing them to services helps convey how important the Fellowship is to you. You know best if your kids can sit still for the hour, but you can also enhance the experience by talking about the topic beforehand. With younger children you might turn a service into a game of identifying the different parts of our morning ritual.

- Keep an eye out for the summer issue of UU World. The center of the magazine always contains a pull-out mini newsletter for kids.

- We adults enjoy seeing our friends at church. Children do, too, so we’re planning some ways to keep them together. Ice cream at Deborah’s house on June 6 was just the beginning of our summertime ice cream fun. Look for an upcoming email to help the RE Committee select the dates. There is also family fun to be had at the annual camping trip. Details on

that from Fun & Fellowship are on page 7.

- Passport Village is offering a week of multi-cultural day camp for children entering 4th through 6th grades in the fall. Information at <http://brandywine.cisvusa.org>. In support of our 7th Principle, you might consider signing up your child(ren) for a session or two of Summer Nature Camp at Welkinweir. Information at www.greenvalleys.org.

- Finally, there are plenty of “teachable moments” in the average day – where we can be mindful of other people and how we treat them and interact with them (this includes pesky siblings!) We can be aware of where our money is going and how we make spending choices: is the packaging recyclable and made from recycled materials? Was child labor involved in production? You might try eating lo-

cally – supporting farmers’ markets – and donating extras from your vegetable garden to any of Chester County’s food banks. I imagine you do many of these things and more already.

Overall, I hope you and your families have many opportunities to relax, have fun together and enjoy all the goodness that summer can bring.

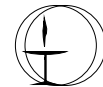
Note: For all those who were not able to attend the RE Sunday celebration of classes

and teachers on June 7, I want to reiterate my thanks to everyone who contributed to an excellent RE year: teachers, RE Committee members, Youth Group advisors, OWL facilitators, Nursery Coordinator and

parent “floating” volunteers. And thanks to those who have already signed up for 2009-10.

– Pam Baxter, Director of Religious Education

Overall, I hope you and your families have many opportunities to relax, have fun together and enjoy all the goodness that summer can bring.



MINISTRY SURVEY

Keep an eye out — we will be asking for all of your input and feedback on what we are doing and how we are doing it. The Committee on Ministry along with the Board and Deborah are assembling a survey to help us in our planning as we move forward in our mutual ministry. We will have both an online version and a paper one available soon.

STONES IN THE SAME WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

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

The social justice committee wants to invite groups of people interested in a specific social justice project to contact us (email: social-justice) to discuss possible efforts, big and small. Along with your idea, you need to enlist people to participate or help you. There are a million good and worthy ideas out there but only those that have enough people to take ownership of the project will be considered. You might start noticing some articles and efforts regarding healthcare (starting in the *Fellowtarian* this month). There are a number of people who have come forward, expressed interest and the willingness to coordinate and implement ideas in the area of health care reform over the coming months. Stay tuned.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING

A recent survey done on behalf of the Pew Environmental Center indicated that most eligible U.S. voters surveyed said that our nation should take steps to reduce its production of greenhouse gases which are causing global warming. That's good news for those of us who are very concerned about climate change because recently, a team of international scientists said that carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels are already in the danger zone. Currently, concentrations of CO₂ in the atmosphere are 385 parts per million (ppm) and are rising at a rate of two ppm per year. These scientists say that this is enough to cause dangerous changes to the Earth's climate. Scientists had previously predicted that dangerous gas levels would not be reached until the end of the century.

In June, the U.S. government began debating "The American Clean Energy and Security Act" (bill H.R. 2454). This is the first piece of federal legislation which aims to limit the amount of heat-trapping emissions produced in the U.S. This bill would require production of energy using more clean technologies and more efficient use of electricity and natural gas. A House vote is expected before July 4. For more information, contact Diane Maguire.

UUSC UPDATE

How about this headline on the U.U. Service Committee (UUSC) website: "In Ecuador, A Fight for Safe, Affordable Water". You might expect as much. After all, Ecuador is a third-world country. But how about in the United States? Let's look at another UUSC headline: "In a major victory for water access in California, the state assembly has voted to approve AB 1242 – the Human Right to Water Act of 2009. If approved by the Senate, the law would protect over 150,000 Californians who live without access to safe, affordable water!" (And UUSC partners helped pass this bill.)

Think about it. When you want water, you turn on the tap. But what if you couldn't? Some of our neighbors here in the U.S. and around the world can't. It's toward issues like these that your UUSC donations are used.

Reminder: June 30 is the deadline for Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) memberships to count towards our membership goal of 75%. You can join or renew your membership online at <http://www.uusc.org>. Or you can pick up an envelope in the Fellowship lobby, or ask one of us to mail one to you. When you join, please remember to list the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester as your congregation. Please help us meet our goal.

– Robin Garrett, Linda Sander, and Tom Townsend



SHARE-THE-PLATE GENEROSITY

The share-the-plate collection of \$455 for the Early Care and Education Program at the Domestic Violence Center in the Month of May was our largest collection to date. Fantastic support everyone. This is the largest share the plate collection we've had all year. The share-the-plate recipient in July is the Friends Association. This organization provides short-term housing for mothers and their children who would otherwise be homeless. You can help support our neighbors by giving generously July 19 when the next share-the-plate collection is taken.

HEALTHCARE REFORM THAT GIVES AMERICA A CHOICE

Let us introduce ourselves — we're Tom Townsend and Dorothy Wavrek, M.D. We, along with the Revs. Deborah and Ralph Mero, heard Gov. Howard Dean, M.D., talk about Healthcare Reform on May 29 in Wilmington. The day before he spoke in Des Moines (at the First Unitarian Church). And the week before: "More than 300 people crowded into the First Unitarian Church in downtown Denver...to hear Gov. Howard Dean discuss the reform of the American healthcare system and the necessity of a public option."

Dr. Dean's plan is about a public health option that would be available to everyone but is especially for those who have no insurance because it's not available to them through their employer or they cannot afford it. It will not eliminate current insurance plans.

The Americans for Prosperity Foundation plans to launch a "\$1.7 million television-advertising campaign that negatively likens the U.S. healthcare system envisioned by lawmakers to Canada's publicly administered system." Well, we have something to say about that: Our former neighbor, a university faculty member, has joint American-Canadian citizenship, and he developed cancer. When he did not receive appropriate treatment in the U.S. (he had excellent medical insurance), where did he head? Back to Canada, where he promptly received complete and successful treatment. And his cost? \$0.

Here's a quote from Forbes: "For decades, you pay exorbitant premiums, then something happens — an illness or serious injury — and you need medical care. Then what happens? Without fail, as night follows day, the insurance company you've been paying for years and years puts endless roadblocks (think: delay, deny and deceive) between you and accessing vital healthcare."

Medical problems caused 62% of all personal bankruptcies filed in the U.S. in 2007, according to a study by Harvard researchers. And in a finding that surprised even the researchers, 78% of those filers had medical insurance at the start of their illness, including 60% who had private coverage, not Medicare or Medicaid.

So please go to www.standwithdrdean.com and www.healthcareforamericanow.org and educate yourself regarding this vital issue. Please do it today. Let's work together to effect real change.



Sustainable Living Subcommittee Tip of the Month: Make your home an Energy Star. When you do home maintenance, also do a home energy audit to find out how you can save money by making your home more energy efficient. And if every American home replaced just one conventional light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes a year.

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION

A reminder that we will be collecting canned and boxed foods the first Sunday of every month. The next food collection will be July 5. The food will be donated to the West Chester Food Cupboard which will distribute it to food cupboards throughout the county. Food items should be put into the baskets in the lobby. The amount of food collected is slowly growing each month. Thank you to everyone who contributed last month.

GLEANING OPPORTUNITIES. Related to this effort, we are trying to determine if there is interest in the congregation to help with a gleaning project sponsored by the West Chester Food Cupboard. We would like to form a group that would be willing to donate a few hours a month to help with weeding and picking in gardens maintained and planted by the food cupboard. There is a plot in Westtown and we have heard that one may be in Downingtown. This is a great family activity and would be done during the day on specified weekdays.



If you are interested, contact us at email: social-justice, and we will let you know of the details when we get enough people interested.

Meanwhile, start growing extra veggies in your garden that you can contribute to our collection of fresh garden produce for the food cupboard in August and thereafter.

Health Care Forum. See page 8 for information about a Health Care Community Discussion at the Fellowship on June 30 at 7 p.m.

CAMPING TRIP SIGN UP NOW -- JULY 10-12, 2009

Picture yourself sitting out under the starlit sky, eating S'mores and singing folk songs around the campfire and bonding with other kindred spirits. Yes, you AND your family can be there, in Susquehannock State Park, joining other hardy souls from the UFWC for a night of fun and fellowship. This year we have Friday & Saturday nights reserved in the large group campsite (for 100 people). You can come for one or two nights, but we will have joint meals Saturday night and Sunday morning. You don't HAVE to spend the night; you can just come for the food, fellowship and singing.



This is the same site that UFWC has used for the last two years. Those that made it to previous outings thoroughly enjoyed the location. The park (www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks) sits on a bluff overlooking the Susquehanna River in southern Lancaster County. Convenient to the camp site are a playground, a ball field and hiking trails. Bald eagles are frequently seen from the lookout over the river.

Contact Sharon Sweitzer (email: camping) for more information or to sign up. There is also a sign-up sheet in lobby.

Directions 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) and/or Sunday morning ("brunch-able"). We hope to see you there.

EVENING DISCUSSION GROUP

These discussion groups are open to all members and friends, as in previous summers. No commitment is needed to attend regularly. It provides opportunity to address meaningful subjects together in a reflective atmosphere, while developing a deeper understanding of ourselves and others.

Possible topics include Our Place in the Universe, Connections, Reincarnation, Concepts of God, The Soul's Purpose, as well as other topics developed by the group. Meetings in July will be on second and fourth Tuesdays, July 14 and 28. In August we will revert to Thursdays, hoping to accommodate various members.

Leadership will vary, depending on preferences and preparation. Contact Terry Rothermel or Heidi Buss at email: evening-discussion.

EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP BOOK SELECTIONS FOR 2009-10



<u>Month</u>	<u>Facilitator</u>	<u>Title</u>
Sep	Kerri Petterson	<i>Funny in Farsi</i> by Firoozeh Dumas
Oct	Debby Kern	<i>The People of the Book</i> by Geraldine Brooks
Nov	Ruth MacFadyen	<i>Neither Wolf nor Dog: On Forgotten Roads with an Indian Elder</i> by Kent Nerburn
Dec	Fatima Patel	<i>The Book of Salt</i> by Monique Truong
Jan	Susan Gast	<i>The Art of Racing in the Rain</i> by Garth Stein
Feb	Pat Shorten	<i>A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier</i> by Ishmael Beah
Mar	Shelly Case	<i>The London Eye Mystery</i> by Siobhan Dowd
Apr	Dena Beeghly	<i>The Commoner</i> by John Burnham Schwartz
May	All of Us	<i>Maus: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History</i> by Art Spiegelman (graphic/pictorial novel)

In addition, our annual Summer Reading Suggestions list will be posted on the bulletin board in the sanctuary and on our website at www.ufwc.org/exploring_diversity_book_group.htm. Happy Reading.

Our next regular meeting is Sunday, September 20 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Fellowship. Please feel free to contact us at email: diversity-book-group or call Shelly Case or Ruth MacFadyen. All are Welcome

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

All email addresses @ufwc.org unless otherwise noted.

Jun 30	Tue	Be There for Health Care Community Discussion. 7 p.m. Sanctuary. Contact Rev. Mero. See p. 6.
Jul 3	Thr	Potluck and Game Night. 6:30-9 p.m. Sanctuary. See below.
Jul 5	Sun	First Sunday Food Collection. Lobby. See p. 6.
Jul 9	Thu	Social Justice Committee. 7:15-9 p.m. Office. Contact Ed Cohle, email: social-justice.
Jul 10	Fri	Lunch Group. 11:30 a.m. Panera Bread. See below.
Jul 10-12	Fri-Sun	Annual Camping Trip. Susquehannock State Park, See p. 7.
Jul 12	Sun	Safe Harbor Dinner. Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. To help, contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: safe-harbor
Jul 14	Tue	Evening Discussion Group. 7:30-9 p.m. OWL Rm. See p. 7.
Jul 19	Sun	Share the Plate Sunday. Benefits Friends Association. See p. 5.
Jul 28	Tue	Evening Discussion Group. 7:30-9 p.m. OWL Rm. See p. 7.

POTLUCK AND GAME NIGHT

Please join us Friday night, July 3, at 6:30 p.m. for a Potluck and Game Night at the Fellowship. This gathering is not just for kids or families; everyone young or old is welcome.

Bring a dish and beverage to share. Paper products will be provided. No need to call ahead; just come. Relax and enjoy the company if you wish or learn a new game or play an old favorite. Contact Mary Yeager if you have any questions at email: game-night.

LUNCH GROUP

Lunch group will meet Friday, July 10, 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.

Health Care Community Discussion

June 30, 7 p.m. at the Fellowship

We know health care reform is going to happen this year. The question is what will it look like? Come join your friends and neighbors for a lively discussion on health care reform.

Also, Hear from Sharon Ward,
Director of the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center

DELIBERATE LIVING

No meetings will be held during the summer. Contact Heidi Buss at email: deliberate-living.