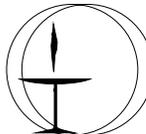


UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP OF WEST CHESTER  
501 S HIGH ST  
WEST CHESTER PA 19382

 **the**  
**FELLOWTARIAN**

*Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester*

Telephone: 610-692-5966 Web: [www.ufwc.org](http://www.ufwc.org)

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**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.*

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

### March 2010

**March 7**

**SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS**

**Religious Services Committee**

Each of us in the UFWC community has taken a unique journey to reach this place. Our paths have been variously rocky and steep or broad and easy. At times the routes have been deliberately chosen; at other times we have drifted in the currents of life. Come, hear the stories of three congregants, as Diana Minka, Eileen Kelly-Meyer, and Bruce Neff share of themselves with us.

**March 14**

**IT'S ABOUT COMMUNITY**

**Rev. Deborah Mero**

We repeatedly use the words "community building" but what is that, really? How does it fit in our particular religious tradition and setting? What do we want it to look like going forward? These are all questions that the leadership is constantly assessing so we can do it, whatever "it" is, better.

**March 21**

**THE UNKNOWN LOCAL HERO**

**Rev. Deborah Mero**

In 1934 a retired Marine Corps Major General turned back an attempted fascist takeover of the US government. The following year he wrote a short book proclaiming war to be a racket. Who is this local hero born in West Chester? And what does his life have to teach us?

**March 28**

**CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF BUDDHA: THE POHSICAL**

**Youth Group**

Curious? We thought an odd assortment of words might be a good hook... The amazing teens of the UFWC Youth Group have planned a dynamic service to end the month of March. You might remember the many friends of Winnie the Pooh, but we're guessing that you never considered their individual spiritual paths. Christopher Robin will be there. Will you? Please join us for music, a touch of humor and food for thought.

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

## THE SONG OF DEBORAH

It was a really really cold morning in February seven years ago that found Ralph and me on a 4 am bus in a suburb of Boston on our way to New York City to protest against the administration's push to start a war in Iraq. We traveled on that bus with no one that we knew on a day that reached a high temperature of about 20°. We had our signs made of foam core with mailing tubes for handles as NYC had some kind of law against using wood. We had dressed in more layers of clothing than I thought I could squeeze under my down coat, and for the first time I tried using chemical toe warmers in my boots (a big hit).

We arrived and assembled on side streets and then were herded like cattle up Second and Third avenues to a cross street that I don't remember to finally join the masses along First Avenue. The march/rally stretched over 20 blocks and crowd estimates were somewhere in the 450,000 range. People came from all over the country, so I was told, people of all ages, races and religious backgrounds.

It was a long and very cold day and though we knew in our heads that there was probably no way to stop a war from happening, our hearts told us we had to be there. On that day, Feb. 15, Millions of people protested in approximately 800 cities around the world. According to BBC News, between six and ten million people took part in protests

in up to sixty countries over the weekend of the 15th and 16th; other estimates range from eight million to thirty million.

This wasn't the first nor the last war protest that we attended. There were several in Boston that we got to. There was a candlelight vigil that MoveOn called for and I organized in my town on the green in the wet snow. Our voices were heard over and over again. Our bodies

*We want to take our inter/multi-faith interest in two directions, both within our congregation and in the larger community.*

were counted, our presence was noted. To no avail.

We are now approaching the seventh anniversary (odd to be using such a word for such a thing) of the start of the war on March 20, 2003. Though the war is kind of, sort of, winding down, the fighting and killing goes on in Iraq, and our engagement in Afghanistan has escalated. Not the kind of hope and change I was looking for in the last election.

Odd how the protests have all but disappeared since then. Odd how the liberal and progressive voices once so loud have gone so quiet. On March 21 I plan to introduce you to a local hero of whom I learned when up in Boston at a protest organizing meeting, another figure like Bayard Rustin that West Chester needs to lift up as a great public figure. Whether his story can inspire us to action again I don't know, but I want to share it with you.

On another note, our first two workshops to flesh out our Mission were energetic and enthu-

siastic gatherings that brought out some new ideas and initiatives that we would like to bring to UFWC. Our third and last workshop is coming up on March 14. That day we hope to take the desires expressed in the first two and weave them into how we build and strengthen our community.

From the first workshop there were two ideas that had the biggest interest— starting a new “UFWC Players” group to bring drama and theater into our religious experience and the “University of the Soul” to incorporate interfaith study, teachings, and practice into our congregation's programming. We want to take our inter/multi-faith interest in two directions, both within our congregation and in the larger community.

The goals and desires expressed in the Social Justice workshop appear in Diane Cohle's President's column. As we continue to build our faith community how will we channel our energy in these directions and how will all these pieces fit together? That is the challenge ahead of us and what we want to work with on March 14.

We hope you all will want to join us for the third in our planning series. Like the first, this will be a pot luck lunch. Food is one thing we all know how to do well. Please plan to stay with us that morning and help us keep the great energy we are seeing continue to build.

– For Peace and in Hope,  
*Deborah*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was so very rewarding to be a part of the Social Justice Workshop on Saturday, January 30. We had 39 people in attendance and the discussion was rich, exciting and productive. I appreciate Helena Graham, Ed Cohle, and Tom Townsend volunteering to take an active part in the day. The Social Justice Committee collected ideas of possible projects along with names of interested participants. We also have the needed information to add more details into our ends statements.

The group generated many ideas, among them the top five are:

- Engaging in anti-racism trainings and activities
- Feeding the Hungry – community garden, gleaning, Food Cupboard support
- Supporting the local West Chester Library fighting budget cuts
- Partnering with local non-profits and other groups for social change using our facilities
- Establishing Mentoring/Tutoring Programs

These items have gone to the Social Justice Committee for further discussion and planning.

Our next workshop will be held on March 14 following the second service. At this workshop we plan to begin to connect the dots between the ideas that came out of the first two workshops in ways that build and strengthen our community. As our mission statement says:

At the UFWC people feel welcome, dialogues flourish, and relationships develop through good times and bad.

We use our resources, time and energy to make a positive impact in our community.

We maintain intentional involvement with diverse populations and promote diversity within our congregation.

I encourage you to attend so that we can delve deeper and do some hands on planning of what direction our mission should

take. If you have not had a chance to participate in these workshops, this would be a great time to join in. If you have questions please feel free to ask me or Rev. Mero. We'd love to have you gather with us and make our mission come alive.

– Committed to working with you to achieve our mission,  
Diane

## FULFILLING THE MISSION PART 3

MARCH 14, 12:30-3:30 P.M.

### POTLUCK LUNCH

Please join us on March 14 for the third in our series of workshops to help us further define our mission. This one will center on Community Building but is also intended to incorporate the concepts that came out of our first two workshops, because that's what community building is about.

It is time to start putting the pieces together of how our Spiritual Growth and Development, our commitment to Social Justice, and our desires and needs of community fit and mesh with one another. The format will be different from the first two, and we hope that out of this day we will actually have some working plans and groups to begin the next step in fulfilling the Mission of the UFWC.

Please let us know if you wish to attend but need child care to make that possible.



## IT'S SEDER TIME AGAIN

Tuesday night, March 30, we will host our annual Passover Seder. It is the second night of the holiday, and Seders are traditionally held on the first and second nights of the eight day festival. It will be, as in the past, an "organized" pot-luck. Children of all ages are welcome, though we want to know if we need to provide child care for those under three years of age. Please RSVP to the office, or sign up at the Fellowship. For information see Rev. Deborah's web site: <http://web.mac.com/revdeb/page9/page9.html>

## REmarks – CHILDREN’S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

### *A look into Neighboring Faiths*

On any given Sunday, you can go downstairs and know – just from the hubbub – that our religious education classes are in full swing. But RE doesn’t happen only downstairs. This year, one Sunday a month, our 7th and 8th grade class members have headed out on field trips to houses of worship of other faiths in our community.

“Neighboring Faiths” is the name of the curriculum they’re using as their guide. This is a 1997 update to a program titled, “The Church Across the Street,” which lifetime UUs may remember participating in. In true Unitarian Universalist fashion (our 4th principle in particular), the program encourages an exploration of both the basic tenets and also the actual practices of other major (and some lesser) faiths. In this way, young people gain an awareness and understanding of others, and also may gain insight into their own developing beliefs.

At the beginning of the year, the class decides which religions they want to explore – about one each month, from September through May. The first Sunday of the month there is classroom learning. The second Sunday a visiting representative talks with the class. On the third Sunday, the class visits a local house of worship, and has a wrap-up discussion on the final Sunday. With the current ambitious schedule of nine faiths, some sessions were combined to fit everything in.

This year we started the practice of including Unitarian Universalism as one of the faiths to explore, resulting in a field trip to the Wellsprings Congregation in Chester Springs. The class

was a little surprised to see how different their service is from ours. Teacher Cathy Vogt noted, “There was a lot of questioning about why did we have to go see another UU church, but once they were there it made sense to them. We also visited the equivalent grade UU classroom and learned that their approach to RE and curriculum is very different from ours.”

The class has also visited a Catholic church, a Native American sweat lodge, attended a Wiccan solstice celebration and visited a Hindu temple. Still to come are trips to a Quaker meeting, a synagogue, a Protestant church and an exploration of Islam.

In addition to our UU principles, we at the Fellowship believe that “great good comes from wide diversity.” Neighboring Faiths works directly to increase awareness, foster understanding and enrich our children’s beliefs about god, spirit, life, death and the nature of the universe. It also

helps others in the wider community to develop an awareness of our congregation and how UUs approach their faith. Cathy Vogt also observed that, “One interesting feature is that while some of our visitors came from outside the Fellowship, some were members who were raised in a particular religion or have had experience with it. I think showing the students the diversity of our Fellowship has been an eye-opener for all and has helped enrich the experience. Those members who helped out as visiting guides, or in providing contacts, deserve a big “Thank you!” for volunteering their time and energy to make the class such a success.”

This rewarding curriculum requires a dedicated teaching team. Many thanks to Dirk Troltenier, Chris Conroy, Juan Leon, Sue Quake, and especially to team leader Cathy Vogt.

– Pam Baxter  
Director of Religious Ed.



## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make the New Member Potluck/Bicarb Bistro a great success. There was plenty of good food and prize-winning desserts. In the Bicarb Bistro, Lauren Kelly’s chocolate Kahalua cake won fourth place; Rev. Deborah’s chocolate mousse was third, Jen Feld’s mocha frosted brownies took second, and – TADA! – Joanna Iliff’s decadent delight finished in first place.

New members who joined since last January were introduced, and Reverend Mero led a reading in their honor. Those present were Pat Miles, Erica Tucker, William Tucker, Diane Minka, and Alex Vogt. New members not present were Tim Spillane, Amanda Lipnack, Phil Kerper, and Rebecca Kerper. A big welcome to all of them!

## COMING SOON IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD: THE JPD SPRING CONFERENCE

Would you like the opportunity to meet, exchange ideas, and just have fun with UUs from other congregations? This spring we'll have the perfect opportunity to do just that at the Spring Conference of our Joseph Priestley District, being held at the Clarion Hotel Park Ridge in King of Prussia April 16-17.

The Joseph Priestley District serves UU churches, fellowships, and societies in central and eastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, the District of Columbia and northern Virginia. Annual conferences can be scheduled anywhere within that geographical area, and frequently require hotel reservations in addition to the registration fee. There's no need for those hotel reservations this time around.

The conference is chock-full of workshop and worship opportunities, with plenty of time for socializing as well. Highlights include a Saturday morning keynote speech by the Rev. Dr. Michael Schuler, author of *Making the Good Life Last: Four Keys to Sustainable Living*; family-friendly track programming and childcare for children under the age of 4; a bookstore; exhibits from diverse UU organizations, and a closing celebration service. A Friday night coffee house with Grammy-nominated JPD minister the Rev. Dan Schatz (from the Buxmont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship), followed by a reception with a cash bar, will be especially conducive to socializing.

Workshops cover a wide range of topics, from strategic planning to leadership development, sustainable living, racial and ethnic diversity within our congregations, and individual spiritual growth.

The conference also includes the Annual Business Meeting of our Joseph Priestley District, where delegates from member societies will vote on the district's annual budget and hear a report on the state of the district. The number of delegates is determined by mem-

bership; our Fellowship is entitled to four. As the secretary of the JPD Board, you will see me at the meeting, dutifully taking notes.

A full conference brochure and registration forms are available on the JPD website, [www.jpduua.org](http://www.jpduua.org). Questions? Feel free to contact me at email: [denominational-affairs](mailto:denominational-affairs). I hope to see you there.

– Flo Miller  
Denominational Affairs Chair  
JPD Board Secretary

## CONNECTIONS

If you are receiving our weekly e-mail update, *Connections*, you may have noticed a small but significant change. Due to the problem of *Connections* not being delivered in a timely manner, we have begun using a new web-based software called Mailchimp. Now, when the office sends out *Connections*, it is delivered within 15 minutes to our entire list. Thankfully, this service is free to the Fellowship.

It has many new features, such as clicking on a subject in the Table of Contents and going directly to what you want to read. Also, we have the ability to send e-mails to sub-groups who have specific interests. In the future you will receive an e-mail sign-up form from UFWC, to opt-in to *Connections* and to check off which groups and activities interest you. This will help us keep our lists up to date.

This continues to be a work in progress, but we believe Mailchimp is a wonderful new tool to help communicate better with our members and friends.

### ***The Fellowtarian*** is the monthly newsletter of the **Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester**

501 S. High St., West Chester, PA 19382      Web: [www.ufwc.org](http://www.ufwc.org)  
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Diane Cohle, President ..... email: president  
Pam Baxter, Dir. of Religious Ed ..... email: dre  
Steve and Linda Sander, Editors ..... email: fellowtarian

## FIRST WOMEN'S CIRCLE A SUCCESS

In spite of the snow and ice, fourteen ladies gathered at the first meeting of the new UFWC Women's Circle on February 9, opening with the theme of "New Beginnings!" There was lots of sharing of our thoughts, feelings, and experiences relating to new beginnings in our lives, as well as singing, hugging and inspirational readings. It was great listening to each other's stories and getting to know each other. Thanks to Rev. Deborah for giving us the energy to get this all going.

This monthly women's group is open to any member or friend of UFWC and their invited friends. It will be held at the Fellowship on the third Monday of each month from 7-9 p.m. The next gathering will be on March 15, with Pam Baxter and Eileen Kelly-Meyer as the co-facilitators. The theme will be announced in *Connections*. Some suggested themes for the future:

- Why are we bothered by what others think of us (conflict aversion)?
- How to raise our energy level?
- Creating a new path for ourselves using our special gifts
- Staying on your path when others try to knock you off.

You don't have to RSVP. Just come to be rejuvenated, find connections, and grow in your spiritual journey as we share our joys and support each other's concerns. For more information or questions, email: [womens-circle](mailto:womens-circle).

## FINANCIALLY YOURS

By the time you read this our Stewardship Kick-Off Sunday will be just about upon us or just about past. Thanks go to Rev. Mero and David Roth for their great effort. We are fortunate to have their help to start the campaign, but much work remains to canvass those of you who did not make it to the service. Please help us complete this task by attending a small group gathering or by making yourselves available for an in home canvass. Nothing is more disheartening to our dedicated group of Stewardship campaigners than to chase endlessly after unresponsive members and friends. Please help us complete the campaign before the end of March.

What would we do if we had a major failure in our building? You know that this can cost big bucks. Fortunately, we have a "Repair and Replacement" Fund to help meet such expenses. We include an amount in our budget every year to add to this fund, and it now contains over \$24,000. Sounds like a lot, but it can disappear fast if a repair is major, so in the past we had to take out loans or seek special contributions. We have a number of such funds for various purposes. Another is the Social Action Trust Fund. Check the Restricted Reserves financial report for a complete list.

– Mike Miller  
Executive Treasurer



## STEWARDSHIP SMALL GATHERINGS

If you missed the Stewardship meeting on February 28, you can learn about our financial needs, learn about the pledging process, and have any of your questions answered at one of the following small gatherings held at members' homes or at the Fellowship.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Fri, Mar 12	7:00 p.m.	Myra Tryon and Hugh Southerland
Sat, Mar 13	10:30 a.m.	Betty Grosse
Fri, Mar 19	7:30 p.m.	Fellowship
Sat, Mar 20	10:00 a.m.	Gerry Geiss and Shelly Case
Sun, Mar 21	3:00 p.m.	Pam and Paul Sapko

You can sign up online or by contacting Pam Sapko at email: [stewardship-gatherings](mailto:stewardship-gatherings). Alternately, a member of the Stewardship Committee would be happy to meet with you personally. Please contact Mike Miller or Pam Sapko to set up a meeting.

Please return your pledge cards by the end of March.

## STONES IN THE SAME WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

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

I am a product of a racist society. I'm not saying that I am a racist, just that I am the product of a society where being white has many advantages and privileges that people of color might not have. A number of years ago I went to an anti-racism workshop where they talked about the concept of "white privilege". I have to say that I didn't feel that privileged, but I approached the world a little differently thereafter. I began to notice things I never had thought about before.

I do a lot of work in Philadelphia and often get takeout food at local Chinese restaurants around town. One of the things I noticed was that I rarely got asked to pay for my food at the time of ordering it. When a person of color ordered, they were almost always asked to pay for the food first. This doesn't happen at every takeout joint I go to, but it does happen a lot. In talking with African-American men that I work with, I learned that they are often afraid when pulled over by the police. Me? I'm just hoping not to get a traffic citation. Hmm...maybe I am privileged.

Some of us at UFWC want to think about this more and want to change the future of how people of color and a variety of marginalized and/or oppressed groups are treated in this country. This is hard work at the personal level, the congregation level, and the wider world. What would giving up my "white privilege" mean to my life? How would it be different? Tough questions that we hope to tackle in the coming year.

We won't be doing it alone. The UU Association has a curriculum available, and our district has meetings and gatherings for teams from various congregations who are asking the same questions. In 1997, the UUA passed a resolution for congregations to participate in reflection-action processes to include anti-racism training and to enter into relations and dialogue with people of color. We've begun on the second part (e.g., our collaboration with various groups for the MLK day of service and our Habitat for Humanity collaboration group). Please start thinking about participating in some way in the planning or attending events we hope to present to the congregation.

– Ed Cohle, Social Justice Chair

## UUSC UPDATE

One is reminded of the story of *The Little Engine That Could*. Why? Because the little Unitarian Fellowship of West Chester ranked fourth in the whole country in UUSC Holiday cards and merchandise sales. Amazing! We have collected over \$1,200 so far for "Guest at Your Table" as well as well as \$3,000 for the Haiti relief efforts. So, as far as supporting our Human Rights organization, we are doing well.

On the other hand, we still are "stuck" at 74% membership in UUSC by our congregation, the exact percentage we have been at for the past 3 years. If we could just reach 75%, we would get a better banner and be in another category. It would only take a few people to break past this barrier. Imagine if you could be the one to take us over the top. Yes, you!

If you haven't joined yet, you can do so on-line at [www.UUSC.org](http://www.UUSC.org). You can join and pay the membership fee by clicking on the box on the right hand side of the web page (don't forget to indicate UFWC as your congregation so we can get credit), or see Robin Garrett or Linda Sander.



## FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION PROJECT

**Our monthly food collection is on Sunday, March 7.**

Look for collection baskets in the lobby. The suggested items for March are jelly, honey and syrup. As always, other donations are gratefully accepted, too. Reminder: Please check



expiration dates. Items past expiration (or without a printed unexpired date) cannot be distributed.

## HAITI BENEFIT CONCERT EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

Hot off the presses! The Haiti Benefit Concert held on February 20 was an unprecedented success. In attendance were over 150 people from all over the region. It was standing room only. This event brought in a majority of people who were not familiar with our congregation as well as some of our own members and friends. The crowd and atmosphere were fun. A large sound system was brought in by one of the organizers complete with someone to work the soundboard to give the concert a very professional sound.

The six musical acts represented diverse musical styles, cover songs and original music. Our own *Who Needs Nigel?* was very well received by an audience who had really never heard them play before. There was a silent auction of some great items donated by local businesses. An assortment of foods, from pizza to cupcakes, was also available.

The estimated funds raised by the event are in the \$3000 - \$3500 range. Not bad for a night's work. Visibility in the community, living out our values, and making the world a better place were at the core of our decision to co-sponsor this event.

## SUSTAINABLE LIVING

The Sustainable Living Committee will meet on March 16 at 7 p.m. Please join us. In March we'll continue to define our focus and work out how to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day, perhaps by supporting WCU's many events. If you have a connection to WCU, we need your help. If you can't drive to the meeting, contact us (email: sustainable-living) to set up a test Skype audio session with Charlot Barker in advance of the meeting to join us remotely. Also, watch for our Sustainability Survey. We want to know what is important to you.

When we met we discussed our focus. Here's a first draft:

"Encourage sustainable energy choices, advocacy and action to mindfully consider our impact on the global environment and bring that knowledge to our community."

Our efforts will fit into three areas:

**Behavior.** Make it your habit to conserve energy. Turn off lights, and only use lights when they're needed. Be like Sarah Twomey-Mercurio, and start recycling at your office by bringing in bins and taking recycling back to your home. Colleagues now see Sarah and think, "Recycle!" Look for signs on recycling bins in our sanctuary. Know what to recycle and how before you toss that paper cup used for our delish coffee in the garbage because you're unsure of the borough's recycling standards.

**Efficiency.** Learn about and consider ways to be efficient. Insulate and caulk. If you have to get a new window, door, or refrigerator, get one with a high Energy Star rating. As you encounter times to make decisions, stop, research, and choose the efficient path. In 2009 and 2010 there is an energy credit up to \$1,500 for replacing some old items with efficient ones. I like saving money; I like knowing I considered my planet too.

**Renewable Energy & Advocacy.** Collaborate with and support community groups such as the Sierra Club, 4CP, and WCU's ENERGY group to offer speakers and knowledge on topics that effect our environment. Look at other great groups such as the UU Ministry for Earth. Diane Maquire kindly offered to keep emailing information and alerts on topics surrounding Sustainable Living and Climate Change as many of you requested. To be added to the list, send a request to email: sustainable-living. Let's attend some meetings as a group and invite others to attend our events.

Thanks for your support and encouraging comments. Help us make an impact and make you proud of the UFWC's work in this area.

– In peace, Charlot Barker

## SHARE-THE-PLATE GENEROSITY

The final tally (including some late donations) for our special collection for Haiti relief efforts is in. We collected a little over \$3,000 from congregation members and friends to send to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. The next share-the-plate collection is on March 21. The funds will benefit the West Chester Food Cupboard. This organization is well known to us and vice versa. Besides donations of money and our monthly food collection, a group of UFWC members volunteer there on a regular basis. The Food Cupboard staff have told us that we are their biggest supporters. We continue to make a difference for those in need in Chester County.

## WEST CHESTER FOOD CUPBOARD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for as much or as little time as you can spare on Wednesdays from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the West Chester Food Cupboard. A consistent commitment is all that is required and that's for scheduling purposes. Opportunities are available for receiving donations, stocking shelves, helping the clients chose their groceries, and helping in the office.



The Food Cupboard is a worthwhile charity and the benefits of being a part of it are tremendously rewarding. Knowledge of Spanish would be a bonus to the clients and the volunteers, but is not necessary.

If you've been thinking about how to be involved in your community, this may be what you're looking for. A shift of two hours once or twice a month would be helpful. For more information, please contact Mira Tryon at email: food-cupboard.

## 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. 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. Please note that chefs must be at least twelve years of age to help serve at Safe Harbor.

To get on the schedule for this year, contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy at email: safe-harbor. Let her 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 March 2010 to February 2011.

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 is 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 enough to be lead chefs. Try it – you'll like it.

Thank you all so much.

– Sharon Mayer-Conroy

## YOUTH GROUP

Despite an overabundance of snow, the Youth Group had a great February. We gathered at the Werner home to cook chili and fixin's for 30 people and sent a small group to serve dinner at Safe Harbor on Valentine's Day. We also started planning for the highlight of this month: our Youth Sunday service.

We have two main events in March. First, we'll trek down to the First Unitarian Church of Wilmington to visit for their Youth Sunday Service on March 7. We'll leave UFWC at 10 a.m. sharp. Then, on March 28, we'll host two services of our own at UFWC. Come – laugh, sing, and listen as our amazing youth group considers the finer points of spiritual diversity in conversation with the many assorted friends of a Silly Old Bear...

Coming up in April is the JPD SpringCON, April 16-18. Watch your e-mail for details. JOIN US downstairs in the Youth Room at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Questions? Want to get on our e-mail list? Please e-mail: youth-group.

## TRASH TO TREASURE SPRING FLEA MARKET

Something you have no use for might be a real “find” for someone else. Our spring flea market on April 24 is a great opportunity to clear out your un-needed, unwanted “stuff” and donate it for sale to benefit UFWC.

We hear every year that people “meant to” donate to the flea market, but at the last minute did not have time to rummage through all the places where “stuff” accumulates. So now is the time.

Start checking your bookshelves, cupboards, closets, attics, basements, garages, sheds, under the beds and all those other ingenious nooks and crannies where “stuff” hides away. Set aside a cardboard carton or two and a corner of your closet and start gathering items to donate.

Cleaning up, clearing out and downsizing will feel good! It will unclutter your life, support the *reduce, re-use and recycle* principle and help UFWC raise funds for the operating budget.

With the exception of high-value collectibles, we plan to maintain our low, low prices – a great help in these tough times. In addition to our UU shoppers, the flea market attracts many people from the community.

### HABITAT BAKE SALE

Our Habitat for Humanity supporters will again set up a table of tempting baked goods, strategically located just where the shoppers exit the flea market. Can you help by baking some goodies for this wonderful program? Bring your donations Saturday morning, then stay and check out the flea market merchandise. And bring a friend.

## GAME NIGHT

It is time to shake off the winter blues. Schedule some fun for Friday, March 5 when we will have a Potluck Dinner and Game Night. We play old favorites such as Scrabble and newer games like PDQ. Card games, board games, and even circle games – I can’t tell you what we will play this month, because we don’t decide till we are there.



This month, I will bring plenty of poker chips and cards. If you are interested, rustle up a few friends for a game of Dealer’s Choice or Texas Hold ‘em. In any case, bring a dish and beverage to share as well as any games you would like to play.

No need to call ahead, just come. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. and games usually start after 7. We usually finish up between 9 and 10 o’clock.

Contact Mary Yeager at email: game-night if you have any questions.

## EXPLORING DIVERSITY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

MARCH 21 7-8:30 P.M.

*The London Eye Mystery*, an engaging children’s mystery novel by Siobhan Dowd, tells the story of a boy with Asperger Syndrome who solves the mystery of how his cousin seemingly vanishes from inside a sealed capsule on the London Eye, one of the largest Ferris wheels in the world. This book has won six awards including the School Library Journal Best Books of the Year for 2008 and can give us some insight into the mind of a youngster with Asperger’s. It is also a fun read to escape the winter snow. Shelly Case will facilitate our discussion.

Please join us on Sunday March 21 at 7 upstairs at UFWC. Contact Shelly Case or Ruth MacFadyen at email: diversity-book-group. Readers of all ages are welcome.

## COFFEE HOUSE

The next coffee house is March 13, at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship, with Dan Kearney singing show tunes, and his wife, Jan, playing piano. Performers should arrive early to sign up for a time slot. Contact Judy Perri at email: coffeeshouse.



## COMMUNITY DANCE SATURDAY MARCH 6, 2-4 P.M.



On Saturday, March 6, 2-4 p.m. at the Fellowship celebrate and anticipate the coming of the spring equinox with a memorable afternoon of simple American and English line, square, and circle dances called by Janet Mills. All dances are taught; no partner or experience is necessary.

The dress is comfortable and casual; shoes should be flat and soft-soled.

Bring the entire family and bring your friends. An admission fee (adults \$5; children 5-12 \$2) is charged to cover the cost of the live band and caller. Contact email: fun

## LUNCH GROUP

Lunch group will meet Friday, March 12, 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.

## FOLK SINGING

The next folk singing get-together is Saturday, March 27, at 8 p.m. at the home of Linda and Steve Sander. All are welcome. No singing talent or experience is necessary. Capable musicians should bring instruments. Bring a munchie, if you wish. Maps are in the foyer. Contact Steve at email: folk-singing.

## DELIBERATE LIVING

Our next meeting is on March 7, 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 some of the pathways toward reaching our authentic core, and how do we live it out? These pathways have many dimensions.

Separation from family tradition is not easy, and dealing with family and friends through this process can be complicated. The step might even seem radical to some. But Kay Modi will show how history of Christianity itself can provide the basis for freedom to choose our own spiritual journey. Such individual paths are supported by themes of the earliest Christians and the twelve disciple gospels. This understanding can be helpful in making transitions.

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: eliberate-living.



## Benefit Concert

*Featuring*

**Duo Aurora**

**Erin Behler**

and

**Greg Fiorentino**

two pianos



**Donald Bristol, piano**

**Barbara Harris Kovacs, soprano**

**Dana Weiderhold, violin**

**Music of Adams, Faure, Quilter  
and more**

**Sunday March 28 at 7:30 p.m.**

**In the UFWC Sanctuary**

**Adults: \$10 Students/Seniors: \$5**

*Benefits UFWC*

## FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

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

- Mar 5 Fri Potluck & Game Night.** 6:30-9 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 10.
- Mar 6 Sat Community Dance.** 2-4 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 11.
- Mar 7 Sun First Sunday Food Collection.** Lobby. See p. 7.  
**Deliberate Living.** 12:30 p.m. Fireplace Room. See p. 11.
- Mar 8 Mon Beyond War Group.** 7-8:30 p.m. Fireplace room. Contact John Gribbin, email: beyond-war.
- Mar 9 Tue Board Meeting.** 7 p.m. Office. All are welcome. Contact Diane Cohle, email: president.
- Mar 10 Wed Adult Learning and Enrichment: *Explorations In Job.*** 7-9 p.m. Youth Group Room.  
**Religious Education Committee.** 7 p.m. Youth Group Room. Contact Sue Quake, email: RE.
- Mar 11 Thu Social Justice Committee.** 7:15-9 p.m. Office. Contact Ed Cohle, email: social-justice.
- Mar 12 Fri Lunch Group.** 11:30 a.m. Panera Bread. See p. 11.
- Mar 13 Sat Coffee House.** 7-10 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 10.
- Mar 14 Sun Stewardship Committee.** 12:30 p.m. Office. Contact Pam Sapko, email: stewardship. See p. 6.  
**Fulfilling the Mission Part 3: Community Building** (and a Potluck Lunch).12:30-3:30 p.m. See p. 3.  
**Safe Harbor Dinner.** 6 p.m. Provided by the Fellowship the second Sunday of the month. To help, contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email: safe-harbor. See p. 9.
- Mar 15 Mon Women’s Circle.** 7-9 p.m. Youth Group Room. See p. 6.
- Mar 16 Tue Sustainable Living Committee.** 7-8:30 p.m. Office. Contact Charlot Barker, email sustainable-living.
- Mar 21 Sun Share the Plate Sunday.** *West Chester Food Cupboard.* See p. 8.  
**Membership Committee.** 12:30 p.m. Office. Contact Mira Tyron or Barbara Long e-mail: membership.  
**Exploring Diversity Book Group.** 7-8:30 p.m. Office. See p. 10.
- Mar 23 Tue Fellowship Council.** 7-9 p.m. Office. Contact Mark Steel, email: program.
- Mar 24 Wed Adult Learning and Enrichment: *Explorations In Job.*** 7-9 p.m. Youth Group Room.
- Mar 25 Thu Religious Services Committee.** 7:30-9 p.m. Office. Contact Curt Hoganson, email: religious-services
- Mar 27 Sat Folk Singing.** 8 p.m. at the home of Steve and Linda Sander. See p. 11.
- Mar 28 Sun Music Benefit Concert.** 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 11.
- Mar 30 Tue Passover Seder.** 6:30-9:30 p.m. Sanctuary. See p. 3.

### Groups meeting multiple times in a month:

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Choir Practice</b>               | 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. |
| <b>Senior High OWL</b>              | Class meets Sundays, 6:30 p.m.  |
| <b>Youth Group</b>                  | Most Sundays, 10:45-noon. Youth Group room. Email: youth-group. See p. 9.   |
| <b>Stewardship Small Gatherings</b> | Various times and locations. See. p. 6.   |