

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

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.*

SUNDAY SERVICES

August 2010

August 1

AFRICAN DANCE WITH DRUMMING

**Janet Peck and the
Unitarian Drummers**

Experience the expressive power of African dance. Connect with your heart and be inspired. Come dressed to dance and prepared for fun.

August 8

GROUNDING AND RELEVANT: A BUDDHIST VOYAGE

Michael Golub

This service will provide an outline of Buddhism from its historical origin through a specific strain of its cultural adaptations. The goal is to shed light on the Buddhist experience in a way that speaks to both the heart and mind. Michael's presentation to the RE program this past year was well received, and we asked him share his thoughts and experience on this topic in the context of a Sunday service. Please join us for this thought-provoking discussion.

August 15

THOUGHTS ON THE THEOLOGY OF GEORGE HARRISON

Robin Garrett

The full lyrics of George Harrison's song "Give Me Love" ("...give me light, give me peace on earth...") serve as the inspiration for a discussion of the sometimes daunting search for hope and strength while *Living in the Material World* – the title of the 1973 record album which included "Give Me Love."

August 22

THE GOLDEN RULE: 24 CARET OR FOOL'S GOLD?

**Ellen Schipul
Interfaith Minister**

The concept of "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" is a common value shared by many – different words, same meaning. We will explore this core belief through music, scripture and true life stories. By looking at both the positive and negative effects it has on the recipient, we can come to our own conclusion – is it really a precious 24 Caret gift we give to another...or are we just fooling ourselves of the actual value? Come and discover for yourself. Special Music by Craig Talbot.

August 29

SUMMER GLEANINGS

Rev. Deborah Mero

In what is becoming the traditional end of summer entry, our minister will bring us what she has learned over her time away from the pulpit. This summer, much of it has been about two big issues, Immigration Reform and the controversy behind that, and the Marcellus Shale and how that has the potential to become our environmental disaster that could potentially equal that of the Deepwater Horizon in the Gulf of Mexico. Both issues are things that are deeply enmeshed in our guiding Principles, the UUA's Social Justice Resolutions, and our personal values. They are about who we are as people and having clean water to drink, and they will certainly affect each one of us well into the future.

Summer Sunday Services at 10 A.M. No Religious Education

REmarks – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

As most of you know, I've been doing more during the past year to incorporate the Seventh Principle – respect for the interdependent web of life – into RE; hence the “Nature Notes” that I send out, the purchase of the digital microscope and, most recently, setting up a table downstairs where kids can take a closer look at things they discover in the natural world.

I invite your children to bring in and share things that they find that are interesting to them. They don't need to know what they are. We are often more observant when we don't know what something is, and the discovery can be a fun investigative process. To get started, I've set out some of the things I've collected over the years – butterfly wings, shells, curiously marked stones, fossils, and a piece of snakeskin.

Summer is a perfect time to pay more attention to the world around us; taking just a few moments every day to stop and look closely at a piece of our back yard, a park, the beach, or near the pool – even on a city street – we can discover things we wouldn't otherwise notice.

Bringing a camera along on walks and hikes is a great way to “collect” things too large or too risky (any part of a poison ivy plant, for instance!) to tote home. FYI, it is illegal to collect bird nests and feathers, and it is probably safer in any case to not to handle feathers or nests unless you're wearing plastic gloves. Likewise, animal skeletons are something else you might want to simply take a photo of. In any case, please do not bring any animal remains (other than shells) into the building. By the time RE classes start up again in September, I hope to have zeroed in on a photo printer that we can hook up to my laptop computer so that the kids will be able to print and display their findings. I'm looking forward to the exploration.

In the meantime, I hope you are enjoying your summer and finding many new, intriguing things to wonder about.

Note: You can view the most recent Nature Note, from July 14, at <http://eepurl.com/lya9>.

– Pam Baxter, Director of Religious Ed.

LUNCH GROUP

Lunch group will meet Friday, August 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.

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

501 S. High St., West Chester, PA 19382

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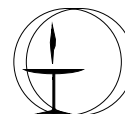
Pam Baxter, Dir. of Religious Ed email: dre

Steve and Linda Sander, Editors email: fellowtarian

WEST CHESTER FOOD CUPBOARD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The West Chester Food Cupboard needs volunteers for a variety of tasks. A group from the Fellowship has been volunteering on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., splitting up the time into two shifts of 90 minutes. The more people we can count on, the more we can spread out the time.

It's a rewarding opportunity – meeting new people, finding out what is available to help low-income families, being a part of an all-volunteer organization, feeling you have accomplished something useful to others, and a chance to learn, or practice, Spanish. If it sounds like a commitment you would like to make, or if you have any have questions, contact Mira Tryon at email: food-cupboard.



AUCTION HELP NEEDED

Organizational help for our annual Service Auction FUNraiser is needed in the following areas:

- Business Donations Coordinator
- Raffle Coordinator
- Set-up & Decorating Coordinator
- Food Coordinator
- Babysitting/ Kids' Activities Coordinator
- Fellowship Donations Coordinator (making calls)

If you can help with this important and exciting fundraiser, contact Nancy Artus at email: auction.

STONES IN THE SAME WALL – SOCIAL JUSTICE

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

Summer and the livin' is easy. Well, not for everybody. We continue to be involved in helping provide food for those in need. Volunteer gleaners have been helping tend our own plot of land provided by the Yeager family. They have planted sweet potatoes. Volunteers have also helped with a gleaning project in the fields near Pete's Produce. We will keep you informed as to our work in this area. Let me know (email: social-justice-chair) if you want to be on the list of people we call on for gleaning projects.

– Ed Cohle, Social Justice Chair

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION PROJECT

Our monthly food collection is on Sunday, August 1. Look for collection baskets in the lobby. *Suggested item for August is cereal (any kind of cereal but we recommend those with less sugar).* Reminder: Please check expiration dates. Items past expiration cannot be distributed. As always, other donations are gratefully accepted, too.

SHARE-THE-PLATE GENEROSITY

Share-the-plate continues throughout the summer. Much thanks to all who have contributed and continue to contribute so generously. **We are pleased to announce that share-the-plate recipient on August 15 (third Sunday of the month) is once again Home of the Sparrow.** Home of the Sparrow serves homeless, disadvantaged and abused women and children, helping them move from homelessness to self-sufficiency. They provide intensive services, including safe, stable housing, case management, life skills training, education and outreach programs to help women and their children achieve independence.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING NEWS

Hydraulic fracturing in Marcellus Shale has created health and environmental problems in Pennsylvania.

There are several reasons why many people are concerned about the huge surge in hydraulic fracturing for natural gas in Pennsylvania and nearby states. Acres of forest land have been clear cut, water wells have been contaminated with methane, and streams and rivers have been polluted with chemical byproducts.

Marcellus Shale is a geologic formation that lies under two-thirds of PA, 5,000 to 8,000 feet deep. Natural gas is trapped inside this formation in tiny pockets. It is estimated to hold trillions of cubic feet of gas. It was technically and economically unfeasible to drill for this gas until recently, when an existing technology, called hydraulic fracturing, was combined with a new capability to drill horizontal wells at great depths.

An animation of drilling is available on the internet at the American Petroleum Institute's website: <http://www.api.org/policy/exploration/hydraulicfracturing>, click on "view video".

Hydraulic fracturing requires the use of up to 3 million gallons of fresh water per well. Water is mixed with sand and various chemicals and forced into the well under tremendous pressure. About half the water returns to the surface with the gas. Although the waste water is trucked to municipal treatment plants, these plants do not have the capacity to properly treat the water before releasing it into local streams and rivers.

Improperly drilled gas wells have contaminated water wells of homeowners. In some cases, so much natural gas has seeped into their wells that they are able to light on fire the water/gas mixture coming out of their home's faucets.

PA government has leased about 700,000 acres of state forests to gas drilling companies. Thousands of wells, each with a 10 acre footprint, will be drilled on public land. Aquatic life has already been destroyed and forests have been fragmented by existing well sites that disrupt wild animal habitat.

Several legislators have introduced bills to 1) put a moratorium on leasing public lands to drillers and 2) put a severance tax on gas drilling to raise funds to repair damage done to public land and water.

If you would like more information about this issue and current legislation, email Steve Sander (email: email) and ask to be put on the Sustainable Living email list.

FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

All email addresses @ufwc.org unless otherwise noted.

Aug 1	Sun	First Sunday Food Collection. Lobby. See p. 3.
Aug 8	Sun	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
Aug 12	Thu	Social Justice Committee. 7:15-9 p.m. Office. Contact Ed Cohle, email: social-justice.
Aug 13	Fri	Lunch Group. 11:30 a.m. Panera Bread. See p. 2.
Aug 14-15	Sat-Sun	District Youth Overnight. Contact email: youth-group
Aug 15	Sun	Share the Plate Sunday. Benefits Home of the Sparrow. See p. 3.
Aug 16	Mon	Women's Circle. 7-9 p.m. Youth Group Rm. Contact Debby Kern, email: womens-circle
Aug 17	Tue	Long Range Planning Committee. 7-9 p.m. Office. Contact Paul Heck, email: LRP.
Aug 22	Sun	Membership Committee. 11:15-12:15. Office. Contact Myra Tryon or Barbara Long, email: membership.
Aug 23	Mon	Parent Support Group. 7 p.m. Office. Contact Sharon Mayer-Conroy, email parent-support.
Aug 27-28	Fri-Sat	Leadership Retreat. Reading, PA. Contact Diane Cohle, email: president.

HAVE YOU MET ALEX VOGT?

“Teen spirit” may call to mind a certain deodorant or early '90s Nirvana tune, but the UFWC has its own rendition: Alex Vogt.

A look at his Eagle Scout bio is proof alone, but that's just the start. The 15-year-old Bayard Rustin High School student has earned 45 scouting merit badges since joining the organization in 2000, and was deemed Scout of the Year for Troop 66 in 2007, '08 and '09 including the Den Chief Service Award, World Conservation Award, and Merit Badge Pioneers Award. He has also served in several leadership and training roles for the Scouts, including Junior Leadership Training three times, and the Leave No Trace Trainer program this year.

Beyond scouting, Alex, who joined the fellowship in January,

has been a member of the UFWC Youth Group since 2007 and is also a Youth Adult Committee member. “I have been coming to the church since 2001,” adds Alex, “and I enjoy participating in RE and going to the services.”

Music also scores high on Alex's list of interests. A member of the audition-required orchestra, Senior Strings, Alex plays the violin and occasionally the mandolin and guitar. When he's not fiddling around, you may catch him playing high school soccer; enjoying the outdoors, or for a little extra

cash, mowing lawns or wearing the hat of a referee.

While Alex's long list of accomplishments depicts an above-average teen, the West Chester resident suggests otherwise. But that's just humility talking.

“I think I am an average 15-year-old boy,” he says, “and I

try to live an honest life by following the Scout oath and law, which, in short, means that I try to be a trustworthy and helpful person.”

– Sharon Breske

A FEW OF ALEX'S FAVORITES

Book: *Patriot Games* by Tom Clancy

Place: Pennsylvania

Famous person: Matt Damon