

THE FELLOWTARIAN

Newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

March 2021



NOTES FROM REV. DAN

I've been thinking about butterflies lately.

It's odd, I know, when there's still snow on the ground, but butterflies have been with us this whole time, waiting through the winter. Some are eggs or caterpillars, while others, like the comma and the mourning cloak, hibernate fully grown, waiting for a good warm day to come out from their protective coverings. Still others entered their cocoons as caterpillars and will unfold their wings for the first time as spring comes.

Our 2021-22 Stewardship theme "Emerging Anew," with its wonderful butterfly logo, resonates powerfully with me. Like the butterflies, we have spent a great deal of time hibernating or cocooned in our homes over the past year. And like butterflies, we have grown and changed during that time. We've learned new ways of doing things. We've reached out to each other. We've celebrated and grieved together, and we've even made music

together. With the experiences of this year, we've matured in spirit.

Now, with winter's snow cover beginning to melt, we can imagine what it will be like to come together again and stretch our wings. It may be a slow process, hesitant at first, but sometime in the coming year it will happen.

We can envision a congregation that is more vibrant, energetic, and engaged than the one that went into its cocoon last March.

How strong we will be when we finally open our doors again will depend largely on what we give — in love, commitment, and yes, dollars as



well. We have an opportunity to take what we've learned in our hibernation year and create an even better congregation from it.

We know exactly how much we value music, religious education, adult programming, social justice, the community we create together. We can envision a congregation that is more vibrant, energetic, and engaged than the one that went into its cocoon last March. If we give to that vision, the result will be glorious indeed.

I can't wait to see us spread our wings.

— In faith, Dan



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.



Minister's Hours

In person office hours are suspended during the epidemic, but Rev. Dan can be reached by email at email: minister, or on his cell phone at 484-653-5011. For pastoral care during this time, please write to email: pastoral-care. For other questions, please contact email: office.



A Welcoming
Congregation

501 South High Street
West Chester PA 19382
610-692-5966
office@ucwc.org
www.ucwc.org

Sunday Services



We gather, aspiring to be a thriving, caring, and welcoming community that supports each person's spiritual journey, embraces diversity, challenges us to live responsibly, and is a catalyst for a just and compassionate world.

Pastoral Care

The **Pastoral Care Team** contact for this month is **Fatima Patel.**



Mar 7 10 am

EMERGING ANEW

Rev. Dan Schatz

On this very special Sunday, we will celebrate our congregation and imagine the future, as we emerge anew into the world. The service will feature testimonials from members and children, special video performances from the Spirit Singers, and a message from Rev. Dan.

Mar 14 10 am

WHOLLY LIVING

Rev. Dan Schatz

Being a Unitarian Universalist means a life of growth and moving toward wholeness, within ourselves and in our communities.

Mar 21 10 am

CARRYING THE FLAME

Rev. Dan Schatz

Each of us carries a flame in our spirits and in our homes. It holds us through the most difficult times and kindles our wonder with the spark of joy.

Mar 28 10 am

LOVED INTO BEING

Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick Gray

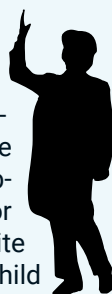
Faith in Unitarian Universalism isn't just an intellectual exercise: it's "heart" work. This very special service, which we are sharing with UUs all over the country, features a sermon by UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, as well as vibrant music, storytelling, and other worship elements that will help us to grow in spirit, in courage, and in generosity.

NOTE: All services are online for the foreseeable future. Links can be found [here](#).

Connecting in the 'Verse

On April 18 we will have our annual poetry service, and we need participants. Our theme this year is connecting with each other through poetry.

Congregation members of ALL ages are invited to read or submit their own poetry (or some of their favorite verses). If you or your child would like to participate, please contact Sarah Hyson at email: [poetry](#). All poems must be submitted by Sunday, April 11.



Small Group Ministry

During the epidemic, our Small Group Ministries are meeting by Zoom. Small Group Ministry is a way to gather with other Unitarian Universalists twice a month for community, conversation, and connection.

Each session is organized around a theme and includes a chalice lighting, readings, and questions to spark discussion. Groups are led by trained facilitators who meet regularly with Rev. Dan.

Currently, our congregation has five groups which meet at different times and places. If you are interested in joining a group, please contact email: [SGM](#).

From the President

We are entering stewardship season, when we reflect on why we are UUs and what our UCWC community means to us. One



of the most valuable things UCWC does for me is challenge me to walk my lofty talk about having strong ethics and high moral standards.

In these tumultuous political times, I definitely need reinforcement on that score. It's all too easy for me to demonize or insult those who are using political power to oppress vulnerable people while serving their own ideological, financial, and personal interests.

The death of conservative political firebrand Rush Limbaugh in February is a good example. He found wealth, fame, and political power by spewing toxic bigotry and punching down on society's most vulnerable — how does one respect the inherent worth and dignity of someone like that?

My first reaction to his death was "Karma." Other thoughts were even less charitable. But my UU values kicked in, when I heard a media critic on the radio refer to Limbaugh as a "louse" (singular of "lice"). That rhetoric — using a dehumanizing term to describe your opponents — is a small

first step on a slippery slope that all too often leads toward political violence.

We can respect a person's worth by making intellectually and morally consistent judgments about their character without resorting to personal insults or taking glee in their misfortune. We can hold a kind of universal love even for those who treat us as enemies while standing firm against their values and conduct.

I also appreciate UCWC for nurturing a more spiritual element in my life. (For most of my adult life I've been an egghead intellectual kind of guy.) I never would have thought of this month's Mars landing as a spiritual experience. But Rev. Dan's sermon on the topic brought home to me the infinite wonder of the cosmos and the amazing power of the human mind.

I'm also grateful for the chance UCWC offers to serve both our own community and society at large — whether it's working to defend our democracy against would-be authoritarians, or helping guide the board's work on our mission statement, or stripping and hauling sod for the landscaping project at our 501 S. High Street home.

All in all, I've found much-needed enrichment for both my heart and my mind in our UCWC community.

And in case you haven't already caught the general drift here, my appreciation will be reflected in my stewardship pledge.

— Matt

*My appreciation
will be reflected
in my stewardship
pledge.*

Board Statement of Public Witness Protecting Our Democracy

The UCWC Board has approved a statement of public witness about threats to our democracy. The full statement is on our [website](#). A quick summary:

As Unitarian Universalists, we are committed to the use of the democratic process in society and to a free and responsible search for truth. These values are under attack, most notably with the insurrection at the United States Capitol, but also through tactics like voter suppression, gerrymandering of election districts, spreading lies through partisan media, and wealthy interests buying undue political influence.

While our democracy is far from perfect, our UU values call on us to defend it against today's attacks, work to improve it, and insist on truth in public affairs.

— Matt Zencey, Board President

Emerging Anew!

The 2021 UCWC Stewardship Campaign

Please join in our **Stewardship Campaign** activities:



Small Group Sessions February 23 through March 10. As we enter into our stewardship season, the Stewardship Team invites you to attend an Emerging Anew! group via Zoom to discuss your likes, wishes, and dreams for the future for our congregation once restrictions are lifted and we emerge anew. Please sign up for a group through March 10 [here](#).



Stewardship Kickoff Concert. Saturday, March 6 at 7 pm featuring Chester County singer/songwriter, **Lisa Jeanette**. Join via Zoom [here](#). Meeting ID: 893 8171 3243, Passcode: 848787.



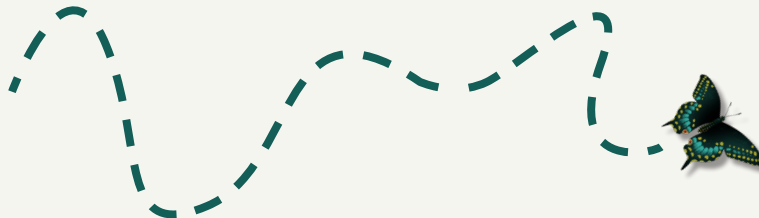
Special Delivery. Be on the lookout for one of our fabulous butterflies who will make a special delivery to your door in advance of Stewardship Sunday, March 7. You will be able to make your pledge for the fiscal year that starts July 1 on the pledge form that will be delivered to you — or online [here](#).



*Don't miss the
special kickoff
concert featuring
Lisa Jeanette
March 6 at 7 pm.*



*Our butterflies
will deliver
a surprise
package to
your home.*



HOUSE GRAPHIC BY CREATIVEMARKET.COM

Lifespan Faith Development

Discussion of the Buddhist Eight-Fold Path

Join us on **Wednesday, March 10, at 7 pm** for this follow-up to our discussion of the Yoga Sutra of Patanjali. We continue to discuss the things that are right and good and the things we should avoid in order to live a wholesome and fulfilling life.

For this session we will expand on this theme through the Buddhist Eight-Fold Path, exploring what we appreciate from this lens and what we can reinterpret to enrich our personal understanding of our own morality, actions, worldview, beliefs, and so much more.

You do not need to have attended the class on the Yoga Sutra of Patanjali, nor do you need any understanding of these topics to join in our discussion. RSVP to email: **Adult-RE**, or join us via Zoom (Details to come).

REFlections

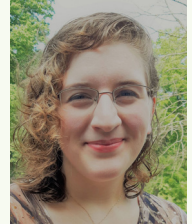
What do we owe each other? How do we become a good person? How should we live our lives? These are questions that we've been exploring these past weeks and months through our various Religious Education programs for youth and adults.

Our kids have been practicing how to uplift the worth and dignity of one another, learning about how we live in a community based on covenants, and learning how our religion permeates every aspect of our lives and communities.

We've discussed the ethics of our lives directly through "The Good Place" curricula and learning about the *yamas* and *niyamas* from the Yoga Sutra of Patanjali. But we've also explored the practical application of our values through our cosponsored events with the Social Justice Committee — connecting with the Guest at Your Table program and criminal justice and climate justice activist members for various events this year. These programs have helped us to learn how we situate ourselves in the framework of our relationships to ourselves, to one another, to our broader communities, and to the world and earth at large.

Religious Education is how we learn to orient ourselves in the world — learning what we believe, what we feel, and how we should act to create a faith that is empowering and works for justice and peace. I am so grateful for everyone who has joined us for these discussions, and we are always open to new participants.

— Cassie Lengel, **Email: DLFD**



High School Youth Screening of *Block*

All our high school youth are invited to a premiere of the movie ***Block*** by Carrie Brennan on **Thursday, March 4, at 7 pm**. Carrie Brennan is an LGBTQ filmmaker from West Chester. She says she made this movie:

...about my own journey towards self-love and coming out of the closet back in 2016, shot entirely in West Chester. I wrote this film because I wanted to put a face on what it means to struggle mentally with something that other people might not know about, and to inspire people to love themselves no matter how tough things get.

Check out the trailer **here**. If any of our youth would like to attend, please RSVP to Cassie at email: **DLFD**, so she can buy tickets.

Minecraft Continues into the Spring

We have been invited to join our local Unitarian Universalist RE programs to a regional Minecraft experience for community building as well as learning about sacred architecture and our own "spiritual homes."

Groups are split by age range, with one group running from 2nd-5th grade (ages 7 to 11) and the other group running from 6th grade (age 11) and up. The groups meet about twice a month on Sunday afternoons at 3 pm every other week. Youth would need access to a device to play on, the Minecraft game, and zoom for audio conversations.

For more information if you are interested in participating or would like to register to attend, click **here**.



Ethical Discussion Group Based on "The Good Place"



This Adult RE discussion group will meet the first and third Wednesday of each month to watch and discuss an episode(s) of the hit TV show on NBC, "The Good Place" and discuss its ethical questions.

This show is hilarious, and it offers a fun way to discuss and explore our morals and values. How do we form beliefs, and how do they stand up to time and testing? How do we decide to live a moral life, what are the ramifications, and what about an afterlife? How do we integrate the inherent worth and dignity of ourselves and others into how we act? And so much more!

For more information contact email: [DLFD](#). Check out the trailer [here](#).

Join Us This Spring for "Explorations" A Program for Beginning and Deepening Our UU Journeys

After a successful series this fall, we are bringing back the Explorations program for this spring. This is a small-group-style program that is a great way to make some connections and deepen your relationships with others, as you engage some guided readings and discussion questions together.

This program examines what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist through weekly topics that bring together newcomers and longtime members alike as we delve into our common faith and our individual experiences. Dates will be announced soon via *Connections*.

UU Q&A...?

Sunday, March 14, at 11 am
During Zoom Coffee Hour

*Do you have questions
about Unitarian
Universalism or UCWC?*

When you "arrive" at Zoom
coffee hour, either "raise your
hand" or mention that you'd like
to go to the Q&A.

*We're looking forward
to chatting with you.*



UCWC Town Hall March 21

Please join us for an important Zoom Town Hall immediately following the service on March 21. The UCWC Board and Rev. Dan will give an update on our work to develop a new mission statement for our congregation.

This work, which the Board started 15 months ago, has built on the wide-ranging and thoughtful comments that so many members shared during our Town Hall workshops in early December. At this Town

Hall, we will present a draft mission statement that brings together everything we heard, and you'll have a chance to comment on it. (Note that the mission is a statement of our common purpose and is meant to guide us in everything that we do together. It does not replace our wonderful Unison Affirmation.)

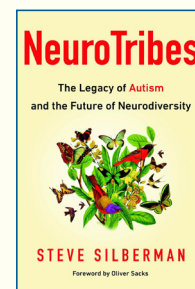
So, join us on March 21. Look for the Zoom info on the screen at the end of the morning service.

Stones in the Wall: Social Justice

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

Diversity Book Group Sunday, March 14 7:00–8:30 pm Leader: Elaine Friedlander

This month's book is the non-fiction *Neuro Tribes* by Steve Silberman. Going back to the earliest days of autism research and chronicling the brave and lonely journey of autistic people and their families through the decades, Silberman provides long-sought solutions to the autism puzzle, while mapping out a path for our society toward a more humane world in which people with learning differences and those who love them have access to the resources they need to live happier, healthier, more secure, and more meaningful lives. Contact **Debby Kern**.



First Sunday Food Collection

In this time of social distancing, we are not collecting food on the first Sunday of each month. However, as always, you can still make a financial donation – with no personal contact on your part. We will buy grocery store gift cards and give them to the Food Cupboard.

Please make your check out to “UCWC” and write “Food Cupboard” in the memo line. Mail your check to:



Unitarian Congregation of West Chester
501 South High Street
West Chester, PA 19382

You can donate to the Food Cupboard on the UCWC donation web page – click [here](#) and select “Grocery Cards for Food Cupboard.” Contact Cyndy Bullaughey, email: [grocery-program](#), for more information.

During the pandemic, The West Chester Food Cupboard commits to provide a variety of fresh and nonperishable healthy food items to anyone who resides in the West Chester school district...because no one should go hungry!

**SPRING ARRIVES
MARCH 20,
5:37 AM!**



PIXABAY.COM

Gun Violence Prevention

Members of UCWC join our monthly Gun Violence Prevention Zoom meetings with UUJusticePA to become aware of many of the causes of gun violence and of the how to advocate for remedies.

UUJusticePA is a partner with CeaseFire PA's growing coalition of groups that are advocating for a Common Agenda:



- Universal Background Checks
- ERPO – Extreme Risk Protection Orders
- Requiring Timely Reporting of Lost and Stolen Guns to the Police

Of the three initiatives, probably the least understood is the third. Unscrupulous persons who pass background checks can buy guns and resell them to others. If one of the guns is later used in a crime, the purchaser will claim the gun had been stolen.

A number of UCWC friends and members are partnering with UUJusticePA and the CeaseFire PA Common Agenda coalition in advocating for these three policies. Join us for our monthly zoom meeting, third Tuesday of every month at 7 pm. Contact **Tom Buglio**.

Black Lives Matter

The **Black Lives Matter Committee** has discussions planned for the third Sunday of each month at 7 pm on Zoom. Please check **Connections** or the website for current information.

There are many other ways to learn about and promote the BLM movement. UUA is sponsoring online Jubilee Anti-Racist Training in the spring with wonderful facilitators and the opportunity to connect with like-minded people who want to make a difference in themselves and for racial justice. We will present more information as it gets closer.

Our committee is always open to questions, comments, and participation from the congregation. Contact email: **black-lives-matter**.

Criminal Justice Reform Film Discussion: *The Honest Struggle* Monday, March 15 7:30 pm Zoom

After over 25 years of incarceration, a Muslim convert re-enters society in the Southside of Chicago to face the same streets that ruined his life. The documentary, directed by Justin Mashouf, is, "a raw portrait of a man struggling with his past as a gang chief while trying to survive an honest life and redefine himself in a world in which he feels no belonging" [IMDB].

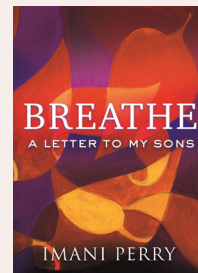


To better participate, please watch the film in advance. It is available for free on Amazon Prime and Google Play and can be rented on Amazon for \$1.99. Extensive information on the film can also be found on Facebook. View the trailer **here**.

To learn more about how you can help end mass incarceration in Pennsylvania, contact Robin Garret at email: **criminal-justice**.

Coming in April: Black Lives Matter and Adult RE Bring You Imani Perry's *Breathe*

Imani Perry is an interdisciplinary scholar of race, law, literature, and African-American culture and an author and professor at Princeton University. She has written this brief book as a parent of Black sons. "Emotionally raw and deeply reflective, Imani Perry issues a challenge to society to see Black children as deserving of humanity." (InSpirit)



Breathe: A Letter to My Sons, by Imani Perry, is the 2021 UUA Common Read. UCWC members and friends will have the opportunity to read and discuss Perry's book this spring. Copies to borrow are available now from **Cassie Lengel**, or you can purchase the book through **InSpirit**.

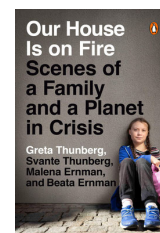
We will discuss *Breathe* on **Sunday, April 18, at 7 pm** via Zoom. Contact Cassie Lengel (email: **DLFD**) or Sandy Schaal (email: **black-lives-matter**) for more information or to arrange to borrow a copy of the book.



Learn About Climate Justice

The Religious Education Committee is sponsoring a special event to bring together youth and adults to discuss the state of our climate today, what we need to think about going forward, and why this is important for us as Unitarian Universalists.

Join Barrie Eichhorn on **Monday, March 29**, at 7 pm for a presentation based on Greta Thunberg's book, *Our House Is On Fire* and a discussion about how we can engage in this work and address these tough questions. Please RSVP to email: **adult-RE** or join us on Zoom that night (details to come).



UUSC Update

We hope you enjoy our updates from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) each month. Check out what is going on at uuscs.org and learn about their work on Crisis Response, Climate Justice, Central American Migrant Justice, and lots more. **Special Note:** UUSC has moved quickly in response to the crisis at-risk Texans are facing by sending emergency grants to support our existing partners in the region.

Now we want to highlight what you are doing. In December there were 53 UUSC members in our congregation. We asked more to consider supporting UUSC, and you did. As of February, this has grown to 59 members — an 11 percent increase. If you're able to join this trend, jump to the [UUSC](http://uuscs.org) website, click on Donate to become a member. You will truly be helping lives.



In peace,

Charlot Barker and Linda Sander, co-chairs

Share-the-Plate Generosity

The Social Justice Committee's **Share-the-Plate program** raises money to give to local non-profit organizations working to improve life for Chester County residents. We are pleased to announce the share-the-plate recipient for March 21 (third Sunday of the month), **LCH Health and Community Services** (formerly La Comunidad Hispana).



LCH is a diverse, dynamic care team that is dedicated to helping southern Chester County adults, teens, and children to be healthy and stay healthy.

Please note the following as you prepare your donation:

You can donate **online here** or by check. Checks should be payable to "UCWC".

- Checks with memo "All to charity" or similar go to the charity. Clearest is "All to LCH".
- Checks with memo "plate", "donation", "STP", or "share the plate" are split 50/50. Clearest is "STP 50/50".
- All other checks go 100% to UCWC, unless otherwise indicated.

Men's Group

The Tuesday evening men's group will meet on March 2 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. The topic will be "Women's Rights: Some Historical Perspectives," and the discussion will be led by Lowell Young.

All men are welcome. The Zoom link will be sent out directly via email. If you are interested in participating but are not yet on the email distribution list, please reach out to Mark or Dirk at email: mens-group.



Grocery Gift Cards

The grocery gift card program is alive and well. Gift cards are available for Acme, Giant, ShopRite, Panera's, Starbucks, and Wawa with a percentage donated to UCWC — **but at no extra cost to you.**

Shopping from home? Giant online orders can be paid by gift cards at checkout. To order gift cards, contact email: grocery-program.

ACME GIANT

Wawa

ShopRite



Panera

What is Zoom?

Zoom is a web conferencing service that allows us to see and hear each other without being in the same room.

It is a wonderful way for us to stay connected when we are physically apart, and most of our classes, meetings and other smaller events are moving to this platform. For easy instructions, click [here](#).

Calendar

All email addresses
@ucwc.org

Click [HERE](#) to access
our website main calendar,
which includes late
February events.

**Don't Miss
the
Town Hall.**



zoom EVENTS LIST NOW ONLINE

Zoom meetings on this calendar are, for the most part, password-protected.

A list of password-enabled links is on our website – on a [password-protected page](#). (Access to that page will be distributed appropriately.)



Mar 1	Mon	Executive Committee. 7:00 pm.
Mar 2	Tue	Men's Group. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 9.
Mar 3	Wed	Small Group Facilitators Meeting. 7:00 pm. Zoom. Adult RE - The Good Place. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 6.
Mar 4	Thu	Screening of <i>Block for High School Youth</i> . 7 pm. See p. 5.
Mar 6	Sat	Stewardship Campaign Kick-off Concert. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 4.
Mar 7	Sun	First Sunday Food Collection. See p. 7. Defenders of Democracy. 7:00 pm. Zoom. Stewardship Sunday. See p. 4.
Mar 8	Mon	Religious Services Committee. 6:30 pm.
Mar 9	Tue	Program Council Meeting. 7:00 pm. Zoom.
Mar 10	Wed	Discussion of the Buddhist Eight-fold Path. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 5.
Mar 14	Sun	Q&A. 11:00 am. Zoom. See p. 6. Diversity Book Group. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 7.
Mar 15	Mon	Criminal Justice Reform Film Discussion. 7:30 pm. Zoom. See p. 8.
Mar 16	Tue	Board Meeting. 6:30 pm. Zoom.
Mar 17	Wed	Adult RE - The Good Place. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 6.
Mar 18	Thu	Religious Education Committee. 7:00 pm. Zoom.
Mar 21	Sun	Share-the-Plate Sunday. Benefits LCH. See p. 9. Town Hall. 11 am. Zoom. See p. 6. Racial Equity Discussion Group. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 8.
Mar 23	Tue	Committee on Ministry. 6:30 pm.
Mar 29	Mon	Climate Justice Discussion. 7:00 pm. Zoom. See p. 8.

EVENTS OCCURRING REGULARLY:

Various Dates	Emerging Anew! Small Group Sessions. Zoom. See p. 4.
Sundays	RE Minecraft Regional Play. 3:00 pm. See p. 5.
Tuesdays	Women's Kaffeeklatsch. 9:00 am. Zoom.
Most Thursdays	Spirit Singers Practice. at 7:15 pm. Zoom. For specific dates, contact Miriam Davidson, email: choir .
Fridays	Women's Corona Cocktail Party. 7:00-8:30 pm. Zoom.
Saturdays	Open Zoom Session. 7:00 pm.
Various Dates	Small Group Ministry (Several Active Groups). See web calendar or contact email: SGM . See p. 2.

The Fellowtarian is the monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Congregation of West Chester

501 South High Street
West Chester, PA 19382

Web: www.ucwc.org
All email addresses @ucwc.org

Rev. Daniel Schatz, Minister 610-692-4043 email: [minister](#)
Maggie Christy, Office Administrator 610-692-5966 email: [office](#)
Matt Zencey, President email: [president](#)
Cassie Lengel, Director of Lifespan Faith Development email: [DLFD](#)
Steve and Linda Sander, *The Fellowtarian* Editors email: [fellowtarian](#)