



# THE COMMUNICATOR

**The Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Germantown**  
**February 2009 Volume 46, No. 6**

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Dear Friends,

As of the first of February, our congregation will begin a 6-month period during which, I will be away on sabbatical. I am so excited about the programs of worship, faith development, caring and social action, which our congregation will engage in while I'm away. For 6 straight months you will hear some of the best UU preaching from the Mid-Atlantic States and beyond. Just to list some - you will hear sermons from the ministers of the UU churches of Lancaster, Harrisburg, Washington DC, First Philadelphia, Delaware County, Brooklyn, and Rochester, New York. Along with Mark Daugherty, our excellent choir and Jude Henzy's presence, our worship services will be most excellent. In the words of hymn #301, our services will help people to "touch the earth and reach the sky, walk on shores while spirits fly".

I know a number of people remain unclear about what exactly I will do on sabbatical. Some folks think I am going on vacation. I am not. I am going on a formal time of professional development, study and spiritual growth. Here are some specific examples of what I will be doing:

- Write two chapters for a book edited by Rev. Ken Belden to be published by Skinner House on the relationship between Unitarian Universalism and 12-step recovery programs.
- Co-author a study guide for Rev. Forrest Church's latest book, "Love and Death". This guide will be published and primarily used in UU churches by small groups.
- Review and assess a large number of my past sermons in written, audio and video forms. Read a large variety of books on the art of preaching and worship.
- Attend a conference at the Washington College of Preachers on "The Art of the Homily".
- Immerse myself more thoroughly in the practice and study of yoga, with the intention of building a deeper, richer spiritual life.
- Study the use of information technology towards the end of improving communications, and relationships.

Of course, I will also be deeply blessed to spend some quality time with our newborn son, Micah. Spending time with and loving him will undoubtedly teach me about life and ministry.

With these projects and other efforts I will improve my abilities to serve. I will return on August 1 as the best minister possible for this wonderful church. I wish you all blessings and spiritual richness as you go through your own growing, living and celebrating.

In Faith, *Kent*

## SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday services begin at 11:00 a.m.  
Childcare is available 9:15 to 12:15 p.m.

### **February 1 "A Letter to My Murderer" Rev. Nate Walker**

Will Unitarian Universalists advocate for the death penalty of David Adkisson, the gunman who opened fire in the sanctuary of our sister congregation in Knoxville, Tennessee? Rev. Walker will explore this question, and the ethics of the death penalty, in the context of a letter he will read to his imagined murderer – a hypothetical statement that can serve as an advance-directive, should Rev. Walker ever be a victim of manslaughter. If others also crafted such statements, could these documents serve to help those who are left behind? Could they aid the government by legally binding the state to honor the wishes of those killed, thereby creating a social alternative to capital punishment?

Rev. Nate Walker is the settled minister of the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia and a graduate of Columbia University, Union Theological Seminary and Emerson College. His first book, *Whose God Rules* will be published this summer

### **February 8 "Getting to Know You" Rev. Peter Newport**

Many of us meet new people nearly every day of our lives, others not so often. What do we do when we meet a stranger? Why does it matter? What does the stranger bring to our spiritual lives?

Rev. Peter Newport received a Master of Divinity from Andover Newton Theological School. He served churches in Rhode Island and Massachusetts before coming to Pennsylvania. He currently serves as co minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lancaster.

### **February 15 "Prometheus vs. Babel" Rev. Robert F. Renjilian**

Biblical and mythical stories carry deep meanings, and these two stories have much to say about human possibilities and weaknesses. Today's service is a positive message of old-time Unitarian Universalist humanism and openness to biblical wisdom, as well as a look at some shadow sides of our movement.

The Rev. Robert F. Renjilian has been minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York, in York Pennsylvania, since 2001. He received a Master of Divinity degree from Meadville/Lombard Theological School in 1990.

### **February 22 Vive la Différence Rev. Evan Keely**

What is Unitarian Universalism fundamentally about? It's not the seven principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association; it's not "freedom, reason and tolerance." These things are articulations of what our religion is, but they do not express its core essence: the faith that different people can and should come together in communities of respect and compassion, and that that togetherness enriches and transforms this human journey we're all on.

The Rev. Evan Keely is minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Monmouth County, located on the Jersey shore.

## FROM OUR DRE

### ***A Sense of Belonging***

As the cold months stretch on and our yearning for springtime grows stronger, I am reminded of chilly evenings many winters ago when my daughter was about six years old. Anna could not yet read, but she insisted almost nightly that we play the board game *Clue* with her. If you know the game, you know it is a labor of love to play it with a non-reader. After dealing out the cards depicting rooms, weapons, and murder suspects, Anna would need 20 minutes or more to match up the cards in her hand with her tally sheet. Careful though she tried to be, Anna frequently made errors, throwing off the results of the game for all players.

Despite the bitter protests of her older brother, and many a surreptitious exchange of eye rolling between her parents, the family more often than not acquiesced to Anna's insistent pleading to play this game. Suggestions that we try something more suitable to her skills, say *Candy Land* or *Chutes and Ladders*, were patently rebuffed. It had to be *Clue*. Clearly, some important need was being satisfied in this child—but what? Did she have some precocious fascination with the macabre? I was puzzled.

Then, one afternoon in early spring, Anna came home with another unusual but insistent request. Would I run her a bath? Would I also show her how to roll up a towel to tuck at her nape so she could stretch out in the tub and read a book? "What an odd little girl," I was thinking, when it hit me that the bath and the towel and playing *Clue* were connected. Anna was expressing one of our most basic human needs, the need to *belong*. She wanted to be like the rest of the family, the ones who could read—while playing board games or relaxing comfortably in the tub.

Anna was savvy enough to recognize that we found *Candy Land* unchallenging and even tedious. The real action, and interchange and points of connection were to be found, in our family anyway, among the readers, and Anna was desperate to get into the club.

I share this story as an illustration of what I think we're all looking for, at every age—a sense of belonging. There's a biological basis for this, of course, because we're safer when part of a group, but I believe that belonging is possibly our greatest emotional need. When I ask patients at the hospital about their fears they most often respond that they are not worried about dying as much as they are afraid to die *alone*. We perceive crisis as being more manageable when we've got someone to help us through it. There is a universal human need for connection.

A sense of belonging is one of the major functions of our church. It's a point of connection for help through crisis as well as a place to share good news. And believe me, the need for belonging spans all generations. From the six-year-old who beams when an adult notices she has new eyeglasses to the octogenarian who needs help turning the pages of the hymnal, we all

count on folks at church to care that we bothered to show up and to make us feel welcome and valued.

One of my classmates in my Pastoral Education program at Einstein Hospital is a Roman Catholic nun. Sister Christine says that God is not present until we invite Him in. My views of God may not be exactly like Sister Christine's, but I agree with her in this: when we reach out to another person, when we show compassion or interest, when we help someone feel like she or he belongs, then there, in that moment, God exists.

In faith,  
Jude

## EVENTS AND FELLOWSHIP

### **UU-102**

UU-102 is held the third Sunday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Each month a different one of the Seven Principles, which reflect the core values of Unitarian Universalism will be discussed. The informal discussion will be led by Mark Bernstein and Jane Eisenstein.

The topic of the February UU102 discussion will be the sixth UU source: Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions, which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature. The group will meet in the Daskam room on Feb. 15 at 9:30 a.m.

### **Friday Morning Book Group**

Would you like to expand your reading choices and discuss them with witty, intelligent people? If so, the book group is for you. It meets monthly on the third Friday **at 10:30 a.m.** in members' homes. All are welcome. On Feb. 20, we will meet at the home of Sally Streibig. We will be discussing *Mao's Last Dancer* by Li Cunxin. Bring a sandwich for lunch and fellowship following the discussion, if you wish. The hostess will provide dessert and beverages.

#### **Please Take Note:**

There is a change in procedure due to the growing size of the group. Please call Sally **before Monday, February 16** to let her know you are coming.

### **Needle Exchange**

The Needle Exchange is for people who enjoy knitting or any other kind of needlework. We meet at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at members' homes. The next meeting is at the home of Elaine Hills on February 9. All are welcome.

### **Sampler Afghan to be raffled**

Members of the church, many of them in the Needle Exchange group have created a cream colored sampler afghan. Twenty separate squares were knitted, each made of the same yarn, but done in a different stitch.

They have been put together to make a beautiful, warm, one of a kind throw.

Chances will be sold after church on Sundays until the night of the Auction when the winning ticket will be drawn. All proceeds will go to Safe Passage, the children's organization in Guatemala that our youth group visited as a service project last summer.

The afghan will be on display from time to time at coffee hour and on the evening of the auction.

### **Women's Singing Circle**

The Women's Singing Circle meets in the Sanctuary from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Join us to sing familiar tunes; learn new ones; chant/relax/meditate; share poems or play an instrument (piano available). No experience necessary, just a desire to participate in a celebration of our creative and spiritual Voice. Fulfilling fun is guaranteed for all! For details, contact Donya Coldwell. Our next meeting will be held on February 9.

The March meeting has been changed from March 9 to March 16.

### **Resources for Older Adult Living**

ROAL is a year-old consultation and referral phone service to make life easier for older adults, families and caregivers who live in Germantown, Mt. Airy, Chestnut Hill and adjoining neighborhoods, ROAL is a program of Neighborhood Interfaith Movement (NIM).

The ROAL phone line helps callers connect with any service they may need related to staying in the community or improving the quality of their lives. Call with questions about anything from housing, heating, health insurance, transportation, respite care or home maintenance to social and volunteer opportunities.

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Share the Plate—Romania Project**

Many of us remember Anne and Mel Streib, long time members of USG who entered the Peace Corps 2 years ago and have been serving in a small town in the mountains of Romania. Through an interesting quirk of history, Romania has the oldest national Freedom of Religion Statute and has a large population of Unitarians! Anne and Mel's primary focus is on small steps toward economic development in the Barot area, which is quite remote, but apparently very beautiful.

The area is comprised of poor subsistence farmers. The local populace has become very pessimistic about the chances of improving their lot, after many years under Communist rule, in particular that of Nicolae Ceausescu.

A local Unitarian minister, Iosif (Jozsef) Kotecz, has devised a plan to build a small museum in the town of Felsorakos to display historic objects from the area, such as old farm implements, furniture and costumes. The museum would serve as a tourist draw, which is one of the only ways to

bring commerce into the area. Based on the amount of money we contribute, the materials would be purchased. The villagers would contribute their labor for fixing up the building at no cost. A Unitarian church in Spokane WA is interested in helping the community build a guest house in Felsorakos.

Anne and Mel encouraged the local people to hold a Christmas Crafts fair this past December which was quite successful. They are trying to help the local people realize that money can be made from their crafts and from inviting people in to their region. Several members of our church have visited Anne and Mel and will be speaking about this Share the Plate Collection on February 15. We will be showing some of their slides of the area, in coffee hour in advance of the Share the Plate Sunday.

Checks should be made out to Iosif Kotecz. It will be great to help out with this project of Anne and Mel who have sacrificed so much of their own comfort and finances to help the people of Barot Romania.

PS - Anne and Mel will be ending their Peace Corps service and returning to the Philadelphia area sometime next summer!

### **Commitment Sunday—The Same but Different**

**Commitment Sunday** is coming up—**Sunday, March 8**. It's the day when each of us will be able to make our financial commitment (pledge) to the church for the coming year, which runs from July 1, 2009, to June 31, 2010. For the last few years we have held an all-church lunch after the Commitment Sunday service, but this year, we thought we would try something different. We will have an inspiring, award-winning sermon by the Reverend Peter Friedrichs of the Media UU church during our regular service. Then we will fan out for lunches in members' homes. Of course, it's always a fun time when we USGers get together in each other's homes, and this will be no different!

In addition to fun and fellowship, we expect the conversations around the lunch table to allow people to talk about what is most meaningful to them and their families about USG, and about the gratitude we feel for USG that inspires us to generous giving. There will be room at the lunches for everyone who is able to attend. Some of the lunches will be held in child friendly homes with childcare provided, so that families with children will be able to comfortably participate.

How will it work? Everyone will receive an invitation by **E-vite (or regular mail for those who do not use e-mail)** with details of the event. It will be important to respond quickly so that you can be assigned to a host convenient to you. (Thirty-five hosts will be waiting to hear from you, and more will be recruited if necessary. Other members have volunteered to facilitate the lunch table conversations.)

Before March 8, everyone will receive a packet in the mail containing information about the annual budget drive and a fair-share giving guide. Financial commitment forms will be on hand at the lunches to be completed and handed in that day.

For those unable to attend a lunch on Sunday, March 8, two additional lunches will be held during the following week, so that everyone will have the

opportunity to participate. Visiting stewards will follow up with anyone absolutely unable to attend any of the events.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact one of the members of the Stewardship Committee. We are looking forward to sharing in this enjoyable way of renewing our financial commitments to nurture the growth of this beloved community.

---The Stewardship Committee (Linda Bernstein and Tom Schoonmaker, co-chairs; Leni Windle, Greg Bomke, Susan Smith, Mike Heinsdorf, and Ann Schoonmaker)

### **Membership Committee**

**Joining USG** We all yearn for a meaningful life, to express ourselves fully, to make a difference in the world. Yet, many people feel something is lacking in their lives. Often what is missing is belonging to a spiritual community, the kind of loving, caring and supportive community we have here at the Unitarian Society of Germantown. Interested in joining USG? For more information, please contact Andrea Bernstein, Membership Committee Chair.

### **Strategic Planning Council Report**

Work on the Facility Master Plan has begun! Our architects from Brawer & Hauptman Architects, Mike Hauptman and Ellen Pannell, have conducted interviews, have met with 38 congregation members on Sunday, January 4 and have thoroughly surveyed our existing drawings and our buildings, and they have determined that we have several immediate needs and exciting opportunities as USG grows over the next five, ten and 20 years. Some of the major immediate issues are:

- Improved entrance to the building from the parking lot.
- Improved flow and movement through the building.
- Greater flexibility and improved lighting in the sanctuary.
- Bathroom on the upper level.
- Improved handicapped access.
- Sufficient RE spaces that are functional, safe, clean and well lighted.

Mike and Ellen are taking the approach that we have a lot of space in the existing facility and that most of our immediate needs can be met within the existing facility so that capital outlay, at this point, can be minimized.

The architects are preparing several conceptual ideas for achieving our goals, and these ideas will serve as the basis for a "charrette". A charrette is a collaborative meeting facilitated by the architects with approximately 40 members of the congregation in which ideas are discussed, options considered and a direction chosen. The charrette will be conducted on Saturday, January 31, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the church with a follow-up meeting to review results on Tuesday evening February 4, 2009 from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. **Only those committed to attending BOTH sessions of the charrette should plan to attend.** If you cannot attend both sessions of the charrette but still want your voice heard please submit your ideas to be considered, in writing, to any member of the Strategic

Planning Council (Lynda O’Gwynn, Eli Scarce, Mark Bernstein, Carolyn Cotton, Sam Gugino and Charles Gabriel) or simply put your written ideas in the Strategic Planning Council mail box in the Administration Office at church.

After the charrette has been completed the architects will prepare conceptual drawings, renderings and cost estimates after which they will be presented to the congregation, the Strategic Planning Council and the Board of Trustees. These meetings have not been scheduled, yet so watch for future announcements.

This is a fantastic, exciting time for USG as we plan for our growth and our future. Stay tuned!

### **Rentals and Space Usage**

We now have a Rental Coordinator at USG. Carolyn Cotton started working in that capacity in Oct. 2008. Many groups and individuals rent space at the church. It is important that when any event is planned including church events that the calendar is consulted for potential conflicts. Church events should be scheduled with the office administrator, Robin Neill. If anyone wishes to arrange a rental at the church please contact Carolyn Cotton.

The church derives much needed income from rentals. There is a 3-tier price schedule for one time events and meetings that are not church related. The 3 categories are: non-members, non-profit and members. The costs for members are greatly reduced. The contracts and price schedules can be found under Rentals/Rituals on the USG website.

## SABBATICAL NEWS

### **SUNDAY SERVICE SPEAKERS DURING SABBATICAL**

Feb. 1	Rev. Nate Walker, First UU Church of Philadelphia
Feb. 8	Rev. Peter Newport, UU Church of Lancaster
Feb. 15	Rev. Robert Renjilian, UU Congregation of York
Feb. 22	Rev. Evan Keely, UU Congregation of Monmouth County
Mar. 1	Mark Daugherty & Choir, "Changed My Name"
Mar. 8	Rev. Peter Friedrichs, UU Church of Delaware County
Mar. 15	Jude Henzy, "Family Wisdom"
Mar. 22	Rev. Dr. Patrick O'Neill, First Unitarian Congregational Society of Brooklyn, NY
Mar. 29	Rev. Steven Shick, First Unitarian Church of Marlborough and Hudson, MA
Apr. 5	YRUU, traditional annual service led by our Unitarian Youth Group
Apr. 12	Rev. Elizabeth Putnam, "Easter"
Apr. 19	Mark Bernstein
Apr. 26	Rev. Rob Hardies, All Souls Church of Washington, D.C.

May 3	Rev. Scott Taylor, First Unitarian Church of Rochester, NY
May 10	Berdine Whedon, "Generations of Mothers"
May 17	Mark Daugherty & Choir, Music Sunday
May 24	Rev. Ken Beldon, Wellsprings UU Church
May 31	Kathy Bonnano, "Slamming Open the Door"
June 7	Rev. Howard Dana, Unitarian Church of Harrisburg
June 14	Jude Henzy & Youth, Religious Education Sunday
June 21	Rev. Libby Smith, UU Fellowship of Lower Bucks County & UU House
June 28	Rev. Kathy Bortner, Consulting Minister of UUs of Gettysburg & Affiliated Community Minister of UU Congregation of York

## AMONG US

Gary Bromberg can add another rung to his fame ladder. We have measured the white mulberry tree in his back garden and he has a state champion tree! The Morris Arboretum will list it for him. The OFLG can take pride in having lunched beneath its boughs!

## BOARD NOTES

At the November Board meeting, the last one before this was written (the Board did not meet in December) Linda Bernstein, co-chair (with Tom Schoonmaker) of our newly formed Stewardship Committee (formerly the Development Committee), gave an extensive and detailed report on the committee's plans and activities for the coming months. The Board was impressed by the committee's efforts. In the coming weeks you will be hearing about Stewardship actives, culminating in Commitment Sunday on March 8.

Rev. Kent Matthies and I both feel extremely optimistic about our upcoming Budget Drive and about how the whole concept of Stewardship is finally coming together. Stewardship, the concept of generosity as a spiritual commitment, is far more encompassing than fund raising. It involves growing our culture of giving, so that people are increasingly intentional about putting their spiritual values into practice in their family budgets.

Stewardship is a very important concept to me because it means taking ownership of and responsibility for our church. It means being committed to something that is larger than anyone of us individually. Making OUR church, OUR community, OUR world a better place. And in the process finding "gladness in our hearts" as Cecilia Kingman Miller has put it. (Cecilia Kingman Miller is a UUA Stewardship consultant who spoke at our church a few years ago.)

At the Stewardship Leadership Reception on January 11, we all talked about why we came to USG and what the church means to us. I think of USG as my spiritual community, my extended family. When my wife and I came

here eight years ago, we were searching for a community because there was something missing in our lives. And we found it here.

As with any family or community, we share our joys and sorrows with each other. We give our time, our sweat, and our money. We can and do disagree, sometimes strenuously. But in the end, we pull together for the good of the family for the good of the community, to get through the crises of today and to lay a foundation for the future.

We are at a pivotal point in our church's history. A point at which it is vitally important for all of us to show our leadership, our commitment and our financial generosity. I look forward to working with all of you as we continue on our exciting journey filled with gladness in our hearts.

**Thank UUs this month go to:**

\* Donna Cotzen for organizing a successful singles potluck dinner and meeting on January 9.

\* Andrea Parry and the Adult Spiritual Development team for an excellent lineup of Adult RE classes for the spring semester.

\* Dallis and Berne Graham for their many delicious first Sunday lunches (the sweet potato-peanut soup in January was fabulous) and the Wednesday Out to Lunch.

\* Elaine Hills for coordinating our annual Holiday Cookies and Punch Social on Christmas Eve.

--Sam Gugino, President, Board of Trustees

**CONTINUING OUR FOOD CUPBOARD TRADITION**

Church members and friends are asked to continue our tradition of bringing food to the church on the first Sunday of each month. We need nonperishable food to fill our community cupboard, now housed in baskets located next to the dining room exit to the courtyard. Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, February 1**, as a reminder to purchase food for the hungry in Germantown. Collected items will be taken to St. Vincent's Food Pantry for distribution to those least able to make ends meet.

**TRASH TO CASH**

Don't forget to bring in your spent printer ink cartridges and used cell phones for our Trash to Cash program.

Keep those Acme receipts coming in, also, for a 1% rebate.

## **FEBRUARY 2009 CALENDAR**

Sunday	2/1	1:00 p.m.	Seminar: USG'S Endowment
Monday	2/2	7:30 p.m.	Earth Honoring Traditions
Wednesday	2/4	12:30 p.m.	Out to Lunch
Wednesday	2/4	7:00 p.m.	Healing the Wounded Healer's Heart
Sunday	2/8	9:30 a.m.	UU 101
Sunday	2/8	9:30 a.m.	Meditation Circle
Monday	2/9	7:30 p.m.	Needle Exchange
Monday	2/9	7:30 p.m.	Women's Singing Circle
Wednesday	2/11	7:30 p.m.	Buildings & Grounds Committee
Sunday	2/15	9:30 a.m.	UU 102
Sunday	2/15	12:30 p.m.	Architectural Presentation
Tuesday	2/17	7:30 p.m.	Men's Group
Wednesday	2/18	7:00 p.m.	Healing the Wounded Healer's Heart
Wednesday	2/18	7:00 p.m.	Ending Racism
Friday	2/20	10:30 a.m.	Book Group
Sunday	2/22	9:00 a.m.	Buddhist Meditation
Sunday	2/22	12:30 p.m.	Unitarian Universalist History
Monday	2/23	7:30 p.m.	Exploring <i>Pilgrim at Tinker Creek</i>
Tuesday	2/24	7:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday	2/25	7:00 p.m.	Green Sanctuary

### **HOW AND WHEN TO REACH USG STAFF**

Office phone: 215-844-1157 FAX: 215-844-1159

E-mail: [usquu@verizon.net](mailto:usquu@verizon.net) USG website: [www.usquu.org](http://www.usquu.org)

Church office hours: Mon. - Fri. 9:00 - 4:00

*Rev. Kent Matthies will be on sabbatical until August 1, 2009*

Jude Henzy, Director of Religious Education 215-844-1157

[usgre@verizon.net](mailto:usgre@verizon.net)

The **March 2009** CommUUnicator deadline is **Sunday, February 8.**

Editor: **Sue Couch.** Send your articles to her at [scouch@nbme.org](mailto:scouch@nbme.org)  
Please submit items via email to the editor or place in CommUUnicator box  
by 12:30 p.m. on **February 8.** Flyers must be submitted to the USG office  
by the CommUUnicator deadline.

Submit materials in 11 pt. Verdana when possible.

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and Edna Jones.

#### **USG STAFF**

Minister: The Reverend Kent Matthies

Director of Religious Education: Jude Henzy

Administrator: Robin Neill

Music Director: Mark Daugherty

## ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EXPLORING OUR SPIRITUALITY AND DEVELOPING COMMUNITY Spring 2009

For more information, call USG at (215) 844-1157. To register, send an email to [usguu@verizon.net](mailto:usguu@verizon.net) stating which course(s) you want to register for. Please include your name, phone number and email address. You can pay at the first class. Please write the course title(s) in the memo line of the check. We will let you know if the class is full.

You may also send registration & payment to the USG Church Administrator, 6511 Lincoln Drive, Philadelphia PA 19119.

Enrollment is closed after the first session of the course; contact the course leaders with any requests for exceptions.

### CONTINUING COURSES

#### **UU 101 – AN INTRODUCTION TO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM**

**Dates:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, continuously

**Time:** 9:30-10:30 a.m.

**Location:** Daskam Room

UU101 is a one-hour introduction to Unitarian Universalism for visitors and new members. Childcare is provided. Attendees will receive a free copy of *The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide*.

**Leaders:** Howard Silver and Linda Bernstein

**Contact:** Howard 215-842-0560 [howarddsilver@comcast.net](mailto:howarddsilver@comcast.net), if you have questions.

**Charge:** None, just drop in!

#### **UU 102 – THE SEVEN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PRINCIPLES, ONE AT A TIME**

**Dates:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, continuously

**Time:** 9:30-10:30 a.m.

**Location:** Daskam Room

UU102 is an informal sharing discussion of the covenant of seven principles, which reflect the core values of Unitarian-Universalism. We will discuss different principles at each session. This drop-in course, which may be attended repeatedly, is the perfect follow-up to UU 101. Long-time members are also invited.

**Leaders:** Mark Bernstein is a longtime member who has led services and many adult RE programs. Co-leader Jane Eisenstein is a member who has facilitated several adult RE courses at USG.

**Contact:** Mark at 215-842-0560 [fambern@verizon.net](mailto:fambern@verizon.net), if you have questions.

**Charge:** None, just drop in!

### SPRING 2009 COURSE OFFERINGS

#### **INTRODUCTION TO ZEN BUDDHISM**

**Dates:** Sunday 03/01, 04/05, 05/03, 06/07

**Times:** 1:00-2:30 p.m.

**Location:** Sullivan Chapel

In this course we'll see how Zen Buddhism developed, experiment with some of its practices, and think about what it shares with Unitarian Universalism. We will consider its relevance to our daily lives and to our spiritual practices. While this is not specifically a course on meditation practice, we will discuss Zen meditation, or *zazen*, and offer some instruction and opportunities for meditation practice.

**Leaders:** Jerry Lindauer, Sue Wells. Jerry is a member of USG and facilitator of the Buddhist Meditation Group small group ministry. Jerry has been practicing Zen Buddhism for twelve years at Mt. Equity Jihoji. He is also a clinical social worker. Sue is a member of USG and the USG Buddhist Meditation Group; she has been practicing Buddhism for a number of years with the Philadelphia Zen Center. Sue is an English professor at Temple University.

**Contact:** Jerry Lindauer 215-635-6775 [gilindauer@comcast.net](mailto:gilindauer@comcast.net)

**Charge:** \$10 members, \$15 non-members, \$11 for text *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind* by Shunryu Suzuki available on Amazon

### **HEALING THE WOUNDED HEALER'S HEART**

**Dates:** Wednesday 02/04, 02/18, 03/04, 03/18, 04/01, 04/15, 04/29, 05/13

**Times:** 7:00-9:30 p.m.

**Location:** The first five classes will be in the Sullivan Chapel; the remainder in the Committee Room.

This class will explore the way that we are forced to live in our fast-paced, modern society that keeps pushing us moving forward and looking upward, but never inward. Through the use of knowledge gathered from the Sat Yoga Tradition, Creation Spirituality, and several other social sciences and wisdom traditions; in a safe environment we will explore positive and negative aspects of our socialization process, and set ourselves free from the chains of self suppression, repression, and oppression of the self and others. We will learn to identify false ideas, beliefs, and fantasies that constantly control our lives if we are not careful, and learn how to break free from them wholly and completely. Between each class session you will be given exercises and meditations that you can do to remove any of the negative feelings that come up as you remember your past experiences. These are simple, yet powerful exercises coming from the Sat Yoga and the Qigong traditions. The objective of this class is to move us on the path from woundedness to the natural state of the individual, which is joy and bliss. This class is recommended for social activists, racial justice advocates, people in helping profession, or anyone seeking to find joy and healing in his or her life.

**Leader:** Rev., Dr. Om Prakash John Gilmore is the Director of Social and Racial Justice for the Joseph Priestley District and President of Friends of Sat Yoga Costa Rica.

**Contact:** Rev., Dr. Om Prakash John Gilmore [johngilmore@dswellness.com](mailto:johngilmore@dswellness.com) or contact church office at 215-844-1157

**Charge:** \$10 members, \$15 non-members, text \$15 *Distant Corners in a Crowded Room* by Om Prakash John Gilmore

### **UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST HISTORY – GOING DEEPER (CONTINUING FROM FALL)**

**Dates:** Sunday 02/22, 03/15, 04/26, 04 Saturday field trip date TBD

**Times:** 12:30-1:30 p.m.

**Location:** Sullivan Chapel

02/22 The abolitionist efforts of Germantown Unitarian Mary Grew, whose poem was featured in the USG Nitzsche collection of papers will be covered by Donya Coldwell.

03/15 Stained glass expert Susan Bockius explores the gathered imagery and history as seen by peering thru the stained glass of Unitarian Universalist churches around the US.

04 Saturday TBD Field trip for a 1:00 p.m. tour of the Mt. Laurel, NJ museum home of Alice Paul an early 20<sup>th</sup> Century suffragette whose reform efforts were the subject of the film *Iron Jawed Angels* which was screened last fall in an after-church session. Transportation will be by car pool, leaving from the church.

04/26 The inspiration to found the ACLU came from the Unitarian upbringing of founder Roger Baldwin, as will be discussed by Jim Ballengee, a teacher at Penn Charter school.

**Leaders:** Susan Bockius, Donya Caldwell, Jim Ballengee

**Contact:** Susan Bockius [sbockius@earthlink.net](mailto:sbockius@earthlink.net) 215-247-4249

### **EXPLORING PILGRIM AT TINKER CREEK**

**Dates:** Monday 02/23, 03/23, 04/27, 05/25

**Times:** 7:30-9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Sullivan Chapel

This course will discuss Annie Dillard's *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* which travels deep into the world of plants, animals, trees and insects raising the question of what it means to be alive and part of the planet earth. The first session will focus on themes developed in the first four chapters. The interests of the participants will determine the themes to be discussed in the remaining sessions.

**Leader:** Dennis Strain is a member of the Green Sanctuary Committee. He found the *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* to be a life altering book.

**Contact:** Dennis Strain 215-247-3823 [dennis.strain09@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.strain09@gmail.com)

**Charge:** \$10 members, \$15 non-members, \$5 text *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Annie Dillard available at Amazon

### **EXPLORING THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS**

**Dates:** Sunday 03/01, 03/22, 04/19, 05/03

**Times:** 7:00-8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Sullivan Chapel

Between 1947 and 1956 approximately 1000 documents were discovered in caves around Qumran on the NW shore of the Dead Sea. These proved to be some of the oldest surviving copies of the Bible as well as other religious documents, and their discovery has led to decades of scholarship and speculation.

This course, under the tutelage of a biblical scholar well-acquainted with the texts and their significance, will explore in two sessions: the additions to the Bible because of the Dead Sea Scrolls, and in two sessions: the discovery's extra-biblical content. The first session will include a slide show on the archaeology of the discoveries.

The course will be based on two books which attendees are encouraged to purchase and/or share: *The Dead Seas Scrolls Bible* (edited by Martin Abegg et al); and *The Dead Seas Scrolls*, 2006 edition by Michael Wise, Martin Abegg and Edward Cook, which contains all the available extra-biblical texts. Both are available on Amazon at approximately \$16.00 each.

**Leader:** The Rev. Dr. Wilda Gafney is Associate Professor of Hebrew and Hebrew Scripture at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Mt. Airy, PA. She is an ordained Episcopal priest and a priest associate of the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas in Philadelphia. She is also a member of the Dorshei Derekh Reconstructionist Minyan of the Germantown Jewish Centre, in Philadelphia. She is particularly interested in how Jews and Christians interpret the texts they hold in common.

**Contact:** contact church office at 215-844-1157

**Charge:** \$25 members, \$35 non-members

### **JOSEPH CAMPBELL: UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SAINT**

**Dates:** Tuesday 03/10, 3/24, 04/07

**Times:** 7:30-9:30 p.m.

**Location:** Sullivan Chapel (03/24 in Daskam)

Joseph Campbell was a renowned teacher, author and mythologist, best known for his discussions with Bill Moyers on PBS. He described his own work as an attempt to tell humankind's "One Great Story", the saga of spiritual awakening through different mythological and religious perspectives. Mark Bernstein will share his belief that Joseph Campbell's scholarship confirms the universality of our Unitarian Universalist faith. We will watch and discuss Joseph Campbell's famous discussions with Bill Moyers: "The Power of Myth".

**Leaders:** Mark Bernstein is a longtime member who has led services and many adult RE programs.

**Contact:** Mark at 215-842-0560 [fambern@verizon.net](mailto:fambern@verizon.net), if you have questions.

**Charge:** \$10 members, \$15 non-members

### **MONEY & EMOTIONS**

**Dates:** Wednesday 03/11, 03/25, 04/15

**Times:** 7:30 -9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Sullivan Chapel

How would you describe your relationship with money? If you are like most people, it is tinged with love and fear. You probably feel a bit guilty for having as much as you do, and at the same

time, you feel as if you never have enough. Especially as the economy breeds fear in most of us, thoughts of money are leaving us feeling as if we have no control of our future, or maybe even our present. This series will explore what money means to each of us and how we can begin to feel more comfortable with this curious commodity.

**Leaders:** Leni Windle, a member of USG, works in the human services field, where she see the daily interplay of money and emotions.

**Contact:** Leni Windle [lenigw2002@yahoo.com](mailto:lenigw2002@yahoo.com) 610-453-8352

**Charge:** \$10 members, \$15 non-members, optional text *It's Not About the Money: Unlock Your Money Type to Achieve Spiritual and Financial Abundance* \$17 by Brent Kessel available at Amazon

### **THE PALACE OF ILLUSIONS**

**Dates:** Wednesday 04/29 05/13, 05/27, 06/10

**Times:** 7:30-9:30 p.m.

**Location:** Sullivan Chapel

The Mahabharata is a story of power, vengeance and war, wisdom, virtue and righteousness, envy and love, fate and God. Therefore it is the story of the meaning of life. Rather than the original 18 books, our text will be *The Palace of Illusions*. This enjoyable modern rendition is told through the eyes of the main female character, Drupadi, who marries the five Pandava brothers and after living seven years in the wilderness, restores order to the world and learns the meaning of her destiny.

**Leaders:** Mark Bernstein, Jill Carel & Rick Carel. Mark is a longtime member who has led services and many adult RE programs. Rick has taught adult religion classes for 16 years; Jill is an ordained interfaith minister.

**Contact:** Rick Carel 215-742-0552 [rickcarel@hotmail.com](mailto:rickcarel@hotmail.com) or Jill [jilleroni@juno.com](mailto:jilleroni@juno.com) if you have any questions.

**Charge:** \$10 members, \$15 non-members, \$11 *The Palace of Illusions* paperback available from Amazon, optional movie *The Mahabharata* by Peter Brooks available from Barnes & Noble \$40.