



**THE COMMUNICATOR**  
**The Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Germantown**  
 January 2008 Volume 45, No. 5

<p><b>In this issue:</b></p> <p>From Our Minister.....1</p> <p>Sunday Services Schedule.....2</p> <p>From Our DRE.....3</p> <p>Events &amp; Fellowship....4</p> <p>Congregational News..5</p> <p>Committee Reports.....5</p> <p>Wider UU World.....7</p> <p>Caring Community.....8</p> <p>From the Board President.....9</p> <p>Contacting USG.....10</p> <p>January Calendar.....11</p> <p>Contacting Issue Contributors.....11</p>	<p><b>FROM OUR MINISTER</b></p> <p>Dear Friends,</p> <p>Going to the gym in the late afternoon is one of my favorite times of day. The gym is a place where I have friends from many walks of life. We talk about how our families are doing, politics, sports, movies, weather, and nothing at all. Sometimes the way my friends greet me and others makes me sad. For example, when we ask each other, "Hey, how are you doing?" many of the men reply, "Same stuff, different day." At times instead of saying "stuff" the guys use a word I can't repeat in a church newsletter. But that is not what upsets me. I lament that people think about the world as a boring and static place. Saying everyday is the same stuff misses so much of the glory of life.</p> <p>Unitarian Universalism deepens my experience of joy and increases my amazement for life. I believe every day is filled with new, interesting, funny and enjoyable moments. I am consistently awed by the miracles of life. Even the most basic activities, like a bowl of cereal with fruit on top, or telling jokes with a friend, can bring great happiness. I don't have enough time to do all the things I want to do. I hope you feel the same. Celebrating the New Year can feel deceptive because in reality it is just another day. However, celebrating beginnings reminds us that every day is a new day with possibilities, choices and blessings. May you be ever more mindful of the miracles of the New Year!</p> <p>In Faith, Kent</p>
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## SUNDAY SERVICES

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

**Jan. 6 11:00 a.m. "New Orleans Jazz Funeral" Rev. Kent Matthies  
and Barbone Street Jazz Band**

Come hear and feel the music of love with this six-piece Dixieland jazz group. In the tradition of New Orleans, we will have a wake for the Old Year, lay down our burdens and lift our hopes for the New Year. The spirit will be alive and abundant with great music like "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" and "When the Saints Go Marchin' In."

**Jan. 13 11:00 a.m. "Life Goals" Rev. Kent Matthies**

Lily Tomlin said, "I always wanted to be someone, but I see now I should have been more specific." Starting the New Year is a great time to get clear about the mission and goals for our lives. I want to be a channel of love, courage and hope. How do I set life goals to better accomplish this vision?

**Jan. 20 11:00 a.m. "King of Good" Rev. Kent Matthies**

Every year we mark the vision and life of one of the greatest Americans, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. At times we lament the lack of progress. It is equally important to celebrate the victories and accomplishments that have taken place. In King's honor let's make an inventory of the good!

**Jan. 27 11:00 a.m. "Where the Giants Lead!" Mark Bernstein**

Our faith has been defined by three famous sermons, by William Ellery Channing, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Theodore Parker. Mark Bernstein will explore these sermons and apply their revelations to the 21st century. Mark is a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia, and a long-time member of USG.

### 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 at the dining room exit to the courtyard and next to the coat rack**. Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, January 6**, 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.

## FROM OUR DRE

### **The YRUU Service Mission Trip**

USG youth are on the move! A group of 12 high school youth and adult advisors are taking a trip to Guatemala this summer to put our faith into action. We're going from June 21-29 to work with an organization called *Camino Seguro*, which means "safe passage."

*Camino Seguro's* mission is to get the children who live on the garbage dump in Guatemala City into childcare and school programs. Most of these children are homeless; many are orphans; most never see the inside of a classroom. Their futures are bleak at best, with drugs, crime, rape, prostitution and early death ever-present threats. *Camino Seguro* provides childcare, school uniforms and supplies, and before- and after-school care to give these children an opportunity to attend school and get out of the cycle of poverty and misery in which they are entrapped.

Our group of volunteers will be working in the daycare center with the children, helping to prepare the meals that *Camino Seguro* provides, and doing routine repair and maintenance work to the *Camino Seguro* facility. But we can't do it alone! We need the support of the entire congregation to make our trip a success. The ways you can help are many and will be advertised often. We'll be having fundraisers to help cover the expense of the trip. We'll be learning simple Spanish phrases to make us more effective volunteers, and we'll be studying a little bit about Guatemala's history, geography, politics and culture so that we can get the most out of our trip.

You can participate by attending and supporting our fundraisers, and most importantly, sharing our enthusiasm. Youth service trips are a great way for our high schoolers to really live their Unitarian Universalist values. We talk a lot about being the church of the "open mind, loving heart and helping hands," but this trip will be a chance to experience what we say we stand for in a vivid and life-changing way.

So, even though only 12 of us are going, all of USG will be with us in spirit. Please stay tuned for information about our upcoming events, and support us in any way you can. It's my hope that experiences such as this will cement our youth's connections to our principles and purposes and help them become lifelong Unitarian Universalists.

In faith,  
Jude

#### **USG STAFF**

Minister: The Reverend Kent Matthies  
Director of Religious Education: Jude Henzy  
Office Administrator: Robin Neill  
Music Director: Mark Daugherty

## EVENTS AND FELLOWSHIP

### **MLK Day of Service**

MLK Day – make it a day ON, not a day OFF. Please join us at USG on Monday, January 21, the Martin Luther King holiday. USG has planned various service projects to take place in and around the community in which everyone can take part. We'll be gathering for coffee and doughnuts at 8:30 a.m. in the Dining Room (first floor) while you sign up for that special project in which you'd like to participate, followed by a short service at 9:00. Then, it's off to the work site at 9:30 and return to USG for lunch and wrap-up at 12:30. All ages are welcome. Please contact Nancy Dearden with any questions or if you are interested in becoming a team leader. Consider making this your and your family's day of active citizenship.

### **Friday Morning Book Group**

Do you enjoy reading and discussing what you've read? If so, the book group is for you. It meets monthly on the third Friday at 10:00 a.m. at members' homes. All are welcome. On Jan. 18, we will meet at the home of Sarah West. We will discuss *Bang Bang* by Lynn Hoffman. Bring a sandwich for lunch and fellowship following the discussion, if you wish. The hostess will provide dessert and beverages. Please call Sarah a few days in advance to let her know you are coming. For additional information, contact Cynthia Claus.

### **Inward Dog Yoga at USG**

Come and enjoy this series of gentle flowing postures as you learn to experience your practice from within. Classes include chanting, purifications and instruction on Yoga philosophy. No prior experience is required. Additional variations will be included for the more experienced. Class participants must be able to stand, sit and kneel on padding. Please bring your own mat plus a blanket or pillow to sit on.

Classes will be held at USG on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 6:00-7:20 p.m., in the Youth Lodge, which is located next to the church. (Enter from the back parking lot.) Cost is \$10 a class. No advance registration is required, and you can attend on a drop-in basis. Classes will be taught by Michelle Donah, Ph.D. Michelle apprenticed and was certified at Red Mountain Yoga. She has been teaching Yoga since 2005, and also teaches French, Spanish and middle school Yoga at Germantown Friends School. NOTE: No class on Jan. 1.

### ***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.

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

### **Winter Coat Drive**

Gently worn and new coats in sizes for children and adults will be collected again this year and will be donated to a family shelter. Coats can be brought to church and left in the box located under the nametag board, beginning December 30 through January 20. Help warm someone this winter and your heart at the same time.

### **Share the Plate**

Sunday, January 20, the Share the Plate program will continue with our collection being donated to Need in Deed. Need in Deed is a local organization which, for 20 years, has been training and supporting public school teachers in developing service learning curricula. Please check out their website at [www.needindeed.org](http://www.needindeed.org) to see some examples of the work that students have done in their communities as a result of this program.

In November, the collection for Philabundance totaled \$1537.50, and in October we sent \$1839 to the Kenya Medical Trust. This is giving on a level that we should all be proud of. Let's keep up the good work!

### **From the Financial Secretary**

The month of December marks the half-way point in the church's 07-08 fiscal year. Please check to make sure that your pledge is at least one-half paid by the end of the month. All checks dated by December 31 qualify for tax deduction in the current year. December 31 is also the final date for paying off any balances still due on your 06-07 pledge.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Membership Committee**

#### **Our New Members**

We extend a warm welcome to those new members who signed our membership book on November 18. Our membership roles now include Carolyn Barschow and Jude Henzy. With the addition of their commitment to USG in November, we have added 35 new members during this calendar year. It has been a privilege for the Membership Committee to welcome these individuals and families to our community.

#### **New Member Profile**

Carolyn Barschow, accompanied by her parents and some good friends, joined USG in November 2007, and expressed movingly her gratitude to be a part of this community. We are already benefiting from Carolyn's presence, as she has taught a Religious Education class this past summer, sings in the choir, is on the Social Action Committee, helps with the Tunitarians, and is a member of a Young

Adult Small Group Ministry.

Carolyn grew up on the south shore of Long Island, New York. She majored in education at New York University, and is currently training to be an American Montessori certified teacher for ages 3 to 6. Her hobbies include bicycling, singing, baking, photography, and sewing.

Religion was not part of Carolyn's youth, but during a visit to Boston when she was eighteen, she "somehow wandered into First Church after visiting the Public Garden and has been drawn to UU since then."

### **To Join the Church**

Have you been thinking about joining USG and wondering what that might mean? At USG, membership involves mutual commitment.

Our church commits to provide members:

- Excellent worship experiences
- Caring and outreach
- Faith development opportunities
- Opportunities for service
- Spiritual education for all ages

Individual members commit to provide the community with their:

- Regular attendance at worship services
- Work on personal faith development
- Financial generosity
- Volunteer service to USG
- Service to the larger community

To learn more about membership at USG, please contact Betsy Gabriel.

### **Administrative Council News**

At Admin. Council's November meeting, the following policies were adopted:

**1.** Because renting space to outside groups on Sundays can crowd the parking lot and interfere with the use of church space by members following the service, church space will not be rented to outside groups until 3:00 p.m. on Sundays.

**2.** Last-minute reservations for meeting space have resulted in rooms not having tables and chairs which were requested by the next group. The sexton has a full schedule and is unable to respond to last-minute changes; the Administrator can avoid these scheduling conflicts if she is notified by phone, email, or by the Sexton Form found on the office door. To provide the Administrator with sufficient time to schedule rooms, church members are asked to request rooms at least two weeks in advance.

**3.** The Council rejected a proposal to charge each committee for its use of the office photocopier. It was noted, however, that copying costs are significant, and the church copier breaks down under heavy use. The Council adopted the policy which limits photocopying to church activities; copying jobs requiring more than 30 copies will be done either on the Risograph or taken to an outside copying

service. The church has accounts with several outside copying services. Information is available from the Administrator.

A few of the policies that Admin. Council has adopted in the past several years deal with the following topics: child abuse, photography of people (includes photo and model releases), use of church equipment (includes use of Power Point, chairs and other furniture), and who may have church keys. Robin Neill maintains a file of USG policies in the church office. If you are a committee chair, please become acquainted with these policies.

Edna Jones, chair

## WIDER UU WORLD

### **Building the World We Dream About**

Sessions for field testing a multi-cultural, anti-racism adult education course will be held January 2008 to March 2009 (twice per month, skipping summer), at Unitarian Universalist Church of the Restoration. Facilitators are Bruce Pollack-Johnson, Rev. Chester McCall, and Luana Goodwin. The course is being field-tested for the UUA by a select number of groups around the country. It is the multi-cultural, anti-racism equivalent of the UUA's Welcoming Congregation program, which focuses on welcoming gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people in our congregations.

Designed for people 18 and over, "Building the World We Dream About" is a curriculum that seeks to interrupt the workings of racism and to transform how people from different racial/ethnic groups understand and relate to each other, and helps to develop the understanding, knowledge, and skills needed to work toward eliminating racism in ourselves individually, in our congregations, and in the institutions and systems in the wider world.

Each month is broken into two parts. The first session is a seminar (primarily a large-group experience) that introduces ideas and concepts through readings, film clips, dramatizations, speakers, music, etc. The second session is primarily a small-group experience, called a reflection group, scheduled a week or two after the seminar.

The seminars will be held on Tuesday evenings at 6:30-9:00 p.m., and the reflection groups on Sundays at 4:00-6:30 p.m. Participants are expected to commit to come to every session. There is no charge for registering. For further information or to register, contact Bruce Pollack-Johnson at 215-848-6246 or at [pollackjohnson@verizon.net](mailto:pollackjohnson@verizon.net) . The goal is to have 24 participants--8 each from USG, from Unitarian Universalist Church of the Restoration, and from First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia, with as much racial/ethnic/cultural and other types of diversity as possible. Please register by January 14. **The registration form is on the following page.**

## REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Best way/days/times to be reached \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnic origin (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Special needs \_\_\_\_\_

Have you attended a Jubilee 1 or 2 or other anti-racism program, or been involved in other anti-oppression work? If so, give some details.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other information/comments, such as why you are interested in taking this curriculum: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Contact Bruce Pollack-Johnson at 215-848-6246 or at [pollackjohnson@verizon.net](mailto:pollackjohnson@verizon.net) Send completed form **by January 14** to Bruce at the above email or to 702 East Phil-Ellena St. Philadelphia, PA 19119.

<h2>CARING COMMUNITY</h2>
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*Our thoughts and prayers are with . . .*

**Jan Kreis** and her daughter **Kirstie**, family of **Bernice Mitchell** who died December 4 at the age of 100 at her home with Jan and Kirstie at her side. Bernice had been receiving hospice care for a week. She was an active member of our church for over 50 years and was honored at our Thanksgiving Service. For many years, she and her late husband Robert had been at the center of the life and activities of our congregation. Bernice requested that no memorial service be held. Memorial gifts, in lieu of flowers, may be sent to the Library for the Blind, 919 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA. 19107.

**Mel Strieb and Anne Gwynn**, who are on leave from the Peace Corps for a month while Mel receives medical care. Calls, cards, and emails are welcome. They are staying with their son at 120 Edgewood Road, Ardmore, PA 19003. They can also be reached at 484-412-8705, or [annegwynn@gmail.com](mailto:annegwynn@gmail.com) and [mstrieb@gmail.com](mailto:mstrieb@gmail.com).

**Liz Charles**, who is facing health challenges. Cards or visits to her at UU House are welcome.

**Marjorie Annapav**, who has settled into her new home in Santa Monica. She misses her Philadelphia church home and would like to hear from her friends at USG. Her mailing address is 955A 15th St., Santa Monica, CA 90403. She can also be reached at 310-260-9705.

**Betty Greenberg**, who is thrilled to be recognized as a 50-year member. She cherishes her USG membership, even though she is far away in Arizona. She would love to hear from her USG friends.

## BOARD NOTES

### **From the Board President**

As I mentioned in the November CommUUnicator and at the Leadership Retreat in September, most people who assume leadership positions at USG do so with little or no training. To insure a healthy future for the church, we need to take an organized, proactive approach to leadership training for the Board, the councils and the committees. The Board is now dealing with a variety of ways to handle this issue. One possibility is the formation of a fourth Council (in addition to the Program, Administrative and Strategic Planning Councils). The Leadership Development Council would recruit and coordinate training for our future lay leaders. The LDC would have a budget for training, though some training would have little or no cost. If you have suggestions for leadership development, the Board would love to hear them.

Speaking of leadership, the Board has appointed John Duey and Susan Smith to the Nominating Committee. They will join Ann Schoonmaker, David Bonanno, and David Bernstein, who were elected by the congregation at the Annual Meeting last May. The Nominating Committee is an extremely important group. Not only do they put forth a slate of three candidates for the Board, they also assemble a list of six candidates for the next Nominating Committee. The Committee must select their candidates by early March. If you have any suggestions, I'm sure the committee would appreciate hearing from you.

Finally, on the subject of leadership, the Board will be examining the church governance structure at its January 22 meeting. The current governance system was put into place three years ago after a taskforce spent many hours examining the issue and getting input from the congregation. We now have some data on what works and what doesn't. So the Board will consider tweaking the structure here and there in order to make it function more effectively. Some of you are still a

bit unclear about how the governance system works. Please check out the website (usguu.org) for more information. And if you have some ideas on how we can improve our governance, please let us know.

**Thank UUs this month go to:**

\*Tom and Ann Schoonmaker for hosting, and the Membership Committee for organizing, a successful reception for visitors and friends of USG on December 2.

\*Deb Kish-Silver for coordinating the annual Greens Workshop on Dec. 9.

\*Berdine Whedon and Wally Moyer for their work on the Winter Solstice celebration, December 16.

\*Joe Walsh, the Buildings & Grounds and Green Sanctuary Committees, and all those who participated in the leaf-raking day, December 8.

\*Elaine Hills for her work on the Christmas Eve reception and for coordinating the poinsettia decoration in the Sanctuary.

\*To the entire congregation for its generosity in our Share the Plate program. (Let's keep that spirit going for our Pledge Drive.)

Sam Gugino, Board President

The **February 2008** CommUUnicator Deadline is **Sunday, January 13**

Editor: **Sue Couch**

Please submit items via e-mail to the editor or place in CommUUnicator box by 12:30 p.m **January 13**. Flyers must be submitted to the USG office by the CommUUnicator deadline. Submit materials in Verdana 11 pt when possible.

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Church office hours: Mon.-Fri. 9:00 - 3:00

Rev. Kent Matthies 215-844-1157 [kmattthies@verizon.net](mailto:kmattthies@verizon.net)

Office hours:

Tues. 9:30 - 11:30 & 1:30 - 4:00

Wed. 9:30 - 11:30

Fri. 9:30 - 11:30 & 1:30 - 4:00

Jude Henzy Director of Religious Education 215-844-1157

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

## USG JANUARY 2008 CALENDAR

Wednesday	1/2	12:30 p.m.	Out-to-Lunch
Wednesday	1/2	7:30 p.m.	The Transient and the Permanent
Friday	1/4	6:30 p.m.	First Friday Potluck
Monday	1/7	7:30 p.m.	Earth-Honoring Traditions
Wednesday	1/9	7:30 p.m.	Buildings & Grounds Committee
Sunday	1/13	9:30 a.m.	UU 101
Sunday	1/13	6:00 p.m.	Drumming Circle
Tuesday	1/15	7:30 p.m.	Cakes for the Queen of Heaven
Wednesday	1/16	7:00 p.m.	Ending Racism
Friday	1/18	7:15 p.m.	Friday Night Films
Monday	1/21	8:30 a.m.	MLK Jr. Day of Service
Sunday	1/27	9:30 a.m.	Buddhist Meditation
Monday	1/28	7:30 p.m.	Exploring Deep Ecology
Wednesday	1/30	7:30 p.m.	Storytelling for Beginners