



In this issue:	SUNDAY SERVICES
Sunday Services Schedule.....1	Sunday services begin at 11:00 a.m. Childcare is available 9:15 to 12:15 p.m.
From the DRE.....2	<u>June 7 "Love Your Enemies" Rev. Howard Dana</u>
Events & Fellowship.....3	The absurd nature of this command makes it all the more compelling. What might we learn about ourselves as religious people when we employ love where it is least invited? How might our own spiritual transformation be bound up with our relationships with our "enemies"?
Congregational News & Committee Reports..... 5	Rev. Howard N. Dana has been the Senior Minister at the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, PA since August 2000. During his ministry there, the church has grown significantly, winning the national O. Eugene Pickett Award for growth and vitality in 2006.
Sabbatical News.....6	<u>June 14 "R.E. Sunday" Jude Henzy and Youth Group</u>
Board Notes.....8	It comes but once a year: the chance to celebrate our children and youth, and recognize the volunteers who make our Sunday School program vibrant and meaningful. This year's service will include a Coming of Age Ceremony for students in 7th and 8th grade, and a Bridging Ceremony for our graduating seniors. Come be inspired by the kids who will carry our movement into the future.
Contacting Issue Contributors.....9	<u>June 21 "Keeping our Balance" Rev. Libby Smith</u>
June Calendar.....10	The "Slow Movement" advocates a more balanced approach to life than most of us manage to capture in our frantic lives. In these tense times, how might we adjust the pace of our lives---even if only a little---to bring greater balance and calm?
	The Rev. Libby Smith grew up in the Unitarian Society of York, PA. She received her M. Div. from Harvard Divinity School and was ordained in 1992. Currently, she serves in two half-time ministries: she is the chaplain at Unitarian Universalist House in Germantown and is the consulting minister to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Lower Bucks in Langhorne, PA.

June 28

"Listening"

Rev. Kathy Bortner

Paul Tillich points out that "The first duty of love is to listen." Author Mark Nepo challenges us further this way, "At the deepest level ours is not to make ourselves heard, but to be still enough to hear." Who among us is truly ready for the hard work real listening requires?

The Rev. Kate Seitz Bortner is the affiliated Community Minister with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York and serves as consulting Parish Minister for the UUs of Gettysburg. Kate recently retired from the York City Police Department after a 22 year career in crime prevention.

FROM THE DRE

As the "regular" church year draws to a close and we move into summer mode, the Children's Religious Education Program is thinking about three important things:

Summer Programming: As we continue in our efforts to be a year-round church, we need quality programs for our kids. This summer we will spend some time working in our new vegetable garden, where we are hoping to produce vegetables to go to Philabundance. We're also asking members of the congregation to share a hobby or interest with our kids. Visit the RE table during coffee hour to sign up for one Sunday between late June and the end of August. You can cook, dance, sing, play games, tell stories or do crafts—anything you think would be fun for our kids. Talk to Jude to learn more.

Next Year's Sunday School Program: Recruitment is already underway to develop teams of quality teachers for every age group. Teaching Sunday School is a great way to strengthen your own UU identity, give back to your faith community, make more friends at church, and engage in rewarding and meaningful work. You don't have to have teaching experience, just an honest interest in working with children and a willingness to give it a try. Talk to Jude if you'd like to find out more.

The Peace Pole Project: We've begun the process of installing a peace pole at USG as part of the Peace Pole Project. We'll learn more about peace and peace poles over the summer, and erect and dedicate an official peace pole in September. Find out more at www.peacepoleproject.org and look for updates in upcoming weekly USG emails.

In addition, please note the following **R.E. Committee changes**. Three vital members of the committee have completed their terms. We'll be saying goodbye to Nancy Dearden, who organized all our Social Action Sundays for the last three years; Kim Killian, who ran all the family fun events for the last three years; and Jeff Jaeger, who served as our secretary and budget person for the last three years. So far we've added one new member, Margaret Lea, but we'll be actively recruiting additional folks over the summer. Talk to our chair, Ilene Klein, if you think serving on the Children's RE Committee might be a good use of your volunteer energy.

I'd like to close with a special thank you to all the volunteers who made this church year a success. This year's R.E. Committee, Sunday School teachers and advisors really stepped up to the plate, working with minimal supervision and

support as I took on additional responsibilities during Kent's sabbatical. Together we did it and we did it well! Thank you all.

*In faith,
Jude*

EVENTS AND FELLOWSHIP

Charting a New Course with Your Adult Children

We are parents for a lifetime. Parents face complex issues associated with the roles and relationships with their adult children. Please join us on Sunday, June 7 from 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m. for a program where we will explore the challenges and identify at least one key strategy you can put to use right now. Sandra Greenberg and Bobbi Titus, from Parents with Adult Children, will facilitate this workshop. Feel free to bring a lunch. Please RSVP to parentswithadultchildren@yahoo.com. For more information, please contact Donna Cotzen at dcotzen@comcast.net.

All Church "Thank You" Celebration: Volunteer Recognition Picnic - June 14

Look around the sanctuary any Sunday morning or come into the church any day of the week and you will see our thriving community of volunteers. And if you could also look into the homes of many members you would see more people working---doing budgets, practicing music, planning programs, preparing RE courses, the list goes on.

Here we are---all of us working together to create the wonderful and special place we call USG. Wouldn't it be great to take a moment ---well actually, a whole afternoon, to say "thank you"? We are planning to do just that!

Let us come together on Sunday, June 14 after church for a rip-roaring good time in which we celebrate the many ways in which so many people contribute to the life of our church---the volunteer engine that makes our community go!

We will provide the hot dogs and paper goods. Please bring salads and side dishes, drinks, fruit, etc. The Coming of Age class will provide a sheet cake for dessert. Help is needed for this event, so please contact Berdine Whedon at bwhedon@gmail.com or Jonel Sofian at jonels@verizon.net.

Missed the Last Circle Dinner?

As our church grows, it becomes hard to meet everyone, particularly those at a different life stage. Whether you are a visitor trying us out, a new member, or a long-time member, circle dinners are a great way to keep our community connected.

Dinners are held in the home of church members and friends. Generally, there are six to ten participants. The host supplies a dish to share. These are casual, pleasant evenings where you will have an opportunity meet new people and perhaps get to know better someone you've known for years. You can participate even if you do not plan to host.

You can register by signing up during coffee hour following the service. Look for the "Circle Dinners" sign. We are currently seeking hosts for both all-adult and family groupings. If you would like to host or would like to participate, please contact Madeleine Nist at 732-773-1154 or mnist@spamcop.net.

Men's Retreat

The fourth annual USG Men's Retreat will be held October 9-11, 2009 at the Murray Grove Retreat and Conference Center in Lanoka Harbor, New Jersey. In the past, activities have included yoga, hiking, drumming around a bonfire, poker, workshops about building community, and worship in the 19th century chapel. This is a great opportunity to get to know and bond with other men from USG and Philadelphia area congregations. The cost for the weekend is \$150, which includes Friday supper, three meals on Saturday, and Sunday breakfast.

For more information, please contact Hal Krieger haroldkrieger@verizon.net or Wally Moyer at WalterMoyer@TheBottomLineInc.net.

Free Mann Tickets Return!

Cynthia Claus has again made it possible for USGers to attend any of the nine Philadelphia Orchestra concerts for free at the Mann Center. These are "lawn seats," but it does not mean that you have to sit on the lawn. Of course, if you like to sit on the lawn, you are welcome to do so, but with these tickets, you can also sit in any of the seats that are not under cover, referred to as Terrace Seating. The tickets will be available at Coffee Hour and in the church office in mid-June. The first concert is Monday, June 29.

Friday Book Club

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 June 19, we will meet at the home of **Barbara Erlick**. We will be discussing *The Soloist* by Steve Lopez. Bring a sandwich for lunch and fellowship following the discussion, if you wish. The hostess will provide dessert and beverages. Please call Barbara a few days in advance to let her know you are coming. For additional information, contact **Cynthia Claus**.

USG STAFF

Minister: The Reverend Kent Matthies
(*on sabbatical until August 2009*)

Director of Religious Education: Jude Henzy

Office Administrator: Robin Neill

Music Director: Mark Daugherty

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Summer NPIHN Hosting

USG is hosting families in the Northwest Interfaith Hospitality Network from June 7 to June 21 at the Unitarian Society of Germantown. We need volunteers to provide meals and for overnight hosting. There are many open slots so, **please sign up** – with a friend, with your small group ministry, or we'll pair you with a hosting partner. The sign up sheet will be available at the social action table during fellowship hour. Please contact Nancy Dearden at nancy.dearden@verizon.net with any questions.

Membership Committee

The next membership ceremony will be Sunday, July 19 at 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

New Members

We welcome **Karyn Edwards** and **Tony Heyl** who joined the church in March 2009. The Bala Cynwyd couple searched for a place to have their wedding and found USG. They indicate that they "ended up loving this church, which embraces social justice so well." An April 2010 wedding is planned at USG!

Karyn grew up in Providence, Rhode Island; she came to Pennsylvania to attend St. Joseph's University and has stayed in the area ever since. She obtained a degree in psychology and currently works at the ReMed Recovery Care Center, a long-term residential setting for people with brain injuries. Her "new hobby," she says, is planning for her wedding! Additionally, she likes photography and volleyball.

Tony grew up outside of Pittsburgh in Hampton Township and is "a Steelers fan for life." He has a degree in communications from Marist College and currently works as a communications specialist at SEIU Healthcare PA, a union for nurses and other healthcare workers. Previously, he worked for political campaigns for progressive candidates and causes in Pennsylvania and Iowa. He enjoys following politics, football and hockey, reading, and playing poker. Both Karyn and Tony like to play board games and Wii, as well as try new restaurants.

In answer to "What has become an important belief in your life?" Tony wrote, "Justice and equality, taking value in what I have, working to improve the world, and regretting nothing." Karyn adds, "The realization that I first need to believe in myself. However, it helps to have such supportive people in my life." Both look forward to meeting more new people at USG and feel that the church has brought them closer in their relationship. Welcome, Karyn and Tony!

We also welcome **Laura Wall Starke**. New to the Philadelphia area, having moved from Harrisburg in August, 2008, Laura visited several UU congregations and (luckily for us) chose USG to join in March, 2009. Laura is divorced and has two sons, Patrick (21) who attends George Mason University and Austin (20) who lives near Pittsburgh. Laura shares her Glenside home with her two dogs, Alice and Zoe.

Laura grew up in New York City; she was born in the Bronx and was raised on Staten Island. She has a bachelor's degree in philosophy and 30 years'

experience in non-profit organizations. She was executive director of a Harrisburg agency serving adults with mental illness. Previously, she ran a community social service agency in Nashville and had started an agency for at-risk children and youth in Illinois. Today, she is executive director of Inter-Faith Housing Alliance in Ambler, which provides emergency and transitional housing for homeless families. "Music," Laura writes, "is very important to me, and I appreciate Philly's thriving music community. I garden and enjoy the city's museums, and I love the Ambler Theatre." Raised Catholic, Laura has been a UU since 1986, believing "that we are all connected to one another, and what affects one affects all. Because of this, we are responsible for one another, and it's important to act from that understanding."

HOW AND WHEN TO REACH USG STAFF

Office phone 215-844-1157 FAX 215-844-1159
E-mail usguu@verizon.net USG website www.usguu.org
Church office hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Robin Neill, Office Administrator - 215-844-1157 - usguu@verizon.net
Rev. Kent Matthies will be on sabbatical until August, 2009
Jude Henzy, Director of Religious Education - 215-844-1157 - usgre@verizon.net

SABBATICAL NEWS

News from the Sabbatical Task Force

In preparation for Reverend Kent's sabbatical, a group of church leaders has been meeting to make sure the church will continue to run well during our minister's absence. The Sabbatical Committee is comprised of **Sarah West, Marny Walsh, Bill Morrow, Jude Henzy, Sam Gugino,** and **Eli Scearce**. We will continue to meet regularly to make sure all is running well. Here is a list of Frequently Asked Questions; if you have a question or concern please feel free to contact the committee chair, **Eli Scearce**.

Who will do the Sunday services Kent usually does?

Excellent worship services are planned for the entire sabbatical period. Many talented UU ministers, **Jude Henzy**, and our own lay leaders will lead the Sunday services. Also included, as usual, will be our excellent music program led by **Mark Daugherty** and the USG choir.

How long is Rev. Kent's sabbatical?

Rev. Kent's sabbatical is six months long. His last day with us will be Saturday, January 31 and he will return August 1.

Who do I contact if someone I know is in need?

Pastoral Care is in the care of and supported by a trained team of lay folk. Call **Sarah West** or **Mark Kaufki**. The team will contact a religious professional to assist as well if needed.

Who will be available for rites of passage?

Religious professionals, including our DRE and ministerial candidate, **Jude Henzy**, will cover weddings, memorial services and child dedications.

What will Rev. Kent be doing on Sabbatical?

This will be a time for our minister to focus intensively on professional development and his own spiritual growth after serving our church for the last six years.

Will regular church activities such as the Annual Meeting, Auction and Budget Drive still take place?

Absolutely! These activities are run by our very capable church leaders and will be held this year as usual.

Who do I call if I don't know whom to call?

Contact the church office, Board President, **Sam Gugino**, the sabbatical chair, **Eli Searce**, or a church staff member. We will help advise you on the proper channel. There will also be a "Who to Call List" on the website and in the Communicator.

Future Sunday Service Speakers During and After Sabbatical

6/7	Rev. Howard Dana	Unitarian Church of Harrisburg
6/14	Jude Henzy and Youth	Religious Education Sunday
6/21	Rev. Libby Smith	UU Fellowship of Lower Bucks County UU House Chaplain
6/28	Rev. Kathy Bortner	Consulting Minister of UUs of Gettysburg Affiliated Minister of UU Congregation of York
7/5	Rev. Dwayne Fickeison	UUs of the Cumberland Valley – Boiling Spring
7/12	Rebecca Froom	Seminarian – Harvard Divinity School
7/19	Rev. Kathy Ellis	
7/26	Rev. Nate Walker	First UU Church of Philadelphia
8/2	Peter Walsh Bill and Gloria Delamar	"Reconciliation through the Written Word"
8/9	Rev. Kent Matthies	
8/16	Joe Walsh Lee Meinicke	Green Sanctuary Movement
8/23	Rev. Kent Matthies	
8/30	Sam Gugino	"Happiness"
9/6	Barbara Dowdall Sarah West	"Labor Day"

BOARD NOTES

Board News, June 2009

When it was my turn to give the greeting at Sunday service during my three-year term, I always began by saying that "it is my honor and privilege to serve on the Board of Trustees at the Unitarian Society of Germantown."

It is my hope that we can all view the idea of church service—in any capacity—with a sense of responsibility and with gratitude, not as an unpleasant chore that we feel forced into. In a collection of essays by UU ministers, Reverend Jeanne Nieuwjaar wrote: "When invited to serve in a leadership position, unless there are compelling personal issues, an appropriate response is always a humble and grateful, 'Yes. Thank you for honoring me in this way. I will do my very best to live up to the trust you have placed in me.' Sadly, however, too often the process for selecting congregational leaders is a hasty, disorganized, apologetic kind of approach. We need to make a sea change in the culture of inviting people into leadership positions."

As we grow in size and become a more vibrant and multi-faceted congregation, we need more leaders, which is why the Board authorized a leadership training program. This becomes especially important as our minister turns over more decisions to lay leaders and as our current leaders become older or overburdened.

The irony, and the reason for my greeting preamble, is that service benefits those who serve as much as those who receive the service. Who among us has not felt a sense of satisfaction and community when we brought dinner to a member of the congregation who was recovering from an illness? Or when we volunteered to drive another to chemotherapy?

The amazing success of our Budget Drive has demonstrated that we, as a congregation, can do what is needed when called upon. As the Stewardship Committee wrote in one of its Grateful Giving emails "Stewardship is the spiritual practice of taking care of what we value. Church life is about spiritual growth, and sometimes that means stretching. We believe the rewards to us individually and to the congregation will be invaluable."

Thank UUs this month go to:

All those who do the work of the church, but who are often not recognized for their efforts, including but not limited to:

- The ushers who greet us every Sunday.
- The Worship Associates who lead us through Sunday service.
- The sound guys who make our singers and speakers heard.
- The Religious Education teachers who give our children moral, ethical and spiritual guidance.
- The leaders of our Adult Spiritual Development classes.

----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 at the dining room exit to the courtyard**. Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, June 7** 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.

The July/August **2009** CommUUnicator Deadline is **Sunday, June 14**

Editor: Edna Jones

Please submit items via email to the editor or place in CommUUnicator box by 12:30 p.m. **June 14**. Flyers must be submitted to the USG office by the CommUUnicator deadline. Submit materials in Verdana 11 pt when possible. The CommUUnicator is published eleven times a year by The Unitarian Society of Germantown, 6511 Lincoln Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19119-3625
Office: 215-844-1157 ~ Fax: 215-844-1159 ~ website www.usguu.org.
Coordinator: Sue Couch. Editors: Peggy Bruton, Cynthia Claus, Delores Hill, and Edna Jones

NOTICE: WEEKLY EMAIL CHANGES

USG has changed email newsletter programs from Newsletter Monkey to Constant Contact. If you (or your family) are receiving the weekly emails and *CommUUnicator* at the wrong email address, please let us know so that we can update our records. Also, if you are experiencing any problems reading or receiving the emails, please contact Robin at usguu@verizon.net. Thank you.

USG JUNE 2009 CALENDAR

Monday	6/1	7:30 p.m.	Earth Honoring Traditions
Wednesday	6/3	12:30 p.m.	Out to Lunch
Wednesday	6/3	6:00 p.m.	Lingelbach Dinner
Friday	6/5	7:00 p.m.	Ending Racism Discussion
Sunday	6/7	12:30 p.m.	Charting a New Course with Your Adult Children
Sunday	6/7	1:00 p.m.	Introduction to Zen Buddhism
Sunday	6/7		NPIHN Move-In
Monday	6/8	7:30 p.m.	Women's Singing Circle
Wednesday	6/10	7:30 p.m.	<i>Palace of Illusions</i>
Wednesday	6/10	7:30 p.m.	Buildings & Grounds Committee
Sunday	6/14	9:30 a.m.	UU 101
Sunday	6/14	9:30 a.m.	Meditation Circle
Sunday	6/14	12:30 p.m.	All-Church "Thank You "Celebration: Volunteer Recognition Picnic
Tuesday	6/16	7:30 p.m.	Men's Group
Wednesday	6/17	7:00 p.m.	Ending Racism Committee
Sunday	6/21		NPIHN Hosting Ends
Sunday	6/21	12:45 p.m.	Race & Parenting Get-Together
Sunday	6/21	6:00 p.m.	Summer Solstice Celebration
Tuesday	6/23	7:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday	6/24	7:00 p.m.	Green Sanctuary
Friday	6/26	7:00 p.m.	Ending Racism Discussion
Sunday	6/28	9:00 a.m.	Buddhist Meditation