



**THE COMMUNICATOR**  
**The Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Germantown**  
 March 2008 Volume 45, No 7

**In this issue:**

From Our Minister.....1  
 From Our DRE.....2  
 Sunday Services  
 Schedule.....3  
 Events & Fellowship.....4  
 Congregational News....6  
 Committee Reports.....8  
 Wider UU World..... 12  
 Caring Community.....13  
 From the Board  
 President.....13  
 Contacting USG ..... 14  
 March Meetings &  
 Events.....15  
 Contacting Issue  
 Contributors.....15

Dear Friends,

One of my biggest blessings in ministry involves relationships with colleagues. The UU Ministers Association is a family of people serving our religious movement with great efforts of body, mind and soul. We are fortunate to have wonderful guest preachers sharing ideas, visions and hope. Last year we heard from the Rev. Ken Belden of WellSprings Congregation in Chester County. This start-up UU church defines itself as "A community charged full with the charge of the soul." They began gathering for worship in January 2007 and already have an average Sunday morning attendance of 110 people. Recently I attended a conference where Ken reported on their congregational efforts, which are based in shared values and beliefs. The various stories of how this UU congregation allows people to connect their lives with gratitude and generosity are wonderful.

On March 16 we will have another exciting minister visit our pulpit. The Rev. John Crestwell will preach on his congregation's journey in building a multicultural congregation in Maryland. In preparation for this visit, our Ending Racism Committee and I are selling John's book, *Charge of the Chalice*. This book tells the story of John's ministry, which as an African-American minister has been unique, challenging and exciting. After worship, lunch will be available for sale. At 12:45 John and I will hold a town-hall meeting in the Sanctuary to discuss how we are applying similar ideas in building our USG community. Please come out for worship and discussion about our deepest held values, beliefs and mission. I believe more than ever that our congregation can help to embolden our hearts with love, charge our spirits, and help us to work for a better world. With a diverse group of people, we can more fully celebrate life and get in touch with wellsprings of joy and peace.

In Faith,  
*Kent*

## FROM OUR DRE

### Ah, Youth!

One of my focuses since becoming full-time at USG this year is our high school youth group, YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists). These young men and women are really on the move, and I couldn't be more proud of them. Here are just a few of their accomplishments:

- They're strengthening ties within YRUU. Attendance averages 10-12 including advisors, compared to only half that last year.
- They're developing connections with the USG congregation. Five youth teach in the Sunday School program; six serve as childcare assistants.
- They're moving beyond USG's walls to other UU events. They've attended weekend-long youth conferences in other JPD churches, and the 3-day UU-United Nations Conference in New York. Conference topics included environmental issues, world peace and human trafficking.
- They're getting involved in the community. Three of USG's youth are participating in NIM's Youth Leadership Institute. Eight participated in the MLK Day of Service.
- They're trying to change the world. Eight youth plus four advisors are going to Guatemala to work with a program that rescues children from living off the city dump.

#### Why Should You Care?

If you've got younger kids, this is the program you have to look forward to. If you don't have kids or they're already grown, this is the generation who will carry on the tradition of love, hope and courage at USG, and help bring the good news of Unitarian Universalism to the world. They're part of our beloved congregation.

#### What Can You Do?

Get to know them! They're an impressive bunch of friendly, thoughtful and articulate young people who are eager to be part of the larger USG community.

Support their efforts by attending their events. Come to their worship service on April 20; participate in their fund-raisers for the Guatemala trip.

Think about becoming a youth advisor. This is a big, important commitment, and definitely not for everyone, but the rewards are great and the impact is HUGE. Talk to me if you think this might be a good fit for you.

If you take the time to get to know our teens, I think you'll agree that the future of our movement is in excellent hands.

In faith,  
*Jude*

## SUNDAY SERVICES

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

### **March 2 "Love, Power and Other Temptations" Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray**

Love is a foundational value of many religious traditions. How do we deepen our understanding of what is meant by a call to love one another? How can a theology grounded in love shape our lives and our communities?

Susan is a life-long Unitarian Universalist, and now a UU minister, serving in Ohio. She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, where she studied molecular biology, and Harvard Divinity School. Susan's ministry centers around worship, leadership development, personal growth, and community organizing.

### **March 9 "Celebration Sunday: The Best Things in Life are Free, or are They?" Rev. Kent Matthies**

Walt Whitman talked about "Singing the Body Electric." Our beloved congregation provides a great place for us to sing our body's electric in worship, faith development, social ties and making justice. You can pretend it is free to have such a place. It is not. One way we show our love for USG is by pledging generously. Come out to love the world with more spirit than ever!

### **March 16 "The Charge of the Chalice" Rev. John T. Crestwell, Jr.**

The flaming chalice is a symbol of our unity, truth, and belief in the "inherent worth and dignity of all." Our symbol calls us to action in the communities of the world. Where do we begin to create a world with "peace, liberty and justice for all?"

Our guest minister, John Crestwell, serves as Minister of Davies Memorial Unitarian Universalist Church, Camp Springs, MD. He is active in a growth plan to assist the church to expand into a multiracial congregation. Under his leadership, Davies is nearly 40% racially diverse.

### **March 23 "Hope and Resurrection" Jude Henzy**

Most contemporary Unitarian Universalists do not accept the literal truth of Jesus' resurrection. There is, however, an enduring human truth revealed in the story of Christ's Passion. Whether man or God, Jesus brought a powerful message of hope and healing, cause for even the staunchest humanist among us to celebrate.

Easter is the Time for Flowering the Chalice! On Easter Sunday, March 23, USG will return to a well-loved celebration of the season--Flowering the Chalice. Be sure to bring to the 11:00 service one flower (or one sprig of a flowering bush or tree) per person. This is an all-generations ritual; we will see how all our small gifts truly create one gorgeous symbol of the renewal of the earth! Come, share the joy!

*(Services continued on next page.)*

**March 30 "Song of Solomon"**

**Rev. Kent Matthies**

At last year's Service Auction my beautiful wife Kristin bought the right to choose a sermon topic. Given my feelings for her, it couldn't be more *a propos* that she chose a biblical book based on love songs. A healthy religion opens us up to love ourselves, each other and the world. Many of us must take care not to overdo or become obsessive-compulsive in areas of our lives. Loving the world is something we can throw ourselves into fully!

**EVENTS AND FELLOWSHIP**

**Celebration Sunday -- March 9**

Don't miss a fun, festive and uplifting worship service on Sunday, March 9, when we will celebrate our commitment to our beloved USG. During the service we will collect a special offering of our 2008 pledge cards. Bring yours from home or use a blank one that we will provide before the offering. After the service, join us for a complimentary all-church lunch.

--Debbie Kish-Silver

**Come to a Tropical Paradise at the Annual Service Auction**

Can you feel the gentle breeze? Can you hear the surf? Join us in a Tropical Paradise for the Annual Service Auction on Saturday, April 12. Appetizers, the Poster Auction and the Silent Auction will all begin at 6:00 p.m. The Bidding Auction will begin at 7:15. Wear your Hawaiian shirts, your scuba gear, or your grass skirt, and get ready for some fun at our biggest fund-raiser of the year.

--Kathy Bonanno

**A Taste of Guatemala**

Support our youth group's service mission trip to Guatemala by coming to our Guatemalan dinner. Join us on Saturday, March 29, at 7:00 p.m. for delicious home cooked cuisine from South of the Border, as well as education about the Safe Passage program and entertainment by our talented youth—all for \$20! All proceeds go to trip expenses so our youth can participate in helping get children out of the Guatemala City dump and into schools and childcare programs. Mark your calendar so you don't miss this exciting event.

--Jude Henzy

**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, March 2**, 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.

## **Adult RE**

There is still time to sign up for some spring semester Adult RE classes!

- Friday Night Films at USG: Movies to Inspire, Provoke and Entertain (still three movies left; next movie is on March 21)
- UU 102 - The Seven UU Principles, One at a Time (drop-in, next session on March 16)
- Unitarian Universalist History (began on February 10, contact the leader if you are interested in joining in progress)
- Poetry of Rumi (starts on April 9).

If you would like to see the full set of Spring offerings, want to enroll in classes, or want more information about course dates, times and charges, click on <http://www.usguu.org/AREBrochure.htm> or call the USG office. You may be able to join a course in progress; you can contact the course leader to ask. To register for a course that has not yet begun, send an email stating for which course(s) you want to register. Please include your name, phone number and e-address. You can pay at the first class. You may also send registration and payment to USG Administrator, 6511 Lincoln Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19119.

-Andrea Parry

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

Calling all women who love to sing and play and dance: Rise Up and Come Unto Me for I am the Goddess of Pleasure! I am the soul of nature, the Great Mother who gives life to the universe.

So if you would like to get together once a month to sing with other women, please join us. You don't need a great voice or musical training - just the desire to "make a joyful noise." Feel free to bring a musical instrument (we'll have a piano). We may also dance, chant, listen to music or dramatic readings. Bubbling over with creativity shall our cauldron blessed be!

Please RSVP to either of the co-leaders: Berdine Whedon [bwhedon@gmail.com](mailto:bwhedon@gmail.com) or Donya Coldwell [opal@delval504.com](mailto:opal@delval504.com). There may be a small charge (\$5-\$8) for materials.

Session dates: March 17, April 21, May 19 and June 16 (3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays).  
Location: USG Sanctuary.

### **USG STAFF**

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

### **Circle Dinners Return on April 19**

Circle dinners are a great way to get to know people and/or to spend pleasant time with people you already know. Members, friends, and those just checking us out are welcome. Groups will be six to ten adults, and some hosts are inviting children. Everyone will bring a dish. Your host will coordinate to ensure that all bases are covered.

How is it decided who eats with whom? The key factors are: Do you want to bring kids, and where do you live. We will also try to place some "new" people in each group.

If you'd like to take part in a circle dinner, please email Mary Lee Keane at [Mary@SamCooks.com](mailto:Mary@SamCooks.com). Mary Lee will need the following information.

**If you are volunteering to be a host:** your name(s), your town & zip code, phone number, email address, number of adults--including you--that you can host. Also: Are kids invited? If so, how many? What are the ages of your kids? Any other comments? Any other relevant facts, such as: vegetarian household, lots of steps, etc.

**If you wish to be a guest:** your name(s), your town & zip code, phone number, email address. Also: Do you want to bring kids? If so, what are their ages? Are you a vegetarian? If not, are you willing to eat a vegetarian meal? Other relevant facts? (We'll do our best to accommodate requests, but cannot guarantee it.)

### **Friday Morning Book Group**

Would you like to expand your reading choices and discuss them with witty, intelligent people? Then 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 March 21, we will meet at the home of Peggy Bruton to discuss *March* by Geraldine Brooks. Bring a sandwich for lunch and fellowship following the discussion, if you wish. The hostess will provide dessert and beverages. Please call Peggy a few days in advance to let her know you are coming. For additional information, contact Ann Schoonmaker at [schoonann@verizon.net](mailto:schoonann@verizon.net).

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

### **Your 2008 Pledge to USG**

By now you should have received a mailing from the Development Committee about your 2008 pledge to USG. This year we ask that every member household give a bigger, bolder, more generous pledge than ever. If every household quarter-tithed (gave 2.5 percent of its annual income) or half-tithed (gave 5 percent), we could easily reach our goal of \$290,000. If partial tithing isn't feasible for you this year, then we ask that you join every single household in our church community in raising your pledge by 20 percent over last year's pledge.

Don't give until it hurts, give until you feel great, knowing that your contribution helps sustain our spiritual home. Unsure about the amount you

pledged last year? Email Debbie Kish-Silver at [deborahksilver@comcast.net](mailto:deborahksilver@comcast.net) or Kathy Bonanno at [poetrypug@netscape.com](mailto:poetrypug@netscape.com) or come to the Development Committee booth after the church service. We'll be happy to help!

### **Transform a Vacant Lot into a Vibrant Community Asset**

The Green Sanctuary Committee has teamed up with Tioga United (<http://www.tiogaunited.org/>) to turn a large blighted area into usable open space and gardens. We are looking for volunteers to help prepare the lot for further activities in Spring and Summer. Activities will include more grounds clean-up and grass seed planting. This is a tremendous experience for volunteers on all levels, including garden enthusiasts, muralists, and those who want to take part in a grass-roots program working with local non-profits and civic leaders. Supplies are provided and refreshments will be served. Where: 2100 Block of West Venango (Tioga Section).

When: Saturday, March 29, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Contact: Joe Walsh at 215.836.9257 or [joewalsh2@hotmail.com](mailto:joewalsh2@hotmail.com)

### **Phone Line to Help Older Adults in the Northwest**

Knowing whom to ask or where to turn when you need to find a service, or to learn what might be available for you, can often be daunting. A new phone line service to answer questions and help sort out what might be helpful has now opened under the auspices of the Neighborhood Interfaith Movement (NIM).

The Resources for Older Adult Living Network (ROAL) phone number is **215-843-5602**

For more information, call the consultation line and speak with Angel Recchia. You can reach her directly on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., or leave a message and your call will be returned.

-Linda Brunn

### **Hymnal Amnesty Month**

Perhaps you have taken a hymnal home to share the wonderful hymns and readings with friends and family and have forgotten to return it. You will be delighted to hear that March is Hymnal Amnesty Month. We need to order additional hymnals (both hardback and teal) to accommodate our growing congregation. First, we need an accurate count of what we have. So please return the hymnals and place them on a pew in the sanctuary. If you wish to purchase your own hymnal, you may order one by contacting Marny Walsh.

**Save the Date:** The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 17.

### **Calling All Editors!**

Do you enjoy writing and editing? A few people are needed to edit the CommUUnicator. Each monthly editor receives articles via email, organizes the articles under the proper heading, checks facts and figures (of course!), and sends the file to the USG office, where the printed copies are photocopied and mailed and where the issue is emailed to those people who prefer to receive it electronically. Being an editor takes 6-8 hours per issue,

once every three or four months. It's fun and creative! If you are interested, please contact Sue Couch, coordinator of the CommUUnicator, or Edna Jones.

### **Our Heating Costs are Rising!**

Please -- everyone -- be aware of open doors. As you know, the cost of oil has skyrocketed. The Buildings & Grounds Committee has just finished an analysis (thanks to Rudy Sprinkle) of our heating costs. Last year we spent around \$19,000 for heating oil. This year we will spend about \$26,000. Next year our anticipated cost will be around \$32,000. We will be working hard to continue to find ways to make the building tighter by adding storm windows, renovating doors, adding insulation, evaluating switching to gas, etc. But your help is needed to prevent our heating the outdoors! If you have questions, contact Tom Schoonmaker, chair of B&G Committee.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Program Council**

In January, the Program Council began working with committees to create their 2008-2009 budget requests. New request forms, plus a letter explaining the process, were distributed on January 2. Committees were invited to make an appointment to discuss their forms with the Council. We met with several committee representatives at our regular meeting and scheduled others on January 27 and February 3. Committees will be turning in finished request forms on February 10. At our February meeting, we will have a chance to review all the requests before passing them on to Budget and Finance.

Other topics on our agenda included a process for making the Monthly Leadership Report a more vital, accessible communication tool, as well as how to utilize the new online calendar created by Robin. –Margaret Griffen

### **Investment Committee**

The Investment Committee has chosen Trillium Asset Management Corp., a Boston investment firm which specializes in managing portfolios in a socially responsible manner, to manage the Church's endowment funds. The Committee is switching from PNC Investments because it does not employ any social responsibility screens. The Committee will have Trillium manage the funds on the "total return" method of determining income to the Church, beginning with the next fiscal year on July 1, 2008. –Bill Morrow

### **Ending Racism Committee**

The Ending Racism Committee continues to search for a co-chair, to take over in January 2009.

The trainers are in place for Jubilee Two at USG on April 18-20. The facilitators are: Jyaphia Christos-Rodgers, a woman who identifies as white (mixed-Euro ancestry); Robette Dias, a woman who identifies as Native

American; Leon Spencer, a man who identifies as African American. Monifa Johnson is our Jubilee Two apprentice, who identifies as African American.

The two "White Privilege" brochures have been removed from the pews. Eli will be working with Social Action in obtaining funds to have the brochures copied outside the church to ensure that the quality is the same as the membership brochures and will also look into holders for the brochures. There is a need for both brochures to be displayed: One is written in very broad terms and one is more specific. They meet people at different developmental stages.

We are considering a speaker on Sickle Cell Anemia for a possible program for 2008-09. Al Vincent has access to grant money through his job that would cover all costs.

ERC is very interested in helping to build a new page for the USG website. We just need time to do it. Ursa Vincent is collecting statements from ERC members on their involvement in the committee.

### **Items of General Interest**

The RE course on Race and Parenting was a success. We had 24 attendees (for a class we limited to 18!), and the feedback on our evaluation forms was mostly positive. Some of the negative comments mentioned there was too much of a "UU focus." This comment came from people outside USG. But there were plenty of rave reviews to more than tip the balance toward the positive, and there was great interest in continuing the conversation. One family outside the church approached Jude about RE and expressed interest in coming with her kids next Sunday.

USG has six members attending the "Building a World We Dream About" pilot program: Robert Anu, Susan Zingale-Baird, Nancy Anderson, Hal Krieger, Gwendolyn McNuckles and Steven Larin. The curriculum has been extremely positive, and all are excited about the opportunity.

A small group of ERC members attended "The Great Debators" at the Manayunk Theatre. It was fantastic!

Ursa Vincent's husband Al has been a great support to us.

--Susan Zingale-Baird

### **Membership Committee**

#### **Congratulations to USG: We are growing!**

Each year we provide membership numbers to our denominational offices – the UUA. Our church policies identify a member as someone who has signed our membership book (at a ceremony we hold every other month) and who has made a recorded contribution during the last calendar year. The number of members is one of several measures of the health of a congregation.

We are so pleased that this year USG reported a total of 298 active members. We have not been in the 290's since before 1992.

This measure quantifies what we all see every time we come to USG. We are a vital, active congregation that offers a wide variety of exciting and

rewarding services, effective and significant programs, and sincere and meaningful support to our community.

Who should be congratulated? We all should! We have a dedicated and talented staff, committed to our organization's health. We have scores of volunteers who give their time, energy and money to support our efforts. And, we have a stream of visitors who continue to tell us that we have a warm, welcoming congregation where they feel supported in their spiritual quest and see opportunities to express that through service to the community. Keep up the good work, everyone. Together, we do make a difference.

### **New Member Profiles**

We are pleased that **Laura Draper** and **Michael Tepper** signed the membership book in January, witnessed by Michael's parents, Elaine and David Tepper. On September 20 of this year, they will be marking another important moment in their lives here at USG: they'll be getting married.

Laura grew up in Millburn, New Jersey, then attended Mount Holyoke College and Brooklyn Law School. She is an attorney who practiced child welfare law in New York before moving to Philadelphia with Mike two years ago. Currently she does long-term freelance work while looking for the "perfect legal position." Michael grew up in Peekskill, New York, and then went to the University of Chicago. He currently teaches at Temple University while finishing his doctorate work in math from the Graduate Center at City University in New York.

Laura and Mike now live in Fishtown. In their spare time, Laura knits (avidly!), Mike plays the double bass and enjoys sports, and both are indie rock enthusiasts. Laura writes that she and Mike agree that "a church is just as much about community as it is about worship." They first came to USG with David and Elaine, Mike's parents, "but we kept coming because of the welcoming community at USG. It was a place where we could see ourselves getting married, raising children, and feeling comfortable with participating in worship."

\* \* \*

The font in which **Jane Eisenstein** (who joined USG in January) sent her answers for this profile helps to introduce her. It was 10 pt. Arial, which looks like this---and is as neat, trim and tidy as Jane herself. Born and raised in Missouri, Jane received her undergraduate degree in microbiology from the University of Missouri, then a master's degree in computer science from Boston University. She lived in the Boston area for over twenty years before moving to Mount Airy in 1997. Jane is now a software developer, but has worked as a medical technologist.

She is interested in modern art, weaving, writing weaving software, visual mathematics, astrology, and mindfulness meditation. Jane has attended USG services and RE classes regularly since January 2006, and currently co-leads UU 102 with Mark Bernstein on Sunday mornings. We are glad to have Jane's thoughtful grace among us.

\* \* \*

**Suzanne Matlock** and her husband **Norman Matlock**, who joined USG in January, have been active at USG for several years. For example, Suzanne organized and led the annual Lehigh River Gorge bike trip in the fall of 2007. This profile will feature Suzanne, mostly in her own words; later you may see a separate profile on Norman.

Suzanne's dad, a forester and scientist, "instilled in all his children a respect and love for the environment and its interconnectedness to human life; he instilled the use of reason to establish fact and [to form] the basis of personal beliefs. Both he and mom. . .value every person, helping those less fortunate. They really raised me UU without knowing it. Don't tell them; they'll feel guilty about it!"

Suzanne's education and career path is multi-faceted. Among other things, she taught chemistry; became an environmental chemist, an environmental policy-maker and enforcement officer; then a trades supervisor; and, most recently, a research chemist and trainer. She also achieved a degree in scientific illustration and now uses her art for social purposes, nearly always donating the fruits of it.

"I love my Mt. Airy home, and with my husband's help, am trying to restore it to its original condition by salvaging stuff in the trash . . .the neighbors' sinks, glass tiles, casement windows, and woodwork. I have a terrific husband who. . .almost always lets me do anything I want. . .Between the two of us, we have three kids [all responsible adults]: Ayanna Kai Matlock, Heather R. Glasby, and Stephen M. Simoni."

An important belief in Suzanne's life is to "Just keep doing the next right thing. Do what your duty calls you to do at each opportunity, regardless of whether the result is what you expect."

### **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, contact Betsy Gabriel.

If you are not ready to become a member, you may still get involved in the church. In fact, we encourage visitors to get to know us by becoming active in our community before they make the commitment to membership. For more information about USG events and activities, contact Betsy Gabriel

at bsgabriel47@msn.com or 215-376-0417. We send out a monthly email calendar of events, so make certain we have your email address.

Visitors and friends who are not yet ready to become members but want to support the church financially should contact Cynthia Claus, Financial Secretary, about becoming a Contributing Friend.

### **Social Action Launches Search for New Leadership**

The Social Action Committee (SAC) has, over the past year, redefined its mission to become the recruiter and supporter of the various current and potential social justice initiatives at USG. SAC refers individuals to our action groups, for example, that are tutoring at Lingelbach Elementary School, working for the homeless through NPIHN, combating racism through our Ending Racism Committee, working for our earth through the Green Sanctuary initiative, and working for peace by staging a weekly vigil on Lincoln Drive. Rather than plan and lead each effort, SAC seeks to support and strengthen the great work already in place, and to help others who identify other unmet needs move from idea to action (e.g., combating genocide in Darfur, supporting the UUSC more effectively).

This year, SAC contributed to publicizing and supporting the annual Day of Service on Martin Luther King's birthday, ably led by Nancy Dearden, because there is not yet a standing committee for this effort, and it serves to unify the majority of our congregation in working together for justice.

SAC's current chair, Dennis Brunn, is stepping down in March in order to devote full time to an educational equity organizing project among public school parents in the low-income districts throughout New Jersey. (The extended time on the road required for this work has made his continued leadership at SAC not feasible.) The search is on for a USG member who enjoys coordinating recruitment, publicity (bulletin boards, using the CommUUnicator, our emailed Weekly Announcements, and our USG website), and helping new social justice efforts take off successfully. Current SAC members who will continue to assist include Barbara Dowdall, Robert Anu, Sydel Seitlin, and Charlotte Turner.

If you would like to explore this opportunity, contact Dennis at [pdbrunn@comcast.net](mailto:pdbrunn@comcast.net) or contact our Program Council (Margaret Griffin, Chair) or our Board President, Sam Gugino, or Rev. Kent Matthies.

## WIDER UU WORLD

### **WhaleCoast Alaska -- 2008**

Five Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural program this July, our 12th year. See *REAL* Alaska, with UU homestays in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Seward, Juneau, and Sitka. UU's host events and lead tours. We visit Tlingit and Inupiat Native Alaskans, see lots of wildlife like bears, moose, caribou, whales, sea otters and bald eagles. We visit Denali and other National Parks. Dave Frey, a 27-year Alaska resident, leads the

programs. Visit our [www.wuurld.org](http://www.wuurld.org) website, email [waltonfrey@gci.net](mailto:waltonfrey@gci.net) or phone 907-322-4966 for a brochure. Reservation deadline is March 15.

## CARING COMMUNITY

**Bill Delamar** has undergone very successful surgery on February 13 at Abington Hospital. Bill is recovering well, with his beloved wife Glo at his side. Cards, calls and emails of good cheer are welcome.

## BOARD NOTES

The one constant in life is change, so the old saying goes. And at USG we've had a lot of changes in lay leadership recently.

I'm pleased to announce that Tom Smith has agreed to be our new Treasurer, taking over for Tom Garrabrant, who has been acting Treasurer since David Bernstein stepped down last fall. Tom S. will officially take over when his term on the Board of Trustees expires with the election of new Board members at the Annual Meeting in May. Tom G., thanks for holding down the Treasurer's position while also serving as Treasurer of the Consolidated Investment Fund.

Alan Windle will become Secretary of the Board of Trustees, replacing Deanna Kemler, who did a fine job but cited time constraints for her resignation. Charles Gabriel is stepping down as Board Vice President (though he will continue as a member of the Board) to remain chair of the Strategic Planning Council. (Church bylaws prohibit the Vice President or President from chairing any Council or committee.) As of this writing, Charles's replacement has not been chosen.

Speaking of Council chairs, in June Dennis Strain will be taking over for Edna Jones, who has served admirably as chair of the Administrative Council. Margaret Griffen will be getting a well-earned rest after her tenure as Program Council chair. Mary Lee Keane takes over in June. Edna and Margaret, thank you for your years of service in your respective positions.

Because the Councils perform such important tasks, the congregation should know who their leaders are. So, Council chairs will be alternating with Board members in welcoming people from the pulpit at Sunday service.

Leadership training will begin in earnest now that Berdine Whedon has been approved by the Board to be chair of the newly-formed Leadership Development Task Force.

Please give all these new leaders your support and encouragement.

### **Thank UUs this month go to:**

\* The Investment Committee for its work in selecting Trillium, a highly respected and socially responsible financial advisor, to oversee investments for our Consolidated Investment Fund.

\* Betsy Gabriel, the Membership Committee, and everyone else who contributed to raising our membership to 298, the highest it has been in 15 years.

\* Deanna Kemler for coordinating the Joseph Priestley District Music and Worship Arts Festival at USG on February 23.

\* Jean Phillips for her six years of work as CommUUnicator Editor and Joe Tomei who assisted her.

Sam Gugino, Board President

**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.

**HOW AND WHEN TO REACH USG STAFF**

Office phone 215-844-1157 FAX 215-844-1159  
E-mail [usguu@verizon.net](mailto:usguu@verizon.net) USG website [www.usguu.org](http://www.usguu.org)  
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)

The **April 2008** CommUUnicator deadline is **Sunday, March 9**.  
Editor: **Peggy Bruton**. Send your articles to her at [pbruton@comcast.net](mailto:pbruton@comcast.net)  
Please submit items via email to the editor or place in CommUUnicator box by 12:30 p.m. on **March 9**. Flyers must be submitted to the USG office by the CommUUnicator deadline. Submit materials in 11 pt. Verdana when possible.  
The CommUUnicator is published eleven times a year by the Unitarian Society of Germantown, 6511 Lincoln Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19119-3625.  
Office: 225-844-1157 ~ Fax: 215-844-1159 ~ website [www.usguu.org](http://www.usguu.org)  
Coordinator: Sue Couch. Editors: Peggy Bruton and Edna Jones

## MARCH MEETINGS & EVENTS

Monday	3/3	7:30 p.m.	Earth-Honoring Traditions
Tuesday	3/4	7:30 p.m.	Cakes for the Queen of Heaven
Wednesday	3/5	12:30 p.m.	Out-To-Lunch
Friday	3/7	6:30 p.m.	First Friday Potluck
Sunday	3/9	9:30 a.m.	UU 101
Sunday	3/9	9:30 a.m.	UU History
Sunday	3/9	6:00 p.m.	Drumming Circle
Wednesday	3/12	7:30 p.m.	Buildings & Grounds Committee
Sunday	3/16	9:30 a.m.	UU 102
Monday	3/17	7:30 p.m.	Women's Spirituality
Wednesday	3/19	7:00 p.m.	Ending Racism
Friday	3/21	7:15 p.m.	Friday Night Films
Sunday	3/23	9:00 a.m.	Buddhist Meditation
Monday	3/24	7:30 p.m.	Exploring Deep Ecology
Wednesday	3/26	7:30 p.m.	Storytelling for Beginners
Saturday	3/29	7:00 p.m.	Guatemalan Dinner
Sunday	3/30	9:30 a.m.	UU History