



# THE COMMUNICATOR

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Society of Germantown  
October 2008 Volume 46, No.2

<b>In this issue:</b>	<b>FROM OUR MINISTER</b>
From Our Minister.....1	Dear Friends,
Sunday Services Schedule..... 2	At this congregation we are growing spirit every day. As individuals and as a community we are continuously opening our hearts and expanding our visions of the good life. This month we have two exciting, multi-cultural celebrations. Many of us have come to look forward to our Day of the Dead worship service. On October 26, the group <i>Mariachi Los Halcones</i> will return to our worship service. We will once again combine Latin American traditions with Unitarian Universalist theology. Please bring flowers and/or a picture of a deceased loved one to share. We will connect with memories and souls while listening to trumpets of grand ballads.
From the DRE.....2	On that same evening we will celebrate the Hindu festival of lights: Diwali. I first attended a UU Diwali service in 1998, in Chicago. At that ceremony two Indian UU colleagues introduced this festival of lights. Throughout India and other countries, Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists light hundreds of thousands of small oil lamps called diyas (today candles and electric lights are also used) in their houses and neighborhoods. For some, the light of these diyas is meant to welcome Lakshmi, Goddess of wealth and prosperity. To all, the light symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, justice over injustice, and knowledge over ignorance. On Sunday, October 26 we will have a Diwali worship service at 5:00 p.m., followed by a traditional Diwali feast at 6:00 p.m. More details on the evening are to come. At different times we all need the help of another to light our path. Come feel the light. Come experience the glow of your own inner light. Come share your light. Come celebrate Diwali
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## SUNDAY SERVICES

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

**October 5. "Yom Kippur" Rev. Kent Matthies**

As we enter the Jewish High Holy days let us prepare with simplicity and humility for the cycles of forgiveness. Traditionally spent in the synagogue praying and fasting, the Day of Atonement is the holiest of Jewish days. We will enter into petitions of forgiveness and eventually blow the shofar.

**October 12 "All the Lonely People" Rev. Robert Polk**

Statement: Loneliness is one of the great challenges of our society. Not disease, not AIDS, not poverty, but loneliness. It is not exclusively a modern phenomenon. From the dawn of history men and women have had to endure the trial of loneliness.

A native of Chicago, Rev. Polk was ordained in the Congregational Church (UCC) and has spent most of his career in New York City in ecumenical and interfaith work. He served on the ministerial staff of the Riverside Church, directed the New York City Council of Churches, directed a Child Care agency and served as interim vice president of City College in New York.

**October 19 "United Nations Sunday" Jude Henzy**

This year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations "Universal Declaration of Human Rights." The parallels between this document and our own seven principles are striking—both affirm the inherent dignity of all members of the human family, and both promote world community with peace liberty and justice for all. Jude Henzy, our Director of Religious Education, and leaders from our high school youth group, have attended UU-UN conferences to learn more about how we can work together toward our common goals.

**October 26 "Dia de los Muertos: Day of the Dead" Rev. Kent Matthies**

In the Mexican tradition, bring flowers and photos of deceased loved ones. We will have a live, energized mariachi band playing classics. We will reconnect with the memories and souls of people who touched our lives and have now passed away.

### USG STAFF

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

## FROM THE DRE

### Getting Connected

Families come to church for lots of reasons. Some are looking for meaning and purpose in their own lives. Others need help responding to their children's inquiries about life and death. Still others want support in creating an ethical framework for themselves and their kids. Many attend USG for all these reasons and countless others.

But there's at least one thing we all have in common; we come to church for community. We don't want to do this alone. In fact, the connections we make with each other at church are the glue that holds the whole place together. So, a really important element of faith development within a congregational setting is showing up. Sure, the content of our Sunday School programming or the message in the sermon matter—they're the things that help us choose which faith community to join—but it's only through participation that the lessons and messages become relevant in our lives.

When we come to church regularly we make friends and begin building a history with the church. We watch the babies grow up, celebrate the joyful events in our friends' lives, and grieve the loss of those who leave us. We look forward to Music Sundays, the hayride, or the jazz funeral. We pitch in and do the work that needs to be done, and we face and resolve conflict when necessary.

For many of us, the community extends outside the walls of the church. We make play dates for our children, host dinner parties, go to sporting events, travel, shop and work on projects together. We call our church friends for rides to the airport and the doctor's office. We tell them our big news, both happy and troubling. In short, we take care of each other.

And it all happens by showing up. To get the most out of your church experience, you have to experience church. Come to worship; join a committee; take a class; participate in a service project; chat at coffee hour; attend a social event; hang out on the playground; pitch in on a work day; sing in the choir. It doesn't really matter what you do, just that you do it.

In faith,  
*Jude*

### 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, October 5** 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.

## EVENTS AND FELLOWSHIP

### **United Nations Sunday**

After church on **Sunday, October 19**, the congregation is invited to hear about our voice at the UN. The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Organization (UUUNO), which continues to keep the work of the international body alive. Present also will be students from area universities who are working with the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia (UNAGP) in the UN at 63 Project, speaking to kids at our public libraries about the work on the United Nations. We will also launch or "Trick or Treat" for UNICEF drive with some kids ready to go and a representative of the organization from Philadelphia. For more information, look for our posters on the Social Action bulletin board or contact Marietta

### **Out to Lunch**

First Wednesday lunches will resume in October. If you are free in the daytime, please join us for food and fellowship at 12:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, October 1**. **Dallis Graham** will again be providing the lunch. A donation of \$5.00 will cover the costs. Please let **Karen Boucek** know if you can come. Hope to see you there!

### **ERC Fall Open House**

Back by popular demand! The committee members of the Ending Racism Committee are hosting an Open House on **Friday, October 3** at 7:30 p.m. Join us for activities and discussion as we meet and greet folks interested in who we are and what our committee work is all about. Delicious fruit and desserts will be served. The Open House will be held at the home of **Susan Zingale-Baird** in East Falls. Please call Susan to RSVP.

### **Jubilee 2 Anti-Racism Workshop**

The UU Church of the Restoration, with support from the Pennsylvania Universalist Convention and USG, is organizing a Jubilee 2 workshop for the weekend of **November 14-16**. The workshop will be held at USG, running from 5:30 p.m. on Friday through 3:00 p.m. on Sunday and includes all meals. See the UUCR website at [www.uurestoration.us/events.shtml](http://www.uurestoration.us/events.shtml) for more details and a downloadable registration form. Anyone who has taken a Jubilee 1 workshop is eligible to attend. The suggested donation is \$45, to help cover the food costs. Please register by **Friday, November 7**. If you have any questions, contact **Bruce Pollack-Johnson**, or **Susan Zingale-Baird**.

### **Needle Exchange**

The Needle Exchange is for people who enjoy knitting or any other kind of needlework. It generally meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second **Monday** of each month at members' homes. However, the next meeting will be on the third Monday, **October 20** the home of **Gale Gibbons**.

### **Annual Pumpkin Carving Party**

Please join us on **Friday, October 24** from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for apple bobbing and some creative pumpkin carving. Everyone is welcome to this favorite

RE event! As always, BYO Pumpkin and Carving Utensils. Pizza and beverages will be provided. Please bring sweet bites or treats to share. For more information on this event, please contact **Kim Killian**.

### **Annual Artisan Fall Festival**

The fifth Annual Artisan Fall Festival will be held **Saturday, November 1** from 10:00a.m.to 4:00 p.m, and **Sunday, November 2** from noon to 4:00 p.m. Shop for unique crafts from local artisan and buy one-of-a-kind holiday gifts. Mark your calendar and plan to visit on Saturday, or Sunday right after church. ALSO - buy a raffle ticket to win an Artisan Fall Festival shopping spree!! Tickets will be on sale after church.

### **Men's Retreat – "Rites Of Passage"**

The third annual USG Men's Retreat will be held **October 10-12** at the Murray Grove Conference Center in Lanoka Harbor, NJ. Every USG man is invited to attend and experience a wonderful weekend. The activities and workshops will reflect our theme. Past activities have included yoga, hiking, drumming around a bonfire, and poker, topped off by delicious food prepared by Dallis Graham, and worship in the 19th century chapel. Come get to know and bond with the other men in the congregation. The cost for the weekend is \$150. This includes Friday supper, three meals on Saturday and Sunday breakfast. Include a check for \$75 made out to USG, as well as your name, address, telephone, email, and any food restrictions. Give or send to **Hal Krieger**.

### **Drumming Workshop**

Come and participate in a spiritual drumming circle at USG on the second Sunday of each month, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The next workshop will be **Sunday, October 12**. All are welcome. Bring drums and other percussion instruments if you have them. If you have any questions, contact **Wally Moyer**.

### **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 **October 13**; kindly RSVP if you plan to attend.

### **Men's Group**

The Men's Group meets the third **Tuesday** of each month at members' homes to discuss a specific topic. The next meeting will be **October 21** at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call **Hal Krieger** at or email **Wally Moyer**.

### **Friday Morning Book Group**

If you would like to expand your reading choices and discuss them with witty, intelligent people, this book group is for you. It meets monthly on the third Friday at 10:00 a.m. in members' homes. On Oct. 17, we will discuss *Digging to*

*America* by Anne Tyler at the home of Jan Young. Bring a sandwich for lunch and fellowship following the discussion; the hostess provides dessert and beverages. Please call Jan a few days in advance to let her know you are coming. For additional information, contact Cynthia Claus.

Below is the book group's list of meeting dates and books for the remainder of 2008-09; you may be interesting in reading some of them even if you can't join the group:

*Three Cups of Tea*, Greg Mortenson (Nov.21); *Funny in Farsi*, Firoozeh Dumas (Dec.19); *Water for Elephants*, Sara Gruen (Jan.16); *Mao's Last Dancer*, Li Cunxin (Feb 20); *The Gift of RainTan*, Twan Eng (Mar.20); *The Bone Garden*, Tess Gerritsen (Apr.17); *Suite Francaise*, Irene Nemirovsky (May 15); *The Faith Club*, Ranya Idliby (Jun.19); *Alice: Alice Roosevelt Longworth, From White House Princess to Washington Power Broker*, Stacy A. Cordery (Sept.18).

Suggested books which didn't make the cut, but you may want to read: *Uncle Tungsten: Memories of a Chemical Boyhood*, Oliver Sacks; *Dreams from My Father*, Barack Obama; *No God But God*, Reza Aslan; *The Audacity of Hope*, Barack Obama; *Plainsong*, Kent Haruf; *The Peabody Sisters*, Megan Marshall; *Founding Mothers*, Cokie Roberts; *Pearl*, Mary Gordon; *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, Ann Fadiman; *The Glass Castle*, Jeannette Walls; *Quid Pro Quo*, Vicki Grant.

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

### **Attention Genuardi's and Acme Shoppers!**

USG has money electronically deposited into its checking account every month because some members shop at Genuardi's and have registered their cards with eScrip, which rebates 1% of purchases. To participate, members re-register their Genuardi's cards with the eScrip program annually in October. Go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com), click on the big red check mark that says "Click here to renew." Under the prompt "a card registered with the eScrip program," choose "Genuardi's" under "Select card," put in your card number and click "Enter." That's it! No need to fill in any of the other blanks. If you'd prefer the coordinator of the program, Cynthia Claus, to do it for you, just contact her. And thanks!

If you're new to USG, you can sign up for the program by registering your Genuardi's card at your local Genuardi's market or online, using USG's ID # 150400432. Contact **Cynthia Claus** with any problems or questions about this rebate program.

Acme shoppers also get a rebate. Save your Acme receipts and put them in the designated coffee can next to the basket where donated canned goods are collected in the alcove near the exit to the courtyard. Every time you shop, USG benefits!

### **Share the Plate News**

"Share the Plate" is the term we give for the monthly Sunday collection that we give to an organization that does service work in our local area or the wider world. Here is an update of the summer collections:

June	\$807.25	Pottstown fellowship (repair of building after oil leak)
July	\$1,048	UUSC—Myanmar Cyclone Relief
August	\$602.50	Lingelbach School

Our donor organization on **October 19** will be "New Directions for Women." NDFW is residential program as an alternative to incarceration for women, located at 4807 Germantown Ave. Among the many services it provides its women residents are social skill and life management training, psychological assessment and counseling services, adult basic education and GED assistance, job search training and assistance, parenting skills and housing assistance. The women served are between the ages of 30 and 58, with an average of three children, most with a history of substance abuse, mental health issues, and a history of physical, sexual and / or emotional abuse. Most do not have a high school diploma or a GED and a majority have no work history. These are among the most vulnerable and marginal members of our local Philadelphia community and we hope our congregation will generously support this work

Donation nomination forms are available in coffee hour and on the website. We look forward to hearing your ideas for future donor groups. Jude Henzy and Berdine Whedon Smith have rotated off the taskforce and Mark Isaksen has joined us. We are looking for a fourth member. The task force now consists of **Linda Bernstein, Grant Fox,** and **Mark Isaksen.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership Committee**

The next Membership Ceremony will be held on **Sunday, October 19** at 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. For more information, please contact **Steve Niezgoda.**

**WIDER UU WORLD**

**Alliances For Racial Justice**

The Joseph Priestley District’s 4th Annual Racial Justice Conference will be held **Saturday, October 25**, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia (2125 Chestnut Street). Cost is \$35.00 per adult and \$17.00 per youth (fee includes lunch and dinner). There will be transformative worship, workshops, roundtables and caucuses to inform and inspire, as well as opportunities for exchange among congregations district-wide. For full conference information, visit the JPD website: [www.jpduua.org](http://www.jpduua.org).

The prelude to the Racial Justice Conference will be held on **Friday, October 24** at the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia. The Workshop title is "Transforming Our Whiteness". It will be presented by Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer and Rev. Bill Gardiner. There is an additional cost of \$25.00 per person for this workshop.

### **TRASH TO CASH**

Don't forget to bring in your spent printer ink cartridges and used cell phones for our Trash to Cash program. Also, keep those Acme receipts coming in for a 1% rebate.

## **AMONG US**

**Janella** and **Tom Hecker** are new active members of our congregation. They have 2 children, ages 7 and 4.

Janella, who must manage the challenges of MS, is recovering from a recent surgery. It would be a great help to the whole family if we could provide some meals in the next few weeks. Janella and Tom live in Abington, PA. If you are able to help, please contact Janella directly.

Former member Ed Farley and his wife, Sharleenne, are on the board at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Emerald Coast ([www.uufec.com](http://www.uufec.com)), where Ed is currently the Treasure-elect. Ed is a former president of our board and a colonel in the Army Reserves. Their sons, Blake and Glenn were named at USG. Lt. Col. Blake Farley, USAF, is back from Afghanistan and now living with his wife and two daughters in Virginia. Glenn is in his second year at Starr King. We should all note that Ed has graciously offered to host a Germantown UU couple at his place on the Florida panhandle as part of our next service auction. Wait until you see his description of the area in the auction booklet!

Thank you for being part of this caring community,  
*Sarah West, Caring system chairperson*

## **BOARD NOTES**

In the past, I have written that we have to grow out of our budget deficit by increasing our income, primarily from our annual pledge campaign. In recent years the campaigns have been very successful in terms of steadily increasing the amounts raised. Last year's Development Committee, chaired by **Kathy Bonanno** and **Debbie Kish Silver**, and including **Lida Holota, Sally Streibig, Elizabeth Schoonmaker**, and **Leni Windle**, deserve our deepest gratitude.

However, our pledge income has not kept pace with spending. The most dramatic rise in expenses has come from two sources: 1) bringing the wages of our excellent staff up to the standards of the Unitarian Universalist Association for churches our size, and 2) paying our dues in full to the UUA and to that of our region, the Joseph Priestley District. (We had been paying as little as 25% of our dues as recently as three years ago.) The board has determined that not paying these increases, which will amount to about \$60,000 this year, is inconsistent with our Unitarian values of fairness and generosity.

In addition, an analysis of our giving shows that we have a large group of relatively small givers as well as many others who do not seem to be making a

particularly meaningful contribution. For most of us, USG is the most important institution in our lives. Our contributions should reflect that importance.

How do we turn this situation around? The UUA has provided us with a great deal of information at the last three General Assemblies, including best practices from other successful congregations, books by fundraising experts, the advice we received from our consultant Cecilia Kingman Miller, and leaders at USG.

One improvement that has already been made is separation of the pledge drive from other fund raising events, such as the service auction. Having both run by one committee (Development) is just too much for one group. Having two different committees allows each one to spend more time and energy on its specific task.

I am pleased to announce that **Kathy Bonanno** and **Debbie Kish Silver**, who chaired the Development Committee, which ran the Pledge Drive and the Auction, will chair the new Service Auction Committee. I am equally delighted that **Tom Schoonmaker** and **Linda Bernstein** will co-chair our pledge fundraising efforts.

Another significant step is to intensify our work on Stewardship, the concept of generosity as a spiritual commitment that we began a few years ago. Stewardship 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. This will enable us to begin meeting the financial needs of the church AND support our members in their financial concerns.

Stewardship is a new way to approach the role money plays in our religious values and spiritual lives. It is an ongoing discussion of what our church means to us and what our commitment is to it and the other members of the congregation. In keeping with this new focus on financial commitment and generosity, we are renaming the Development Committee, the Stewardship Committee.

I look forward to joining you on our Stewardship journey in the coming months and years.

Thank UUs this month go to:

\*The Unitariana Committee for its work on the historic Unitariana Collection and in shepherding the collection's successful sale.

\***Ursa Vincent** and the Ending Racism Committee for coordinating the sessions on "How are issues of race currently impacting our children."

\***Jake Michael** and the Land Stewardship Committee for keeping our grounds spiffy this summer.

\***Linda** and **Mark Bernstein** for hosting the July 27 Membership Committee reception.

\***Linda O'Gwynn** and the Strategic Planning Council for their work on the USG Master Plan.

Sam Gugino  
President, Board of Trustees

## 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 [kmatthies@verizon.net](mailto:kmatthies@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 **October 2008** CommUUnicator Deadline is **Sunday, October 12**

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 **October 12**. Flyers must be submitted to the USG office  
by the CommUUnicator deadline.

Submit material in 11 pt. Verdana when possible.

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Minister: Rev. Kent Matthies

Editors: Peggy Bruton, Cynthia Claus, Sue Couch, Delores Hill, Edna Jones  
Coordinator: Sue Couch

## USG OCTOBER 2008 CALENDAR

Wednesday	10/1	12:30 p.m.	Out to Lunch
Wednesday	10/1	7:00 p.m.	Green Sanctuary
Sunday	10/5	12:30 p.m.	UU History
Monday	10/6	7:30 p.m.	Earth Honoring Traditions
Tuesday	10/7	7:30 p.m.	A New Earth
Wednesday	10/8	7:30 p.m.	Buildings & Grounds Committee
Sunday	10/12	9:30 a.m.	UU 101
Sunday	10/12	6:00 p.m.	Drumming Circle
Monday	10/13	7:30 p.m.	Women's Spirituality Singing Circle
Wednesday	10/15	7:00 p.m.	Ending Racism
Wednesday	10/15	7:30 p.m.	Just the Two of Us...
Wednesday	10/15	7:30 p.m.	Storytelling Workshop
Friday	10/17	7:15 p.m.	Friday Night Films
Sunday	10/19	9:30 a.m.	UU 102
Sunday	10/19	9:30 a.m.	Meditation Circle
Sunday	10/19	12:00 p.m.	UN Sunday
Sunday	10/19	12:30 p.m.	UU History
Monday	10/20	7:00 p.m.	Parents as Social Justice Educators
Tuesday	10/21	7:30 p.m.	A New Earth
Friday	10/24	6:00 p.m.	Pumpkin Carving Party
Sunday	10/26	8:30 a.m.	Buddhist Meditation
Monday	10/27	7:00 p.m.	Parents as Social Justice Educators
Monday	10/27	7:30 p.m.	Exploring Deep Ecology
Tuesday	10/28	7:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees