

FOCUS

January 2009

Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County

UUCDC is a liberal religious community where young and old, partnered and single, gay and straight, skeptic and believer, people diverse in background and race, come together to build a better world for ourselves, our children and the larger community. We invite those who share these values to join us for Sunday services and for events listed in this newsletter.

145 W. Rose Tree Road
Media, PA 19063
(610) 566-4853
www.uucdc.org

E-mail:

churchoffice@uucdc.org

**Sunday Services,
Nursery Care &
Church School**

(PreSchool - 8th)

10:30 a.m. Sept.-June



FROM THE MINISTER

"Community is the native climate of the human spirit. It is for this reason that we seem most our true selves when we are deeply involved in relations with other selves."
Howard Thurman

If you ask any group of Unitarian Universalists what drew them to the church and what keeps them coming back time and time again, most of them will likely give you some variation of the response: "the community."

While sermons may be stimulating, worship services fulfilling, and social justice work gratifying, it is the strong sense of belonging, of feeling like part of a whole, a sense of "coming home" that brings us and keeps us together. Amidst all our differences -- theological, political, economic, cultural -- our common commitment to community is the glue that holds our church together.

This commitment is reflected in our statement of Principles, where we agree to affirm and promote "acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations." In the words of Howard Thurman, "this is the very stuff on which the soul feeds; for it is the door through which one enters into the Holy of Holies where God dwells."

Through our associations with one another, we learn and grow. As we become closer to others, so do we become more familiar with our authentic selves. The deeper our relationships, the more gratifying. If we are, as our Principles state, a faith community committed to "the free and responsible search for truth and meaning," we must admit that that search can only be conducted in relationship. While part of our spiritual journey may involve meditation, prayer, or another solitary practice, to discover the treasures of truth and meaning we

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January Services at 10:30 AM

Jan. 4: Rev. Peter, "Big Question Sunday," see page 3.

Jan. 11: Guest speaker, Tara Stephenson, member of the UU Church of the Lehigh Valley, Bethlehem, PA.

Jan. 18: Rev. Peter: Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Jan. 25: Rev. Peter. Congregational Meeting follows immediately after service.

Who's Who**Staff****Rev. Peter A. Friedrichs,**
Minister**Chris Schroth,**
Music Director**Rina Jurceka,**
Administrator**Chrissy Drummond,**
Administrative Assistant**Jason Schafer-Valerius,**
Accompanist**Marge Caton**
Event Coordinator**Jack Shaffer,** Sexton**Meghan Pomeroy, Kristine
Baney, & Ly Wang**
Child care**Board of Trustees****Mark Bernstein,**
President**Donna Harris,**
Vice President**Dino Ramos,**
Treasurer**Julie Chuplis,**
Secretary**Marylin Huff****Mike Mitchell****Jean Wallace****From the Minister**

(Continued from page 1)

must do so bound together, like hikers on an alpine peak, urging each other ever onward. The religious quest is not a solo voyage.

As Unitarian Universalists, we pride ourselves on our ability to remain in community while holding a diversity of understandings and beliefs. But in my experience, we are much less willing to share and engage our differences than we are ready to acknowledge their existence. And for this we are all the lesser. As a community we need to learn how to have the difficult conversations, and to remain a community when we disagree. And as a religious community, we are called to discover ways to grow, personally and spiritually, together, learning with each other and from each other.

This month you will hear about two ways we can deepen our relationships with each other. The Committee on Ministry will be introducing a proposed "Covenant of Right Relations" (see article, page 6). Considering this Covenant will provide us with opportunities to discuss how we can remain in faithful, loving community, even when we are in disagreement or conflict with each other. The end result of these discussions should be an agreement we make with each other that will provide us with a "touchstone" for our actions and behaviors in the future.

January also will see a "re-launch" of our Small Group Ministry program. On Sunday, January 25 we shall celebrate the connections in our community and learn how they are enhanced by participation in Small Groups. These groups meet regularly. Each group has a facilitator and between six and 12 members, holding each other to a covenant of participation, honesty and confidentiality. Each meeting includes a "check-in" followed by a discussion on an agreed-upon topic of meaning and importance. These groups provide the opportunity for the exploration of personal beliefs and experiences and the growth of deep bonds among members. The groups also participate periodically in a service project to benefit the church or an outreach opportunity.

Through these groups, members minister to each other and to the wider community. We now have more than a dozen trained facilitators who are prepared to head new groups, and our Small Group Ministry. Team Leaders (Joyce McKee, Marylin Huff and Jean Shatoff) will be providing an opportunity for you to learn more about and to sign up for Small Groups in January and February.

Let us resolve in the New Year to empower and enable "our true selves to become deeply involved with other selves, for this is the very stuff on which the soul feeds." May none of us go hungry.

Love,

*Peter***FOCUS INFO:****Editors:**Bette Austin
& Neil Goldstein**Production:**

Rina Jurceka

The deadline for February is January 19.Please send your text
via email to:**Focus@uucdc.org**or put it in Rina Jurceka's
mail slot, in the church
office.Focus Folding, 10 a.m.
January 30. Come help!

**Don't forget. Congregational
Meeting immediately following the
service on January 25th.**

BOARD PERSPECTIVES: A MESSAGE WITH BITE

From President Mark Bernstein

Consider the shark.

These massive beasts of the ocean that can grow to a length of 16 feet and weigh well over 2,000 pounds have been the stuff of legends ever since Steven Spielberg scared the water out of us in his landmark movie, "Jaws."

One of the interesting things about sharks is that they will sink if they stop swimming. Other types of fish have a special part called a swim bladder that is filled with air or gas. When the fish wants to float, it adds air to the swim bladder; when it wants to sink, it releases air. The shark, however, doesn't have a swim bladder, so it must keep swimming, using a technique called "dynamic lift," or gravity will pull its body downward. Dynamic lift is created by using the shark's pectoral fins in a manner similar to the use of wings by airplanes and birds.

In a similar way, our congregation needs to keep moving forward not only to survive, but to thrive. If we allow ourselves to become stagnant, if we lose our incentive and our motivation to be the best we can be, we begin to sink. It is through this phenomenon of dynamic lift that we achieve greatness as a church community.

So what makes this dynamic lift? I believe a number of things: Our willingness to be mindful of each other and to treat each other with kindness and respect; our commitment to the overall health and well-being of our church organization; our sense of fellowship and community when we are together; our willingness to roll up our sleeves and do the sometimes hard work of running a church. All these actions represent our "pectoral fins" and make it possible for us to continue moving forward.

Over the past month, I have had the good fortune, as have many of you, to attend two extraordinary services: the Thanksgiving service on November 23 and the "Deck the Halls" extravaganza on December 7. In both services, the feeling of belonging, of being part of a loving community, was palpable. Did you feel it too? This was clear evidence of dynamic lift, of our pectoral fins working at maximum capacity.

Let's keep swimming together, never forgetting that our compassion and our love for each other are always paramount. They will help us to navigate uncharted and sometimes dangerous waters. They will keep us afloat. They will allow us to keep moving forward with confidence, enthusiasm and hope.

With respect,
Mark

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"Big Question" Sundays

? January 4, Rev. Peter will begin a monthly sermon series called "Big Question" Sundays. On these days, his sermon will seek to explore and address topics of deep theological significance, such as the nature of the Divine, discovering the purpose of our lives, and where we find salvation. Rev. Peter's first topic, will be "Our Search for Meaning."

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Monthly Statement: How We're Doing Financially

Here is our monthly financial update, meant to make thinking and talking about finances a regular part of being a church member.

As of the end of November, total income was \$144,922 versus a budget of \$154,767, so we were \$9,845 below expectations. Total expenses were \$130,828 compared with the budget of \$154,543, or \$23,715 below budget.

We ended the first five months of our fiscal year with a surplus of \$14,094. The amount was due in part to the success of our November auction fundraiser.

Actual pledges were \$100,016, short of the \$117,625 budget. That comes to \$17,609 below budget. Through the first five months of our fiscal year, we have collected 35.5% of our total annual budgeted pledge amount of \$282,000.

To assist with our cash flow, we encourage

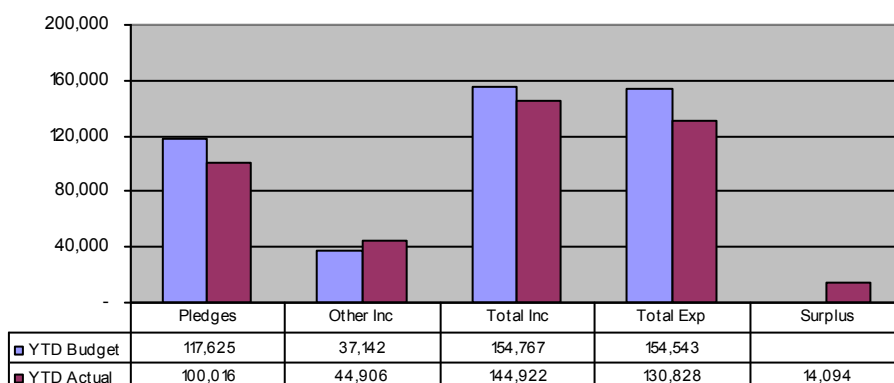
Introducing Our Ministry Teams: Part 1

This is the first of a five-part series on our ministry teams. The teams are part of our new Policy Governance structure. Essentially made up of committees or ad hoc groups with a common purpose, the five teams report to the lead minister through the Lay Leadership Council. They are: *Spiritual Growth and Enrichment, Community Outreach, Membership Growth and Vitality, Congregational Care & Stewardship.*

The goal of the Spiritual Growth and Enrichment Team is to "support the spiritual growth and enrichment of the congregation through programs and activities." Jean Lenke is the team lead, with Ed Krizek as alternate. The committees composing this team are:

Religious Education Council – Chaired by Rich Cairncross, the council provides general oversight for all RE efforts. This year, over 63 children and 28 youth are involved in RE. One of the program's major accomplishments this church year was implementing a system to accommodate children with special needs. The

Income & Expenses - As of October 31, 2008



members to make monthly contributions toward their annual pledge commitments. Also, members should make sure to take advantage of making additional contributions before Dec. 31, so they can deduct these contributions on their 2008 federal income-tax returns.

council also supports Adult RE. Led by Loretta Orndorff, it has put together a large and varied set of offerings for the winter/spring (see article on page 7).

Small Group Ministry – Joyce McKee, Jean Shatoff and Marilyn Huff are the leaders. They are working with Rev. Peter to make the program a more integral part of church life.

Music – This program, which includes the chorus, is run by staff member Chris Schroth. A Music Committee is being formed.

Worship Services Group -- Primarily composed of the Worship Associates, this group supports Rev. Peter in presenting our services. New Worship Associates are welcome.

To learn more about the Spiritual Growth and Enrichment Ministry Team, visit the Adult RE and Small Group Ministry sign-up tables during coffee after the services in January.

Board Notes: December Update

As the New Year approaches, the Board has some good news to share: UUCDC member Peter Cooke has agreed to join the Board, filling the position recently vacated by Bryan Boosz. Through our by-laws, Peter will serve as an interim board member until he is elected to fulfill the remainder of the term by a members' vote at the Congregational Meeting in January.

December's meeting also brought progress on the Board's goal of implanting Policy Governance. The Board approved a new policy on the conduct of board members, which addresses such issues as avoiding conflicts of interest and respecting confidentiality on sensitive issues. The policy (to be part of our revised bylaws) includes a new Board Covenant that provides guidelines for ensuring open, caring, and respectful communication on the Board. To continue the by-laws revision process, the Board formed two new board subcommittees: Julie Chuplis and Marylin Huff will draft new policy on monitoring the Board's performance, while Dino Ramos and Mark Bernstein will develop a policy for monitoring the lead minister's performance.

The Board also heard an update on the Annual Fund Drive from co-chair Bill Clinton who said the drive will kick off in early February with a special event for church leaders, who will be asked first to make their pledges. The Congregation-wide Fund Drive then will begin in March. Another guest at the Board meeting, Craig Harris of the Community Outreach Ministry Team, discussed the ongoing effort by his and other ministry teams to assess their activities with respect to the Ends Statements.

The Board also discussed the preliminary agenda for the Congregational Meeting on January 25 after the services. In addition to membership votes to elect the Board President, Vice President, and approve a full term for Peter Cooke, the meeting will include discussion and a vote on the corrective plan to pay back compensation to Rev. Peter Friedrichs, who was inadvertently paid less than the Search Committee had offered him in 2006. (Rev. Peter's salary and benefits recently were corrected going forward, but a Congregational vote is needed to approve payment of back compensation he is owed.) Another important topic will be discussion of UUCDC's commitment to becoming a Fair Compensation Congregation to ensure fair

and equitable compensation for church staff, in keeping with our Social Justice Ends Statement.

Our Stewardship Ends Statement calls on us to "create beloved community within and beyond our walls." Toward that End, the Board voted to support the nomination of the two candidates (Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman and Rev. Peter Morales) for the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) president in 2009. This action was not made to support a particular candidate, but rather to show our church's engagement in the wider democratic process within the UUA. In the months ahead, more information will be provided on both candidates, and the congregation will vote to express its preference for one of the candidates at the May Congregational Meeting. That way, our delegates to the General Assembly will know whom the church supports and how to cast their votes.

Finally, the Board and Rev. Peter would like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals for sharing time, talent, and treasures within the church community.

- ◆ Skip Seelaus and Laurie Cooke, and all the volunteers who worked to make the annual auction such a successful event.
- ◆ Members of the RE Council for their efforts in ensuring the delivery of a quality RE program in the absence of a DRE.
- ◆ Laura Fetterman, who coordinated the reception for Jean Campbell on her last day as DRE.
- ◆ Marylin Huff and Nancy Henderson, who, as worship associates, have stepped in to lead Children's Chapel in the absence of a DRE.
- ◆ Penny Bartlett, Leigh Mitchell, Gail Freedman, and Lori Rice-Spring, as well as all the workshop leaders, who made the 2008 "Deck the Hall" service another wonderful, community-building event.
- ◆ Priscilla Hopkirk and her "elves" -- Marge Caton, Regina Pound and Carol Seeley— for sponsoring and coordinating the Adopt a Family program.

Jean Wallace

for the Board

Another Step Forward for Us: A Covenant of Right Relations

A covenant is a mutual promise of agreement between parties. Last year our congregation developed its Mission-Covenant Statement through a lengthy and fruitful process in which more than half of our members participated. Many of UUCDC's committees begin their meetings by reading the statement to set the tone for their work together.

A Covenant of Right Relations, sometimes known as a Behavioral Covenant, is a statement of how members of a congregation strive to support and work with each other to create a living, growing spiritual community. A large number of UU and other congregations have adopted such covenants. The goal is to provide clear statements about how the congregation's principles are demonstrated through its actions.

The covenant does not consist of rules with penalties, but rather guidelines as to how the members, staff, lay leadership and minister will act with one another. Within an atmosphere of trust, differences of opinion and their resolutions through compromise or consensus can enhance a sense of community. Ultimately, it is the way we treat each other that reveals who and what we are

as a church family. Developing a Covenant of Right Relations is an important step in clarifying our expectations of each other and enhancing the well-being of our congregation.

The Committee on Ministry believes that developing a Covenant of Right Relations is a logical next step following our recent series of Living Our Covenant discussions about the Mission-Covenant's Ends Statements.

To begin the process, committee members have been studying Covenants of Right Relations from many UU churches. Next, we will prepare a draft document, and will plan a series of opportunities beginning in January for meaningful discussion of the draft and of what Right Relations means to us as a faith community.

We look forward to the fellowship that will be engendered by this endeavor.

Get Ready for the First Annual Chili, Chocolate, Homebrew Challenge

Winter is definitely here! And what better time than 6 pm January 24 to warm up at the First Annual Chili, Chocolate Homebrew Challenge?

If you haven't signed up yet, what are you waiting for? Get the beer brewing, practice your favorite chili and chocolate recipes, and get prepared for an evening of enjoyable competition and taste-testing.

We are trying to get all our entrants signed up far in advance so we can plan accordingly. We shall have a guest panel of downtown Media people who will pick our official winners in the following categories: traditional chili; white meat chili; vegetarian chili; chocolate desserts; homebrewed beers.

There will be small gifts and prizes for all

participants. Kids are welcome to enter, too. Most of all, we hope there will be a big turnout of those who want to taste these memorable goodies. Sign up in the lobby at church if you plan to attend, even if you're not an entrant. Helpers who wish to take part in setting up and cleaning up before and after the Challenge are also needed.

If you need more information or wish to enter your winning chili, chocolate desserts, or homebrew in the competition, contact the church office.

Remember to mark your calendars now for this festive evening of fellowship.

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

From the Religious Education Council

It is with some sadness that I am writing this FOCUS article, because for the last two and a half years, Jean Campbell, wrote the RE article for FOCUS. Jean resigned her position as director of Religious Education a few weeks ago. On behalf of the Religious Education program at UUCDC, I would like to extend our warm thanks to Jean for all she accomplished as DRE. Our RE program is certainly much stronger because of Jean's leadership.

We are now in a time of transition. The Personnel Committee is interviewing candidates for an interim -DRE position and a committee has been formed to begin the search for a permanent director. During the transition many volunteers have stepped up to maintain our RE program, so that the participants in the programs should not notice a difference.

Loretta Orndorff is the leader of our Adult RE program, Marge Caton is the leader of our Youth Programs, and Tabby Parsons is the leader of our Sunday School. Any specific questions about these programs should be directed first to the program leaders. Other issues can be directed to me or Rev. Peter.

Our RE programs will continue to be vibrant and active. In January watch for OWL orientations, Adult RE sign-ups, and some transitions in the Sunday School teaching teams.

We are grateful to all the volunteers who are teaching, mentoring, facilitating, and assisting in our RE program.

Rich Cairncross

Chair of Religious Education Council

Adult Religious Education

RE is not just for kids!

Registration for all winter/spring 2009 courses will be:

- ◆ In person, after services in Fellowship Hall the entire month of January.
- ◆ By email: assistant@uucdc.org
- ◆ By phone: Chrissy Drummond: 610-566-4853, ext. 4.

Full course descriptions are available at the UUCDC website: <http://uucdc.org/adultre.html>.

The lineup of courses for Adult Religious Education offers something for everyone.

Spirit of Life: First and third Thursdays from January through May, 7-9 pm. Rev. Peter's Spirit in Practice course was held during the Fall; Spirit of Life is another excellent course in the Tapestry of Faith series.

The Spirit of Life program seeks to bring meaning, beauty, inclusiveness and growth to Unitarian Universalist adults as they deepen

their spiritual awareness and connections.

Yoga: Tuesdays, 5:45-7:30 pm; fee, \$3 per class (100% of proceeds go to UUCDC). Suzanne Clauser teaches and leads a class loosely based on Kripalu yoga.

Principled Commitment: A course for adult Unitarian Universalist couples, March 21, 9 am-1 pm. Facilitator: Larry Schwab, who will lead this workshop for adult couples on Commitment, part of the Tapestry of Faith curricula.

Belly Dancing Workshop: Sunday, March 21, 2-4 pm. Fee, \$20; facilitator: Irene Reinke. Belly dancing was adapted from traditional and private dance among women in the Middle East and was originally a dance in celebration of womanhood, a dance by women and for women.

T'ai Chi—A Moving Meditation: First, second and third Mondays, 7:30-8:45 pm. Dates are: Feb. 2, 9, 16; Mar. 2, 9, 16; Apr. 6, 13, 20; May 4, 11, 18. Facilitator: David Child. Walk-ins welcomed. Fee: \$7 per class.

David will facilitate an hour of class, with the first 20 minutes providing instruction and the remainder supporting student work.

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Relief Group Returns From Big Easy

Regina Pound reports on the recent trip by the Katrina Relief Group:

The group returned on Nov. 24 from what most members said was the best of our five Katrina relief trips.

Support and contributions from UUCDCers were much appreciated by both the team and the New Orleans homeowners we helped.

Having only 11 people in the group made it much easier to make meals, arrange rides, and gather in the evenings to reflect on our work. It also made it easier to have rewarding conversations with the homeowners.

Of the 11, two were from UUCDC -- Carol Wertley and myself. Four of the others were also UUs, from First Church in Philadelphia. Our housing in a former day-care center run by United Methodists offered all the trappings, without the glitter, of a five-star hotel: a helpful staff, a large kitchen and bathrooms, hot showers, bunk beds with comfortable mattresses, and free use of a washer and dryer. Best of all, our little group had the run of the place.

During our weeklong visit, most of us worked mainly on two houses, spackling, installing insulation and sanding drywall.

At one home, the owner was living in an adjacent trailer. She had been working two jobs until she suffered a heart attack, and was in the hospital while we were there. The owner of the other house was in great need, living in a neighborhood with drug dealers who had been trying to steal his new appliances. He was depressed and suffered from emphysema, exacerbated by living in a trailer containing formaldehyde.

We were fortunate to have a carpenter and a jack-of-all trades in our midst. With others helping, the carpenter installed kitchen cabinets in three houses. One woman was thrilled beyond words to be in her new kitchen just before Thanksgiving after having done dishes in her bathtub since 2006. We shared a pot-roast dinner with three of the homeowners one night.

We worked, but we played too.

Our trip coincided with New Orleans' first Art Biennial, spread among 25 sites. We particularly enjoyed the installations in the museums and in the hard-hit Lower Ninth Ward.

We also heard some nationally known musicians, including an amazing concert with Ellis Marsalis on piano and son Jason on drums. The next night we were stopped dead in our tracks by the inimitable, booming voice of Marva Wright coming out of the CoCo Club on Bourbon St. Front-row seats, no cover charge. She sang a moving new piece called "Katrina Blues."

Another serendipitous moment occurred during a visit to a family for whom we had previously arranged a house through Habitat for Humanity. As we arrived in their Lower Ninth neighborhood, a joyous parade was underway. On that beautiful Saturday, neighbors were hugging and high-fiving, many wearing Obama T-shirts.

We always find that our work is only part of the rich experience in New Orleans. What keeps taking us back are ongoing relationships with the residents, awareness of their great needs, and our desire to patronize the restaurants and shops to help get this unique city back on its feet.

Save the Date for " Kindling the Flame IV"

The Philadelphia Wilmington Growth Team of the Joseph Priestley District will hold its fourth annual "Kindling the Flame" workshop, Saturday, Feb. 21 at UUCDC.

Theme for the workshop is "Our Compelling Message." The day's program will focus on two topics: Fundraising in difficult times, and raising awareness.

Dr. Wayne Clark, the UUA's director of Congregational Stewardship Services, will be keynote speaker.

More details to follow in the February FOCUS.

Caring Corner

(Continued from page 7)

Junto: Feb. 15, Mar. 15, Apr. 19, May 17, 7 pm. Facilitator: Charlie Pell, a UUCDC member, who will lead discussions on such topics as: When is it acceptable to lie? Ever? Are we really free to believe what we want to believe?

Socially Responsible Investing: Mar. 10, 17, 31, 7-9 pm. Facilitator: Patti Fiske. Patti writes: "Whether you believe it or not, we are all 'in the Market.' How can we make a better match between our investments and our UU principles?"

Poetry Workshop: Feb. 3, 10, 17, 7-9 pm. Facilitator: Ed Krizek, who will lead the workshops on these subjects: Occasional Poetry; Political Poetry; A Poet's Life.

Shifting Gears: Rethinking Masculinity in Lives of Boys and Men Facilitators: Robert Heasley, Ph.D., and Betsy Crane. Fee: \$10.

❖ March 1, Opening event and reception for a Photo Gallery Exhibit on men's friendships and the exploration of deepening men's relationships with men and others in their lives. Robert Heasley is host.

❖ March 28, 10 am- noon. Robert and Betsy will facilitate a workshop: "Raising Boys". Fee: \$10.

❖ Sundays, March 8, 15, 22, 29, 7-9 pm. "Finding Our Way," a discussion group for men about relationships with themselves, other men, and others in their lives, led by Robert . Fee: \$10.

Chi Walking: Apr. 18, 9 am-1 pm. Facilitator: Craig Strimel. Fee: \$100.

Chi Running: May 23, 9 am-1 pm; Facilitator: Craig Strimel. Fee: \$100.

Chi Walking and Chi Running offer an entirely new approach to walking and running for exercise. For more information: www.chiwalking.com.

Report From Denominational Affairs

Among many denominational considerations for the New Year, are the 2009 General Assembly elections in Salt Lake City of a new UUA President, Moderator, and other positions.

Two candidates for President are Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman and Rev. Peter Morales. See the Board Update on nominating presidential candidates for church endorsement, page 5.

A copy of "Peacemaking: A Draft Unitarian Universalist Statement of Conscience (SOC), November 2008" is included in this FOCUS. At our Congregational Meeting, January 25, there will be an agenda item for us to vote on whether we believe the draft SOC is worded well enough to be considered by the

General Assembly, as refined by congregational comment before and during the 2009 General Assembly.

For the SOC to appear on the 2009 General Assembly final agenda, our Unitarian Universalist Association bylaws required a minimum of 25 per cent of certified congregations to participate in the ballot vote.

Please read the document and visit the following website: <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/56346.shtml> for more information.

ARTS, BOOKS & MUSIC

What's 'One Book' for UUCDC?

In support of this church year's Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression, Multicultural Initiative, Interweave will host "One Book UUCDC" this spring.

Yes, that's one book, for all readers who wish to participate.

Interweave is the church's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning & Ally support and social group. It has chosen a rich anthology of short stories and novel excerpts titled *Go the Way Your Blood Beats: An Anthology of Lesbian and Gay Fiction by African-American Writers*, edited by Shawn Stewart Ruff.

Organized by themes, the writings include works by James Baldwin, Alice Walker, Sapphire, Gloria Naylor, Randall Kenan and many more. Sign-ups will start in January, and paperbacks will be available for sale and order.

"One Book" lunch meetings will begin in March, and the event will end with a potluck dinner and reflection. Watch for dates and times in the Sunday Order of Service and the weekly e-mail Digest.

January Event to Write Home About—Annual Opera Gala

UUCDC's 11th annual Opera Gala will be held Jan. 17, 7:30 pm.

Fellowship Hall will be transformed into an elegant, candlelit cabaret setting, where you will enjoy an evening of favorite arias and beautiful duets, sung by local classically-trained singers.

Accompanist is William J. Gatens, who has been accompanying the Opera Gala since 2003. A graduate of Swarthmore College and Oxford University, Dr. Gatens, has been organist-choirmaster since 1991 at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Rosemont. In 2001 he became organist for Congrega-

tion Adath Jeshurun in Elkins Park. He has been writing for the American Record Guide since 1990, with a specialty in organ and sacred choral music. From 1986-1997 he was announcer for WFLN, Philadelphia's classical music station.

The Opera Gala is sponsored by the Arts Council. Admission includes delectable hors d'oeuvres and soft beverages. BYOB permitted. Tickets are \$10 per person and only available at the door.

For Book Club in a Chilly Month, 'The Winter Queen'

The UUCDC Book Club is reading *The Winter Queen* by Boris Akunin for its Jan. 23 meeting.

Akunin is relatively unknown here, but widely popular in Russia. *The Winter Queen* is a novel of international conspiracy and intrigue that takes place in 19th-century Russia -- a good book for the coldest time of the year!

The club read and discussed *Red River* by Lalita Tademy for its December meeting. Tademy, who is African American, left her position as an executive for Sun Microsystems to investigate and write about her family history. The research resulted in two novels, *Cane River* and *Red River*.

Red River takes place shortly after the Civil War in Colfax, La., where newly freed slaves defending the courthouse were massacred by members of the White League, which would become the KKK.

Tademy traces the struggle and rise of her family from this event through the 1930s.

Did you know that reading books helps to lessen stress in your life and can improve social skills such as empathizing with others? Reading for pleasure and sharing your thoughts with others is a spiritual experience that improves the mind, broadens horizons, and is inexpensive to boot. It also beats talking about the weather!

Our co-ed club is open to everyone. How about reading *The Winter Queen* and joining us at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 23 in the Youth Room? See the notice on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for more details, or look for us on the church website, uucdc.org.

On Feb. 8, Let's Discuss 'Racial Paranoia'

What is "racial paranoia"?

Find out when John Jackson Jr. discusses his book *Racial Paranoia: The Unintended Consequences of Political Correctness* here at 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8. The talk, which promises to be lively and interactive, is part of UUCDC's Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression, Multi-Cultural Initiative.

Jackson explores instances of racism amid a modern culture in which such issues are often swept under the rug. He contends that it no longer is politically correct to expose inner feelings that might be deemed racist, and that the lack of frankness keeps our society from moving forward.

He cites examples of well-known situations, such as comedian Dave Chapelle's abrupt departure from Comedy Central, to support his points.

Yo UUCDCERS

MLK Activities at Germantown Unitarian

The Unitarian Society of Germantown once again will host the Martin Luther King Day of Service, Monday, Jan. 19 at the church, 6511 Lincoln Drive, Philadelphia.

Coffee and doughnuts will be served at 8:30 am in the dining room while participants sign up for a special project of their choice. A short worship service will follow at 9 am. It's off to the work site at 9:30 and return to USG for a free lunch and wrap-up at 12:30 pm. A list of age-appropriate projects will be available.

For those with special needs or with other questions contact Nancy Dearden: 1--215-836-1240 or nancy.dearden@verizon.net.

Cedar Lane Offers Inauguration B&B Hosting

Members of Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, Bethesda, MD, and the congregation will host visitors who go to Washington, DC for the inauguration of Barack Obama. Visitors may stay Monday, Jan. 19, and Tuesday, Jan. 20, with additional nights possible.



Jackson is the Richard Perry University Associate Professor of Communications and Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania. As a documentary filmmaker and prominent scholar of anthropology and communications,

Jackson sheds light on issues surrounding race, racism, and class in a society that too many view as post-racist.

Jackson is the author of several books as well as the producer of a variety of documentaries. Before going to Penn, he was an associate professor in the department of cultural anthropology at Duke University.

Visitors have the choice of casual accommodations (warm and carpeted space in the church for your own sleeping bags, with access to bathrooms and showers at \$25/night/person) or space in members' homes (a guest room at \$100 per night, per person). Additional members of a party receive a 10 per cent discount.

Hosts, both at-church and in-home, will provide a continental breakfast and directions or transportation to and from the nearest Metro station.

All proceeds benefit Cedar Lane's Social Justice Program, the Partner Church Committee, a New Orleans Work Trip, Social Justice Council, and the operating budget of the church with 75 per cent going to social justice programs.

To register, return the registration form (two copies are on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall) by January 5, accompanied by full payment. You may also reserve directly by phone with the B&B Registrar, Arlene Schneider, 240-447-5361, with mailed form and full payment to follow by January 5, 2009.

For general information about this program, please telephone Rev. Heather Janules, assistant minister, 301-493-8300, ext. 204 or email: hjanules@cedarlane.org.

On Sunday, Jan. 18, we will observe Martin Luther King Day in our service and through our action. The children will hold a "large RE" program that will help to educate them about Dr. King's life and legacy and will engage them in artistic expression and participation. Following the Sunday Service, adults will be invited to join our children in preparing banners and signs in preparation for the Media Martin Luther King Day event in the afternoon.

After sharing a time of fellowship and food, we will gather at Media Fellowship House and join other faith communities in a march to the United Methodist Church, where the 20th annual Martin Luther King Day observance will be held. Our own Music Director, Chris Schroth, will direct a multifaith chorus that will perform at the service. She invites all UU/CDCers to participate. Please contact Chris for information about rehearsals.

On the eve of the inauguration of Barack Obama as our first African-American President, this day presents us with multiple opportunities to examine Dr. King's dream then, now, and in the future.

Martin Luther King Sunday Celebration



**Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County
145 W. Rose Tree Road, Media, PA 19063**

Focus

January 2009

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Calendar

January 2009*

Date	Name of Event	Time			
1/1	IHN Moharram	5:00 PM 5:00 PM	1/9	Muslims	7:00 PM
1/2	IHN Moharram	5:00 PM 5:00 PM	1/10	Muslims Coming of Age Dinner Party	9:30 AM 3:30 PM
1/3	Wedding Rental IHN Middle School Moharram	1:00 PM 5:00 PM 5:00 PM 5:00 PM	1/11	Worship Service & RE YUCKI Lunch Cakes for Queen Personnel Committee RE Teacher Planning OWL Orientation MLK Chorus Rehearsal	10:30 AM 11:30 AM 12:00 PM 12:00 PM 12:00 PM 12:30 PM 1:00 PM
1/4	Worship Service & RE Cakes for Queen Coming of Age Mentors MLK Chorus Rehearsal IHN Moharram Coming of Age Independent Catholics YUCKI Thespis	10:30 AM 12:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 PM 5:00 PM 5:00 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM	1/12	Voice Lesson Rental Thespis Board Opera Gala Rehearsal	8:00 AM 7:00 PM 7:15 PM 7:15 PM
1/5	Voice Lesson Rental Moharram Religious Education Council Thespis Adult RE- Tai Chi	8:00 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	1/13	YOGA DBSA	5:45 PM 7:00 PM
1/6	YOGA Fair Compensation Task Force Social Justice	5:45 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	1/14	Muslims ADORE Media Chamber Chorale	6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM
1/7	Muslims Interweave	6:00 PM 7:15 PM	1/15	Chorus	7:30 PM
1/8	Small Group Ministry Small Group Ministry Spirit of Life Chorus	1:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	1/16	Muslims Poetry Slam Opera Gala Rehearsal	7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:15 PM
			1/17	Muslims Opera Gala Set Up International Supper Club Opera Gala - 11th Annual Concert	9:30 AM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM
			1/18	Worship Service & RE	10:30 AM



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145 W. Rose Tree Road, Media, PA 19063

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	Cakes for Queen	12:00 PM		Thespis	7:00 PM
	Coming of Age Advisors	12:00 PM		Coming of Age Movie	8:00 PM
	MLK Chorus Rehearsal	12:30 PM			
	OWL Orientation	12:30 PM			
	Coming of Age	6:00 PM	1/26	Voice Lesson Rental	8:00 AM
	Independent Catholics	6:00 PM		Lay Leadership Council	7:00 PM
	YUCKI	6:00 PM		Thespis	7:00 PM
	Thespis	7:00 PM		RTDS Board	7:15 PM
1/19	Voice Lesson Rental	8:00 AM	1/27	YOGA	5:45 PM
	DRE AC	7:00 PM		DBSA	7:00 PM
	Thespis	7:00 PM			
	Adult RE- Tai Chi	7:30 PM	1/28	Muslims	6:00 PM
				AA District 54	7:30 PM
1/20	YOGA	5:45 PM		Media Chamber Chorale	7:30 PM
	Membership Council	7:00 PM			
			1/29	Chorus	7:30 PM
1/21	Muslims	6:00 PM			
	Media Chamber Chorale	7:30 PM	1/30	COA- Murry Grove	12:00 PM
				Muslims	7:00 PM
1/22	Spirit of Life	7:00 PM		Pagans	7:00 PM
	Chorus	7:30 PM			
			1/31	COA- Murray Grove	
1/23	Rental	6:00 PM			
	Muslims	7:00 PM			
	Book Club	7:30 PM			
1/24	Stewardship Leadership Training	10:00 AM			
	Chili Cookoff	6:00 PM			
1/25	Worship Service & RE	10:30 AM			
	Congregational Meeting	11:45 AM			
	Coming of Age Parents	6:00 PM			
	Independent Catholics	6:00 PM			
	YUCKI	6:00 PM			