

FOCUS

February 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.

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

(PreSchool - 8th)

10:30 a.m. Sept.-June



FROM THE MINISTER

Unwittingly, it seems to have become something of a family tradition for Irene and me to order Girl Scout cookies separately, and without telling each other. She orders them from children at her school, I order from children at church, and we invariably end up with twice as many boxes of cookies as we'd wanted.

So, here we sit again with a freezer full of cookies begging to be eaten. I'm finding that it takes tremendous discipline not to grab a sleeve of Thin Mints each time I pass through the kitchen.

Life throws at us so many opportunities to be good, to be disciplined, to exercise restraint (or simply to exercise, for that matter). And when it comes to the most important matters, we do all right. But there are many times when we succumb to temptation, or at least fall short of our expectations for ourselves. And then we ask ourselves why it's so hard to be good and why it feels so good to be bad. It is, I've come to understand, part of our human condition that we must live in this tug-of-war between the angel on one shoulder and the devil on the other.

I've been thinking about this struggle not just because my freezer is full of Girl Scout cookies.

Later this month, Christians around the world will begin the season of Lent, which marks the 40 days preceding Easter. Lent represents the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert, where he fasted and resisted the temptations of this world that were presented to him by Satan.

(Continued on page 2)

February Services at 10:30 AM

Feb. 1: Heather Gehron-Rice. Her topic is "Finding God/dess in Autism" – Let us honor and recognize the challenges and gifts of autistic people.

Feb. 8: Rev. Peter Friedrichs (Intergenerational Service)

Feb. 15: Rev. Peter Friedrichs

Feb. 22: Pulpit Exchange with Rev. Libby Smith of the UU Fellowship of Lower Bucks

Who's Who

Staff

Rev. Peter A. Friedrichs,
Minister

Chris Schroth,
Music Director

Rina Jurceka,
Administrator

Tabby Parson
Interim Coordinator of
Religious Education

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

Peter Cooke

Marylin Huff

Mike Mitchell

FOCUS INFO:

Editors:

Bette Austin
& Neil Goldstein

Production:

Rina Jurceka

The deadline for

March is February 16.

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.

February 27. Come
help!

From the Minister

(Continued from page 1)

For centuries, Christians have fasted and prayed during Lent in remembrance of that time. By abstaining from foods they long for and by engaging in prayer practices, they seek to honor Jesus and to become more "Christ-like" themselves. That is, they seek to be in closer communion with God and with their better selves.

In modern times, Lenten practice has largely been reduced to forgoing a favorite food (such as chocolate) from Ash Wednesday to Easter. At one point or another you may have been asked, "What are you giving up for Lent?"

I've been reflecting on what it would be like to observe the Lenten tradition, particularly with all those Thin Mints calling to me from the freezer. Could I give them up for Lent (assuming there are any left by the time Lent begins on Feb. 25)? What purpose would that serve, since I don't believe in the literal story of Jesus' wandering in the desert, his temptation by Satan, or his resurrection on Easter? Would it be disrespectful of me to co-opt Lent from my Christian brothers and sisters? What theological significance might a Lenten practice have for Unitarian Universalists?

I invite you to consider these words from biblical and Jesus scholar Dr. Marcus Borg:

The Lenten journey is about participating in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Put somewhat abstractly, this means dying to an old identity, the identity conferred by culture, by tradition, by parents, perhaps, and being born into a new identity, an identity centered in the Spirit of God. It means dying to an old way of being, and being born into a new way of being, a way of being centered once again in God.

Put slightly more concretely, this path of death and resurrection, of radical centering in God, may mean for some of us that we need to die to specific things in our lives, perhaps to a behavior or a pattern of behavior that has become destructive or dysfunctional; perhaps to a relationship that has ended or gone bad; perhaps to an unresolved grief that needs to be let go of; perhaps to a career or job that has either been taken from us or that no longer nourishes us; or perhaps even we need to die to a deadness in our lives.

In the coming weeks before Lent, I intend to consider what things I need to "die to." What beliefs and behaviors separate me from God, from Spirit, from being a full and complete human being? Can I, during the coming Lenten season, die to old habits or tendencies, and prepare to be born into a new identity, free from things that have tied me down and held me back?

This is serious spiritual work, and I invite you to engage in it with me. If enough of you are interested, we can form a spiritual support group to walk together through this particular valley of the shadow, meeting regularly during Lent. I'll be happy to bring the cookies.

Love,

Peter

BOARD PERSPECTIVES: WHO'S THAT KNOCKING AT MY DOOR?

From President Mark Bernstein

It was, I believe, in the spring of 1994 when we got the call. Debbie and I had been dreading it for weeks, but we knew we had to face it head-on. As the hour approached, I found myself pacing nervously in my living room. My palms were sweaty. My heart was racing. When the knock came at the door, I jumped as if a bomb had gone off in the next room. With a wary glance at Debbie, I headed toward the front door. Taking a deep breath, and mustering all the courage I could in that moment, I opened the door and confronted -- my first canvass call!

I've gotten a little more used to talking about money as it relates to our church community since that fateful day so long ago, but I'm still not completely comfortable with it. It's ironic, I think, that I'm willing to talk about other things that make me vulnerable, but not about money.

For example, if someone said to me, "Tell me about your spiritual beliefs," I would respond openly and enthusiastically, despite the fact that this question is extremely personal and, to some people, very private. However, if someone said to me, "What can you contribute to sustain the religious community that enables you to practice and live out these beliefs?" I become defensive. I feel threatened. I might think it rude or intrusive.

Over the next several weeks, you and I will be encouraged to face our fears about discussing money. We shall be asked to think about what UUCDC means to us and to make a financial pledge that equates with that value. Then we'll be asked to stretch a little more. It will be awkward for some of us, and threatening for others. Nevertheless I am convinced that a thriving and forward-looking spiritual community addresses its financial issues openly, honestly and compassionately. And that's what this annual fund drive is all about.

So when that call comes, screw up your courage, boldly swing open the door, and welcome with open arms the person who stands on the other side. I can guarantee you this: That person will be waiting out there with love and respect for you, and with the knowledge that we are all in this together, each willing to do what we can to sustain the home that we call UUCDC.

With respect,

Mark

UUCDC to Host Kindling the Flame IV

Kindling the Flame IV, "Our Compelling Message," will be held February 21, 9 a. m. to 3:30 p. m. at UUCDC.

The keynote speaker is Wayne Clark, UUA director of Congregational Stewardship Services. His topic is "Fundraising in Challenging Times." He also will facilitate the morning sessions.

Rev. Ken Beldon, minister at Wellsprings, a new UU congregation in Chester County, will be speaker at the afternoon session. Theme of his address is "Spreading Our Compelling Message."

The afternoon also will include workshops on publicity, websites, branding, social action, and Percept, a demographic tool available through the Joseph Priestley District.

The Philadelphia/Wilmington Growth Team is sponsor of the event. Registration costs \$12, including lunch. Send registration to the JPD office, 100 W. 10th Streets, Suite 1008, Wilmington, DE 19801.



Monthly Statement: How We're Doing Financially

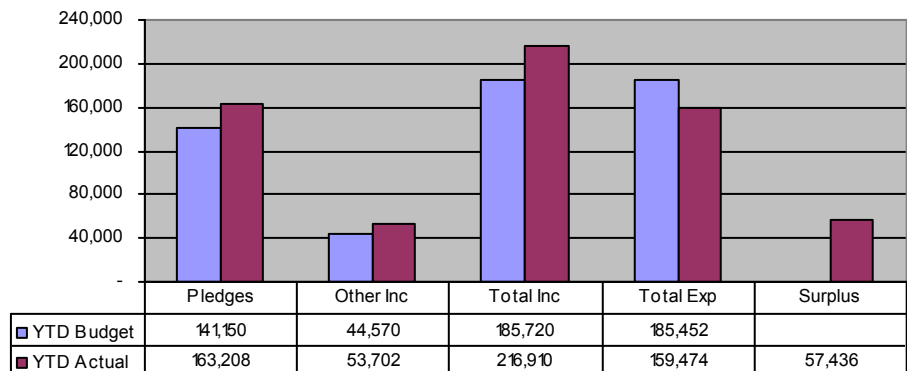
Here is our monthly financial update, meant to make thinking and talking about finances a regular part of being a church member.

As of the end of December, total income was \$216,910, or \$31,190 above our budget of \$185,720. Total expenses were \$159,474, or \$25,978 below the budget of \$185,452.

We ended the first six months of our fiscal year with a surplus of \$57,436. That was due to a successful auction and the December contributions that many members made toward their pledge totals to take advantage of tax-year 2008 deductions.

Actual pledges were \$163,208, or \$22,058 over the budget of \$141,150. Through the first six months of our fiscal year, we have collected 58 percent of our total annual budgeted pledge

Income & Expenses - As of December 31, 2008



amount of \$282,300.

We continue to encourage members to make monthly payments toward their annual pledges so we can maintain a positive cash flow.

Dino Ramos

Treasurer

Thanks for Your Generosity

Too often, we focus on what has gone wrong or what we have been unable to accomplish as a church community. But I want to briefly remind you of what we are doing well.

We are being generous.

While many people are struggling through the economic downturn, we have collectively maintained our financial commitment to this congregation. As described above by Treasurer Dino Ramos, our percentage of pledges for this fiscal year so far is nearly the same as it was last year at this point, when the economy was not on our minds and weighing on our hearts. This means that congregation members are doing what they can to make their pledge payments, and that those who have the ability to give a little more are doing so.

I want to acknowledge the generous contributions of Dick Veleta and Debbie Snow, who each contributed \$5,000 to support the music program, and the general operating fund, respec-

tively. We also received many checks from nonmembers as well as contributions in memory or in support of friends or relatives who belong to this church.

We once again stepped up to participate in the Adopt a Family program through the purchase of holiday items or through cash donations. An anonymous donor contributed a of \$5,000 to the Minister's Discretionary Fund, and our congregation's contribution to the UUA via Association Sunday activities this year totaled more than \$1,400.

As Board President, I am beaming with pride at the generosity and selflessness of this wonderful spiritual community. And in this position, I get to say, on behalf of so many others, thank you, thank you, thank you.

Mark Bernstein

Board Notes: January Update

At its January meeting, the Board met with several lay leaders and staff to learn about and respond to some key matters for our community's spiritual growth and stewardship:

-- Jean Lenke, who leads the Spiritual Growth and Vitality Ministry Team, discussed her group's progress in adapting to Policy Governance. The team, which includes the Religious Education (RE) Council, Small Group Ministry, Music Group, and Worship Associates, feels its efforts are supporting all the Ends Statements that the Board developed last year to provide direction for our work. However, the church's new governance structure has added some meetings and, therefore, a time crunch for some. The Board believes this situation will ease in the future as the Ministry Teams grow and attract additional volunteers.

-- Rina Jurceka, Church Administrator, presented an overview of ChurchDB, a web-based church management software program that promises to bring "UUCDC into the 21st century." The new Internet-based system for managing church operations offers many advances over our current Church Windows software. With ChurchDB, members will be able to log securely onto the UUCDC website from their home (or other remote) computer, then, for example, access other members' contact information, register for RE classes, schedule meetings or reserve church space, and make or track pledge contributions. Rina presented more information on ChurchDB at the Congregational Meeting, January 25.

-- Betsy Crane, who co-chairs the Annual Fund Drive with Bill Clinton, led the Board through its own pledging process -- an important first step in this year's new and more transparent approach to gaining the financial commitments necessary to operate the church. As Betsy explained, this year's Fund Drive will give members an opportunity to engage in open, trusting conversations about the church's needs and our ability to give. The experience was a positive one for the Board, whose members substantially increased their pledges over the current year.

The Board made more progress on revising UUCDC's bylaws under Policy Governance, by approving a new policy on handling possible violations of the Code of Conduct for Board members. The Board will create other grievance poli-

cies, as needed, to fit the specific needs of other church policies.

The Board voted to support the nomination of Gini Courter, from the Flint, MI, UU Church, for Moderator of the Unitarian Universalist Association in 2009. Gini is running unopposed for Moderator which is the UUA's highest volunteer position, with responsibility for presiding at General Assemblies and UUA Board of Trustees' meetings. Our Board's action demonstrates the church's engagement in the wider democratic process within the UUA and helps ensure this nomination meets UUA requirements for support from a number of UU churches.

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.

--Craig Harris and Gayle Beaney for producing a wonderful holiday pageant.

--Marge Caton for taking on the administrative assistant's role in Chrissy Drummond's absence.

--Joyce McKee, Marilyn Huff, and Jean Shatoff for spearheading the revitalization and re-launch of the Small Group Ministry program.

--Loretta Orndorff for organizing and advertising adult RE programs to such great success.

--Those who helped "undeck the halls" after the holidays, especially Bill and Mary Clinton, Bill and Nancy Henderson, Mary Beth Hoffman, Bob and Karen McClennen, and Marilyn Huff and Rich Cairncross.

-- Jamie Cancro for coordinating the receipt of year-end deposits and to Lois Morrigan and Jody Malloy for their timely reporting of our financial condition.

Jean Wallace

for the Board

What Are UUA Fair Compensation Guidelines? Will UUCDC Participate?

A Task Force, composed of Board members, the Personnel Committee, and the Committee on Ministry, has been charged with informing members about the principles of the UUA Fair Compensation Guidelines. It is our hope that a fully informed membership will commit our church to adopting these principles in May.

The purpose of the Guidelines is to help congregations live out their values by fairly and equitably compensating employees, relative to their qualifications and experience, the external job market, and to other employees within the church. This challenge is tied to our first two principles; the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and justice, equity, and compassion, in human relations.

The Guidelines offer these recommendations:

--Base salaries for church staff should be comparable to wages received by others performing similar duties in not-for-profit organizations of the same management size. The salary ranges should be established each year based on geographic area, with information from surveys, compensation and benefits from private industry and governmental bodies, and salary ranges used by other religious denominations.

-- Salaries should be accompanied by the standard array of employer-paid benefits for eligible staff (working 1,000 hours or more per year). Benefits include medical, dental, disability and life insurance; pension; professional ex-

penses; vacations; and FICA.

--Salaries are linked to the size of memberships of congregations (the key indicator of church financial resources), but they must be realistic in terms of congregational finances.

--There should be no discrimination in compensation based on gender, age, race, or other personal, individual characteristics.

It has been found that over time, compensation patterns, considered fair by both the congregation and the employees, are conducive to better recruitment and retention, and to higher staff performance and congregational appreciation.

It is up to the congregation to decide if we want to commit ourselves to becoming a Fair Compensation church, and we expect to vote on this issue at our May 31 Annual Meeting. We encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities to inform yourself about this program. Look for our brochure in early February and visit us at our table during coffee hour. You can read more about the subject at <http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/compensation>. (UUCDC is in Geographic Index 4 category.)

Mark Bernstein, Judy Chuplis, Mary Clinton, Judy Farling, Paul Schlenker, Jean Wallace

Wanted: Performers and Audience For YUCKI Coffeehouse Feb. 7

When: Saturday, Feb. 7, 7 p.m. to ?

Where: Fellowship Hall

Who: YUCKIs, the high school-age Religious Education group, plus performers and, we hope, *you!*

Why: To raise money for the YUCKIs, who will give 20 percent to a local charity

Admission: \$6 buys one coffee and one snack

Contact: Amy Bartlett at AmyB93@gmail.com to sign up to perform!

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Adult Religious Education -- It's not Just for Kids

By the time you read this FOCUS, the Spring Adult RE registration will be complete and Spring classes underway. Registration is very important to the Adult RE program, enabling us to know if an offered program has sufficient interest to move forward.

I thank everyone who stepped forward and offered to teach. A special thank-you goes to those who made time either to register in person after church, email Chrissy Drummond at Assistant@uucdc.org, or who dropped a filled-in form into Chrissy's mailbox at the church office. I also thank Chrissy, Marge and everyone else in the office who helped set up and move registration along. The Adult RE Team members deserve a big thank-you for their hard work and great ideas. Information will be sent on operating classes and where there may still be openings.

Adult RE is for all of us!

Loretta Orndorff

Report From Our Second-Third Graders

How do we teach our children to make good decisions in our complex world? As parents, this is one of our greatest challenges. As members of a Unitarian Universalist congregation, it becomes our responsibility, too.

With guidance from the curriculum "A Tapestry of Faith, Moral Tales," the second and third graders in our church are learning how to make moral and ethical choices when faced with difficult situations. Each week learning centers on a story in which a character displays moral courage. He or she may have to struggle to make the right choice, but ultimately chooses justice, goodness, and love as guides.

The Gems of Goodness Project encourages the children to think about the choices they make throughout their week. When they act out of kindness, do something helpful or react to a

hurt in a nonviolent way, they share it with the group and place a "gem" in a jar. When the jar is full, the group celebrates with a special activity.

Games, role-playing and art activities support and encourage this conscious, conscientious, decision-making process. As was said in one of our stories, "The answer is in your hands." This helps the children realize their responsibility toward creating a kinder, more gentle, and loving world.

Gail Freedman

Pairing Off for Coming of Age

The Coming of Age program is pleased to announce that eight special members of our church have joined us as mentors to this year's youth.

These adults are truly fulfilling their church covenant by dedicating a significant amount of time to provide guidance to the young people, both one-on-one, as well as in the context of the program's fun retreats and events.

We'd also like to thank all the other adults who participated in the mentor selection process but were not paired with a youth this year -- your support was invaluable!

This year's COA Mentor-Youth Pairs are:

Mentor	Youth
Don Keckler	Sam Hendrix
Paul Schlenker	Mark Hoffman
Gabe Small	Dan Middleditch
Mark Yerger	Jeff Seelaus
Elek Fenyés	Kyle McKay
Erika Scarborough	Abby Houston
Marge Caton	Katie Boosz
Jean Wallace	Emily Stackhouse

Scott Parsons

'The Rant' -- Racial Justice Theater Event on Feb. 14

UUs from several congregations will gather on Saturday, Feb. 14, for the annual Racial Justice Theater Event in Philadelphia. All are welcome to join in.

The day's centerpiece will be the InterAct Theatre Company production of *The Rant*, by Andrew Case. The play examines the aftermath of the fatal shooting of a black teenager, when opinions based on uninformed assumptions obscure what really happened.

We will convene at the Adrienne Theater, 2030 Samson St., for our exclusive 1 p.m. matinee performance and then regroup at First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia, 2125 Chestnut St., for snacks, discussion and dinner. We conclude by 6:30.

The cost for the package is \$30 per adult, \$50 per couple. Please join us! To reserve your spot, contact Sayre Dixon at 610-565-6855.

Denominational Affairs

The UUCDC Board "nominated" the Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman and the Rev. Peter Morales as UUA presidential candidates at its December meeting. The action doesn't mean specific church endorsement of either candidate, but that we shall actively participate in the election process. In this and coming months, we shall provide further information on each candidate and vote at our May Congregational Meeting on instructing our delegates in casting their votes for a preferred candidate at the General Assembly in June.

There are other elected UUA positions on which we shall provide information in coming issues. Don't forget: Think about attending GA in Salt Lake City, June 24-28.

Our own president, Mark Bernstein, has completed his first quarter as the Director for Growth of the Joseph Priestley District. In this role, Mark works closely with the JPD executive and the JPD Growth Committees in supporting growth initiatives within the district. Specifically, he supports the development of regional growth plans, coordinates the JPD Chalice Lighter program as a means to provide grants to congregations with a long-range plan for growth, leads district and regional workshops on growth strategies, plans and supports efforts to organize new congregations in the district, and coordinates the services of JPD adjunct staff growth consultants. Mark was formerly an adjunct JPD staff member, leading board/staff/lay leadership retreats. This, in addition to leading our own congregation to ever greater heights! Mark can be reached for JPD issues at mark@jpduua.org.

Mark recently issued two reports: "Is There Life

in the UU Universe?" describing what he's learned in his brief tenure as the Director for Growth, and "Go West, Young UU," about rekindling the pioneering spirit in our congregations. You can find Mark's articles in the JPD Leadership Notes publication at the JPD website, jpduua.org. There also are articles there by Jody Malloy, the new JPD Director for Lay Leadership Development. More about her in next month's FOCUS.

JPD also has announced that Andrew Mertz will serve as its new full-time Director for Youth and Young Adult Programs.

Scheduled to join the staff in Mid-February, Mertz is a third-generation UU with six years experience working with UU youth and three years working with young adults.

He is serving as director for Youth Ministry at the UU Church in Arlington, VA, and is pursuing his master's degree in Divinity at Meadville Lombard Theological school.

Our own Marge Caton has been serving as the volunteer JPD Adjunct Staff of the Youth part of this new position until Mertz takes over. She will continue to serve as Adjunct Staff for some portions of the program.

Don Pound

Caring Corner

Reflections on Small Group Ministry

I started when Small Group Ministry was first getting underway. Rev. Kerry Mueller invited me to participate in this new fellowship program that involved small groups where members respected and honored confidentiality and planned to explore and discuss interesting topics.

This program was based on the goal of Christian mega-churches to help new people find a new and comfortable place, so that they would become members and not feel lost, rather than depart, never to be seen again. I participated in SGM's organization and worked with a subgroup on the SGM covenant and facilitator tips. I typed the first manual of more than 40 discussion topics.

However, SGM is much more than that! Without the friendship and fellowship I've experienced through this program, my connection to UUCDC would have been more self-centered, far less rich and deep. Without having facilitated two groups -- in which some 40 people participated -- and shared and felt the pain and joy of others, I would not have the connection to my faith, my church, and these people. I am so grateful for all the beautiful discussions, the love, and innumerable cups of tea. Because of SGM I am a far more whole person. Hopefully, others who participated in a group received as much as I did, and I believe they did.

Loretta Orndorff

Like Loretta in the article at left, many others at UUCDC have come to learn and grow through Small Group Ministry. In his sermon, Jan. 25, Rev. Peter spoke about Small Group Ministry and how these meetings benefit both you and the church community. Is it possible this is something YOU might like to try?

Opportunities for signing up are Feb. 1 and 8. If you are wondering if this is something for you, there is a chance to try out a mini-session after the church service Feb. 1, or before the service Feb. 8. For those who have already signed up for the second half of this year, there is a "launch lunch" on Feb. 15 after the service.

There will not be another chance to sign up for SGM until next Fall, if you miss these opportunities. Before February slips away, "awaken your spirit" and become involved by signing up with Small Group Ministry.

ARTS, BOOKS & MUSIC

Twain Novel Links Book Club to Anti-Racism Effort

The UUCDC Book Club is reading *Pudd'nhead Wilson* by Mark Twain for February, Black History Month. Many consider *Pudd'nhead* to be Twain's finest novel.

This short, comical classic takes place in the antebellum South and repudiates both racial inequality and our slavery past. The tale fits nicely into UUCDC's Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression, Multi-Cultural Initiative.

In January, the club read Boris Akunin's *The Winter Queen*. Haven't heard of Akunin? You aren't alone, but in Russia he is widely popular. His short novel of international conspiracy and intrigue takes place in 19th-century Russia. If you missed us, you might enjoy picking up the book on your own to check out this contemporary literary figure.

You already know that reading books improves the mind, reduces stress, and improves your social

skills (or, you would know this if you read the Book Club article in the January FOCUS!). But reading is also inherently pleasurable, and sharing what you have read with other people can be a profound spiritual experience. It can also be rollicking fun with the right people, and you can meet those people here at a Book Club discussion.

Our co-ed club is open to everyone and is a terrific way to spend a winter evening. How about joining us at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27? You'll be glad you did. (We'll be in the front of the Sanctuary this month.)

See the notice on the UUCDC bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for details (book selection and date) or look for us on the church website, uucdc.org.

Bryan Boosz

Musical Notes – Easing Into New Hymns

Although the holiday music has just been filed away, it's time to plan our "All-Music Service" for the spring and to choose musical offerings for the coming months.

One goal Rev. Peter and I have discussed is to broaden our repertory of hymns, particularly including those from our new hymnal.

To more effectively introduce hymns that may have challenging rhythms or be in unfamiliar languages, we are going to try an experiment. Starting in February, we will showcase one new hymn each month. You may first hear it played as part of the prelude or during the offertory. Another Sunday,

the choir may sing it.

We hope that hearing the hymn several times during the month, as well as singing it as a congregation, will give us a better chance of imprinting it on our musical memories and "making it our own."

Music can provide a wonderful insight into other cultures. We hope that making these hymns more accessible will enrich our worship experience.

Chris Schroth

Music Director

Thespiis Presents "The Mikado" for 2009

Thespiis, Etc., UUCDC's musical theater company, will present Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Mikado" for its 2009 season.

One of the best-known and most popular works by these composers, "The Mikado" will be presented Feb. 27 and 28 and March 1, 4, 6, and 8.

Starting Feb. 1, tickets will be on sale at an advance discount each Sunday after services. Thespiis, Etc.,

profits have helped to support the church budget for more than 20 years.

Mark your calendar right now for a very special and entertaining musical occasion.

Bob Beavins

One Book and GayBINGO With Interweave

One Book UUCDC

This year's One Book UUCDC selection is *Go the Way Your Blood Beats: An Anthology of Lesbian and Gay Fiction by African-American Writers*.

James Baldwin, Audre Lorde, Alice Walker and Toni Morrison are just a few of the many wonderful writers we will read. Please join Interweave at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 15, and April 26 for a potluck and book discussion in Fellowship Hall. Interweave is the church's group for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender persons, and their heterosexual allies.

We will have open and honest conversation on topics such as race, sexuality, love, coming of age, and family. Books will be on sale during coffee hour during February. Also, you can contact Bill Henderson (BHender326@aol.com), who has a few used copies for sale. Please contact Meredith Tuohey (mtuohey@brynmawr.edu) if you have any questions. All are welcome.

A Note on Love, From Rose Tree Day School

Kristin Gress writes this month's article about our Rose Tree Day School. Her daughter, Megan, is in the kindergarten class (the Special K's). Megan's older brother also attended RTDS.

Whenever I think of February, one thing immediately comes to mind -- Valentine's Day. I say that now with a smile, although it wasn't always that way.

I don't remember much of Valentine's Day when I was a child. I probably exchanged those little fold-over cards with my classmates, much as my children do today. Before I had kids, I wasn't a big fan of the day. There was too much pressure. Would I have a valentine? Would I ask someone to be mine?

But then I had children. And I have come to love Valentine's Day.

GayBingo

Do you ever feel the need to click your heels and wear a Dorothy costume? Or how about the Wicked Witch?

Please join Interweave as we travel to Oz -- actually, Philly -- and play GayBingo on March 14!

GayBingo is the fabulous, irreverent, campy, wildly popular monthly event that has been entertaining Philadelphia audiences for more than a decade. It raises money for local people living with HIV/AIDS. Entering its 13th season, GayBINGO has raised more than \$2 million.

Our evening of frolic and fun will support the AIDS Fund Philly. Cost is \$20 a person. We will leave UUCDC at 5:30 p.m., doors open at 6, and games start at 7.

For me, it's still a day to show LOVE, but not the romantic kind. It's a day for celebrating the kind of love children have for their parents. Don't tell me you don't tear up a little when your son or daughter hands you a self-cut-out heart and asks you to be his or her valentine.

It's also a day for kindergarteners and third graders alike to celebrate the love they have for their friends -- and for no one to think twice when a boy hands another boy a card that says, "Be Mine."

So now, when I think of Valentine's Day, I think fondly of heart-shaped doilies and those candy hearts with sayings such as "U R Cute." Because for me, the day is about not the often-fleeting kind of love, but the kind that really lasts.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Wanted: Social Justice Leadership

The Social Justice Committee is looking for a new chairperson to start in September.

The committee acts as the conduit for the many social justice activities at UUCDC. The chairperson prepares an agenda based on input from people doing such work, and presides at monthly meetings.

The meetings are about as much fun as meetings can be, because although all who come have strong personal opinions, they are willing to work together.

ARAOM Activities for February

Other ARAOM activities:

Racial Justice Theater Event, Feb. 14. Join other UUs in this annual outing in Philadelphia. We'll see *The Rant* by Andrew Case, followed by discussion and dinner at the nearby First Unitarian Church. Cost for the play and dinner is \$30 per person, \$50 per couple. Contact Sayre Dixon for more information and to sign up. (See article on page 8.)

ADORE, Feb. 11, 7 pm. ADORE stands for "A Dialogue on Race and Ethnicity." The ADORE group provides participants with a safe and confidential space to share their experiences and perspectives. Using readings, videos and other resources, the group helps individuals explore the complex set of family, community and cultural issues related to race and racism. All are welcome. February's topic will be the Feb. 8 UUCDC address by John L. Jackson Jr., author of *Racial Paranoia*.

Chili, Chocolate and Home Brew Make for a Winning Menu

How does Mike's Filet Mignon Chili sound? What about Pete's (actually, Rev. Peter's) Wicked Chili or Penny's Cincinnati Five-Way Chili?

They sound pretty good -- and they were! They were just a few of the mouth-watering entries in the church's First Annual Chili, Chocolate and Home Brew Challenge on Jan. 24.

About 125 people attended and got to sample competing goodies including chocolate cheesecake, chocolate mousse and rich chocolate brownies. Did we mention lots of beer?

Other than that, the chairperson keeps track of the budget and represents the committee occasionally at new-member meetings and district events.

If we cannot find a new chairperson, the Social Justice Committee may have to disband. Social justice work still will be done at church, but it will be a little harder. If you think you might be willing to do this work, please contact the church office.



Contact Susan Eidson (seeidson@mind-spring.com).

Book Club, Feb. 27. The group will discuss Mark Twain's *Pudd'nhead Wilson*.

The novel never was popular with Twain's contemporaries, but as his most direct, sustained treatment of slavery it has attracted considerable attention in our time. The club meets at 7:30 p.m., and all are welcome. (See article on page 10.)

One Book UUCDC. This year the book is *Go the Way Your Blood Beats: An Anthology of Lesbian and Gay Fiction by African-American Writers*. Our Interweave chapter will hold discussions about the book on March 15 and April 26. (See article on page 11.)

Entries totaled 16 in the chili category, 16 for chocolate and 8 home brews.

The first-place winners were Mark Yerger for chili, Bonnie Burns for chocolate, and Joe Miller for home brew. Congratulations to all three!

The preliminary estimate is that the big event made \$1,300 for UUCDC. We plan to make this bigger and better next year, so start perfecting those entries now. Thanks to everyone who helped make our Challenge such a great evening!

Penny Bartlett

Highlights From the Annual Congregational Meeting

UUCDC held its annual Congregational Meeting Jan. 25, with about one-third of voting members present. They overwhelmingly voted to approve these motions to:

-- Elect Mark Bernstein and Donna Harris to second one-year terms for church President and Vice President, respectively, starting in June. Peter Cooke was elected to fill the at-large position on the Board, vacated by Bryan Boosz, for a term ending May, 2011.

--Approve back compensation of \$9,000 for Rev. Peter Friedrichs, with reasonable interest to be added following discussion among church leaders and Rev. Peter. Board Treasurer Dino Ramos explained that Rev. Peter inadvertently had been paid less than the Search Committee offered him in 2006 when he was called to be our minister. The problem, which stemmed from miscommunication at that time among several church groups, was discovered last fall. Although Rev. Peter's compensation since has been corrected going forward, the congregation's vote will ensure that he is reimbursed for unpaid compensation that accrued before the problem was detected. The cost will be offset by a projected surplus of \$25,000 in this year's budget. The surplus also may be used to pay for much-needed window replacements, totaling \$11,000.

--Approve inclusion of the draft Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking on the final agenda for the UUA General Assembly in June. Members also were encouraged to submit comments on the draft document before Feb. 1.

Members also heard informational presentations on a variety of new projects and initiatives at UUCDC.

--Judy Farling discussed efforts to establish UUCDC as a Fair Compensation Congregation to ensure equitable salary and benefits for church staff, in accordance with UUA guidelines. Judy noted that Fair Compensation is rooted in several UU principles, including respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person. More information about Fair Compensation will be provided during the next few months, leading to a members' vote at the May Congregational meeting on becoming a committed Fair Compensation Congregation.

--Betsy Crane and Bill Clinton talked about this year's Annual Fund Drive -- a bold, new approach

that will include more open, transparent, and candid conversations about church finances and how we share our gifts with each other. The Drive kicks off in early February with a special event for church leaders, who will be asked to make their pledges early. The congregation-wide Fund Drive will begin in March, with an evening party at the Media Community Center that Bill promised will be full of fun and surprises.

--Rina Jurceka previewed the features and benefits of ChurchDB, a new Web-based church management software program, being rolled out at UUCDC (also see this issue's Board Report, page 5). To ensure a smooth transition, Rina asked members to log on to the new system, get a sense of its features, and enter their contact information. If you were not at the meeting, and have not received the instructions otherwise, please email the office assistant at assistant@uucdc.org for instructions. You could also stop by any of the presentations/Q&A sessions Rina will be holding after service during the month of February.

--Jane Sealaus described the proposed Covenant of Right Relations, which provides guidance on how we can treat each other with kindness and respect, even when we disagree or are in conflict. Similar covenants from more than a dozen UU churches have been reviewed, and a series of potluck meals will be held in April to discuss and refine our draft Covenant, leading to a Congregational vote in May to approve the final document.

--Regina Pound provided a brief background on the two candidates for UUA president in 2009: Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman and Rev. Peter Morales. More information on both will be provided in the next few months. The congregation will vote to express its preference for one candidate at the May Congregational Meeting. This will ensure that our delegates to the General Assembly in June will know who the church supports as they cast their votes.

Jean Wallace

'We Need to Shout'

Posted by "Plaidshoes" on the blog "Everyday Unitarian," <http://everydayunitarian.blogspot.com>, Jan. 13.

Every Sunday I greet visitors at our congregation. As Membership Coordinator, one of my main tasks is to reach out and engage visitors in conversation. I am here to help!

Lately, though, I have been really putting my MSW degree to use. I am not sure if it has to do with the season, but I have had a lot more people with tears. Mostly they are tears of relief. Relief to have found a place that they can be exactly who they are and be not only accepted, but loved. Tears in finding a supportive community.

It has made me realize how powerful an open and welcoming religion can be; how important it is that

Yo UUCDCERS

UUCDCers Give Generously to Food Bank

Many thanks to members and friends of UUCDC who have contributed so generously to the Media Food Bank. The number of families is increasing steadily as have your contributions of money.

With your donations of money we have been able to purchase in quantity, so that each family receives nourishing items. For example, a few weeks ago we purchased 75 cans of tuna that Giant Foods had on sale. Oatmeal has been suggested for another week, so we are on our way to purchasing that at a wonderful 10 for \$10 sale. Your contributions are greatly appreciated as well as needed.

Happy 100th Birthday

The NAACP will celebrate its 100th anniversary Feb. 12. Along with its headquarters in Baltimore, NAACP and its 1,700 branches and units nationwide will host celebrations with cake-cutting ceremonies and other events on that day. In case you didn't know or have forgotten, two of its founding members were Unitarians.

we make sure that Unitarian Universalism remains a vital and engaging religion. We are needed.

We need to make sure that we are part of the religious landscape. So many people are suffering and looking for a home. I am proud to be part of a religion that offers this. I think that is why I work so hard to make sure that people know we are *here* and that they are *welcome*.

I encourage all of you to be loud and proud about Unitarian Universalism. Please don't be shy in talking about our faith. It is needed and the person you are speaking to might be desperate to find us.

Ethical Investment Conference Planned at All Souls

"Money, Values and Impact" will be theme of a conference on ethical investing for UU congregations, Saturday, May 9, 9 a.m. -5 p.m. at All Souls Church, Unitarian, Washington, DC.

Nationally-known experts will explore investment vehicles, exemplary practices and policies, and strategy options in skill-building sessions. Participants will hear inspiring case studies of individual congregations that have made a major, positive impact in their communities and learn about opportunities to help build a more green and just economy.

Persons who should attend are church administrators or staff responsible for church finances, investment-endowment finance committee members, staff and volunteer leaders active in racial, social economic and/or environmental justice projects, board of trustee members, green sanctuary congregations and candidates and volunteers involved in affordable housing or community economic development.

Among sponsors are the Joseph Priestley District,
(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

UUs for Social Justice, and the Investment and Seventh Principle Committees of All Souls Church, Unitarian.

Additional registration information to be available later.

2009 B&B Directory Available in April

Dreaming of inexpensive vacation travel in interesting places and staying with friendly people who share your ideals and know the area? Then the UU bed and breakfast directory "UU're Home" is for you. The 2009 directory will be available in April.

For 29 years the directory has provided a network of hosts in the U.S. (and a few abroad), who enjoy meeting new friends and opening their homes to like-minded people.

You also may become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact: info@uurehome.com or 828-281-3253 and information will be sent about listing your accommodations.

For a copy of the 2009 directory and a year's access to the website listings, click on "become a member" to pay by credit card or send a check for \$25 and your email address to "UU're Home", 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806. The website is www.UUreHome.com. Host listings are updated on the website whenever changes are made or new hosts are added.

UUSD Marks 10th Anniversary

The UUs of Southern Delaware in Lewes, DE, celebrated its 10th anniversary Jan 25. During the past ten years, this UU congregation has grown significantly, becoming a Welcoming Congregation and a vibrant presence in the Sussex County area. It also is beginning to outgrow its current site and is considering having two services on Sunday. It also has a vital RE program, as well as a youth group. Rev. D. Michael Smith is the minister.

Resources for UU Bloggers

The Unitarian Universalist Association has started the UU Blogging Resources Project to support bloggers in promoting the denomination.

Check out the new report "Best Practices for Unitarian Universalist Blogging" at

<http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/blogging/118457.shtml>. It is based on survey answers from nine UU bloggers who share advice, insights and stories.

As the project moves forward, organizers want to share survey responses from additional bloggers. If your blog focuses on and promotes UUism, please consider posting your own answers to the survey questions on your blog and then e-mailing smeyerhoff@uua.org with the URL of your completed survey.

Links to completed surveys will be listed alongside the report at UUA.org. Survey questions can be found at the website <http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/blogging/118459.shtml>.

UU Church Offers Niagara Falls Experience in July

Hear the roar, feel the mist, see the mighty falls!

You're invited to behold the wonder of Niagara Falls while being taken care of like royalty and partaking of great educational opportunities. July 19 through 22, the UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four-day UU Niagara Experience, a chance to encounter the Falls up-close from nearly every perspective -- even safely riding beneath a tethered balloon.

You can spend four days exploring the rich historical and natural wonders around the falls. For more information, go to <http://www.uunex.net/>, e-mail uunex@yahoo.com, or phone 716-745-7149 or 716-791-4453.

'Racial Paranoia' Author Highlights February Anti-Racism Activities

John L. Jackson Jr., author of *Racial Paranoia: The Unintended Consequences of Political Correctness*, will speak after the Sunday service at 1 p.m. Feb. 8. Lunch will be available between the morning service and this event, which is the second in our Homer Jack Speaker Series.

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

He cites examples of well-known situations, such as comedian Dave Chappelle's abrupt departure from Comedy Central, to support his theme. The discussion -- part of our Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression, Multi-Cultural (ARAOM) Initiative -- will be lively and interactive.

Jackson is the Richard Perry University Associate Professor of Communications and Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania. His writing has appeared in publications, including the New York Times, the Washington Post, South Atlantic Quarterly, and the American Journal of Sociology.

The speaker series honors Homer Jack, a Unitarian minister and activist who spent his career working for equal rights for African Americans and other disenfranchised people. He attended UUCDC after his retirement. (More on page 12.)



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

Focus

February 2009

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Calendar

February 2009*

Date	Name of Event	Time			
2/1	Worship Service & RE	10:30 AM	2/9	Voice Lesson Rental	8:00 AM
	COA- Murray Grove	12:00 PM		Thespis	7:00 PM
	OWL Parent/Child Orientation	12:00 PM		Board	7:15 PM
	Thespis	2:00 PM		Adult RE- Tai Chi	7:30 PM
	Independent Catholics	6:00 PM	2/10	Yoga	5:45 PM
	YUCKI	6:00 PM		DBSA	7:00 PM
				Poetry Workshop	7:00 PM
2/2	Voice Lesson Rental	8:00 AM	2/11	Muslims	6:00 PM
	Religious Education Council	7:00 PM		ADORE	7:00 PM
	Thespis	7:00 PM		Media Chamber Chorale	7:30 PM
	Adult RE- Tai Chi	7:30 PM	2/12	Small Group Ministry	7:00 PM
2/3	Yoga	5:45 PM		Chorus	7:30 PM
	Poetry Workshop	7:00 PM	2/13	Muslims	7:00 PM
	Social Justice	7:15 PM	2/14	Muslims	9:30 AM
2/4	Muslims	6:00 PM		Auction Dinner	12:00 PM
	Interweave	7:15 PM		Racial Justice Theater Event	1:00 PM
	Media Chamber Chorale	7:30 PM		Hunger Task Force	5:30 PM
2/5	Small Group Ministry	1:00 PM		Muslims - Event	5:30 PM
	Spirit of Life	7:00 PM	2/15	Worship Service & RE	10:30 AM
	Chorus	7:30 PM		Cakes for Queen	12:00 PM
2/6	YUCKI Coffee House Rehearsal	6:00 PM		Coming of Age	6:00 PM
	Muslims	7:00 PM		Independent Catholics	6:00 PM
2/7	Muslims	9:30 AM		YUCKI	6:00 PM
	YUCKI Coffee House	7:00 PM		Junto	7:00 PM
2/8	Worship Service & RE	10:30 AM		Thespis	7:00 PM
	COA Soup Lunch	11:30 AM	2/16	Voice Lesson Rental	8:00 AM
	Cakes for Queen	12:00 PM		Thespis	7:00 PM
	Coming of Age Mentors	12:00 PM		Adult RE- Tai Chi	7:30 PM
	Personnel Committee	12:00 PM	2/17	Yoga	5:45 PM
	SGM Facilitators Meeting	12:00 PM		Celtic Reconstructionist	6:00 PM
	Anti-Racism Speaker Series			Poetry Workshop	7:00 PM
	—John Jackson	1:00 PM	2/18	Muslims	6:00 PM
	Leadership Stewardship Event	3:00 PM		Membership Council	7:00 PM
	Coming of Age	6:00 PM		Media Chamber Chorale	7:30 PM
	Independent Catholics	6:00 PM			
	YUCKI	6:00 PM			
	Thespis	7:00 PM			



Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County
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*Printed January 26, 2009

February 2009

2/19	Spirit of Life Chorus	7:00 PM 7:30 PM	2/26	Chorus	7:30 PM
2/20	Family and Friends Potluck Dinner Muslims	7:00 PM 7:00 PM	2/27	Thespi Set up Book Club Muslims Thespi - Performance	6:30 PM 7:30 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM
2/21	Kindling the Flame Muslims International Supper Club	9:00 AM 9:30 AM 7:30 PM	2/28	Muslims rental COA Credos Workshop Thespi Set up Thespi - Performance	9:30 AM 12:00 PM 5:00 PM 6:30 PM 8:00 PM
2/22	Worship Service & RE YUCKI Soup Lunch Cakes for Queen Thespi Move In Muslims - Event Coming of Age Independent Catholics YUCKI Thespi	10:30 AM 11:30 AM 12:00 PM 2:00 PM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM			
2/23	Voice Lesson Rental Lay Leadership Council RTDS Board Thespi	8:00 AM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM			
2/24	Yoga DBSA Spirit in Practice Thespi	5:45 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM			
2/25	Muslims Thespi Independent Catholics AA District 54	6:00 PM 6:00 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM			