

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

**Coming of Age &
High school Youth**
6 p.m. Sundays



FROM THE MINISTER

On my flight back from Florida last month, I was looking out the window at the panoramic landscape below. I enjoy the perspective that flying at 30,000 feet gives you. The horizon, which at sea level is fixed at a mere 2.7 miles, stretches out to more than 200 miles at that altitude. From that height you can see far ahead, making out the general outlines of what is coming up, and far behind, giving you a clear picture of where you've been. Of course, the details and nuances of the landscape are lost with this view, but significant landmarks remain visible.

I've discovered in the last few months that one of the primary challenges of congregational life is the need to retain a "dual focus."

It's important to maintain a "big picture" perspective while still paying attention to the details. Attending to the urgent matters that are right in front of us, we need to be sure that we're planning and preparing for the future that is fast-approaching. This is especially true in a dynamic congregation such as ours, where change is the norm rather than the exception.

(Continued on page 2)

Speakers For April Sunday Services

Sermon topics will now be posted on the church Web site, <http://uucdc.org>, and e-mailed to listserv subscribers on the Thursday of each week.

April 1: Rev. Peter Friedrichs and members of Interweave

April 8: Intergenerational Service for Easter -- Rev. Peter Friedrichs and Jean Campbell, Acting Director of Religious Education

April 15: Rev. Peter Friedrichs

April 22: Special Music Service: Haydn's "Mass in Time of War" presented by UUCDC Chorus and Guest Musicians

April 29: Rev. Peter Friedrichs

April 29 at 4 p.m.: Service of Recommitment to the Welcoming Congregation, including unveiling of Rainbow Flag Sculpture

Who's Who

Staff

Rev. Peter A. Friedrichs,
Minister

Jean Campbell,
Acting Director of Religious
Education

Beth Youse,
Acting Music Director

Rina Jurceka,
Administrator

Board of Trustees

Jody Malloy,
President

Mark Bernstein,
Vice President

Stu Greenberg,
Treasurer

Carlin Knight,
Secretary

Donna Harris
Katy Lynn

Bruce Wyman
Lowell Young

(Continued from page 1)

From the Minister

We are fortunate to have a strong group of lay leaders who are constantly shifting their focus, paying attention to both the view from 30,000 feet and the details on the ground.

Our Board, which is in the process of becoming a "Policy Board," takes special care to develop strategies and long-term vision. The Coordinating Council has grown into an effective body that supports those implementing the programs of the church. Our Committee on Ministry has elected to take a broad view, urging everyone to appreciate the shared ministry that is vital to the life of the community.

And then there are the countless volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to keeping the life-blood of the institution flowing. Whether it's Bob McClennen standing out in the cold on successive weekends to implement our "stacked parking" experiment, Marge Caton working with our youth to launch the Lepre-CON, or our Sunday morning team making sure that everyone is greeted warmly and seated comfortably, I am constantly amazed by the tireless energy and enthusiasm with which these people approach each task.

When I look out the window of my office (the one with the 30,000-foot view), I see mostly-clear skies ahead, with a few fair-weather clouds scattered in front of us.

Several of us recently attended a church-growth workshop at which it became abundantly clear that one of our primary challenges will be to develop a clear and easily-articulated mission for the church.

Our current mission-covenant statement, now several years old, must be revisited, revised as appropriate, and reinvigorated. Until we are able to tell people (and ourselves), in clear and understandable terms, who we are as a congregation and why we're here, we will struggle to focus our energies and our activities. I hope we can engage in this process early in the next church year.

Another significant issue on the horizon concerns the use of our physical space.

Finding sufficient room to conduct all the programs that are offered here is increasingly becoming a challenge. Attendance at Sunday morning worship has remained consistently high throughout the year, with the Sanctuary filled to about 80% capacity. If we are going to continue to attract new members and successfully respond to their needs, we will need to consider means by which we can alleviate our crowding concerns.

With the flight crew we have in place, from the Board to our newest members, I'm confident that we have the talent and equipment needed to navigate the skies ahead. I am excited to be on this journey with you, and look forward to the next leg of the trip!

Peace,

Peter

FOCUS INFO:

Editors:

Bette Austin
& Neil Goldstein

Production:

Rina Jurceka

The May deadline
is **April 16.**

Please send in your text
via email to:

Focus@uucdc.org

or put it in the Focus box,
in the church office.

Focus Folding, 10 a.m.

April 27. Come help!

BOARD PERSPECTIVES:

From the President/Jody Malloy

Like many of you, I stumbled upon Unitarian Universalism. When I joined UUCDC, my life was surrounded by business associates and neighbors with whom my open-minded perspective on life didn't quite mesh. Finding UUCDC was like finding an oasis in the desert.

My life-long views of the inherent worth and dignity of all people were out in the open here. Unlike the rest of my life, when I was at UUCDC it was safe to assume that when I talked with others, they came to the conversation from a similar perspective. I couldn't believe it then, and still can't now, how wonderful it feels to walk into our church and know that I can be myself. And, I don't think I'm alone in that feeling. This probably sounds familiar to many of you.

Why am I telling you this? Because I want you to know that the oasis we find at UUCDC is not only at UUCDC. There is a world of Unitarian Universalists out there. Although many people with whom you spend time each day may not have heard of UUs, making our oasis seem small, it's not. There are many other oases of UUs besides UUCDC.

It's perhaps more apparent in New England, where Unitarianism first took root. There are UU churches in most New England towns. In fact, when you think of a quaint New England town, you probably think of a church with a steeple, next to the town square. Many of those are UU churches. It's a little hard to imagine how that might feel, when we are the only UU church in Delaware County.

Here's the good news. In the Philadelphia-Wilmington area, there are 16 UU churches: three each in Philadelphia and Chester County, two in Bucks County, one in Montgomery County, three each in northern Delaware and southern New Jersey--and us. All these churches are within the Joseph Priestley District (JPD) of the Unitarian Universalist Association. JPD extends from Trenton, NJ, to south of Washington, DC, with 65 member churches. In fact there are (drum roll, please), more than 1,000 UU congregations in the UUA, with approximately 160,000 members and 60,000 children in RE programs.

What does this mean for you and me? It means together, we are greater than the sum of our parts. One example is the UUA Washington Office

for Advocacy in DC, whose mission is to influence public policy decisions made by Congress and the administration on issues of concern to the UUA. JPD is starting a similar group in Pennsylvania.

As good as it feels to walk into UUCDC each Sunday, almost more important and empowering for me is to join with other UUs from the area or from across the country in worship or for a social justice cause, or to exchange ideas on how to make things better at our individual churches. As much as each Sunday at UUCDC is renewing for me, attending a larger UU event is even more uplifting.

Our youth know this. They experience the greater world of UUism through CONs or youth conferences. A youth CON takes place nearly every month in our region. Our wonderful youth advisors have chaperoned many youth at these CONs this year and in March our youth hosted a CON at our church.

Many opportunities exist for adults and families to experience the world of UUism. In April, JPD will hold its annual conference in Harrisburg. This weekend conference will combine worship, workshops and fellowship. A great program has been designed for children, so families may attend the conference together (www.jpduua.org). In May, the Philadelphia-Wilmington Regional Growth Team will sponsor a one-day workshop and worship service to be held at UUCDC. Look for more details in the next FOCUS.

There also are many UU camps for families, such as Unirondack in NY, or Rowe in MA, as well as camps and conferences for adults, kids, and teens. Wouldn't it be great to spend a week at a camp with other UUs (www.uucamps.org)?

In June, UUA will hold its annual meeting of congregations, its General Assembly, in Portland, OR (www.uua.org/ga). Four thousand UUs from most of the 1,000 congregations will meet for worship, social justice, workshops and fellowship. It's a truly amazing experience.

Just as you make time for UUCDC in your life, think also about making time for the greater world of UUism. I guarantee it will be time well spent.

Yours in fellowship,

Jody

CONGREGATIONAL FUND DRIVE CONVERSATIONS*

* FORMERLY KNOWN AS CANVASS CONVERSATIONS

The Fund Drive is well under way as I write this.

After a great kickoff event March 10, the Congregational Visitors are out meeting with the members and friends of UUCDC to discuss people's thoughts about the church, to gather feedback for the leadership of the congregation, and to pick up pledge forms.

If you have gotten a call from your Congregational Visitor and have had or arranged to have your visit, thank you!

If you have not responded to our request to arrange a time, please do so as soon as possible.

And if you haven't had a call from any Visitor, please contact Bryan Boosz by e-mail (bboosz@comcast.net) or by phone (610-738-9102), or contact anyone else on the Fund Drive committee – Fred Kelemen, Joe Miller, Lowell or Janet Young, Carole Gonzaga or Marge Caton.

Totals, as of March 27, were:

- ⇒ 95 pledges
- ⇒ for a total of \$17,417 a month (\$209,00 a year)
- ⇒ yielding an average pledge of \$183 a month (\$2,200 a year)

The average pledge tends to go down as the Fund Drive progresses, but the results certainly means we are off to a solid start.

Thanks to everyone who has participated!

Fred Kelemen

for the Congregational Fund Drive committee

UUCDC and Congregation Beth Israel Collaborate on Program/Potluck on Genocide in Darfur

On April 15, Holocaust Remembrance Day, the congregations of UUCDC and Beth Israel will present a program on the genocide in the Darfur region of the Sudan.

After our 10:30 am service here, the program will begin at Beth Israel with a potluck fellowship luncheon at noon, to be followed by a brief worship service in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

Lou Ann Merkle, executive director of Darfur Alert and Emtithal Mahmoud, Darfuri witness and poet, will make presentations, describing what is happening in Darfur.

The potluck luncheon will be strictly vegetarian, so UUCDC members are urged to bring a veggie that can be shared with members of Congregation Beth Israel, at 542 S. New Middletown Road, Media.

(See insert for more information)

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

ENDOWMENT FUND, PERSONNEL, POLICY GOVERNANCE

At its March meeting the Board met with the Stewardship Committee members and discussed their recommendations for the UUCDC endowment fund. Thanks to Bob Beaney, Sue Adnopoz, Ed Mathis and Janet Young for their hard work in developing these recommendations. They will be discussed further at the April Board meeting. Look for more information about the endowment fund after that meeting.

The Board also met with Judy Farling from the Personnel Committee to discuss hiring recommendations for the Director of Religious Education and Music Director positions. Last year the Board decided to fill the positions temporarily, so that when Rev. Peter arrived he could have input in selecting the "permanent" employees. Jean Campbell and Beth Youse were thus selected as acting religious education director and music director, respectively, serving from August 2006 through June 2007.

The task this year, therefore, was to hire "permanent" directors, starting July 2007. The Personnel Committee advertised the positions and since Jean and Beth were the only persons expressing an interest, the Board, based on the recommendations of the Personnel Committee and Rev. Peter, voted to offer the positions to Jean and Beth, pending contract and job description negotiations.

Mark Bernstein, Donna Harris and Katy Lynn led a discussion about implementing Policy Governance. They presented information gathered from area churches already operating under Policy Governance. The Board decided that at the June retreat, members will begin writing end statements (policies) and discuss the make-up of the administrative team charged with implementing these policies. UUCDC members with questions should contact Katy, Donna or Mark.

The Board also thanked the following persons for their excellent work in helping UUCDC fulfill its goals and missions:

--Leigh Mitchell and Mary Clinton for organizing and cleaning the kitchenette in Fellowship Hall --it looks awesome!

--Marge Caton, Jean Lenke and youth advisors Jennifer Haines, Andrew Snyder, Josie Yaller and Debbie Snow for guiding YUCKIs through the first UUCDC Youth CON in eight years.

--Bob McClennen for operating the new parking system and helping administrator Rina Jurceka to plan the change in our sexton's hours so that the church is cleaned early each Sunday morning.

--All the people, too many to mention, who contribute to wonderful music at Sunday services.

--Mark Bernstein, Donna Harris and Katy Lynn for collecting and summarizing information about Policy Governance.

--Bryan Boosz, Fred Kelemen and congregational visitors for presenting a strong pledge drive.

--Joe Miller and his wife, Eileen Sutton, for a delicious leaders' lunch.

--Susan Waxman for finding a facilitator for the cancer support group.

--Diane Wetzel for her many years of coordinating UUCDC's support of the Hunger Task Force that every second Saturday of the month bought, prepared and served dinner to homeless persons at the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County in Upper Darby.

--Katy Lynn, Board Member, &
Jody Malloy, Board President

RE-FLECTIONS

JEAN CAMPBELL, ACTING DIRECTOR
OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mentors and apprentices are partners in an ancient dance – the old empower the young with their experience and the young empower the old with new life, re-weaving the fabric of the human community as they touch and turn.

Parker Palmer in his book “The Courage to Teach”

Weaving the fabric -- what a great metaphor. The fabric of our religious education program is the community of children, youth and adults that we experience at UUCDC.

The Religious Education Council has begun planning for next church year with careful intention and thought regarding what RE should be. The members are discussing this in the context of what program(s) are offered. Recently, they've focused on what program model should be used for the elementary-age group.

The religious education pro-

gram at UUCDC has used the workshop rotation model (WoRM) for the elementary children for two years. Advantages of this model are that activities are varied and volunteer time is relatively limited. Not much UUA material is available for this model; churches using it usually end up writing their own material and programs. Workshop rotation is extremely labor intensive in design, development and implementation. Although we want to hold on to pieces of that model, the council has decided that this has not been an effective use of time and energy for the Director of Religious Education and the Council. Therefore, we've decided to return to a curriculum model next church year.

UUCDC used the curriculum model before trying the WoRM. Of the several curricula written and piloted by the UUA, our church owns quite a few and can buy others. We hope to maintain the excitement and fun the chil-

dren are having in RE while offering them a more consistent routine. We'll pay more attention to teacher training and overall programming instead of researching and writing workshop programs.

Religious Education, when done properly and taught “from the heart” by a nurturing individual, can become a religious, spiritual experience in and of itself. The children and youth are a community waiting for those who will open their hearts and join in the pilgrimage. Those who have spent time with the children and youth know that it can be a meaningful and community-building experience; this is the weaving and RE-weaving of our community.

I hope you will consider offering a thread of your own to our woven fabric!

Weaving the faith,

Jean

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

What's Happening at Church School

Cradle Room: Our youngest members continue to have fun playing cooperative games, reading stories, and coloring with our wonderful caregivers on Sunday mornings. If you would like to help or read a book to some youngsters for just a few minutes, please contact Jean Campbell.

Preschool: In April, the preschool children will be learning about the wonders of spring and growing things, and may even venture outside to do some planting.

Kindergarten/First Grade and Second/Third Grade: The K/1 and 2/3d grade classes will continue to participate in the WoRM rotations. The fifth rotation will begin in mid-April. This rotation is a social action workshop for the students. Jean is still in the process of planning what she hopes will be a meaningful outreach experience for our youngsters.

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Fourth/Fifth Grade: The 4/5th grade class began its Our Whole Lives sexuality curriculum on Feb. 25 and will conclude at the end of this month. The group will join the WoRM rotation at that time and help the entire RE group in the Community Service rotation.

Neighboring Faiths: The 6/7/8th grade class continues to learn about our religious neighbors. In April, the students will be finishing their exciting curriculum, which teaches the major tenets of the world religions.

As always, we welcome any new volunteers to help us continue to provide the outstanding programming that our children enjoy each week. Our weekly attendance is growing steadily, and we can use new and energetic people to share their Sunday mornings with our youngsters.

What's Happening With Youth Programs

Middle School Activity Group (7-8th grades). Be there on April 14 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. for "Pies & a Movie! – Take 2." We were canceled out in March, but will try the same plan this month. ("Billy Elliot," "Saved" -- not sure what the movie will be, but come and we'll vote on which of several to watch.) As usual, friends are welcome!

9th Grade Coming of Age Program. As you read this, our four ninth graders and their leaders are scheduled to be on the March 30-April 1 Boston Heritage Trip.

Many thanks to all those who supported the youth and their families at the Soup Lunch Fund-raisers and Bake Sale. The Boston trip would not be possible without your help.

YUCKIs (high schoolers). In April, the YUCKIs will start to plan their May 20 worship service.

Religious Education Is Not Just for Kids!

Adult RE offerings abound in April and after:

April 1, 8:45 a.m.: Film, "Burning Times." This moving documentary examines the repression by church and state of women who were healers and midwives in Europe in the late Middle Ages. From the 15th through the 17th centuries in Europe, thousands of women were tortured and executed because they were believed to be witches. The voices of authors, teachers and contemporary witches are heard.

April 8, 9 a.m.: A forum on "Love." What does it mean to love someone? Can you love someone and not like him or her? What is the opposite of love: "hate" or "indifference"? What does it mean to love an abstraction (e.g., love of country)?

April 15, 22, 29 at 9 a.m. and April 19 and 26 and May 3 at 7 p.m.: UU101, a series led by Rev. Peter Friedrichs.

Tuesdays, April 17-May 29 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.: "Talk So Your Kids Will Listen, and Listen So Your Kids Will Talk." This seven-session parenting workshop is based on the book of the same name by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish. The materials fee is \$20. For more information on the workshop's content, or register, contact Jean Campbell at 610-566-4853 or dre@uucdc.org.

May 6, 8:45 a.m.: Film, "Full Circle." This documentary looks at goddess worship in ancient and modern times, and explores contemporary women's spirituality.

Child care is available upon request for any Adult Ed program. Contact Jean Campbell at 610-566-4853 or dre@uucdc.org.

Committee on Ministry: 'Thank You'

The Committee on Ministry arranged eight Circle Supper potlucks in February, and they were attended by 92 people — thank you for the fantastic response!

We had a wonderful time (and many of you did, too) getting to know some people better, sharing delicious food, and having a chance to reflect on "shared ministry," on the state of the church, and on our vision for its future.

You gave us some great feedback during both the suppers and the Listening Sessions with Peter. We have

passed along your comments and ideas to the Coordinating Council to distribute among the committees.

Your comments were mostly positive and enthusiastic. They included ideas on how we can better minister to one another and how we can communicate better within the church while raising our profile in the community.

You also talked about how we can expand our work in the community, and how we can ensure a welcoming environment for visi-

tors and newcomers.

You gave us useful responses on Rev. Peter and his ministry, Sunday services, the music program, and R.E.

The overwhelming consensus appears to be that you'd like to do it again. So would we. We'll keep you up to date.

Ministry ... is all that we do together.

Gabe Small, Mary Clinton, Joyce McKee & Penny Bartlett

Racism Is Focus of Small Group Ministry April Sessions

During April meetings Small Group Ministry will focus on racism in our culture and within ourselves.

Some of the questions they will explore are:

--When did you first become aware of racial differences? When did the question of race enter your personal awareness?

--Who were your role models in learning about race, and what did they teach you?

--How have you been affected by racial discrimination in your own life?

--If you are white, can you identify circumstances when you have benefited from "white privilege"? What are some of the unconscious assumptions and reactions about race

that you experience in your everyday life?

--How have racial differences impacted our community at UUCDC?

--What can we do in our lives to promote our UU principles of justice, fairness, compassion and equity in human relations? How might we work to dismantle or overcome institutional racism in our society?

If you are interested in exploring this topic and others of meaning and importance within a facilitated group of 8-12 people committed to their personal and spiritual growth, Small Group Ministry may be the place for you! If you're interested in joining a group, please contact the

church office and we'll put you in touch with one of the facilitators.

Iris Marion Young wrote that racism and oppression are "the vast and deep injustices some groups suffer as a consequence of often unconscious assumptions and reactions of well-meaning people in ordinary interactions, media and cultural stereotypes...in short, in the normal processes of every life. Their causes are embedded in unquestioned norms, habits and symbols, in the assumptions of underlying institutional rules and the collective consequences of following those rules."

Rev. Peter

CARING CORNER

Finance Update – And a Pledge-Payment Plea

As of February 28, the UUCDC operating budget had a positive balance of about \$32,000. This was primarily a result of the surplus carried forward from the previous year and the one-time contributions collected in 2006.

One concern is how our collection of pledges will be affected by the change to a fiscal year ending on

June 30. Previously, members had an incentive to get pledge payments in at the end of the tax year. But if this fiscal year ends with many unpaid pledges, it will make it more difficult to project the collection of pledges for next fiscal year.

For this reason, we are appealing to everyone to make

every effort to complete their pledge payments before June 30.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support for our community.

Stu Greenberg

Treasurer

Yoga Magazine Cover Wannabes Need Not Enroll UUCDC's Classes are for the Rest of Us

If you almost see yourself in new spandex on the cover of Yoga Journal, our 5:45 Tuesday class at UUCDC is not for you. If you expect to break a sweat or hold a pose until you break emotionally, you'll be disappointed .

We are gentle with ourselves and each other. We breathe deeply, move slowly and laugh fre-

quently. Above all else, we refuse to take ourselves seriously. Some of us are mothers and daughters. We've become friends. We find that it helps to quiet our minds, open our hearts and relax our bodies on a regular basis.

If you come, wear comfortable old clothes, bring a mat or blan-

ket or two. Each finds her own internal limits and honors them. We center in the beginning, relax at the end, circle around a lighted candle, and share a pot-luck meal each season..

Susanne Clauser

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Film and Forum to Examine 'Third Gender' Tradition and Spirituality

Individuals who embody feminine and masculine qualities act as a conduit between the physical and spiritual worlds in the "third gender" tradition of many Native Americans. From 7 to 9 p.m. April 1, UUCDC will host a free community forum to explore this concept.

Leading the forum will be Michele Angello, PhD. After the screening of the documentary "Two Spirit People: Gender Diversity Across Cultures," she will contrast historic Native American beliefs regarding gender roles with the evolving influence of European and Christian Theology.

The discussion should be of particular interest to educators, health-care workers, parents and lawmakers, as society is evolving in addressing civil rights for gay Americans, the "third gender".

Michele Angello received her doctorate in human sexuality and master's degree in psychological services. She is a certified clinical sexologist, and a member of the board of directors for the Main Line Youth Alliance, and the Renaissance Transgender Association. She is also a member of the American College of Sexology, American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Thera-

pists, the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex, the American Psychological Association and the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association.

The forum is sponsored by the church's the Social Justice Committee and its Interweave Chapter, which serves the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning community.

Please join us for a thought-provoking evening.

Social Justice Committee Meeting Notes

The following subjects were discussed at the March Social Justice Committee meeting:

--Ways to honor Diane Wetzel for her 11 years work as coordinator for the Task Force on Hunger. A search underway for her replacement.

--March SJ Forum on Mental Health as Stigma was well-attended, with community persons offering experience with this issue. The photo exhibit will continue.

--Twenty people are signed up for New Orleans Katrina rebuilding project in April.

--NAACP Awards dinner. (See article on page 11.)

--Coordinating Council will fund purchase of a projector screen. SJ is committed to shopping for it.

--Upcoming events in which SJ Committee is participating or a partner: Bring the Troops Home Vigil, Interweave Forum, Darfur-Holocaust Seder event with Con-

gregation Beth Israel; Gun Violence group for presentation by Ceasefire Philadelphia in May.

--Discussion on how we can better use SJ Committee next year: more involvement by congregation; day-long committee retreat with facilitator.

-- SJ members welcome ideas from the congregation.

Patti Fiske

Social Justice Members Turn Out for 'Bring the Troops Home' Vigil

Never mind the 13-hour sleet storm that hit the Philadelphia area March 16. Fifteen members of the Social Justice Committee the following day joined some 200 other residents for the county-wide vigil "Bring the

Troops Home."

With banners and signs, they were stationed at major intersections along Baltimore Pike in Delaware County from Chadds Ford to the Philadelphia line. (More SJ members would have

been there, but they were trapped by frozen garage doors and five inches of intractable, driveway ice.)

The UUCDC group joined some

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200 other persons at vigil posts in Media at Monroe Street and Route 252, Route 320 in Swarthmore and Lansdowne Avenue, Lansdowne. In all, there were 18 vigil sites along the 20-mile length of Baltimore Pike.

Nearly 100 of the vigil partici-

pants met later at the Peace Center of Delaware County for hot chocolate, fellowship, and a mini-concert by Tom Mullian, the Media singer-songwriter, known for his CD, "Six Strings Against the War".

The vigil was one of 1,000 local

anti-war events held across the U.S., marking the fourth anniversary of the start of the war in Iraq.

--Regina Pound

Katrina Relief Group Heads for Gulf in April

The Katrina Relief group, a contingent of 23 UUCDC and Lansdowne's Garden Church members, will head for the New Orleans April 9 for two weeks of reconstruction work.

Organized through the Office of Disaster Response of the Louisiana Episcopal Diocese, volunteers will have the choice of helping residents clean out flooded homes, do renovation and rehab-

bing, travel to devastated areas and provide a listening ear to people in need and, as nursing professionals, be a part of St. Anna's Mobile Medical Mission, screening for high blood pressure and diabetes and making referrals. Needed R&R will take place in French Quarter restaurants and on the colorful streets of the Big Easy.

Donations can still be made to

help families purchase hot water heaters, refrigerators, other appliances, doors, lighting and cabinets destroyed during the hurricane.

Checks should be made out to UUCDC, with 'Katrina Relief' in the memo line. They can also be given to Regina Pound, Patricia Lasseter or Lois Morrigan.

Regina Pound

Committee to Present Scholarship at April NAACP Award Dinner

For the third, consecutive year, the Social Justice Committee will present a \$1,000 scholarship to an outstanding Chester youth at the Chester Branch NAACP annual awards dinner, April 20.

Last year 19 persons from UUCDC attended the event and there is hope that more UUCD-

Cers will attend in support of this important cause for our neighboring Chester community.

The awards dinner will be held at 6 p.m. at the Ramada Inn, 76 Industrial Highway, Essington, PA. Tickets cost \$40 per person, \$35 for senior citizens (62 years or older). Make checks payable to

Chester Branch, NAACP and forward to Bob Beaney, arrangement coordinator for the UUCDC contingent. Ticket deadline is April 13.

Bob Beaney

Contributing to US From Your IRA

Editors' note: This article contains information from Christina Fulton Administrator of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington, VT.

Here's a win-win situation for the church and some members or friends of UUCDC.

It's one of the privileges of maturity that certain people can gain a tax advantage by contrib-

uting to the church directly from their IRAs.

Some details:

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 contains a provision for qualified charitable distributions from Traditional or Roth IRAs. Basically, if you're 70½ or older, you can contribute money (up to \$100,000 per taxpayer per year) from your IRA directly to a quali-

fied 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization (that would be us).

If these qualified charitable distributions are made in 2006 or 2007, they may include the amount that the taxpayer must withdraw (their Required Minimum Distribution), and will not be considered taxable income.

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Yo UUCDCERS!

UUCDC Member to Christen Naval Ship

Few of us ever will have the opportunity to break a bottle of champagne across the bow of a ship and say, "I christen this ship"—or similar words.

However, a long-time member of our congregation will have that kind of experience. She is Bolling Byrd Clarke, who now lives at Crosslands.

She will fly to San Diego, CA, and on May 15, she will christen a Naval cargo ship, the *Richard E. Byrd*, named for her father, Admiral Byrd. He was the first man to fly over the North and South Poles and is famous for his explorations of Antarctica and related scientific work.

She will deliver a talk while she is there and will be accompanied by her two daughters, Eleanor Clarke Byrd and Marie Clarke Giossi. Her son, Richard Byrd Clarke, some grandchildren and other family members also are expected to attend this special event.

Admiral Byrd wrote several books about his explorations, among them, *Alone, Discovery, Little America*, and *Exploring with Byrd*. Bolling's favorite is *Alone*, written when Admiral Byrd was truly alone, some 100 miles from the Antarctica base camp. When Bolling would ask her father about his explorations, he would reply, "Read my

books like all the other school children." Although Admiral Byrd seldom talked about his explorations with his children, he was, as Bolling said, "a wonderful father and a marvelous teller of ghost stories."

In case anyone is curious about Bolling's unusual first name, there is a story behind it. When Admiral Byrd first sailed to Antarctica, a ship, named the *Chelsea*, was purchased for the voyage. He renamed it, the *Eleanor Bolling* for his mother.

--Bette Austin

Still More Yo...

How About Lunch at UU House?

A brief note from Bob Gasparro, UUCDC's representative at UU House, the senior citizens' home in Germantown:

Ann Kriebel and I generally have lunch at UU House the third Saturday of the month at noon. Cost is \$9.

Mucho Mulching on April 14

Got muscles? Even if you haven't, please join the Rose Tree Day School parents and staff in the playground to spread mulch.

Due to new regulations, we need to spread more mulch than ever. Many hands make light work, so come show your strength and your pride, and merrily move more mulch!

Mulch Mania will spread on April 14, starting in the morning and going until the job is done.

UU House Needs Carpets

You know that Oriental carpet, old, but still in good condition, that you inherited from your grandmother? In that back room, where no one goes? Perhaps, after all these years it needs another home?

There's a place for it.

UU House is in need of several Oriental carpets to replace ones beyond well-worn. They should be clean and in good shape with no wear marks. Needs are: For lobby approximately 6 x 9; parlor, 12 x 15, two rugs needed; office, one rug, 12 x 15.

To donate carpets, telephone Hank Penning at 215-843-0809.

(Continued from page 11)

The distribution from an IRA to a qualified charity may not be used by the taxpayer as a charitable income-tax deduction. Contact your financial adviser for more information on how you can contribute to the church directly from your IRA.

Cleaning Up Our Act

Our cleaning system has changed. (Again!)

The service we hired a little over a year ago continues to clean the Day School part of the building. However, as of mid-March, it no longer does a weekly cleaning of the upstairs.

Sexton Chuck Gallagher's hours have increased to 20 a week.

He's working from 6 to 8 a.m. on Sundays, readying us for our busiest time. He's also working six-hour days on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, doing both cleaning and "handyman" jobs.

Bob McClennen, the Property Committee chair, and Administrator Rina Jurceka have reviewed all the cleaning jobs nec-

essary on both a regular and occasional basis, and created a weekly and monthly/yearly cleaning plan. They hope that system will improve the quality of care for the upstairs portion, while allowing us to meet government standards for the parts used by the Day School.

Arts & Music: Rose Tree Concert

April 15! It's the last chance of the season to attend UUCDC's Rose Tree Concert.

The final concert of the 21st season celebrates Impressionism and Expressionism with soprano In Young Lee singing English lyric songs by Heggie and Schönberg. These will include "Six Songs" by Heggie and music for a literary cabaret by Schönberg.

Richard Veleta and Carl Cranmer will play two-piano music by Pärt, Ligeti and Ravel.

"Hymn to a Great City" is the Pärt offering, while Ligeti's "Three Pieces" provides echoes of Steve Reich and Terry Riley. The influence of Spain on the French composer Maurice Ravel, will be heard in his "Rhapsodie Espagnole".

The concert begins at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. A "meet the artists" reception follows the concert. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 for students, available at the door or after Sunday services during coffee hour.

Sue Adnopolz



A Welcoming Congregation Celebration!

Join us at 4 p.m. April 29 for a celebration of our commitment to being a Welcoming Congregation.

Since our rainbow flag was mutilated and burned last year, members of the church have been working to renew and reinvigorate our commitment to making UUCDC a safe and welcoming space for members and visitors who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender.

This work will always be an ongoing process of education, self-examination and evaluation, but we will celebrate all the work we've done during a special service on the afternoon of April 29. The service will culminate in the unveiling of a new rainbow flag sculpture that will be erected on our front lawn, near our street sign. A festive reception will follow the unveiling.

Please join members of UUCDC and the wider community in affirming our Welcoming status and celebrating the strength, beauty and joy that we find in the diversity of our congregation.

article on page 4.
present a program on the genocide in the Darfur region of the Sudan. For more information, see
On April 15, Holocaust Remembrance Day, the congregations of UUCDC and Beth Israel will

UUCDC and Congregation Beth Israel Collaborate on Program/Potluck on Genocide in Darfur

The Sunday service and a number of programs throughout the day will honor UUCDC's LGBT
Community April 1. The service will include music, readings and a message. Other programs will
include a film, "Burning Times," shown at 8:45 am and "Two Spirit People," a documentary film to
be followed by a discussion at 7 pm. More information about these films can be found in other ar-
ticles in FOCUS. ("Burning Times," page 7 and "Two Spirit People," page 10.)"

Sunday Service to Honor LGBT Community



Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County

145 W. Rose Tree Road, Media, PA 19063

Focus

April 2007

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Calendar

April 2007*

Date	Name of Event	Time				
4/1	Adult RE Forum	8:45 AM	4/10	Yoga	5:45 PM	
	Worship Service & Religious Ed.	10:30 AM		DBSA	7:00 PM	
	Visitors' Coffee	11:30 AM		Interweave Mtg	7:00 PM	
	Hunger Task Force	12:00 PM				
	Independent Catholics	5:00 PM		4/11	Rental	8:00 AM
	Social Justice Forum Set Up	6:00 PM			Chorus Rehearsal	6:30 PM
	YUCKI Youth	6:00 PM			Media Chamber Chorale	8:15 PM
	Social Justice Forum	6:30 PM				
4/2	Music Lessons	8:00 AM	4/12	Adult RE	7:00 PM	
	RTDS Parent Night	7:00 PM		RTDS InService	7:00 PM	
	Board of Trustees	7:15 PM		Small Group Ministry	7:00 PM	
	Social Justice Committee	7:15 PM	4/14	Music Lessons	8:00 AM	
	Needle Nook	7:30 PM		Piano Tuning for Rose Tree Concert	12:00 PM	
			Middle Sch Activity Grp	6:00 PM		
4/3	Yoga	5:45 PM				
4/4	Chorus Rehearsal	6:30 PM	4/15	UU101	9:00 AM	
	Outlooks Lesbian Discussion	7:00 PM		Worship Service & Religious Ed.	10:30 AM	
	Media Chamber Chorale	8:15 PM		Rose Tree Concert Set Up & Reh.	3:00 PM	
		COA		6:00 PM		
				YUCKI Youth	6:00 PM	
4/5	RTDS Parent Visitation	10:00 AM		Rose Tree Concert	7:00 PM	
	Independent Catholics Easter	7:00 PM	4/16	Music Lessons	8:00 AM	
	Independent Catholics	9:30 PM		RTDS Board	7:00 PM	
		Needle Nook		7:30 PM		
4/6	Independent Catholics	6:00 PM	4/17	Yoga	5:45 PM	
	Independent Catholics Easter	7:00 PM		Talk/Listen Class	7:00 PM	
	Independent Catholics Tennebrae	9:00 PM				
4/7	Music Lessons	8:00 AM	4/18	Chorus Rehearsal	6:30 PM	
	Chorus Rehearsal	10:00 AM		Membership Council	7:00 PM	
	Independent Catholics Easter	7:00 PM		Media Chamber Chorale	8:15 PM	
4/8	Adult RE Forum	8:45 AM	4/19	Adult RE	7:00 PM	
	Worship Service & Religious Ed.	10:30 AM		Worships Associates	7:00 PM	
	COA Mentor Check In	12:00 PM				
4/9	Music Lessons	8:00 AM	4/20	YUCKI	6:00 PM	
	Needle Nook	7:30 PM		Muslim Worship	7:00 PM	
	RE Council	7:30 PM				



Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County
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*Printed March 28, 2007

April 2007

4/21	Suburban Music School	9:00 AM	4/27	Book Group	7:30 PM
	Bingo Night! (Interweave)	7:00 PM			
	International Supper Club	7:00 PM	4/28	Music Lessons	8:00 AM
4/22	UU101	9:00 AM		Memorial Garden Work Party	9:00 AM
	Worship Service & Religious Ed.	10:30 AM		Pagan Beltane Ritual	2:00 PM
	Caring Committee	12:00 PM	4/29	UU101	9:00 AM
	OWL 6/7/8 Parent Orientation	12:00 PM		Worship Service & Religious Ed.	10:30 AM
	Round Robin Supper	5:00 PM		YUCKI Lunch	12:00 PM
	Star Music Recitals	5:00 PM		COA	6:00 PM
	YUCKI Youth	6:00 PM		YUCKI Youth	6:00 PM
4/23	Music Lessons	8:00 AM	4/30	Music Lessons	8:00 AM
	Coordinating Council	7:15 PM		Needle Nook	7:30 PM
	Needle Nook	7:30 PM			
4/24	Yoga	5:45 PM			
	DBSA	7:00 PM			
	Talk/Listen Class	7:00 PM			
4/25	Congregational Fund Drive	7:00 PM			
	District 54 AA Board	7:00 PM			
	Media Chamber Chorale	8:15 PM			
4/26	Adult RE	7:00 PM			