

FOCUS

April 2008

Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County

UUUCDC 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
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(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

I have to admit that I'm a sucker for spring. I suppose I don't know anyone who isn't. When I see the leaves of the daffodils poking up through the moist soil, it perks me up to know the riot of colors and smells that are coming in a few short weeks. To see this happening in mid-March is still a novelty to me. My friends in Maine are still shoveling snow, and the ground will still be covered well into April (or, after the harsh winter they've had, more likely into May). In Maine, spring was long-deferred and, perhaps for this, better appreciated. But even here in Pennsylvania, where we saw just a trace of snow all winter, we long for the burst of color and lush life that arrives this time of year.

But for me, spring also brings with it strong pangs of regret. Each year when I see daffodils and tulips crowding yards and parks, I resolve to plant bunches of bulbs in my own yard. And each autumn, despite my best intentions, I fail to get the bulbs into the ground. More urgent matters always seem to take precedence, and I never seem to get around to this particular task. Then, each April, I'm forced to confront my own failing in the form of barren flower beds.

Our American culture, and perhaps human nature, is oriented to the "now," and we struggle with the idea of planting seeds (or bulbs) that will bear fruit at some future date. Whether you're a baby-boomer, a Gen-Xer, or a member of whatever we're calling those coming of age today, we've been conditioned to respond to our impulses and to seek out that which fills us up in the moment. "Saving for a rainy day" and "planting for tomorrow" are concepts that are foreign to most of us.

The recent scandal involving Eliot Spitzer and his involvement with prostitutes is a case in point. The psychologists, political pundits and armchair analysts who offered up their explanations talked about "men in power" and "feelings of invincibility" and all kinds of psycho-babble. But when it comes right down to it, I think Spitzer is both a product and a reflection of a culture

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Speakers for April Services

April 6: Rev. Peter Friedrichs

April 13: Rev. Peter Friedrichs

April 20: Annual YUCKI Service

April 27: Intergenerational Earth Day Service, including Flower Communion. Rev. Peter Friedrichs and Jean Campbell, Director of Religious Education

Who's Who

Staff

Rev. Peter A. Friedrichs,
Minister

Jean Campbell,
Director of Religious
Education

Beth Youse,
Music Director

Ann Seidman, Assoc. Music
Director

Rina Jurceka,
Administrator

Chrissy Drummond,
Administrative Assistant

Vicki Coupland,
Member Talent Coordinator

Joy Thiessen, Accompanist

Jack Shaffer, Sexton

Jennifer Pinto, Meghan

**Pomeroy, Sally Davis &
Rachel Davis,** Childcare

Board of Trustees

Jody Malloy,
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Mark Bernstein,
Vice President

Lowell Young,
Treasurer

Julie Chuplis,
Secretary

Donna Harris

Katy Lynn

Mike Mitchell

Bruce Wyman

From the Minister

(Continued from page 1)

that wants what it wants, when it wants it, and goes out to get it without regard for the consequences. You can also point to the crisis in the mortgage markets and the downfall of investment bank Bear Stearns as other indicators of this syndrome.

At about the same time the Eliot Spitzer scandal broke, another story hit the news with far less fanfare. It was a report that scientists have recently concluded that one in four teenage girls in America has a sexually-transmitted disease. This is an incredibly depressing statistic and a clear indictment of the current administration's advocacy of "abstinence-only" sex education. But then, in my mind, a rose bloomed among the thorns. I realized that our Unitarian Universalist youth are far less likely to be one of these "statistics" than are members of the general population. Our human sexuality program, "Our Whole Lives," is quietly cultivating a healthy, informed and open approach to sex that gives our young people the tools they need to protect themselves and to make responsible decisions.

The OWL program at UUCDC is largely invisible this year, because it's conducted off-site, but it is vital and thriving. It is also one of the ways that our church is planting bulbs that are sure to blossom some time in the future. Much of what we do does not yield instantaneous results nor give us immediate gratification. We can't eradicate HIV/AIDS or other STD's, but if we teach our kids to use condoms it might save a few lives in the future. Our work with the Interfaith Hospitality Network won't end homelessness, but who knows the impact our generosity will have some day on one of those small children who spent a week with us? And if our NAACP Scholarship enables a few youth to buy their college textbooks, there's no predicting how they might make a difference in their lives and their communities.

That's the business we're in here at UUCDC: the bulb-planting business. Just as we are the beneficiaries of the dedicated gardeners who came before us, we are here to plant the seeds so that one day countless flowers may beautify the world.

Happy Spring!

Peter

FOCUS INFO:

Editors:

Bette Austin
& Neil Goldstein

Production:

Rina Jurceka

***The deadline for May
is April 14.***

Please send 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 25. Come help!

Silent Sanctuary

Please remember that during the four Sundays in April, we shall be providing 15 minutes of silence in the Sanctuary prior to the worship service. From 10:15 to 10:30 a. m. the Sanctuary will be available to those who would like to sit quietly, to meditate, or just to enjoy some peaceful time before our service begins. When you enter the Sanctuary, please do so quietly and refrain from speaking until the service begins.

If you would like to socialize with friends prior to the service, we ask that you do so in the lobby, being respectful of those who are sitting in the Sanctuary.

National Recognition For Rev. Peter

Rev. Peter is now officially a *national award-winning* minister.

His “Everything Is Possible,” delivered in March 2007 at the start of our Annual Fund Drive, recently won the 2008 Stewardship Sermon Award. The UUA prize is given annually for the sermon judged most effective in exploring and promoting financial support of Unitarian Universalism.

The selection committee found the sermon “*conveyed wonder and delight, a sense that everything is possible,*” said Laurel Amabile, Director of the UUA Annual Program Fund. “These elements of style and originality helped them to make their decision from 17 submissions we received.”

Peter said he was surprised to have been selected.

“I’m very happy to receive this kind of recognition in my ‘rookie year’ as minister,” he said. “This not only reflects well on my abilities, but it’s a feather in the cap for the entire congregation. I feel like a million bucks!”

Rev. Bill Sinkford, UUA President, will present the award to Peter during General Assembly in June. The prize is sponsored jointly by the UUA’s Annual Program Fund, the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, and the Liberal Religious Educators Association.

Check out

<http://www.uua.org/giving/awardscholarships/stewardshipsermon/8257.shtml>

Socket? Just One Way to Learn About Policy Governance

By now, you’ve probably heard about Policy Governance. The Board of Trustees is working hard to create that framework, which will guide the church in the coming months and years.

Information about the system is now available in many forms.

If you haven’t read it, please pick up a copy of the brochure *The Path to Policy Governance* from the church office, or check it out on our website. Be sure to stop by the display table in the lobby for information on coming events and updates on our progress.

On March 30, we’ll have a question-and-answer session immediately after the service. And look for a lighthearted video on PG starring Socket the puppet (you have to see it to believe it), coming soon.

All members of UUCDC committees and groups are invited to a special workshop on Saturday, April 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to discuss the transition from the current Coordinating Council to the new Lay Leadership Council.

Mission Covenant Process: After Caucuses More Refining

Many of you gathered at congregation members’ homes in March to share in potluck fellowship and to give your feedback on the Refining Team’s first draft of the Mission-Covenant Statement. We got great feedback at the “Cottage Caucuses,” and the Refining Team will now seek to tease out a consensus to factor into the next version, which will be presented later this month at two after-service meetings.

If you missed your chance to share your thoughts, or if you’re just curious to see the next draft, we invite you to participate in one of these

meetings.

This will be the last opportunity to share your thoughts with the Refining Team members before they settle on a final draft to be voted on at the May Congregational Meeting.

The feedback meetings will be held in the Sanctuary at noon on April 20 and 27.

Gabe Small

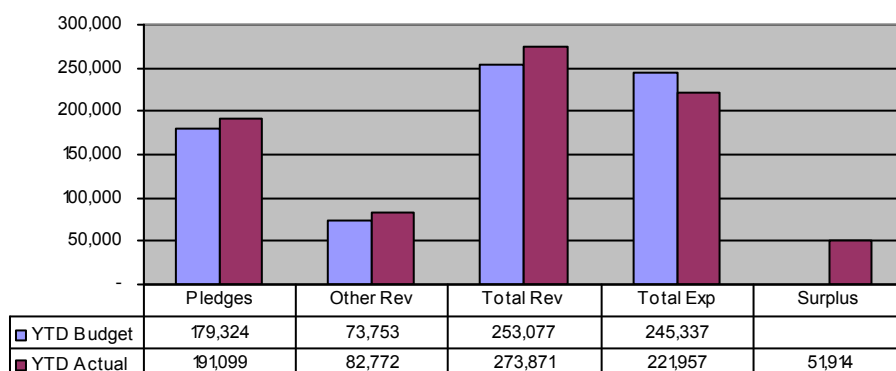
Monthly Statement—How We’re Doing Financially

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

The total surplus in February was \$51,914 versus \$53,436 in January, a decrease of \$1,522. I assume we can expect to see the surplus continue to decrease month by month as we move toward the end of the fiscal year, June 30.

March included an unbudgeted roof expense of about \$13,500. In spite of that, if pledges continue to come in on or above budget, and if we have no additional unbudgeted expenses, we may end the church year in the black.

Revenues & Expenditures - 02/29/08



Lowell Young

Treasurer

Ante Up Adults: Poker Night is Coming April 18

Do you know when to hold ‘um? Do you know when to fold ‘um? Have you enjoyed a small group of poker buddies for years where you’ve been able to perfect your game? This evening is for you!

Our very own UUCDC member, “Dr. Pete” Sotile, has offered his Extreme Poker Tour services to the church. Pete has hosted fundraising events for a wide range of charitable organizations such as The Family Support Line, the Leukemia Society, plus a variety of fire houses and other churches. This evening is aimed toward adults (not a family orientated evening). “Dr. Pete” and his crew ensure that the evening is safe, well-regulated and most importantly, a great “deal” of fun!

The event will start at 8 p.m., with registration starting at 7 p.m. The entry fee for the evening is \$50. If you are new to the game, there will be a \$25 entry fee for a beginner’s table. If we have 10

people at this table, the prize money will be \$150. When you pre-register, you will receive 500 EXTRA chips. To preregister: please send an email to slgrieco@verizon.net with the subject line: Poker Registration. Please provide your name, phone number and which tournament you’ll be participating in – beginner table or the open tournament. The deadline to pre-register is Wednesday, April 16th.

In addition to the poker during the evening, there will be a raffle for various prizes. There will be a cash bar and finger food available.

If you are a bit apprehensive about playing in the tournament, you can still be involved! We need church volunteers to help ensure the evening is a success.

Caring Corner

A Few Requests from the Endowment Committee

In the January issue of the FOCUS, I outlined the advantages of providing for UUCDC in your will or Living Trust. I also provided the reasons why Lucille and I have already done so. Now the Endowment Committee is making some rather simple requests.

First, if you have already made such a provision, we would like to know about it so we can create an accurate database of those who have named UUCDC in their wills and Living Trusts, or have named it as a beneficiary of their IRA's, 401K's, 403B's or other retirement plans.

If the donors involved approve, we would like to recognize them by periodically publishing their names. If a donor wishes to remain anonymous, the committee will respect that request. If you have already made this commitment, please notify the Committee, either by letter to Ed Mathis, Endowment Committee at UUCDC, or by e-mail to

edward.mathis@villanova.edu or endowment@uucdc.org.

Also, if you have not yet made the decision to donate to the church in this way but are interested in exploring the idea, please contact me at 610-325-0547 or at one of the e-mail addresses above. I will schedule a convenient time and place to discuss the possibility with a Committee member or other involved church member.

Please note that the purpose of this meeting is to help you make an informed decision on this matter only. No request will be made for a contribution. If a significant number of members take this important step, the future financial health of UUCDC will be ensured.

Ed Mathis

Committee Member

Pictorial Directory

Do you have yours yet? Please drop by the church and pick it up.

RE—FLECTIONS

May you find wisdom in these words from the NEWSLETTER of the Church of the Larger Fellowship Connections.

"Mystery and Reverence in Family Ritual," by Sam Macintosh from "Family Festivals," Vol. 2, No. 3.

Whether we are gathered around the altar of a church or our supper table at home, the primary attitude in religious ritual is reverence. Reverence is a sense of the holy, of the sacred, the numinous. It is a feeling for the "beyond" in our midst, for the "more than meets the eye." It is an awareness of the Mystery that always and everywhere confronts us.

Some who read these words will wonder what they mean. Reverence, like love, is not something we can understand from a definition. Either we know reverence by experience or the descriptive terms lack meaning.

Yet reverence is as essential to family rituals as it is to church rites. Whether in home or church, reverence is precisely what makes religious celebrations possible. Reverence is, in fact, what celebration is all about.

If we are concerned, then, for the religious development of our children, we must bring them to the experience of reverence. But again, like love, reverence cannot be taught, it can only be evolved, called forth from the depths of our children's hearts. To do this we need to keep in mind these things.

First, our children are not alien to mystery as something to be reasoned out, a puzzle to be solved like an Agatha Christie "mystery," where we try to figure out logically, based on clues, "who-did-it." Or in a religious context, we think of mystery as something ... that we "have to believe" even though we can't understand it. A mystery is something rich and full, inexhaustible in meaning. Mystery is our name for whatever is so filled with significance that we can never get to the bottom of it. It is not "something that we can't understand," but something we can never stop un-

**JEAN CAMPBELL,
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

derstanding. For children, life itself—their existence, the world they gradually find themselves a part of, their very bodies and minds—is a mystery. They have no need to be "taught" reverence.

What they do need is to be given opportunity to express the reverence that is already in their hearts. This is precisely the function of family ritual. While such a task may seem to be overwhelming to most of us parents, it is, in fact, quite easy. It is no more difficult than changing a diaper or pouring a glass of milk for a thirsty teenager.

Another thing to keep in mind is that religious ritual, whether in church or at home, involves nothing out of the ordinary. Our religious rituals are everyday actions: We hold hands, sing, light candles, bring food to the table, read aloud, tell stories, say words of thanks, share bread and drink, and thoughts. Our family rituals then, involve no unusual activities. It is how we do what we do that makes the difference.

St. Benedict in his Holy Rule tells his monks that the pots and pans of the monastery kitchen must be handled in the same way as the sacred vessels of the altar. The sense of the mystery ... in our lives is expressed not by what we do, but how we do it. Reverence is expressed by doing ordinary things in an extraordinary way, carefully slowly, attentively, graciously, not theatrically nor artificially, of course, but lovingly, with care. It is as simple as that.

How we do what we do makes all the difference. It is itself a great mystery that our children's experience of reverence ... should be dependent on something as fundamentally human as the loving care and gracious attention with which we do our home rituals, that it comes down to nothing more than our loving attempts to do ordinary things extraordinarily well.

-- Jean

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sunday School: Report on March 16 Kindergarten Class

With spring in the air and images of baby chicks and bunnies everywhere, the Kindergarten/4-Year-Old children paid attention to the mystery of life.

To begin the class they played a matching game by placing an actual seed onto the image of that seed's mature plant.

Students and teachers talked a little about how a seed knows how to grow, and how our bodies know how to grow, and how wonderful it all is. After a brief sharing of what we know about eggs, the group read and discussed *Chickens Aren't the Only Ones* by Ruth Heller. The book goes through all the various critters that lay eggs to reproduce.

After snack the children went on an outdoor signs-of-life scavenger hunt to find items such as a bud, something soft for a nest, and a leaf from last year.

Claire Brill

Youth Programming

Middle School Activities Group. Watch for announcements in the e-mail Digest about the meeting in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 12.

Coming of Age Group. These ninth graders meet from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Sundays in the Lounge. They will serve lunch on Sunday, April 13, to help defray the costs of their Heritage Trip to Boston this month. Planning goes on for that fifth annual trip, and the Mentor-Youth activities continue. The group leaders are Ray George, Animesh Karna, Jean Lenke, Sue McKenney and Scott Parsons. For more information, contact Jean Lenke at 610-543-7779 and lenke5@rcn.com, or Jean Campbell, 610-566-4853, ext. 3, and dre@uucdc.org.

YUCKIs. These high schoolers thank the congregation for its great support for the Lepre-CON youth conference in March. They will attend the Spring Youth Leadership Conference in April. On Sunday, April 20, they will lead the Sunday Service. The following Sunday, they will finish their fund-raising for the year with an after-service Lunch Bar. The group meets from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Sundays in the Youth Room. All senior high youth are welcome. The advisers are Mike Broggy, Jennifer Haines, Katie Koelewyn, Andrew Snyder and Mark Yerger.

Adult Religious Education: RE, It's Not Just for Kids!

Sunday Morning Forums

Forums begin at 9. a.m. Bring a beverage and ideas to share. Contact Jean Campbell if you need childcare: dre@UUCDC.org or 610-566-4853, ext. 3.

April 6: "On Morality"—Patti Fiske.

Where does morality come from? What are the sources of your morality? What part does religion play in being moral? How has your moral sense changed over the years?

April 13: "The Gospel According to the Simpsons"—Charlie Pell.

See a Simpson episode followed by a lively discussion of the moral and ethical issues a favorite TV family has to grapple with.

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April 20: "Wilderness and Wildness" — In honor of Earth day, April 22.

Is the external wilderness a place we enter for spiritual experience and renewal? Is our internal wilderness a place that we brave to discover something essential to our true selves?

April 27: "Judgment vs. Judgmentalism."

Under what circumstances do you struggle with being judgmental? When is it appropriate to tell another person that his/her behavior is wrong or unacceptable?

May 4: "Our Gifts" — Patti Fiske

Too often we spend our time listing shortcomings and bemoaning our failures. In so doing, we fail to acknowledge our strengths and our gifts. What are the assets we bring to the world? What keeps us from laying claim to them and living from strength?

What's Coming Up?

1. UU Heritage Series— Road to Boston, April 24-27 Registrations are in and all that remains before departure is another social gathering of participants when travel and itinerary preferences and allocation of suites will be confirmed.

2. UU Heritage Series: UU Roots in the U.S. : April 6, 12-2 p. m. , presented by Rick Gross. Bring lunch. This session is adapted from the curriculum, "Our Unitarian Universalist Heritage." James Fowler, a Methodist minister and professor of theology, has shared the perspective that religion is a "community's way of giving expression to faith relationships held in common." Unitarian Universalism evolved dramatically in the past two and a half centuries. Early American life was deeply affected by the Calvinist religion of New England Puritans; the liberal thinking of both Unitarians and Universalists emerged largely from that culture.

What were the beliefs held by Universalists? What were those held by Unitarians? During this session the evolution of contemporary Unitarian Universalism and ways in which our personal theology may be in "community" will be considered.

Registrants will receive a packet of optional readings, providing background information on the nature of religious thought and practices in the early days of our country. Register and request child care by contacting Jean Campbell: 610-566-4853, ext. 3 or dre@uucdc.org.

This workshop is part of the Road to Boston series. It enhances and enriches the experience for those going to Boston. It is open to everyone and, though encouraged, is not required for the trip to Boston.

Bingo! Raffle! Be There on May 31

May 31 will bring a super Saturday of fun and prizes – the Bingo & Super Raffle Night.

If you'd like to help with the raffle sales and the night's festivities, contact the church office.

2 Major 'Concerts for the Community' At Church on April 25 and May 17

"Concerts for the Community" is a UUCDC program in which highly gifted musicians perform to raise money in support of social justice efforts. We're fortunate that two such events are scheduled here in the next two months.

Jim Scott and Dan Schatz on April 25

Musical great Pete Seeger has called his fellow UU Jim Scott "some kind of a magician."

Come experience the magic at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 25, when Concerts for the Community presents "A Musical Celebration of the Earth" with Jim and special guest, Dan Schatz.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door.

A magnificent singer-songwriter-guitarist, Jim is known to many as the voice on the Paul Winter Consort's "Common Ground." He mixes folk, jazz and world sounds as he weaves humor into his songs of peace and the environment. Children, as well as adults, will find something to laugh and sing about.

Jim has visited more than 300 UU congregations across the country, leading services, presenting concerts and offering workshops. Three of his songs are in our hymnbook, and his "Gather the Spirit" is a favorite across the denomination.

In his years as guitarist for the Paul Winter Consort (1977-1984), he led thousands in songs, including his own eco-anthem, "A Song for the Earth." He co-composed the Consort's monumental choral work *Missa Gaia/Earth Mass*, and recorded *A Concert for the Earth* in the Great Hall of the United Nations.

Also performing will be local folksinger, multi-instrumentalist and songwriter Dan Schatz. Not only is Dan a leading autoharp player, he's also the minister at the BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Warrington.

For more information, visit: www.uucdc.org, www.jimscottmusic.com or www.danschatz.com

Divas a la Carte (Deborah Snow, Heidi Starr, Linda Tripolitis) on May 17

Yes, those three semi-mild-mannered sopranos known as Divas a la Carte are back again!

At 7 p.m. Saturday, May 17, Deborah Snow, Heidi Starr and Linda Tripolitis will present a lively concert including a little something for everyone -- jazz, swing, opera and popular standards -- all with their hall-mark flair. Accompanying them will be pianist Michele Scanlon.

Debbie launched Concerts for the Community in 1997 with a production of *Hansel and Gretel*. Many of you will recall her creative adaptation of *Free to Be You and Me* for the series -- a show that involved a large, intergenerational cast of UUCDC members and friends. Debbie is now the artistic director for the new performing-arts center in Pottstown, and she continues to teach voice.

Linda, the musician, doubles as Linda, the biologist who conducts vaccine research at Merck.

Heidi's professional career includes both performance and teaching voice at her Morton home. Several years ago, she started Opera Night at the Fellini Cafe in Media, a popular, recurring feature of that restaurant.

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Lay Pastoral Team is Launched

To help support Rev. Peter in addressing the pastoral needs of the congregation, six members have been trained as Lay Pastoral Caregivers. They are: Len Finegold, Barbara Florio, Patti Garver, Dot Margal, Scott Parsons and Debbie Snow.

When he is made aware of a pastoral need in the congregation, Rev. Peter will either respond himself or he will ask one of our Lay Pastoral Caregivers to step in. Team members will serve as an "extension" of Rev. Peter's ministry, and they will report back to him after each visit.

They are committed to a strict code of ethics and

confidentiality, and have received extensive training in the art of pastoral care. The Lay Pastoral Care Team will work side-by-side with the members of the Caring Committee, who will continue to provide meals, rides, cards and similar services, all to ensure that members of our congregation receive the care they need.

If you have any questions about this program, or if you have a pastoral need, please contact Rev. Peter at the church office. If you have a pastoral emergency, you can reach him on his cell phone. Call his church voice mail for more information.

ARTS, BOOKS & MUSIC

April is Season's Last Hurrah for Rose Tree Concerts

"Two Pianos and a Violin" is the theme of the season's final Rose Tree Concert, April 20, 7 p. m. in Fellowship Hall.

Carl Cranmer returns to team with Dick Veleta for a cornucopia of two-piano music. First of these is "Six Etudes in the Form of a Canon," by Schumann, transcribed by Debussy, followed by a "Concertino for Two Pianos, Opus 95, by Shostakovich, and a final, "La Valse," by Ravel.

Solomiya Ivakhiv, Ukrainian-born violinist, makes her debut with the concert series, with Schumann's Sonata in A minor for violin and piano and "Five Melodies," Opus 25 in B Minor, by

Prokofiev.

She is principal second violinist with the Philadelphia Orchestra, and a 2003 graduate of Curtis Institute of Music. She has received top awards in numerous competitions and has performed on both radio and television programs. She first performed with the Live Philharmonic Orchestra when she was 13.

Tickets will be available after Sunday services in Fellowship Hall, beginning April 6, and at the door before the concert. Prices are: adults, \$15, and students, \$5.

Jimmy Carter's Boyhood Memoir is April Choice for Book Club

UUCDC's Book Club will discuss "An Hour Before Daylight: Memoirs of a Rural Boyhood," a non-political novel by former President Jimmy Carter, April 25, 7:30 p. m.

The Book Club met March 28 to discuss "The March," by E. L. Doctorow, a novel that takes place during the Civil War and focuses on the period of General Sherman's march through the heart of the South.

The Book Club meets once a month on Friday eve-

nings to discuss interesting books selected by members of the group. The group is an ongoing endeavor to engage in friendly and stimulating adult conversation and is open to all adults.

Enter "book club" in the UUCDC website search engine to see the schedule or find it on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall for specific dates and times to discuss interesting books.

Come join us April 25.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

UUCDC to Present NAACP Scholarship

UUCDC will present a \$1,000 scholarship award to an outstanding Chester student at the Chester Branch NAACP's annual awards dinner, April 11 at Harrah's Event Center, Route 291, Chester, at 7 p. m.

This will mark the fourth consecutive year that UUCDC, through its Social Justice Committee and the Concerts for the Community Fund, has taken part in this program.

Darrell V. Jones, president, of the Chester NAACP Branch, expressed his gratitude: "Thank you ... for your support and that of the Unitarian Universalist Church. I am appreciative of the relationship that the Chester Branch NAACP and the church have maintained. Due to this generous support, our youth are able to make college a reality."

Members and friends who wish to support this highly rewarding UUCDC community outreach program may contribute directly or support forthcoming Concerts for the Community. (See the Concerts article, page 9.)

Tickets to the awards dinner are \$45 per person; seniors (62 and older), \$37. The deadline is April 1. Make checks payable to Chester Branch NAACP and forward to Bob Beaney, who is coordinating arrangements for the contingent. For questions about the Community Concerts Fund or if you wish to join the UUCDC contingent at the Awards Dinner, contact the church office

Don't Forget the Day School for Volunteer Opportunities

The recent Talent Survey shows the many opportunities that present themselves to the congregation. It is a buffet of choices for volunteering!

One additional "dish" resides right here at the church. It is the Rose Tree Day School. RTDS provides an opportunity for church members to share their gifts with children from our community. (Soon there will be six enrolled from our UUCDC congregation.) As a member of the Rose Tree Day School Board, I encourage those interested in storytelling or music or trains, planes and automobiles, to consider volunteering at the school.

The school was founded by church members as a community outreach program. During the last 29 years, it has become well-respected. It also is often an introduction for parents to Unitarian Universalist values and programs.

Frequently, there is a waiting list to enroll children in RTDS, which is one of only 11 preschools in Delaware County to be accredited by the National Asso-

ciation for the Education of the Young Child. RTDS is a large contributor to the church, giving more than \$20,000 in the past year. The school also contributes significantly to maintaining and updating the church building.

The Week of the Young Child is April 13-19. We welcome you to visit on Tuesday, April 15, to observe the amazing gifts the teachers and staff provide to the young children.

If you are interested in reading to the students or participating in another capacity, please make sure that your Talent Survey states that information in one of the "Comment" sections.

IN OUR BACKYARD

A Creative Examination of Aging at 2 S. Jersey Retreats

The Murray Grove center in South Jersey invites you to "Seasons of Sage-ing: Equinox Retreats" in May and November.

Recognizing that aging is part of the natural process of life, participants will reflect on the challenges and blessings of their life journeys. The paradoxes of spring and autumn will be explored through images of life's seasons – birth, growth, death, and new birth – with poetic beauty.

You may attend one or both of the two-part Equinox retreat programs, May 15-18 and Nov. 6-9 at Murray Grove. That beautiful spot at Lanoka Harbor, where the Pine Barrens meet Barnegat Bay, is where John Murray preached the first Universalist sermon in America.

Each program will begin with a meditation and journal-writing exercises. Contemplative practices will complement interactive learning opportunities and group-sharing experiences. Participants will engage in creative activities led by artists using various media, from poetry and art, to yoga and mandalas.

The leader is UU minister Pat Hoertdoerfer, one of 300 Sage-ing Leaders in the United States and Canada who have been trained in a new philosophy of aging, developed by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, author of *From Age-ing to Sage-ing*.

For more information on Pat, the artists who will be joining her, and the details of the Seasons of Sage-ing program, go to murraygrove.org, call 609-693-5558.

BuxMont Hosts Seminars on Health Care, Estate Planning

Our UU neighbor, BuxMont Fellowship in Warrington, PA, plans two seminars this month.

The first is a Health Care Symposium, Saturday, April 12, 3:30 to 5:30 p. m., and the second, an Estate Planning seminar April 20, following the Sunday service.

Symposium speakers will include Donna Cooper,

secretary of Policy and Planning, who will present "Prescription for Pennsylvania," Gov. Ed Rendell's health care proposal; State Representatives Scott Petri and Katharine Watson, offering alternative programs to "Cover All Pennsylvanians," represented in 12 separate bills; and Chuck Pennacchio, Ph.D., executive director, Health Care for All PA. He will present the publicly-funded and privately-provided option proposed in the Family and Business Healthcare Security Act, HB 1660/SB 300.

The League of women Voters will moderate questions and discussion following the presentations. The symposium is sponsored by the Fellowship's Peace and Justice Committee.

Jill Fowler, an attorney who specializes in estate planning, is speaker for the seminar on Planned Giving, organized by the BuxMont Endowment Committee. She is a partner in the firm of Heckscher, Teillon, Terrill and Sager in West Conshohocken.

Ms. Fowler will outline the ways money can be saved as well as used to support BuxMont, and other UUs, when writing wills.

The goal of the Endowment Committee is to build the Fellowship's financial resources. Interested persons are asked to RSVP at 215-348-3340 or tom.thomas@frosch.com. Child care on request.

The Fellowship is located at 2040 Street Rd., just east of Route 611, Warrington, PA.

For additional information for the health symposium call 215-343-0406 or www.buxmontuu.org.

Elwyn Seeks Life Sharing Providers

Elwyn's Life Sharing Program, also called Family Living or Shared Living, is looking for caring and compassionate people to share their homes and lives with individuals with developmental/intellectual disabilities.

The program offers meaningful relationships between the individual and the family through shared life experience, from routine workdays and homemaking responsibilities to holidays, birthdays,

new births and family losses.

The provider assists the individuals they support in pursuing "everyday lives," helping them with meal preparation, eating and shopping skills, assisting with medical visits and medications, monitoring medical issues and various related responsibilities. Providers receive expert training, around-the-clock support, and a competitive, tax-exempt stipend.

For more information contact: Elwyn Life Sharing, Suite 211, Administration Building, 1121 Elwyn Road, Elwyn, PA 19064; Dianna_blakeley@elwyn.org; 610-891-2169.

Spring Vagabond Shoes? UU Directory is For You!

The new directory, "UU're HOME" lists 200 UU hosts all over North America. They invite you to be a guest in their home and offer an inexpensive place to stay with fellow UUs on your travels.

For a copy of the 2008 "UU're HOME" and a year's access to the website listings, click on "become a member" to pay by credit card on a secure site or mail a check for \$25 and your email address to Paul Robbins and Jean Reese, publishers, 41 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806; 828-281-3253. Website: www.uurehome.com or email: info@uurehome.com.

(Considerably Beyond Our Backyard)

Whales and Wine for the Summer

Five Alaskan UU fellowships will be available in July for an eco-cultural program with UU homestays in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Seward, Juneau and Sitka.

For the 12th year, UUs will host events and lead tours to Tlingit and Inupiat Native Alaskan villages, Denali and other National Parks with almost up-close and personal sights of bears, moose, caribou, whales, sea otters and bald eagles. This UU summer program in Alaska is coordinated by WhaleCoast Alaska, with Dave Frey, a 27-year Alaska resident,

leading the program.

More information: www.wuurld.org or email: waltonfrey@gci.net or telephone: 907-322-4966 for a brochure.

For a vacation farther south, UU Fellowship of North Bay invites UUs to wine country tours to California's Napa Valley from May through October. The excursions include two days of touring and a two- or three-night stay, with all local transportation provided. Home hospitality without tours is also available.

Tour highlights include visits to American Center for Food, Wine and the Arts, Jack London's home, now a state park; the Culinary Institute of America at Greystone; the diRosa Art and Nature Preserve; and the galleries, boutique shops, world-class restaurants, and wine-tasting rooms of Napa itself.

Proceeds help the Fellowship grow and purchase property. Openings are limited. Contact Tom Wilson, 707-254-7443 or 2wilsons1dog@comcast.net.

One Way to Help Entrepreneurs in the Developing World

Kiva.org is an organization that lets people connect with and loan money to small businesses in the developing world.

Through the website, you can "sponsor" a business and help the world's working poor move toward economic independence. You can lend as little as \$25 at a time. Throughout the course of the loan (usually six to 12 months), you can receive e-mail journal updates from the business you've sponsored. As loans are repaid, you get your loan money back.

You can even buy Kiva gift certificates.

For more information, go to <http://kiva.org>.

Do Green, Be Green

Bottled Water Anyone? How About Standard Tap?

How and when Americans became so addicted to bottled water is one of those baffling mysteries. Never mind. According to "The Green Guide," last year Americans purchased over eight billion gallons of bottled water and then tossed more than 22 billion empty bottles in the trash.

To produce a year's worth of plastic bottles, it requires 1.5 million barrels of oil, plus more to transport it. Bottled water is, of course, a \$10.9 billion-a-year industry.

Many groups are taking a stand against bottled water, including the local chapter of the Women's International League of Peace and Freedom. The League has launched a three-year "Save the Water" campaign, based on the idea that drinking bottled water encourages privatization, which may lead to wars over water. It also hopes to prompt a boycott

by spreading the word at schools and at plastic-unfriendly places, such as Weaver's Way in Mt. Airy.

Bottled water, said Salt Lake City Mayor Ross C. Anderson, "very clearly reflects the wasteful and reckless consumerism in this country." The Container Recycling Institute reports that 86 per cent of water bottles—close to two million tons of plastic a year—end as litter or in landfills instead of recycling bins.

So, back to the water tap, you Green World enthusiasts, and everyone else.

[Thanks to info supplied by an article in "The Inquirer."]

Bette Austin

From the Coordinating Council

At the February meeting, Council members shared the great variety of activities and events that make up a vibrant church life at UUCDC.

We heard a presentation from Nancy Henderson on the (relatively) newly-formed Director of Religious Education Advisory Committee.

The Council also reviewed a draft policy developed by the Board in response to the flag survey. It also heard an update on activities related to the adoption of the Policy Governance system.

Mark Bernstein

(Continued from page 9)

About 'Concerts for the Community'

As some will recall, the series was born through the initiative of Debbie Snow when she was Chorus Director, and it has grown into an ongoing program.

Now under the auspices of the Social Justice Committee, the series will raise money to enable UUCDC to continue providing college scholarships to students from Chester. In 2005, the committee decided to work with the NAACP Chester Branch scholarship program to award modest help to outstanding students. The series fund relies on concert proceeds, plus the generous gifts of time, talent and monetary donations of benefactors within the church.

This year, UUCDC has committed to award \$1,000 in tuition assistance to each of three students for the 2008-09 academic year. We intend to maintain that assistance as long as a student remains in school full time, working toward an undergraduate degree. We try to introduce each student to the congregation during a Sunday morning worship service. (See related article on Page 11.)

Bea Scholz

April 2008

THIS, I BELIEVE / Dennis Leeper

From the Editors,

[This is the fourth installment of the occasional series This, I Believe. We invite you to send us a concise statement of your own core belief. We hope that through these short essays we'll get to know each other better, and we'll enjoy provocative food for thought. Please submit your work to focus@uucdc.org. It should run between 350 and 500 words. For the full guidelines – and for an easy, one-step way to submit your work to the FOCUS – go to <http://uucdc.org/thisibelieve.html>. For more information, contact Bette Austin or Neil Goldstein.]

I am a secular Humanist. If there is a deity, there is no evidence for it since the Big Bang origin of the universe. As human beings evolved an intellect, they developed the ability to anticipate danger and change. The inability to define the object of fear or the origin of change leads to anxiety. Relief from anxiety was sought through religion, often defining a father-like God to provide answers and comfort. Since man is inherently a social species, religion and the search for meaning occurred in groups, gathering in what became known as shrines, temples, churches and mosques. Man has an innate need for religion because he has to deal with issues that he cannot understand, that provide deep emotional challenges and that cause anxiety, such as great sadness and joy, pain and suffering, life and death. I believe that all persons are born with worth and value and that all forms of life on this planet deserve respect. I believe that man receives deep emotional satisfaction from doing good, from providing service to others and from leaving a legacy for those who follow. Evidence suggests there is a gene for altruism.

I discovered Unitarian-Universalism working in the fields beside my dad on our farm in Iowa. My dad told me of the UU church in Iowa City, home of the University of Iowa where he went to school. He said he didn't know much about it, but many professors went to that church. He said the UU church did not insist on belief in one particular, personal, or vengeful God, things that didn't make sense to him either. My dad believed if there was a god, he supported the growth of all things and that his interest was in the whole universe and not just in humans. These early discussions with my dad, my life studying biophysics and biology, and my helping raise seven children have led to my personal, religious philosophy.

For many years I attended the UU church in Iowa City myself. I found UU principles supported my own, and I became a firm supporter. UUism is particularly attractive to me because it does not insist on the definition of, or the preconceived belief, in a deity, and it accepts diverse beliefs and experiences in its members. The laws of physics, chemistry and mathematics rule the solar system and the universe, and religious truth and scientific truth must be compatible. Religious truth is defined from within an individual, not from without by some external authority.

The search for religious truth is a personal and never-ending responsibility. I seek other like-minded individuals and a minister to assist me in my attempt to understand fundamental truths and emotions. Furthermore, I derive great satisfaction from participating with these "friends" on a regular basis and in sharing our personal journeys and joys and frustrations as we live out our lives.



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

Focus

April 2008

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IS MEMBERSHIP IN YOUR FUTURE?

The orientation program for prospective UU/DC members, "Is Membership in Your Future?" will be held April 27 at noon. This program is open to anyone considering joining the church. The session will include a history of the Unitarian Universalist Church, basic information on Unitarian Universalism, a presentation of opportunities to become involved in the life of the church, and learning what it means to become a member.

Lunch will be provided. If you are interested in participating, contact Bill Henderson, chairman, of the Membership Council, 610-659-4227 or bhender326@aol.com. At the end of the session, interested individuals will be able to take part in a membership joining ceremony in the Sanctuary.

Calendar

April 2008*

Date	Name of Event	Time			
4/1	Yoga	5:45 PM	4/11	UUCDC Chess Club	7:30 PM
	Social Justice Committee	7:15 PM		Midnight Movie Rental	11:30 PM
4/2	Muslims	6:00 PM	4/12	Suburban Music Rental	8:00 AM
	Interweave Meeting	7:30 PM		MS Youth Activity	6:00 PM
	MCC	7:30 PM	4/13	Sunday Forums	9:00 AM
	Mission Committee	7:30 PM		Worship Service & Religious Education	10:30 AM
4/3	SGM	1:00 PM		COA Soup Lunch	11:30 AM
	Chorus Rehearsal	7:00 PM		Adult RE	12:00 PM
	Lay Leadership Policy			COA Mentors	12:00 PM
	Governance Workshop	10:00 AM		Social Justice Forum	1:00 PM
	Newcomer Reception	4:00 PM		Ministry Facilitators	2:00 PM
4/6	Sunday Forums	9:00 AM		Starr Recital	4:00 PM
	Worship Service & Religious Education			COA	6:00 PM
	10:30 AM			YUCKI	6:00 PM
	Gun Violence Group	12:00 PM	4/14	Board of Trustees	7:00 PM
	Unitarian Universalist			RTDS	7:00 PM
	Roots Seminar	12:00 PM	4/15	Yoga	5:45 PM
	Personnel Committee Meeting	12:15 PM	4/16	Muslims	6:00 PM
	Rental Concert (Monroe Music)	3:00 PM		MCC	7:30 PM
	COA	6:00 PM	4/17	RTDS Parent Visitation	10:00 AM
	YUCKI	6:00 PM		Chorus Rehearsal	7:00 PM
4/7	Board of Trustees	7:00 PM		Parent Support Group	7:00 PM
	RE Council	7:15 PM	4/18	UUCDC Fundraiser	7:00 PM
	Muslims	7:30 PM	4/19	Chorus Rehearsal	10:00 AM
4/8	Yoga	5:45 PM		Piano Tuning	10:00 AM
	DBSA	7:00 PM		Baby Dedication - rental	2:00 PM
	Racial Justice Team	7:15 PM		Seder	6:00 PM
4/9	Muslims	6:00 PM	4/20	Sunday Forums	9:00 AM
	MCC	7:30 PM		Special Music Service and	
4/10	Chorus Rehearsal	7:00 PM			
	SGM	7:00 PM			



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145 W. Rose Tree Road, Media, PA 19063

*Printed March 26, 2008

April 2008

	Religious Education	10:30 AM		Worship Service & Religious Education	
	Worship Service & Religious Education			10:30 AM	
	Adult RE Planning	12:15 PM		YUCKI Soup Lunch	11:30 AM
	COA	6:00 PM		Joining Process	12:00 PM
	YUCKI	6:00 PM		COA	6:00 PM
	Rose Tree Concert	7:00 PM		YUCKI	6:00 PM
4/21	DRE-AC	7:00 PM	4/28	Coordinating Committee	7:15 PM
4/22	Yoga	5:45 PM	4/29	Yoga	5:45 PM
	DBSA	7:00 PM		Worship Associate	7:00 PM
	Worship Associates	8:00 PM	4/30	Muslims	6:00 PM
	Muslims	6:00 PM		Board of Trustees	7:00 PM
	Budget Subcommittee	7:00 PM		MCC	7:30 PM
	District 54 AA	7:00 PM			
	Youth Room	7:00 PM			
	MCC	7:30 PM			
4/24	Chorus Rehearsal	7:00 PM			
	Muslims	7:00 PM			
4/25	Muslims	5:00 PM			
	Book Group	7:30 PM			
	Concert for Jim Scott	7:30 PM			
4/26	Memorial Garden	9:00 AM			
	Good Relationship Adult RE Class	9:30 AM			
4/27	Sunday Forums	9:00 AM			