

FOCUS

April 2009

Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County

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

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

E-mail:

churchoffice@uucdc.org

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

(PreSchool - 8th)
10:30 a.m. Sept.-June



FROM THE MINISTER

During the wonderful Fund Drive Kick-Off event March 20, our table was posed the following question for discussion: *Would you rather be the best player on a losing team or the worst player on a winning team?*

The question took me back to my pre-teen days of Little League baseball. Back then, I was a pretty good fielder, but a terrible batter. In fact, I went several seasons without a single hit! Each time I was called up to bat in a pressure situation, my teammates would let out a collective groan, and I would inevitably fulfill their low expectations by striking out. My coach and my parents would try to console me afterwards, but there's no comforting an 11-year-old boy who has just lost the game for his team. So, you can guess where I came down in our discussion that evening.

The group at our table, though, was evenly divided and we had a delightfully active discussion about whether you would have more fun playing a lot but losing, or not playing at all while being part of a group that succeeds, the effect of either choice on our egos, and the roles of mentors and protégés. In true Unitarian Universalist fashion, we agreed to disagree, but ultimately we all found common ground in the belief that what is most important is not the winning or losing, but having fun along the way.

That discussion has led me to consider the Ministry Teams at UUCDC. Under our governance structure, the Lay Leadership Council participates with me (as "Lead Minister") in implementing programs that further our congregational Mission Covenant and the "Ends Statements" established by the Board. (You can visit the church website to learn more about this: www.uucdc.org/policygovernance.html.)

(Continued on page 2)

April Services at 10:30 a.m.

April 5: Rev. Peter Friedrichs

April 12: Rev. Peter -- Easter Sunday

April 19: Rev. Peter -- Earth Day celebration

April 26: YUCKI service

Who's Who

Staff

Rev. Peter A. Friedrichs,
Minister

Chris Schroth,
Music Director

Tabby Parson,
Interim Coordinator of
Religious Education

Rina Jurceka,
Administrator

Chrissy Drummond,
Administrative Assistant

Jason Schafer-Valerius,
Accompanist

Marge Caton,
Event Coordinator

Jack Shaffer, Sexton

**Meghan Pomeroy, Kristine
Baney, & Ly Wang,**
Child care

Board of Trustees

Mark Bernstein,
President

Donna Harris,
Vice President

Dino Ramos,
Treasurer

Julie Chuplis,
Secretary

Peter Cooke

Marylin Huff

Mike Mitchell

Jean Wallace

FOCUS INFO:

Editors:

Bette Austin
& Neil Goldstein

Production:

Rina Jurceka

The deadline for May

is April 13. 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.
April 24. Come help!

From the Minister

(Continued from page 1)

Under this structure, we have established five "Ministry Teams." They share common interests, activities and goals within the church. The five teams are:

- Membership Health and Vitality
- Spiritual Growth and Enrichment
- Stewardship
- Community Outreach
- Congregational Care

The leaders of each Ministry Team make up the standing members of the Lay Leadership Council.

We are in the first year of this new way of operating, and we seem to be doing a very good job of offering programs and activities that are vital to church life. But the "team" concept has been slow to catch on. Committees that are organized within the same team continue to function effectively, but independently of one another. Team meetings are viewed by some as unnecessary or unproductive, and there seems to be little "cross-committee" communication. I would characterize these as normal responses to any proposed change in a long-standing system.

But I continue to see value in the Ministry Team concept. The teams are organized so that committees with similar or complementary "portfolios" can join together and collaborate on projects and programs within their areas of influence. This allows them to draw on the varying strengths and abilities of a broad range of members beyond those of a single committee, providing each Ministry Team with depth that a lone committee may not have. In sports parlance, this is called "bench strength." The team approach to our shared ministry also encourages the free flow of ideas among team members, stimulating creativity and energy across the entire community. If a committee feels bogged down with a particularly thorny problem, it can enlist support and input from other committees within its Ministry Team, or from the entire Lay Leadership Council.

As a community we are still in the "spring training" phase of this team approach. We are stretching out and flexing muscles, sizing each other up to see who the strongest batters are and who will make the best fielders. But unlike the Major League teams whose seasons are about to begin, we're doing all this in "mid-season" as well. Church life cannot be put on hold while we try to figure it all out.

I encourage all of us to consider how we are part of one or more Ministry Teams and how we might invigorate our fellow teammates. Then we can all step up to the plate and swing for the fences!

Love,

Peter

BOARD PERSPECTIVES: THE UPS AND DOWNS OF BEING A UU

From President Mark Bernstein

I've been working recently on my elevator speech. For those who don't know what I'm talking about, imagine a scenario where you and an acquaintance step on an elevator. As the doors close, your companion turns to you and says, "So tell me about this Unitarian Universalist group you belong to. What is Unitarian Universalism?" Your task is to give as complete an answer as you can in the time it takes to finish that elevator ride. That's an elevator speech.

It's a cool exercise because it requires you really to think about what Unitarian Universalism means to you. It asks that you strip away all the external reasons for being a member of our congregation and get at the core of why you committed to becoming a UU. It allows you clearly to identify your personal identity as a member of this faith and to articulate it in no uncertain terms to the outside world.

All of this is important for many reasons, not the least of which is that our collective identity as Unitarian Universalists is disappearing, according to the 2008 American Religious Identification Survey conducted by Trinity College in Hartford, CT (<http://www.americanreligiousurvey-aris.org/>). In that report we are included with other groups in the category "New Religious Movements and Other Religions." In addition to Unitarian Universalists, the group includes Scientology, New Age, Eckankar, Spiritualist, Deist, Wiccan, Pagan, Druid, Indian Religion, Santeria, and Rastafarian.

Now, don't get me wrong. I'm not knocking these other religions. If Unitarian Universalism has taught us anything, it's to accept and embrace other beliefs and ways of life. Besides, some of my best friends are Druids. But our faith differs from others in this category in that we are compelled to make a difference in the world. We stand up and speak out against oppression and war and environmental deterioration. We abide by principles that require us to treat others with respect and dignity and that remind us of the importance of our relationships with others who share this world with us. I don't see Santeros participating in peace marches. I haven't noticed any ECKists leading the fight for same-sex marriage. When was the last time you heard a Scientologist expound on the importance of ethical eating or peacemaking?

Okay, maybe I'm being defensive. The point is that our faith has shrunk in numbers to the point where we don't even get our own line in a survey chart. That is really too bad. We have a responsibility to spread our faith, to let as many people as we can know about the virtues and the importance of Unitarian Universalism in our society. That brings me back to my elevator speech. If we are going to tell the world who we are, we need to be clear in our own minds about what we're going to say.

So here's my elevator speech:

Unitarian Universalism to me is a way of life. It requires that we adhere to a set of principles intended to help us be the best person we can and to live the best life we can in concert with others. Unitarian Universalism requires that we make a difference in the world and emphasizes the power of relationships in making that happen. In Unitarian Universalism, it is not what we believe that is paramount, but how we live out those beliefs in the world.

So what's your elevator speech? What would you say in two or three sentences in response to the question, "What does Unitarian Universalism mean to you?" Let me know. Send your elevator speeches to me (m.bernstein@verizon.net) and, with your permission, we'll include some of them in future issues of FOCUS.

Honing our elevator speeches allows us to know ourselves better and, in the words of Aristotle, "Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom." Hey, there's the elevator. Going up?

With respect,
Mark

Monthly Statement -- A Snapshot of Church Finances

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 February, total income was \$259,813, which was \$12,186 above our budget of \$247,627. Total expenses were \$226,005 which was \$21,264 under our budget of \$247,269.

We ended the first eight months of our fiscal year with a surplus of \$33,808.

Actual pledges were \$190,346, or \$2,146 more than the budgeted \$188,200. Through the first

eight months of our fiscal year, we have collected 67.4 percent of our annual budgeted pledge amount of \$282,300.

We encourage members to make monthly pledge payments, not only to help our cash flow, but also to help us stay on track in meeting our pledge goal for the current church year, which ends June 30.

Dino Ramos

Treasurer

UUCDC Forecast: Sunny and Fair (Compensation, That Is!)

By now, you've probably heard about efforts to make UUCDC a Fair Compensation Congregation. Just to recap: The Personnel Committee, Committee on Ministry, and Board of Trustees jointly — and strongly — recommend that UUCDC move toward becoming such a congregation, following UUA guidelines to determine fair salary and benefits for our minister and other staff.

With our Annual Fund Drive in full swing, now is a great time to learn more about Fair Compensation as each of us considers what we will give to support the church in the next fiscal year (starting July 1). In keeping with our Fund Drive's theme to "share what we have with each other and our community," the principles of Fair Compensation call on us to use our collective generosity to equitably support our minister and other staff, who in turn nurture and care for the entire church community.

As we think about our pledges and plans for the year ahead, here are some things to know about Fair Compensation:

Fair Compensation is a social justice issue. As Rev. Bill Sinkford, UUA president, put it: "Rewarding an honest day's labor with a just living wage is the right thing to do, and advocating for fair compensation is our religious duty." Betsy Gabriel, Fair Compensation Consultant for the Joseph Priestley District, adds that "treating our staff with respect and dignity in-

cludes compensating them well enough that they can care for themselves and their families."

Fair Compensation makes good business sense. FC is good for staff morale and performance, and helps the church to attract, recruit and retain well-qualified staff.

Fair Compensation won't happen overnight—and that's OK. The UUA and our church leaders understand that becoming a Practicing FC Congregation (one that meets all requirements for staff salary and benefits) may require a significant increase in expenses to the church budget. For this reason, we plan to become a Committed FC Congregation — one that has adopted a plan to become a Practicing Congregation and is working toward achieving that goal within three years.

Fair Compensation will help us align church salaries and benefits more equitably — and sensibly. Salaries for some UUCDC staff are out of whack with UUA guidelines for a church of our size and in our region. For instance, Rev. Peter's salary (from which he pays his own housing) is \$65,978 — close to the minimum of the UUA guidelines. As he enters his fourth year as our minister, Rev. Peter, according to the guidelines, should be paid at or near the mid-point of the recommended salary range for a lead minister (\$82,469). The Board has recommended that Rev. Peter's salary be increased most of the way (80 percent) to the recommended mid-point next year.

(Continued on page 9)

Board Notes: March Update

With spring around the corner, the Board focused its attention on several topics that pop up perennially at this time of year, including the Annual Fund Drive and budget goals for the new fiscal year starting July 1.

The Board met with two representatives from the Membership Health and Vitality Ministry Team to hear about fresh approaches for keeping our community growing, and about their experiences so far with Policy Governance. Gayle Beaney, from the Membership Council, talked about efforts to reach out to visitors and new members, including a New Member Reception in late March. Gayle noted that visitors often comment on our congregation's friendliness. Her group also needs more volunteers for activities that help newcomers feel welcome and at home within UUCDC. Barb Wray, representing the Interweave group, was positive about this group's growing number of participants.

The group discussed ways for different committees within the Membership Health and Vitality Ministry Team (and within other Teams) to share more easily information and ideas without necessarily having to attend more meetings. Suggestions included setting up secure online discussion groups for each Team, or possibly teleconferences. Board President Mark Bernstein will talk with the Lay Leadership Council about ways for the Ministry Teams more fully to communicate and collaborate, which is key to realizing the benefits of Policy Governance.

The Board heard an update from the Fair Compensation Task Force, which has developed cost projections to adjust UUCDC staff salaries to meet the UUA guidelines (see article, page 4). Mark reported that the Annual Fund Drive has set a goal of reaching the target budget of \$411,500, which would allow us to bring staff salaries close to the UUA Fair Compensation guidelines for a church of our size and in our region. This goal is bold and ambitious, but Mark and other Board members expressed confidence in the Annual Fund Drive and in members' generosity for stretching their pledges to ensure its success.

The Board continued progress on revising church bylaws under Policy Governance. New policies are being developed for evaluating Board performance and monitoring the performance of the Lead Minister, while job descriptions will be created for

Board officers. The Board discussed the various definitions of consensus with regard to creating a policy for displaying symbols (e.g., flags) at church. The Board agreed that consensus on this issue would be defined as a simple majority (more than 50 per cent of voting members), reached after adequate time for a full discussion.

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.

--Bob McClennen, Brad Randall and Mike Mitchell for their work in securing new windows for all the rooms in the upstairs part of the old building. They look great!

--Lucille Mathis and Laura Fetterman and their large crew of volunteers for providing hospitality for those who attended Laura Cleland's memorial service. Staff people Rina Jurceka and Marge Caton also were instrumental in making sure Laura's family and friends were well cared for that day.

--Lowell and Janet Young for hosting the kick-off of the leadership portion of the Annual Fund Drive.

--Joyce McKee, Ruth Hendry, and Bill Vaughan for providing hospitality for the Kindling the Flame event, sponsored by the Philadelphia-Wilmington Growth Team.

--Bryan Boosz, Mark Shay, Skip Seelaus, and Laurie Cooke, and all the volunteers who worked to make the annual auction last fall such a successful event.

--Bette Austin, Sol Blecker, and Ernie Florio for their assistance in sorting, folding, and stuffing the Fund Drive mailings.

-- Mike Broggy, Adam Preset and Pete Bretz, all of whom have come to the rescue of UUCDC's administrative staff with technical issues when the recalcitrant computer systems refused to cooperate. The staff is profoundly grateful.

Jean Wallace
for the Board

On the Hunt for an RE Director

The search for a Director of Religious Education started in January with the establishment of the DRE Search Team -- Claire Brill, John Jurceka, Maria Koenig, Jean Lenke and Rev. Peter Friedrichs.

The team began its work by meeting with Pat Infante, the Joseph Priestley District Director of Lifespan Faith Development, to discuss the search process and the roles and responsibilities of DREs. Pat provided a lot of insight and useful information. After that meeting, the team crafted a strategy for reaching out to the church community to discuss Religious Education at UUCDC and to solicit thoughts about desired skills, capabilities and roles/responsibilities.

Thus far, the team has held four focus-group meetings, talked with the RE Council, and is conducting an online survey of the church commu-

nity. Responses so far have included many positive thoughts about the RE program and a wide variety of suggestions and recommendations.

The team will digest all of the information it solicited, draft a position description, and then place job advertisements. The goal is to place ads in April and to have a DRE on board in August.

If you have questions or suggestions, feel free to contact any of the team members:

Claire Brill

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sunday School -- What the Pre-Schoolers Have Been Up To

The Pre-School class has been using the curriculum "Celebrating Me and My World" to recognize the specialness of each person.

In the first half of the year, the lessons focused on the child's body parts and the things each person can do with her or his own special body. The lessons also centered on the senses and how we use them to learn about the world. The class explored those topics by talking, reading, and demonstrating how people use their bodies.

In this second half of the year, the class is focusing on special skills, such as giving, sharing, helping, listening, asking questions, pretending and loving. The children and teachers continue to discuss how to be patient and wait for one's turn,

how to listen to others, and how to share one's things. Games, music, readings, arts and crafts, and physical activity keep the eight pre-schoolers happy.

The class members are energetic and smart, and they have lots to say about their bodies and themselves. The many ways in which each lesson is covered show the children how they are all special, and allow them to participate in their own ways.

The teachers are Marcela Gutierrez, John Jurceka, Maria Koenig, Carlos Perez Vega and Larry Zappaterrini.

Janet Boosz

Is Membership in Your Future?

Twice a year, the Membership Council sponsors an opportunity for those considering joining the church to learn more about us, and about opportunities for participation and expectations for new members. The spring session will be held Sunday, April 5, from noon to 2:30 p.m.

Those attending will have the chance to join UUCDC ("sign the book") at the end of the session. The church will provide a light lunch. Child care will be available if requested in advance.

Caring Corner

Covenant of Right Relations

A draft of the proposed Covenant of Right Relations is enclosed as an insert in this issue of FOCUS. The draft was prepared by the Committee on Ministry and is submitted for the consideration of the congregation and for adoption at the May Congregational meeting.

To solicit congregational input to the final version of this document, the Committee on Ministry will sponsor a series of potluck dinners the weekend of April 17-19 enabling discussions of the need for and content of the proposed

covenant. Details will be posted in upcoming Digests and signup sheets will be posted in the church lobby.

In the meantime, comments are welcome. Feel free to discuss the proposed covenant with members of the committee. Members are Mary Clinton, Joyce McKee, Don Pound, Adam Preset, and Jane Seelaus.

Minister's Annual Evaluation

The Committee on Ministry continues to solicit input for Rev. Peter's third and final evaluation to be submitted to the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the UUA. We appreciate the comments we have already received from many of you and would like to complete the evaluation in May.

As we said, Rev. Peter is evaluated in eight areas: Counseling and Pastoral Care, Practical Arts (administration, management, planning), Congregational/Organizational Ministry (leadership, encouragement, creates welcoming environment), Personal and Professional Growth, Teaching (program development, training, resourcing), Worship (sermons, pulpit presence, involving congregants), Denominational Activities (involvement, leadership), and Prophetic Outreach (advocating community/social justice issues).

If you have not already done so, feel free to provide feedback on Peter's performance in these or other areas. Contact committee members at your convenience. Rev. Peter values your input and uses it to help him continuously to improve his ministry. Thanks for your help.

Committee on Ministry:

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS: REPORTS BY DON POUND

UUA Presidential Election Heats Up

On page 9 of this month's FOCUS is a profile of Rev. Peter Morales, one of the two candidates for president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Last month there appeared a similar profile of Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman, the other candidate.

In recent days an online dialogue between supporters of each candidate has escalated, with much discussion as to which candidate provides the best vision and program for advancing Unitarian Universalism and our congregations in the near future. This has somewhat morphed into a discussion of Policy Governance, particularly as it applies to the relationship of the UUA president and its Board and, to some extent, between District leadership and their Boards. There is too much content adequately to report in this article.

In order to follow these email conversations one

must register at election-l@lists.uua.org. (Note: "l" is a lower case "L".) You may also refer to the candidates' websites: www.hallmanforuuapresident.com and www.moralesforuuapresident.org and the UUA websites: election@uua.org and www.uuaworld.org.

The candidates will hold a forum at the JPD Spring Conference, April 24 in Wilmington (see article below).

Before UUCDC's May congregational meeting, we hope to find a way further to summarize the vision and platforms of each candidate to help us decide where we want to place our support.

UUA Presidential Candidates to Speak at JPD Spring Conference in April

The UUA presidential candidates, Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman and Rev. Peter Morales, will hold a forum at the 2009 Joseph Priestly District Spring Conference. They will speak at 7:30 p.m. April 24, with an reception at 9:30.

The Conference will be held April 24-25 at the Doubletree Hotel Downtown, 700 N. King Street, Wilmington DE. Conference theme is "Navigating Through Changing Times."

Registration begins Friday, April 24, at 5 p.m., followed by Ingathering and banner parade.

The winning anti-racism sermon will be preached, Saturday, April 25, 8 a.m. Workshop

sessions I and II will follow. Within each of these two sessions are several workshops created to meet a variety of interests and concerns. Lunch is at noon, and the Annual Meeting at 1 p.m. Workshop session III is scheduled for 3 p.m. with a closing Celebration Service at 4:30 p.m.

An optional and additional workshop on Social Justice will be held Sunday, April 26, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (see article below).

For a full conference brochure, additional information, registration fees and online registration, go to www.jpduua.org.

Social Justice Workshop at JPD Spring Conference

This additional and optional workshop (Social Transformational Education Module I) will be held Sunday, April 26 at the Doubletree Hotel Downtown from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Presented by Rev. Dr. Om Prokash John Gilmore, it will provide an opportunity to train social justice chairs and representatives to create a new type of social justice that builds accountability between the congregation and social justice advocates. This is the first of many workshops that the JPD hopes to develop for members of Social Justice Committees and advocates.

The Van Jones video on Green Activism from Ware Lecture 2008 will be shown at the end of the workshop, followed by a discussion.

Cost, including lunch, is \$25 for Spring Conference registrants, \$30 for all others. Registrations should be completed by April 17 for lunch availability. For further information and to register online, visit www.jpduua.org.

Some UUCDC members plan to attend.

Profile of Rev. Peter Morales

Rev. Morales is one of two candidates for the presidency of UUA, with the election scheduled at the General Assembly in Salt Lake City, June 24-25. In last month's FOCUS we profiled the other candidate, Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman. This month we profile Rev. Morales and discuss the process and procedures for a vote at our May Congregational Meeting and at the General Assembly.

Rev. Morales has served for seven years as senior minister at Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, CO, one of the UUA's largest and fastest-growing congregations, from 400 to 770 members. He first served JUC from 1999-2002. From 2002-2004 he served as the UUA's Director for District Services. In 2004 he returned to JUC, where he currently serves.

Before entering the ministry, Rev. Morales worked in journalism in various capacities, as reporter, editor, publisher, press owner, teacher and consultant. A Fulbright Scholar, he has Master of Arts and Master of Philosophy degrees, both in American Studies, from the University of Kansas, and a Master of Divinity degree from Starr King School for the Ministry. He has served on the UUA's Board of Trustees, the executive committee of the UU Ministers Association, the UU Service Committee's Ministerial Advisory Committee, and the steering commit-

(Continued from page 4)

Fair Compensation will increase personnel costs, but the effect on the total church budget will be modest. Thanks to calculations by Paul Schlenker of the FC Task Force and Jody Malloy of the Stewardship Ministry Team, we have a good estimate of the cost of becoming a Fair Compensation Congregation. For the 2009-10 fiscal year, our goal is to become a Committed FC Congregation and adjust the salaries of all staff to be close to the recommended mid-points for their respective positions. This would add about \$30,000 to personnel costs next year — or 7.3 percent of the total draft budget (\$411,500).

Lots of information — hopefully, like spring sunshine! — will be available to keep us informed about Fair Compensation. In particular, please mark your calendars for Sunday, May 3, right after church, to hear Betsy Gabriel lead a Q&A session about Fair Compensation. Betsy, one of two Compensation Consultants serving the Joseph Priestley District, will explain what the FC program

tee of the Latina/o UU Networking Association.

Rev. Morales left his position at the UUA in 2004 because he disagreed with the UUA's approach to growth through marketing. He believes growth is a moral and religious imperative for the UUA, but that it is best accomplished at the congregational level through simple acts of hospitality, something that must be practiced at an institutional level as well.

Rev. Morales believes: "What we need as a movement is something that goes far beyond normal management changes, programmatic tweaks, and shifting of resources," and that "is a cultural-level change." Social action and public witness, action to deal with the ministerial formation process, and dealing with the changing demographics in our country are also among issues important to Rev. Morales. The passion for Unitarian Universalism "already exists" in congregations, he said. "What we need to do as a movement is to unleash that passion...to help direct it, organize it, to lead it."

More information on his candidacy can be found at the UUA websites www.uua.org and www.uuworld.org and his website www.moralesforuupresident.org.

is all about, how and why it was developed, and why so many people think it is so important for our congregations.

The Annual Congregational Meeting on May 31 is important for FC. UUCDC members will vote on becoming a Committed Fair Compensation Church on Sunday, May 31, after the service. Please be there to vote, and help put our UU principles into action!

Jean Wallace

For the Fair Compensation Task Force

ARTS, BOOKS & MUSIC

Bask in Beethoven for Season's Final Rose Tree Concert

The final Rose Tree Concert of the 2008-2009 season will present an all-Beethoven program, Sunday, April 19, 7:30 p. m. in Fellowship Hall.

Presenting this program of lieder and chamber music are Vivian Barton, cellist, Solomiya Ivakhiv, violinist, Randall Scarlata, baritone, and Richard Veleta, pianist.

The program opens with Sonata in F, Opus 24 (Spring), for violin and piano. Three groups of lieder will follow: "Sechs Lieder von Gellert," Opus 48, "Adelaide", Opus 46, and "Das Gluck der Freundschaft" ("The Joy of Friendship"), Opus 48.

Following the intermission, Barton, Ivakhiv, Scarlata and Veleta will perform "Schottische Lieder," Opus 108.

The program and season conclude with Trio in C minor, Opus 1, No. 3, for cello, violin and piano.

Tickets will be available in Fellowship Hall after the Sunday service, April 5, 12 and 19 and at the door on the evening of the concert. Prices are \$15 for adults and \$5 for students.

Sue Adnopolz

Book Club Seeks to "Grok" Fully Its April SciFi Choice

If you met the Messiah on the road, would you kill him? Or would you think about his teachings -- teachings that might make this world a better place? "Children of the 1960s" took great interest in the worldview of Valentine Michael Smith, the central character in Robert Heinlein's famous science fiction novel, *Stranger in a Strange Land*.

The UUCDC Book Club will explore Heinlein's message in its April discussion of this venerable work of a genre often overlooked by book clubs. Fantastic worlds, creatures, or people can make it easier to see what is amiss or out of joint in the world we live in and take for granted. Call Heinlein's book "conscious-raising," which happens to be one of the consequences of the book club's frequent excursions into the pleasure of contemporary and classic literature.

In March, for example, we read *The Soloist* by Steve Lopez. He writes about his encounter with Nathaniel Ayers, a former Juilliard student who lives on the streets and suffers from schizophrenic episodes. *The Soloist* records the triumphs and failures of Lopez's efforts to understand and help

Ayers. It is also the 2009 selection for the One Book, One Philadelphia reading program.

The UUCDC Book Club is a pleasant way to encounter the minds of your fellow church members, and counts as a bona fide transcendent spiritual experience (in my book, anyway).

Our coed book club is open to everyone and is a terrific way to avoid the distractions of our materialistic and technology-gone-wild culture. Most books can still be read without pushing a button, putting annoying devices in your ears, or getting stressed over a low-battery message.

How about joining us Friday, April 24, 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Room? See the notice on the UUCDC bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall entrance for details (book selection and date) or look for us on the UUCDC website.

Bryan Booszy

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Media Food Bank

The box for food donations for the Media Food Bank will now be placed next to the church entrance. (A great idea supplied by Bob McClennen.)

Thanks to all for generous contributions of food and supplies. With the monetary donations given, we also have been able to purchase, in bulk, tuna, baby foods, coffee, pasta sauce, grape jelly and oatmeal. This enables us to supply food for 65-85 families with any one of these items.

In addition to these items, in great demand are peanut butter, rice, cereals, diabetic items and canned fruits and vegetables. Coffee in pound cans or individual packets are a great treat. Again, thank you for your support.

Jean Taranta

Report on Split Plate Donation

Media Fellowship House was the most recent non-profit agency to share in UUCDC's Share the Plate project.

On the second Sunday in March the plate cash was \$912, with Media Fellowship House receiving \$456. We can all share a sense of pride in this result.

Patti Fiske, chairman
Social Justice Committee

Book Sale Benefits NAACP Scholarships

Is spring house-cleaning in your not-too-distant future? Or, at long last, are you biting the bullet and finally getting rid of all those books you always planned to read, but never did? If so, why not cull that book collection for a very good cause? Get the kids in on it, too.

Bring gently-used books (please, no textbooks) to UUCDC for a book sale to benefit the NAACP Scholarship Fund after Sunday services, May 3. Books can be placed in a marked donation bin in the basement. Hey, it's just in time to acquire a stash for summer reading.

Legislative Alert

In mid-March, a Pennsylvania House committee approved a bill to extend the protections of the Human Relations Act to gay and transgender persons in housing, employment, and public accommodations.

The current act prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, gender, national origin, non-job-related disability, or the use of a guide or support animal. The proposed bill adds sexual orientation and identity or expression.

Twenty states, including New Jersey, now have laws protecting persons on the basis of sexual orientation, as well 13 Pennsylvania municipalities. Among these are Philadelphia, Lansdowne, New Hope, Swarthmore, and West Chester.

The House committee bill was approved 12-11 and has 70 cosponsors and support of the House leadership. However, the consensus is that it faces tough opposition in the Senate, which last year moved out of committee a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

You Can Help Low-Income Homeowners in Phila. in April

On April 4 and 18, Philadelphia's First Unitarian Church will help repair and maintain homes of low-income residents in the city. This will be the 14th year of the effort, and this time the work will occur in the Germantown area.

Patricia Lasseter and Regina Pound will participate, and they hope others from UUCDC will join them. You don't have to have construction skills (although they would be welcome), just a willingness to contribute a little time and effort to make life better for those who don't have resources to maintain or improve their homes.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

'Changing Our Economic Story'

Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC) will celebrate the group's 20th anniversary at an April 3-5 conference, "Changing Our Economic Story."

Headlining the gathering at the Rowe Camp Conference Center in Massachusetts will be nationally recognized economists and visionaries including David Korten, Nancy Folbre, Robert Pollin, Ward Morehouse and Chuck Collins. The conference will examine the causes of the current economic troubles, then re-envision economics and economic justice, creating a vision of an Earth-centered, humane and sustainable economic system that benefits all beings. Korten will talk about his new book, *Agenda for a New Economy, From Phantom Wealth to Real Wealth: Why Wall Street Can't Be Fixed and How to Replace It*.

For more information or to register, go to www.rowecenter.org or call 413-339-4954, or call Marcia Meyers 503-665-3957. Also, please visit www.uujec.org.

PA Priorities for Legislative Group

UUPLAN (Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network) has selected the following issues for the 2009-2010 legislative session:

- Pass legislation to provide equal rights for the LGBT community.
- Make quality affordable health care available to all.
- Support education and advocacy activities to reduce our carbon footprint.

The report from UUPLAN also included this statement:

"Therefore, be it resolved: We call on Unitarian Universalist congregations to become informed advocates for universal access to nonprofit, healthcare financing through social action and adult religious education. We call on individual Unitarian Universalists to urge our members of Congress to co-sponsor and pass HR 676, Medicare for All, or its successors, so that our people and our nation can have the excellent and affordable health care system we deserve."

Supreme Court Alert

In recent months UUCDC members and friends have been attending ARAOM and ADORE sessions, related to racial justice concerns.

These participants and others may be interested to know that Section 5, which provides some teeth for the 1965 Voting Rights Act, will come before the U.S. Supreme Court this spring in the case, Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District No. 1 v. Holder (Eric Holder was recently named U.S. attorney general).

Section 5 names states and counties with histories of discriminating against African-Americans through such devices as poll taxes, and character and literacy tests. Such obstacles were eradicated and if voting procedures were to be changed in any way -- moving the location of a solitary polling place, for example -- permission had to be sought from the Justice Department. This review process, proven to be effective in preventing voting rights abuses, is called "preclearance."

Among the areas named for a history of discrimination in Section 5 are almost all of Virginia, most of North Carolina, Georgia, and others. Several Western states were later added because of their discrimination against Native American and Hispanic voters.

The thrust of the lawsuit is that some of the jurisdictions covered by Section 5 now want to be released from this federal receivership, saying that the preclearance provision was unconstitutional, because Congress imposed "a badge of shame," "irrationally and incongruously," based on an "ancient formula" and on conditions existing more than 30 years ago. The plaintiffs also point out that "The America that has elected Barack Obama as its first African-American president is different than when Section 5 was first enacted in 1965." (Congress has reauthorized the Voting Rights Act in 1970, 1975, 1982 and 2006.)

America is indeed different today, however, voting patterns in the Deep South in the 2008 election reveal that Obama won only 26 per cent of the white vote in states covered by Section 5. John Kerry, in fact, did better among whites than Obama in the Deep South.

The post-racial world has yet to arrive.

Bette Austin

'Diversity and End-of-Life Care' Teleconference Here April 29

UUCDC will be the host site for the Hospice Foundation of America's 16th annual teleconference, "Diversity and End-of-Life Care," on Wednesday, April 29. Members and friends of UUCDC are especially welcome to attend this community service program, which is open to the public.

Registration will start at 1 p.m. for the session, which will run from 1:30 to 4:30.

Local panelists are:

- Dr. Frank Bernt, professor of health services, St. Joseph's University
- Colleen Butler, chaplain, VITAS Innovative Hospice Care
- Elizabeth Bartus, senior team manager, VITAS Innovative Hospice Care
- Rabbi Tsurah August, Hospice Rabbi, Jewish Hospice Network of Philadelphia

Three continuing-education credits are available

'So, How Do You Like the Book?'

"The book? What book?"

The book that everyone's reading, *Go the Way Your Blood Beats: An Anthology of Lesbian and Gay Fiction by African-American Writers*. The "One Book UUCDC" event is sponsored by the church's Interweave (LGBTQ and Friends) group. To buy a copy, check with Bill Henderson (bhender326@aol.com) or ask someone else who's carrying the book around.

If you haven't started reading yet, there's still time before the potluck.

for health-care workers, social workers, counselors, funeral directors, clergy and others through the Hospice Foundation of America. Processing fees are \$25 online, \$35 by mail. Checks payable to HFA will be accepted at the conference. Please note: for members of the public who will not receive CE credits, this is free of charge.

To register, call Sherri Powers, bereavement services manager, VITAS Innovative Hospice, 610-260-6020.

For more information, go to www.hospicefoundation.org/teleconference/ or see the flyers on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall.

Thanks to Rev. Peter, Administrator Rina Jurceka, and techno-wizards Skip Seelaus, Michael Broggy and Craig Harris, who made church participation possible.

Ruth Hendry

"Potluck, what potluck?"

The potluck on Sunday, April 26, 4-6 p. m. We'll be hanging out, eating great food, and talking about the connections we're making between the stories and essays in the book and our Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression, Multicultural work here this year.

"OK, so what are you bringing to the potluck? I'm thinking veggie enchiladas. ..."

Join UUCDC's Seder April 4

The Friends and Family Group will host the annual congregational Passover Seder, Saturday, April 4, 6 p.m., in Fellowship Hall.

This popular intergenerational event is a great way to honor and learn about this ancient holiday, at the same time enjoying fellowship and delicious food.

While samples of traditional Passover foods will be provided, the dinner is potluck, so bring one or two of the following: entree, salad/side, dessert, beverage.

No need to worry about Kosher restrictions for this informal celebration.,

Join the Meditation Group at UUCDC!

Have you always been meaning to start meditating, but somehow it just isn't happening? UUCDC is going to help you jump over that hurdle of starting a meditation practice. A weekly meditation group is now meeting in the Lounge at 8 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Like any good UU function, all meditators are welcome - novice or experienced - you can sit on the floor, in a chair, do yoga, walk, or stretch out on the floor.

On Saturday mornings, we have 30 minutes of silent (unguided) meditation followed by an optional pre-recorded Dharma talk. The Dharma talk is 30 - 45 minutes in length and is compliments of

the Insight Meditation Center in California.

On Sunday mornings, we have 30-45 minutes of guided meditation starting promptly at 8 a.m. There will be plenty of time after the "end-gong" to go out for breakfast or return home to collect the rest of the family before the regular Sunday service at 10:30 in the Sanctuary.

No registration is required and drop-ins are welcome!

Namaste.

Grace Spring, Award-Winning Friend to Guinea Pigs

Guinea pigs make for a popular present, especially on birthdays and at Easter. Problem is, countless numbers of the cute, furry rodents are soon discarded because their care requires too much time and money.

Grace Spring to the rescue!

Grace, an 18-year-old from Wallingford, started a non-profit guinea-pig rescue organization called Furry Friends in December 2005. Grace, daughter of UUCDC's Soren Spring and Lori Rice-Spring, took in homeless and abandoned critters from local animal shelters and families, housing them in custom-built cages in her basement.

Grace cared for and rehabilitated the animals until they were ready to be adopted. She found loving homes for the animals, requiring each interested family to fill out an adoption application and to make an educational visit to Furry Friends.

She has saved more than 250 guinea pigs.

"I started the rescue because I am an animal lover and when I learned of the overpopulation issues associated with house pets like guinea pigs, I wanted to help," Grace said. Additionally, she performed community outreach by visiting elementary

schools and educating students on guinea-pig care and welfare. She even has a Furry Friends website, www.ffgpr.org.

For her efforts, she recently received a Philadelphia Inquirer Student Citizenship Award. The annual prizes are given to area high school seniors who have made a difference in their communities and are excellent students. This year, 116 students were honored.

Grace and other award winners attended a special ceremony March 12 at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, where she was presented a medal and gift certificate.

Grace's parents say they are incredibly proud of her achievements. "She's a visionary," Lori said. "She created this rescue from nothing and she reached her goal with hard work and dedication."

Grace attends Strath Haven High and is undecided on where she will pursue a college degree in the fall. She said: "I want to pursue a career in science, and hopefully one day become a veterinarian."

Jeff Gelman

Calling All Women, Ladies, Chicks, Girls and Dames!

Oct. 2 is a long way off, but that gives all the UUCDC females plenty of time to plan for Ladies Dance Night.

Invite your friends to this church fund-raiser and come dance the night away to songs like "Boogie Shoes," "Oh, What a Night," "Sweet Caroline" and "Crocodile Rock." Music will be provided by the band, Dogs Playing Cards.

Tickets are \$30 and include music, martini bar and hors d'oeuvres.

IN OUR BACKYARD

Unusual Iraq War Exhibit at Collegeville April 18-19

The effect of the Iraq War is the focus of the exhibit *Eyes Wide Open Across Pennsylvania*. It features more than 170 pairs of combat boots memorializing the Keystone State soldiers who have died in the war. In addition, an Iraqi exhibit of 50 shoes and posters raises awareness of the huge number of Iraqi civilian casualties.

The exhibit will be on display at Thomas Paine UU Fellowship, 3424 Ridge Pike in Collegeville, Montgomery County, from noon to 9 p.m. Saturday, April 18, and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 19. Saturday activities include an opening speaker and a 7 p.m. candlelight vigil.

Local peacemakers affiliated with the fellowship sponsor the exhibit. Since the spring of 2006 *Eyes Wide Open* has traveled around the state, promoting awareness of the human cost of this war.

The American Friends Service Committee, an international social justice organization, originally created *Eyes Wide Open: The Human Cost of War* to illustrate the lives lost in the war in Iraq. The national exhibit, which opened in Chicago with 500 pairs of boots in January 2004, was closed in May 2007 as the death toll rose above 3,000, making it too large to transport. The AFSC is concentrating on establishing state exhibits. The U.S. military death toll is now more than 4,200.

The exhibit is free and open to the public, although donations are accepted. For information, go to www.afsc.org/pittsburgh, or contact Thomas Paine UU Fellowship, tpuuf.org, 610-631-0280, office@tpuuf.org, or the AFSC Pennsylvania State office, 412-371-3607, swahrhaftig@afsc.org.

UUMAC to Make Annual Appearance July 19-25

The place seems to pop up out of nothing for a week each summer. The Unitarian Universalist Mid-Atlantic Community is one of the most intentional, thoughtful and open places around. This year, UUMAC will live on the campus of DeSales University, near Allentown, July 19-25.

UUMAC is many things — a spiritual retreat, a family summer camp, an institute for learning and

exploration, a weeklong party, and a reunion of kindred souls. Participants play games and instruments, sing, listen, discuss, learn, worship, visit, laugh, work, eat, (and sometimes sleep), shop for books in the UUMAC bookstore, dance and nosh at Night Owls, and paint faces and toenails at the Carnival. Come as you are, all are welcome.

The theme is “The Creativity-Ecology Connection” and the theme speaker is Jim Scott, UU activist and musical artist. In the last 24 years, he has visited about 500 UU congregations, providing special music for services, presenting benefit concerts, and offering workshops (Jim performed at UUCDC last year).

This year’s minister will be Rev. Bob Janis-Dillon, acting minister of First Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hunterdon County in Baptistown, N.J.

Programming is a balance of activities according to age grouping and across age barriers. Ages mingle for off-campus trips, evening activities and impromptu moments.

The university has air-conditioned dorms, classrooms and some of the best cafeteria food you can imagine. No joke, UUMAC works with the DeSales staff on the food, and it is wonderful. DeSales has a commitment to serving people with different abilities, so appropriate space is available with prior notice.

The adult early-registration fee is \$525 (deadline May 13). Regular registration adult fee is \$557 (deadline June 3). Add \$126 if you want a single room. To register, e-mail registrar@uumac.org. For more information, go to www.uumac.org.

Reception for Rev. Morales

Two Main Line UUs will host a reception providing an opportunity to meet with Rev. Peter Morales, Sunday, April 5, 4:30-6 p. m. at the home of John and Susan Smith, 1 Wistar Drive, Villanova. Rev. Morales is a candidate for UUA president.

Susan is a former member of the Board of Trustees, Main Line Unitarian Church, and John is currently serving as the church's moderator.

Interested? Please RSVP: jfsmithiii@comcast.net, 610-527-3320.

Homes for Homeless at UUCDC April 12 - 19

We're looking forward to another busy week of Interfaith Hospitality Network hosting, meal preparation and the other tasks required to make our week run smoothly.

We will post information online and after church soon. Dates, logistics and instruction on hosting families here will be published in the email Digest and the Order of Service.

Even if you've never volunteered before, your help and efforts are always appreciated and we would be glad to have you take part. You can give as much or as little time as you are able. There are big and small tasks, all of which are important.

Interested in helping Delaware County Interfaith Hospitality Network year-round? Think about making it your United Way donor choice for the year. Delco IHN subsists entirely on donations and grants, so any amount given is important. If you designate Delco IHN on a gift to the United Way, the number is 44940 and should be indicated on your check.

Mary Beth Hoffman and Tiffany Hanulec



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

Focus

April 2009

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Calendar

April 2009*

Date	Name of Event	Time			
4/1	Muslims MCC	5:00 PM 7:00 PM	4/9	Independent Catholics Chorus SGM	6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM
4/2	SGM Chorus Tapestry of Faith-Spirit of Life	1:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	4/10	Independent Catholics Muslims	6:00 PM 7:00 PM
4/3	Muslims	7:00 PM	4/11	Muslims Independent Catholics MCC Cabaret	2:00 PM 6:00 PM 6:30 PM
4/4	Meditation Group Chi Running Chorus Rehearsal Family and Friends Seder Muslims	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 6:00 PM 2:00 PM	4/12	Worship Service & RE IHN	10:30 AM 5:00 PM
4/5	Meditation Group Worship Service & RE SGM COA Mentors Is Membership In Your Future? Personnel Committee Board Muslims COA Independent Catholics	8:00 AM 10:30 AM 11:45 AM 12:00 PM 12:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:30 PM 2:00 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM	4/13	Voice Lesson Rental IHN Board Tai Chi Adult RE	7:30 AM 5:00 PM 6:00 PM 7:30 PM
4/6	Voice Lesson Rental MCC Cabaret Rehearsal Religious Education Council Tai Chi Adult RE	7:30 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	4/14	IHN Yoga Muslims - Event DBSA	5:00 PM 5:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM
4/7	Yoga Board Subcommittee Social Justice	5:45 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	4/15	IHN Muslims MCC Membership Council SGM	5:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM
4/8	Muslims ADORE MCC	5:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	4/16	SGM IHN Chorus Tapestry of Faith- Spirit of Life	1:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM
			4/17	COA Boston Trip IHN Muslims	12:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM



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

*Printed March 25, 2009

April 2009

4/18	Chi Walking	9:00 AM	4/25	Chorus Rehearsal	10:00 AM
	Rose Tree Piano Tuning	10:00 AM		Memorial Garden Work Party	12:00 PM
	Muslims	2:00 PM		Muslims	2:00 PM
	IHN	5:00 PM		YUCKI Prep	10:00 PM
	International Supper Club	7:00 PM			
4/19	Worship Service & RE	10:30 AM	4/26	Worship Service & RE	10:30 AM
	Rose Tree Concert set up	2:00 PM		SGM	12:30 PM
	Independent Catholics	6:00 PM		Recital Rental	1:00 PM
	Junto	7:00 PM		One Book Potluck	4:00 PM
	Rose Tree Concert	7:00 PM		COA Movie	6:00 PM
				COA Parent	6:00 PM
				Independent Catholics	6:00 PM
4/20	Voice Lesson Rental	7:30 AM	4/27	Voice Lesson Rental	7:30 AM
	RTDS Parent Night	7:00 PM		Lay Leadership Council	7:00 PM
	Tai Chi Adult RE	7:30 PM		Tai Chi	7:30 PM
4/21	RTDS Open House	12:00 AM	4/28	Adult RE	12:00 PM
	Yoga	5:45 PM		Yoga	5:45 PM
	Celtic Reconstructionists	6:00 PM		DBSA	7:00 PM
	Rental - music rehearsal	6:30 PM		Spirit in Practice	7:00 PM
4/22	Muslims	5:00 PM	4/29	Hospice Program	1:00 PM
	MCC	7:00 PM		Muslims	5:00 PM
4/23	RTDS Parent Visitation	10:00 AM		MCC	7:00 PM
	RTDS Parent Visitation	1:30 PM		AA District 54	7:30 PM
	Chorus	7:00 PM	4/30	Chorus	7:00 PM
4/24	Muslims	7:00 PM			
	Book Club	7:30 PM			