

FOCUS

June 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

As the official “church year” draws to a close, it’s appropriate to take a few moments to reflect on our lives together over the past ten months, and to look forward a bit into our future. In my column for the September, 2008 issue of FOCUS, I asked us to consider a theme for this church year: “Growing in Spirit,” and I asked you to consider these three questions:

How might each of us individually grow in spirit?

How can we grow together in spiritual community?

What do you need from the church to help foster your own spiritual growth and, equally as important, what gifts can you offer to others to help them foster theirs?

There was a time in our history when “growing our spirit” took a back seat to other activities in the church, whether it was social activism, socializing, or creating a stimulating intellectual atmosphere. This year we have witnessed a shift in our culture to one that is more accepting, even embracing, of the notion of spiritual growth, and I believe we are a richer, more committed congregation for it. One example of this has been the re-launch of our Small Group Ministry program. Small groups have blossomed this past year, providing more and more of our members with an opportunity to develop deep, meaningful relationships with others while exploring their own core values and their sense of the sacred.

This year we also saw a marked upswing in the offerings of our Adult Religious Education programming and a corresponding increase in enrollment. The programs helped to develop practices of the mind, body and spirit. Two classes in particular, “Spirit in Practice” and “Spirit of Life,” asked

(Continued on page 2)

Sunday Services in June

June 7, 10:30 a.m.: Coming of Age Affirmation Service

June 14, 10:30 a.m.: Closing Intergenerational Service -- Rev. Peter Friedrichs and Tabby Parsons, Coordinator of Religious Education

Start of Summer Services (Services Begin at 10 a.m.)

June 21: UUCDC Men’s Group -- A Father’s Day Celebration

June 28: Rev. Elizabeth Ellis, “The Jesus Story, A Parable of Being”

Who's Who

Staff

Rev. Peter A. Friedrichs,
Minister

Chris Schroth,
Music Director

Tabby Parsons,
Coordinator of
Religious Education

Rina Jurceka,
Administrator

Chrissy Drummond,
Administrative Assistant

Jason Schafer-Valerius,
Accompanist

Marge Caton,
Event Coordinator

Jack Shaffer, Sexton

Meghan Pomeroy, Katie Klem
Child Care

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Jean Wallace

FOCUS INFO:

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& Neil Goldstein

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Rina Jurceka

The deadline for September is August 24.

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.
September 4. Come
help!

From the Minister

(Continued from page 1)

participants to engage in long-term explorations of personal spiritual understanding, and both were well attended. We also engaged in a year-long exploration of racism and oppression. While attendance at some events was better than at others, organizers presented our community with many different opportunities to explore these issues, which hold deep spiritual significance.

There have been many other opportunities for us to “grow in spirit” this year, and I’ll highlight just one more: the addition of five minutes of silent meditation to our worship service. While I know that some of you are challenged by this time, many find it deeply meaningful. Silence is a rare commodity in today’s world, and this time gives us space to listen to the “still, small voice” that we can hear only when we shut out the din of our everyday lives.

As we look ahead to the 2009-2010 church year, I trust we will be presented with countless opportunities to “grow in spirit” even further. And there is another kind of growth that we will be intentionally engaging next year: growth of our congregation. This year we’ve seen a marked rise in attendance on Sunday mornings, to the point where our children’s Religious Education program space is becoming crowded. The Sanctuary is moving toward being filled to capacity, and parking is at a premium. I have assembled a team of congregational members to examine how we can expand our capacity on Sunday mornings, so that everyone who comes to our doors will find room and feel welcome, physically as well as spiritually. And I have asked this team to provide me with a recommended course of action by the end of the calendar year. If you have ideas to share on this topic, please contact our “Sunday Morning Expansion Team” members: Mike Mitchell, Rich Cairncross, Connie Roggio and Pete Bretz.

I have also asked Bryan Boosz and Lisa Grieco to head up a second task team, one that will look at growth from a “global” perspective. With the support of our Membership Council, we are doing a very good job of welcoming those who find their way to our doors. This team will take a broader view, looking at all three “spheres” of membership growth: “attraction” (How do we actively promote our faith to encourage people to visit us?); “conversion” (How do we provide a positive experience that will lead visitors to become members?); and “retention” (How do we create lifetime Unitarian Universalists and close the “revolving door” that keeps us from growing?)

Next year will, undoubtedly, prove to be as exciting, as challenging, and as fulfilling as this year has been. This summer, I hope your faith provides you with roots to hold you close and with wings to set you free. I encourage you to stay connected to the church (we’ve got some excellent summer services planned!), and I hope that when we re-gather in September we will all be ready to experience the ever-unfolding adventure that is life in shared, sacred community.

Love,
Peter

BOARD PERSPECTIVES: HAVING FUND YET?

From President Mark Bernstein

Earlier this month, I wrote to you about the successful Fund Drive we recently completed. In this final regular issue of the FOCUS for the church year, I wanted to expand a bit on that topic.

You can read the detail of how we did on page 8. For my money (pun intended), the fact that we raised 4.5 percent more in pledges than last year is remarkable. When we began this campaign, the downturn in the economy was on everyone's lips and left a rotten taste in our mouths. Despite the dire warnings, our Fund Drive team, led by Betsy Crane and Bill Clinton, set an ambitious agenda and challenged each of us not only to meet our pledge goal from last year, but also to surpass it as much as we possibly could -- and we responded.

All across the UUA world, we were hearing dire stories of congregations slashing budgets, closing their doors, and laying off staff.

The UU Church of Lexington, Kentucky, for example, cut staff hours in January and eliminated all committee budgets following a "discouraging" stewardship campaign, according to their minister. Until a last minute bail-out, the First Unitarian Church in Portland, Oregon, had planned to close for the month of July because it faced a projected deficit of \$185,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30. The plan, says their minister, was for staff to take a portion of June and all of July as unpaid time and to use the church in July only for groups that rent space. At the First Unitarian Church of Oakland, California, the annual stewardship campaign was down 12 per-

cent compared to last year, and the church is looking at cuts in services and staff because of that.

So how did we succeed when so many other congregations struggled?

It's simple (he says with such conviction!). We expected the best from you. We faced the economic realities head on, we didn't make excuses, and we had faith that you would step up.

Wayne Clark, the UUA's director of congregational stewardship services, wrote, "Those congregations that make a compelling case, focus on positive opportunities, and ask people directly for money will probably do pretty well. Those that start from a place of scarcity will feed the anxiety, and if they are more hesitant and reluctant to talk plainly about money, won't do as well."

So we did well. We did well because we believed in the power of this congregation to do great things. What a terrific springboard to our new church year, filled with anticipation, promise, and the expectation of even greater things to come.

I look forward to continuing that journey with you. In the meantime, let's enjoy our wonderful summer series of Sunday worship services. I'll see you there.

With respect,

Mark

Heads Up for Inside FOCUS Articles

- Changes to the Focus, page 5.
- Report on Fund Drive, page 8.
- UUCDC Going Green, page 11.
- Adult RE Line-Up for Fall, page 7.
- Church BBQ/Potluck, June 14, page 9.
- This, I Believe, by Bryan Boosz, page 13

Board Notes: May Update

With the end of the church year approaching, the Board focused its attention in May on the proposed budget for the new fiscal year. Some key points of information shared during the meeting:

- ◆ The recently concluded Annual Fund Drive received a total of \$323,386 in pledges — a 4.5% increase from last year. This increase is especially positive given the economic climate, and the Board is grateful to the efforts of everyone who worked on the Fund Drive, especially the leadership of co-chairs Bill Clinton and Betsy Crane.
- ◆ There is strong consensus that the new budget include significant steps toward meeting UUA Fair Compensation guidelines for the minister and other church staff, including a Director of Religious Education. Joe Miller reported a virtual consensus among members of the Lay Leadership Council to support Fair Compensation, consistent with support from the Board and the Fair Compensation Task Force.
- ◆ The proposed budget addresses the salaries portion of the Fair Compensation guidelines. The budget will move the salaries of staff members to the midpoint of the salary range under Fair Compensation guidelines by Year Five of their service in their position. For example, in fiscal 2010, Rev. Peter would be at 4/5 of the midpoint (based on his four years of service), while a new DRE would be at the minimum of the recommended salary range (based on zero years of service with us at hiring).
- ◆ The proposed budget will fund church programs at rates deemed realistic by committee chairs and the Ministry Team. The budget also assumes a 90.5% collection rate on pledges, and reduces reliance on fundraisers to balance the budget, which has not been realistic in the past.

The Board discussed the fact that under the proposed budget, operating expenses will exceed income from pledges and other sources by about \$19,000. The board weighed possible measures to address this shortfall (which may not materialize if expenses next year are less than anticipated or if revenue exceeds expectations). If a shortfall does arise later next year, the major options reviewed would be to draw down the reserve fund (now at \$24,000), and establish and borrow from a line of credit, or some combination of both.

The Board would like to make both options avail-

able to provide flexibility in the event that some money is needed to balance the budget toward the end of the next fiscal year. The Board voted to establish a line of credit for up to \$100,000 (in the form of a second mortgage on the church property), a step that must be approved by a vote at the Annual Meeting, May 31, 2009. With congregational approval, the line of credit will be established and the Board will have the ability in the future to decide whether to borrow money to balance the budget, or draw on reserves or both. With these decisions made, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed budget of \$400,112 for the new fiscal year starting July 1.

Board members also discussed the importance of continuing to grow UUCDC's membership to keep our community vibrant and diverse and to support the church's financial health and security. The Board shares the Lay Leadership Council's view that the success of our plan to become a practicing Fair Compensation Congregation will depend on substantial growth in our membership, and underscores the importance of a concerted effort to attract and retain members.

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

- ◆ Tabby and Scott Parsons for their donation of the entertainment center and television now located in the Lounge.
- ◆ Natalie Silver, Phil Freedman, Marylin Huff, Pat Hardy and Dan Hardy for proofreading the Annual Report.
- ◆ Bryan and Janet Boosz for buying and installing two easy-to-use coffee makers (one for regular, one for decaf) for use in Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour.
- ◆ Lisa Grieco, Dick Salomon, and Lisa, David and Jacob Gelman for assisting with the Board's budget mailing.
- ◆ Kelli Schweitzer for organizing the NAACP Book Sale and Susan Eidson, Mardys Leeper and Patti Fiske for helping to make it happen.
- ◆ Mark Bernstein, Bonnie Burns, Marylin Huff and Mary Beth Hoffman for providing hospitality and support for the JPD "Transforming Our Whiteness" workshop.

Jean Wallace

Big FOCUS Change: Paper Copy By Subscription Only

You're reading the last regular issue of the church year for the FOCUS. Starting in September, look for a major change.

The contents of this monthly newsletter will remain largely the same. But due to a budget shortfall (see Fund Drive Article, page 8), we plan to provide it to most of you electronically rather than on paper.

The big change will save the church big money – about \$4,000 a year. In keeping with the church's Green Sanctuary theme (see page 11), it also will save about 42 reams of paper – think of a pile of newsletters *seven feet tall*.

If you have e-mail access but want a paper version anyway, you can buy a mail subscription for \$25 a year. A subscription form is included in this FOCUS. But if it goes missing, just send your check to Administrative Assistant Chrissy Drummond at the church office

with "Focus subscription" in the memo line.

If you have no e-mail and no access to e-mail, please contact the church office to make arrangements for a paper copy. We'll continue to have a few hard copies at church, mainly to give to newcomers.

We'll accept subscriptions for paper copies at any time, but we need your order before September if you want to receive that month's issue. After that, subscriptions will take effect as of the first issue following receipt of the check.

All of this gives you a good reason to update your information in the church software system, accessible through the website at uucdc.org. Please make sure your correct e-mail address is there.

To fill in missing e-mail addresses, we'll contact folks during the summer. However, please make every effort to update your online infor-

Caring Corner

We have two items of celebration: Joyce Kwapien retired from her position as guide at Longwood Gardens after 30 plus years of service. And, thanks for the specialized gardening help you gave our congregation all these years.

Madison Baltazar won an area-wide prize for her home design. Madi competed in a Habitat for Humanity contest, building a model so eco-friendly the roof is insulated with live greenery, kept in check by a live-in goat. Madi is the third generation of creative women in her family: Mother Carol Getty is an architect and grandmother Peg Getty is an artist. Madi's house was displayed in Fellowship Hall, the lounge and lobby.

Mike Broggy is home following a hospital stay. He's doing his best to imitate Hugh Laurie's character from "House" with a cane and pain medication but somehow has endured wife Katy's cooking so he must be on the mend.

We send condolences to Nancy Henderson on the death of her mother.

Now, for news from the Caring Committee: Barbara Florio will rotate out as the contact for transportation needs as of June 1. After that date, members of the congregation who need rides should contact Laura Fetterman lbetterman@msn.com or 484-354-0787.

Get a jump on summer by planning ahead for transportation needs. Call Laura if you know that you or a loved one need transport to summer services. Give her as much notice as possible if you need help getting to medical appointments.

Have a very happy summer.

Susan Eidson

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Celebrate the Coming of Age Journey at June 7 Service

Come enjoy a youthful Sunday service on June 7.

It's the Coming of Age Affirmation Service, organized and written by the eighth and ninth graders who participated in the yearlong Religious Education program.

The eight COA members will present either the credos they wrote for the program or statements about what they got out of this year's experience. They'll also join in a ceremony marking completion of the program, and then the congregation will pledge to continue supporting the youth.

After the service, the COA members will share a luau with their mentors, leaders and families. The members (and their mentors) are Katie Boosz (Marge Caton), Sam Hendrix (Don Keckler), Mark Hoffman (Paul Schlenker), Abby Houston (Erika Scarborough), Kyle McKay (Elek Fenyés), Dan Middleditch (Gabe Small), Jeff Seelaus (Mark Yerger), and Emily Stackhouse (Jean Wallace). The program leaders are Ray George, Scott Parsons, Liss Small and Barb Wray.

The service will cap a COA year that has been busy, especially in the last two months.

May 15 through 17 was the Rite of Passage Weekend, held at an outdoor center in the Poconos.

On the first day, the members were challenged with difficult yet conquerable tasks, including climbing and balancing on "high-ropes" courses. As with all COA activities, they were carefully supervised as they were encouraged to "take one step beyond" where they might normally want to stop. In the evening, they celebrated and

prepared for the next day's challenge -- an eight-hour solo vigil in the woods.

The solo vigil echoes similar rites in many traditional cultures. The members took the "inner journey" to sit alone and see how they liked the company. Each took along a tarp and rope, having been trained in how to make a shelter. The youth also had journals in which they captured their thoughts. At their return, they celebrated their "survival," and were welcomed into the ranks of the community with a thresholding ceremony and a feast.

On the last day, they were reunited with their parents, with whom they had the opportunity to re-create their relationships, potentially asking for new privileges in exchange for accepting new responsibilities.

In April, the eight members and four adult leaders traveled to Boston for an overview of the area's many UU heritage sites. (Mentors traditionally do not participate in this trip.)

They toured the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, the burial place of many famous UU Transcendentalist writers and thinkers, including Thoreau, Emerson, Hawthorne and Louisa May Alcott. Among other activities, they did a "scavenger hunt" for historical sites on and around Beacon Hill, and visited the Arlington Street church, with its beautiful Tiffany windows. There, they spent time with the RE director, who is extremely knowledgeable about UU history.

Last but not least, everyone had time for fun and shopping.

Scott Parsons

As COA Takes a Break, You Can Help Evaluate It

The Coming of Age program will be on hiatus in the next church year.

During that time, members of the COA Advisory Team will evaluate successes and challenges, update the curriculum and training, and plan for the long-term future. They'll also reflect on the wonderful things that our youth have accomplished.

A survey will be produced for all COA alumni. If you are an alumnus (youth, mentor or parent) and have an interest in being part of the evaluation, please contact Jean Lenke (Lenke5@rcn.com) or Tabby Parsons (cre@uucdc.org) by June 15.

Check Out the Adult RE Lineup for Fall 2009

Thanks to the generosity of many facilitators and idea people, we will have a wonderful Adult RE lineup for fall 2009. You'll be able to register on the second, third and fourth Sundays in September, and by e-mail. Most programming will start in October.

Mark your calendars so you don't miss anything!

Bible Study for UUs -- First and third Sundays from noon to 2 p.m. in October, November and December. Led by Rev. Elizabeth Ellis.

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven, Part II -- This will be part of September registration and will begin in January. Led by Jean Lenke and Nancy Henderson.

Does UUism Have a Future? -- Nov. 8 from noon to 2 p.m. Led by Bryan Boosz.

Junto -- Third Sundays at 7 p.m. Led by Charlie Pell.

Low-Carbon Diet at UUCDC -- Oct. 4 from noon to 2 p.m. Led by Marylin Huff. After Oct. 4, the group that forms will meet on its own schedule. Marylin will repeat this course in the spring.

Martial Arts -- Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m. Led by Ronald Alston, who says the class will incorporate a mind/body/spirit discipline.

Meditation -- Saturday and Sunday mornings. Led by Marylin Huff.

Pachamama -- Awakening the Dreamer -- Jan. 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This workshop fuses

ecological, spiritual, and social-justice knowledge and enthusiasm. It can be an important part of our Green Sanctuary efforts. Check out <http://www.pachamama.org>.

Parents as Resident Theologians -- Evening course on Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2, Jan. 6, Feb. 3, March 3, April 7, and May 5. Led by Rev. Carol Taylor.

Poetry Workshop -- First and third Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. Led by Ed Krizek.

Principled Commitment for UU Couples -- Oct. 17. Led by Larry Schwab.

Stories From Genesis: Creation -- Oct. 11 from noon to 2 p.m., repeated Oct. 15 from 7 to 9 p.m. Led by Bryan Boosz.

Tai Chi -- Mondays at 7:30 p.m. Led by David Childs.

UU101 -- Sundays at 9 a.m. Oct. 18 through Nov. 1. Led by Rev. Peter, who plans to offer the course again in the spring.

UUCDC Book Club -- Last Friday of each month from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Yoga -- Tuesdays at 5:45 p.m. Led by Suzanne Clauser.

A full description of fall 2009 courses will be distributed during the summer, and a reminder of the registration details will be sent in August.

See you in class!

Loretta Orndorff

Handy with a Brush?

We've got a painting project at church during the week of June 21. And we could use a little help. If you are handy with a paint brush, we'd love to have you join us. Please contact Bob McClennen if you are able to help out. He and our administrative assistant, Chrissy Drummond, will be coordinating the fun.

Search Continues for RE Director

The Director of Religious Education Search Committee members, Rev. Peter Friedrichs, Jean Lenke, Claire Brill, John Jurceka, and Maria Koenig, thank everyone who participated in the DRE Search focus group sessions. The feedback from our congregation about their priorities for future RE programming helped us to create a detailed job description and advertisement for our DRE position.

You can review the job description on the

UUCDC website. We will use the skills, experience, and characteristics described by members as the basis for our interview and selection process beginning in June. Several promising candidates have already applied and we look forward to finding a talented individual to meet the needs of the congregation.

Maria Koenig

Sharing and Caring Fuel a Successful Fund Drive

Sharing What We Have With Each Other: Yes We Can!

That was the theme of this year's Annual Fund Drive -- and Yes We Did!

We are very happy to report that our community has pledged \$324,000 to carry out the work of our church during fiscal year 2009-10. That is a 4.5 percent increase over the \$310,000 pledged for 2008-09.

We received 187 pledges, an increase of 16 from the 171 received for '08-09. We got 16 first-time pledges, eight of which were at the \$1,200 to \$1,500 level.

A 4.5 percent increase during this difficult economic time is a significant achievement that demonstrates a vote of confidence for our leadership, staff, and the work we do together. However, the pledge total fell short of our goal of \$357,000, resulting in changes to the proposed budget.

Our Fund Drive's aim was to not only solicit the pledges needed to reach our goals as a church community, but also to transition our organizational culture to become more open about money. To do that we wanted to openly appreciate each other's gifts and contributions, and to give everyone in the church "stretch goals" for their new pledge amounts.

The Fund Drive occurred in three phases:

The eight members of the Board of Trustees made pledges at their January meeting, when as a group they increased their total amount by 14 percent. Then, during the Leadership Campaign, 27

individuals and couples, who had made pledges of \$3,000 or more in 2008, were visited in March. Counting the Board and those Leadership gifts, we received \$170,000 in pledges from 35 individuals and couples, which represents 52 percent of our total pledge amount. The General Campaign provided the opportunity to reach out to everyone else, including friends and those who have just started attending. We had a fun, inspiring General Campaign kickoff event at Media Borough Community Center on March 20.

There are many Fund Drive heroes, to whom we express our sincere appreciation. Special thanks to:

- ◆ General Campaign co-chair -- Penny Bartlett.
- ◆ Fund Drive captains -- Bill Henderson, Marylin Huff and Ann Seidman.
- ◆ Fund Drive visitors/callers -- Bob and Gayle Beaney, Lou Bickford, Marge Caton, Mary Clinton, Sayre Dixon, Neil Goldstein, Marcela Gutierrez, Maria Koenig, Dennis Leeper, Joe Miller, Kate Ramos, Joan Pelc, Skip Seelaus, Dick Salomon, Arlene Sternfeld, Chris Townend and Jean Wallace.
- ◆ General Campaign kickoff event co-chairs -- Connie Roggio, Carole Gonzaga and Bea Scholz.
- ◆ Lowell Young for tracking the data, and Lowell and Janet Young for hosting the Leadership Campaign kickoff.
- ◆ Our leaders, for their input, engagement and support: Rev. Peter Friedrichs, lead minister; Mark Bernstein, Board president; Jody Malloy, Stewardship Ministry Team leader; and Joe Miller, Lay Leadership Council chair.

Bill Clinton and Betsy Crane

Monthly Statement -- A Snapshot of Our Finances

Here is the monthly financial update, meant to make thinking and talking about finances a regular part of being a church member. Please note that this information should *not* be construed as an overly optimistic presentation of our financial picture.

As of April 30, total income was \$324,121, which was \$14,588 over the budget of \$309,533. Total expenses were \$294,681, which was \$14,406 below the budget of \$309,087. Therefore, we ended the first 10 months of the fiscal year with a surplus of \$29,440.

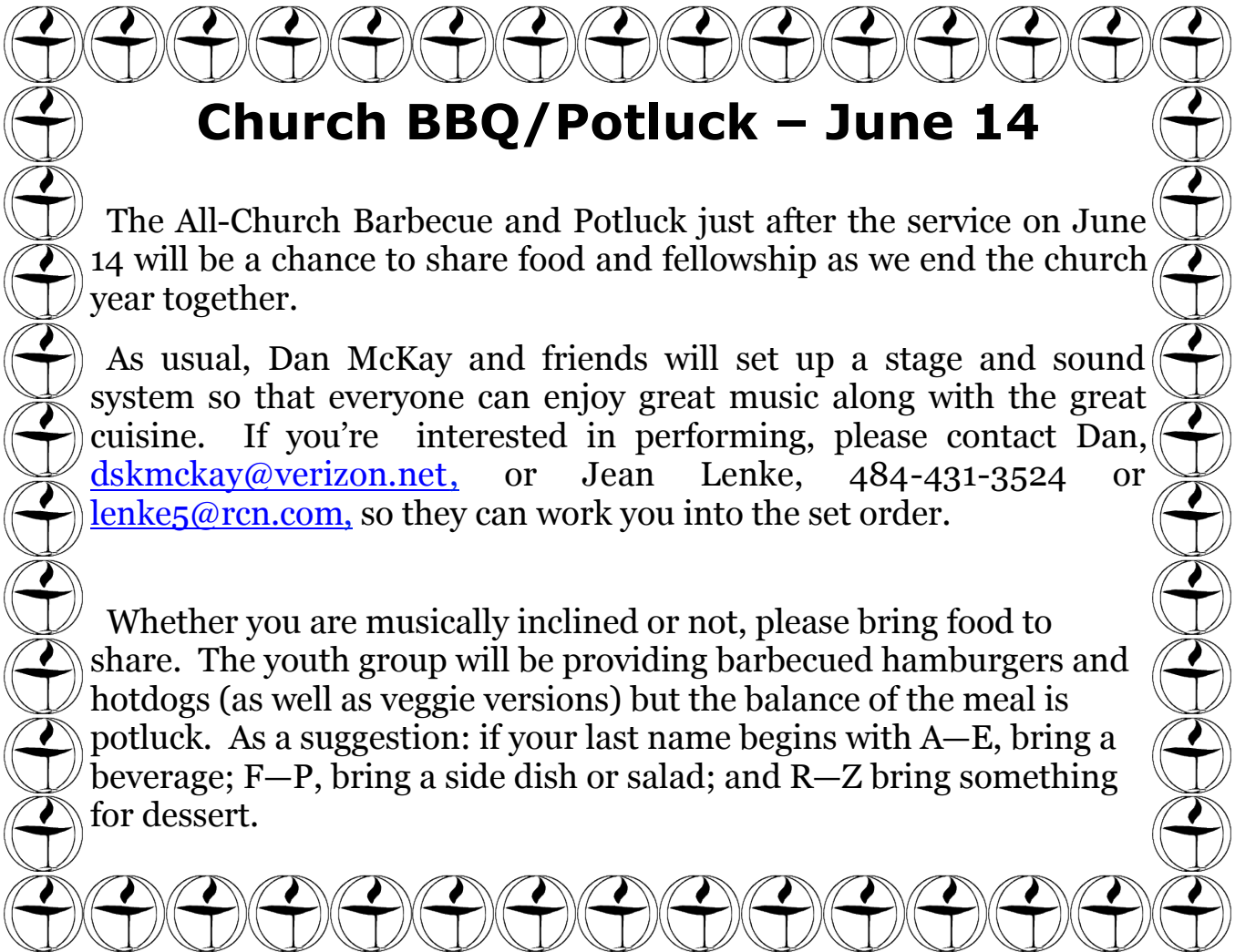
Pledge income was \$240,021, or \$4,771 over the budget of \$235,250. Through the first 10 months of the fiscal year, we have collected 85 percent of our annual budgeted amount of \$282,300.

Again, I emphasize to all members that our primary source of continued income is pledge payments, as no more fund-raisers are planned for this fiscal year, which ends June 30. Therefore, it is essential that all members continue to make their monthly pledge payments toward their current-year commitments so that all payments are received *before* June 30. That way, we can finish the year with a surplus.

Any questions about church finances, please contact me at dinoramos@cs.com or phone 610-642-2795.

Dino Ramos

Treasurer



Church BBQ/Potluck – June 14

The All-Church Barbecue and Potluck just after the service on June 14 will be a chance to share food and fellowship as we end the church year together.

As usual, Dan McKay and friends will set up a stage and sound system so that everyone can enjoy great music along with the great cuisine. If you're interested in performing, please contact Dan, dskmckay@verizon.net, or Jean Lenke, 484-431-3524 or lenke5@rcn.com, so they can work you into the set order.

Whether you are musically inclined or not, please bring food to share. The youth group will be providing barbecued hamburgers and hotdogs (as well as veggie versions) but the balance of the meal is potluck. As a suggestion: if your last name begins with A–E, bring a beverage; F–P, bring a side dish or salad; and R–Z bring something for dessert.

ARTS, BOOKS & MUSIC

Essays on Civil War is Book Club Choice for June

The UUCDC Book Club is reading *This Mighty Scourge* by the noted Civil War scholar, James McPherson, for its June meeting.

In this book, McPherson investigates riveting questions about this pivotal war on American soil: What started the war? What motivated the men on both sides to fight? How did the leaders on both sides perform? The book compiles many essays that McPherson wrote into an organic whole that is accessible and thought-provoking.

In May, the Book Club discussed *Darkness at Noon*, Arthur Koestler's classic about Stalinist Russia. This well-known novel is about a Bolshevik revolutionary hero who becomes a victim of the revolution he helped secure. The main character, Rubashkov, is forced to reconsider his life and how he and other revolutionaries put the interests of the state before their own humanity and common

sense. In the end, the state destroyed them and gave the lie to the ideals that seduced them. The characters in the novel are based on actual people who fought for and perished in the Marxist system.

The Book Club will meet to discuss *This Mighty Scourge* Friday, June 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Room. This is also the meeting when we present and select our reading list for the next six months. There are two summer meetings, July 31 and August 28. We will read and discuss, *Whatever Happened to Anna K.?*, a novel by Irina Reyn, in July. The August selection is to be announced.

We are a co-ed book club and we would love to have you join us. Our reading list is posted on the bulletin board outside of Fellowship Hall and on the UUCDC website.

Bryan Booszy

MCC's 'Burst of Bernstein,' June 6 and 7

Selections from Leonard Bernstein's *Mass* and *West Side Story* will be featured in the Media Chamber Chorale's concerts on June 6 and 7.

MCC will offer its audience air-conditioned comfort for the 3 p.m. June 7 performance of "A Burst of Bernstein" at Reformation Lutheran, our neighbor church at 102 W. Rose Tree Rd. (MCC will perform its winter concert at UUCDC in December, but the June heat has finally gotten to the singers and many of their fans.)

The 7:30 p.m. June 6 performance will be at St. Francis in the Fields Episcopal Church, 689 Sugar-town Rd., Malvern.

This festival of song will also include other favorites -- Ravel's *Pavane*, Brahms' *Schicksalslied*, and Byrd's *Ave Verum Corpus*. Directed by John B. Stroud Jr., this talented group of singers from Media, Swarthmore, the Main Line and Philadelphia promise a joyful event in the spirit of the spring.

Tickets are \$10 to \$15. For more information and directions, go to www.mediachamberchorale.org. For advance, discount tickets, call Lou Bickford at 610-446-2011.

Loretta Orndorff

Legislative Alert

Members and friends of LGBTQ activities may be interested to know that State Sen. John Eichelberger of Blair County (east of Altoona) plans to introduce a measure to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to ban same-sex marriage.

He claims that writing the ban into the constitution would prevent a judge from overturning the law. Currently, Pennsylvania law defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman. Opponents say that such a measure would enshrine discrimination into the constitution.

To amend the constitution, both the House and the Senate must approve the amendment in two consecutive two-year sessions before the measure goes to voters for final approval in a statewide referendum.

Bette Austin

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Survey Results Are In—We're Going Green

The congregational survey results were tabulated a couple months ago and resulted in the selection of Green Sanctuary as the theme for next year. Green Sanctuary is a program of the UUA that can result in official recognition for congregations that improve their environmental behaviors, in all areas, including worship, RE, justice for all beings on Earth, congregational interests and commitments, water resources, energy use, and facilities operations.

We have not yet decided to pursue this formal program, but are committed to examining the environmental behaviors of the congregation, providing opportunities for learning, reducing our carbon footprint, and striving for a positive impact on the world.

A planning group has done some brainstorming and developed a series of potential programs, possible activities, and probable events. A sampling includes:

- ◆ Energy audit/utility bill reduction
- ◆ Kid and Adult RE workshops
- ◆ Awakening the Dreamer (in January)
- ◆ Living Green course
- ◆ DVD library/film series
- ◆ One Book – One Church on a “green” topic
- ◆ Hub for recycling
- ◆ Rain barrels
- ◆ Garden at church
- ◆ Ethical eating potluck
- ◆ Carpooling
- ◆ Go Green – in our homes, our church, our community.

Since we are UUs, we've established a set of work-

ing groups to keep things a bit more organized and help make this stuff happen. Contact us for more information: Congregational Education and Change (all ages), Marilyn Huff; Community Outreach, Charlie Pell; Gardening /Grounds, Bob McClennen; Building/Energy Usage/Habits, Brad Randall.

There are so many opportunities to make our lives “greener” at home, at church, in our community and, indeed, in the world. We have the hope and expectation that during the next church year a focus on more sustainable living will enhance ongoing programs, inspire new ideas, and establish a higher level of consciousness for all of us in the future.

And with that lofty goal, I'd like to leave you with some relevant quotes from some very wise folks. (You also can look up UUA principle No. 7, and UUCDC Ends Statement No. 7 on your own):

“The future belongs to those who understand that doing more with less is compassionate, prosperous, and enduring, and thus more intelligent, even competitive.” *Paul Hawken*

“We are looking ahead, as is the first mandate given to us as chiefs, to make sure (that) every decision we make relates to the welfare and well-being of the seventh generation to come, and that is the basis by which we make decisions in council. We consider: Will this be to the benefit of the seventh generation.” -- *Iroquois Chief*

Brad Randall

Book Sale Raises \$421 for Our NAACP Scholarship

Thank you to everyone who participated in the successful May 3 and 17 Social Justice Committee Book Sale to benefit the church's NAACP Scholarship Fund. The many generous donations gave shoppers old and young a wide variety of selections, and the sale raised \$421.21 -- almost halfway to one scholarship!

The annual \$1,000 UUCDC scholarship goes to a Chester High School senior chosen by the Chester Branch of the NAACP.

A great selection of books remain on sale. You'll find them to the left of the stairway on the bottom floor. Please use the honor-system container, marked NAACP Scholarship Fund, on the book-

shelf. Hardbacks are \$2, soft covers \$1, and children's books 50 cents. Remaining books will be donated at the end of June to a yet-undetermined charity. To suggest a recipient, e-mail Kelli Schweitzer at schweitz11@yahoo.com.

A special thank you goes to the non-committee helpers. Of note are some of our youth: Madison Baltazar and Chloe and Emily Cairncross, who carried many books the first day; Nicole Jurceka, who assisted on the first day; and Marina Parsons, who made the second-day set-up possible by doing child care.

Kelli Schweitzer

From the Mouths of Babes: What Makes Your Rose Tree Day School Teacher Special

Rose Tree Day School is an exceptional school. What makes it so great? The excellent staff treats each child as a unique gift and keeps RTDS one of the few pre-schools in the area that consistently has an enrollment waiting list. This community outreach program has a powerful and life-long impact on each child.

In honor of Teacher Appreciation Day, we went to the experts -- the kids -- to find out what they love about their teachers .

Here is a sampling of their responses about their teachers:

- ♦ Miss Amy (assistant teacher): “She plays with us.” (Tyler, age 4.) “She helps me.” (Bobby, age 6.)
- ♦ Ms. Debby (head teacher – Little Rascals): “I like when we cook snacks together.” (Grace, age 4.) “I like when she reads to us.” (Holly, age 5.)
- ♦ Ms. Jeanne (assistant teacher): “She teaches me things and she is nice.” (Bobby, age 5.)
- ♦ Miss Jenn (head teacher – Stars): “She reads us good books.” (Tyler, age 4.)
- ♦ Miss Lisha (assistant teacher): “She helps us with our crafts.” (Ryan, age 5.)
- ♦ Ms. Robyn (assistant teacher): “I LOVE when she reads to us.” (Garrett, age 5.)
- ♦ Ms. Stacey (head teacher – Cupcakes): “She loves all of the kids.” (Ava, age 3.) “She teaches us things.” (Ali, age 3.)
- ♦ Miss Marianne (head teacher – Special Ks): “She’s a good friend to everybody. She makes crowns for people who have birthdays.” (Noah, age 6.) “She makes us chocolate pudding.” (Samantha, age 6.)

And, from the parents about Director Andrea Sampson: “Organization!” “She allows Garrett to wave from the window.” “Her wonderful attention to detail!” “She hires great staff.”

Lisa Grieco

An Idea That May Grow on You: Memorial Trees

Would you like to plant a tree on the church grounds to remember an important person in your life or a previous member of the congregation?

If so, please contact Charlie Pell at cpell4@yahoo.com or call 610-745-1924.

Summer Office Hours

UUCDC staff is scattering for a while this summer. Almost everyone is off for the month of July. We'll be back in varying ways and hours during August. Phone and e-mail will be good ways to get in touch during that month.

The administrative assistant, Chrissy Drummond, will keep the office afloat in July in Rina's absence. Call the office, 610-566-4853 x4 to leave a message for her if you need help. You can also reach her by e-mail: assistant@uucdc.org.

In case of emergency, please contact a Board member. He or she will have the necessary contact information for staff during the summer.

THIS, I BELIEVE/Bryan Boosz*In a Flash, Ecstatic Enjoyment of Truth and Meaning*

From the Editors,

Here is another 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 FOCUS -- go to <http://uucdc.org/thisibelieve.html>. For more information, contact Bette Austin or Neil Goldstein.

Unitarian Universalism at UUCDC first attracted me because it draws on the wisdom of the world's religions "to inspire our ethical and spiritual life." The ethical side of this drawing is easy enough to understand, since all religions exhort followers to be kind, help others, and treat the world with respect. But I wondered about the spiritual side of UUism.

One day after I prepared to teach a children's Religious Education class and was relaxing to a little music, a light bulb went on over my head. In a flash, I saw that the language of religion, different from the language of ordinary experience or science, speaks to a more sweeping view of life. At that point, my own "search for truth and meaning" turned into the ecstatic *enjoyment* of truth and meaning.

Religious language is experiential: The proper question to ask about a religious statement, symbol, or ritual, it seemed to me, is not whether it is true, but whether it transports you. Does it open you to a sweeping vision beyond the five senses that evolved for practical purposes in a harsh world?

It is difficult to convey an extraordinary experience or thought, but in mystic miniature I saw the passion of Jesus, the rapture of the Buddha, the joy of Krishna dancing, and the exuberance of Tao -- all pointing to an accessible harmony.

The stories, symbols and rituals of the various religions differ, but all can facilitate a spiritual experience: union with a deep harmony behind time, place and self. In a flash, I saw that all paths going up the mountain lead to the same summit -- and what a view at the top!

I certainly wasn't going to confuse the kids with extravagant thoughts of a minor magical reverie. My grandmother once said to me that religions look different, but really are talking about the same thing in different ways. How true that seemed to me. But if one of the children had asked me whether God exists, Jesus saves, the Buddha is awake, Krishna swirls, or Tao is mother, I would have been tempted to say:

Yes! Yes! Yes! Yes! Yes!

And I would have added: Our Unitarian Universalist hearts are open to them all.

Bryan Boosz

June Is Final IHN Hosting for 2008-2009 Year

The week of June 14, UUCDC will host Interfaith Hospitality Network for the fourth and final time of the 2008/2009 church year. In the first three weeks of this year, we hosted five families with a total of six adults and eleven children. Four of the hosted families completed the IHN program and moved into housing.

In order to accomplish a full week of guest hosting, meal preparation and donation, set-up, clean-up and administrative responsibilities, we require in excess of 50 volunteers for each week. This is a huge commitment for our church and we are finding ourselves struggling each hosting week to fill all the open positions on the calendar.

The time required of volunteers varies from position to position. Some may take several hours, such as staying overnight at the church

to be on hand in case of emergency or preparing dinner for our guests and hosts. Others may take an hour or less, such as picking up breakfast supplies from the grocery store and dropping them off at the church in the evening.

We appreciate the help of all the volunteers who have donated their time and resources to this project and are always looking for more people willing to help. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mary Beth Hoffman (marybeth312@verizon.net) or Tiffany Hanulec (tiffany.hanulec@gmail.com). We are also available to answer any questions you might have about the program.

Tiffany Hanulec



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

Focus

June 2009

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Calendar

May 2009*

Date	Name of Event	Time			
5/2	Meditation Group	8:00 AM	5/11	Voice Lesson Rental	7:30 AM
	Muslims	9:30 AM		Board	7:15 PM
	Pagans	2:00 PM		Tai Chi Adult RE	7:30 PM
5/3	Meditation Group	8:00 AM	5/12	Yoga	5:45 PM
	Green Sanctuary Discussion	9:00 AM		DBSA	7:00 PM
	Worship Service & RE	10:30 AM	5/13	Muslims	6:00 PM
	OWL	11:30 AM		ADORE	7:00 PM
	Fair Compensation Discussion	12:00 PM	5/14	Chorus	7:00 PM
	Social Justice Book Sale	12:00 PM		SGM	7:00 PM
	COA	6:00 PM	5/15	RTDS Grandparents Day	10:00 AM
	Independent Catholics	6:00 PM		COA- Pocono Plateau	
	YUCKI	6:00 PM		RTDS Grandparents Day	1:30 PM
	Muslims - Event	7:00 PM	5/16	Transforming Whiteness Workshop	9:30 AM
5/4	Voice Lesson Rental	7:30 AM		Meditation Group	8:00 AM
	Tai Chi Adult RE	7:30 PM		Muslims	9:30 AM
5/5	RTDS Teacher Appreciation	12:00 PM		COA- Pocono Plateau	
	Yoga	5:45 PM	5/17	Meditation Group	8:00 AM
5/6	Muslims	6:00 PM		Transforming Whiteness Workshop	10:30 AM
	LLC Budget Review	7:00 PM		Worship Service & RE	10:30 AM
5/7	SGM	1:00 PM		Budget Hearing	12:00 PM
	Chorus	7:00 PM		COA- Pocono Plateau	
	Spirit of Life	7:00 PM		SGM	12:00 PM
5/9	Meditation Group	8:00 AM		COA	6:00 PM
	Muslims	9:30 AM		Independent Catholics	6:00 PM
	Chorus Rehearsal	10:00 AM		YUCKI	6:00 PM
	Teacher Appreciation set up	3:00 PM		Junto	7:00 PM
	Teacher Appreciation party	7:00 PM	5/18	Voice Lesson Rental	7:30 AM
5/10	Meditation Group	8:00 AM		RTDS Board	7:00 PM
	Worship Service & RE	10:30 AM		Tai Chi Adult RE	7:30 PM
	COA	6:00 PM	5/19	Yoga	5:45 PM
	Independent Catholics	6:00 PM		Celtic Reconstructionists	6:00 PM
	YUCKI				
	6:00 PM				



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*Printed April 22, 2009

May 2009

5/20	Muslims	6:00 PM	5/30	Meditation Group	8:00 AM
	Membership Council	7:00 PM		Memorial Garden Work Party	9:00 AM
	SGM	7:00 PM		Muslims	9:30 AM
				Independent Catholic	11:00 AM
5/21	SGM	1:00 PM	5/31	Meditation Group	8:00 AM
	Chorus	7:00 PM		Worship Service & RE	10:30 AM
	Spirit of Life	7:00 PM		Congregational Meeting	12:00 PM
5/22	Book Club	7:30 PM		Thespis	2:00 PM
5/23	Meditation Group	8:00 AM		Independent Catholics	5:00 PM
	Chi Running	9:00 AM		COA	6:00 PM
	Muslims	9:30 AM		YUCKI	6:00 PM
5/24	Meditation Group	8:00 AM			
	Worship Service & RE	10:30 AM			
	COA	6:00 PM			
	Independent Catholics	6:00 PM			
	YUCKI	6:00 PM			
5/25	Voice Lesson Rental	7:30 AM			
	Tai Chi Adult RE	7:30 PM			
5/26	Yoga	5:45 PM			
	DBSA	7:00 PM			
	Spirit in Practice	7:00 PM			
5/27	Muslims	6:00 PM			
	AA District 54	7:30 PM			
5/28	Chorus	7:00 PM			