

# FOCUS

September 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](mailto:churchoffice@uucdc.org)

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

(PreSchool - 8th)

10:30 a.m. Sept.-June



## FROM THE MINISTER

*My heart is moved by all I cannot*

*save:*

*So much has been destroyed*

*I have to cast my lot with those*

*who, age after age,*

*perversely, with no extraordinary*

*power, reconstitute the world.*

I call to mind these words from the poet Adrienne Rich as we gather once again to begin a new church year. For me, they capture the essence of who we are as Unitarian Universalists. We are people whose hearts are moved by the deep needs of the world, by the pain wrought by racism, classism, homophobia, poverty, hunger, homelessness – by injustice in all its guises. We ache for ourselves, for our sisters and our brothers, for our planet when we look critically at the state of our world, where “so much has been destroyed” and so much more is being destroyed daily. We are people of deep and abiding compassion.

And yet, in the face of all the horrible news of the day – the violent deaths of young men and women in our city streets and in far off wars, mounting job losses from a world economic crisis, neighbors in our own town going hungry – we are people who doggedly, persistently, with no extraordinary power, reconstitute the world. As people of faith we are also people of action. As I have

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Sunday Services in September

September 6, 10 a.m.: Dr. Eliot Ratzman, professor of religion, Swarthmore College

September 13, 10:30 a.m.: Ingathering Sunday, Rev. Peter Friedrichs

September 20, 10:30 a.m.: Rev. Peter

September 27, 10:30 a.m.: Rev. Peter

*Remember services start at 10:30 beginning Sept. 13.*

## 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

### Board of Trustees

**Mark Bernstein,**  
President

**Donna Harris,**  
Vice President

**Julie Chuplis,**  
Secretary

**Peter Cooke**

**Marylin Huff**

**Mike Mitchell**

**Jane Seelaus**

**Jean Wallace**

## From the Minister

(Continued from page 1)

said on more than one occasion, ours is not just a Sunday morning faith. Unitarian Universalism calls us to respond to the needs of the world not just with prayer and hope, but with toil and sweat, with deeds and action. Our work is inspired by our belief that we are intimately interconnected to all that is, that there is no separation between “us” and “them,” and in the understanding that, through the cumulative effect of many small actions, we can in fact “reconstitute the world.”

When we confront the enormity of the world's needs and we assess our own individual power to effectuate change, we often feel daunted and overwhelmed. It is easy to respond with “Why bother?” and to retreat within ourselves and our own small spheres of influence. There is no doubt that the work of reconstituting the world can be discouraging and disheartening. Thus, the necessary partner for compassion is joy. To keep to this work over time, we must find our own gladness among the world's sadness. That is why the community – this community – is so vitally important. We each have different gifts to bring to the altar of humanity, and our passions are as diverse as our talents. More importantly, we cannot sustain ourselves in isolation. Each of us needs each other to remind us of why we're engaged in this work, to cheer us on when our energy is flagging, to commiserate in our frustrations and to celebrate our accomplishments. It is in community and through community that we are encouraged and enriched in our commitment to reconstitute the world. Here at UUCDC, we are called to create and maintain a joyful attitude toward this challenging work.

The Christian theologian Frederick Buechner once wrote that “The place where God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.” As we embark upon this new church year, I invite you to discover this place within yourself, the intersection of your compassion and your joy, the place where your energy, your enthusiasm, and your happiness meet your heart of compassion. I look forward to finding these places together in the months ahead.

Love,  
*Peter*

### FOCUS INFO:

#### Editors:

Bette Austin  
& Neil Goldstein

#### Production:

Rina Jurceka

**The deadline for October is September 21.**

Please send your text  
via email to:

**[Focus@uucdc.org](mailto:Focus@uucdc.org)**

or put it in Rina Jurceka's  
mail slot, in the church  
office.

Focus Folding, 10 a.m.  
Friday Oct. 2. Come  
help!

## Heads Up for Inside FOCUS Articles

- Teacher Training, Page 6
- UUCDC's Terrapin Project, Page 8
- Directory, Page 8
- Thespis Auditions, Page 10

## BOARD PERSPECTIVES: POLISHING STONES

### From President Mark Bernstein

Welcome to September. (I won't say "Welcome back," because many of you never left, choosing instead to take advantage of our wonderful summer worship series.) It is good, though, to have our congregation whole again. Each fall, we look ahead with anticipation to an exciting, productive and meaningful year, and this time around is no exception.

I am proud to begin my second term as President of the Board of Trustees and I look forward to working with an experienced and committed Board to make our congregation as great as it can be. We, all of us in the congregation, have some work to do.

We need to consider and make some determination about Policy Governance. We need to get serious about growth initiatives. We need to discuss and make some budgetary decisions. We need to adopt and embrace a Covenant of Right Relations. We need to mount another aggressive Fund Drive to further secure our financial future. We need to look at some organizational changes necessitated by turnover in some key lay leadership positions. We need to find and welcome a new Director of Religious Education.

It will not all be hard work. We will also be inspired by the words and presence of our Lead Minister, Rev. Peter; enraptured by the beautiful music of our chorus; challenged by the Adult Religious Edu-

cation offerings; delighted by the joy and inquisitiveness of our children; emboldened by our volunteer efforts; and made secure in the warm, embracing presence of our fellow congregants.

In an essay, Elizabeth Lerner tells of finding stones on a beach and deciding to take on the arduous task of polishing them so that their brilliant beauty would be revealed. It took a year and a half of work before she was done. Then, she writes, "I held a polished stone in my hand yesterday, and curled my fingers around it. I thought of all I have before me in my own life and also in our congregation. I was filled with awareness of how much there is to do, and how much I don't even know yet, that will also need my doing. I looked at the gleaming stone in my hand, and remembered how long it takes to work with things that are hard, and how much joy and beauty comes from exactly that long work."

Yes, we have much work to do this year and some of it will be hard. But we'll do it together and along the way we will share the joy and the beauty that is in each of us and in our beloved UUCDC community.

With love and respect,  
*Mark*

### *Board of Trustees Kicks Off New Church Year with Successful Retreat*

On Saturday, August 29, your Board of Trustees came together in a spirit of deliberation and togetherness to begin our work on behalf of the UUCDC congregation. We reviewed the accomplishments of the Board and congregation from last year and speculated on what the Board will be doing five years from now under Policy Governance.

The "meat" of the meeting was a wide-ranging discussion of our goals and tasks for the coming year. In addition to continuing our work to establish Policy Governance as the preferred mode of "running" our church, we also discussed our desire and need to set a vision and direction for the future of UUCDC. You'll hear much more about this once we finalize our goals, probably at our September meeting.

As we did last year, we promise to keep in touch and to keep you up to speed on what we are doing to serve you and our Unitarian Universalist faith. Your Board of Trustees looks forward to an exciting and momentous year in the life of our congregation.

Julie Chuplis, Peter Cooke, Rev Peter Friedrichs, Donna Harris, Marilyn Huff,  
Mike Mitchell, Jane Sealaus, Jean Wallace, Mark Bernstein

## *Caring Corner*

### *UUCDC Donations Help Fill Media Food Bank*

Even though attendance at summer services is lower than the rest of the year, the food collections have been generous. Many thanks to all who remembered to bring items, as well as to those who gave monetary donations.

The Food Bank presently serves the needs of more than 200 families a month, with numbers sometimes reaching as high as 250 families. Please watch the UUCDC Weekly Digest to determine the current list of foods that are needed. Trader Joe's is continuing to furnish breads, pastries etc. each Sunday. The donations are then picked up and delivered to the First Methodist Church, along with UUCDC contributions. If the freezers at the church are filled, the breads are then taken to the City Team Ministries in Chester, so that none is wasted.

Items needed on a regular basis are: peanut butter, jelly, canned pasta sauce (not in a glass jar), baby food, tuna, cereals, rice, diabetic items, canned fruits and, at present, canned vegetables. Coffee is a real treat.

It was just a year ago that we started our UUCDC contributions to the Media Food Bank, although some members and friends have been contributing on an individual basis for a much longer time. Be assured, all the donations are going to feed folks in our own neighborhood and are greatly appreciated. Thank you so much for all you do.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

At a June meeting, members of the Social Justice Committee met to discuss what they envisioned the role of the Social Justice Committee to be and what individual members saw as their role as it related to the committee.

This meeting followed one in May when Don Pound, representing the Lay Leadership Council, also met with the committee and urged members further to consider their thoughts on the committee's role at UUCDC.

These meetings grew out of concern among some committee members that the Social Justice Committee had failed to be an initiator and put forth a project that captured the imagination and interest of UUCDC members and friends and one that garnered greater church participation and support. Projects that seemed to have attracted church support, for the most part, had been initiated by church members outside the committee, although many Social Justice Committee members had participated on an individual basis in these projects. It was pointed out that there was no lack of commitment by committee members for social justice issues.

There was considerable discussion related to the past year's involvement by the committee and many of its members in the AROM (Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression and Multicultural program) and ADORE (A Dialog on Race and Ethnicity) and speaker events arranged through the Homer Jack speaker series. Two guest speakers were John Jackson, University of Pennsylvania professor speaking about his book, "Racial Paranoia," and Annette John-Hall, columnist of The Inquirer also speaking on racial issues. It was pointed out that as worthy as these activities were the attendance at all of these events was relatively modest.

Rev. Peter said that there is a perception that the SJ Committee was not coming forth with ideas engaging the interest and support of the congregation. He expressed his belief that a social justice committee should be a proactive force within the church community, with the potential of outreach to neighboring communities.

In addition to last year's anti-racism events, the committee has been responsible for the Share the Plate program, the Christmas Adopt a Family project, and the NAACP Scholarship Fund, on-going

projects for many years.

Various ideas were presented related to what should be the thrust of the committee's activities. Among these were research of other UU social justice committees and activities; an inquiry into an organizational structure created by the UU Ashville, NC, church, and disbanding the Social Justice Committee as a committee, but continuing ongoing projects. A need for clarity as to the relationship between the committee and the Lay Leadership Council also was expressed. There was concern also that if there was no longer an SJ committee, to whom do new members turn for social action activities? How would that affect social justice activities initiated by individuals?

A partnership with the Second Baptist Church of Media and a partnership with the Muslim religious community that rents space from the church also was suggested.

Rev. Peter suggested that the committee take a break and if members were interested and passionate about creating a structure, these might be explored and the committee regroup.

The committee agreed on the following:

- ◆ Continue responsibility for Share the Plate, Adopt a Family, and anti-racism activities and events, and, at least for next year, the NAACP Scholarship program.
- ◆ Mardys Leeper will continue to work on the Homer Jack speaker series.
- ◆ Three members will research social justice committee structures and activities available through the Joseph Priestly District, and explore social justice activities and experience in other UU churches.

It was also hoped that members of the congregation would suggest project ideas. A meeting in October was suggested to complete certain administrative tasks.

## *JPD to Form New Social Justice Committee*

A Coalition-Based Community Organizing Workshop will be held Saturday, October 2, 10-a.m. to 4 p. m., at First Unitarian Church of Wilmington, 730 Halstead Road, Wilmington, DE with the goal of forming a District Social Justice Committee.

Rev. Louise Green, Social Justice Minister of All Souls, Unitarian, Washington, DC, will provide examples of various interfaith coalitions, explaining how they function as agents of change and explore how your congregation can become part of a CBCO.

Each congregation is asked to choose at least two representatives to attend the training session.

The new District Social Justice Committee will

consist of a steering committee from Social Justice/Advocacy Networks already working in the district and two social justice representatives from each congregation wishing to participate.

Such representatives would be chosen by the congregation and would be accountable to and supported by the congregation in order to further social justice within the congregation and the larger community in the name of the congregation.

A working group also will be formed to aid in programming and planning for future meetings.

Interested UUs may contact Rev. Dr. Om Prakash John Gilmore, JPD's director of Racial and Social Justice, or write to [john@jpduua.org](mailto:john@jpduua.org) for additional information.

## **LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### *Teacher Training on Sept. 12; Sunday School Starts Sept. 20*

Because we are still seeking the right person to fill the position of Director of Religious Education, I'm back to help with the RE program for as long as I'm needed. I'm glad to say that we're in full mode of preparation for the beginning of our Religious Education year.

Children's Sunday School will start Sept. 20. At Ingathering on Sept. 13, children will remain with their parents. (Parents, make sure to register your children – see accompanying article below.)

Teacher training, in which the new instructors learn from their predecessors, is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 12, from 9 a.m. to noon.

This session is important even for those who have been teaching for years. It's where teachers will obtain classroom assignments, books and supplies; work on schedules; review curricula; and ask questions. Something entirely new on the agenda is learning how the new church database system can help teachers communicate with each other, with parents and with students. Also, they'll learn new games to play and new songs to sing with the students.

So, teachers – please attend!

*Tabby Parsons*

Coordinator of Religious Education

### *Why Is Sunday School Registration Important?*

Sunday School classes start Sept. 20. In the coming weeks, you'll have the chance to fill out registration forms for your children.

Registration is important because it helps administrators gather facts about your child (including allergies and medical and developmental conditions), plus information about contacting your family. Such data help the Religious Education program set up class

groupings with a manageable number of students, keep you informed about activities, schedule changes, and keep children with health or developmental issues safe and comfortable during classes.

Thanks in advance for taking the time to register!

## Adult RE Registration Starts Sept. 13

Registration for Adult Religious Education starts after the Sept. 13 service and continues through Sept. 30.

You can register in person after services at the Adult RE table. You can also register via e-mail or at the church office. Administrative Assistant Chrissy Drummond is the registrar; contact her at [Assistant@uucdc.org](mailto:Assistant@uucdc.org) or 610-566-4853, Ext. 4. If there is a fee for the class, the instructors/ leaders will collect it. Do not pay at registration.

Child care will be provided for all classes, but please let your class instructor know so he or she can notify Chrissy at least one week before the class.

### *Scheduled offerings:*

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

**Book Club** -- Fridays near the end of the month from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. (The book for Sept. 18 is *The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story*; see article on page 10.)

**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.

**Meditation** -- Saturday and Sunday mornings. Led by Marilyn Huff.

## Legacy Fund & Philly LGBT to Honor "Heroes" Sept. 25

The Delaware Valley Legacy Fund and the Philadelphia LGBT (Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender) will honor "heroes" who have worked to make equality a reality for members of the LGBT community, September 25, 7-9 p.m. at the F.U.E.L. art gallery, 249 Arch street, Philadelphia.

The event will honor individuals, corporations and non-profit organizations. Past heroes include

**Low-Carbon Diet at UUCDC** -- Oct. 4 from noon to 2 p.m. Led by Marilyn Huff. After Oct. 4, the group that forms will meet on its own schedule. Marilyn 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.

**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. 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.

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

Enjoy!

*Loretta Orndorff*

Barbara Gittings, Gov. Edward G. Rendell, Citigroup and Planned Parenthood of Bucks County.

The Delaware Valley Legacy Fund works to support the community needs of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and straight-allied communities through philanthropy, grantmaking, endowment building, fundraising, community outreach and education.

## UUCDC's Terrapin Project

You should know that our congregation at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County has grown by 17 per cent over the last three years. But we also should ponder the fact that many come to our church, stay for a while – sometimes even a long while – and then drift away. You have probably found yourself recalling a friendly face from the past who no longer attends church. The next thought that comes to mind is, “Whatever happened to...?” Imagine if just a fraction of those who have come through our doors decided to join us and stay for the long term. We would be building a larger sanctuary, there would be more people to volunteer, and we would have more people getting the good word about our free religion out to the community!

Many of us have had the same thoughts, and so a group was formed late last spring to study growth at our church and develop a strategy to retain people and grow to a size that makes our congregation more vibrant and active.

The group is called “The Terrapin Project,” after the little marsh turtles fighting to adapt to a world that is constantly changing. The name also was inspired by a suite of Grateful Dead songs called, not surprisingly, “Terrapin”. The fabled place called “Terrapin” in the songs can be read as a place of our deepest spiritual aspirations: “Some rise, some fall, some climb to get to Terrapin.”

What exactly are the members of the Terrapin Project doing? We have broken down into three subgroups, looking at ways to attract new people to our church, ways to make the

experience of our place of worship click so that people can't help but convert to Unitarian Universalism, and ways to make people want to stay with us through all the vicissitudes of life. How many people do you know that drifted away once their children grew up and left home?

The leaders of the Terrapin Project are Lisa Grieco and Bryan Boosz. There are about 16 other participants and all have been instructed to be creative in coming up with ideas that will help us flourish. They have been instructed that nothing we do now is taboo from reconsideration. For example, the name of our church is cumbersome and lends itself to being widely used in the form of an acronym (UUCDC). Acronyms, however, are exclusive to visitors and new members, and we should try to avoid using any of the acronyms we bandy about: RE, GA, DRE, UU, etc. Would our church be more attractive if we changed our name to Media Unitarian Universalist Church or Rose Tree Unitarian Universalist Church?

Don't worry, the Terrapin Project is a think tank and we are not charged with making changes. We will only recommend strategies that will be given to Peter for consideration and implementation. We hope to present our strategy to the congregation by February 1, 2010. If you have any questions about our growth effort, feel free to contact Lisa or Bryan for the scoop on where the project is and where it is going.

*Bryan Boosz*

## On Sept. 12, Help UUs Plan Lobbying in Pa.

You're invited to join members of the Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network (UUPLAN) as they gather at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Berks County in Reading on Sept. 12.

The all-day annual meeting will include:

- ◆ Agenda-setting for the coming legislative year. Which issues will the group rally UU troops to work on in Harrisburg?
- ◆ Training on how to talk to your legislator, with role-playing
- ◆ Exercises. An experienced lobbyist who's also a UU will be the trainer.
- ◆ Calendar-setting for in-district visiting

days in October ,

- ◆ Teleconference for UUPLAN liaisons.
- ◆ Tending the roots: developing UUPLAN infrastructure.

If you want to pursue progressive policies for all Pennsylvanians, come join the network! It's already working on issues relating to health care and to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. UUPLAN will select an additional issue based on the passion expressed in Reading on Sept. 12. Visit [www.uuplan.org](http://www.uuplan.org) to learn more. (For more on the Reading church, go to [http://www.uuberks.org/.](http://www.uuberks.org/))

## *Can You Spare a Little Time for the Day School?*

We look forward to the coming year in our award-winning Rose Tree Day School. Our teachers will be held to a new level of keeping records and portfolios of their students' work and skill development. Because these records must be completed to qualify for our top rating with National Association for the Education of Young Children, some help would be appreciated in recording data. If anyone can spend a few hours at the school entering information, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Andrea Sampson, director, at the school (610-565-4505).

Every week had a theme at RTDS this summer, and each day's activities helped connect the theme to learning, playing and relating.

I was happy to provide an activity during the week that was built around "Color Concoctions." This involved demonstrating the way pointillist Georges Seurat painted to get the most out of combining colors in "dots" and forming sparkling new images. (I called my activity "Seurat the

Dot.") I was pleased and surprised to learn that the 3-going-on-4-year-olds had been spending the week reinforcing their color-recognition skills. They knew the primary colors (red, blue and yellow), and most knew that if you mix blue and yellow, you make green. The older classes (4-, 5-, and 6-year-olds) thought of wonderful and varied subject matters to paint, ranging from race cars to the sun. So we had a lot of fun making dot paintings, and each one turned out completely different from the others.

Other weeks' themes included Camping, Going Green, All About America, Science in the Kitchen, Island Luau, Storytelling, Animals, Mother Goose, Music, and the Circus. Most of the weeks involved at least one visiting specialist who provided an activity or presentation for the school's enjoyment.

## *A Directory for Our Handy Online Directory*

What do you do if it is 7 p.m. -- or 3 a.m. -- and you are looking for a phone number or e-mail address for a church person? Your printed directory has been misplaced or the person you seek joined the church very recently.

Don't panic!

With the new database you've heard about all year, the problem is solved.

This is the first in a series of articles telling you about the many features we think you will find handy.

Today's topic – *The Directory*.

So, it's 3 a.m. and you've suddenly got an urge to e-mail a church member and you don't already have her or his address. Wander over to your computer and go to the church website at [www.uucdc.org](http://www.uucdc.org). Click on the **Church Members Only** section and put in your login and password (you created them when you entered your information into the church database). If you've forgotten those items, you can hit the **Retrieve User ID or Password** button, or you can get them from the church

office during business hours.

Then, choose **Directory** from the listing on the left-hand side.

If you are looking for one person's information and would like to see it on the screen, simply type the first few letters of the name where it says **Family Last Name**. You can also view all families that begin with a certain letter by entering just that letter. (NOTE: For families in which the adults [head of household] have different last names, the listing is alphabetical – that is, Pete Smith and Ann Ford would be listed under Ford.) Click on the **Display Members** button, and you will see the names and addresses.

As always, if you have questions or problems with any of this, feel free to contact the church office during regular office hours. We also have an instruction booklet for members that we can e-mail to you. E-mail Chrissy at [assistant@uucdc.org](mailto:assistant@uucdc.org) and she'll send it along.

*Rina Jurceka*

## ARTS, BOOKS & MUSIC

### Singers' Alert!

Remember last December when we had a pick-up choir and a 20-minute rehearsal that wonderful Sunday when everyone participated in multiple creative stations? The choir sounded wonderful, and wasn't it fun?

Now, we need all who participated in that brief song-fest to come and join us on a regular basis and create those lovely sounds throughout the church year. If you didn't participate that Sunday, now is your chance.

We meet each Thursday evening, 7-9 p. m. We shall be singing both new and old repertoire and the beautiful music selected by Chris Schroth, our talented director. All degrees of professional and non-professional singers are encouraged to join. Come and be a part of the worship service. And, you get the best seat in the house, too.

### Book Club Chooses Novel of Warsaw Zookeepers During WWII for September

The Book Club has selected *The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story*, by Diane Ackerman, for its September 18 meeting.

This is the true story of how the director of the Warsaw Zoo, Jacob Zabinski, and his wife, Antonina, sheltered Jews and members of the Polish resistance from the Nazis during WWII. Ackerman also introduces the reader to other people who risked their lives in the service of humanity during one of the cruelest periods of the 20th century. Please join us if you are interested in talking about this wonderful book.

Over the summer the book club was alive and well and mining the worlds of two Annas, through such treasures as *What Happened to Anna K.*, by Irina Reyn, and *Year of Wonders*, by Geraldine Brooks.

Reyn's novel, based on Tolstoy's classic, *Anna Karenina*, is the story of a woman tragically caught

up in the worlds of modern America, the Bukharian Jewish immigrant culture in New York City, and her own whims, passions, and physical beauty.

*The Year of Wonders*, on the other hand, is a classic tale about a stranger who comes to town and upsets the order of things. In this case, the stranger is the bubonic plague. The Anna of this story, Anna Frith, is admirable in her endurance of suffering and her struggle to ease the suffering of a village overrun by the plague.

The Book Club meets once a month in the Lounge on a Friday near the end of the month at 7:30 p. m. We are a co-ed group and welcome participants, helping them to get more out of their reading. Check the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for details or contact Elek Fenyes, Nancy Henderson, Peter Cooke, or Julie Chuplis.

### Thespis Issues Audition Calls for Holiday Double Bill

Auditions for the Thespis production of "Gift of the Magi," a musical version of the classic O. Henry Christmas tale, are at UUCDC, September 20, 6 - 8:30 p.m.

All roles are open, including a number of children's chorus parts and some speaking roles.

The O. Henry production will be half of a double bill, the other half being "A Gilbert and Sullivan Christmas Carol," presented by the Ardensingers. Dates are: December 4-6 at UUCDC and December 18-19 at the Guild Hall, Arden, DE.

Thespis also has scheduled auditions for "The Sorcerer," a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, for September 27, 1:30-5 p. m., and September 28, starting at 6:30 p. m.

All roles are open for this comic opera, dealing with love potions, magic and spells. New chorus members are welcome. Performances are February 26-28 and March 3, 5, 6, 7, 2010.

## *A Summer's Worth of Work on the Building*

For the Property Committee, summertime meant working on some of our pressing building issues.

The largest project was completion of the third and final stage of the process to repair roof leaks in Fellowship Hall. We had the roof replaced three years ago and all the windows up there were re-glazed and caulked two years ago. This summer, contractor Tom Rementer sealed and painted the rooftop stucco walls. That work was completed in early July, and as of this writing, even with double the normal rainfall in August, it *appears* the leaking problem has been solved. I say "appears" because we need to await the first melting snow to be sure. Tom also discovered a small leak in the roof. The roofer was called in, under warranty, to make a repair.

The next project was repairing the exterior windows in Fellowship Hall. Tom capped all the windows with aluminum to match the new windows on the rest of the church's old section. That was done after the stucco walls were repaired and painted by our sexton, Jack Shaffer. Jack also repaired and painted the north wall, (facing the hill in back), and plans are in place to paint the side facing the circle in front. So, all the stucco will have been repaired and painted in

the last 2 1/2 years come the middle of fall. Along with the repaired or replaced windows and new roof, the old section is looking positively spiffy.

Jack is working on the Fellowship Hall windows, removing the storm sashes, cleaning them and putting them back with new caulk. This should help a great deal with the winter cold, and is in keeping with our new Green Sanctuary effort.

Finally, as you approach the front doors, be sure to take a minute to admire the newly refurbished benches on either side on the entryway. A big thank-you is due Peter Eastman, who furnished the materials and did the work this summer.

As we look ahead, the floor in Fellowship Hall needs replacing. The most obvious problem is the section damaged by roof leakage, but further examination reveals that the entire floor is in bad shape. Any suggestions as to the type of replacement are welcomed and should be forwarded to Bob McClenen. Also, the parking lots are badly in need of repair as well as expansion.

## *'All Fire, No Brimstone' at Murray Grove Homecoming*

Rev. Meg Barnhouse will be featured at Murray Grove, the UU retreat center on the Jersey Shore, during homecoming on Sept. 25-27. Barnhouse is a UU evangelist, storyteller and musician, and interim minister at the UU Congregation of Princeton. Her presentation is titled "All Fire, No Brimstone."

The weekend starts with the pre-Homecoming concert, "Songs, Stories and Illumination," by Barnhouse and Kiya Heartwood, at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25. The minimum suggested donation is \$12.

The Saturday program goes from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; minimum suggested donation is \$24. Workshops include:

"Healing and Community Building with Interplay." Learn how to change your life and your world through movement in an active, creative way to unlock the wisdom of the body with Pamela Michel Altoffer, Certified Interplay Leader, and Donna Renfro, Interplay Leader in Training.

"Sing Yourself Well." A participatory workshop exploring how singing positively affects body, mind and spirit with Marjorie K. Herman, music director at Princeton.

"An American Courtship – Universalists and Unitarians." A look at the history of the relationship between Universalists and Unitarians, especially as it led to the merger that created Unitarian Universalism with Rev. Dr. Peter Lee Scott.

"Transitioning Our Views on Gender with UU Principles." Explore how gender shapes who we are and how we interact with Debbie Duncan and Allison Woolbert.

Music will be provided by uu4ia.

At the post-homecoming party Saturday evening, you can share fellowship and service with others of like mind and heart.

Rev. Dr. Michael Tino will lead the Sunday morning service in the historic chapel.

The minimum suggested donation is \$48 for the package of overnight and breakfast. For information and registration, call 609-693-5558, e-mail [murraygrove@murraygrove.org](mailto:murraygrove@murraygrove.org), or go to [www.murraygrove.org](http://www.murraygrove.org).



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

**First Class Mail  
US Postage Paid  
Media, PA  
Permit # 107**

---

# **Focus**

**September 2009**

## **Come Dance the Night Away!**

Have a husband, boyfriend or, significant other who will only dance with you after dire threats? Or grumpy and grudging, stomps around the dance floor muttering, "Just this once and that's all!"?

But you -- when the music begins, gotta dance, gotta dance, gotta dance?

Then, October 2, 6-11 p. m. is for you.

It's UUCDC's fall fundraiser -- Ladies Dance Night!

Invite your friends and come dance the night away to such songs as: Boogie Shoes, Oh, What a Night, Sweet Caroline, and Crocodile Rock.

"Dogs Playing Cards," the band, will provide the music.

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

September 2009

# Calendar

## September 2009\*

9/1	Rose Tree Day School Closed Yoga	5:45 PM	9/10	Church Chorus rehearsal Small Group Ministry	7:00 PM 7:00 PM
9/2	Rose Tree Day School Closed Main Line Staff Retreat Media Chamber Chorale	9:00 AM 7:30 PM	9/11	Rental- Rehearsal Dinner	4:00 PM
9/3	Rose Tree Day School Closed Koenig Rental Small Group Ministry YES Coalition Meeting Church Chorus rehearsal	10:30 AM 1:00 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	9/12	Meditation Teacher Training Memorial Service for Maryanna Worrell	9:00 AM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM
9/4	Rose Tree Day School Closed Rose Tree Day School Open House	8:00 AM	9/13	Meditation Church Chorus Worship Service- IGEN Sunday School Assistants Meetings Independent Catholics Yucki weekly meeting	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:30 AM 12:00 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM
9/5	Meditation	9:00 AM	9/14	Voice lesson Rental Board of Trustees Meeting Tai Chi	8:00 AM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM
9/6	Meditation Worship Service Independent Catholics Yucki weekly meeting	8:00 AM 10:00 AM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM	9/15	Yoga Celtic Reconstructionists	5:45 PM 6:00 PM
9/7	Rose Tree Day School Closed Voice lesson Rental	8:00 AM	9/16	Membership Committee Terrapin Project Media Chamber Chorale	7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM
9/8	Rose Tree Day school Start of Fall Semester Yoga Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance PFLAG	5:45 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	9/17	Small Group Ministry Church Chorus rehearsal Mind/Body/Spirit Martial Arts	1:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM
9/9	Media Chamber Chorale RE Council Meeting	7:30 PM 7:30 PM	9/18	YUCKI retreat Book Club	4:00 PM 7:30 PM
			9/19	Lay Leadership Council Retreat Meditation YUCKI retreat	9:00 AM 9:00 AM 4:00 PM



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

\*Printed September 1, 2009

# September 2009

9/20	Meditation	8:00 AM	9/27	Meditation	8:00 AM
	Worship Service			Church Chorus	9:00 AM
	and Religious Education	10:30 AM		Worship Service	
	Personnel Committee	12:00 PM		and Religious Education	10:30 AM
	SGM Facilitator Mtg	12:00 PM		Committee Fair	11:30 AM
	YUCKI retreat	4:00 PM		Thespis Audition	2:00 PM
	Independent Catholics	6:00 PM		Yucki off site retreat	4:00 PM
	Thespis Rehearsal	6:00 PM		Independent Catholics	6:00 PM
	Yucki weekly meeting	6:00 PM		Thespis Rehearsal	6:00 PM
	Junto	7:00 PM		Yucki weekly meeting	6:00 PM
9/21	Voice lesson Rental	8:00 AM	9/28	Voice lesson Rental	8:00 AM
	Rose Tree Day School Board	7:15 PM		Thespis Audition	6:30 PM
	Tai Chi	7:30 PM		Lay Leadership Meeting	7:15 PM
9/22	Yoga	5:45 PM		Tai Chi	7:30 PM
	Depression & Bipolar		9/29	Yoga	5:45 PM
	Support Alliance	7:00 PM	9/30	Media Chamber Chorale	7:30 PM
	Rose Tree Day School				
	Back To School Night	7:00 PM			
9/23	District 54 AA	7:00 PM			
	Media Chamber Chorale	7:30 PM			
9/24	Church Chorus rehearsal	7:00 PM			
	Mind/Body/Spirit Martial Arts	7:00 PM			
9/25	Yucki off site retreat	4:00 PM			
	Rehearsal	5:00 PM			
	Pagans	7:00 PM			
9/26	Meditation	9:00 AM			
	Memorial Garden Work Party	9:00 AM			
	Rental- Holy Union	3:00 PM			
	Yucki off site retreat	4:00 PM			

## Important Announcement from DRE Search Committee

Since last May the DRE Search Committee has been interviewing potential candidates for the Director of Religious Education position at UUCDC. We've received thirteen applications and interviewed five potential candidates. Unfortunately, none of the candidates interviewed possessed the qualifications and skill sets we are looking for. As of August we were faced with going "back out to market," re-advertising the position, and starting the process all over again.

At a meeting in August, Rev. Peter informed us that Irene Friedrichs, who is an experienced educator and volunteer coordinator, and has been a Unitarian Universalist for more than 20 years, is interested in becoming our Director of Religious Education.

We, the Search Committee, have discussed at length this unique situation and the shifts it brings to the search given that Irene is both a UUCDC member and Rev. Peter's wife. We also consulted with Mark Bernstein, President of the Board, Richard Cairncross, Chair of the Religious Education Committee, and Pat Infante the Director of Lifespan Faith Development at the JPD and received feedback from the Committee on Ministry, who discussed this with Rev. Peter.

Based on these conversations, and given that that we have gone through a thorough search external to the church, the Search Committee has decided to open the search to members of UUCDC and to consider Irene as a candidate for the position. We are therefore inviting any member of UUCDC who is interested in becoming our Director of Religious Education to apply.

All applications must be submitted to the DRE Search Committee no later than Sunday, September 20, 2009.

A link to the complete job description for the position can be found on the church website, [www.uucdc.org](http://www.uucdc.org).

Please submit your application via email to Jean Lenke at [lenke5@rcn.com](mailto:lenke5@rcn.com).

And please contact any one of us, the Search Committee, with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Claire Brill – [clairebrill@yahoo.com](mailto:clairebrill@yahoo.com)  
John Jurceka – [jjurceka@lce.com](mailto:jjurceka@lce.com)  
Maria Koenig – [mkoenig2@comcast.net](mailto:mkoenig2@comcast.net)  
Jean Lenke – [lenke5@rcn.com](mailto:lenke5@rcn.com)