

FOCUS

October 2006

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

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

Sunday Services

October 1

On Labels and Language
Rev. Peter Friedrichs, Minister

As children, we are told that "sticks and stones will break our bones, but names will never hurt us." As adults, we know the power that our words have both to hurt and to heal. Today, we'll consider the importance of language in how we relate to one another.

October 8

Called to Grow
Patricia Hall Infante

Patricia Hall Infante, Director for Growth and Extension in the Joseph Priestley District, takes us along on her journey from lifelong UU to religious educator, to UU evangelist with a passion for growing the faith. Pat, who served for nine years as Director of Religious Education at the UU Church in Cherry Hill, NJ, works with congregations of all sizes to create connections and opportunities for growing our Unitarian Universalist faith.

October 15

Profiles in Courage
Rev. Peter Friedrichs, Minister

It was 50 years ago that John Fitzgerald Kennedy published his work describing historic acts of bravery of eight U.S. senators. Using this work as a point of departure, we'll examine what it means to be courageous in the world today.

October 22

Three Things
Rev. Peter Friedrichs, Minister

The number three holds mysterious power. Some say that bad things come in threes, while for the Christian church the Trinity is most holy. The Tao Te Ching says that it has just three things to teach. Come to the service and find out what they are.

October 29

Dia de Los Muertos
Rev. Peter Friedrichs, Minister

The Day of the Dead, All Souls' Day, All Saints' Day. At this time of year, cultures from around the world celebrate and remember their ancestors. Please bring to church a picture or a small artifact of an ancestor whose life you would like to celebrate.

Who's Who

Staff

Rev. Peter A. Friedrichs,
Minister
Jean Campbell,
Acting Director of Religious
Education
Beth Youse,
Acting Music Director
Rina Jurceka,
Administrator

Board of Trustees

Jody Malloy,
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Bruce Wyman

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Rina Jurceka

The November deadline
is Oct. 17.

Please send in your text
via email to:

Focus@uucdc.org

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

Focus Folding, 10 am
Oct. 27. Come help!

On Ministry, from the Minister



Rev. Peter A. Friedrichs

Last May, when I accepted your call to become your settled minister, I shared with you a poem written by Gordon McKeemon titled "Ministry Is All That We Do –Together." In part, it reads:

*Ministry is all that we do -- together.
Ministry is that quality of being in community that
affirms human dignity -- beckons forth hidden
possibilities, invites us into deeper, more constant,
reverent relationships, and carries forward our
heritage of hope and liberation.*

As I hope you can tell by now, I am thrilled to be serving this church as its professional minister. But I am not the only minister in the congregation. In fact, we are a congregation of ministers. Each of us is engaged in some form of ministry in our coming together and in the work that we do here. Teaching our children in the Religious Education program is a form of ministry. Delivering a meal or giving a ride to a member who is in need is ministry. Singing in the chorus, working on a social justice project, and just being present for someone on a Sunday morning, listening when they need a friendly ear, are all ministries.

By and through your call last spring, you have entrusted me with a special role to play in the congregation. But the ministerial needs of the congregation, and of the larger world, are far greater than any one person can ever hope to satisfy. Ours is a *shared ministry*, one that we all must claim and one for which we must all take responsibility. Unitarian Universalism has sometimes been referred to as a "priesthood of all believers" because it requires of every member a commitment to care for and to nurture the spiritual lives of others. The first step toward claiming your ministry is to discover where your gifts, talents and passions lie, and helping you to discover and develop your gifts is one of the primary functions of the church. Are you a great organizer, who loves to plan and produce events? Do you love to knit? Do you have a knack for creative writing? No matter what shape or form your particular talent takes, as Unitarian Universalists we have an obligation to bring our gifts to the altar of humanity.

You'll be hearing more from me about this concept of shared ministry in the coming months. A Committee on Ministry has been formed, and its members – Penny Bartlett, Joyce McKee, Mary Clinton and Gabe Small – share this broad view of the ministries of the church. The committee members are in the process of developing their mission statement and defining the scope of their responsibility, which they'll be sure to communicate to the congregation. I encourage all of you to look at yourselves and each other as ministers, and to consider the gifts of ministry that you can bring to the church and the wider world.

Peace,
Peter

See articles on Start Up and on Peter's Installation on page 8.

October 2006

Board Perspectives

From the President/Jody Malloy

We all figure it out pretty quickly. Churches don't run themselves. It takes a lot of hard-working people -- paid and volunteer -- to provide the quality programs we expect. From the minister to the ushers at Sunday services, from the Religious Education director and teachers to the Book Club facilitator and Board members, from the music staff and chorus to the Administrator and the Property Committee and so many more, members and friends have taken on responsibilities for this church.

Yet it always seems we need more volunteers and more money just to keep the current programs running. There is always more we want to do beyond our existing programs, but we don't have the resources, financial and people, to make it all happen -- yet.

Wanting and needing more is a

great thing. It means we have big dreams, high hopes and expectations for who we are and what we shall become. The day that we have enough money and enough volunteers is the day we stop dreaming of how we might better serve ourselves and the larger community.

Ask the congregation members who literally dug out the basement of our original church years ago to provide space for R.E. I bet it was difficult to get the volunteers to do the digging, but they did it. I also bet they never would have imagined we would have a space like this, the programs we have, and a budget as large as we have. Forty years from now, UUCDC members will not be able to imagine how we managed in the space we now have.

In the last month, I have been recruiting volunteers to serve as chairpeople for unfilled committee positions. When I think my list is getting

shorter and I am about done, I discover another position is now vacant, or the Board has identified an area it believes we should be working on. Another committee is created that needs another chairperson. My list doesn't get shorter, my "to do" pile remains as high as ever.

I know I am not alone. Staff and committee chairs also are working to find volunteers. There are sign-up sheets everywhere and Focus articles aplenty asking for assistance in different areas.

It is easy to look at the lists of volunteer needs and be daunted. I'm not. I'm exhilarated, because I know that it means we are continuing to dream big. We are also inviting lots of people to be part of making our dreams come true. That is definitely a good thing.

From the Board

At our meeting on Sept. 11, your Board of Trustees took these actions:

-- Authorized formation of a Board/Staff task force to develop a Safe Congregation Policy for the congregation. This policy will address issues around sexual misconduct, harassment and disruptive behavior.

-- Provided input to our minister regarding content for the Oct. 13-14 Start-Up weekend. Peter will give feedback to District officials who will facilitate the event.

-- Recommended establishment of a Stewardship Committee to develop and recommend to the Board strategies for ensuring the long-term fiscal health of

UUCDC.

-- Agreed on an internal mechanism for using e-mail to conduct some limited aspects of Board business.

-- *Mark Bernstein*

Boo! Halloween Party Oct. 28TH, 6:00 pm

The Church Life/Activities Group is sponsoring a family-friendly Halloween Party and Potluck at 6 p.m. on Saturday Oct. 28 in Fellowship Hall. People of all ages are welcome to attend in their finest Halloween Garb. There will be games, music, and a "G" or "PG" rated Halloween movie. Please bring food for the potluck.

RE-*fl*ections

Jean Campbel I, Acting Director
of Religious Education

Religious education is not just for kids and worship is not just for adults!

As new staff members, Rev. Peter and I have spent a considerable amount of time talking about our philosophies of worship and their relationships to religious education. We agree that worship should be both meaningful and inclusive. The worship experience should be satisfying to the soul and heart of each person. It should be a bonding experience that strengthens community. Worship should be spiritually uplifting and stimulating to the senses.

Rev. Peter and I are also similar in our thinking about integrating children into the worship service. Children need to learn what worship is and how to worship. Worshipping is one way they learn spirituality. Learning to worship is religious education.

In worship we feel connections to each other and to the universe.

Why, then, do we send children out of the service just when we are ready to make these connec-

tions? Children do not yet have the vocabulary about connecting to others and the universe, but they feel it. Worship is experiential. Isn't *feeling* connected why adults worship?

We want and need our children to feel this connection, to feel the warmth of a meaningful worship service. This connection is important so that they feel connected to us when they become young adults, and the norm becomes that they worship with us. We want the sanctuary to be their sanctuary, the worship style to be their worship style, not a strange and uncomfortable place.

Intergenerational worship reaches for connectedness through words, music, silence, sharing and movement, the same elements used in traditional worship. In intergenerational worship, those elements will be used, but with a different emphasis. Worshipping intergenerationally requires patience, respect, and understanding. Worship is a time to be in reflection, together. It is a time to soak in the joy we can offer each other and a time to share the sorrows. What a strong community we can be if we

learn to do this with all of us in the sanctuary.

Intergenerational worship presents challenges for us all. Connecting with members of the congregation across the age spectrum will require creativity and being open to new ideas and new forms of worship. It may sometimes test our patience and our ability to stretch our understanding of what it means to be an inclusive community. These are the challenges we face when we commit ourselves to promoting and affirming the inherent worth of each individual. But by facing such challenges we will all learn and grow.

Rev. Peter and I plan to hold intergenerational worship consistently throughout the year. The next Intergenerational Worship is scheduled for Oct. 22. We hope you will find it to be a warm, fun, and meaningful experience that fills us all from head to toe and leaves us wanting more.

Please join us in our intergenerational journey.

Jean

Coming in November: UU101

UU101 is an adult Religious Education program for any member or friend who would like to learn more about our faith. Whether you've just discovered Unitarian Universalism or you're a long-time member, UU101 will provide an opportunity to discover the rich tradition of which we're a part.

From 9 to 10 a.m. on three successive Sundays beginning Nov. 5, the Rev. Peter Friedrichs will lead a discussion about different aspects of UUism.

The first session will focus on our Principles and Purposes. On Nov. 12 we'll examine some of our history. And on Nov. 19

we'll look at current challenges and future directions.

If you're interested in joining Rev. Peter for any of these discussions, please contact the church office. Drop-ins are also welcome, and you may attend one, two, or all of the programs.

Lifespan Religious Education

Many thanks to all of those who have stepped up to make our R.E. program happen.

Sunday School

In keeping with our first rotation theme, “Who am I, who are you?” our 2d-through-5th graders will be learning about the inherent worth and dignity of ourselves and others. Our activities in the Workshop Rotation Model (WoRM) will revolve around the Dr. Seuss story “The Big Brag.” Workshops include art, science, drama and nature.

Preschoolers are working with the curriculum called Chalice Children, kindergarteners and 1st graders are doing Our Whole Lives, and our 6th, 7th and 8th graders are doing Neighboring Faiths.

Youth

Coming of Age and Youth (YUCKI) groups are starting the month and church year with their respective retreats. The YUCKIs will be planning the remainder of their year and kayaking on their retreat. The COA group will be doing its “Oz” retreat, as is customary. Both groups meet Sunday evenings from 6 to 8:30. The Middle School Activities group will begin on Oct. 14.

Adult

Religious Education is not just for kids. UUCDC is offering classes, seminars, and adult programs throughout the year.

The first offering, on Hinduism, is “The Vedic Texts Speak to UU’s.” The three-week series began on Sept. 24 and will continue on Sunday mornings at 9, with repeats on Thursday evenings at 7, through Oct. 12 in the Youth Room.

The Veda is a vast body of Sanskrit poetry and discourses that are the religious foundation of Hinduism. The first week covers the origins of the writings, the second delves into early texts, and the third discusses the “Bhagavad Gita,” perhaps the foundation of modern Hinduism.

Future planned offerings include:

- ◆ Koffee and Konversation – weekly topics to explore
- ◆ Living ethically based on the Humanist Manifesto
- ◆ Owning Your Religious Past: The Haunting Church
- ◆ Our Unitarian Universalist Story
- ◆ The World of Yeshua ben Yosef (Jesus) and Its Influence on His Teachings
- ◆ The Teachings of 4 Prophets of Liberal Religion -- William Ellery Channing, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Theodore Parker and James Luther Adams
- ◆ The teachings of Yeshua ben Yosef (Jesus) and their meaning to UU’s today

We are also planning some congregation campouts and a trip to Boston for the adults.

Wanted: If you would like to help set the direction for Adult R.E., please contact Acting Director of Religious Education Jean Campbell through the church office or at dre@uucdc.org.

A Changing Canvass

Will there be a Canvass this fall?

No. • ,

- The Canvass will be in the spring from now on. This is so we can better plan which programs we want to have for the coming year, and then raise the money needed to finance them.

The other change to the Canvass is that we will be going back to the way we used to do it every year before 2001, which is the traditional face-to-face Canvass.

This will enable us to do more member outreach, and has been proven by the UUA to be the method that consistently raises the most money. With a budget this year of \$340,000, and at least as much next year, that's certainly important.

There will be no Canvass this fall,

but there will be canvasser recruiting in October and November. The last time we did a face-to-face Canvass we had 50 Canvassers, and we'll need more than that this time.

There will be plenty more information about being a Canvasser in the next Focus, but here are two things to keep in mind for now:

One, we're recruiting canvassers in the fall, but they won't be doing any actual canvassing for several months after that.

And two, to address the most common misconception about being a canvasser, your job does *not* involve asking people for money – you have a brief visit, gather some feedback, and then have people sign the pledge form for the amount that *they've already decided to*

pledge.

Watch this space for further developments.

Fred Kelemen
Canvass co-chair

, A special note of thanks to the folks at Enron and Arthur Andersen, for showing that you can keep any report short and easy to read, if you just put everything in the footnotes. *f*

f Proving that, in accordance with our first principle, if you look hard enough, you can learn something from just about anybody.

Meet Our New Members



Lucia Palmer

Lucia teaches philosophy at the University of Delaware, which she de-

scribes with affection and respect as a “lovely” school. She was born in Pisa, Italy, and earned her doctorate at the university there. Since 1972 she has called Swarthmore her home.

After coming to the United States she studied at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and then received her teaching position in Delaware.

She is an active participant in the UUCDC Book Club, though she adds, “I am very occupied with my work.”

Lucia was brought up a Catholic but lost interest in religion until a friend from Swarthmore (who later moved to Delaware) told her about UUCDC and Unitarian Universalism. Lucia gave it a try and decided it was just the thing for her.

John Keane

John, who lives in Drexel Hill, says he is “89 going on 90” (his birthday is in November). He has had a long history of government service: The World War II veteran spent 15 years with the Post Office plus 10 years with the Army Quartermaster Corps at its large complex at 20th and Oregon in South Philadelphia.

John trained under the G.I. Bill of Rights at an electronics institute in Philadelphia to become a technical electronics engineer. As part of the training in 1948,

he and his fellow students built a working TV set from scratch. Electronics has long been a hobby of John’s. He is a ham radio operator and a member of the Marple-Newtown Amateur Radio Club.

He has always believed in keeping fit and makes daily visits to the Lansdowne YMCA “to work out on the machines for half an hour or three-quarters of an hour.” That is where he met UUCDC member Jennifer Williams. During their discussions of medicine and biology, John says, Jennifer said, “You sound like a Unitarian” and invited him to church. (John was raised a Catholic but had not attended for more than 20 years.) John liked our church and decided to sign up.

Bill Vaughan

UUCDC and Political Activity

It is election time and many are interested, if not passionately involved, in the discussion of issues and the support of candidates. It is both timely and appropriate to ask, “How can UUCDC as a legal entity engage in this process?”

What we can do is restricted by Internal Revenue Service regulations and our own by-laws. If we violate IRS regulations we could lose our tax-free status. If we do not adhere to our by-laws we could lose the goodwill of our membership.

Here are the guidelines:

1. UUCDC can engage in education, discussion and advocacy on moral and political issues. Our by-laws state that we cannot take

a stand in the name of UUCDC without a congregational vote at a duly called meeting. With Board approval, the Social Justice Committee of UUCDC can take a stand on an issue in the committee’s name. As a congregation we can engage in activities to educate and register voters, provided it is done in a non-partisan manner.

2. UUCDC can engage in lobbying. IRS regulations specify narrow limits on the resources, including time and money, that can be used for this activity. Keep in mind however, the by-law provisions.

3. The greatest vulnerability to IRS sanctions arises in the following area. To quote from the UUA’s “The Real Rules”:

“There is a total limit on partisan political activity. Congregations and their Representatives can do nothing that advocates for or against candidates for public office or political parties.” Among other things, this includes fundraising, posting campaign literature and donating space on behalf of candidates. Candidates’ questionnaires and forums are acceptable so long as all major candidates are invited to participate and they cover a broad range of issues.”

These restrictions apply only to a congregation as a legal entity or to those speaking in its name.

-- Bob Beaney

All Church Start-Up Evening

Mark your calendars: Friday, Oct. 13, 6 to 9 p.m.

This is when we kick-off the All-Church Start-up Weekend in Fellowship Hall. It is the occasion for congregations with new ministers to share food and fellowship and engage in a discussion about what's important for you about the church. The Rev. Dr. Richard G. Speck, District Executive of the Joseph Priestley District, will be facilitator.

It will be an opportunity to look back to where we've been and to explore where we want to go as a congregation. What we learn will then form the backdrop for a day-long workshop for the Board, members of the Coordinating Council, Rev. Peter and other church staff, starting at 9 a.m., Saturday, October 14.

Child care is available Friday evening, so please contact the church office if you'd like super-

vision for your children.

Friday evening's event will be a potluck dinner. Last names beginning with A to I, bring dessert; J to R, bring a main dish; and S to Z, bring a side dish or salad. Come, help us make history!!

Installation Service for Rev. Peter on Oct. 29 4 p.m.

Come, help us make history!!

On Sunday, October 29, 4 p.m., the congregation formally will install the Rev. Peter A. Friedrichs as our settled minister.

The service of installation solemnizes the bond between us and our minister, and it "officially" launches a new era in the life of the church.

In addition to members and

friends of UUCDC, ministers and members of local churches will be invited to join us. Unitarian Universalist ministers and members from other churches in the Joseph Priestley District also will attend to celebrate this landmark event. The service will be followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall.

Planning is well underway, with Mary Beth Hoffman and

Sarah McKay serving as co-chairs for this event. If you would like to help Mary Beth and Sarah, either in planning or with the service and reception, please contact them: Mary Beth: marybeth312@aol.com and Sarah: dskmckay@aol.com. Infant and child care will be provided.

It will be a day to remember at UUCDC.

Voulez-Vous Manger avec Nous? C'est Magnifique!

In other words, loosely translated -- in case your French is a bit rusty--

join UUCDC's International Supper Club that begins November 18. It's terrific!

The club is 34 years old, but members (single and couples) are nevertheless young at heart and brimming with interesting conversation as they partake of superb food.

This season, ISC will meet on the third Saturday of the month, November through May. Dinners take place at two or three members' homes, with the host/

hostess providing the venue and the beverages. Guests bring the food, one or two dishes to share.

Each month the hosts plan a menu with a "theme" (thus international), and provide and distribute recipes. The guests keep track of their expenses in preparing the assigned course. At the end of the evening, expenses are totaled and divided among the diners. The result is an outstanding dinner at little cost.

To reserve your place at the table or to sign up as a substitute, call Lou Bickford (610-

446-2011) or Judy Beavins (610-399-9216).

The schedule is in the works and will be mailed along with member and substitute lists before November 1.

Venez mes amis pour un soiree extraordinaire!

The Wide World of UUism

Four thousand Unitarian Universalists in one place. What would it feel like to be part of that? That was the number the General Assembly of the UU Association of Congregations expected to draw to St. Louis in June this year. It was a little overwhelming to think about, but I decided to go -- to meet other congregation presidents, attend leadership training, and find out what it felt like to be with 4,000 UUs. Let me tell you, it felt great!

As hoped, the training was excellent. I attended UU University for lay leaders for the day and a half before the start of GA. I learned about congregational leadership concepts from highly regarded UUA and outside experts, and from hundreds of presidents and leaders. GA also offered a multitude of choices for workshops, and I had several more opportunities to network with presidents. All that I learned from a leadership perspective will make me, already has made me, a better president of our congregation.

But this wasn't just corporate training. This was a gathering of 4,000 persons of our faith, who want to make the world a better place, who realize how much more we can do for this world by working together as an association of congregations, in addition to what we do in our individual congregations.

At this GA, the association, represented by delegates from over 600 congregations (I was a delegate from ours), passed a Statement of Conscience on

Global Warming, an issue that delegates and their congregations had discussed for several years. An approved SOC becomes "official" UUA policy, to be acted on by the national staff, districts, congregations, and individual UUs. The UUA staff, and particularly the Washington Office of Advocacy, uses SOC's to represent UU social witness positions to Congress, the administration, and other organizations. It was remarkable to see the respectful debate, open to all the delegates, on the floor of the convention hall, regarding the crafting of this statement, and it was extremely powerful to feel a part of this larger voice.

This year the delegates voted to study the issue of Peacemaking. Should the UUA reject the use of any and all kinds of violence and war to resolve disputes between peoples and nations and adopt a principle of seeking just peace through non-violent means? This Study/Action Issue (SAI) potentially will be crafted into a Statement of Conscience in 2010 after congregations have had time to study it. You can find out more about the Social Witness process, the Global Warming SOC, and the Peacemaking SAI at the Commission on Social Witness website: <http://www.uua.org/csw>.

GA delegates also passed a spontaneous resolution suggested by a delegate in response to events at the 2006 and 2005 General Assemblies that affected UU communities of color, especially youth of

color: "Resolved, that the Delegates to General Assembly are charged to work with their congregations to hold at least one program over the next year to address racism or classism, and to report on that program at next year's General Assembly." Our UUCDC Coordinating Council is going to lead us in this charge.

When UUs gather, we worship. Yes, I worshipped in a convention center hall with 4,000 people. To my total surprise, it was one of the most powerful, meaningful experiences I've ever had. At GA, worship was offered daily. I couldn't have imagined going to daily worship in a convention hall, but I did. Every day I was moved to tears. Not only did GA feed my mind during the leadership workshops and my conscience during the business sessions, GA also fed my soul during worship.

When I was making arrangements to attend, I was told by a GA veteran that I was going to love it and to be prepared to be hooked. She was right. If you are ever trying to contact me during the third week of June, check the UUA website to find out where GA is being held. You'll find me there! Better yet, come to GA with me next year in Portland, Ore., June 20-24, and immerse yourself in this amazing experience with me.

With a joyful heart,

Jody Malloy

All About the Fab Fall Fest on October 21

From morning through night, Saturday Oct. 21 will be a big day at UUCDC. The Fantastic Fall Fundraising Festival -- featuring fun, food and the chance to win a high-definition TV -- will be held on the church grounds, rain or shine.

First comes a flea market, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Community vendors will participate, as will the church, with tables for merchandise, baked goods, and used books. (See accompanying "Wanted" article about how you can help out.)

We'll offer food for sale, and a variety of children's activities, including scarecrow stuffing, face painting and pumpkin decorating.

At 5 p.m., we'll offer pizza and hoagies for purchase as part of dinner at church. Dinner will last an hour and leads up to our big Bingo Night, starting at 6 and ending who knows when. Expect prizes, laughs, and some friendly competition.

Not only that, Bingo Night includes the Great Fall Raffle, featuring the grand prize of a high-

definition TV set. (For info on the \$20 tickets, see accompanying "Raffle" article.)

The festival's goal is to raise revenue to "tide us over" until the formal Canvass effort begins in the spring. (Previously, it was held in the fall.)

So please join in and bring your friends. Only you can make the Fantastic Fall Fundraising Festival fabulous.

Call Mark Bernstein (610-639-3389) if you have questions or want to help out.

Buy and Sell Raffle Tix—Win Hi-Def TV

By now, you probably know that the grand prize of Fantastic Fall Fundraising Festival's raffle is a high-definition TV set. But that's not all when it comes to prizes!

We'll have two second prizes (dinner at the Outback Steakhouse) and three third prizes (books from Borders). Six prizes in all.

Tickets are still available at the remarkable bargain donation price of \$20. The more you buy, the better your odds of winning and the more you support our church.

You don't need to be present to win, but wouldn't it be exciting to hear your name called while having fun playing bingo? You bet! You've got the luck, Bryan

Boosz (610-738-9102) has the tickets.

Those tickets will be on sale every Sunday in Fellowship Hall after the service. If you'd like to sell some tickets, please call Bryan. For every 10 tickets you sell, you get one raffle ticket free. Good deal.

Wanted: Books, Clothes, Your Time

We're seeking good helpers plus good items for the UUCDC tables at the flea market during our Oct. 21 fundraiser.

Clothing in good condition will be accepted. Please call Joyce

McKee (610-565-0517) for more information on that.

We will also have a book table, and are looking for fiction and nonfiction, children and adult titles. Just no magazines or

textbooks, please. We also need volunteers to help sort and sell them.

Social Justice

First Social Justice Forum

UUCDC'S Social Justice Committee will launch its fall Forum Series with a discussion of the reliability of electronic voting Oct. 1, 6:30 P. M.

Speaker is Dr. Stephanie Frank Singer, co-director of the nonprofit Vote Count Protection Project, which seeks to ensure integrity through scientific verification of official polling re-

sults.

Dr. Singer is also managing director of Campaign Scientific LLC, an election-data consulting firm. She is a former Haverford College professor with a doctorate in mathematics from New York University.

Dr. Singer has said we have "faith-based elections" in the

counting of ballots and asks, "how good is good enough?" when it comes to the accuracy of electronic voting.

The County Election Bureau has been invited to participate.

Notes From Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee met Sept. 11 after the Service of Remembrance for 9/11.

Members reported on the New Orleans service and jazz brunch (see article on page 12). Neil Goldstein reported that Chester Corps now has 10 volunteers, with volunteer assignments from Unity Center expected shortly. Three volunteers also are working with Chester Eastside Ministries as grant-writers. Religious Education hopes to coordinate its social justice activities with Chester Corps.

Gayle Beaney presented Patricia Lasseter's proposed flier soliciting support for the Katrina Relief trip (see page 12). Patricia also plans to provide a letter to all committee members, which can be sent to friends and family requesting donations. It was suggested that a contribution could be made in someone's name in lieu of a holiday gift.

Sayre Dixon agreed to serve

as UUCDC's representative to the UU Service Committee. Sayre also pointed out the recent General Assembly's resolution on racism-classism. The UUCDC Coordinating Council is charged with holding at least one event on this issue for the church. Sayre, Gayle Beaney, and Norma Notzold will attend the 2nd Annual Joseph Priestley District racial justice conference at the Main Line UU Church in Devon (see page 13). Gayle and Norma will report on the conference at SJ's next meeting.

At the Sept. 17 Committee Fair, Social Justice was planning to sign up persons for the Katrina trip, the Chester Corps, and the Task Force on Hunger as well as the Social Justice Committee, SJ forums, Adopt-a-Family program, work with the NAACP, Community Concerts and legislative alerts were to be publicized.

The committee discussed the problem of presenting politi-

cally-charged issues without endangering UUCDC's tax-exempt status. Bob Beaney has explored this issue and has written a FOCUS article (see page 7).

The committee agreed to present a program on voting machines at a community forum here at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 1 (see article above). The committee will continue efforts to secure a video of the global-warming documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth" for a Nov. 5 community forum.

The committee voted to endorse the the Providence Friends Meeting's "Peace Way" project, and at the next meeting will discuss the proposed Chester Food Co-op and the Thresholds Program, which educates prison inmates.

Patti Fiske

Jazz Service and Brunch Yields \$700 for New Orleans Katrina Trip

For the shorebound, it was the least promising of weekends. But it paid off for the Social Justice Committee's Labor Day weekend service and Jazz Brunch.

More than 40 non-vacationers (something of a record for a Labor Day Sunday) turned out to hear the Rev. Marie de Young deliver the service's homily. They also ate pancakes and Belgian waffles, and heard some Big Easy Dixieland. And they contributed, through the collection and additional checks, a whop-

ping \$700 for the UUCDCers who will travel to help in the November Katrina rebuilding efforts in New Orleans.

The group will use the money to buy insulation, drywall, paint and other materials. The six members signed up so far will fly or drive at their own expense and buy and cook their own food. Food planners and cooks are needed. The Unitarian Church of New Orleans will provide housing on the second floor of its newly air-conditioned building.

Interested participants should not delay, however, in signing up and buying tickets. Air fares were about \$250 round trip at press time.

Women's Spirituality Film Series on Thursdays

We invite all women to join us in examining, through film and discussion, pre-Christian goddess-worshipping religions, and exploring the modern women's spirituality movement inspired by them.

This award winning film series is a joint program of Religious Education and Interweave.

Thursday, October 5 at 7 p.m. "Goddess Remembered" is hauntingly beautiful, with Loreena McKennitt's music, and all the wonderful images and words of a superior time when Creation and Femininity were not only recognized but also deeply honored and revered.

Thursday, October 12 at 7 p.m. "Burning Times" explores the

history, repression, and resurgence of the women's spirituality movement. A documentary that underscores the particular repression that women have faced throughout history, "Burning Times" outlines the destruction of what had been an organic way of life, while paying tribute to the strength of so many women

Thursday, October 19 at 7 p.m. "Full Circle" This film looks at the story of goddess worship in ancient and modern times. This episode focuses on feminine values of nurturing, the interdependence of all the earth's inhabitants, and honoring them with respect. Cultures of the past in which these values prevailed are highlighted in the film.

Thursday, October 26 at 7 p.m. "Beneath the Veil: Nuns." This ultimately polemical documentary on the attitudes, activities, and history of nuns is divided into two parts: the first is a series of interviews with three nuns who address topics like social protests, sexual desire, intellectual pursuits, and other aspects of a modern nun's life in Europe or North America. The second part looks at the history of nuns beginning with female precursors in the Celts of Ireland and continuing with a comparison of ancient European societies based on matriarchs and mother goddesses who were obliterated when the Catholic Church gained power.

In Our Backyard

UUCDC Founding Member to Receive Barton Award

Kay Cox, a founding member of UUCDC, will receive the Clara Barton Award at a tea sponsored by the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, Pa., at 4 p.m. Oct. 21.

The award is presented by the UU Women's Federation to women 80 years of age and older

who have made significant contributions in support of UU ideals within and beyond the denomination.

Kay is a founding member of and long-time participant in the Joseph Priestley Woman and Religion Committee. She and her

husband, Fred, now live in Camp Hill, Pa.

JPD Holds 2nd Annual Racial Conference Oct. 21

"Tools for the Journey" is the theme of the Joseph Priestley District's 2d annual Racial Conference, Oct. 21 at Main Line Unitarian Church in Devon.

The day-long event will feature workshops on specific approaches that have worked at the national level and in congregations.

In setting up the conference, the

district said that "the most frequent request from UUs ... is for concrete steps they can take to bring the Journey Toward Wholeness work to their congregations."

The conference will run from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$30 a person and includes lunch and dinner. Registration deadline is Oct. 16. Make payment to the JPD and indicate

that it is for Racial Justice Workshop. The Main Line church is located at 816 S. Valley Forge Rd., Devon. The JPD's address is 100 W. 10th St., Suite 1008, Wilmington, DE 19801; e-mail: office@jpduua.org.

Several church members plan to attend, and carpooling is possible.

Interfaith Group to Meet in Philadelphia on Global Warming

Muslim, Christian and Jewish leaders will meet Oct. 8 in Philadelphia to discuss "God -- or Global Scorching?"

As part of the celebration of the Muslim month of Ramadan and the Jewish festival of Sukkot, the meeting will be held at 3 p.m. at Friends Meeting House, 4th and Arch Streets.

Principal speakers include Dr. Bob Edgar, general secretary, National Council of Churches; Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed, secretary

general, Islamic Society of North America; and Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell of the Union for Reform Judaism.

Joy Bergey, of Interfaith Climate Change Campaign, will lead an interactive process that involves people working for change in energy policy and behavior. The aim is to move society in a new direction.

The meeting also is tied to the Oct. 4 feast day of St. Francis of Assisi and the Oct. 2 birthday of

Mohandes Gandhi.

After sundown, the conference will celebrate both Iftar, the meal at which Muslims pause from the fasting that begins at dawn, and Sukkot, the Jewish harvest festival. Participants will build a Sukkah, the open hut meant to bring people into communion with the Earth.

Arts & Music

Entertainment By, and For, UUCDC

A bit of vaudeville. Lots of wonderful music, including jazz and a special singer. Maybe a magician. Perhaps a juggler. No animal acts yet, but you never know what Debbie Snow will come up with.

We're talking about "The Entertainers," of course. It's UUCDC's second annual "second Saturday in October" Arts Council event, at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 14. Get your tickets soon, because only 80 will be sold, and you won't want to miss all the fun.

Speaking of fun, Fred Kelemen will once again announce the acts, and Mark Bernstein will display his considerable comic talent.

And speaking of talent, producer/director Dot Wyman (dortw@comcast.net) still needs someone to be the caller for a brief dance event of "bowing to your partner." Dot says, "I can't believe some people are being a bit shy. They know we love to see them up front, on stage. And, in fact, they really enjoy participating. But Oct. 14 isn't

that far away, so call me, leave a message on my answer machine (610-565-1699)."

Tickets are \$5. You're asked to bring snacks to share at this BYOB event. Set-ups are provided, and Dot says that if you need ideas of what to bring, the set-ups can be considered a snack.

The money will go for church needs and other causes. But all you really need to think about is how much fun you'll have with "The Entertainers."

For Book Club, October is "March"

The featured reading for the Oct. 20 meeting of the UUCDC Book Club is *March* by Geraldine Brooks.

March is the story of John March, the absent father in Louisa May Alcott's classic novel *Little Women*. March is a passionate abolitionist and a mili-

tary chaplain for the Union Army during the U.S. Civil War. His experience at the front lines forces him to test his principles against the exigencies of life and war.

The book club meets monthly in the Lounge. Members present book ideas at a periodic

book-selection meeting. The group votes on the books that it will read and discuss.

Phonathon for Friends of the UUA

The Friends of the UUA group will call its members in a fundraising phonathon starting the week of Oct. 9 and continuing through mid-November.

Outreach Associates, a Pittsburgh telemarketing firm, will phone people who are active Friends of the Unitarian Universalist Association to ask them to renew their support and to consider becoming Sustaining Friends, who agree to monthly contributions, which increase the efficiency and effectiveness

of donations.

The Friends finance services to more than 1,040 UU congregations, communities and societies across the country. They also provide a crucial portion of Association money, dollars that allow the UUA to provide important services that no one congregation could provide for itself.

The Friends require that all callers be courteous, respectful and succinct as they offer identified UUs an opportunity to support the Association di-

rectly. Members' feedback about the calls will help monitor their quality. Members may call the Friends Phonathon Hotline, 617-948-6525, to ask to be placed on the "no call" list or talk with a UUA staff member.

Members' willingness to support the UUA enhances its ability to provide services and programs to congregations, and aids the growth of Unitarian Universalism. For more information, go to www.uua.org/giving/friends.html#1 or call 1-888-792-5885.

Go Green

According to recent weather reports, the first seven months of 2006 are the hottest in U.S. history, nationwide.

Except for some 21st- century luddites the arguments that global warming is not affecting planet Earth are fading. If we care what kind of Earth our children and grandchildren will inhabit, here are a few green-promoting suggestions culled from Joseph Priestley District UU newsletters and other sources.

- ◆ If you don't drive to work, make one day in the week a **DRIVELESS DAY**. When you do drive, plan several errands around one trip.
- ◆ As for driving to work, how about organizing a car pool or trying the air-conditioned, no-traffic bliss of SEPTA's trolleys, buses, or subway?
- ◆ Use energy-efficient light bulbs, called **Compact Fluorescent Lighting (CFL)**. They cost a little more, but last 10,000 hours or seven years, guaranteed, according to the package.
- ◆ Wash clothing in cold water, or, if that seems too unbearable, use a combination of hot-cold washes.
- ◆ Turn off the water when you brush your teeth and wash your face.
- ◆ Turn up the thermostat one degree (or two) for air-conditioning, and down the same number of degrees for heating. It reduces heating costs about 4 percent.
- ◆ Recycle old envelopes, gift paper, packing and shipping materials.
- ◆ When you make a purchase, skip the plastic bag if the item is small enough to fit in a pocket or handbag.

More to come in future FOCUS issues.

How Do You Get Your FOCUS?

Remember, you can receive the FOCUS as a pdf via email. It saves paper and mailing costs at church and you get it earlier than everyone else. If you'd like to receive it this way, please send an email to the church office at churchoffice@uucdc.org letting us know.

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 1, 6:30 p.m. Social Justice Forum: Voting Machine Integrity
- Oct. 13, 6 p.m. All Church Start-Up Event
- Oct. 14, 7:30 The Entertainers
- Oct. 21 All Day Fab Fall Festival
- Oct. 28 6 p.m. Halloween Party
- Oct. 29 4 p.m. Installation Service for Rev. Peter Friedrichs.



Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County

145 W. Rose Tree Road, Media, PA 19063

Focus

October 2006


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October 2006

Calendar

October 2006*

Date	Name of Event	Time			
10/1	YUCKI Retreat	12:00 AM	10/9	Needle Nook	7:30 PM
	Adult RE	9:00 AM		RE Council	7:30 PM
	Worship Service & Religious Ed.	10:30 AM		Small Group Ministry	7:30 PM
	Thespi Rehearsal	2:00 PM	10/10	Yoga	5:45 PM
	Independent Catholics	5:00 PM		RTDS Workshop	6:00 PM
	Social Justice Forum Set Up	6:00 PM		INTERWEAVE Mtg	6:30 PM
	YUCKI SH Youth	6:00 PM		Muslim	6:30 PM
	Muslim	6:30 PM	10/11	Muslim	4:00 PM
	Soc Justice Forum	6:30 PM		Chorus	6:30 PM
10/2	Board of Trustees	7:15 PM		OUTLooks - Gay Men's Discussion	7:00 PM
	Social Justice Committee	7:15 PM		MCC	8:15 PM
	Needle Nook	7:30 PM	10/12	Muslim	6:30 PM
10/3	Muslim	5:00 PM		Small Group Ministry	7:00 PM
	Yoga	5:45 PM		Thespi Rehearsal	7:00 PM
	Fundraising Team	7:30 PM		Women's Spirituality Film Series	7:00 PM
10/4	Chorus	6:30 PM	10/13	All Church Start Up Event	6:00 PM
	OUTLooks - Gay Men's Discussion	7:00 PM		Muslim	6:30 PM
	MCC	8:15 PM	10/14	Middle Sch Activity Grp	6:00 PM
10/5	Thespi Rehearsal	7:00 PM		Muslim	6:30 PM
	Women's Spirituality Film Series	7:00 PM		Arts Council Entertainment!	7:00 PM
10/6	Entertainment Rehearsal	6:00 PM	10/15	Adult RE	9:00 AM
	Muslim	6:30 PM		Worship Service & Religious Ed.	10:30 AM
10/7	Muslim	3:00 PM		COA Mentor Training	12:00 PM
10/8	Adult RE	9:00 AM		RE Rotation Planning	12:00 PM
	Caring Committee	9:00 AM		Thespi Rehearsal	2:00 PM
	Worship Service & Religious Ed.	10:30 AM		Independent Catholics	5:00 PM
	Thespi Rehearsal	2:00 PM		COA	6:00 PM
	Independent Catholics	5:00 PM		YUCKI SH Youth	6:00 PM
	COA	6:00 PM		Muslims	6:30 PM
	New Member Dinner	6:00 PM	10/16	Board of Trustees	7:00 PM
	YUCKI SH Youth	6:00 PM		Needle Nook	7:30 PM
	Muslims	6:30 PM	10/17	RTDS Picture Day	9:00 AM
				Yoga	5:45 PM

More dates and activities on the other side. 

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*Printed September 19, 2006

October 2006

10/18	Chorus Membership Council OUTLooks - Gay Men's Discussion MCC	6:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:15 PM	10/27	Crossland Wedding Reh. Pagan Rental	6:00 PM 6:00 PM
10/19	Muslim Space Task Thespis Rehearsal Women's Spirituality Film Series Worship Assoc.	6:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	10/28	Memorial Garden Work Prty Crossland Wedding Halloween Party	9:00 AM 12:00 PM 6:00 PM
10/20	Mom's Club Muslim LGBTQ & Friends Social Book Group	10:00 AM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	10/29	Adult RE Worship Service & Religious Ed. RE Rotation YUCKI Lunch Fundraiser! Installation Service Independent Catholics COA YUCKI SH Youth	9:00 AM 10:30 AM 12:00 PM 12:00 PM 4:00 PM 5:00 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM
10/21	Fall FEST Fundraiser Muslim	ALL DAY 6:30 PM	10/30	Needle Nook Small Group Ministry	7:30 PM 7:30 PM
10/22	Adult RE Worship Service & Religious Ed. Independent Catholics Round Robin Supper COA YUCKI SH Youth Muslim	9:00 AM 10:30 AM 5:00 PM 5:00 PM 6:00 PM 6:00 PM 6:30 PM	10/31	Yoga	5:45 PM
10/23	Muslim RTDS activity Coordinating Council Needle Nook	6:00 AM 7:00 PM 7:15 PM 7:30 PM			
10/24	Yoga	5:45 PM			
10/25	Chorus OUTLooks - Gay Men's Discussion MCC UUMA-PK Exec	6:30 PM 7:00 PM 8:15 PM 10:00 PM			
10/26	Thespis Rehearsal Women's Spirituality Film Series	7:00 PM 7:00 PM			