

# FOCUS

October 2008

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.

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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

*This month I would like to share with you one of my reflections on my recent trip to Togo, West Africa.*

It is 5:45 on our fourth morning in Togo, and the roosters have begun their second hour of announcing the arrival of a new day.

From the huts on both sides of our "maison," before I open my eyes I hear the already familiar "swish-swish" of the women sweeping the dirt from the floors of their family compounds. Children call out to their mothers, who reply with words incomprehensible to me, but carrying the familiar dual tones of affection and discipline.

Getting up, I look out my window and watch women dressed in brightly colored "pagnes," with babies strapped to their backs, balancing oversized bowls on their hands as they carry water from the town pump to their compounds. The air is pungent with the smoke from charcoal cook stoves and piles of burning garbage. Today in Togo another day begins just as the days have begun here for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years.

In the brief time I've been here, I've been struck by the sharp contrasts between the lives of these people and our own.

There are the obvious physical differences between the way we live, the absence of modern conveniences here, the lack of technology, the back-breaking labor required here to put food on the table, the very struggle for daily sur-

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## Speakers for Oct. Services (10:30 a.m.)

Oct. 5 -- Rev. Peter

Oct. 12 -- Author and speaker Marc Adams helps us commemorate and celebrate National Coming Out Day

Oct. 19 -- Rev. Peter

Oct. 26 -- Rev. Peter conducts the annual "Day of the Dead" service. Please bring a photo or other memento of a loved one who has passed away.

**Who's Who****Staff**

**Rev. Peter A. Friedrichs,**  
Minister

**Jean Campbell,**  
Director of Religious  
Education

**Chris Schroth,**  
Music Director

**Rina Jurceka,**  
Administrator

**Chrissy Drummond,**  
Administrative Assistant

**Jason Schafer-Valerius,**  
Accompanist

**Jack Shaffer,** Sexton

**Jennifer Pinto, Meghan**

**Pomeroy, Kristine Baney,**  
Child care

**Board of Trustees**

**Mark Bernstein,**  
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**Julie Chuplis,**  
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**Bryan Boosz**

**Marylin Huff**

**Mike Mitchell**

**Jean Wallace**

**FOCUS INFO:****Editors:**

Bette Austin  
& Neil Goldstein

**Production:**  
Rina Jurceka

**The deadline for November is October 13.**

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.  
October 24. Come help!

**From the Minister**

*(Continued from page 1)*

vival. There are more subtle differences, too.

A focus not on the future, but the present. A lack of concern for global or even national issues. Days governed not by the demands of calendars and appointments and meetings, but by the weather, the seasons and the needs of the family. I have yet to meet anyone here who wears a watch, much less carries a day planner.

But for all the differences that stand out so starkly between the people of this culture and our own — the great chasm created by a simple accident of birth (for it strikes me that, but for a roll of the cosmic dice, this could have been my life and mine just as easily theirs) — I am struck by how much we are all alike. The affection we share for our families. The joy we take from simple pleasures. The pride we feel in a job well done. Our amusement at the antics of our children. The warmth that comes from greeting an old friend or making a new one.

As I witness and experience a culture vastly different from our own, I am reminded of the words of the theologian Martin Buber, who wrote that “all living is meeting.”

I find that my Universalist theology is expanding in new directions, moving from Francis David's statement that “We need not believe alike to love alike” to a broader understanding that we need not look alike or live alike to love alike. That the Jericho Road, where long ago a good Samaritan provided aid and comfort to a stranger, extends not just between two cities, but across continents, and that these people are as much my neighbors as are my friends and family back home.

What matters most in our human community is our meeting, the bonds we build as we cultivate relationships of depth and meaning with one another.

*My friends, church — our church — is a place where we are called to meet each other with open minds and loving hearts. Where we can cherish our differences, because we are ultimately so very much alike. Where there is no divide too great to be bridged by the triple spans of respect, trust and love. In the weeks and months ahead, let us commit to these universal principles, remembering that in all things and at all times, we are many and we are one.*

Love,

*Peter*

## **BOARD PERSPECTIVES: AT THE CROSSROADS**

### From President Mark Bernstein

Along the main drag in my town of Springfield, we have three crosswalks. When town officials realized that motorists were not stopping at the crosswalks to let people pass, they installed bright yellow signs in the middle of the street that urged drivers to yield to pedestrians. When that didn't work, they put up a big yellow blinking light above one of the crosswalks -- and still, motorists didn't stop to let people cross.

I stood at that crosswalk one day recently -- watching car after car go by, the drivers not even glancing at me much less stopping -- and I thought about generosity.

You'll be hearing that word a lot during this church year.

Our Lead Minister, our staff and our lay leadership will be asking you to be generous with your financial gifts to the church, with offering your time and talents, and with your involvement in fundraising and other church-wide events.

But we'll also ask congregation members to be generous in other ways: in welcoming visitors and new members into our community, in sharing your religious journey and the joy and meaning of being a Unitarian Universalist with other members, in deciding on your roles in making our Mission-Covenant Statement a reality, and in committing yourselves to each other with all the love and respect you can muster.

I guess what bugs me most about the motorists in Springfield who drive through the crosswalks is that they're not paying attention. They're so focused on getting to where they think they need to be that they're not seeing what's right in front of them.

In our church community we can't afford to make the same mistake.

We need to pay attention to one another. We need to look out for one another. We need to be generous with, and to, each other.

I am proud to be a member of this spiritual home and I look forward during the next year to traveling this road with you. Let's just make sure to look both ways before we cross.

With respect,

*Mark*

### **Reception for Newcomers Is Planned for November**

Are you a newcomer to UUCDC? If so, you'll receive an invitation to a reception, November 2, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Light refreshments are planned and newcomers will have a chance to meet other newcomers -- and some old-timers -- as well as learn more about UUCDC.

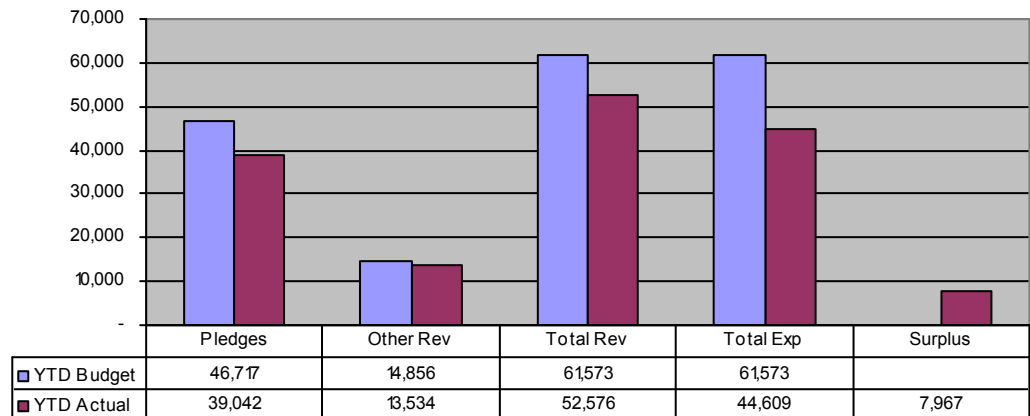
Circle your calendars now and watch for the invitation.

## Monthly Statement: How We're Doing Financially

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

As of the end of August, our income for the fiscal year that began in July exceeded expenditures, so we had a small surplus. Actual income was \$52,576 versus the budget of \$61,573. Actual expenses were \$44,609 versus the budget of \$61,573. So the total surplus in August was \$7,967.

**Revenues & Expenditures - As of August 31, 2008**



We are off to a good start for the fiscal year. There are no significant income or expense differences in the budget's major line items.

## Living Our Covenant

A series of short forums are planned to discuss how our congregation will implement ideas that culminated in the Mission-Covenant Statement. Bring coffee and join us after Sunday services (12-12:30 p. m.) to discuss the new UUCDC Ends Statements.

Our Mission Covenant Statement is the expression of why we exist as a congregation and what difference we want to make in the world. Our Ends Statements specifically define what we are to ourselves and how we want to participate in the world within and outside our church community.

The eight UUCDC Ends Statements explain our understanding of stewardship, justice, spiritual growth, community, service, diversity, environment, and outreach. They do not explain the methods or conduct we choose to attain our goals, but inspire us to think creatively about how we can make a difference and grow.

Each forum will focus on one or two Ends State-

ments and be hosted by a member of the Board. This is your chance to find out what the Ends Statements are and how they fit into Policy Governance. It is also a chance to articulate what the Ends Statements mean to you and how they will take us into the future.

The forum schedule is:

- October 12: Stewardship
- October 19: Justice
- October 26: Spiritual Growth
- November 2: Environment
- November 9: Service and Community
- November 23: Diversity and Outreach

All forums will be held in the Youth Room except on November 9. On that Sunday, the group will meet in one of the upstairs classrooms. **Join us and launch UUCDC into the future.**

*Marilyn Huff*

## Board Notes: September Update

They say a picture is worth a thousand words -- and double that if the topic is Policy Governance! To help us all "get the picture" of UUCDC's revamped organizational structure under our new system of governance, the Board has created a colorful chart that illustrates our entire organization, showing the many linkages among staff, committees, and the congregation. Be on the lookout for the new organizational chart (created by Board members Mike Mitchell, Marilyn Huff, and Bryan Boosz), which will be posted soon on the UUCDC web site and at other visible places around church.

In addition to finalizing our new organizational chart, the Board made further progress toward our transition to Policy Governance at its September meeting. In keeping with its mandate to "use board time to create the future, rather than review the past," the Board made plans to:

**--Hold a series of open forums after worship services to discuss the UUCDC Ends Statements**, which are the long-term goals that will guide and inform our activities, decisions, and programs. The congregation last spring approved eight Ends Statements, three of which -- stewardship, justice, and spiritual growth -- were chosen as priorities by the Board for the year ahead.

Each forum will focus on one or a few of the Ends Statements, and everyone is invited to discuss what the statements mean to them, share questions with Board members, and offer suggestions

### *Plan to Give the Gift of a Better Future for UUCDC*

The budget discussion at our Congregational Meeting in May once again showed that, beyond the challenge of meeting immediate needs, we need to build reserves to provide greater financial stability for UUCDC.

Where do we get the money to meet extraordinary demands, such as major building repairs or equipment replacement and additions? How can we pay for special programs not included in an Operating Budget where almost every penny is needed to pay our staff, meet our denominational and mortgage commitments, and maintain our building and property?

The answer: Planned Giving.

Shortly, you will receive a letter on this subject

for transforming these aims into reality. The first forum will start October 12 after church. (See the article on page 4 for the full schedule.)

**--Develop additional policies for Policy Governance.** Specifically, the Board formed new subcommittees to research and draft two policies; one policy will address the conduct of Board members and the other will provide guidance for addressing grievances that may arise from Board policy violations.

**--Ensure the Board gets regular input from the ministry teams and other church leaders.** Mark Bernstein, Board President, is putting together an annual schedule for representatives from the five ministry teams and other lay leaders to meet with the Board to engage in discussions related to Policy Governance and Ends Statements. Rev. Peter Friedrichs also is developing a new format for his monthly report to the Board.

Finally, Rev. Peter reminded us that our sexton, Jack Shaffer, recently marked his one-year anniversary as a church employee. The Board would like to thank Jack for his excellent service to our community. Please join us in expressing your appreciation the next time you see Jack.

from Board President Mark Bernstein. Enclosed will be a brochure titled "Gifting Options to Ensure a Strong and Vibrant UUCDC." Please take the time to read and digest these materials. Then, take steps to help strengthen UUCDC's financial future by giving or making provisions to give to the Endowment Fund or one or more of the Reserve Funds outlined.

By doing that, you and those to follow you will reap the benefits of ensuring that UUCDC is strong and vibrant both now and in the future.

## *Meet the Committee on Ministry*

The Committee on Ministry is here to lend a sensitive ear and strengthen our communication within the church. Our mission statement describes our role:

“The mission of the Committee on Ministry is to support a shared ministry among the minister, the staff and the congregants. We define ministry broadly to include the work of the called minister and that of every congregant to support the mission of the church.”

The Committee on Ministry will:

- Be a sounding board for the minister and congregation to foster healthy relationships.
- Promote trust by opening and monitoring channels of secure, confidential communication.
- Support and encourage congregants to voice their concerns directly with the appropriate party, be it the minister, staff or other church members.
- Attempt to anticipate conflict, take measures to prevent it, and actively work toward resolution should it arise.

We are liaisons whom the congregation can

## Coming Soon—A Sunday Fire Drill

During the last several years, UUCDC’s staff has been working on various aspects of keeping this congregation as organized and safe as possible. The latest development on that front is an evacuation plan in case of fire or some other emergency on a Sunday morning. Sometime this fall, we will have a fire drill during a Sunday morning to enable us to be as prepared as possible.

Sunday School teachers and assistants were presented with the plan as part of their training, and will be going over the details with their classes. Worship associates are also ready for their role in helping evacuate the Sanctuary.

In essence, the plan says that teachers will take all students (with the attendance sheets) to the playground area. The congregation, under the instruction of the minister and worship associate, will evacuate to the playground as well. Parents

count on to be open, honest, fair and discreet.

We are excited to be involved in this effort. You will be hearing more from us, and we hope all members will use the committee as a resource to enhance the ministry of the church. Please share your thoughts with us by using the “Creative Idea Box” in the church lobby and by speaking with the members of the committee:

and children will meet there. The Sunday School assistants and worship associate will carry out the instructions for helping those who need special assistance.

Paul Schlenker and Frank Hernandez did a lot to help develop the plan. We’re grateful for their assistance.

If you have questions or concerns, or if you need more information to better prepare children, please contact one of the staff members.

And get ready for the fire drill!

## Caring Corner

### UUCDC Anti-Racism Programs for October

Oct. will provide several opportunities to engage in UUCDC's Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression and Multiculturalism ("ARAOM") initiative. All events and activities are open to adults and youth in the church unless otherwise specified.

**Video Discussion Group:** "Race -- The Power of an Illusion," a three-part video series produced by PBS, will begin Sunday, Oct. 12 and will continue Oct. 19 and Nov. 2 at 1 p. m.

This series is designed "to help us navigate through our myths and misconceptions about race, and scrutinize some of the assumptions we take for granted. In that sense, the real subject of the film is not so much race, but the viewer, or more precisely, the notions about race we all hold." The series kicks off with "The Difference Between Us," a program that will "help clear away the biological underbrush and leave starkly visible the underlying social, economic, and political

conditions that disproportionately channel advantages and opportunities to white people."

On the two following Sundays we will view "The Story We Tell" and "The House We Live In." Each show is approximately one hour long and will be followed by a discussion of our reactions and impressions. Please feel free to bring lunch to church on these Sundays.

**ADORE Group:** On Oct. 15, 7 to 9 p. m., we will hold the first of our monthly ADORE groups. ADORE is an acronym for "A Dialogue on Race and Ethnicity." The ADORE group provides participants with a safe and confidential space to share their experiences and perspective around issues of race and ethnicity. Using readings, videos, and other resources, the group will help individuals explore the complex set of family, community and cul-

*(Continued on page 11)*

## RE-FLECTIONS

JEAN CAMPBELL,

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### *Defining UUism for Children*

I have been asking a few children which topics they would like to hear about in chapel. One of the responses was: "Tell us what Unitarian Universalist means."

That is a rather big topic, but I have been trying to tackle it in a very child-friendly way.

You will be reading this after I have talked to the children in chapel. Here is a version of what I planned to say.

Unitarian Universalism used to be two separate religions.

The Unitarians believed in one form of God, as the prefix "uni" implies. Most Christians are "Trinitarians" because they believe that God exists in three forms (note the prefix "tri").

Universalists believed that love is the most powerful of all forces. Because of that, God accepts everyone and everybody is saved, as the root "Universal" implies. People we hear about being saved by Jesus or God usually believe the only way people can go to heaven and be with God when they die is to hold a certain set of beliefs. Universalists said you will be saved even if you do not have those beliefs.

The Unitarians and the Universalists merged and became one church in the 1960s. They agreed on six principles (and later created the seventh). Those are the principles we know today. Three principles -- the first, fourth and seventh -- are particularly important in how UUism evolved into what we now believe.

Perhaps you have seen the picture of an arch representing our principles. (I hoped to find blocks for the children's presentation.) The two pillars represent the first principle -- the inherent worth and dignity of every person -- and the seventh principle -- respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. In the visual, the two pillar/principles hold up and are larger than all the others, illustrating the importance of both the individual and community in Unitarian Universalism. The fourth principle -- a free and responsible search for truth and meaning -- is represented by the keystone, the piece that holds it all together. Without any one of these three principles, everything else would fall down.

UUism has evolved from simply "one God, everybody is saved." Now it means every person is important, as are the Earth and all beings, and each person decides for herself or himself what to believe. And what you decide, after a responsible search, is OK.

This is a very quick, simple explanation of Unitarian Universalism. If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please contact me or attend the "UU101" classes from 9 to 10 a.m. on Oct. 26, Nov 2 and 9.

*Jean*

PS: Have you seen the RE office yet? It is freshly painted and newly organized. Please stop by and check it out. Many thanks to all who helped to beautify it!

## LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### *Energy and Enthusiasm Mark Start of Sunday School Year*

Welcome back to Religious Education at UUCDC! There is great energy and enthusiasm among volunteers. The Sunday School teachers are excited and eager to be with the children and are giving time and energy to plan wonderful, interactive lessons. The same is true for youth advi-

sors and leaders, who have worked on team-building and are enthusiastic about the year ahead with our youth. Facilitators for Adult RE are prepared and eager to share what they know with this community.

We are a lucky congregation to have such gifts shared with our community. I hope that you get an opportunity to be with these folks and learn

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from them and discover what they have to offer.

### **Sunday School—Team Leader: Tabby Parsons**

Want to know what the children are doing while you attend services? In order to share with everyone what the children are learning and working on, we shall have a short column, written by teachers, in each FOCUS that will describe one class.

This year some grades are using some of the same curricula that we used last year; others are trying new, highly recommended curricula. Most of the curricula focuses on age-appropriate understanding of Unitarian Universalism. This year, through Bibleodeon, our fifth grade curriculum focuses on the Bible and Bible stories through a Unitarian Universalist perspective. To have a closer look at the curricula, visit the Religious Education office.

*Note to Parents:* Sunday School begins with RE Chapel at 10:30, followed by children reporting to classes. These end at 11:45 a. m. This allows a full hour of bonding and learning in the class. If the service ends at 11:30 a. m., enjoy fellowship and coffee. We shall ring a chime at 11:45 a. m. to remind parents to pick up children from the classrooms. (Locations are listed in the Order of Service.)

Even if the child is old enough to find his way to you, picking up the child at the classroom provides an opportunity to meet the teachers, learn what the children did and talked about, and even to meet the child's classmates, friends and other parents.

### **Youth—Team Leader: Marge Caton**

Coming of Age gets underway with its "Wizard of Oz" retreat early this month. Nine youth are in the Coming of Age program this year. The program is still looking for mentors. As a mentor, participants support a youth's growth and learning, while the mentor also has a rewarding and growing experience.

The Middle School Activities Group will meet once a month starting in November. We are still looking for adult leaders for this group. If interested, contact Jean Campbell, DRE 610-566-4853, ext. 3, or dre@uucdc.org.

YUCKIs already have held their planning retreat this year and other activities are underway. They will design and construct a haunted house for the Friends and Family's Hallowe'en party. Watch for more ways YUCKIs will participate with us this year.

### **Adult RE—Team Leader: Loretta Orndorff**

Registration for Adult Religious Education classes is complete and many workshops are underway. If you would like to see a list of offerings, check the web site: uucdc.org. Click on Life Learning. If you have ideas or suggestions for other workshops, contact Jean Campbell DRE 610-566-4853, ext. 3, dre@uucdc.org.

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## ***Boo! It's That Time***

The Family and Friends group is the moving spirit behind UUCDC's annual Hallowe'en party and Pot Luck Dinner on October 25, 6 to 9 p. m. in Fellowship Hall. An intergenerational event for everyone, this will be an evening of fright, fun, fellowship and food.

Activities will include games for all ages, a haunted house (designed by the YUCKIs), a scary movie and more. Bring one or two items for the buffet: appetizer, entree, salad, side dish, dessert, or beverage. Come as you are, or as ghost, witch, or goblin, whatever you choose.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

For the ongoing Share the Plate project, Patti Fiske, chairman, reported that in September the congregation contributed more than \$350 to the Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County. Katie Kenyon presented an enlightening description of how the Domestic Abuse Project serves the community during a Sunday service.

In October, we will share the plate with the Interfaith Hospitality Network. IHN provides cost-efficient, effective, and replicable community response to family homelessness. Our contributions will help provide the services that move families into stable situations. Our congregation also supports this work by housing the families for a few weeks each year.

### *Social Justice Film Series Presents 'Crash' Oct. 3*

The Oscar-winning "Crash" will inaugurate the 2008-09 season of "From Real to Reel," the Social Justice Committee's film series, at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3.

The movie is free, with light refreshments and a short discussion afterward.

Movies can do everything from making us laugh to making us cry -- sometimes all at once. This series is your chance to gather with others to watch thought-provoking films that can change the way

you look at the world. Later this year, the Social Justice Committee plans to sponsored Jubilee I, a three-day workshop developed by the UUA. This workshop is designed to help Unitarian Universalist congregations dismantle racism by helping participants examine both personal and institutional racism, and by empowering them to develop a realistic plan that can move their congregations forward in working for racial justice. This ambitious program requires a lot of volunteer help. Watch for the dates of Jubilee I and for ways you can help make this happen.

you look at the world.

"Crash" (2005) won Academy Awards for best picture, original screenplay and supporting actor. Set in Los Angeles, it presents a multi-ethnic cast of characters whose paths would not normally cross. The film traces the ways their lives are changed as they encounter one another in unexpected ways.

Directed by Paul Haggis, "Crash" features an ensemble including Sandra Bullock, Don Cheadle, Matt Dillon and Jennifer Esposito.

### More UUCDC Scholarships for Chester Students

At the Sunday service on Sept. 21, the church awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Tyrone Sturdivant, a Chester resident attending Widener University.

This makes the fourth year that UUCDC, through the Social Justice Committee, has granted such scholarships as part of the NAACP Chester Branch Annual Awards Program. At the service, additional follow-up awards of \$1,000 each were given by Rev. Peter Friedrichs to 2007 recipient Nalia Carter, a sophomore at Penn State who could not attend the service, and 2006 recipient Larif Hamm, who has begun his junior year at Temple University.

The NAACP program selects outstanding Chester youth for scholarships. It also honors community leaders.

The Sept. 21 presentation formalized the committee's April 11 award to Tyrone.

The Social Justice Committee strongly wants to better support our Chester neighbors and to invest in the city's youth through these initial and subsequent scholarship awards.

The grants are made possible by the Concerts for the Community Fund. The fund, started by former UUCDC Music Director Deborah Snow, was established as an outreach program to aid worthy causes. It has been financed through a series of Concerts for the Community events put on by UUCDC members and friends, and through generous donations from church members.

## *Goin' Back to New Orleans—And You Can Help*

You're invited to join, or help out, the UUCDC people who plan to revisit the devastated New Orleans area to provide the aid that's still needed.

The Rev. Tim Thomson-Hohl, pastor of the Garden Church (United Methodist) in Lansdowne, is organizing a work team to go from Sunday, Nov. 16, through Sunday, Nov. 23, with hopes that some of us UUs can join him and Carolyn Miller, his administrative assistant.

Rev. Tim has researched opportunities through the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Please refer to the website [www.laumcstormrelief.com/](http://www.laumcstormrelief.com/).

In addition to rehabbing houses, a site for medical

work may be offered.

One of the possible lodging sites is the People's United Methodist Church Community Center, which can house up to 60 people on bunk beds. Volunteers have been quoted a rate of \$10 per person per night.

If you can't make the trip, you can attend a benefit dinner at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 27 at Kaya's Fusion Cuisine on Brookline Boulevard in Havertown. The cost will be \$35.

## More Opportunities to Help Rebuild in New Orleans

Two members of the UU Church of the Restoration in Philadelphia are organizing a February or March trip to New Orleans to continue efforts to rebuild after the Katrina Hurricane.

An organizing meeting will be held Oct. 11, 9:30 a.m., at the Church of the Restoration, 6900 Stenton Avenue (Stenton and Gorgas Lane) in Philadelphia.

Aug. 29 was the third anniversary of Katrina and although thousands of volunteers, including members of UUCDC and other UUs, have helped New

Orleans and Gulf Coast residents rebuild after the devastation, there is still work to be done.

Contact the following UU Restoration members for more information: Paul Mack, 215-242-1372, email: [pmack342@verizon.net](mailto:pmack342@verizon.net), with Katrina as subject or Brad Bradburd, 267-464-5022, email: [Bradburd@msn.com](mailto:Bradburd@msn.com).

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tural issues related to race and racism.

In our first meeting, we will discuss our reaction to Peggy McIntosh's essay, "Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack." The essay can be found online at <http://seamonkey.ed.asu.edu/~mcisaac/emc598ge/Unpacking.html>. The ADORE group will meet monthly, although you are not required to commit to being a part of the group every month.

**Book Discussion Group:** On Oct. 22, 7 p.m. and for three successive Wednesday evenings, a group will gather to reflect on readings from the book "Soul Work," subtitled "Anti-Racist Theologies in Dialogue." "Soul Work" captures a series of essays and discussions among leading scholars, educators, theologians, ministers and activists held at UUA headquarters in Boston in 2001.

The book provides an opportunity to consider the underlying belief structures that have led to the ongoing racism in our society and discusses potential Unitarian Universalist responses to them. Each week we will discuss two chapters of the book. Thus, on Oct. 22 we will examine chapters 1 and 2, on Oct. 29, chapters 3 and 4. If you would like to join in this discussion group, contact Rev. Peter about purchasing the book, or go to the UUA Bookstore online at

<http://www.uua.org/publications/skinnerhouse/browseskinner/titles/20423.shtml>.

## How You Can Help UUCDC Host Homeless Families in Nov. and Dec.

Are you interested in community service but concerned about how to fit it into your busy schedule? Consider volunteering this fall with the Interfaith Hospitality Network at UUCDC.

We will host homeless families at our church, as we have periodically since last October, during the weeks of Nov. 2 and Dec. 28. The families spend their days at a community center in Chester and are with us for dinner, overnight, and then breakfast.

Volunteers are needed to help donate food, prepare meals, and keep our guests company in the evenings, as well as with other tasks. The time commitment can be as short as a trip to the store to buy breakfast supplies or up to an eight-hour "overnight" shift sleeping at the church. We have opportunities to accommodate any schedule.

If you are new to the program and interested in volunteering or want a refresher in how it works, please come to a meeting at noon on Sunday, Oct. 19. All are welcome as we discuss our community's involvement in the program and how each

of us can contribute.

UUCDC's participation in the network is more important than ever.

As the Delaware County chapter of the Interfaith Hospitality Network accepted new religious institutions into its host network (Swarthmore Presbyterian and Trinity Episcopal in Swarthmore, St. Luke's Community Christian and Murphy AME in Chester), several churches chose not to participate this year. That left the network with only 10 churches, shy of its goal of 13.

Our help is very much needed and appreciated as we embark upon what we hope will be a successful second year for the program in Delaware County.

## *It's 'Kissing Hand' Time at Rose Tree Day School*

If you have young children you may know that "The Kissing Hand" refers to the sweet, back-to-school story by Audrey Penn.

Six UUCDC families have children enrolled in RTDS this Fall. That represents 10 per cent of our school population. In September, the Day School was filled with a mix of eager minds and nervous hearts -- children and parents alike.

In "The Kissing Hand" story, little Chester Racoon is anxious about his first day at school. Mother Racoon shares a "special secret that will make his time at school as cozy as being at home." She takes her son's hand and kisses his palm. "Chester felt his mommy's kiss rush from his hand, up his arm, and into his heart." Now he will have his mother's love with him all day.

As the story continues, the little racoon learns about the wonderful friends and activities he will enjoy at school. As Chester starts off confidently on his first day, kiss-in-hand, he turns back to his mother. He takes her hand and kisses it. Mother

Racoon felt Chester's love fill her heart with warmth.

Inspired by that story, our experienced and loving RTDS staff helped ensure that each child (and parent) transitioned smoothly this new school year. For me, it's been great to see so many familiar UUCDC faces. I get many smiles and hugs at drop-off and pick-up time since each of the UUCDC children know me from Children's Chapel and RE classes.

The UUCDC Board of Directors for Rose Tree Day School will keep members and friends updated about the school's activities each month with a FOCUS article.

*Maria Koenig*

## ARTS, BOOKS & MUSIC

### Here on Oct. 11, 'It's Entertainment'

It's that time again: UUCDC members and friends will provide an evening of superior musical talents for just \$5 (!) at "It's Entertainment," 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 11.

The music will come in several forms, including skits, quartets and jokes. Sponsored by the Arts Council, the production is a BYOB affair, and all

are asked to bring finger food to share.

If you're interested in performing, note that there will be one rehearsal, the night before the show.

Tickets will be sold at the door.

### Our Own PA 'Scopes Trial', Darwin, Other Oddities Surface in Book Club Choice

The Book Club has chosen "40 Days and 40 Nights" by Matthew Chapman for its meeting, Friday, Oct. 24.

Chapman, who is the great-great-grandson of Charles Darwin, subtitled his book, "Darwin, Intelligent Design, God, Oxycontin, and Other Oddities on Trial in Pennsylvania." This is the true story of our 21st century, latter-day monkey trial that occurred in Dover, PA, in 2005.

The story is short, but true, with many characters adding interesting and humorous twists and turns to a modern battle to stop biblical creationism from being taught in public schools.

For its September meeting, the Book Club discussed "Water for Elephants," by Sara Gruen. The novel traces the life of an orphan, Jacob, who joins the circus when he loses his parents and the money to finish vet school.

The tale takes place during the era of the Great Depression and explores the bonds that form between people and between people and animals. Mystery, love, adventure, and a menagerie of animals and people make this poignant tale fun to read and discuss.

The Book Club meets in the Youth Room and the discussion begins at 7:30 p. m. Everyone is welcome to join!

### *Supper Club Initiates Schedule for Half-Committed Gourmands*

So you love to eat, but you don't want to commit to a full year of International Supper Club, which offers five-course dinners at Court Diner prices.

We hear you. We are offering a brief, trial membership for the Oct. 18 and Dec. 20 dinners.

Join the UUCDC Supper Club to dine in members' homes, using a common menu and preparing courses according to the same set of recipes. We promise that you won't have to spend all day in the kitchen. You will have great food and drink, lots of good conversation, and will share the costs after dessert.

Go online to the UUCDC web site, [uucdc.org](http://uucdc.org). Search for International Supper and check out menus from previous suppers.

## Yo UUCDCERS

### JPD Leadership Day at Cherry Hill

The Joseph Priestley District Leadership Day will be held October 11, 8:30 a. m. to 3:30 p. m., at the UU Church in Cherry Hill, Cherry Hill, NJ.

The day will provide a training opportunity for staff and lay leaders, skill-building opportunities, and ways to celebrate successes. Leaders are encouraged to attend as a team.

Cost is \$40 per person. It will include morning worship, a full-day workshop, refreshments, lunch, and useful take-home materials. Full Fair Share congregations receive a \$5 discount for each person attending.

UU Church in Cherry Hill, is located at 401 N. Kings Highway, Cherry Hill, NJ.

For more information, contact:  
jillian@jpduua.org.

### *Racial Justice Conference to Focus on 'Green' Economy*

You can help advance social, economic and racial justice while supporting the movement toward a "green" economy.

Find out how at "Alliances for Racial Justice," the fourth annual Joseph Priestley District Journey Toward Wholeness Conference, on Oct. 25 at First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia, 2125 Chestnut St.

The conference was inspired by this year's Ware Lecture by Van Jones at the 2008 General Assembly. Jones, who founded several California non-profits credited with reducing youth violence and incarceration, challenged UUs to understand the opportunities that the developing green economy presents for involving, training and employing marginalized youth.

A video of his lecture will be the keynote address, and will be responded to by a distinguished panel

led by the Rev. John Gilmore. Workshops and worships will explore and build on these ideas.

The \$35 cost per adult includes lunch, dinner and a concert. The youth/young adult rate is \$17. Make payment to the JPD and indicate that it is for "Racial Justice Conference." Full Fair Share Congregations, such as UUCDC, receive a 20 percent discount of \$7 per adult registrant.

Early registration deadline is Oct. 20. After that, a late fee of \$10 will be assessed. No registrations will be taken after Oct. 23.

For more information and online registration, go to [www.JPDUUA.org](http://www.JPDUUA.org).

### UUCDC Host to JPD Youth Leadership Conference

UUCDC will host the YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalist) Adult Advisor and Youth Leadership Training for the Joseph Priestley District's Northern sector, Nov. 1, 9 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.

Registration deadline is Oct. 24. Cost to adults is \$45 and for youth, \$25. This fee includes lunch, supplies, and Youth Adult Training resource book.

Team registration incentives also are available: \$45 for the first adult, \$30 for each additional adult; \$25 for the first youth, \$15 for each additional youth. Team members must be from the same congregation.

Additional info: [jillian@jpduua.org](mailto:jillian@jpduua.org).

## THIS, I BELIEVE

### Please Tell Us: 'This, I Believe'

One writer pondered the balanced life. Another praised "the continuing process of learning to be free." A third proclaimed her atheism. These and four other congregation members enriched recent issues of the FOCUS by sharing with us their core beliefs in essays titled "This, I Believe."

Now it's your turn.

We'd love to publish a concise statement of your core belief. We hope that through these short essays, we'll all get to know each other better. We'll also enjoy provocative food for thought.

Your description of the belief that is central to your life should be between 350 and 500 words. You can e-mail it to [focus@uucdc.org](mailto:focus@uucdc.org), send it to us via the church website or put it in Rina Jurceka's mailbox in the office. For the full guidelines – and for that easy, one-step way to submit your work – go to <http://uucdc.org/thisibelieve.html>. For more information, contact either of the co-editors, Bette Austin and Neil Goldstein.

If you'd like to be part of making this auction a huge success, please stop by the poster in the lobby and add your name to what is shaping up to be a solid team

Running the auction requires many hands, and the Auction Committee warmly welcomes whatever help you can provide. We will need help including poster and catalog creation, preparation of mailings, donation collection, computer data entry, hospitality, and setup and cleanup.

### How Can You Help?

Please give serious thought to what you can offer, and stop by the auction table after services to fill out a contribution form-- or to get more ideas. You can also contact Mark Shay (610-357-4648 or mshay@ClassicWines.com) with your contribution.

Always popular: dinners, game nights, vacation-home weeks and week ends, home-baked goods and musical performances. Also services, such as tax preparation, simple wills, child care, gift wrap-ping and pet-sitting. Everyone has something to offer.

### What Can You Donate?

In the meantime, please spread word of the auction to your friends, relatives and anyone who likes to have fun! See the donor board in the church lobby for details.

The big Fall Auction on Nov. 15 promises the exciting bidding and good times we've come to expect from the annual event. This year, though, there's a bonus: One lucky donor will win an iPod Touch!

*Get Ready for the Nov. 15 Auction - and a Chance to win an iPod*



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

# Focus

**October 2008**

**First Class Mail  
US Postage Paid  
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Permit # 107**

# Calendar

## October 2008\*

Date	Name of Event	Time			
10/1	Muslims	6:00 PM	10/11	Muslims	9:30 AM
	Interweave Meeting	7:15 PM		Yucki's	12:00 PM
	MCC	7:30 PM		It's Entertainment	7:30 PM
				HTF- Feeding at Shelter	5:30 PM
10/2	SGM	1:00 PM	10/12	Worship Service & RE	10:00 AM
	ARE Poetry	7:00 PM		Mind Body Spirit Adult RE	12:00 PM
	Social Justice	7:00 PM		UUCDC Board	12:00 PM
10/3	Movie Night	7:30 PM		Power of Illusion	1:00 PM
10/4	COA Oz Lock in	12:00 AM		COA	6:00 PM
				Independent Catholics	6:00 PM
10/5	Worship Service & RE	10:00 AM		Yucki's	6:00 PM
	Committee Fair	12:00 PM		Thespis	7:00 PM
	Personnel Meeting	12:00 PM	10/13	Voice Lesson Rental	8:00 AM
	Independent Catholics	6:00 PM		Board Meeting	7:15 PM
	Yucki's	6:00 PM	10/14	Yoga	5:45 PM
	Thespis	7:00 PM		ARE Talk/Listen	7:00 PM
10/6	Voice Lesson Rental	8:00 AM	10/15	Muslims	6:00 PM
	MCC	7:00 PM		ADORE Group	7:00 PM
	REC Meeting	7:00 PM		ARE	7:00 PM
10/7	Yoga	5:45 PM		Membership Council	7:00 PM
	RTDS	7:00 PM		MCC	7:30 PM
10/8	Muslims	6:00 PM	10/16	Chorus	7:00 PM
	ARE	7:00 PM		Tai Chi Classes (Adult RE)	7:30 PM
	MCC	7:30 PM	10/17	Wedding	2:00 PM
10/9	ARE	7:00 PM	10/18	Muslims	9:30 AM
	Chorus	7:00 PM		International Supper Club	7:00 PM
	SGM	7:00 PM	10/19	Worship Service & RE	10:00 AM
10/10	Cabaret Rehearsal	7:00 PM		UUCDC Board	12:00 PM
				Power of Illusion	1:00 PM



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\*Printed Sept. 23, 2008

# October 2008

	Newcomers Reception	3:00 PM		
	COA	6:00 PM	10/29	Muslims 6:00 PM
	Independent Catholics	6:00 PM		ARE 7:00 PM
	Yucki's	6:00 PM		Soul Work 7:00 PM
	Thespis	7:00 PM		MCC 7:30 PM
10/20	Voice Lesson Rental	8:00 AM	10/30	Chorus 7:00 PM
	Celtic Study Group	6:00 PM		Tai Chi Classes (Adult RE) 7:30 PM
10/21	Yoga	5:45 PM	10/31	RTDS 10:00 AM
	ARE Talk/Listen	7:00 PM		RTDS 12:30 PM
				Samhain 7:00 PM
10/22	Muslims	6:00 PM		
	Mind Body Spirit Adult RE	7:00 PM		
	Soul Work	7:00 PM		
	MCC	7:30 PM		
10/23	Chorus	7:00 PM		
	Tai Chi Classes (Adult RE)	7:30 PM		
10/24	Yucki's Haunted House Party	1:00 PM		
	Book Group	7:30 PM		
10/25	Muslims	9:30 AM		
	Commitment Ceremony	12:00 PM		
	Muslims	6:00 PM		
	Family & Friends Halloween Party	7:00 PM		
	Memorial Garden	9:00 PM		
10/26	ARE- UU101	9:00 AM		
	Worship Service & RE	10:00 AM		
	UUCDC Board	12:00 PM		
	Cohen Service	1:00 PM		
	COA Movie Night	6:00 PM		
	Independent Catholics	6:00 PM		
	Yucki's	6:00 PM		
	Thespis	7:00 PM		
10/27	Voice Lesson Rental	8:00 AM		
	Lay Leadership Council	7:00 PM		
	MCC	7:00 PM		
10/28	Yoga	5:45 PM		
	ARE Talk/Listen	7:00 PM		
	ARE- Spirit in Practice	7:00 PM		