



The Unitarian Universalists of Gettysburg Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 3

March 2008

2008/2009 Stewardship (Pledge) Campaign

By the time you read this, you should have received a letter on this subject. In fact you will be receiving several letters outlining our plans for the 2008/2009 Stewardship Campaign.

Again it's time for our annual Pledge campaign. As usual we're asking for your pledge of financial support for UUG.

This year instead of the Board sitting down and laboriously deciding how much money is required to keep UUG going as a viable church, trying to balance needs and growth, we're going to allow you, our members and friends, to determine what UUG's growth and programming will be.

With the letter you received there was a copy of a "Dream Budget". Is this "pie in the sky"?

We asked each committee to submit a budget that reflected what they could have or could do if they had unlimited funds available. Or, to DREAM LARGE! We then arranged these numbers to provide our Dream Budget.

Will this Dream Budget become our final Budget for the next fiscal year? That's up to you our members and friends. How much, or how soon, do you want UUG to grow, have a full-time minister, a larger RE Program, be more involved in Social Action or otherwise become a viable force within the Gettysburg area?

IT'S YOUR DECISION!

The Stewardship Committee †

Minister's Musings...

While we wait for the spring thaw I already see the movement toward new growth at UUG.

Your newly formed Committee on Ministry is reading about a congregation-based model for nurturing ministries in congregations developed by Rev. Robert Latham. Florence Tarbox, Bruce Boenau, Mellisa Sandoe and Dorothy Collins are joining me to establish a ministry focused circle of inquiry and study. Stay tuned.

Rev. Carol Taylor has agreed to join us as JPD Adjunct staff to consult on priorities for institutional development. February weather delayed our initial meeting but it's important for you to know your leaders will be coming to you very soon to join this exciting conversation about next steps for moving forward.

Carol and I recently spent time with Rev. Ken Belden and Kathy Ellis of Wellsprings, the new congregation starting in Chester Springs, PA. An intentional new start by the Mainline congregation with help from UUA and JPD Chalice Lighters, Wellsprings represents a congregation structured entirely around spiritual deepening and small group dynamics.

I'd like to offer a field trip to visit Wellsprings some Sunday for interested leaders and members to see for yourselves how these newly gathered folks are building a religious community.

The District Spring meeting in Bethesda, MD is a mini-GA...family friendly and always exciting. If you are thinking of going Mar 28-30, but want to know a little more about what to expect click onto www.jpduua.org or talk with me.

Rev. Kate †

Nominations for Board of Directors

The Nominating Committee invites members interested in serving on the UUG Board of Directors to contact one of the Committee members listed below by March 15 to express their interest in serving on the Board. At the UUG Annual Meeting in May the members will elect 5 Board members: 3 Board members for full 3 year terms and 2 Board members to fill the remaining portion of terms that became vacant due to the death or resignation of a Board member. The Nominating Committee members are:

Ann Gilbert, ph. 334-2879 E-mail: randagilbert@comcast.net

Melissa Sandoe, ph. 677-7613 E-mail: jemila@supernet.com

Charles Skopic, phone 338-0228 E-mail charlynn@pa.net †

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Co-Editors: Gerry Ellefson and Kris Eyssell

The Joseph Priestley District 2008 Spring Conference

Voices of Justice, Hands of Change; March 28-30 2008, Doubletree Hotel, Bethesda, MD.

Join UUs from the Joseph Priestley District for a weekend of leadership development, UU worship, inspiration, and celebration.

The conference will include Childcare, Elementary, and Middle School programs, plus select workshops for High School Youth and full-length Bridging Program for graduating high school seniors. Bring the whole family!

Look for registration information and workshop descriptions in early February, 2008. Workshop proposals and volunteer applications are due January 2, 2008. Please check back at the JPD website, www.jpduua.org, for updates and previews.

Contact the Joseph Priestley District Office at 302.778.4564 with questions. †

UUG Events

MAR 5, 1st Wednesdays, New Time 6:00p.m., Vegetarian-Vegan Support Group

Bring a vegetarian (meatless) dish or vegan (no meat, dairy, eggs or honey) dish (and a recipe card) to share with others. Enjoy a great meal, good company, lively conversation, exchange favorite recipes, make new friends and have a great time. Paper products will be provided. See you there! Contact: Sara at 717-334-2920 and leave message.

MAR 7-MAY 2, Three Gifted Photographers Celebrate Life

Selections from the work of Bill D'Agostino, Nanette Hatzes and Bruce Neylon will be on exhibit. Featuring images of nature and a determined African village. All three photographers are accomplished in their very individual styles, having shown widely, and developed strong eyes for their work, most of which will be for sale. The exhibit can be viewed at on Sundays after the church service from 11:30-12:30, or by appointment. For more information call (717) 334-2920, visit www.uugettysburg.org or e-mail uugettysburg@hotmail.com.

MAR 28 & 29: Annual Early Bird Yard Sale

Household goods, plants. †

Religious Education Committee

We are looking for new members to enrich both our committee and our classrooms! Contact Kris Eyssell or Heather Merson. †

Exciting events happening at JPD and UUA

- ☉ April 4, 5 and 6 – Joseph Priestley District (JPD) Spring Conference, To be held in the Baltimore area -- within driving distance. Let's not miss this one.
- ☉ June 25-29 Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) – General Assembly (GA), Fort Lauderdale, FL †

Stewardship Dinner

Mark your calendar for March 15th! That's the evening of the Stewardship campaign dinner. You should have received the official "invitation", or will be getting it in a day or two.

This year we will be having a catered buffet. All food will be provided. All you have to do is be there. The buffet will be catered by our own Marty Qually and will include vegetarian, pasta and chicken entrees plus desert. Beverages will be provided (except if you want alcohol which will be BYOB.)

The invitation tells all. Come join the fun. †

Stewardship Committee †

Membership

Single-motherhood is challenging. Add in Sereck's developmental delays, working part-time, trying to build friendships for both of us, volunteering in the community, and supporting our UUG makes a recipe for STRESS. As a result, I am a poor housekeeper. Recently I could not tell what color my living room carpet was. All attempts to get Sereck's co-operation in clean up had failed. I sat down surrounded by cards, puzzles, cars, trying to make sense of the disorder around me. My nerves gave way and I was almost in tears. Sereck was in the next room and I asked him to come in to me because I needed a hug. He looked at my distressed face and put his arms around me. With wisdom well beyond his years and IQ scores Sereck said, "RELAX" with such compassion I just had to believe him.

How does this relate to UUG and Membership? Currently many of us are working on policy, budgets, etc., vital work to the development of our UU community. It can seem overwhelming to create our organization. What do we want to be and do? How will we pay for all of it? How do we attract new members? What can we do for the Gettysburg community and our neighbors? When will we find time for all the meetings we need to have? How do we find the right people to do the necessary work? How do we organize all these toys on the floor? It is easy to stress over all that needs to be done.

I want to remind us to "RELAX". Rome was not built in a day. It takes work but we can do this together. We can welcome each other. We can support each other. Many hands make light work. This work we do will be interrupted by life. As we need support we can be there for each other. Illness, death, surprise concerns will ask us to step back from the work. When life's issues are resolved, we can step up to sustain the ongoing effort needed at UUG. Knowing when to step back, RELAX, is as important as stepping up. As we do this, we will attract folks to our fold. A healthy organization will be a magnet for curious newcomers.

A dear friend of mine who died last year often told the story of her travels in Turkey. She witnessed the whirling dervishes spinning to music the whole night long. We ask how they maintained this ecstatic state for long periods through the many hours until morning. She related there was a sort of tag team system where one dervish would step out, another start to turn in his place. The retiring dervish would go off to an adjoining room to smoke Turkish cigarettes and drink very strong coffee. When revived, he would move back to relieve another dancer. Let this be a reminder to us to take necessary breaks, to relax and let our community continue. †

UUG Library: New arrivals

- ☯ Blue Jean Buddha, Voices of Young Buddhists ed. by Sumi Louno'on
- ☯ Life Strategies for Teens by Jay McGraw
- ☯ Woman's Dictionary of Symbols & Sacred Objects by Barbara Walker

Kudos to John Mulligan for donating over 20 brand new books pertaining to Buddhist philosophy. Kudos to the Buddhist Insight Meditation Group for purchasing a subscription to "Tricycle: the independent voice of Buddhism". Please note that "Tricycle" journals are for check out only. Do not keep. The other magazines on the library shelf you may keep which include UU World, Teaching Tolerance, Crisis, cooking, etc.

Donations welcome in any of the following categories: arts/crafts, Buddhism, diversity, grief, meditation, peace, reference, social action, spirituality, story for all ages, sustainable living, Unitarian Universalism, worship and best sellers in fiction. Place donations in the minister's office. Eventually, we will also sell the fiction books with all proceeds going to UUG.

Right now it is bring a book/take a book for fiction and honor sign-out for non-fiction.

Send all suggestions for how our UUG library can be more useful to all to Sara unity514@pa.net or 337-3310. †

Second Annual Drumming Circle

JPD Women and Religion and The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown invite you to the 2d Annual Drumming Circle for women to be held on March 8th, 2008 from 10am to 1pm.

Mid-session snack and beverages will be provided. Childcare will be arranged with advance notification of need.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Pottstown
1565 S. Keim Street
Pottstown, PA 19465

For directions www.uupottstown.org or google the street address.

Further information will be posted as it becomes available. Check our web site: www.jpdw.org †

UUG Sustainable Living Group

The Sustainable Living group will meet Wednesday March 5th at 7 PM, following the vegetarian potluck. Please note that during the following month, April, the group will meet on the first Thursday April 6th, to plan the Earth Day service.

The group is a great support for aligning our values with our actions. Please look on your Sunday bulletin for the *Reuse, Recycle & Rejoice* tip we are sharing with everyone for that week! Meanwhile Eric James included some information for us today: If every home in America replaced just one incandescent light bulb with an ENERGY STAR qualified CFL, in one year it would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of more than 800,000 cars. www.energystar.gov

Penelope Emmons,
("acting chair" till Bob returns) †

Committee on Ministry Forming

Another committee forming. Ho-hum? Actually, no, for this one can help us see how we are doing in our joint ministry as a congregation.

Ministry, we believe, belongs not just to the professional minister who, at present, is with us on a quarter-time basis. What about the rest of the time when we lay people try to present Sunday services, teach RE classes to our children and youth, hold adult RE classes, provide Caring Committee services to complement pastoral care by our minister, and do other activities to carry out the aims of the Mission Statement of our Bylaws? That Mission Statement puts in words our fundamental reason for being. So, how are we doing? And how can we find out?

When the previous Ministerial Search Committee completed its work of the last year-and-a half, the UUG Board invited its members to continue as the core of a new committee to work with our new minister, the Rev. Kate Bortner. Not all were able to do this. Currently, Bruce Boenau, Melissa Sandoe, and Florence Tarbox are working with Rev. Bortner in a still being born Committee on Ministry.

The Committee on Ministry will seek to be in touch with the congregation and with the committees and board of the congregation. Communication and working together will be the key to our mutual efforts to view the total ministry of our congregation and to strengthen it.

Bruce Boenau †

Coffee Hour Refreshments

The post-church coffee hour is one of the best features of life at UUG! It is a chance to get to know fellow members, assisted by the lubricating effects of hot coffee and the gastronomic delights of a little treat before lunch. Can't be beat!

Also, please know that if you bring refreshments for coffee hour does not mean you have to make the coffee and set up the tables. Hospitality committee members do that part.

To volunteer, please contact Dorothy Bream, hospitality chairperson.

Many thanks to all who have already signed up! †

What's UP...

☯ **Check out Our Committee List:** The current list is on the Sanctuary bulletin board and posted on the website.

☯ **HELP! Sign-Up sheets—**

Flowers: (Lynn Skopic) Meeting Room Bulletin Board.

Refreshments: (Dorothy Collins Bream) Meeting Rm. Bulletin Board.

Cleaning: (Pru or Anne Townsend) Hosp. Rm. Closet †

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF GETTYSBURG.

The Unitarian Universalists of Gettysburg hold weekly Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. at 136 South Stratton Street, Gettysburg. Diversity honored. Everyone welcome.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION for our young people is a top priority. Nursery care provided.

Donations in the form of checks should be made out to UUG.

March 2: The Rev. Sandra Mackie: "A Call to Peace: Breaking Down the Barriers to Peace Through Understanding": An introduction to the people, land, culture and religions of Iran.

In May 2007 Rev. Sandra Mackie of Gettysburg traveled to Iran as a member of a 16 person Civilian Diplomacy Delegation. This delegation was organized by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, an interfaith, international peace making organization that was founded in 1914 by a German Lutheran Pastor and an English Quaker.

March 9: The Rev. Kate Seitz Bortner: "Lead Us Not Into Temptation". After the optimism of the turn of the century and post 9-11 we, like our Pilgrim ancestors, face an uncertain journey – not to a different part of the world, but into a world that would be different. Our vessel is not the Mayflower but the HMS Internet. Are we working toward beloved community or virtual community?

The Rev. Kate Seitz Bortner is the Consulting Minister at UUG and a soon-to-be retired member of the York Police Force.

March 16: Judith Guasch: Topic to be announced. Judith Guasch, M. Div., is a member of UUG.

March 23: Bruce Boenau: "What To Do About Easter?" Bruce Boenau will look at ways UUs have dealt with this quandary. He is a retired faculty member of Gettysburg, a long-time Unitarian Universalist, and a member of UUG.

March 30: Dick Anliot : "Does the Bible Make It So?" Dick Anliot will analyze the things that a society considers a good way to live. Can they stand on their own merit without being propped up by any book or person?

Dick is a life-long Unitarian Universalist and a member of the Harrisburg congregation. He has spent his entire professional life fighting discrimination and segregation based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, and handicaps in employment and education. In retirement he tutors thirds graders in Harrisburg, records for the blind, and photographs the activities of Habitat for Humanity.

For more information, call 717-334-2920, on the web visit us at www.uugettysburg.org or email us at uugettysburgpa@hotmail.com.



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