



The Unitarian Universalists of Gettysburg Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 5

May 2008

From Your Minister

After six and one half months I am aware there are members and friends of UUG who do not know you have a minister. Serving part time and from a **remove** in York County, I too, feel like I'm missing so much of so many of you.

PLEASE know that you can leave your name and number on the church answering machine to request a call from Rev. Kate. Should a visit be best we can arrange that at our mutual convenience.

Check out the church website at www.uugettysburg.org for a summary of my background...and so much more information about this lively religious community. Read the monthly newsletter on line. If you know of a member or friend who does not receive the newsletter on line or by mail, PLEASE let us know with call to the office, 717-334-2920.

Friday April 11 your Board participated in a day long retreat with me and our Joseph Priestley District consultant, the Rev. Carol Taylor. We centered deeply in worship then spent a day in team building and leadership training. Such intense work would not have been possible without wholesome, delicious food prepared by Marty Qually. YUM!

I am constantly impressed by your dedication to this endeavor you are engaging. You choose leaders who constantly seek to lead responsibly. You empower leaders to both exercise wisdom and elicit from each of you the best you can bring to the common work.

PLEASE, tell them what "having a minister" looks like to you. Tell them, as well, what you are willing to contribute to assure that is possible.

Be sure to attend Sunday services. May 4th both Rev. Carol Taylor and I will lead worship. The Congregational meeting will be held after the service.

The future of UUG will be shaped by YOU. Because YOU'LL BE THERE!

See you soon,

Rev. Kate ✠

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 **Minister's Musings**
- 2 **Women's Camping Extravaganza**
- 3 **New Library Additions**

Co-Editors: Gerry Ellefson and Kris Eyssell

UUA Ad Campaign

This year the UUA has embarked on an advertisement campaign in TIME magazine, designed to give our association greater public visibility. The latest installment is a full-page ad in the April 14 issue of TIME. In large print in the top half of the page, the ad reads: "When in doubt, PRAY. When in prayer, DOUBT." There follows a brief message: "If you have more questions than answers when it comes to faith, you're not alone. Many of us yearn for a loving, spiritual community that is guided, not by a set creed or dogma, but by an open-minded quest for truth and inspiration. There is a religion that welcomes your search. Welcome to Unitarian Universalism."

The ad mentions that there are over 1,000 UU congregations nationwide. "We invite you to join us," it says. At the bottom of the page is an offer of a free DVD providing an introduction to Unitarian Universalism.

The next UUA ad in TIME, the UUA informs us in a recent message, will be the May 12 issue.

Book Discussion, May 19

A new session of the "Challenging Beliefs" series will be held at 7 pm, Monday, May 19 at UUG. Under discussion will be the recently published book by Bart D. Ehrman, *God's Problem: How the Bible Fails to Answer Our Most Important Question – Why We Suffer* (HarperOne, 2008).

Ehrman is a recognized biblical scholar, prolific author, and professor at the University of North Carolina. He writes in a lively, provocative style, addressing the general reading public and not just fellow scholars. He asks: If there is an all-powerful and loving God, how can we explain the existence of evil or why bad things happen to people? Ehrman himself is an agnostic.

A study guide for the discussion will be available on a table near the nametags at the rear of the church. Please help yourself to a copy and consider coming to the discussion.

Participating will be Rev. Kate Bortner and Bruce Boenau, leading the discussion. The aim of the "Challenging Beliefs" series is to stimulate thought and not to persuade people that any one viewpoint is the one and only acceptable one. The series is open to the public. ✠

Summer Vacation FUN for SINGLE ADULTS

Three Camps are sponsored by AMUUSE (Adult Midwest UU Singles Enrichment) this summer in Michigan and Wisconsin, June 15/20, July 13/19 and August 10/16. Mornings at AMUUSE camps offer you the opportunity to truly connect with a small group of campers with similar interests in a week-long group interacting on various topics.

Afternoons are open for a wide range of activities (recreational, social, crafts)... or perhaps to just relax and enjoy the idyllic surroundings. Evenings offer a variety of fun activities... a coffee-house, costume parties, campfires or a camp show, followed by high-energy dancing, hanging out and other activities. If this sounds to you like the adventure of a lifetime, you are right! For more details see the AMUUSE website at: www.amuuse.org †

UUG Events

May 2- June 27: "It Is What It Is" - A Solo Art Exhibit by Nanette Hatzes. Paintings and photography by Nanette Hatzes will be featured. Opening Reception May 2nd, 5-7 pm. All are welcome!

The Public can view the exhibit during any UUG events, and during Sunday social hour; 11:30- 12:30; also First Wednesdays, 6-8pm; and all Thursdays 2-4pm; also by appointment. For more information call (717) 334-2920, visit www.uugettysburg.org or e-mail uugettysburg@hotmail.com.

Vegetarian-Vegan Support Group, MAY 7, 1st Wednesdays, 6p.m., the UUG. Bring a vegetarian (meatless) dish or vegan (no meat, dairy, eggs or honey) dish (and a recipe card) to share with others. This could be an appetizer, entree, side-dish, soup, salad or dessert. 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.

Sustainable Living Group, MAY 7, 1st Wednesdays, 7p.m.: The Unitarian Universalists of Gettysburg's Sustainable Living Group give information, encouragement and support to each other and to others in the wider community who are interested in using the earth's resources wisely. The public is invited. Call Bonnie, 717-677-9736. †

Religious Education Committee

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

Women's Tent Camping Adventure

The second annual UUG Women's Tent Camping Adventure will be held June 18-25 at Pine Grove Furnace State Park. All UUG women are invited. The site holds 35 and women can come for shorter periods of time to fit their schedules. Jane Miller is in charge of details. †

General Assembly (GA) is Coming

Several people have expressed an interest in General Assembly (GA) in Fort Lauderdale, FL June 24-June 29. Registration fee: \$290 (if one registers before April 30). Scholarships for youth are still available.

I am looking into going by Amtrak w/ a friend from the Annapolis UU church (also a friend of Sabrina's) and staying at a timeshare for about \$30 per night.

This can be considered a once-in-a-life time experience. If this is something you want to seriously consider please see me to get in on the action.

Perhaps, also, it is something we can start planning on for next year, applying for adult scholarships ahead of time, etc., as priority is given to new congregations and new attendees.

Thanks, Sara
unity514@pa.net, 337-3310 †

Craft Sale

Now that the yard sale is over and was a great success -- thanks to a core of dedicated Energizer Bunnies -- I have requests for you: 1) Save Christmas cups & mugs to put Xmas arrangements in. 2) Please collect from your garden -- Pru will dry if you need her to do that: Catnip, lavender, lemon peel, orange peel, mug-wort, tiny pine cones, pine needles, rosemary, rose petals, sassafras, and anything else that's colorful and smells good. Save them for Pru & Penelope.

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! †

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. †

JPD Packet

The JPD Packet is a monthly collection of brochures, workshop fliers, registration forms and information on current and upcoming events of interest to members of the JPD. The March packet can be found at:

<http://www.jpduua.org/pages/jpd-packet-2008.php> †

JPD Conferences!

Inspirational, Practical, Fun, Uplifting

That sums up my experience at the Joseph Priestley District Annual Spring Conference held in Bethesda, MD.

A Mime Presentation by 12 UU youth on our First Principle -- respecting the inherent dignity of the individual -- included taking out one's heart and giving it away only to find that sometimes the heart is rejected -- almost stole the show. The weekend event included 4 worship services filled with music, speakers, meditations, camaraderie and spiritual growth. This included JPD's annual Anti-Racism Service in which the award-winning sermon of the year on social justice was presented by the recipient of the award.

Congratulations to Rev. Louise Green of All Souls Church, Unitarian, in Washington, D.C.

It was also a full weekend for UU youth as they attended events specifically designed for their participation. What a treat to have the older youth amongst us as they chose to attend workshops related to their interests

"Resource heaven" included a booth run by the UUA bookstore filled with a variety of publications gobbled up by UU enthusiasts.

Of course, the UUs of Gettysburg were represented at the Annual business meeting. They know we exist!

The next annual meeting will be in downtown Wilmington, DE. Mark your calendars for April 24, 2009.

Kudos

Thank you to Lynn Skopic for serving as Flower Coordinator and for handing this duty on to Mae Miller. Welcome Mae, to the Aesthetics Committee. †

Cheri Huber to Speak at UCH

Zen teacher and author, Cheri Huber will speak at the UU church of Harrisburg at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20. Cheri has authored several books, including, There is Nothing Wrong with You, The Depression Book, When You're Falling, Dive and her latest book, Transform Your Life. She is the founder of the Paol Alto Zen Center in CA and Living Compassion, a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing peace and compassion to all aspects of life. Her gentleness, clarity, and humor support the challenging work of spiritual growth. This will be Cheri's 7th visit to UCH. No tickets or registration. Reception and book signing will follow.

A car pool is leaving UUG at 5:30 on Tuesday, May 20. Contact Sara for arrangements at unity514@pa.net or 337-3310. †

UU Buddhist Insight Meditation Group

About 25 people welcomed Khenmo Trinlay, ordained Buddhist nun from the Tibetan Meditation Center in Westminster, MD to the UUG Meditation Group on April 6. Her talk, entitled "Loving Kindness" was inspirational, practical, and stimulated reflective thought. She will be returning on May 4, June 15 and July 6 to talk about Compassion, Equanimity and Sympathetic Joy.

May schedule: Sundays 6:30 -- 8 p.m. UUG Sanctuary

- ☛ May 4-Khenmo Trinlay Tibetan Meditation Center, Westminster "Compassion"
- ☛ May 11-Mitzi Trostle Blue Mountain Lotus Society, Harrisburg "Free Your Mind: the Four Directions of an Awakened Life"
- ☛ May 18-Linda Beare "Inner Peace" Kalpa Bhadra Buddhist Center, Harrisburg
- ☛ May 25-Mitzi Trostle "The Five Stages: How the Ego Self Came to Be"

RE Topic and Volunteer Schedule Is Now On-Line (Thank You Tom)

We now have an easily accessible on-line schedule for members and visitors to see.

If you are available for any of the open dates, please let me know. If you cannot volunteer on the day assigned please let me know as soon as possible.

Please go to the website and take a look;

www.uugettysburg.org

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.

MAY 4, Rev. Carol Taylor and Rev. Kate Bortner- "Who's the Minister around Here?" - Rev. Carol Taylor comes to us from the Joseph Priestley District as adjunct staff. A recently retired UU minister with a long career in Religious Education, large church leadership, parish and interim ministries, Carol will receive an honorary Doctor's degree in June from Meadville Lombard Seminary. Carol will be working with UUG and Rev. Kate as a consultant in the coming months.

MAY 11, Rev. Joan M. Sabatino – "A Mother's Day Reflection." No one get into this world without a mother. There are many facets of our mothers, and many women (and men) who have never birthed a child do possess mothering qualities. We all know individuals in addition to our biological mothers who "mother" us throughout our lives. From these truths one might say, "Moms make the world go round." This morning's service will allow time for gratitude, honoring, or simply reflecting on your mother, all mothers, and Mother Earth.

Joan M. Sabatino is in her fifth year of ministry with the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Indiana, PA. She is the biological mother of Jessica and Johnna, and stepmother of Erin. In Indiana she was influential in the Indiana Chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Friends, Families of Lesbians and Gays),



36 S. Steeple Chase
Gettysburg, PA 17325

and is a member of ICC (The Indiana Cares Campaign to End Homophobia).

MAY 18, the Rev. Henry Simoni-Wastila – "Turn the Other Cheek and the Ground of Being." If someone hits you, the natural response is to hit back, or at least defend oneself. Is Jesus talking about pacifism, about not defending oneself? Or is the New Testament using a koan-like saying to get us to think through the long-term issues of violence, peace and how we model behavior to the world?

The Rev. Henry Simoni-Wastila has served the Cedarhurst Unitarian Universalists in Finksburg, MD since 2001. Originally from Massachusetts where he earned a Ph.D. in the philosophy of religion at Boston University, he also teaches humanities at local colleges.

MAY 25, the Rev. Beth Graham – "Stubborn Ounces" The world can be a tough place. There always seems to be more "need" out there than can ever be fixed. So why do we even try? Because doing so is a religious response – our religious response – to life's challenges and injustices. Gathering as a people of faith in our UU congregations helps us to nurture our spirit, so we can help heal the world.

The Rev. Beth Graham is the Associate Vice President for Steward-Ship and Development and Senior Advisor to the President of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. She lives in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

JUNE 1, Susan Swope – Flower Communion. Since it was first celebrated in Czechoslovakia on June 4, 1923, the flower communion has become a UU tradition around the world. Help to make it a tradition for UUG. Bring a flower or flowers from your garden or the roadside. This is a family-friendly service.

Susan Swope co-chairs UUG's worship committee. She seeks to develop meaningful rituals.

