



# The Unitarian Universalists of Gettysburg Newsletter

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June 2008

## FREE World Religions Camp

Spirit Camp: World Religions, K-6 grades - 7/14 to 7/18, 6:30-8:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalists of Gettysburg (UUG).

This year's Spirit Camp explores the similarities and differences between World Religions. Each day will focus on a different world religion – Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. Learning activities will include costumes, music, art projects and much more. Spirit Camp provides a safe, welcome setting in which children can explore their spiritual sides as well as expanding their minds and exercising their artistic expression. There is NO proselytizing or preaching. However, we do encourage children to think about how people other than themselves express their spirituality.

Spirit Camp is open to all children in grades K to 6 and older kids are encouraged to volunteer as helpers. There is no charge for Spirit Camp and campers from all religions, churches, and spiritual traditions are welcome. We do ask that children register for the camp in advance so that we know how many supplies to purchase for art projects and other activities.

To register, please email the following information to: Sabrina Paxton-Daily at [slpd@mac.com](mailto:slpd@mac.com) or Denise Weldon-Siviy at [weldonsiviy@yahoo.com](mailto:weldonsiviy@yahoo.com).

Name of child (ren), age(s), parent name, address, phone number, and email address (if available). †

## Religious Education Committee

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

## From Your Minister

*"The person without a spiritual practice will dry up and blow away."* Harry Scholefield

This time of year is renewal time for many ministers. Immediately after the May 4th service with you, Rev. Carol Taylor, Rev. Bob Renjilian from York and I joined our JPD colleagues at our annual spring retreat in Lewes, Delaware.

The Rev. Laurel Hallman traveled from our Dallas Texas Church to bring her devotional study program Living By Heart. Based upon her 20 year conversation with mentor Harry Scholefield, this program provides a structure for individuals and groups to grow in spiritual practice.

Spring has its own call on my soul to refresh itself. Steeped in poetry, reciting for one another our favorites, 50 ministers inspired me to write my own meditation: based upon a long ago memory:

My Spirit's bare feet  
Dance along the tops of spring wheat  
Surfing green waves  
Radiant sun kissing  
My Soul's face.

Unitarian Universalists are willing to claim spirituality more readily than religiosity. The paradox is that while spirituality is lived theology there is really nothing we can DO in its pursuit...except listen, wait and be aware.

I urge you to practice listening, engage in the sacrament of the present moment.

Wait for what the world around you brings to your welcoming heart.

*Rev. Kate*

To learn more:

Rev. Laurel Hallman and Rev. Peter Morales are candidates for UUA President see:

[www.uuworld.org/news/articles/102252.shtml](http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/102252.shtml).

For information about Living by Heart see:

[www.uusdn.org/laurel\\_hallman.html](http://www.uusdn.org/laurel_hallman.html)

Harry Scholefield (for almost 25 years the Sr. Minister at First Unitarian Church, San Francisco, and after that Adjunct Professor at Starr King). †

## Book Discussion

The next session of "Challenging Beliefs" will take place at 7 pm, Monday, June 16 at UUG. Under discussion will be the new book by Chris Hedges, I Don't Believe in Atheists (Free Press, 2008).

Hedges takes issue with both Christian fundamentalists and those he calls the "new atheists" (Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, and Sam Harris). His religious focus is less on the existence or nonexistence of a God and more on

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Co-Editors: Gerry Ellefson and Kris Eysell

## Intuitive Gardening & Holistic Thoughts

With apologies (and thanks) to May Sarton, “digging deep” is a creative, rewarding approach to gardening as well as spirituality. There is a creative unfolding that can unearth your garden spirits as well as your own psychic roots when you take the time to tune-in to nature. I taught Intuitive Gardening as an extension of my own lifestyle; centering myself in the garden through the rollercoaster ride of life, remembering early garden experiences and how they made me feel...connected to Mother Earth, to countless relatives who worked the soil, to lessons learned from a lifetime digging, imagining, envisioning, planning, planting, tending, enjoying, completing.

A “walkabout” in one’s own garden space and observance of what Nature has already provided, listening to the clues given (think micro-climates) and then working with what you’ve got is how to garden intuitively. Got rocks? Use ‘em! Nature isn’t a hobby – it is part of us, as we are part of it. Respect this, and welcome the full spectrum of joy, beauty, philosophy-through-failure and those inevitable Kokopelli moments – accept and share with Nature and her whims (where did those bulbs move to this year?).

There are many sources (the library, the Ag Center!) for organic pest controls, recipes and suggestions for easier gardening with natural solutions. Use them...it’s a Karma thing, right? Remember Vincent Van Gogh’s words – “if you truly love nature, you will find beauty everywhere.” And I agree – as well as a spin on Emerson’s “The earth laughs in flowers”...and weeds!

Play in your garden; with shapes, colors, containers, results. Edibles or ornamentals – patience and practice will yield results. Judge not! – Even Thomas Jefferson wrote that “though an old man, I am but a young gardener.” It’s all good – celebrate and connect with the plant divas. Heal yourself and the earth by organic composting, gardening, dining! Blessed be.

Andrea M. Theisson (for the Sustainable Living Committee)

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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.uugettsburg.org](http://www.uugettsburg.org) or e-mail [uugettsburg@hotmail.com](mailto:uugettsburg@hotmail.com).

**Vegetarian-Vegan Support Group, June 4, 1st Wednesdays, 6p.m., at the UUG.** Scott Hill will host this potluck. If you haven’t sampled previous feasts or experienced the ambiance and warm fuzzies of the people who come, you just might consider seriously about coming to see what we’re about. Bring a non-meat dish or non-meat/non-dairy dish. Bring your own utensils to spare a tree. However, we have extra utensils on hand so you won’t have to eat w/ your fingers. Optional, bring copies of your recipe!

the complexity of human beings, including both the search for transcendence and the capacity to do evil.

Hedges’ background is a curious mix: after graduating from Harvard Divinity School and choosing not to enter the ministry, he became a foreign correspondent for the New York Times for almost two decades.

He is the author of several recent books: the caustically-named War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning, Losing Moses on the Freeway: the 10 Commandments in America, and American Fascists.

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

## A UUG Cookbook?

Hark, gourmets, gourmands, and even those who do not speak French! An audacious group of members and friends of our congregation has undertaken to produce a UUG cookbook. And we know at least two things about UUs. Next to talking, they love eating. Our many potlucks, vegan and vegetarian dinners, and special edibles after our Sunday services tell us they also know something about cooking.

Will you share your secrets? We envision a cookbook we would publish both for our own delectation and as a fundraiser. It also is a way of reaching a larger public and telling it about us.

What recipes could you contribute to our cookbook? Let’s go beyond the usual categories. Sure, we welcome recipes for appetizers, beverages, cakes, cookies, desserts, soups, salads, casseroles, main course meals of seafood or meat, pasta dishes, and vegetables. But what else?

How about vegan and vegetarian dishes? Outrageously unhealthy but delicious fare? Family favorites? Dishes easy to prepare? Holiday specials? Elegant creations? Everyday standbys? Recipes from UUs elsewhere in our country? And as usual for UUs, anything else we have failed to mention.

I have offered to serve as a collection point for recipes, and will attempt to prepare them for publication. Please add any comments you would care to share about your recipes. Send recipes to Bruce Boenau at [ablhboenau@superpa.net](mailto:ablhboenau@superpa.net) or by postal mail at 154 S. Hay Street, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

This project can be fun for us and we will enjoy the culinary possibilities it will offer. Please consider sending some recipes. †

## 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](mailto:unity514@pa.net), 337-3310 †

## What is Murray Grove Retreat Center?

Murray Grove is located on the site where John Murray, one of the founders of the Universalist denomination, gave his first Universalist sermon on the American continent in 1770. The Center is a sacred place to many, a historic site to others and a place where people gather to get in touch with their roots, themselves and one another. Murray Grove is a peaceful place that allows guests to disconnect from the concerns of their everyday lives and concentrate fully on what brings them there. Murray Grove belongs to YOU! You're invited to any of the following:

July 11/13 Ways to the Spirit -- Spiritual Practice for UUs. (Prayer, meditation, art, music, movement, yoga, reiki, labyrinth walking, silence, spiritual direction -- all designed to help you get in touch w/ the spirit within. \$290 Includes reg., food/lodging.

Aug.15/17 Community Drum Festival! Express yourself creatively & spiritually! Afro-Brazilian, Latin & West African Drumming & Af. Dance \$225 (or sign up for one day only -- \$50 w/ meal.

Sept. 27 10 a.m./4:00 Homecoming: A Mid-Atlantic UU Celebration "Truth, Repair and Reconciliation: A Journey in the Spirit of Universalism"

Music, Workshops, Fellowship, Fun -- Under the big white tent. Cost ?

Nov. 6/9 Autumn Equinox Retreat -- A Harmony of Inward and Outward

Learning. Audience -- over 50 set from Age-ing to Sage-ing. "Facing My Mortality" -- Legal, medical, fiscal and spiritual preparations, mentoring, leaving a legacy, ethical wills, elder blessing: Elders as Healers, Elders as Peacemakers (Yoga, Photography, Mobiles, Community Mandala, Gray Doves. \$248 For more information, email murraygrove@murraygrove.org or Sara at unity514@pa.net, or 420-0031 cell to coordinate car-pooling, registration, and to see brochures. †

## 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! †

## 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. †

## Committees, meetings, policy, agendas

These are all on the mind of many of us when we think of UUG..... Blah blah blah yada yada yada ... As a committee chair I have made a commitment to fulfill a responsible duty to our congregation. I definitely honor that AND I see many of my beloved UUG friends overextending themselves as UUG moves from a bunch of folks meeting at a B&B to a full scale organization.

I think all of us need to look at what our expectations of UUG are. Do we just need a peaceful place to hang out Sunday mornings? Do we need a resource for spiritual growth? Do we need community for the good and tough times life throws at us? As the Board looks at which way we are heading and what needs to be developed, Board members need to know who UUG members are. To this end, membership is looking at making up a survey to understand who the collective congregation is. Not only members but also friends, those folks who attend, but have not yet (or never may) sign the membership book. I would ask each of us to think about what we want from UUG. For example, is Religious Education critical to us? Weigh in with your soul and let your heart feel what is really needed.

For myself; I treasure that I am welcomed just as I am, flaws and all, AND Sereck is loved even when he checks socks without asking.

*Melissa Sandoe, Membership Chair* †

## Think Your Chili Can't Be Beat?

The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Gettysburg Cannonball Chili Cook Off, Saturday, July 12, 2008. Held by the Unitarian Universalists of Gettysburg, at Monahan's Gateway Gettysburg, Route 30 at Interstate 15.

Cooking – 10:30 a.m., Tasting – 2 p.m.

Divisions: Texas, Open, Vegetarian/Vegan.

Cash Prizes and Showmanship Awards.

For more information contact Cookie Driscoll @ 717-642-5917 or Randy Miller @ 717-549-3378. †

## UU Buddhist Insight Meditation Group

The UU Buddhist Insight Meditation Group continues to meet Sunday evenings at 6:30.

Here is the June schedule:

- ☉ June 1–Linda Beare, Kalpa Bhadra Buddhist Center, Harrisburg "Cherishing Others"
- ☉ June 8–Mitzi Trostle, Blue Mountain Lotus Society, Zen Buddhism, Harrisburg "Free Your Mind: The Four Directions of an Awakened Life" based on book by Anthony Stultz.
- ☉ June 15–Khenmo Trinlay, Tibetan Meditation Center, Westminster, MD "Sympathetic Joy"
- ☉ June 22–Linda Beare, Kalpa Bhadra Buddhist Center, Harrisburg "Taking and Giving"
- ☉ June 29–UU Buddhist Insight Meditation Dharma talk, discussion and meditation. †

## 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.**

**JUN 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.

**JUN 8, Rev. Kate Bortner "Standing on the Side of Love".** This new hymn, commissioned by our President William Sinkford, speaks not only to our commitment to equal marriage rites but to the larger implications of claiming love as a principle for our lives and what that means in our daily life.

Rev. Kate Bortner is the Consulting Minister for UUG.

**JUN 15, Lou Hammann – "Where are my Keys?"** My old keys don't fit as I make different decisions based on new interpretations of the Bible. I see the Bible as a library with lots of books written in different times.

Lou Hammann is a semi-retired Emeritus Professor of Religion and Adjunct Professor of Philosophy at Gettysburg College. He is a founding member of Hundredfold Farm near Ortanna, and always politically engaged as well as engaging.

**JUNE 22, Heather Gehron-Rice: "Celebrating Summer Solstice."** Summer Solstice marks the official first day of summer, and the longest day of the year. Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is one of the most popular renditions of this time of year. Millenia before Shakespeare, people from all over the world honored and celebrated the longest day of the year. How do we honor the turning of the wheel of the year?

Heather Gehron-Rice recently earned a Masters of Divinity from the Lancaster Theological Seminary and is on a journey leading to ordination with the Unitarian Universalist Association. She has served in the United States Coast Guard and is currently directing a Handchime Choir at the UU Church of Lancaster.

**JUNE 29, Dick Anliot – "Does the Bible make it So?"** Too many people choose their values on the basis of who said it or where it is written. The Bible, the Koran, Jesus, Gandhi, a priest, or the Torah are examples. But what is the real basis of what works for us as individuals? Dick will explore how we as UU adults learn to think for ourselves and understand the consequences of our behaviors and actions.

Dick Anliot 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 third graders in Harrisburg, records for the blind, and photographs the activities of Habitat for Humanity.



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