

THE REPORTER

The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg • January 2010 • Vol. 45, No. 5

Listening Assistance Devices available, see an usher for assistance. The building is handicap accessible.
Child care for children under age 6 is available during both services.

January Services		
3	9:30 & 11:00	A Corner of the City
10	9:30	at Clover Lane: Second Sunday Forum
	11:00	at 1508 Market Street: Knowing Our Neighbors
17	9:30 & 11:00	Why Be Good ... For Nothing?
24	9:30 & 11:00	To Seek a World Free from Oppression and Injustice
31	9:30 & 11:00	Colombia

From Your Minister

*The Reverend
Howard N. Dana*

Many of these dollars come back to us in crucial services, but with UUA dues at \$57 per member per year, this payment becomes substantial. So, the annual question is always, "How many members DO we have?"

Per the UCH bylaws, a member is someone who has signed the membership book and contributed money and/or service in a given year. This is a really low bar! A signature and \$25 would do it. Heck, a signature and two hours of service would count. Most active UCH members do much, much more. Membership means something more to them—thank goodness. All the Church literature I read says the same thing. The higher the expectations for membership, the more people will give. And the more they get from Church. High buy-in results in high yield. As you sow, so shall you reap. So why is it hard for us to certify our membership each year? It is hard because it means letting go of some people who have been at the margins of our congregations (sometimes for years).

There is great excitement when someone new joins the Church. We celebrate this milestone in worship. He or she get lots of attention. But when someone drifts quietly away from Church, months (or years) can go by before someone notices. The person or family can have drifted so far away by the time their absence is discovered that it is impossible to bring them back. Our Membership Action Counsel is working on a system to reach out to people who have drifted away. But the sad fact is that they have often drifted away through their own

(Continued on page 5)

President's Message

Cathy Montes

Building from Within

Those who have been with UCH for the last few years have been through lots of conversations about Church buildings. Though we still have work to do to take care of our Churches at Clover Lane and Market Street, it's time to also talk about a different kind of "building."

Think about buildings you have seen during construction. When my mom and dad built their house, they took a picture of it every day - pictures of the foundation, framing, trusses, electrical wiring and plumbing. When the house was finished, you couldn't see those structures, but they were there behind the brick facade, wall-board, and furnishings. Those structures made the house livable. When we turned on a light switch, we got light. When it rained, we were dry.

A Church organization has infrastructures that are much like a home's foundation, framing, plumbing, and wiring. They are essential, but who really wants to think about them? We hope they don't break, wear out, or become too limited for our expanding needs. Yet this unseen infrastructure makes it possible to perform the Church's primary work like caring for members and friends, celebrating and sharing in community, and working side-by-side for peace and justice.

Our Church's growth has created the need for some of this "behind the scenes" infrastructure. A short list includes expanding our capacity to manage the bookkeeping for a \$675,000 budget. Sharing our message will require a media ministry and sophisticated Internet presence. If we are to

(Continued on page 5)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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January 2010

1
Happy
New
Year!

3 Services 9:30 & 11:00 AM Explore UCH after services Doyle <i>COUCH</i> 7 PM	4 Youth RGL Cmte 1 pm Yoga 6:30 pm Hellmann <i>COUCH</i> 7 PM	5 Mindfulness Meditation Group 7 PM FINANCE CMTE 7:30 Helping Women in Prison & Their Families 7:30	6 QueenSpirit Potluck & Circle 6 pm AI-Anon 6 pm <i>Community Cmte</i> 7 PM	7 Tyger <i>COUCH</i> 9:30 AM Unisingers 7 pm	8 UCH Playgroup 9:30 AM	9
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Youth Overnight

10 REPORTER deadline Clover Lane Forum 9:30 Second Sunday in the City (Market Street) 11:00 AM Phil & Lit 7:30	11 Yoga 6:30 pm	12 Adult Religious Growth & Learning: Nutrition Class 6 PM MMG 7 PM	13 QueenSpirit Adult RGL: Cakes for the Queen of Heaven 6 pm AI-Anon 6 pm Board Mtg 7 PM	14 Dooley <i>COUCH</i> 1 PM Unisingers 7 pm	15 UCH Playgroup 9:30 AM Clover Lane Coffeehouse 8:00 PM	16 Facilitated Visioning Session 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM <i>Pre-registration required. See Page 4</i> Coffeehouse 7 pm
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17 Services 9:30 & 11:00 AM Explore UCH after services	18 Yoga 6:30 pm Hellmann <i>COUCH</i> 7 PM	19 PRIDEFEST MTG 6:30 PM MMG 7 PM	20 QueenSpirit Adult RGL: Cakes... 6 pm AI-Anon 6 pm Clover Grove 7 PM <i>Community Cmte</i> 7 PM	21 Tyger <i>COUCH</i> 9:30 AM Unisingers 7 pm	22 UCH Playgroup 9:30 AM Adult RGL: Harrisburg/area & the Civil War 7 PM	23 Green Sanctuary: Awakening the Dreamer 9 am to 4 pm
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24 Services 9:30 & 11:00 AM Roe v. Wade Commemorative Service 3 PM	25 Yoga 6:30 pm	26 MMG 7 PM <i>Membership Action Council</i> 7 PM	27 QueenSpirit Adult RGL: Cakes... 6 pm AI-Anon 6 pm	28 Dooley <i>COUCH</i> 1 PM Unisingers 7 pm	29 UCH Playgroup 9:30 AM Adult RGL: Underground RR in Harrisburg 7 PM	30 Pathway to Membership: So You Want to be a UU? 9 AM - 1 PM
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31 Services 9:30 & 11:00 AM	<p>What's Happening at Market Street?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Narcotics Anonymous will meet every Wednesday at 4:00 PM. o A drumming circle is being held every second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM, in Fellowship Hall, and is open to the public. All types of percussion are welcome. For more details, contact JD Stillwater or Brian Kahler. 					
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MEMBERSHIP ACTION COUNCIL NEWS

JOYS & CONCERNS

Reserved for Members of UCH

The Membership Action Council (MAC) continues to extend a warm smile and hearty greeting to one and all ~ and you can, too! As a gentle reminder to UCH members, please wear your name tag to services and greet people sitting nearby, especially anyone whose face is new to you. Please remember: YOU are the face of the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg!

MAC also welcomes tactical support, if you are available for our concierge crew. The concierge serves in the Common Room (Clover Lane) or Social Hall (Market Street) after each service and keeps an eye out for guests and visitors; you'll serve once a quarter, based on availability.

In addition, we are helping to organize a re-membering process in 2010. If you know members who haven't been around in a while (or ex-members who would welcome/allow a visit), we will "reach out and touch." Our goal is to re-connect with people who are drifting away from participating in the greatest church in Harrisburg.

Finally, we welcome additional members to the MAC. We meet once a month (fourth Tuesday) to strategize on how to be a warm and welcoming congregation. Duties also include serving at the Welcome Table in the foyer, two services every other month, where joyous surprises are occasionally in store. Reports MAC member Marge Forster:

"Recently a tall young man asked for his name tag, and it was Sam Kohler announcing 'We're back!' He was referring also to his parents Jim and Jan from Carlisle. When last seen in 1997, Sam was barely a toddler! We are also anxious to catch up on his brother, Henry."

Please contact Leta Beam for information about serving in any capacity.

Submitted by Leta Beam

Update: Durall Report

After Church consultant Michael Durall visited us the weekend of October 13, he sent a preliminary report with seven recommendations. This report was mailed or e-mailed Church wide. We invited members to provide feedback on this report. Sixty-one of you did, so thank you for taking time to share your thoughts!

Your feedback was sent to Michael Durall, who will prepare a final report based on feedback from Church members and leadership. Meanwhile, your trustees and pastoral staff will do two things: review your feedback, and then develop a plan to decide which recommendations from the final report will be implemented, how and when we should implement them, and how we will monitor results.

Submitted by Cathy Montes

Lifetime Membership...is the highest honor this congregation, through its elected Board of Trustees, can bestow upon its members.

Lifetime Membership is awarded to individuals who have been members for at least 25 years, and have engaged in exemplary volunteer and leadership roles.

On November 22, 2009, Lifetime Membership was awarded to Dawn Duffins, Doug and Joyce Hoskins, and Michael Mark, with gratitude for their contributions of time, talent, and treasure.

Submitted by Rachel Mark

January 16: Envision the Future of the UCH

As most of you sense, the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg (UCH) is at a historic crossroads, a moment when opportunity and action are intersecting in many ways. What we do next with these amazing sparks of possibility is ours to choose.

The UCH Board of Trustees and pastoral staff are committed to creating a powerful vision for our future and developing a strategic plan to move us toward it. But that is not our work alone; we invite every member to join us in imagining our future together.

We believe it is important to our long-term success as a congregation to share ownership – to co-create – our Church’s vision and the overarching strategies to make it come true. In this way, our process will be enhanced by the perspective of all members, and we will be positioned to make better decisions based on collective input. We believe the visions and strategic plans that ignite the most passion, bring out the best in people, and ultimately achieve the best results are ones that are co-created by the members of an organization, working along with the leadership. We also believe the time to envision the future is now.

In the spirit of gathering collective energy, we have asked UCH member Leta Beam, a business coach and business planning specialist, to facilitate a half-day visioning session that will be both highly interactive and structured. The goal of the session is to accomplish the following:

- Produce a draft UCH vision statement and 4-6 draft strategies to create and sustain the momentum to live into our vision.
- Enhance ownership of our collective future and build energy and enthusiasm.
- Align us to collectively take inspired action together.
- Assist the Board of Trustees and pastoral staff in fulfilling their leadership responsibilities.

Following the session, Leta will provide a draft document to the Board and staff for review, refinement, and finalization.

Leta is an internationally recognized leadership and business coach and has assisted many organizations through successful strategic thinking processes. She has wholeheartedly accepted our invitation and volunteered her time and talents to this initiative.

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HARRISBURG, PA 17113

We invite you to participate in this visioning process. Here are the details:

WHO: All adult and teen members are invited to participate.

WHEN: 9 AM to 12:30 PM Saturday, January 16, 2010

WHERE: UCH Common Room (Clover Lane); child care will be available.

Please contact the Church office by January 8 to request child care.

WHAT: A highly interactive, fun, spirited co-creative program. Registrants will do their “homework” ahead of time by organizing their thinking using a simple visioning worksheet. In the UU spirit, rules of engagement will be co-created.

The outcome of the program is to develop draft material and provide it to the Board of Trustees and staff to assist them in creating a compelling Church-wide vision and a robust strategic plan! Ultimate decision making continues to rest with the Board, now informed by the congregation’s contribution to the process.

REGISTRATION:

Pre-registration is required. Please register by **Monday, January 4** by calling the Church Office or emailing Kate Carpenter at kate.d.carpenter@gmail.com. After registering, you will receive more information about how to prepare for the visioning session. If you will be unable to attend, you may complete the visioning worksheet and submit it prior to the visioning session.

*Submitted by Cathy Montes,
on behalf of the UCH Board of Trustees*



Thank you all for contributing to the cookbook and supporting the Church by buying it! We hope that you have already experimented with some of the recipes and have had delicious meals and treats! Our committee always knew that some of the best cooks around go to UCH! Thank you again for your support!

The Cookbook Committee

President's Message

Cathy Montes

From Your Minister

Rev. Howard N. Dana

(Continued from page 1)

free our ministers to do pastoral work, then we must find other ways to manage personnel and facilities. Plus we need better ways to share information across 420+ members, plus children and youth, friends, volunteer and paid staff, trustees, our partners at Shared Ministry, and future partners.

The good news is we have among our members and friends the talent and skills to perform all those functions and more. We (that means all of us!) already rely upon volunteer investment professionals, grant writers, a human resource professional, lawyers, an executive coach, and a web designer. So what are your skills and talents? Are you a supervisor, manager, or administrator? A marketer, communicator, or fundraiser? A bookkeeper, buyer, contractor, or tradesperson? An organizational designer, entrepreneur, or sales person?

All work is holy, even that which is sometimes hidden. Whatever your skills and talent, imagine how you might use them in service of the Church, especially within UCH itself. Then - volunteer! Opportunities could run the gamut, from sitting on an advisory council to Church leadership, serving as a trustee, serving as volunteer staff in administrative jobs, teaching a class in your subject area for lay leaders and volunteers, to simply introducing one skilled person to another. Together we can build a strong foundation for our future hopes and dreams.

2010 HERSHEY PARK

Discount Tickets

The UCH High School Youth Group will be selling discount tickets for Hershey Park for the 2010 season to help offset costs of our mission trip to New Orleans coming up in June 2010. Tickets are at an all-time low for UCH members, friends and family.

Tickets will be sold before and after both services on the following Sundays: January 17, January 24, February 7, March 7, and March 21.

Buy your tickets now for yourself, your kids, your family or friends. You'll save a lot and also help our high school youth get to New Orleans!

Contact person: Bobby Wright (717) 421-5232 or email at bsparty-irish@msn.com

Ticket Prices: Regular Ticket (ages 9-54) - \$34 (reg park price \$52.95) Junior Ticket (ages 3-8) - \$27 (reg park price \$31.95) Senior Ticket (ages 55-69) - \$27 (reg park price \$31.95) Senior Plus Ticket (age 70+) - \$20.95

Submitted by Bobby Wright

Thank you!

The UCH Youth thank you for your generous support of the youth scholarship fund. Youth worked hard to choose soup recipes, purchase ingredients, chop vegetables, stir the pots, and set up the tables for the dinner at the Deck the Halls event. That night six hundred dollars was collected for the youth scholarship fund. This fund allows UCH youth to participate in Church events even when short on funds.

Submitted by Wendy Shaver

(Continued from page 1)

disengagement. In many instances our Church has not expected enough of its members. If we don't hold people to a high level of involvement, we shouldn't be surprised when they drift away.

In his consulting work with us Mike Durall encouraged us to raise the bar for membership participation. To this end, he suggested that we hold up our already high (but often unspoken) expectations. Here is what I understand these expectations of membership to be:

- Sign the membership book.
- Attend Sunday morning worship every Sunday you are in town.
- Volunteer your time to at least one Church-related activity each month.
- Pledge 3% to 5% of your individual gross income to the Church budget.
- Bring your children to the Religious Growth and Learning program every Sunday.
- Invite your friends, coworkers, neighbors, and family to Church as appropriate.
- Vote at every congregational meeting.

These actions are what every member of UCH is expected to do. None of us will be perfect at fulfilling them, but they are what is expected of us, nonetheless. The certification number we send to the UUA matters much less than the degree to which our members are living up to our expectations. The bar is high at UCH because membership is important. We are not a casual organization doing little in the world. We are a radical, faith-based, life-saving Church with a strong, healing ministry to do in the world.

I know that we will drop some members off our rolls (with true sadness) when we certify with the UUA in February. We will have reached out to these members in every way we can think of. They have simply drifted too far away. I wish these people could remember the excitement they felt the day they first joined our congregation. I wish they could trust that the Church (while far from perfect) is one of the best ways to be of good use in the world. I wish they could see the deep spiritual needs that the Church might fill if they would only engage more. Members who give time to the Church find that time comes back to them. Members who give money to the Church find that they are richly rewarded in return. May we all take seriously the expectations of membership in the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg. May we love this community so that it might love us back. See you in Church.

Love, Howard

As I write these words, we are deep in the throes of another holiday season. As much as I promise myself each year that I will not get caught up in all of the commercial craziness of the season, I always find myself pulled into the frenzy of holiday shopping and obligations, most of which does not feed my soul. Often, I think many of us find ourselves feeling worn and tired rather than joyous and celebratory.

I recently participated in UCH's inaugural 2nd Saturday breakfast, serving the Allison Hill community a hot breakfast in our Market Street building. The Shared Ministry has been serving breakfast in this community on the 4th Saturday of the month and several UCHers have been volunteers, but this was the first time that UCH was the host. This effort was ably led by Clay & Erica Lambert and Tom & Meg Connors, with scores of other volunteers. Other than the understandable bumps in the road that came from it being a new service project for us, it went quite well, with many guests from the neighborhood for fine food and conversation as well as the fine accordion stylings of EvAnn Hawley, who played an amazing assortment of holiday tunes. The day also found another group of people from UCH, led by Kevin Geist, offering the gift of professional photographs to more than 100 of those who live in the neighborhood.

As I reflected on the event, from a practical point of view, but also from a spiritual one, I thought about what the holiday season brings for many of the folks in the Allison Hill neighborhood. Many of them struggle each and every day to provide even the most basic needs for themselves and their families. Although I have never been in that position, I would guess that this constant fight for survival leaves them feeling hopeless, weary and drained every day, not just during and after the holiday season. I was reminded of how extraordinarily lucky I am and that, no matter how frenzied my life seems, I still can count on a warm place to sleep and enough to eat.

Our church community is poised on the cusp of some-

thing truly amazing, an opportunity to make a real difference to those among us who suffer from oppression, injustice, and a loss of that from which meaningful living is made: a sense of hope. We can be the hands that help to bring about the change that we all agree is needed, and this work of service will allow us to see our principles as tools rather than simply words. In doing this we will deepen our understanding of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist, and more importantly, a human being. The social justice work at Market Street is a golden opportunity to truly understand what Gandhi meant when he said: "You must be the change you wish to see in the world".

In January (the 17th and 24th) I will be preaching on both the "why" and the "how" of this rewarding and difficult work of social justice. I am hoping to begin a dialogue about how we sustain ourselves for the long haul in what is often work that seems endless and sometimes fruitless. I will also be leading a class based on Rev. Richard Gilbert's book *The Prophetic Imperative* in which he addresses how our heritage compels us to do this work. I hope to see many of you on those Sundays and in that class, I am looking forward to hearing your ideas and perspectives. If you have thoughts or ideas about our work at Market Street, please call or e-mail me, the more folks we have thinking about this, the better!

As I said at the beginning of this column, I know that many of you are feeling the pressures of this holiday season. Please be sure to take care of yourselves and when you are feeling harried, remember to take a moment and just breathe. As a community, let's work to treat each other with extra love and kindness over the next few weeks.

In closing I want to offer up these words, which help me to find my calm center. They are found in one of our hymns "Find a Stillness"

Find a stillness, hold a stillness, let the stillness carry me
Find the silence, hold the silence, let the silence carry me
In the spirit, by the spirit, with the spirit, giving power
I will find true harmony.

*Peace & Blessings,
Suzanne*

Religious Growth & Learning

Dear Friends,
I'll truly miss my Church family while on sabbatical. I'll be gone from mid-January until mid-March. Many capable leaders in the children and youth program will help keep things running smoothly in my absence.

Best wishes for a fulfilling and healthy new year!

*In faith,
Trish*

December

- 27 Holiday weekend, child care provided, no children's programming

January

- 3 Regular group sessions for children and youth
- 10 Multigenerational Service 11:00 at Market St. Childcare provided
- 17 Regular group sessions for children and youth
- 24 Regular group sessions for children and youth
- 31 Regular group sessions for children and youth



From Your STEWARDSHIP Coordinator

To help with the 2010 pledge drive: if you can write or edit drafts, have time to call more people to volunteer, have a testimonial as to why you've already made the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg the number one receiver of your financial gifts, or want to help serve brunch at Market Street in March let me know! Sign up by calling Alanna Berger or emailing her at stewardship@harrisburguu.org.

Changing the World, One Heart at a Time

As we gear up for our 2010 pledge drive, one thing I've noticed over the years is that people who feel connected to our Church – its members, activities, goals and mission – tend to pledge generously. And so, one of the things our Stewardship Committee will be asking for in the coming weeks is *your* story.

This story isn't just about why UCH is important to you. It's about how UCH has made it possible for you to make a difference in the world. Here's one of my many examples:

A week before Thanksgiving, I called my state representative's office to encourage him to vote for the hate crimes legislation. When asked why I supported it, I decided to use "real or perceived ancestry" as my first argument in favor of passing this legislation, since my son-in-law is from Morocco and is frequently intimidated in his workplace. Imagine my surprise when the voice on the other end said "If he's really a Muslim and embraces the Koran, he would kill you in an instant." I was gob-smacked, to say the least, and grateful for my Silent Witness training, but I was still shaking when I hung up the phone. I called Rabbi Carl Choper, (leader of The Interfaith Alliance as well as the person who alerted us to the opportunity at 1508 Market Street) and Ann Van Dyke (PA-Human Relations Commission Task Force on Civil Tension and member of the Shared Ministry congregation). Between the two of them, I was connected to the Lancaster Human Relations Commission and the Council on American-Islamic Relations. A week later, on the day before Thanksgiving, a Muslim, a Jew and a UU met with two Christians to try to find peace and common

ground – a shared understanding of what it means to be a minority in this Commonwealth, and why we look to the government to protect everyone's safety.

For other examples of such stories, see the accounts by Tom Conners of a poignant recent experience in his note entitled "Helping:" and by Gloria and Joyce under the heading "Serving", both on page 11.

These are the kinds of opportunities I am afforded because I am a member of the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg – the opportunity to be an instrument in helping to change the world, one heart at a time.

Because of the generous contributions of each and every member of this congregation, this Church exists. Because this Church exists, there are compassionate and diligent people joining together as members in fellowship and work. Because of the members of this congregation, holding fast to our ideals and supporting each other in our struggle, we have these kinds of opportunities to make a difference in the world. We don't wait to find meaning in our lives – we give life meaning and we give meaning to life. We give generously of our time, talent and treasure.

What is your story? Over the coming weeks, we will be publishing these stories about how – by the grace of your membership in the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg – you have helped change the world, one heart at a time. Look for them in our Weekly Reminder, in our Reporter and on the bulletin board in the hallway off the common room. And start thinking about how *your* generosity to our pledge drive will make it happen.

Alanna Berger, Stewardship Coordinator
717-361-2992, stewardship@harrisburguu.org



Awakening the Dreamer: Changing the Dream Symposium

Unitarian Church of Harrisburg
1280 Clover Lane
Saturday, January 23, 2010
9:30 AM – 4 PM

An idea whose time has come: Bringing forth an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, and socially just world as the guiding principle of our time.

Exploring new possibilities and actions, making the dream a reality.

Sponsored by Green Sanctuary lay-led ministry.

Humanism Lecture Series

The Humanism lectures for spring 2010 will discuss humanism in the major world religions. One lecture will investigate the long tradition of humanism in Judaism. Another will study humanism in the Eastern religions. And a third will investigate how humanism has influenced and improved Christianity over the centuries. All lectures will be given by scholars in their respective areas.

All events are free and open to the public, and will be held in the Clover Lane sanctuary. For more information, contact David Spear at 731-9688 or humanists@harrisburguu.org, or visit the UCH website.

Humanism in Judaism

Monday, February 22, 2010, 7:00-8:30 PM
Rabbi Carl Choper
The Religion and Society Center of Harrisburg

How Humanism Has Improved Christianity

Monday, March 22, 2010, 7:00-8:30 PM
Professor Stephen Cooper
Department of Religion, Franklin and Marshall College

Humanism in the Eastern Religions

Monday, April 26, 2010, 7:00-8:30 PM
Sensei Tony Stultz
Blue Mountain Lotus Society

Submitted by David Spear

MINDFULNESS Meditation Group

"In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities: in the expert's mind there are few." Shunryu Suzuki

With the dawning of each New Year there seems to be a promise of new beginnings. We make resolutions and focus our attention onto reorganizing our lives. Often this is a time set aside for improving our lot. When we allow our focus to shift away from self improvement toward beginner's mind, our perspective changes. We give ourselves permission to have a life filled with the wonder and awe of a child, not one filled with fear and judgment based on things that are no longer happening. We allow for an expansion of our awareness to a life wide open.

Please join us as we discover the possibilities together, Tuesday evenings at 7:00 in Margaret Fuller Chapel. January 19th's meditation (the third Tuesday of the month) will be held in complete silence. As always we invite you to join us for the New Years Day Soup and Meditation Supper beginning at 6:00 in the Clover Lane Sanctuary. Please direct questions to Jeanne at 774-1479 or mmg_of_uch@comcast.net.

Submitted by Jeanne Shellman

QueenSpirit POTLUCK & CIRCLE

Wednesday, January 6
6:00 to 9:00 PM

Unitarian Church of Harrisburg
Common Room and Joseph Priestley Room

- ☞ Bring a favorite dish, dessert or beverage to share
- ☞ Bring your place setting and serving spoons and plates
- ☞ Bring warm socks or slippers and a snuggly cover to keep yourself warm.

JOURNEY OF THE TRUE SELF

During this reflective time of winter darkness, we will use ritual, poetry and silence will prepare us to listen to the voice of the higher self. Facilitated by Julianna Sillett and Mary Ann Rhoads

QueenSpirit is a co-created women's spirituality circle.

Submitted by Anne Moore

*May all of your troubles last as long
as your resolutions.*

Joey Adams

YRUU Events for January

YRUU = Young Religious Unitarian Universalists
= High School Youth Group

January 3, 12:30-2:00: Potluck and visioning session for YRUU families. Families will share their hopes for future programming and vote on the things that should be given high priority for 2010.

January 8-9, 7 PM – 4 PM: Cluster Con (overnight retreat for youth from area UU Churches) Beverly Roth, UCH senior, has been elected by her peers in the district to be the cluster representative for our part of the district. As the cluster representative she is organizing this retreat. In Beverly's words, "The evening will begin with some icebreaker games, before going over the rules, and breaking up into 'family groups.' The evening will wrap up with a spiritual worship, and possibly a movie, crafts or sleep. Saturday will begin bright and early with breakfast. There will be three workshops hosted throughout the day. Workshops are similar to miniature worships, and include engaging activities such as Valentine letter writing, Apples to Apples, and Guided Meditations."

Submitted by Wendy Shaver

👉 Music on Market Street 👈

Second Sunday in the City

January 10:

Chosen Music Ministry

We open the new year's "Second Sunday in the City" with a guest choir, Chosen Music Ministry. The black men's choir will sing during services at 11:00 at Market Street, then perform a concert after our "coffee and conversation" period. The Chosen is a Harrisburg-based gospel choir led by Deacon Barry Frasier, with Don Johnson serving as music director. Vocalists are Frasier, Eugene Barclift, Harry Davis, the Rev. Eric Luck and Michael Kitchen. Instrumentalists include Johnson, Michael Noggle and Ron Kent (bass guitar), Lee Banks (drums), and Clarence Howard (keyboard).

The event is open to the public. A free-will donation will be taken to support the "Music on Market Street" concert series.

Submitted by Bart Carpenter

Clover Lane Coffee House

January 15: Hungrytown

Hungrytown is the Vermont-based duo of Rebecca Hall and Ken Anderson, who left secure day jobs at the U.N. to focus on a career in music. Their music presents a country-flavored close-harmony sound that mixes in occasional touches of bright, mellow pop. "Hungrytown has a voice, a look and a songwriting sensibility that would fit seamlessly into A Prairie Home Companion, and that recalls old-Nashville sensibilities--those not-necessarily-spiritual spirituals that are at once comforting, cozy, and haunting," according to Bitch magazine.

This is our monthly "Clover Lane Coffee House" concert, at 8:00 PM in the Common Room. Admission \$10 at the door

January 16: UCH Rocks!

A special coffee house at Clover Lane, this is a fund-raiser from the 2009 auction. The evening features multiple sets by "our own" local talent. As we go to press, the lineup includes a Camp Hill rock band organized by teen Nate Malarich; ballads and more performed by Moe Weimer & Friends (Moe is on Christmas break from Kutztown University); and a trio headed by Todd Slater!

Doors open at 6:00 PM; first set is at 7:00, in the Common Room. Admission \$15 at the door or pre-paid through the auction.

Feb 5: Idgy Vaughn

Mark your February calendar for a special concert featuring Idgy Vaughn, the Austin-based waitress whose customer won the lottery and helped finance her first CD! A special concert from the Clover Lane Coffee House at 8:00 PM in the Common Room. Admission is \$10 at the door.

Submitted by Bart Carpenter

⚡ Philosophy & Literature Group ⚡

At their December meeting the Philosophy and Literature Group chose the following books for 2010, listed in order of number of votes received:

- *Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA*, by Tim Weiner
- *Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China*, by Leslie Chang
- *The Sunflower*, by Simon Weisenthal
- *Copenhagen*, by Michael Frayn (play)
- *Green, Inc.*, by Christopher MacDonald
- *Jayber Crow*, by Wendell Berry (novel)
- *Stones into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books not Bombs in Pakistan and Afghanistan*, by Greg Mortenson
- *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, by Tracy Kidder
- *Poetry Speaks Expanded*, edited by Elise Paschen and Rebekah Mosby
- *Infidel*, by Ayaan Hirsi Ali
- *When Everything Changed*, by Gail Collins

Our January meeting will be held at the Church at 7:30 PM on Sunday, January 10, with Rachel and Michael Mark as hosts. *Jayber Crow*, a novel by Wendell Berry, will be discussed. Our schedule for the rest of the year has not yet been determined.

The group has decided that on a trial basis we will hold more meetings at the church. There will be no expectation that we will meet at members' homes; however, members who wish to host a meeting at their home are certainly welcome to do so.

Submitted by Dick Hoke

Freedom to Marry Week

Harrisburg, PA

Plans are already underway for Freedom to Marry Week! For the past several years, the main activity has been our annual rally on Valentine's Day. However, starting last year, we received more attention from more groups, and this year, several activities are being planned between February 6th and February 16th. Among them:

Feb. 7th – 14th, 2010 **PA Diversity Network: Photo Project**

380+ Photos of Same-Gender Couples *including members of our congregation!*

On Display in the PA Capitol Rotunda

3rd and State Streets, Harrisburg

Feb. 8th, 2010 Monday **Meet your State Legislators** and drop off Valentines

Capitol 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Press Conference

Capitol Rotunda: 3:00 p.m.

Freedom to Marry Rally 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Market & Front Streets

Feb. 11th, 2010 Thursday **Celebration of Faith Approved Same-Gender Marriage**

St. Michael Lutheran Church

118 State Street Harrisburg, PA

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Feb. 14th, 2010 Sunday **UU All Families March on the Capitol**

Following our Second Sunday in the City service.

If you are ready to Stand on the Side of Love, we need your help! Check out www.FreedomToMarryPA.org for updated schedules and information. Contact Alanna Berger (alannaberger@comcast.net) for more information on how you can help make this year the most spectacular event ever!

We need help:

- Tabling January 17th, 24th & 31st to get our UCH members to sign valentines for our legislators.
- Selling t-shirts during coffee hour for a fundraiser.
- Rally captains – getting our signs and banners to the rally sites and back to the Church afterwards.
- Photographers to record the events.
- Coming up with ideas for other planned events!

Submitted by Alanna Berger

Commemorating Roe v. Wade: “Women as Adults”

Women's reproductive health before and after that landmark Supreme Court decision will be the focus of an interfaith Roe v. Wade commemoration to be held Sunday, January 24, at the Church at 3 PM in the sanctuary. Rev. Suzanne Marsh, UCH Associate Minister will speak, along with representatives of the Jewish, Buddhist and Christian communities and representatives of the Planned Parenthood of Northeast and Mid-Penn Fund for Choice.

The Reproductive Rights Task Force invites you to come to this service, to hear interfaith perspectives related to a woman's need to manage her reproductive life without undue strictures imposed by local, state and federal governments.

A reception will follow.

For further information, contact Barb Pearce, 697-4114 before 9:00 PM, Margaret Blough, 652-7633, or Jim Cavanaugh at nanjim65@verizon.net.

*Submitted by Barb Pearce
& Jim Cavanaugh*

It's easy to make a buck.
It's a lot tougher to
make a difference.

Tom Brokaw

Meditation & Soup Supper

January 1, 2010

6:00 PM in the Sanctuary



Bogged down with New Year resolutions? Frustration mounting over lost football pools? Take a break and join us for our annual meditation and soup supper. We will spend time in silence in the sanctuary and time enjoying each other's company downstairs in the common room.

A new year, warm hearts, warm foodwhat an opportunity to be beginners together.

RSVP appreciated. Walk-ins are welcomed.

Contact Jeanne at MMG_OF_UCH@comcast.net or 774-1479.

Submitted by Jeanne Shellman

The Unitarian Cafe

The Unitarian Cafe will serve its second community breakfast from 9:00 AM on the second Saturday of the month, January 9; Shared Ministry will have a community breakfast from 9:00 AM on the last Saturday of the month, January 30. Extra hands are always welcome, and these are great opportunities to talk with our Allison Hill neighbors and get to know them, and to work with our Shared Ministry friends and get to know them better, too.

UCH will have a multigenerational worship service at our Market Street campus on the Second Sunday in the City, January 10, at 11:00 AM.

If you want to try something different on your spiritual journey and hear another really good preacher (Rev. Richard Gordon), think about worshipping with the Shared Ministry congregation some Sunday morning. They have their coffee and conversation at 10:00 AM, before the worship service begins at 10:30 AM. It's another opportunity to get to know our fellow travelers at 1508 Market Street and to enjoy a different worship experience. You will be warmly welcomed!

Submitted by Brian Kahler

Serving

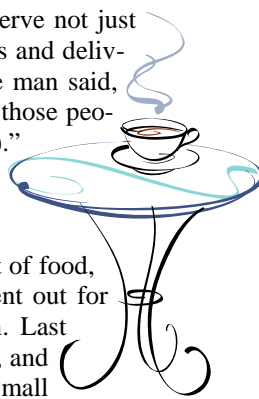
by Gloria and Joyce

We volunteered to help at the Market Street breakfast last Saturday morning, mostly because it would help us get better acquainted with our new old church. What we got better acquainted with, though, was far more than we expected. When we pulled up in front of the church, we noticed that the sign read, Unitarian Breakfast Café, not just Unitarian Breakfast. And a café it was. White tablecloths and real pine branches graced the tables. Each arriving guest received a personal welcome and an individual menu.

Most of us worked in the kitchen, opening packets of grits, stirring scrambled eggs, and flipping pancakes. Some of us were assigned tables to serve, and serve we did.

When we first gathered, Suzanne told us we were to serve not just food, but something of ourselves, too. Between taking orders and delivering food, we could sit and chat, or maybe just listen. One man said, "This is just wonderful. You folks are so friendly—not like those people over at the (here he named another downtown church)." Another guest asked for a few teaspoonfuls of sugar to take to his "place." And several requested additional servings to take along with them.

Along about ten o'clock we began to think we might run out of food, and the sausage servings grew a little smaller, someone went out for more sugar and butter, and we made it through till eleven. Last Saturday we served over 125 guests a little warmth and food, and we served ourselves even more—the privilege of being a small part of the greatest little café on Market Street.



Helping

by Tom Conners

On a very cold December night, I was one of three volunteer chaperones for the UCH-run homeless shelter. The shelter was housed at Messiah Lutheran Church and our guests were men and women who received a warm night's sleep with snacks and a simple breakfast.

The experience I am sharing is not about me. It is about an outreach program that gave me a most moving experience. It was 1:45 AM and most of our guests were asleep, many of them snoring. The last of the late shift workers had arrived. Yes, many of the homeless work. I awoke from a restless sleep to the sound of someone pounding on the door. I could have ignored it, but someone in need was on the other side. Our instructions were not to allow anyone in after closing hours, because our guests are easily disturbed and can be difficult to settle in. The rules are consistent and help keep order.

I opened the door to find a young man in his twenties. As I looked at him he began to cry as all the street toughness disappeared. He told me that this was his first night on the street and he didn't know what to do. We spent forty-five minutes together, talking and listening. I couldn't resolve his problems but the human contact and a blanket were a large part of the answer.

At these moments in my own life I give thanks that our Church's priorities are well placed. The financial support that we give to UCH allows us to recognize the worth and dignity of all people. The service of our church is extending the values we support on a most human level. UCH changes lives! To quote Howard, "This is a journey of the heart."

Giving

January is a long, cold, often bitter month. Please remember that everything is made more unpleasant when one's stomach is empty, and donate regularly to the food ministry at UCH. Your January donations will go to the Ecumenical Food Pantry in downtown Harrisburg.

Be generous, please.

Submitted by Nathalie Hoke

Helping Women in Prison & Their Families

Success Story: Beatrice Moore is on her way. Beatrice was honored as 'client of the year' last summer, and deservedly so. After smoking crack for thirty years and then being incarcerated, she was at Promise Place about two years ago, and that experience 'helped a lot.' She has three grown sons (who are supportive) and is a grandmother now. Her husband of 3 ½ years is a big support as well. She is applying to go to school, since she wants to be a nurse, and is keeping God on her side. Beatrice agrees that success is more of a journey than a destination, and she is clearly making progress on that journey. We can admire her, of course, but perhaps more important is the lesson in perseverance she offers us. Keep on keeping on, Beatrice!

How can I help?

- There are many simple tasks people can do to help out, beginning with helping to deliver the Patriot-News classified ads to the PROGRAM's Community Center in Harrisburg. Members of UCH bring the Sunday 'help wanted' section to Church, and a rotating team of volunteers led by Dick Hoke, and including Rebecca Waldemar and Felicia Louise Gaines, takes turns delivering them. Please contact Dick at Rrhone@aol.com to join the team, or to learn more.
- Or, you can help drive women from Promise Place and Woodside Family Center to the monthly Community Corrections Breakfast that is organized by Christian Churches United and hosted by a different Church each month (we hosted last April). Check with Chris Dutton at cdutton@state.pa.us.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters is looking for adults to mentor children of incarcerated parents (details at www.capbigs.org), as a way to help these at-risk children cope, and thus breaking the cycle.
- Best of all, We'd love to have you sit in on our next steering committee meeting the first Tuesday of the month – January 5 is the next one. We'll be working on plans for our next book 'read & discuss' project, and planning for more 'hands on' ways we can help women in prison and their families.

How You Helped. By now the Giving Tree that helped UCH folks give to women at Woodside Family Center and their children is history for another year, as is the 'pickle jar' that held donations for the Inmate Christmas Fund. Both helped members of our congregation connect with people who dearly need support at this time of year. THANKS

HWIPF steering committee members – Margaret Carrow, James Cavanaugh, John Hargreaves, Dick Hoke and Chris Dutton.

**Our next committee meeting is
December 1st at 7:30 PM.**

One on one, a little at a time.

Submitted by Margaret Carrow and Jim Cavanaugh

LaGrone Scholar Update

Dionna Jenkins, the 2008 LaGrone Scholar, has completed her third semester at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She is studying business, and has applied for a resident assistantship. Since this fall she's been at main campus, in Indiana, having done her first year at the Punxatawny campus of IUP. Her UCH mentor Anita Mentor looks forward to continuing interaction with Dionna.

The Oliver LaGrone Scholarship is awarded annually to a graduate of Harrisburg H.S. Individual Scholars receive \$5000 distributed over four years of satisfactory enrollment. Contributions to the Fund come from accrued interest, the UCH Endowment Fund, artwork premiums created by The OLIVER COLLECTIVE—and from your generosity throughout the year.

Help the OLSF!

Looking for a chance to contribute to the social justice efforts of UCH? You have at least two opportunities with no committee meetings and no schedule, each with lots of options for judgment and creativity.

- **Oliver LaGrone Scholarship memory book.** Like scrapbooking or keeping a traditional photo album. Records the Scholars and UCH support for them.
- **Oliver LaGrone Scholarship website.** Draft updates. Propose modifications. Computer access required; someone else does the actual upload of changes.

Social justice in your jammies! By yourself or with a friend . . . Contact Margaret Carrow at mcarrow1@aol.com or Cordell Affeldt at cordell.affeldt@verizon.net.

Submitted by Cordell Affeldt

New Unisinger Nights Thursdays, January 7 and 14

Always wondered what it would be like to be a member of the Unisingers, the UCH adult choir? Then come to one of the new Unisinger nights on Thursday January 7 or 14 at 6:30. You'll learn about the roles and responsibilities of being a Unisinger, and you'll be asked to sing a selection from the hymnal to determine your ability to match pitch and your range. You'll then have an opportunity to sample the experience by joining in that evening's rehearsal.

Members, friends and youth (in grade 10 and above) are eligible for membership. Unisingers rehearse every Thursday from 7 to 9 PM, and sing for worship services twice monthly. It's a big commitment, but one that you will find highly rewarding.

Please let Sparkie Radcliffe, Director of Music Ministry, know which new Unisinger night you will attend by calling her at 564-4761 or sparkieuch@comcast.net.

*Submitted by Donna Hoskins-Helm
Music Ministry Coordinator*

UU-UNO and You

Below are some actions you can take to speak out against genocide in Sudan and call for more civilian protection. Margaret Carrow is UCH's Joseph Priestley District Envoy to the UU-UNO.



- Take action for the displaced civilians in Sudan. Go to the Refugee International website and write a message to President Obama to highlight the importance of protection of civilians in Sudan and prioritize aid and security for displaced people in Darfur.
<http://www.refugeesinternational.org/get-involved/take-action>
- Write a letter of concern to your elected officials. Let them know that the crisis in Sudan matters to you and to all of us. Encourage your president, senators and representatives to allocate money and other resources to ending the genocide and brutality in Sudan. Go to
<http://www.sowhatcanido.blogspot.com/2005/02/speak-up.html>
- Call 1-800-GENOCIDE
- Lobby Congress. Schedule a meeting with your elected officials. Tell them that the U.S. must lead to help end the crisis in Darfur and work and work towards peace in Darfur. For some very helpful guidelines on contacting your elected officials visit:
http://www.enoughproject.org/take_action/write_official
- Bring your friends and neighbors together with an event. It is a great way to increase awareness and start a conversation about Darfur in your community. For more information on holding an event go to:
<http://www.savedarfur.org/page/event/create>
- The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office is located at 777 UN Plaza Suite 7G, New York, NY 10017.
www.uu-uno.org

Submitted by Margaret Carrow

Mark Your Calendars for **Chalice Camp 2010**

Chalice Camp 2010 will be held from July 26-30, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM each day. At Chalice Camp, Unitarian Universalist children immerse themselves in our faith through interactive worship, theatre, swimming, cooperative games, crafts and more. Don't miss out on this opportunity for your children to strengthen their connection to Unitarian Universalism. Registration forms coming soon. Contact Wendy Shaver for more information at 795-9013 or wendyshaver@verizon.net.

Submitted by Wendy Shaver

UUPLAN Updates Hate Crimes Victory!

Thanks to everyone who managed to talk to, write to or visit their legislator during In-District Lobby Days back in October. One of the pieces of legislation for which we advocated – the Hate Crimes bill – was passed out of the PA House Judiciary Committee! A special thanks goes to members of our congregation who live in Glenn Grell's district and called him – for the first time ever, he voted in favor of a bill for GLBT issues.



Most bills die in committee so this is a real victory for GLBT rights. However, we need to keep the momentum going! If our legislators don't hear from us, they will let this bill die without ever getting to the full House. This bill is now headed for the House Appropriations committee, and if it passes there, it will head to the full House:

- If you haven't visited your Representative yet, please schedule a visit as soon as possible. Although this bill is still in the House, it couldn't hurt to let your Senator have advance warning that you want him/her to support this bill.
- If you've already visited your legislator, consider holding a letter-writing campaign after services on a Sunday morning, or ask all your members to call their legislators, reiterating your support. If your rep is on the Judiciary committee and voted yes, send him/her a UU thank you note!
- For more information, go to www.UUPLAN.org and click on the "Current Issues" part of our website to find talking points to help prepare you for talking to your legislator. Report back on how your visit went, or let us know if you receive a written reply to any phone call or letter. Email us at info@uuplan.org, where you can also send any questions you have.

Upcoming Issues - CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

In an effort to protect the integrity and competitiveness of elections, over two-thirds of the states in our nation now restrict the amount of money, and in some cases the timing of donations, that individuals and organizations may give to political candidates. Unfortunately, Pennsylvania is not one of these states. In Pennsylvania, we need to break the bond between affluent special interest groups (and individuals) and powerful elected officials who control the governing process, and thus public policy. We need to bring the system by which Pennsylvania's elections are funded into the 21st century.

If you are interested in being the "point person" for our congregation, let me know! This involves receiving information on strategies and sharing them with our congregation to mobilize them where it will do the most good to make this legislation a reality! Contact Alanna Berger (alannaberger@comcast.net, 717-361-2992) for more information.

Submitted by Alanna Berger

The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg
1280 Clover Lane
Harrisburg, PA 17113

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Rev. Howard N. Dana

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Rev. Suzanne M. Marsh

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GROWTH & LEARNING**

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Sparkie Radcliffe, Director

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STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

Alanna Berger

SEXTON

Bob Kershner

GROCERY GIFT CARD COORDINATOR

Anne Moore

**Wondering if a Church service or event has been delayed
or cancelled due to the weather?**

When inclement weather is expected, call the Church at 564-4761 for any special announcements regarding delays or cancellations of services or events or tune in to one of the following stations.

Television: FOX43, CBS21, CW15, WITF

Websites: abc27.com, fox43.com, cbs21.com, cw15.com, WITF.org

Use your best judgment about driving. Closures will be posted on our website whenever possible.

Newsletter Information

The REPORTER is published monthly by the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg. Della Hoke-Uvick is the Editor.

Submissions to *The REPORTER* are due on the 10th of each month. Please include a name and phone number in case of questions.

Submissions may be

- ♦ **Mailed to or dropped off at:** 1918 Princeton Avenue, Camp Hill, PA 17011 (by 8:00 PM);
- ♦ **emailed to:** dellahoke@yahoo.com. *Please note that there will be a return reply acknowledgement* - if you do not receive an acknowledgement within 24 hours, please call Della!
- ♦ **or** dropped off in *The REPORTER* mail slot at the Church by 2:00 PM;
- ♦ **Call** Della at 737-9251 with questions, please, no calls after 9:00 PM.

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