

THE REPORTER

The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg • January 2009 • Vol. 44, 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

Sunday, January 4	9:15 & 11:00	☼ Releasing Each Others Gifts
Sunday, January 11	9:15 & 11:00	☼ Deep Listening, Loving Speech
Sunday, January 18	9:15 & 11:00	☼ On Beyond Tolerance
Sunday, January 25	9:15 & 11:00	☼ Music for the Soul

From Your Minister

*The Reverend
Howard N. Dana*

having to cope with a devastated economy and buy gifts at the same time. We are wrung out by fears of job loss, dwindling retirement income, and rising prices. In January we face credit card bills, new resolutions to diet and get more exercise, and the waning days of the second Bush administration. January feels like a hangover. It threatens to make us stingy and cross. It threatens to make us selfish and scared. And we should resist these temptations with all the optimism we can muster. In her wonderful weekly column *Washington Post* columnist Michelle Singletary writes:

With rising unemployment and the stock market looking like a bungee jumper whose cord has snapped, it's hard to argue that people should continue their charitable giving. And yet, I will make that plea. I know that in tough times you want to pull back on your spending, including planned donations, but that's exactly when your giving shouldn't go down - when the need is so great... In an unscientific study, I've looked at the individuals who I've been helping in a financial ministry at my church. By and large, those who make giving a priority handle their money better. Consistent givers can weather economic storms because they're better at budgeting. They let go of things that don't matter so they don't have to cut out the funds they've pledged to help others. (*Patriot News*, Sunday, November 23, 2008)

(Continued on page 4)

I'm writing this in that interminable time between the congregational meeting and counting the votes. I had thought that since the next steps depend entirely on the outcome of the vote, there wasn't much to say until the votes are counted and we have a decision. After a couple nights sleep, I realized that at least one next step depends little on the vote.

One of the things expressed repeatedly, both at the meeting and in other forums during the lead-up to the vote, was that there is a great deal of energy around doing *something* for folks living in desperate conditions in our area, especially children. Whichever way our vote comes out, I hope all of us will dream big about what we see ourselves doing in this regard, and how much time we can clear from our busy lives to do this most valuable work. Ann and I recently read *The Tipping Point*, and while it may seem silly, I've become enamored with the thought of spending an hour a week just picking up trash in Allison Hill. I suspect there may be others among us who secretly enjoy "cleaning up" in this most direct and humble way. (If you're up for this, let's talk!)

My vision is that no matter how the vote count goes, sometime in January we'll have a meeting for all those with ideas and interests for social justice work in our area, and see where that conversation leads us. Thinking about that conversation is exciting to me, and I hope that many people with all kinds of ideas are present. I'm sensing that underlying our differences about Shared Ministries, we are united in wanting to move forward on social justice efforts. Let's do it!

(Continued on page 3)

President's Message

J.D. Stillwater

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2009</h1>				1 Mindfulness Meditation Group Meditation & Soup Supper 6 PM	2 UCH Playgroup 9:30 AM	3
4 Services 9:15 & 11:00 Path to Membership 10:15 & Noon Youth Group 5:30 PM <i>Doyle COUCH Group 7 PM</i>	5 Yoga 6:30 pm <i>Hellmann COUCH Group 7 PM</i>	6 <i>Dooley COUCH Group Noon</i> MMG 7 PM FINANCE CMTE 7:30 Helping Women in Prison 7:30 PM QUESTERS 7:00 PM	7 Queen Spirit Potluck & Circle 6 PM <i>Community Cmte 7 pm</i>	8 Religious Growth & Learning Cmte 12:45 pm Unisingers 7 pm	9 UCH Playgroup 9:30 AM	10 REPORTER deadline
11 Services 9:15 & 11:00 Youth Adult Cmte 5:30 PM	12 Yoga 6:30 pm Adult RGL: Building the World We Dream About 7:00 PM	13 MMG 7 PM	14 Board Meeting 7:00 PM Adult RGL: Cakes for the Queen of Heaven 7:30 PM	15 <i>Ziegler/Tyger COUCH Group 9:30 AM</i> Unisingers 7 pm	16 UCH Playgroup 9:30 AM Clover Lane Coffeehouse 8:00 pm	17 Craft Group 8:00 am
18 Services 9:15 & 11:00 Path to Membership 10:15 & Noon <i>Doyle COUCH Group 7 PM</i>	19 Yoga 6:30 pm <i>Hellmann COUCH Group 7 PM</i>	20 <i>Dooley COUCH Group Noon</i> MMG 7 PM PRIDEFEST MEETING 7:00 PM QUESTERS 7:00 PM	21 Clover Grove 7 pm <i>Community Cmte 7 pm</i> Adult RGL: Cakes for the Queen of Heaven 7:30 PM	22 Unisingers 7 pm	23 UCH Playgroup 9:30 AM	24 Children's Coffeehouse 10:00 am
25 Services 9:15 & 11:00 Roe v. Wade 3 pm	26 Yoga 6:30 pm Adult RGL: Building the World We Dream About 7:00 PM	27 MMG 7 PM <i>Membership Action Council 7 pm</i>	28 Adult RGL: Cakes for the Queen of Heaven 7:30 PM	29 Unisingers 7 pm	30 UCH Playgroup 9:30 AM	31 So You Want to be a UU: New Member Class 9:00 AM

JOYS & CONCERNS

This information is reserved for members of UCH

QueenSpirit POTLUCK & CIRCLE

Wednesday, January 7, 2009
6 to 9 PM

Unitarian Church of Harrisburg
Common Room & Joseph Priestley Room

Bring a favorite dish, dessert or beverage to share.
Bring your place setting and serving spoons and plates.
Bring along a favorite stone to hold during our Ritual.

DEEP WINTER - DEEP INTUITION

*'As the Cold winter winds do blow and spin,
We now focus our attention within.*

*Introspection is the key at this time of the year;
Our future aspirations will become bright and clear.'*

Mary Ann Rhoads and Julianna Sillett will lead us as we contemplate the New Year personally and within the light and love of our QueenSpirit Circle.

QueenSpirit is a co-created women's spirituality circle.
Submitted by Anne Moore

President's Message

J.D. Stillwater

(Continued from page 1)

Tonight I'm also thinking about everyone who offered their help with the Shared Ministry project. The Trustees, Finance Committee members and the staff all worked unbelievable hours way above and beyond the call of duty, for weeks on end. We are lucky to have so many of such dedicated volunteers and staff. There are also dozens of other angels who wrote or called to say "How can I help?" and others who responded to our calls for help with "Of course I'll help!" At the risk of leaving someone out, let me list all those I can think of: Dave T. Powell, Rob Slaybaugh, Peter Calcagno, and Brad Jones with information and experience concerning buildings and inspections; Virginia Barr, Bruce Grossman, and Dennis Hursh on the Real Estate/Legal team; Bill Shank, Tom Winner, Don Hoskins and Greg Richards on the loans and financing team; Dianne Dusman and Marty Stine did crucial oil tank research; Alice Winner, Anita Mentzer and Maria Gregg researched grants (and still are!); May Dooley inspected the building for mold; and literally dozens of others contributed thoughts, wisdom, questions, and comments that helped us get to a place where we could make a decision together. I am sure that I'm leaving out lots of folks, and I apologize.

And you, dear readers know far more about that decision than do I as I write this. I believe in our fifth principle, and I trust that the results of our democratic process will be in the best interests of our church. As promised in my reflection last Sunday, I look forward to working with you to move us, together, into the glorious and productive future of our dreams.

JD

We wish to thank everyone at UCH for their get well wishes, phone calls and care and concern following Bob's recent automobile accident. A special thank you to the PreK,K,1 class for their lovely drawings. Bob is home and recovering nicely and we hope to see you all soon.

Merry and Bob Barnas

From Your Minister

Rev. Howard N. Dana

(Continued from page 1)

Michelle is right. Giving, even in hard economic times, is good for people - mind, body, and soul. Every dollar that we can spare to help someone else will be returned to us seven-fold in gratitude. Ours is a generous congregation. Proof of that generosity comes each time we pass the plate for a good cause. Our pre-Thanksgiving Guest at Your Table offering sent almost \$1000 to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) to do much needed disaster relief work in the US and around the world. We gathered \$1700 to help run the Downtown Emergency Homeless Shelter this year - and added over 60 people to the number of volunteers who spent a night at the shelter. Our Christmas Eve offering brought in much needed funds for the Fuel Oil Assistance Program of Help Ministries. And many generous gifts in December resulted in over \$4000 for the Minister's Discretionary Fund to help UCH members in financial need. We are generous indeed!

And the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg needs your continued generosity. Too often I hear the excuse that people give to a variety of charities. Because of this, they claim they cannot give generously to their church. What they do not understand is that UCH depends on a tiny fraction of the number of donors who give to Planned Parenthood, WITF, or Amnesty International. They do not realize that the entire UCH budget must be generated each year from its own members and friends. We are the only ones giving to our church. If we raise it, we can spend it. If we don't raise it, we cannot do the ministry in the world we would like to do. It is important that our church be strong and healthy. It is important that it has the resources it needs to be a ray of hope in the greater Harrisburg area. For without UCH, there is less money raised for Help Ministries. Less money goes to international relief work. Less is available for our own members in need. And more people are forced to sleep on the street during the winter. And those are just the December-giving losses.

The greater Harrisburg area would be much worse off if the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg did not exist. Jews, Buddhists, Bahai's, and Muslims would have fewer allies. Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people would have fewer advocates. Women recently released from prison would have fewer friends. And many environmental causes would have less moral and ethical backing. If our church did not exist, our wider community would be much poorer for it. It is up to each of us to make sure this does not happen. It is up to each of us to give as generously as we can for the health and strength of Unitarian Universalism in central Pennsylvania. Luckily, we are a generous people - I know we can do it.

Love, Howard

The REPORTER
PUBLISHED MONTHLY
UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HARRISBURG
1280 CLOVER LANE
HARRISBURG, PA 17113

January is a long, cold,
expensive month.
It's longer and colder and
worse in every way
if you're poor and hungry.

Please remember to
donate non-perishable f
ood items each week
to our food ministry,
or donate cash.

The Ecumenical Food Pantry
is in great need right now.

Submitted by Nathalie Hoke

Roe v. Wade Commemorative Service

A commemoration recognizing the importance of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision in the lives of women and their families will be held Sunday, January 25, 2007, beginning at 3 PM in the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg. The theme for the service is "Remember, Relate."

The Reproductive Rights Task Force (RRTF) of the church is coordinating arrangements and invites friends of choice to attend. A free-will offering benefiting the Planned Parenthood of Northeast and Mid-Penn Fund for Choice will be taken during the commemoration.

Members and friends of the RRTF will provide refreshments at a reception afterward.

For further information, contact Barb Pearce at barbpearce@comcast.net or call her at 697-4114 daily before 9:00 PM.

Submitted by Barb Pearce

*We know too much, and are convinced of too
little. Our literature is a substitute for religion,
and so is our religion.*

T.S. Eliot

Yes!

“The critical element in transforming change is that the congregation discover a sense of mission and reform its life to carry out that mission. I understand transforming to be that process and time when a congregation begins to feel itself drawn to a particular mission, and decides to commit itself entirely to living that mission. Whether from crisis or intentional decision when times seemed well, transforming means a willingness to die in order to live again. It cannot happen unless it is taken as a profound step of faith.”

William Chris Hobgood,

Welcoming Resistance: A Path to Faithful Ministry

Dear Harrisburg Unitarian Universalists,

The quotation above opens the eighth session (out of 24 altogether) of “Building the World We Dream About,” the class I’ve been co-leading here in UCH this year with UCH member Clay Lambert. That eighth class session is to convene this evening on the day I am writing these words.

That quotation seems so fitting and timely for the wider congregation in this moment, which is why I’m sharing it here, of course. I’m thinking about all our recent conversations about the Shared Ministry opportunity, here in the city of Harrisburg. Does this opportunity (and/or alternative ways of engagement in the community beyond our Swatara Township walls) ask us to make a transformative change in service of mission? If so, how do you envision that transformation happening and to what end? To what extent does the life of the congregation now reflect consensus around embracing a revitalized mission and a decision “to commit itself entirely to living that mission”? Is there a willingness “to die in order to live again”? Do we share the required profound faith? Do we have the patience to help each other lovingly with the challenges of these changes, and to continue giving each other the love and support we all need, too?

I went looking for more information about the book from which the quotation was drawn, and discovered this from the book’s publisher: “[The author] observes that the degree of

resistance will intensify as the degree of change deepens but suggests that when we try to squelch resistance we threaten the congregation’s very existence. While it may be tempting to believe that battles have been won when resistance is gone, it is in the give-and-take of change initiators and resisters interacting openly and with mutual respect that congregations become lively and richer places.” Wow; so interesting to think about this in the context of UCH.

As I write this, we do not yet know the results of the voting on the Shared Ministry proposal. The absentee ballots will be coming in all this week. By the time you will be reading these words, the decision will have been made.

No matter how goes the vote, I think the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg has reached a new level of spiritual vitality by its lively engagement around this proposal. Kudos to all for engaging so well, and in such significant numbers, in the process of considering the proposal.

I believe that simply by engaging in the dialogue and the process of imagination, the congregation has been transformed. New voices are being heard, and a deep level of widespread caring about the future of this congregation has been revealed.

Blessings, courage, and love to you all, dear ones, as we continue forward into the future, and happy new year to all.

Yvonne

Yvonne Schumacher Strejcek
Acting Associate Minister

p.s. I will be on vacation from December 25th through January 5th. Please know that I will be reachable in an emergency but will be checking email and voicemail much less often than usual during those days.

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, January 4th, 2009, 2:00 PM, Celebration of Shared Ministry, 1508 Market St., Harrisburg PA. Everyone is invited to attend a community service lifting up the life and good work of Harrisburg’s Shared Ministry congregation.

Associate Minister Search

In December we anxiously awaited the names of those prospective ministers who might have an interest in serving as our associate minister. Upon receiving those names, we were able to look at their ministerial profiles on line. We then decided on those we wanted to further contact to exchange search packets with them. We will learn much more about them through their ministerial packets, such as looking at some sermons they have preached, activities they have been involved with, any writing they have done, etc. They will learn how wonderful we are through our search packet!

When we passed our budget last May, we committed, by our vote, to calling an associate minister and expected everyone to meet that commitment through our pledges. That is not happening. We hope that all of us will meet or exceed our pledge, or pledge if you have not yet made that commitment. We express our love and need for this church in many ways,

but in order to meet those needs we, the members, must provide the finances. The members of this committee have worked very hard and are eager to present a ministerial candidate to you this spring that will be a good fit for this congregation. Please help us to make that happen.

If you have questions or concerns, please look for us at church or e-mail/phone us or send us a letter. We are all in the church directory.

Associate Minister Search Committee:

Joan Hellmann, Chair, joan_elizabeth@comcast.net, 236-6749
Dawn Duffins Dick Hoke Nels Johnson
Phyllis Slater Caroline Stine Libby Tisdell

Religious Growth & Learning

Dear Friends,

When talking about Deck the Halls, a member said something to the effect of “How many people like us really go to those things, that’s for young families.” The conversation moved on quickly to other topics, but I have been thinking of the sentiment behind that offhanded comment. If children and youth are to get to know, and perhaps become inspired or influenced by the deeds, attitudes, and values of adults in the congregation, we need to convince folks that events such as Deck the Halls become opportunities for adults and youth to interact.

The RGL Committee and I have been trying different things to make more intergenerational connections for as long as I can remember. Relationships are one of the three primary components of religious growth and learning. Instead of planning events specifically to get generations together, we are trying to incorporate multigenerational programming into regular events.

Rituals at Home, Deck the Halls, and the upcoming Darwin Day Celebration are all events that most people without school-aged children might consider to be exclusively for families, so they don’t attend. I am suggesting that you reconsider! Widespread attendance at these events will help develop relationships. Be assured that we will design activities so there is something for all ages, abilities, and interests. Another valuable outcome of intergenerational activities is developing relationships between parents who are navigating the challenges of raising children and adults who have the experience, wisdom and perspective of time.

I hope to see multigenerational representation at Darwin Day and other events! As always, I welcome your involvement and suggestions.

*In faith,
Trish*

DECK THE HALLS

The annual church kick-off to the holiday season was great fun! The soups for dinner were varied and delicious. There were crafts ranged from simple and neat to challenging and messy. The musical performances were wonderful! Thanks to the Unisingers, Family Choir and Tone Chime Choir for excellent performances and Sparkie Radcliff for leading the fun sing-a-long! For many church members the holidays just aren’t complete without the UCH traditional rousing version of “The 12 Days of Christmas” which concluded the fun evening. Dangerous road conditions from an untimely snow squall kept many folks home, but those who made it enjoyed a fun event. Fortunately the roads were safe by the time the event ended around 8:15pm.

Thank you Deck the Halls activities volunteers! Julie Slaybaugh led the bead ornament making, Anne Moore created ornaments and door knob hangers with messages of Peace and

Love, Karen Senseman and Randa Todd created paper snowflakes and angels, Theresa Alberici and teen helpers led the cooperative Gingerbread House making, Marilyn McHenry led cookie decorating, and EvAnn Hawley played seasonal music for all to enjoy while participating.

Thanks to Alleayah Myers for volunteering to provide child care.

OUR WHOLE LIVES

Our Whole Lives (or OWL) is a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. It is taught with a religious supplement, which includes Unitarian Universalist values for children, youth, adults and families. Supporting parents in their role as the primary sexuality educators and helping them to reinforce or establish healthy communication on the topic of sexuality is a primary objective of the OWL program, particularly at the elementary levels. The OWL series is offered for various age groups kindergarten through grade 12. Leaders with special training in sexuality education teach the classes. More information about OWL can be found on the OWL Web site: <http://www.uua.org/re/owlnet.html>.

Our Whole Lives: Sexuality Education (OWL) for Grades 5-6 will be offered during February and March. The course is eight-sessions and is open to all 5th and 6th grade children whose parents have had the orientation, are committed to the program and have parental permission to participate. All registered families of 5th and 6th graders will receive details in the mail. Contact Trish Brandon at church if you don’t receive information and would like to. Due to the nature of the class, newcomers and guests will be offered alternative activities and won’t be permitted to join the group once it begins.

OWL participation by families helps to open lines of communication between parents and young people. As the primary sexuality educators of their children, parents teach sexuality lessons implicitly and explicitly. Parents and guardians sometimes need help in raising sexuality issues with their children. Participation in an OWL class provides opportunities for parents and children to talk about the issues, and 'check out' information children received from peers or the media. The program helps young people to understand and express themselves in healthy, positive ways. It also helps them to recognize and avoid abuse and shows that the religious community affirms bodies as well as minds, hearts, and spirits.



**Happy Birthday
Charles Darwin!**

Gift Card Fundraiser Recap - 2008

At press time, the 2008 sales of Grocery Gift Cards total over \$464,575. This includes \$1,175 of Holiday \$25 Giant cards that were sold in December. Several cards were donated to The Ecumenical Food Pantry and Promise Place. Thank you to all who participate in this Church Fundraiser throughout the year.

\$50 and \$100 cards for Giant, Weis, and Karns are available through the mail order program. Your pre-ordered gift cards are sent on the 1st and 15th of each month, along with an order form for your next order and a postage-paid envelope for your payment. UCH earns 10% for Giant and Weis and 5% for Karns cards.

If you would like to begin participating or if you have questions about the this fundraiser, call Anne Moore at 717-877-8576, or e-mail giftcard@harrisburguu.org.

Submitted by Anne Moore

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 the Margaret Fuller Chapel. The January 20th meditation (the third Tuesday of the month) will be held in complete silence. Please direct questions to Jeanne at 774-1479 or MMG_OF_UCH@comcast.net.

Submitted by Jeanne Shellman

Save the Dates for Chalice Camp II

Chalice Camp is a full-day summer camp held here at the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg. Chalice Camp II works with children to create community that is anti-racist, anti-oppressive and multicultural while deepening identity as Unitarian Universalists. Chalice Camp II will be held from July 12-18, 2009. Find a brochure with registration materials at the Religious Growth and Learning Resource Center just inside the downstairs door.

QUESTERS MEET TWICE A MONTH

The great central questions of life for the thinking man are: What am I? What is my true relation to, and how shall I deal with, my surroundings? What is God, and can I form any connection with God? ~ Paul Brunton

Questers will meet on January 6 and 20 at 7 PM.

Submitted by Terence Sillett

The Cowardly Lion

reflections & revelations on the power of fear



Tired of being told that it's not about fear? Fear is a real & valid emotion and it should not be suppressed or denied.

Join us for a transformational group experience centered around this age-old challenge to the state of our wellness.

Come share quiet moments and offer remedies & strategies that have helped you along the way.

Be a witness to living testimony of personal development and spiritual growth.

For more information contact Caroline Parke or Felicia Louise Gaines.

**Saturday, February 7, 2009
9:00 - Noon**

**Saturday, February 14, 2009
9:00 - Noon**

In the Margaret Fuller Room

Submitted by Caroline Parke and Felicia Louise Gaines

Coffee House Features Local Talent

Clover Lane Coffee House opens the winter season with a double header featuring great local talent on Friday, January 16. First up is the trio We3, followed by singer/songwriter Janie Womack with Julie Lowery. The concert is in the Common Room beginning at 8:00 PM; admission is \$5 at the door.

We3 calls its music "Sometimes Old, Sometimes New, Often Borrowed and Sometimes Blues." What it brings to the musical table is an amazing assortment of music: perhaps a 1930s tune back-to-back with a We3 original, or maybe something gritty followed by something romantic. The trio features Lindy Mack and Russ & Paulette Matthews; they produced their first CD in June 2008.

Janie Womack is well known in Central Pennsylvania from past participation in the Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus, the a cappella quartet "Three J's and a C," and the local band "t.l.o. stone soup." Accompanied by Lancaster-based Julie Lowery, she was a major hit at the 2008 Harrisburg Pride Fest (2008); she is also currently at work on her first full-length CD of original music.

Children's "Coffee" House on January 24

Clover Lane Coffee House presents its annual children's coffee house, in the form of a dance class for children ages 5 to 10. The class is Saturday, January 24 at 10:00 AM in the Common Room; admission is \$5 per child.

Dance master Iliana Bozhanova of Bulgaria will teach a 45-minute class, accompanied by Valeri Georgiev on kaval (a wooden Bulgarian flute). She will teach the children Bulgarian rhythm and movement and lead them in interactive song and dance. Parents are welcome to stay and observe.

Iliana Bozhanova is a native of Gulubovo, Bulgaria, and comes from a family of musicians and singers in Southern Thrace. She has toured as a principal dancer and singer with Ensemble Ruchenitsa of Plovdiv since childhood. She graduated from the National School for Amateur Art Instructors in 1981 and later received her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from the Academy of Music and Dance Art in Plovdiv. She has worked as a choreographer with a number of ensembles, including the Children's Ensemble for Folk Dances in Bulgaria, Zarove in Holland, Kitka in Norway, and Bosilek in New York. She serves as Artistic Director of Ensemble Voivodintsi, the 70-person multi-generational folk dance ensemble from the village of Voivodinovo (near Plovdiv), and is the dance program coordinator for the annual Bulgarian Folk Music and Dance Seminar at the Music Academy in Plovdiv. She is in Harrisburg to lead a dance seminar for the Susquehanna Folk Music Society, including beginner dancing for adults on January 23.

Valeri Georgiev was born in Nikopol in northern Bulgaria and has played kaval since his youth. He attended the prestigious Philip Kutev Folk High School of Music in Kotel Bulgaria, studying kaval and Bulgarian folklore. He then completed a degree at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv, where he was also a member of Zvezdi na Trakia (Stars of Thrace), one of the most well-known folk orchestras in Plovdiv. After graduation he organized and worked with various ensembles in Russe, North Bulgaria, including the orchestra Horo. Since emigrating to the U.S., he has served as musical director for Lyuti Chushki in Washington, D.C., and has taught at multiple music camps on the East Coast and in California.



Submitted by Bart Carpenter

Lay-Led Addictions Ministry?

Within our liberal religious community, addiction and alcoholism remain a taboo subject - let us break that silence and help afflicted families establish a "living dialogue" about this silent plague.

We are forming a lay-lead addiction ministry to carry the message to those who are suffering from this "spiritual" malady.

If you are in recovery from chemical dependency, or recovering from co-dependence, and or a child of an alcoholic or addict in recovery please contact Terence Sillett at 564-5370 or email lionheart@pobox.com.

Submitted by Terence Sillett

Helping Women in Prison & Their Families

Help is needed with creating a spring speaker, as well as other activities. Please join on January 6th at 7:30 PM. Contact Jim Cavanaugh for information.

Meditation & Soup Supper January 1 at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary

Bogged down in 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 food ... what an opportunity to be beginners together.

RSVP appreciated. Walk-ins are welcomed. Contact Jeanne at 774-1479 or MMG_OF_UCH@comcast.net.

Submitted by Jeanne Shellman

Helping Women in Prison

Two Success Stories: On a recent Friday evening, my wife Nan and I were greeted by Alberta, a hostess at Isaac's. Since she had a Muslim hijab (head scarf) I responded with "Salaam aleikum" (Arabic for 'peace be upon you'). She broke out in a big smile and said "Hi, Chaplain, I'm happy to see you." Alberta has completed her time at Woodside Family Center, works at Isaacs', and is now back with her family. Isaac's is our second success story - an enlightened business that hires ex-offenders. Please patronize them and let them know why. Let's put our purchasing power to work where our values lie.

Thank You to Some Caring People: These folks gave their time and effort, and the women in prison benefited from their efforts:

- Took The Patriot-News classified ads to the PROGRAM: Dick Hoke, Nancy Witaconis, Felicia Louise Gaines and Rebecca Waldemar;
- Taught creative writing at Woodside Family Center: Lisa Acri, Mary Henninger-Voss, and their friend Niurka Reyes;
- Teaching basic PC skills: Laura Shemick;
- Delivered "working clothes": John Hargreaves, Margaret Carrow and others, plus UCH members and friends who donated the clothes.
- Reentry Breakfast drivers: Chris Dutton, nd Dick Hoke and Mary Ann Rhoads;
- Time-Management classes: Alice Winner, Anita Mentzer and Rachel Mark; Budgeting/Finance classes: Joan Hellmann;
- Made & delivered a Thanksgiving feast: Rebecca Waldemar, Mary Houts, Carlotta Capitani, Mary Ann Rhoads, Nancy Pratt, Kevin Geist, Andy Back, Nancy Witaconis and Cathy Montes.

Submitted by Jim Cavanaugh

We Decked Our Halls!

Written by Youth Reporter Maeda Myers & Youth Advisor Wendy Shaver

"Carrie, if I have to cut one more carrot, I'm going to freak out. . ."
 "Um, Maeda? We still have this whole bag of frozen broccoli. . ."
 "NOOOO!!!!!"

The above dialogue was just a small sample of the behind-the-scenes action at the December 6th Deck the Halls celebration. The Youth Group spent hours laboring over all of the different types of soup offered during the night, and each soup required a certain amount of work and patience. Franzin and Danielle opened lots of bean cans for that yummy vegetarian chili; Christian mastered his chicken noodle soup single-handedly, and MANY vegetables were chopped by all. And don't get me started about the onions. Many eyes were burning, as most recipes needed chopped onions at the same time. My eyes STILL burn! Needless to say, after all our hard work, we had eight batches of yummy soup to serve. And only one inedible burned batch! Thanks to the hard work of the youth and the generosity of all of you, \$800 was raised for the youth social action trip in July 2009. The money will be used to support UCH youth who wouldn't be able to afford the experience otherwise, and to buy materials for some of the projects they will be doing. (www.thepilgrimage.org)

Making soup wasn't the only adventure of that Saturday night. There were activities for the kids, (and some fun-loving adults) like building gingerbread houses, making ornaments, and decorating cookies. The gingerbread houses were a favorite activity, because it was really just an excuse to load up on candy! Kids of all ages were creative and silly with the building. Word has it that Connor and Riley built the best one! The choir also led the congregation in traditional Christmas carols, including a loud, goofy version of The Twelve Days of Christmas. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who supervised craft tables, planned the music, and helped clean up!

For many folks, the favorite part of the night was seeing everyone talking and laughing and having a great time. The soups were a huge hit, money was raised, the church tree was decorated. Everyone was relaxing and enjoying themselves. All of the every-day stresses were gone, at least for that night. The Church was a place of love and joy, and was a welcome distraction. I can't wait until next year!

Philosophy & Literature Group

The Philosophy and Literature Group will meet at 7:30 PM on January 11 at the home of Don and Linda Brown. We will discuss *The World's Religions*, by Huston Smith. All are welcome, but please let the Brown's know that you are coming so that they can ensure

Date	2009 Book & Author List	Hosts
Jan. 11	<i>The World's Religions</i> , by Huston Smith	Don Brown
Feb. 8	<i>The Looming Tower</i> , by Lawrence Wright	Ann Sitrin
March 8	<i>Never Let Me Go</i> , by Kazuo Ishiguro	Marilyn McHenry
April 19	<i>Saving Paradise</i> , by Rebecca Parker & Rita N. Brock	Rachel & Michael Mark
May 17	<i>Supercapitalism</i> , by Robert Reich	Mary & Peter Houts
June 14	<i>The Green Collar Economy</i> , by Van Jones	Jim & Willie Calhoun
July 12	<i>The Omnivore's Dilemma</i> , by Michael Pollan	Dick Hoke
Aug. 9	<i>Deer Hunting with Jesus</i> , by Joe Bageant	Rachel & Michael Mark
Sept. 13	<i>Inventing Human Rights</i> , by Lynn Hunt	Marilyn McHenry
Oct. 11	<i>The Forever War</i> , by Dexter Filkins	May Dooley
Nov. 8	<i>The Predator State</i> , by James K. Galbraith	Dick Hoke

enough seating for everyone. You may reach them at 731-8755 or dlbr@comcast.net.

As always, our December meeting will be at the church for a potluck dinner and to select the books for the next year. Please note that because of Easter and Mother's Day, April and May meetings are on the third Sunday of the month rather than on the second Sunday.

Submitted by Dick Hoke

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

Time Dated Material: PLEASE EXPEDITE

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #812
Harrisburg, PA

January 2009

Return service requested

Check here & return unopened
if you wish to be removed
from our mailing list.

The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg

Phone: 717-564-4761

FAX 564-4780

E-mail: office@harrisburguu.org

Web site: <http://www.harrisburguu.org>

MINISTER

Rev. Howard N. Dana

ACTING ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Yvonne S. Strejcek

CHILDREN & YOUTH RELIGIOUS

GROWTH & LEARNING

Trish Brandon, Director

Wendy Shaver, Youth Advisor

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Sandy Wilbern

MUSIC MINISTRY

Sparkie Radcliffe, Director

Jim Haines, Associate Director

Julie Slaybaugh, Unisinger Accompanist

STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

Alanna Berger

SEXTON

Bob Kershner



Affiliated with the
Unitarian Universalist Association

**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.

Radio: WITF 89.5

Television: FOX 43, WHP-CBS 21, The CW15, WITF

Websites: abc27.com, fox43.com, whptv.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.