

THE REPORTER

The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg • November 2009 • Vol. 45, No. 3

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.

November Services

1	9:30 & 11:00	☼ Saints Aren't Perfect
8	9:30 11:00	☼ at Clover Lane: Revitalizing Allison Hill ☼ at Market Street: Day of the Dead
15	9:30 & 11:00	☼ Islam's Divine Script
22	9:30 & 11:00	☼ You Cannot Change This
29	9:30 & 11:00	☼ God Doesn't Love Your 401(k)

From Your Minister

*The Reverend
Howard N. Dana*

First Church is known as “the church that walks its talk.” The ways it is involved in city, state, and national politics are truly remarkable. Marilyn shared her vision of public ministry with our group. I would like to pass it on to you. It might inform our social justice efforts at UCH.

In order to do social justice work (or public ministry as Marilyn Sewell calls it) you must be converted to it. You can't just be interested in making a change. You must feel religiously compelled to do it - converted. Next, Marilyn says, you must understand power and know how to use it for the good. In itself, power is neither good nor bad; it is how you use it that matters. She encourages ministers and lay leaders to be bold and to exercise leadership. It will never do to wait until everyone agrees on something, she says. If you wait that long, the moment will pass and nothing will get done. One of the most important things to do in social justice work is to watch for emerging issues and then act. Marilyn says that timing is everything. If there is no interest in the general populace for the cause, your work will change little. But when something emerges that captures the attention of the media and the public, that is the moment to act.

One of the most important things that a church must do if it is going to be successful in public ministry is to distinguish between “charity” and “justice.” Marilyn Sewell pointed out that all too often congregations gravitate toward the easier, hands-on work of charity without addressing larger systemic justice issues. It is easier to feed, clothe, and house people than it is to stop hunger, poverty, and homelessness. But if we are not working on the larger issues facing people at the same time as

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President's Message


J.D. Stillwater

Nearly November already! Now is a great time to get clear again about our deepest values. Remember all those great sermons about the spiritual abyss of consumerism? Remember the promises you've made to yourself about reducing your carbon footprint, and focusing your energies on the things that truly matter in life? Right now, as you read this, when the cycle of greatest consumerist excess looms near (aka: the holidays), *now* is the time to reflect and redecide what we want the holidays of 2009 to be all about.

There are so many options for shifting internally. Try these on for size:

- ♦ “*I'm saving up so I can give my kids a good Christmas.*” (Kwanzaa/Channukah/Solstice)
- ♦ “*I'm increasing my self-care practices so that I can be my best self for my family this Christmas.*” (Kwanzaa/Channukah/Solstice)
- ♦ “*I have to spend as much on Johnny as I do on Sally or it won't be fair.*”
- ♦ “*I'm going to be an anchor of love and guidance in Johnny and Sally's lives this year—any tangible gifts are secondary.*”
- ♦ “*I have to get gifts for everyone in my extended family, everyone at work, and all my friends—it's a lot of work and stress.*”
- ♦ “*I want to be fully present and healthy for the people I love, and that means doing less and loving more—it's a struggle for me, but they're*

(Continued on page 9)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Services 9:30 & 11:00 am Explore UCH after services Doyle <i>COUCH</i> Group 7 PM	2 Yoga 6:30 pm Hellmann <i>COUCH</i> 7 PM	3 Adult RGL: The Adventures of JC & the Apostles 7 PM Mindfulness Meditation Group 7 PM FINANCE CMTE 7:30 PM Helping Women in Prison 7:30 PM	4 Narcotics Anonymous 4 pm Queen Spirit Potluck & Circle 6 PM Al-Anon 6 pm Adult RGL: Clutter-Support Group 7 PM <i>Community Cmte 7 pm</i>	5 Ziegler/Tyger <i>COUCH</i> Group 9:30 AM Unisingers 7 pm Adult RGL: Early Universalist Fathers 7 PM	6 UCH Playgroup 9:30 AM	7 Adult RGL: Discussions on Congregational Polity 9:30 AM
8 9:30 Service at Clover Lane Second Sunday in the City 11:00 at 1508 Market Street	9 Yoga 6:30 pm Adult RGL: UU Social Reformers 7 PM	10 REPORTER deadline Adult RGL: The Adventures of JC & the Apostles 7 PM MMG 7 PM	11 Narcotics Anonymous 4 pm Al-Anon 6 pm Board Mtg 7 pm	12 Dooley <i>COUCH</i> 1:00 PM Unisingers 7 pm	13 UCH Playgroup 9:30 AM MMG: Bhante Sujatha 7 PM	14 MMG: Bhante Sujatha 1:00 PM Adult RGL: Integrative Medicine 7 PM
15 Services 9:30 & 11:00 am Explore UCH after services Six Week Store Lay-Led Ministry Fair after services Doyle <i>COUCH</i> Group 7 PM	16 Yoga 6:30 pm Hellmann <i>COUCH</i> 7 PM Winter Solstice Planning 7 pm Harrisburg Area Humanists 7 PM	17 PRIDEFEST MTG 6:30 MMG 7 PM The Oliver Collective 7 PM	18 Narcotics Anonymous 4 pm Al-Anon 6 pm Adult RGL: Clutter-Support Group 7 PM Clover Grove 7 pm <i>Community Cmte 7 pm</i>	19 Ziegler/Tyger <i>COUCH</i> Group 9:30 AM Unisingers 7 pm Adult RGL: Our UU Mothers 7 PM	20 UCH Playgroup 9:30 AM Clover Lane Coffeeshop 8 pm	21 Craft Group 10 am
22 Services 9:30 & 11:00 am Six Week Store	23 Yoga 6:30 pm	24 MMG 7 PM <i>Membership Action Council 7 pm</i>	25 Narcotics Anonymous 4 pm Al-Anon 6 pm	26 Thanksgiving 	27 UCH Playgroup 9:30 AM	28
29 Services 9:30 & 11:00 am Six Week Store	30 Yoga 6:30 pm	<h1>November 2009</h1>				

Directory Updates

Reserved for Members of UCH

JOYS & CONCERNS

Reserved for Members of UCH

What we're really talking about is
a wonderful day set aside on
the fourth Thursday of November
when no one diets.
I mean, why else would they call it
Thanksgiving?

Erma Bombeck

Philosophy & Literature Group

The Philosophy and Literature Group will meet at 7:30 PM on Sunday, November 8th, at the home of Dick and Nathalie Hoke to discuss *The Predator State*, by James K. Galbraith.

Please RSVP to NathHoke@aol.com or phone 737-3973.

submitted by Dick Hoke

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

Associate Minister's CORNER

Phew!! I finally met the newsletter deadline. Coming to a new state, a new city and a new church I have had lots of adjusting to do. As a consequence I neglected to write a newsletter column last month. My apologies, I will not let that happen again.

Nancy and I have been settling in here in Harrisburg and at UCH. I have been impressed by the level of energy and commitment I see and hear in the congregation and am even more excited about doing ministry among and alongside of all of you. There is much to be done here in Harrisburg and beyond and I hope in the coming year I will become integrated into this community and the larger interfaith community where much exciting work for justice is taking place. The possibilities for outreach from our Market street campus are so exciting!

I have met many of you, but there are still a number of you that I have met only in passing or have not had a chance to meet at all. When you see me at church, please come and introduce yourself, I am anxious to get to know more folks in the congregation. I am much better with faces than names, so please forgive me if I ask your name multiple times. Of course, if you can remember to wear your name tag, I would be eternally grateful!

Here in this column in the coming months, I will be letting you know some of the things I am working on. Many of my responsibilities here at UCH will be centered around doing the work of social justice, outreach at Market Street, adult learning and religious education and pastoral care. I will also be leading worship about once a month. I cannot over-emphasize that I want to hear from any of you who have thoughts, ideas or wishes to express in any of these areas or other parts of church life. I hope to incorporate many of your thoughts and ideas as we move forward together.

Just a note about my philosophy on doing the work of social justice. I believe we can sustain ourselves long term in this sometimes difficult and discouraging work only if we do it from our spiritual center. And, while it is possible to do this work alone, it is so much richer when we do it in community. This quote from Howard Thurman is one of my favorites and reflects another of my cherished beliefs about justice work: *"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."* If you wish, you can learn a bit more about me through the biography that is posted on the UCH website.

I would like to close by remembering a Unitarian Universalist minister whose words have always been inspiring and thought provoking to me. For thirty years, the Rev. Dr. Forrest Church ended every sermon he preached at the All Souls Unitarian Universalist congregation in New York City with the words "Amen. I love you. And may God bless us all." When I first attended a service at All Souls I must admit I was taken a little aback by those words, they seemed a bit strange to me. Recently I read what Rev. Church had said about why he ends his sermon with those words each week. Here is part of what he said: *"And besides," he added, "someone once told me that I'm the only person in her life who ever says I love you. She comes to church to hear someone say that she matters."*

I will strive each day to remember those words. Because, at the core of it all, that is what we all want. To be able to go somewhere and hear someone say that we matter.

*Blessings on all of our journeys,
Suzanne*

From Your Minister

Rev. Howard N. Dana

(Continued from page 1)

we help them with immediate needs, we are doing little to stop the cycle. We are not doing social justice work. A church must work systemically. To this end, a congregation cannot afford to work on a single issue only. Just as members of any congregation have a variety of interests, a congregation's social justice efforts must involve a broad section of the church's membership. Likewise, a church must work in coalition with other congregations and community groups. It makes no sense to try to go it alone - something Marilyn sees UU congregations doing all the time.

In our conversation Marilyn Sewell did not shy away from the tougher parts of public witness. If we were doing good social justice work, she promised that we would make members of the congregation mad and they would leave. She promised that we would lose donors who did not agree with the direction the social justice work was taking us. But she also told us that the purpose of a large church is to serve the community - even more than its own members. A large church must possess a big vision. It must see beyond its own needs. A large church is, in fact, owned by the community more than by its own members. The wider community will form an image of a large church's public ministry. It will spread the church's good reputation in ways that the congregation otherwise never could have. The church's city will claim it as an institution of its own. And it will support this church, calling on it in times of need and in times of celebration.

In each thing she said, Marilyn Sewell was clear that public ministry is spiritual work. Social justice work is holy work. And this is the most important thing for leaders to keep at the forefront of their work in the community. If the church's minister and leaders ground the congregation's outreach in spiritual values, the work that results will feed both the workers and the recipients. It will be lasting work. Leaders must always be hopeful and give the people a way to act. They must keep the emerging issues before the congregation so that action can happen quickly when it is needed. A church grounded in its own spiritual life will be able to act on its values with clarity, consistency, and timeliness. It will understand its power and know how to use it for the good.

At roughly 440 members, UCH is considerably smaller than the First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon. However, it is just about the size First Church was when Marilyn Sewell came to it. There is no upper limit on what UCH can do, if only it will imagine it and head in that direction. Let us heed the wise words of Rev. Sewell and do all we can to further our public ministry in Harrisburg and beyond. See you in church.

Love, Howard

Religious Growth & Learning

Dear Friends,

I'm working on plans for my upcoming winter sabbatical. I'm excited and grateful to have this opportunity for personal and professional development, reflection and spiritual renewal.

It's a challenge for me to be realistic in what I can accomplish in two months. There are churches with interesting programming I'd like to visit and learn more about. There are books related to religious growth and learning I want to read. And in the more mundane category, there are file drawers and computer files that need to be sorted through and purged of unnecessary material. There are also dozens of other things I always wanted to do and thought I'd have time for when things "settle down" but that never seems to happen.

I'm grateful to past and present leaders of the children and youth program as well as the staff for stepping in to oversee the program in my absence. I'm taking this time in the winter when things are not too busy and my absence will have the least impact. I look forward to returning refreshed and ready to continue work with members to implement nurturing programming for our families.

In faith,

Trish

November

- 1 📖 Regular group sessions for children and youth
- 8 📖 Multigenerational Service *Day of the Dead* - 11:00 at Market Street
- 15 📖 Regular group sessions for children, High School trip to the Greenbelt
- 22 📖 Regular group sessions for children and youth
- 29 📖 Child care only, Thanksgiving weekend

Greenbelt


Thanks to everyone who participated in picking up trash and weeding the gardens at the Greenbelt on September 27th. What a difference we made! We went to the Greenbelt earlier than usual in the fall due to the space shortage on the day of the church auction. Thanks to Josh Hooper for leading the trip! The high school group will work to clear our section of the Greenbelt path of leaves and enjoy the trail on November 15th. All are welcome to join them at 11:00 in the Common Room to go to the Greenbelt.

Sweet Abundance

Thanks to all the families who donated sweets for the annual church auction. There was an abundance and a rich variety providing something for everyone! Dessert donations raised \$100!

One kind word can warm three winter months.

Japanese Proverb



**HOLIDAY
CELEBRATION**
at Clover Lane


December 5th at 4:00 PM
Musical performances
by the Unisingers,
and a children's performance

Sing-a-long
Twelve Days of Christmas
Tradition

*Homemade Soups
for Supper*

Make & Take
Holidays Crafts

DECK THE HALLS



Grocery Store Gift Card Fund Raiser

Did you know that the church has sold over \$307,350 worth of grocery gift cards with profits exceeding \$29,000 since January? Participating in the Grocery Store Gift Card Fund Raiser is an easy way to help the church meet its operating budget. Giant gift cards earn 10% profit, while Karns and Weis gift cards earn 5% profit.

Cards are mailed on the 1st and 15th of each month, along with an order form for you to place your next order and a postage-paid envelope to use for your payment and order form. If you would like to participate, or if you have questions about this fund raiser, call Anne Moore at 717-877-8576, or e-mail gift-card@harrisburguu.org.

Submitted by Anne Moore

The Oliver Collective

Would you like to make an art gift to yourself or a friend—and support the Oliver LaGrone Scholarship Fund? The OLIVER COLLECTIVE is a recently formed group whose members are offering personal art work as premiums for contributions to the Scholarship. You can see examples of their work at places such as the Art Association of Harrisburg, the Pennsylvania State Museum, HAAC - or go downstairs at UCH.

Sunday, November 1, immediately following services, will be your last chance this fall to obtain a COLLECTIVE premium *and* support the social action of the LaGrone Scholarship. Minimum contributions begin at \$5. Hand-crafted premiums include items such as: jewelry framed photography, Celtic capes, pillows, potholders, carry-all bags, oil paintings, pottery, needlework, shawls, ponchos, note cards, crocheted items, sculpture, handmade gift/art boxes, art dolls, quilts, and hats!

The Oliver LaGrone Scholarship is offered annually by UCH to a graduate of Harrisburg High School. The UCH program is unique in several ways. 1) It can be used in any way that supports the LaGrone Scholar's accredited post-secondary pursuit. 2) Each Scholar gains a mentor with related interests from the congregation. 3) The Scholarship can be renewed over four years.

Submitted by Cordell Affeldt

Mark your Calendars for Winter Solstice: *Parables of the Sleeping Bear*

This year's Winter Solstice ritual will begin Sunday, December 20, at 5:00 PM. Doors will open at 4:44 (sunset) for entry into sacred space. The ritual will be followed by an evening meal around 6:00 PM and a bonfire. All are welcome.

If you would like to help with the ritual, food, or bonfire, please contact Anne Moore, 877-8576, or poetpotter@comcast.net.

Submitted by Anne Moore

Mindfulness Meditation Group

Silence is a receptive space.
-Barbara De Angelis

During the cool of this late autumn please feel free to join us Tuesday evenings at 7:00 in the Margaret Fuller Chapel, as we create a space to learn to trust the quiet as a time of receiving not just as a time of emptying. Simply being still...breathing...relaxing...breathing again...and again...letting a little time pass doing nothing. No experience necessary as we are all beginners together.

During the month of November we once again welcome Bhante Sujatha to guide us through meditation from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on Friday evening November 13th as well as Saturday afternoon November 14th from 1:00 to 4:00 AM. Please see our separate announcement in this month's REPORTER. Also, a reminder that November 17th's meditation (the third Tuesday) will be held in complete silence. Please direct questions regarding the Mindfulness Meditation Group to Jeanne at mmg_of_uch@comcast.net or 774-1479.

Submitted by Jeanne Shellman

LaGrone Scholar

Our 2009 LaGrone Scholar, Charlé Lamb, has a UCH mentor. Dr. Susan Rimby has accepted the role of official supporter. Susan will connect with Charlé over her upcoming four years at West Chester University of PA.

We know our 2009 Scholar can manage the complexity of college. At SciTech High, Harrisburg Schools, for starters, Charlé was enrolled in honors classes, reported chemistry as her favorite class, and delighted in the smiles of elementary students who valued her work with school holiday parties. She plans to work in pharmaceutical product development after college.

More on LaGrone Scholars and Mentors in future REPORTERS. And keep the Oliver LaGrone Scholarship Fund in mind as a gifting alternative for birthdays, holidays, memorials and like honors.

Submitted by Cordell Affeldt

J was just thinking,
if it is really religion
with these
nudist colonies,
they sure must
turn atheists
in the
wintertime.

Will Rogers

Be a 2010 Flower Sponsor

Help to bring peace and beauty to the church during services as you commemorate a special event, person or cause

It's as simple as 1-2-3:

1. Sign up **now through December, 2009** for a Sunday of your choice in 2010
2. Take the flowers home with you after the second service on Sunday, or ask that they be taken to the Woodside Family Center work release program for women after the second service.
3. Write a check for \$45.00 to UCH

FAQ

Do I need to do anything else?

No. The flowers are chosen, arranged and delivered by the florist

What if I want special flowers?

You can arrange this by contacting Mary Houts at 566-1610

When do I pay?

You can pay when you sign up, or you will be billed after the flowers have been in church.

What if I want the same date as somebody else?

You can arrange to share the cost of the flowers with them/or

You can arrange to have a second bouquet in church that day.

What if I want to bring my own flowers from my garden or from a florist?

More flowers are always welcome! But please let Mary Houts know, so we can get your message in the order of service.

What if I don't want to take the flowers home?

When you sign up you can indicate that you would like to donate them to the Woodside Family Center work release program for women. We will arrange to get them there after the second service.

More Questions?

Ask Mary Houts at most coffee hours, or contact her at 566-1610 or houtsmary@hotmail.com

Submitted by Mary Houts

*Bread feeds the body, indeed,
but flowers feed also the soul.*

The Koran

Green Sanctuary Recent Happenings & Future Plans for the Coming Year

I attended and participated in a recent two-day conference at the Penn State Pasquerilla Spiritual Center in State College. The conference was called "Stewardship or Sacrifice? Religion and the Ethics of Climate Change." Keynote speakers were Prof. Michael Mann, one of the lead authors of the IPCC report, and Rev. Sally Bingham of Interfaith Power and Light. Among the many speakers and panelists were Don Brown, Rabbi Carl Choper and me. Rabbi Choper and I spoke about our experience with ICE (Interfaith Coalition for the Environment) in Harrisburg. State College's interfaith environmental group, Creation Care Coalition (initiated on our model!) participated. Faith traditions represented included Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Buddhist. The conference was inspiring and daunting. So much to do, so little time.



Back at UCH Green Sanctuary, a group of newly energized people met several Sundays ago. In the coming year, we agreed to focus on specific areas and our fervent hope is for a high level of participation. We need a critical mass to accomplish our goals.

1. We need to renew our UUA Green Sanctuary status; in other words, reaccreditation.
2. Monthly discussions for new and old members of our Carbon Campaign (reduce carbon use by 10% in one year). The purpose of these discussions will be to exchange information on HOW to calculate our carbon use, HOW to reduce our use, and how to monitor our progress. We hope to do this in a way that will include fun, food, and challenge.
3. Manage auditing and inventories of UCH at Clover Lane and Market Street.
4. Community vegetable garden in 2010 – feasibility, planning, and planting. Local food is one of the most important factors in sustainability, health, and lowering our carbon footprint.
5. Recycling.
6. Special events including film presentations, interesting speakers, and workshops, such as teaching how to grow, prepare, and preserve food. I envision Market Street as a great place for teaching workshops and events that will be open to the city of Harrisburg.

The Interfaith Coalition will focus this year on 1) widening our network of churches in Harrisburg, and 2) advocacy. This is a pivotal year in Washington. It may be now or never to make a meaningful change in our nation's consumption of natural resources. As Sally Bingham pointed out, the religious community MUST be heard. It was emphasized by several Conference speakers that it is the religious more than the scientific community that gets the attention of legislators. Let's make our Harrisburg religious community a significant voice in this movement.

Submitted by Rachel Mark

Helping Women in Prison & Their Families

This month the topics may seem similar but we felt it was important to provide updates:

MCOP/BIG:

Almost two million children in our nation have at least one parent who is incarcerated. Three thousand of those children currently live in the Central PA area. As discussed in the July issue of *The REPORTER*, these children suffer emotionally as a result of their parent's incarceration. Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region, as part of its options for mentors, has begun a program supported by a three year federal grant entitled "Mentoring Children of Prisoners (MCOP)". Community meetings to publicize and explain the MCOP program have been held at locations such as Broad Street Market and Hall Manor.

Caring adults will be matched with children who have a parent either currently incarcerated or on parole. The program will include extra training for mentors on issues surrounding incarceration. Organizations such as Shippensburg University have expressed an interest in participating. The HWIPF committee is gathering information to offer this option to members of UCH who may wish to participate in this important mentoring program.

Update 1:

Participating in a mentoring program may seem daunting to you but your minimum commitment would be a year. You and your "little" should meet at least two – four times a month. You should do things you normally do – go to the library, go to a Senators game, go for a hike, visit a museum, and visit a bookstore or an art gallery or whatever you normally do for an hour or two. For more information contact Margaret Carrow.

Showing we care:

Each year the many members of UCH volunteer to support The Program in numerous ways. These are effective ways to show that we care about women who are seeking to make changes in their lives. Direct interaction also provides insight into the importance of connecting to each other and to our community. Small, but effective ways to show that we care about women who are seeking to make changes in their lives include: deposit classified ads from Sunday's papers in the baskets marked at Church; give cash for the Undercover Fund; donate Fall/Winter clothes on hangers for the Working Clothes/Working Women clothing bank located in the upstairs hallway; volunteer to drive for the monthly Saturday re-entry breakfasts.

Update 2:

Alice Winner is scheduled to teach the time and paperwork management classes at 1515 Derry at The Program offices on the second Thursday of each month at 10 AM. Please contact Alice if you would like to assist. She teaches an evening class also. Joan Hellmann teaches budgeting and how to manage basic financial matters on a regular basis. Please speak to her about her experiences.

Update 3:

This year, the HWIPF steering committee will take the lead on the "Giving Tree". The "Giving Tree" helps to provide a more joyous holiday season for the women and children at the Woodside Family Center and the women at the Promise Place. My most poignant memory from last year's "Giving Tree" was the request from one young mother for diapers for her baby. I gifted the diapers but I also gifted two children's story books for the mother and child to share together. The tree will be in the Common Room from December 6th through December 20th, 2009. On December 6th, you can pick up the gift request tag and on December 20th, please return the gift and the tag. Please contact HWIPF steering committee members – Margaret Carrow, James Cavanaugh, John Hargreaves, Dick Hoke and Chris Dutton to help with the logistics.

**Our next committee meeting is
Tuesday, November 3rd, at 7:30 PM.**

One on one, a little at a time.

Submitted by Margaret Carrow

Lay Led Ministry & Volunteer Fair

**Sunday, November 15, 2009
in the Common Room following services**

This is a GREAT opportunity to come and learn about the ministry and activity groups in the church. Find out when and where they meet, how to get involved, and what volunteer opportunities exist.

If your lay led ministry is interested in participating, please contact Church Administrator, Sandy Wilbern at office@harrisburguu.org

QueenSpirit

POTLUCK & CIRCLE

**Wednesday, November 4
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
- ☞ Wear comfortable clothing and warm socks.

AUTUMN HARVEST 2009

Julianna Sillett will lead us in 'The Seed Exercise' to help us contemplate our personal harvest for this year...2009.

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

Submitted by Anne Moore

The Six Week UU Store



Every Sunday after
services from November 15
until December 20

Are you looking for books and CDs about Unitarian Universalism? Want to send UU holiday cards this year? Need a UU coffee mug, key chain, or bumper sticker? Stop by the Six Week Store and check out our great UU stuff.

Religion & Fiction

Lou Hammann
Monday, November 16
7:00-8:30 PM



Lou Hammann, a long-time friend of UCH, returns to explore the intimate historic relationship between religion and literature. He suggests that this relationship may be even more significant for human understanding than the apparent conflict between religion and science.

Lou Hammann, Ph.D., is Professor Emeritus of Religion and Humanities at Gettysburg College.

Submitted by David Spear

President's Message J.D. Stillwater

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worth it.”

- ♦ “I always bake gazillions of holiday goodies—it’s a lot of work, and no one really needs the calories, but it’s a tradition, and it shows my love for people.”
- ♦ “This year I’m going to express my love in ways that are more direct and healthy for everyone, focusing on the intangible, the heartfelt, and the deepening.”
- ♦ “I stink at finding good presents for people—I hate shopping, and I always feel like my gifts are inadequate.”
- ♦ “This year I’m going to write a letter to each person on my list, and clearly tell them how much they’ve meant to me this past year, and how much I value their presence in my life. I may still feel inadequate, but I’m sure this gift will be more appreciated than something from the mall.”
- ♦ “I stood in line for hours and spent a fortune to get that thing, and he only played with it for about twenty minutes—he got more fun out of playing with the wrapping than with the toy!”
- ♦ “I got a few inexpensive toys that I knew the kids would really use, and the rest of the money I put aside for family play days - every-other-Sunday afternoon all year we’re reserving as family play time, and now we have a solid budget for zoos, parks, movies, and games.”
- ♦ “My horrible in-laws are coming in addition to all the other stuff I have to get done—it’s more stress than I can handle.”
- ♦ “My in-laws are coming to visit, and I’m going to clear my schedule and focus my attention on what a gift my spouse is in my life, and their role in bringing that gift to me.”

Okay, I admit it, that last one may be a bit far-fetched! But I’m hearing a general consensus in this congregation that the holidays in our society are nearly as broken as the health-care system. The great news is that we don’t have to wait for a comprehensive fix; how we approach and experience the holidays is personal to each family. Let this be the year for new traditions, traditions that are life-affirming more than commerce-boosting, that are more about giving and receiving love and compassion than they are about giving and receiving plastic stuff wrapped in plastic and bought with plastic. Here’s a resource if you need help: <http://www.newdream.org/holiday/>.

Let this be the year of no return, when the theme of the holidays shifted permanently from more expensive toys, to more connecting play. This is no less than a leap of Faith, in ourselves, and each other. This, too, is “building the world we dream about.” It won’t be easy, but it will be worth it.

Onward and upward!

J.D. Stillwater
President of the Board of Trustees

Alcoholism/Addiction

Recovery Ministry

YOU ARE NOT ALONE



I put my hand in yours and together we can do what we could not do alone.

The Alcoholism/Addiction Recovery Ministry is a relatively new lay-led ministry that provides a non-judgmental, confidential ministry of presence to individuals, and to the family members and friends of individuals, whose lives have been affected by alcoholism or addiction.

Over the past few months we've been working to define ourselves and our mission within the UCH community. We invite you to visit our newly revised page on the UCH web site to learn more about: Who we are, Why we are here, and How we can help. On our page you'll also find links and phone numbers for obtaining assistance with alcoholism or addiction, and for obtaining information to support recovery (e.g., recovery group meeting schedules).

We'd also like to extend an invitation for interested persons to join us. Ideally, our ministry should include participants representing church leadership, religious education program staff/advisors, parents, young people, recovering individuals and their loved ones. Helpful characteristics for participation in this ministry include: congregational membership, a caring and empathetic personality, good active-listening skills, the ability to preserve confidentiality, and knowledge or experience with recovery programs. If you would like to participate or if you would like more information about our ministry, please contact any one of us for more information.

Dennis B.	737-4023
Mike M.	985-0901
Dennis & Robyn D	957-3619
Holly H.	623-3051
Maria G.	774-1868
Susan J.	(h) 525-9111; (o) 571-3244

Two Events, Two Days with Bhante Sujatha

Healing Through Loving-Kindness

A Workshop

Friday Nov. 13, 2009

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Join Bhante Sujatha for the following:

Lecture: "What Is Loving-Kindness?"

Learning the practice of Loving-Kindness

A profound blessing of healing energy

PLEASE NOTE! SPACE IS LIMITED –

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Call or Email to Register

Bhavana

Happiness & Contentment in

The Western World

Saturday Nov. 14, 2009

1:00 – 5:00 PM

Join Bhante Sujatha for a program of:

Teaching Sitting Meditation

Walking Meditation Discussion

For planning purposes - Please RSVP.

Walk-ins will be welcomed.

Snacks and beverages available during the breaks

Your generous donation supports the following:

- Bhante's traveling ministry through which he provides teaching by leading retreats and workshops like this one
- Building a Dharma Village on land purchased by the Blue Lotus Buddhist Temple - www.bluelotustemple.org/People.html
- The Daham Sevana Human Potential Foundation - a charitable organization founded and managed by Bhante - www.dahamsevana.org

For information and to register please contact Mindfulness Meditation Group at mmg_of_uch@comcast.net or Holly at 938-2089.

Submitted by Jeanne Shellman

UUCV AUCTION

UUCV announces its 13th Annual Auction, Space Odyssey 2009 at the Boiling Springs Meeting House on Saturday, November 14. The Silent Auction begins at 6:00 and the Live Auction at 8:00. A \$5 donation provides entry to this intergalactic event, including a buffet dinner bar. For more information, go to <http://www.uucv.net/activities>.

Submitted by Carole DeWall

Circle Dinners

Circle dinners are a great way to get to know other church members - to enjoy good conversation with like-minded people and to enjoy a good meal. If you like "potlucks," you'll love circle dinners - everyone brings some part of the meal. Conversation is lively while people share ideas and experiences. New and old church members find new friends, learn more about old friends, and enjoy being part of the church community. Singles and couples, young and old - everyone is welcome and everyone has a good time.

There are 5 dinners - on the third Saturday of each month from January through May with 8 to 10 people at each dinner. Couples and singles are randomly assigned to different groups of 8 to 10 people for each of those months. You are the host one month and attend as a guest the rest of the Circle Dinner season. The host household usually provides the entree and the guests bring the rest. If you don't have space for 8 guests, you can arrange to have your dinner at the church, a park, or even a restaurant.

You can sign up by emailing Peter Houts at psh2@psu.edu . You can sign up to participate in all dinners or as an alternate who will be called when regular participants are not able to attend. To learn more see the poster and sign up sheet at church or talk to Peter and Mary Houts during coffee hour after services.

Submitted by Peter Houts



Clover Lane Coffee House

Clover Lane Coffee House is pleased to welcome singer, songwriter and political activist Tom Neilson as our featured singer on Friday, Nov. 20 at 8:00 PM. Admission is \$10 at the door.

An anti-war organizer in the 1960s, Tom left the U.S. in 1970 and spent more than a decade working and traveling around the world, mostly in Africa and South America. His original works, parodies of popular tunes, well known freedom songs, and poetry, draw the listener into his musical response to globalization. As a result of his long standing involvements with groups working for peace and justice, you will hear his music at the gates of military bases, nuclear plants, on union lines, and to free political prisoners such as Leonard Peltier and Mumia Abu-Jamal.

He has opened for Dennis Kucinich, Amy Goodman, Ralph Nader, and Cesar Chavez. Past venues include the Martin Luther King Center in Havana, Cuba; Town Hall in New York City; Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.; Boston's Symphony Hall and the New England Conservatory of Music.

Recent awards include:

- ♦ 2008 Finalist, Plowshares Songwriting Competition
- ♦ 2007 Winner South Florida Folk Festival
- ♦ 2006 Just Plain Folks Awards for Folk Song, Folk Album
- ♦ 2006 Finalist, Kerrville Folk Festival
- ♦ 2004 Tricentric Showcase, Northeast Regional Folk Alliance (NERFA)

Submitted by Bart Carpenter

Forgiveness is the fragrance that the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it.

Mark Twain

Once a woman has forgiven her man, she must not reheat his sins for breakfast.

Marlene Dietrich

Every one says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive.

C. S. Lewis

Repentance is another name for aspiration.

Henry Ward Beecher

Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future.

Paul Boese

Submitted by Felicia Louise Gaines

∞ Food Pantry ∞

Your November donations will go to the Ecumenical Food Pantry in Harrisburg. Please donate as you have in the past: **generously**. Basic, non-perishable food items are what are needed first, and also basic hygiene items such as toilet paper and bath soap.

Think canned vegetables such as beans and peas, and canned fruit like peaches and pears, rather than things like sauerkraut and cranberry sauce.

submitted by Nathalie Hoke

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

Time Dated Material: PLEASE EXPEDITE

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Harrisburg, PA

November 2009

Return service requested

Check here & return unopened
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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

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Suzanne M. Marsh

**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

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.

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.

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