



# “UU News and Views”

The Rev. Walter LeFlore, Minister

Volume 62

Number 8

Founded 1952

April 2015

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie is a community that values diversity, peace, democracy and the interdependent web of all existence. The Fellowship nurtures and challenges its members in their religious journeys, and advocates for social justice in the larger community. We are engaged in worship, study, public service, fellowship and social action. We invite your attendance and participation.

## Upcoming Services

- April 5<sup>th</sup>:** “A Curious Event”  
Rev. Walter LeFlore
- April 12<sup>th</sup>:** “Quiztions and Answers”  
Rev. Walter LeFlore and RE
- April 19<sup>th</sup>:** “Just Curious”  
Rev. Walter LeFlore
- April 26<sup>th</sup>:** “Tree Huggers, Dirt Worshippers and YoUU”  
Spiral Web

*ur Nursery is available during all regular services. Please feel free to bring your young one there. Information is available from the minister, any member of the board, the Greeter at the Welcome Desk in the lobby and the Usher at the door of the main meeting room.*



"UU News and Views" is published monthly (except July and August) by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie, and is distributed to our members and friends without charge.

Editor: Joedy Kievit  
email: [uupoknewsletter@uupok.org](mailto:uupoknewsletter@uupok.org)

#### OFFICERS

President	Paul Silverstein
Vice President	Bryan Cook
Treasurer	Jolanda Jansen
Corp. Clerk	Julie Colacchio

#### TRUSTEES AT LARGE

This Person	Serves until
Jeff Asher	2015
Wayne Cochran	2016
Merrylea Bullock (youth trustee)	2015

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie  
67 South Randolph Avenue  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
845.471.6580

Web: [www.uupok.org](http://www.uupok.org)  
email: [office@uupok.org](mailto:office@uupok.org)

Office Administrator: Joedy P. Kievit  
Office Hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am-1pm; and Thursdays from 11am-2pm

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie is a member of the Society of the Unitarian Universalist Association, 24 Farnsworth Street, Boston, MA 02210-1409. [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)

We are one of 52 Societies in the Unitarian Universalist District of Metropolitan New York  
P. O. Box 898, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520. [www.uumetrony.org](http://www.uumetrony.org)



## April Calendar Highlights

- 4/1 Tai Chi (weekly) 10am**  
**Social Justice Meeting 7pm**  
**Paganism 102 (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> week) 7pm**
- 4/2 Program Committee Meeting 7pm**
- 4/5 Choir Rehearsals (weekly) 9am**
- 4/6 Speaking of Books 7pm**
- 4/7 Silent Meditation (weekly) 7:30am**
- 4/8 Small Group Ministry (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> week) 1pm**  
**Adult OWL (2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Wed) 7pm**  
**SGM Facilitators Meeting 7pm**
- 4/9 Stewardship Committee Meeting 10am**  
**Bridge Club (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> week) 7pm**
- 4/10 Drumming Circle 7pm**
- 4/11 Buildings & Grounds Workday 9am**
- 4/12 QUUizbowl Service 10:30am**  
**Seniors Group (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> week) 12:30pm**  
**Adult OWL (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sun) 2pm**
- 4/13 SGM (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> week) 1pm & 7pm**  
**Beading Together 7pm**
- 4/16 Board of Trustees Meeting 7pm**
- 4/18 Coming of Age Workshop 6pm**
- 4/23 Lunch with Walter 12pm**  
**LFD/RE Meeting 7pm**
- 4/24 Growing Stronger Retreat**  
**Meal for the Homeless Shelter 4:30pm**
- 4/30 Tom Hackett Photography Seminar 6:30pm**

**Rev. Walter LeFlore** along with Rev. Heather Moody (First Congregational United Church of Christ) will speak on the **subject of God: Clergy of Different Faiths Discuss their personal take on the Divine** for the **Lunch & Learn Program** on Wednesday, **April 22<sup>nd</sup> 11:30am** at the Hudson Valley Community Center, 110 S. Grand Ave; Poughkeepsie. **Cost \$5.00 lunch and Program. Please make lunch reservations as early as possible by calling: 845-471-0430.**

## President's Column – April: What to do? What to do?

With the recent start of my indefinite sabbatical, I suddenly had the blessed challenge of how to fill my time. Could the UUFP help me out?

First, there is my job as board prez. It's a nice gig- I get to work with Walter and the great people on the board. I'll just add a few more projects that I've had on the back burner. For deeper spirituality and connections I joined a Small Group Ministry meeting where I ponder life's persistent questions with interesting people – such wonderful conversations. Then I decided I needed some playtime – so it was off to Thurs nite Bridge club – with Professor Nick- boy that got my brain cells working. Maybe I'll drop in on the book club (that new book sounds pretty good). Then again, I could join my wife, Betsy, at the Wed Morning Thai Chi class- she's having a good time there.

This Sunday, I'll be joining the kids for their new Spirit Play program- where I will read them a Passover story and ask them questions. It's been awhile since I have helped out with RE- but its always fun.

Hmmm- I think I'll check in with Social Justice to see what they are doing – meals for the Homeless Shelter is certainly an easy choice – but they are planning some more things.

Oops I forgot - Uniplayers is coming up- its time to organize and cast some new performances for this year. Any closet hams out there?

Whew – thinking about all this activity is making me tired. Maybe I'll start with a short nap....zzzzzzzz

Paul Silverstein, President

## From the Minister

**April 2015**

The theme for this month is curiosity. At your age (and mine) is there much curiosity remaining? I know I used to be curious about a lot of things. It seems that list has gotten smaller with added years of experience, kids, bills, house repairs and increased attention to financial needs during retirement.

I wouldn't be surprised if this wasn't the reality in most of our lives. After all, we do live in a society that places a high value on "knowing" and having the right answers. It seems we should always know where we're going, have a plan, a schedule and contingency plans.

All of which makes me wonder, where in our lives is there room for wondering, curiosity, exploring, daydreaming? Where do we find support or encouragement to explore possibilities (as opposed to a search for the right answer)? How much time do we spend in non-goal oriented activities, time spent without an explicit objective or outcome?

If we were to take the time to be curious, what would we be curious about? If it's not too much to ask, I'd like to suggest that we take time this month to be curious about the role of the divine in our lives (or it's equivalent in your vocabulary).

Happy musing,  
Walter





## Our Annual Pledge Drive

Our pledge campaign kicked off a little over two weeks ago and, as I write this, March 26th, we are nearly halfway to our goal. This past Sunday, after service, many of your fellow members handed in their pledge forms for 2015/16. It was, I think, the most gratifying day I have had since joining the stewardship committee.

To be specific, we have received, thus far, 34 pledges totaling \$80,000 which is nearly half of our goal. Thank You!!!!

In the near future our visiting stewards will be contacting those who have not submitted pledge forms so that you may have the opportunity to complete yours. We are rapidly nearing the time when our Treasurer needs to know the amount she can budget for the Fellowship in the upcoming fiscal year. There will be a town meeting in May where you can express your opinions and desires for the funding of the various committees.

We hope you will be generous in your pledges this year.

Paul Osgood



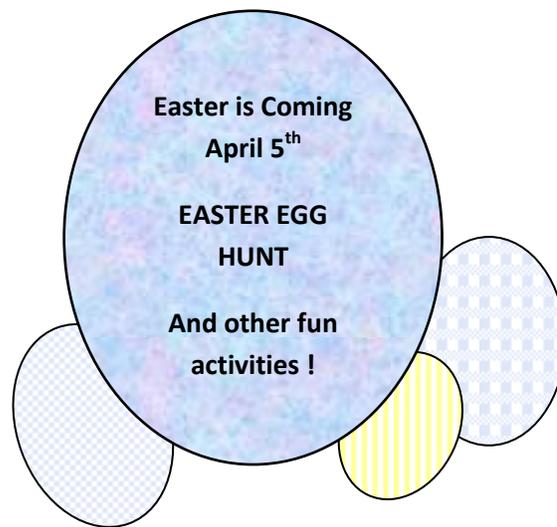
## Introducing our Principles in Action Through Spirit Play

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, storyteller Margie Watters introduced our children to the UU's seven principles. Our Spirit Play curriculum refers to the principles as 'promises', which is a concept the children can easily grasp. They have known them as the UU rainbow ROY-G-BIV, in which each letter signifies a color associated with a promise. For instance, R is for red – Respect all beings. By the story's end, the children were well acquainted, or reacquainted, with this important aspect of our UU faith. They took these thoughts with them to the various activities they chose after the story.

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, Xiaodong Smith offered a repeat performance of the Origin of the Chinese New Year Celebration. She added an explanation of 'Lantern Day', which is the last day of Chinese New Year. On that day, the family shares a food called 'the rice ball'. Made of sticky rice, sesame, red bean and sugar mixed into a ball, this food represents the hope that the family will come together again the next year. For their activity the children once again made their own red lanterns. They hung them over the fireplace, in show of unity and cooperation.

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, storyteller Margie Watters introduced the children to the concept of 'stewardship'. They learned that stewardship means 'caring for one another'. It takes all of use caring together to make things

happen. It is applicable in many aspects of their lives, whether at home, school, play or here at our Fellowship. Once again, they kept these thoughts in their hearts as they pursued various projects after the story.



## From the Transparency Department

The minutes of the monthly Board of Trustees meetings will now be posted on the bulletin board in the hall and online. For the online version go to our website, [uupok.org](http://uupok.org). Click on About Us, and then click on Directory and BoT Minutes. You will then need to provide the website password. If you don't have the password, please ask Joedy ([office@uupok.org](mailto:office@uupok.org)) for it.

Note- this is also where to go to for the latest version of the Directory – which is essential for everyone to have!!

Paul Silverstein, Board Prez



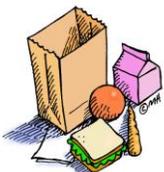
## **Surtsey – A New Heaven and Earth To Be Installed in the Main Meeting Room**

Thanks to two gifted, generous women, our UU Sanctuary will soon be home to a stunning tapestry diptych. Upon her death three years ago, our beloved member, Cornelia Smith, bequeathed the UUFP a generous financial gift. (This was actually the first of two gifts. The uses for the second are still under consideration.) The Board of Trustees voted to put this first bequest towards the beautification of the Main Meeting Room. The intention was, among other plans, to purchase something of beauty to grace the pulpit area. Cornelia was an artist and fierce advocate for the environment. The hope was to find a work, that would embody Cornelia's own talent and values.

Enter Mary Flad, local artist and friend of the earth. Mary has coupled her skill with tapestry and her love of the land to create exquisite works of art. When the Task force for the Beautification of the Main Meeting Room saw several of her pieces at a local exhibit, they shook their heads in wonder. Mary's work, with its graceful, colorful tribute to nature, was the embodiment of Cornelia's spirit. After some discussion, members of the task force and Mary agreed she would create a unique tapestry diptych to hang on either side of the chalice, which hangs in the front of the sanctuary.

Mary chose as her topic, Surtsey – A New Heaven and Earth. Surtsey is an island which rose from the Atlantic waters off Iceland in 1963. Volcanic heaving thrust this land mass above the surface of the ocean. Lava and steam wrestled. They settled, disappeared, reappeared and finally anchored. The end product has recently reached its 50th birthday. Its gift from planet earth was the establishment of plant life and the reestablishment of bird and animal habitation. As Mary writes, this is indeed, a new earth.

Mary has been weaving this story into a length of colorful figures. Clouds, birds, fish and fire enliven her diptych. She has kept our UU in mind during her artistic process. Sensitive to who we are and the values we hold, she has woven an exquisite piece for the UUFP, in the deepest spirit of our dear Cornelia. We will present and hang Mary's creations in mid-April. Stay tuned for the exact details.



### **Lunch with Walter:**

Please join me for a brown bag lunch on Thursday, **April 23**. We'll gather at noon and talk about whatever is on our minds. History says these are often wonderful conversations.



## UU Metro District Meeting

The 2015 Metro NY District Annual Meeting will be held May 1-2, 2015 at the Hyatt Morristown in Morristown, NJ. Full meeting details and registration will be available online very soon at <http://uumetrony.org/am15>. An opportunity to network with the larger UU community.

Anyone interested in attending, please reach out to Paul Silverstein ([paulinpokny@gmail.com](mailto:paulinpokny@gmail.com)) so we can coordinate car pools. Note - you can attend both Fri eve and Sat, or just Saturday.



Congratulations to the organizers and participants in the walk over the Walkway on March 8 to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bloody Sunday in Selma, Alabama. It is so great that our Fellowship took the lead in organizing this march, and that so many of us participated!

The Social Justice Committee will meet on **Wednesday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m.** All are invited.

**Sunday, April 26, New York City:** Although the deadline to reserve a seat on the bus was March 31, it's possible that you can still get a seat if you call the number below. Or, you can arrange your own transportation and meet up there.

**Walk The Talk! Reserve & pay for your seat on the bus now! Peace & Planet Rally & March in NYC Sun. Apr. 26<sup>th</sup>.** We need your reservations and payment by Tuesday, March 31st (at the latest). The Social Action Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Rock Tavern wants to show our support for a Nuclear-Free, Peaceful, Just and Sustainable World by filling a charter bus to NYC to attend the 2015 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Mobilization for Abolition, Climate, and Justice, Peace & Planet Rally & March in NYC on Sun. Apr. 26th.

The tentative schedule of events is as follows: 11-12:30 Interfaith Service for Nuclear Weapons Abolition at Tillman Chapel, Church Center, U.N.; 1 pm Gather for Rally Union Square North Park (16 - 17th streets); 2:15 pm Begin march (Up 3rd Ave. to 42nd to Dag Hammarskjold Plaza); 3 - 6 pm Peace Festival - at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza.

Can we bring a bus load of UU's, and others? Here are the details we have from Gallagher Buses, (Leprechaun Lines): A 56 passenger bus costs \$950; a 38 passenger bus - \$855. That would involve leaving from Newburgh, with a stop in Harriman, at about 8:30 AM and returning about 6:00 PM, or later. There is a 20% nonrefundable deposit when we make the commitment. The balance is due two weeks before the trip.

Payments can be either cash or check. Please make checks payable to UUCRT. In the Memo write: Bus to NYC. Mail checks with this form to UUCRT, P.O. Box 502, Washingtonville, NY 10992. Your participation will make this possible! Questions: Call Verne M. Bell at [845-569-8965](tel:845-569-8965)

**Mark your calendars now!** Friday evening, **May 29** (exact time TBD): The Social Justice Committee will screen the award-winning documentary "Inequality for All." In his Wealth and Poverty class at U.C.- Berkeley, former Labor Secretary Robert Reich discusses the grave economic and social consequences that may result if the gulf

between rich and poor continues to widen. At the heart of the film is a simple question: What is a good society and what role does the widening income gap play in the deterioration of the nation's economic health? Saturday Morning, **May 30** (exact time TBD): The Social Justice Committee will screen an antidote to "Inequality for All" – a speech given by economist and best-selling author Juliet Schor on Saturday, January 24, 2015 at the Trinity Institute Conference on Income Inequality. The speech highlights the many positive developments taking place around the globe that are helping to alleviate the problems that Robert Reich outlined.

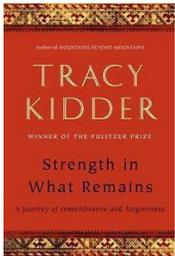


**"There is no glory in star or blossom till looked upon by a loving eye; There is no fragrance in April breezes till breathed with joy as they wander by."**

**William C. Bryant**

Let's all breathe deep with joy! We hope you will consider coming to the April Buildings & Grounds Workday to celebrate the turning of the winter to spring. We will gather together on Saturday, **April 11**, from 9am to 12pm, with a light lunch served afterwards. If it's warm enough, it will be a picnic! We will have a number of small projects "ready to go," indoor and outdoor, everything from cleaning and painting to weeding and planting. Work by yourself or as part of a team, or even take an assignment and come when you can, if Saturday morning isn't convenient.

Co-Chairs John Colacchio & Judith Knauss



## Speaking of Books

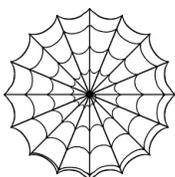
Speaking of Books is the Fellowship's non-fiction book group that meets first Mondays of the month. Our next book is **"Strength in What Remains" by Tracy Kidder.**

Join us on **April 6th** at 7PM in the Conference Room. Come with suggestions for the May and June book choices.

From Amazon:

" the story of one man's inspiring American journey and of the ordinary people who helped him, providing brilliant testament to the power of second chances. Deo arrives in the United States from Burundi in search of a new life. Having survived a civil war and genocide, he lands at JFK airport with two hundred dollars, no English, and no contacts. "

If you want more information contacts for Speaking of Books are Meg Heshner and Jane Bartik.



## Spiral Web

Spring has arrived! At least, sometimes it seems as if it has . . .

Just wanted to let you all know what's happening with Spiral Web in April.

The Paganism 102 workshop on "Tricksters and Fools" originally scheduled for April 1 has been cancelled due to (happy) scheduling conflicts. Jim, Have fun and play a practical joke or two!

The **April 15** Paganism 102 workshop will be on May Day/Beltane and Earth Day. We start at **7pm**.

Then, on Sunday, **April 26**, Spiral Web will be presenting the Sunday Service at the UU Fellowship at 10:30, "Tree Huggers, Dirt Worshippers and You." We hope you will all join us to celebrate our connection with Mother Earth.

## Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

### You Might Be Interested In:

- American Friends Service Committee General Secretary Shan Cretin to speak in Poughkeepsie on the topic of: Fostering Leadership for Social Change. Friday, **April 10** 7 PM, Oakwood Friends School - Lane Auditorium, 22 Spackenkill Rd, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. **The Friday night program is free and open to the public.** AFSC supports and inspires a global network of young people who are emerging leaders in nonviolent movements to build lasting peace in their communities by pursuing social change wherever it is needed—providing just livelihoods, ending racism and intolerance, transforming policing and criminal justice systems, offering alternatives to violence, and working for humane immigration policies.

- Pat Lamanna Sighting:** Saturday, **April 11**, 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Rock Tavern, 9 Vance Road, Rock Tavern, NY: Pat will be the "co-feature" at the Hudson Valley Folk Guild coffeehouse, along with Keith Jordan. Open mic signup at 7:00. Admission: \$5 members, \$6 non-members. [www.hudsonvalleyfolkguild.org](http://www.hudsonvalleyfolkguild.org).

- Jazz Concert at the UU Congregation of the Hudson Valley with Loren Stillman and Gary Versace, Saturday, **April 11<sup>th</sup>**, 7:30pm, Suggested Donation \$20. 2021 Albany Post Road, Croton on Hudson, NY; visit [uucroton.org](http://uucroton.org) or 914-271-4283 for more information.

- What can you do to help start the conversation and end the bullying and the suicides? Keep quiet on **April 17, 2015** -- [National LGBT Day of Silence](#). LGBT youth and their allies won't be talking on April 17. They want to call attention to the deathly silence that still surrounds homosexuality. On April 18th, have a conversation.

- Pat Lamanna Sighting:** Friday, **April 17**, 7 p.m. House concert at the Silversteins'. Pat will be singing mostly original tunes, and will be joined by Judith Knauss, who will be reading her fabulous poetry. Check with Paul or Betsy to find out if spaces are still available. A donation to the Fellowship is appreciated.

- The Vassar Haiti Project brings you a weekend celebration of Haitian art and culture. The art sale and auction will support the education, health, and sustainable development in the village of Chermaitre. The 14th Annual Haitian **Art Auction & Sale: April 17, 18 & 19, 2015**. Vassar College; College Center Multipurpose Room. Sale proceeds will support initiatives in the village of Chermaitre, Haiti in partnership with the Vassar Haiti Project. **Opening Wine/Cheese Reception:** Fri. April 17 5PM; **Sale:** Fri. April 17th 12PM-7PM; Sat. April 18th 10AM-4PM; Sun. April 19th 9AM-2PM; **Live Auction:** Sat. April 18th 4PM-6PM. **Free and Open to the Public.**

[haitiproject@vassar.edu](mailto:haitiproject@vassar.edu) (845) 797-2123. Vassar College, Multipurpose Room, 2nd Floor, College Center, 124 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12604.

• **Pat Lamanna Sighting:** Sunday, **April 19**, at 3:00 p.m. (potluck at 2:00: Pat will be one of several singer-songwriters playing their celestial music in “Singer-Songwriter Heaven.” This is a house concert in Poughquag; if interested, you can get the details, including the address, by emailing John Hamilton at [birdman566@aol.com](mailto:birdman566@aol.com) or calling [917-734-8851](tel:917-734-8851). A young singer-songwriter named Annika will open, and the other performers are Don Lowe, Kelly Flint, and Frank Murasso. Suggested donation: \$20.

• **Pat Lamanna Sighting:** Saturday, **April 25**, 8 p.m., Peoples Voice Café, Community Church Unitarian Universalist, 40 East 35 St. (between Park and Madison): Pat will be featured, along with Sally Campbell. Suggested donation: \$18 but no one is turned away. [www.peoplesvoicecafe.org](http://www.peoplesvoicecafe.org).

• Walk for Parkinson’s on Sunday, **April 26<sup>th</sup>**, 1-3pm at the Poughkeepsie entrance to the Walkway Over the Hudson. Sponsored by the Parkinson’s Disease Support Group of Mid-Hudson Valley. For more information, visit [www.midhudsonparkinson.org](http://www.midhudsonparkinson.org) or call Nancy Redkey at 914-475-2793.



**ARTIST OF THE MONTH INFORMATION:** Ulana Salewycz will be the artist for April. She has scheduled her Art Reception at the UUPF for Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm. All are Welcome.



All newsletter submissions should now be mailed to [uupoknewsletter@uupok.org](mailto:uupoknewsletter@uupok.org).

The deadline for May’s Newsletter is **Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>**



**Thank You!**