

# "2121 News and Views"

The Rev. Walter LeFlore, Minister

Volume 62 Number 4 Founded 1952 December 2014



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.

## December Services

Dec 7 - "Can We Talk About Sex?" (Adult OWL) Soyal Smalls and Judith Knauss

Dec 14 - Have you met Grace? Rev. Walter LeFlore

Dec 21 - Virgin Birth Rev. Walter LeFlore

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve: The Christmas Story Rev. Walter LeFlore

Dec 28 - "Everything Olde Is New Again" Spiral Web

*Our 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 to the main 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:** Jane Bartik  
**email:** [UUPokNewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:UUPokNewsletter@yahoo.com)

**OFFICERS**

President	Paul Silverstein
Vice-President	Bryan Cook
Treasurer	Jolanda Jansen
Corp. Clerk	Jane Bartik

**Trustees at Large**

<i>This Person</i>	<i>Serves until</i>
Jeff Asher	'15
Wayne Cochran	'15
Julie Colacchio	'15
Merrylea Bullock (youth trustee)	'14

**The UU 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 Kievit

Office Hours:

Tues, Wed: 10 am – 1 pm

Thurs: 11 am – 2 pm

Friday: 10 am – 1 pm

The UU Fellowship of Poughkeepsie is a member of the Society of the Unitarian Universalist Association  
25 Beacon Street Boston, MA 02108

[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)

## December Highlights

Dec 3: Paganism 102 **7PM**

Dec 7: Handel's Messiah **3PM**

Dec 9: Speaking of Books. **7PM**

Dec 17: Paganism 102 **7PM**

Dec 18: Board of Trustees meeting **7PM**

Dec 21: Third Sunday Lunch and Crafts Festival  
**After Service**



Sunday Dec. 21 from 1pm to 4pm following the 3rd Sunday lunch

Join us for an afternoon of crafts & fellowship at our annual UUFP Holiday Craft Festival. Crafts for all ages, both adults and youth, will be available to make and bring home.

## President's Column Dec 2014

Thanksgiving is here. So, let's reflect on what it means to give thanks. For most of my life I saw giving thanks as the "right" thing to do. We all know that we live in a time and a place, in which our standard of living is far better than that of 99.9999% of the people who have ever lived. Even most of the people in world today, live with far, far less than all but the poorest American. When nationalistic chest thumpers say they are "proud to be an American", it sounds so grating and arrogant. Pride? For having the good luck to be born in this time and place? Hardly. How about a little gratitude, instead? And by being grateful, the next thought naturally follows. "If such gifts were given to me, then, in turn, what gifts can I give to others?" Not a bad thought to keep in our heads.

In later years, I have also learned the other side of gratitude, the hidden gift, in which it acts like a magic camera that focuses my mind on the good things in my life. Those riches that lie in the background of consciousness are suddenly highlighted and framed. The daily problems that absorb my energy fade and blur a bit, as I remember anew the wondrous and beautiful aspects of life. The mere act of being grateful enriches my own life.

Giving thanks, that's a habit worth building.

Paul Silverstein



### From the Minister

December 2014

Have you met Grace yet? My guess is yes, although you may not recognize her or know her by name. She's very low key and almost never speaks. She seems very shy so it's easy to fail to notice her.

None-the-less, I'm almost sure you've seen her. She lives down the block, across the street, in the next county over and even in your own home. Like I say, she's very low key and it's easy to miss seeing or noticing her. Perhaps more accurately, she's often seen or experienced but called by a different name.

She seems to come out of nowhere and all of a sudden, there she is. She appears as an astonishing sunset, a flower in full blossom or the call of a loon on a dark summer night. She may appear as a gift of beauty or on a sequence of notes in a song's melody. Sometimes she's the smile on a stranger's face that helps you to feel alive.

The dictionary tells us Grace is simple elegance, refined movement and/or unmerited favor of God, the bestowing of blessing that is generous, free and totally unexpected and undeserved (not because of unworthiness, but because one didn't and can't "earn it").

I'm convinced Grace appears in our lives often and goes unnoticed. I suspect Grace is much more present in our lives than we know. We tend to misname Grace as coincidence, nature or a pleasant, fleeting emotion or feeling. All of which I suspect is true and.... different faces of Grace.

Blessings,  
Walter



Many thanks to those who worked hard arranging, organizing, working at and also selling at the Fair Trade Bazaar. There were a lot of UU's there Sunday after Service! Thanks to you all! (apologies if I missed anyone) Craig Altmann, Cathy Augello, Merrylea Bullock, Larry Decker, Nick Garin, Chad Halson, Tom Hackett, Judith Knauss, Pat Lamanna, Karen Lovequist, Nina Lynch, Laura and Scott Stevens, Jordyn Srom, Rosie Trammel

---

## Lifespan Faith Developments



Want to learn a little more about Spirit Play? Following are brief summaries of three of November's stories.

11.2

### ***Guest at Your Table***

The premise of this story is to emphasize helping and caring for each other: supplied with the same exact abundant table before them, those in Hell were starving and suffering since the chopsticks were too long to feed themselves; those in Heaven were satisfied and thriving having used the long chopsticks to feed each other! Erica Chase-Solerno's story basket for this included small dolls of different ages and ethnicities, chopsticks, and a table laden with crafted bowls of food, as well as a Guest at Your Table donation box. As a side note, one way RE keeps this idea alive of helping others is use of the marble jar, in which a marble is deposited when a child or teacher witnesses a kindness or good deed in the classroom and mentions it out loud to the teacher or the entire class. When the jar is filled after some number of weeks, the children can choose a treat from the prize box.

11.9

### ***Fair Trade***

November 9th was Spirit Play's social justice Sunday. The subject was Fair Trade. This coincided with the Fair Trade Bazaar, which was held at Vassar College the following Sunday. Our story was an original piece, created by Reed Asher and Anne Lancellotti. The children heard from two families who live in Latin America and pick bananas for a living. One family works on a large plantation. They do not receive fair wages for their labor. They live in inadequate housing and do not have enough food to eat. All the children do not go to school. The other family works on a farm, which is associated with a Fair Trade Organization. This organization guarantees the farmers will be paid a fair wage for their bananas. This family has decent housing and enough nourishing food. All the children go to school. Our children were very interested in the lives of these families. They now understand a little more about Fair Trade and its effect on children their own ages.

11.16

### ***Thanksgiving Breakfast***

Carol Gustafson adapted this story from the Spirit Play collection to make it specific to UUFP. She also created the adorable and irresistible story basket: the children (even the storyteller) could not keep their hands off of the exquisite handmade miniature corn muffins! Carol tied together the themes of the value of diversity by using examples of locally-grown produce: corn, apples, and grapes. Carol's story also reflected some of the roles taken on by members here at the UU, and again, being thankful and welcoming to others. Here's an

excerpt: *“We celebrate the harvest of the land. We hope the rich gifts of the harvest will sustain us. Corn, apples and grapes are symbols of local abundance, because they all grow right here in the Hudson Valley. We celebrate the ways these gifts grow together and sustain us. We hope that in remembering these amazing gifts of sun, rain, and earth we will in turn nurture and sustain this planet. These gifts require the labor of many hands to grow, to harvest, to grind, to press, to bake, to bottle, to transport, to sell, to prepare, to serve. Our religious work requires many hands to nurture each other and to heal and restore this world.”*

Spirit play in action  
Erica Chase-Salerno tells the Guest  
at Your Table story to Davionna, Miranda and  
Jesse.



After listening to the story about Guest  
at My Table, Jesse places cut outs of our  
UU community in a welcoming circle



### Announcing the Coming of Age Class for 2014-2015

The Lifespan Faith Development Committee is pleased to announce the following pairings of Coming of Age students with mentors for the 2014-2015 Fellowship Year:

Ava, with mentor Judith Knauss  
Brigid, with mentor Beatrix Clarke  
Tory, with mentor Julie Colacchio  
Clare, with mentor Georgette Weir  
Paavo, with mentor Craig Altmann  
Rosie, with mentor Cathy Augello  
Zack, with mentor Nick Garin

We invite you all to follow our progress during the year, and to join us on for the Coming of Age Service on Sunday, June 14, 2015, at the Fellowship

Lifespan Faith Development Committee: Co-chair: Margie Watters. Members: Reed Asher, Erica Chase-Salerno, Julie Colacchio, Carol Gustafson, Judith Knauss, Anne Lancellotti, Soozie Nowak

---

## Handel's Messiah on December 7th at 3 o'clock

The Helen Baldwin Singers will present the Christmas portion of G. F. Handel's Messiah on Sunday, December 7th at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. This glorious work is a nice beginning to the Christmas season. It includes soloists Barbara Corona, Cary Kruzanski, Jonathan Dickau and Michael Saunders. Barbara Kendall and Samala Rubin will play piano for this work. The cost is \$8. Sumptuous desserts will follow the concert.

Mary Ann Osgood



---

## Social Justice Committee News



Due to a technical glitch we are missing this Month's Social Justice Article

---

## General Assembly and Social Justice

Due to a service on September 21 that was already quite long, I decided to defer most of what I had planned to say about General Assembly and to write about it, instead, in the newsletter. This is the third of four articles about social justice items at this year's General Assembly

### Ware Lecture

The annual Ware lecture derives its name and financial base from a bequest in 1920 of Harriet E. Ware of Milton, MA. Although not specifically a social justice item, it has featured many activists over the years, such as Julian Bond, Morris Dees, Vernon Jordan, Jr., Jesse Jackson and Martin Luther King, Jr.

This year's Ware lecturer was Sister Simone Campbell. She is possibly best known for leading Nuns on the Bus tours. The most recent tour, in 2013, focused on immigration reform. Sister Simone and our own UUA President, Peter Morales, have marched together for a number of social justice causes. Rather than try to summarize what she said, I'll direct you to the Web page containing a video recording of the full lecture, as well as the transcript: <http://www.uua.org/economic/ga/295423.shtml>

If you do not have Internet access, I will be glad to make arrangements to play it for you.

Next time, I'll talk about a business resolution which came up at GA. This was the topic that I actually presented on September 21, so I will include it primarily for those who were not at the service.

Tom Hackett

---

## Stewardship Committee



If we say we uphold Unitarian Universalist principles and **the shared vision of what we want UUFP to be**, then giving to UUFP helps us live our values. It is one thing to say we want equal rights and economic fairness

and social justice for all. But do our actions, including how we spend our money, reflect this desire? There's a telling statement that paraphrases Ralph Waldo Emerson: "What you do speaks so loudly that I can't hear what you say." We all need to grow in mental, emotional, spiritual and financial maturity, to make sure we spend our time, our energy and our money on things that align with what we say are our values. This is our challenge, our opportunity, our responsibility.

Paul Osgood.

---

## Team Sunday

Congratulations to Team Sunday November nerds and nymphs for their great team effort. Not only did they take care of hospitality hour and chair set-up on 3 Sundays, they spontaneously produced a coffee hour without prior organization on November 16th. That's team work! Many thanks to Davyd Bullock, Tim Chamberlain, Bobbie Chase, Erica Chase-Salerno, Beatrix Clarke, Julie and John Colacchio, Bryan Cook, Katy Corcoran, Joe Cosentino and Karl Volk.

-The Growing Stronger Team (Jeff Asher, Judith Knauss, Anne Lancellotti, Rev. Walter LeFlore, Paul Silverstein).



---

## Good day from the Program Committee of UFPF!

We have a couple of very interesting and diverse Services planned for December!

On the seventh, two trained Our Whole Lives (OWL), presenters, adult level, will gently nudge us all to look at ourselves fully during their "Can We Talk About Sex?" discussion (and yes, the materials will be mindful of younger audience members while they remain in the Main Meeting Room). Should be a fun and enlightening treatment of a topic integral to our lives, yet often so misunderstood, our own human sexuality!

Later, on the twenty-eighth, Spiral Web will wrap up the 2014 and spread a welcome mat for 2015 with "Everything Old is New Again". Skoal!

Any comments/questions about Programming can be discussed with Soozie Nowak, soozienow@yahoo.com, chair and eager ear for great ideas!

---

## Building and Grounds



Hello! Winter is just about here (and by the time you read this, may well have arrived), so it's time for this important reminder about the heat: Please do not turn thermostats over 68 degrees and please, when you leave, make sure that the thermostat is turned down to 55 degrees. This will help us save money and reduce our carbon footprint! In the Main Meeting Room, for now at any rate, we will be keeping the heat a little higher, at 62 degrees, while we figure out why the pilot light keeps going out.

We will be looking for help this winter to supplement the plowing with targeting shoveling. If you are interested in helping out, especially on Sunday mornings right after a snow storm, please let us know!

Also: there is a white desk with three side drawers in good condition in the Baldwin Assembly Room, a leftover from our very successful tag sale, that needs to find a new home as soon as possible. Free! You just need to come and get it!

---

## Spiral Web



Spiral Web has a full plate of offerings in December!

Our Paganism 102 classes continue, with a workshop on Crystals on Wednesday, December 3 at 7pm and a workshop about Winter Solstice and Yule on Wednesday, December 17 at 7pm.

The Shamanic Journey Circle, which is held off-site, is on Wednesday, December 10 at 7pm. Contact Jim Wood at [raveninthewood@aol.com](mailto:raveninthewood@aol.com) for details.

On Friday, December 12 at 7pm, Spiral Web sponsors the Drumming Circle with Hawklyn. There is a \$5 suggested donation for this community drumming circle.

Then, on Sunday, December 21, we will hold our own Winter Solstice Celebration just after noon, which will be followed by a pot-luck lunch. All participants are invited to stay for the Fellowship's annual Holiday Craft Festival, which is a craft-making event, not a craft selling event. A nominal fee is charged for the Festival.

And finally, on Sunday, December 28, Spiral Web is providing the Sunday service at 10:30am, "Everything Olde Is New Again," a multigenerational service exploring some traditional - and new - ways of ringing in the new year.

For additional information on any of these events, or to find out more about Spiral Web, visit the Fellowship's website at [uupok.org](http://uupok.org), under "Spiritual Expeditions," or contact Jim Wood ([raveninthewood@aol.com](mailto:raveninthewood@aol.com)) or Judith Knauss ([judith.knauss@gmail.com](mailto:judith.knauss@gmail.com)).

---

## Speaking of Books

In deference to the hectic holiday season, we decided that instead of selecting a book for December, we would each select one or two poems, and/or a prose selection not to exceed 25 lines to read aloud at the meeting. If you wish to bring a refreshment to share, that would be welcome. This meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 9th** at 7pm.

For the January meeting we will be back to the first Monday, which is January 5th, and the book will be *Reading Lolita in Teheran* by Azar Nafisi.

*The Universe Story* generated an interesting discussion and motivated those who hadn't finished the book to do so. Special thanks to Richard for suggesting it.

Meg Heshner



## You might be interested.

## Events in our and the wider community.

► Please join us **December 10, 2014 | 9am – 2 pm at the Henry A. Wallace center** at the FDR presidential library & home for **HUMAN RIGHTS DAY BRINGING HUMAN RIGHTS HOME: INEQUALITY, RACE AND THE UNITED STATES**

This event is free of charge, but **advance registration is required**. Please bring a bag lunch or stop at Uncle Sam's Café, located in the Wallace Center.

**Please sign up online visiting:**

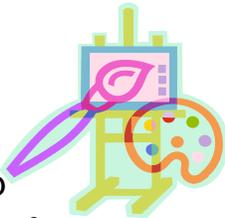
<http://www.bit.ly/humanrights2014>

**QUESTIONS?** Please email: [oakwoodhumanrights@gmail.com](mailto:oakwoodhumanrights@gmail.com)

► Sunday, Dec. 21 at 2:30, UU Congregation of the Catskills, 320 Sawkill Road, Kingston: Pat Lammana will appear in a Benefit Concert along with Helen Avakian, Denise Jordan Finley, John Martucci, and Kevin and Carol Becker. Suggested donation: \$5, all goes toward children with cancer.

---

Art at the Fellowship  
**Becky Nielsen** is our artist for  
November and December.



Deadline for January newsletter is  
December 17th. Please send submissions to  
[uupoknewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:uupoknewsletter@yahoo.com)