

# "2121 News and Views"

The Rev. Walter LeFlore, Minister



Volume 60 Number 6 Founded 1952 February 2013

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.

## February Services

February 3: "Malvina Reynolds, famous UU"  
Pat Lamanna, Tom Walker, Amy Strom, Fran  
Sunderland, Cary Kruzansky and Jonathan Dickau

February 10: A Life Of Its Own Rev. Walter LeFlore

February 17: With A Little Help Rev. Walter LeFlore

February 24: Irrational Behavior Rev. Walter LeFlore

*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.*



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Thurs: 11 am – 2 pm

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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)

## February Highlights

Feb 3: Senior Group **Noon**

Feb 9: Building and Grounds work day  
**9AM to Noon**

Feb 13: Talk by Brian Ridell, Executive Director of Dutchess Outreach **7:30PM**

Feb 17: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Lunch **Noon**

Feb 20: Brown bag lunch with Walter  
**Noon**

Feb 21: Board of Trustees meeting **7PM**

Feb 22: Homeless meal

Feb 23: Spoken Word **7PM**

### Senior Group

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at Noon

February 3<sup>rd</sup>

Meaning of Life – if any?

March 3<sup>rd</sup>

Humanism

## Nina's Noodlings

Our January Town Meeting was an animated gathering. Some interesting additions to the wish lists and B&G 'long view' were offered: including the request that we return to the weekly sharing of our Sunday collection; fix the doors to the Main Meeting Room (MMR) to improve heat retention; start a vegetable garden; get some more comfortable chairs for the MMR; consider borrowing now to do the energy improvements identified in the NYSERDA Energy Audit; install a fan in the attic to improve circulation.

Copies of the "Reach for the Stars" committee wishes, Building and Grounds 'long view' and summary of **Fundraising** possibilities are available on the welcome table in the vestibule. We will put the energy audit information up on the web site.

The message that we can all take away is that these wishes are all very real possibilities – together we can make it happen! Please think about the part that *you* can play in helping UU Fellowship of Poughkeepsie Reach the Stars!

If you would like to get more involved, or have questions about how UUFP operates, please ask! Our Fellowship hums with activities and it may not always be clear how to get engaged. None of our meetings are 'closed door'... anyone is welcome to pop into a meeting to observe... but be aware that it is usually very hard to resist jumping in with your thoughts and ideas – and they will most likely be very welcome! Board meetings are the only ones where you will have to ask for permission to speak.

You can help prepare the meal for the homeless shelter guests on the fourth Friday evenings or plan a fundraiser for UUFP; you can help out in a Religious Education class or greet Sunday morning visitors; you can develop a letter to your local congressman for a social justice issue or participate in a Small Group Ministry – these are only some of the many ways in which our Beloved Community offers opportunity to enhance our faith experience and/or enrich our lives.

May it be so,  
Nina



**In December, 1952, a wonderful event occurred. Our Fellowship was born. It's time to celebrate!**

**On Saturday evening, March 2,** we will have a 'catered affair' in honor of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our beloved Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie. Antonella's restaurant of Wappingers Falls will supply a buffet dinner, complete with appetizers. UUFP celebrities of all ages will speak and perform .

The festivities will begin at 6:00 pm and continue until the last cupcake is eaten and the last song is sung. Keep your eye out for an email or paper invitation. Suggested donation 25\$ per person, ages 6 to 12 15\$, 5 and under free, 75\$ family cap.

60<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee

Jeff Asher, Jane Bartik, Judith Knauss, Anne Lancellotti, Nina Lynch, Paul Silverstein

## From the Minister

February 2013

February has always caused a bit of consternation for me. Having always lived in the northeast, this month is a particular reminder of my strong preference for warm weather. It's also Black History Month and I can never avoid noting the irony of the shortest month of the year being when we celebrate the contributions of those of African descent. It's celebrated in the US, and Canada (the UK celebrates it in October).

Black History month originated as Negro History Week, in 1926. Carter G. Woodson, a historian, in concert with the Association for the Study of Negro Life, sought to hold up the contributions of Negroes to American Life. It was held in February to coincide with the celebration of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas' birthdays.

At the time Negro History Week was set in place, it was assumed it would one day be incorporated into the general study of American History. In 1976, President Gerald Ford oversaw the US government's acceptance of Black History Month. Sadly, to a greater degree than not, Woodson's assumption and hope, continues to go unmet. While the second inauguration of the first black President can't escape note in our history books, the many contributions of African-Americans, in all areas of American life, continue to go unnoted in what we call American History.

In Faith,  
Walter



To the members of the Technology committee for our new sound system. Thank You to Jeff Asher, Len Marcus and committee chair Tom Hackett.

Thanks for all you do!

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### Lunch with Walter:

I plan to bring a brown bag lunch to the Fellowship, at noon, on Wednesday, February 20. You have a standing invitation to join me. No agenda, just lunch and conversation. Please call or email the office to let us know you are coming. If not, come anyway.

In Fellowship,  
Walter



## Greetings from LFD/RE !

(otherwise known as Lifespan Faith Development and Children's Religious Education)



We've kicked off the New Year with lots of new and exciting happenings. Our students really enjoy it when Fellowship members join them. And the adults do, too! Here are some recent comments...

Thanks all.....  
I had a great time and  
the kids did amazing!

We had fun  
and accomplished a  
lot in an hour! Hope  
we do this again

And our children are truly amazing !  
From a teacher ...

*"I'm so impressed by all of your children. They were delightful and a model of everything a youth group should be every step of the way!"*

Here are a few comments ...

And from a parent ....

*"My child helped a friend with her CCD homework and got the answers her friend couldn't.  
THAT'S how cool UU's are!!"*

We hope YOU consider how you can contribute to their UU education. Sit in on one of our children's classes and assist the teacher by helping the children with a project, reading a story, or providing another pair of hands. You'll be amazed at their comprehension and amused by their quips. No preparation is required. Or join us for a Group RE session and entertain our children using your talents while furthering their UU education. If you are available and up for a real, please see Soozie Nowak, Terry Horner or Margie Watters. Hope to see you soon!

TEENS - come join our YOUTH PROGRAM under the guidance of Paul Silverstein!  
We have several youth who have been eager and already active.  
Contact Paul for more info at [paul.silverstein@oracle.com](mailto:paul.silverstein@oracle.com) .

Our younger stewards began a BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION in January. Each month during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Lunches they will have cake and sing to all Fellowship members and friends with birthdays during that month. Expect to see some uniquely decorated cakes and perhaps some interesting singing as we have some very talented children.

Speaking of TALENT, we're collecting a list of children and teens with talents they would be willing to share with the Fellowship. Does your child play an instrument, sing, dance or have another unique talent to contribute? If so, please contact Judith Knauss at [Judith.knauss@gmail.com](mailto:Judith.knauss@gmail.com) .

As most of you know, we do not have a Director of Children's Religious Education right now. The LFD Committee co-chairs are taking on the tasks of a DRE in addition to their committee duties

and teaching. So, we are very happy to report that a DRE SEARCH COMMITTEE has been formed. More about this as we progress.

Margie Watters for RE

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## Social Justice Committee News

Thursday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. at the Crafted Kup, 44 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie: Dutchess Peace presents a “Poetry Slam,” with students from Highland High School, veterans and others reading peace poetry and singing peace songs. There will be an open mic; bring your favorite peace poem or song to share.

Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 6:00 p.m. at the Fellowship: Monthly meeting of the Social Justice Committee. All are welcome.

**Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 7:30** at the Fellowship: The Social Justice Committee presents **Brian Ridell, Executive Director of Dutchess Outreach**, talking about his agency, what it does and how its clientele has been changing lately due to the economic downturn. He will also discuss opportunities for volunteering.

The Social Justice Committee has been working on some exciting new initiatives, including working with the Hispanic community to possibly offer English as a Second Language classes at the Fellowship, and holding a “mini” Fair Trade Bazaar at the Fellowship in May. More on this in future Newsletters...

Pat Lamanna

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## Homeless Meal

As the new homeless meal coordinator, I think we’re off to a good start. Thanks goes out to the January team – Paul Hirsch, Ellen Waggener, Jolanda Jansen, Soyal Smalls, Len Marcus and Sue Sciacca. The big change this year is going to be our attempt to track the cost of the meals. It’s not too complicated, but does add a wrinkle to what we’ve done up to this point. Those shopping for the meal are encouraged to save their receipts and turn them in to me or Jim Woods. Jim will get a check to each person to cover their costs and then that person can (but this is not required) write a check to the fellowship for the same amount and take an additional tax deduction. Before this, folks were contributing their money for a great cause, but getting nothing to show the IRS. There is another reason for this additional bit of bookkeeping. Those who cannot afford to make an additional contribution to the Fellowship can participate in providing meals and will be reimbursed all costs they incur. I have put up a sign-up poster at the Fellowship and hope folks will sign up which will reduce the personal approach from me. As I recall, we are covered for meals through May which is wonderful.

Nick Garin



## Stewardship Committee News

The pledge drive of 2012/13 was the most successful drive of our Fellowship to date. Stewardship committee hopes that you will continue to support our fellowship again this coming pledge drive. The drive starts on March 3rd. Details will follow in the March newsletter.

Our town meeting, held on Sunday January 20th was very helpful in setting priorities for the upcoming budget year. We got a full report from Treasurer Jim Wood and an energy assessment from Nick Garin on our energy needs as well as a discussion of the immediate needs of improvements and repairs to our building(s). These priorities will be reflected in the proposed budget that will be presented to the Fellowship at the annual meeting. Social Justice committee would like to start a meal/social for an ESL project. They would like funding for homeless meals and mission trips for youth. The RE committee would like to improve our nursery and pay for conferences for our youth. Program committee seeks funds to improve the sanctuary. Replacing the chairs and pulpit. Advertising our Fellowship services jointly with other Fellowships in the area. Building and Grounds committee would like to have handicap accessibility throughout our building and improve and repair the porches, electrical and furniture. Hospitality committee would like to replace the refrigerator and install a dishwasher.

To see the entire list of “Reach for the Stars” committee requests contact Paul Osgood or Barbara Corona.

The Stewardship Committee is in the process of developing our brochure for the forthcoming pledge drive. We hope to keep the brochure to four pages this year and include, in the brochure, a pledge form. Last year’s form was not clear as to the pledge period and starting date of the pledges. Our new pledge year starts on July 1st of 2013 and ends on June 30 of 2014. Pledges can be paid incrementally. or at any time during the pledge year.



Stewardship Co-Chair Paul Osgood

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## An Adult RE Class begins in February - “Building Your Own Theology”

As mentioned last month- Paul Silverstein and Tom Hackett will be facilitating this classic UU class. Since our denomination does not have any test of faith or required beliefs and we covenant to affirm and promote a free and responsible search for truth and meaning, this class is designed to lead one through the kinds of questions and explorations that would lead you to be able to determine what it is that you personally believe about Life, Ultimate Reality (God), human beings and what is right, and then to take the step of expressing this in the form of a credo. Paul has taken it before and really enjoyed the experience.

The class will run every Wed evening 7-9 pm for 8 weeks, beginning on February 13. Interested? If so, send Paul an email - paul.silverstein@oracle.com.



## STEWARDS OF THE MONTH



The UU Fellowship of Poughkeepsie is truly blessed with two extraordinary women

Joedy Kievit, Administrative Assistance and

Monica Watson, Custodian.

Joedy and Monica, while employees, have a relationship with our Fellowship that goes far beyond employee/employer. They both regularly go out of their way to both anticipate and respond to the needs of the congregation. In a very real way, they have become a part of who we are. They have "joined" us, not as members of the Fellowship but in fellowship. They care for us and take care of us. What they do is often invisible to most of us but they do a tremendous amount and we are very fortunate to have them be a part of us.

Thank you Joedy and Monica!

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**As we get ready to celebrate sixty years in Poughkeepsie...  
Let's learn about the Unitarian Universalist Association, Metro New York District  
and Central East Regional Group...**

Gathered from The UU Pocket Guide and the UUA website at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) ([www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)) represents the consolidation in 1961 of two religious denominations: The Universalists, organized in 1793 and incorporated in 1866, and the Unitarians,

organized in 1825 and incorporated in 1847. The UUA is a voluntary association of autonomous, self-governing local churches and fellowships, which have freely chosen to pursue common goals together. The Association's polity is congregational; Association decisions are made by congregational delegates in business sessions at the annual General Assembly (GA).

The GA is made up of delegates from the churches and fellowships. The General Assembly makes overall policy for carrying out the Association's purposes, reviews the program, and elects for stated terms a president, a moderator, a financial advisor, and three trustees elected at large, one youth trustee elected at large and a representative from each district. The Board conducts the affairs of the Association and carries out policies and directives as provided by law.

There are nineteen Districts of the UUA in North America. The mission of the UUA Districts is to serve as the primary local resource for congregations and to help extend Unitarian Universalist influence in the larger community. District staff is increasingly working across district lines in five regions.

UUFP is part of the Metro New York ([www.uumetro.org](http://www.uumetro.org)). Andrea Lerner is the District Executive. We are also part of the District and Central East Regional Group ([www.cerguua.org](http://www.cerguua.org)). There is a rich body of information and training resources available at all of the websites...including our own at [www.uupok.org](http://www.uupok.org).

Pencil in on your calendar the Annual District meeting on May 3-4 in Morristown NJ – more details next month!

Nina Lynch

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### **Minister's Discretionary Fund:**

This is a reminder that the minister's discretionary fund exists to help those with short-term financial need. Funds are dispersed on an as needed basis, in confidence, by the minister. Please call or email me if you are in need, financial or otherwise.

In Fellowship,  
Walter

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### **Men's Group Starting**

A men's meeting group is starting at the Fellowship. The group's contact people are Craig Altman, Bryan Cook, and Joe Cosentino. A different topic(s) will be chosen each meeting night for discussion. Participants are free to attend as few or as many sessions as they are willing and able to attend, and are welcome to bring their dinner. The scheduled meeting times/dates at this point are 6pm-8:30pm every other Tuesday beginning February 19 through the end of March, and every other Wednesday beginning April 3 through the end of June.

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### **You might be interested.**

► **Classics in Religion Reading Group**

**On February 6, 13, 20, and 27 the group will discuss**

***The Story of Christianity: The Early Church* by Dr. Justo Gonzalez**

### **Events in the wider community.**

Dr. Justo Gonzalez is one of America's most prominent historians of Christianity, taking a critical approach from within the faith. A native of Cuba, he teaches at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. His history includes sections on the church as a Jewish-Christian sect, the early split with Judaism, the influence of Greco-Roman culture, division within the church in Jerusalem, and persecutions in the Roman Empire through the Second Century, C.E. The reading group began reading this work last spring and will continue the reading on February 6 13, 20 and 27.

**The Rev. Finley Schaef**, a retired minister of the United Methodist Church living in Saugerties, has made selections for reading aloud and discussion.

The public is invited to any of these sessions. They take place on **Wednesdays at 10:30 A.M. in the Community Room at the Kingston Public Library at 55 Franklin St., corner of Prospect in mid-town Kingston.**

## **SPOKEN WORD CAFE**

The place for people who love words, who love language, who love stories.

Please join us on Saturday, February 23rd when we feature

**Ina Claire Gabler**

A newly-published book, "Unexpected Returns," and a stellar review from Nina Shengold in the "Chronogram," make us thrilled to have Ina Claire as our Featured Speaker. Come out of the cold and join us!

Saturday, February 23, 2013

7PM

at the Fellowship

Admission \$5 – Open Mic – Refreshments –

Angela for Info: 917-509-5636

**Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 7:30** at the Fellowship:

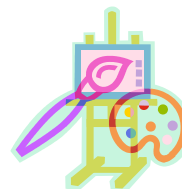
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**Brian Ridell,**  
**Executive Director of Dutchess Outreach.**  
He will talk about his agency, what it does and how its clientele has been changing lately due to the economic downturn. He will also discuss opportunities for volunteering.

Please come and bring a friend

**Art at the Fellowship**

Our February artist is

April S. Hubbard



Deadline for March newsletter is February 24th. Please send submissions to [uupoknewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:uupoknewsletter@yahoo.com)