

“UU News and Views”

The Rev. Walter LeFlore, Minister

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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.

January Services

January 4 th	“Community Service”	Rev. Walter LeFlore
January 11 th	“Perseverance”	Rev. Walter LeFlore
January 18 th	“Can You Hear Me Now?”	Rev. Walter LeFlore
January 25 th	“Stay Tuned!”	Program Committee

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 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.

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This Person	Serves until
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Merrylea Bullock (youth trustee)	2015

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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

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

January Highlights

1/5 Speaking of Books 7pm
1/7 Social Justice Meeting 7pm
1/7 Paganism 102 7pm
1/8 Bridge Club 7pm
1/9 Drumming Circle 7pm
1/10 Building & Grounds Workday 9am
1/11 Seniors Group Meeting 12:30pm
1/11 Usher and Greeting Training 12:15pm
1/12 Beading Together 6:30pm
1/15 Board of Trustees Meeting 7pm
1/18 Third Sunday Lunch Celebration 12:15pm
1/18 Corporate Meeting 12/30pm
1/23 Meals for the Homeless 4:30pm
1/25 Seniors Meeting 12:15pm
1/30 Ground Hog Day Pot Luck Party 6pm

Seniors Meeting on January 11th - Joe Ryan from the Dutchess County Office of the Aging will speak on “Successful Aging”. Mr. Ryan sent the following promotional information about the program. “What steps can you take to ensure the best quality of life as you age? What factors contribute to having the highest levels of physical, emotional, mental and social well-being in adults? Successful Aging is not just about living a long life, but in making sure the life we lead is the most rewarding and fulfilling life possible, no matter how long we live. It is never too late (or too early) to start taking steps to help you age more successfully”.

The Program will begin at 12:30 in the MMR.

All those interested are invited to attend.

Important Note – All newsletter submissions should now be mailed to

uupoknewsletter@uupok.org.

Deadline for February's Newsletter is January 23rd.

Ground Hog's Day Pot Luck

Mark your calendar now for our 2nd annual Ground Hog's Day Pot Luck party. Bring food to share, games, music and instruments for a fun evening. We're hoping for more children this year as we work to build bridges between generations. Helpers for set-up and clean-up are needed. Friday, January 30th, from 6pm until...

Corporate Meeting

There will be a corporate meeting to vote on the new Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie Covenant, on January 18th following coffee hour. This is an important document that makes explicit our promises to each other. Please plan to be at this meeting to vote to accept or reject this proposed covenant.

President's Column

A Very Special Holiday Gift to the UUFP

The UUFP Board would like to share some wonderful news. We have been notified that our beloved, Cornelia Smith who died two years ago and was a long time UUFP member, has left the Fellowship a very generous bequest of \$65,700. It will probably take some time for this bequest to arrive, but we wanted to share the good news with the Congregation. In the new year the Board will seek the wisdom of our members about how these funds can be used.

For now, we just want to be thankful in this Holiday Season for the wonderful gift that Cornelia has given us.

Paul Silverstein

From the Minister

January 2015

We've entered a new year; the year of 2015. Welcome to it! This year, just like the last, is pregnant with opportunity and possibility. We can not know what opportunities or possibilities lie before us. We can't know what surprises lie ahead. Some will be to our liking, some we'd prefer to be otherwise.

So my recommendation is to not get overly committed to any one outcome. Rather, take one step at a time, make one decision at a time and remain flexible. Let this be a year when we all become better at living in the moment, ever ready to answer the most salient question: so now what? What am I called to do at this moment in time? Who am I called to be?

This is not to say we should not have hopes, aspirations, or even well conceived plans. We simply are better served I believe to hold them with open fingers. When we hold too tight to what we've decided "should be", we often exclude the influence of serendipity or Grace.

Let this be a year when we commit to simply doing the best we can, at any given moment, moment after moment. Let this be a year when we get better at forgiving ourselves and forgiving others the frailties inherent in being human.

May we be a blessing to each other and to the world.

Faithfully,

Walter

Words From Your Treasurer

Our new bookkeeper Jenny has adjusted well to working with Walter Engel and myself. She comes in once a week and processes payroll for Walter LeFlore, Joedy and Monica, does vouchers submitted by the various committees and pays the utility bills that keeps the Fellowship alive and connected to the grid. Walter Engel collects all the income from the mail and from Sunday collections and deposits it in our bank, Riverside Bank. Once a month all this information is combined into a monthly report that Jolanda Jansen presents to the Finance Committee and to the Board of Trustees. Thank you all for being so diligent in sending in your monthly pledge amounts without being reminded. Those monthly checks keep the Fellowship humming.

Jolanda Gertruda Jansen

Steward of the Month



Len Marcus is a do-er! When action is needed, he repeatedly, and selflessly, sticks his hand up and says “I can help with that!”

You probably have seen Len riding the lawn mower with the big red ear protectors, but you may not know that he provided that tractor for Fellowship use, a very generous gesture indeed. As an active, and very skilled, member of Building and Grounds, Len works on a myriad of projects, including recently fixing the piano bench. He also is an active member of Stewardship, Technology and Membership committees and was elected to serve on the Leadership Development Committee. In addition, he participates in the Senior Group, helps with the Homeless Meals and is our roving staff photographer. The man is everywhere!

For your positive attitude, tireless energy, and generous support for the Fellowship, we humbly say – Thank You Len!



Spirit Play Celebrates The Holidays

The period between Thanksgiving and Christmas is a story teller’s dream. So many themes await the imaginations of children and teachers to bring them to life. And so it was with Spirit Play.

Nov. 30: On the Sunday following Thanksgiving, our teens, Coming of Age youth and our younger children joined together in an exploration of gratitude. From oodles of play doh, these young people fashioned a Thanksgiving spread which rivaled any you’ve seen. Then, youth, children and adults gathered round the table to share their reasons for being thankful.

Dec. 7: On this, the first Sunday in December, our storyteller introduced the children to a variety of this month's religious celebrations. Of course there was Christmas and Kwanza and...Chalica. Chalica is a 10 year old Unitarian Universalist holiday, which honors the seven principles. Each day, from December 1 through the 7th, UU's light a candle in celebration of one of the principles.

Dec. 14th: Two weeks after exploring thankfulness for what they *have*, our children focused on what they could *give*. Our story was about our UU community, which makes a friendship circle for so many different people.

The children thought about people in nearby cities and towns who have *no* friendship circles. Worse, they have no homes, nor enough food to eat. Our young people learned that our UU community *does* draw these people into its friendship circle by bringing a hearty meal to their temporary shelter, once a month. After this story, everyone pitched in to make cookies to send with this month's meal. Not only that, the children made holiday cards and wrote joyful messages to the men and women at the shelter. Oh yes, they also tucked a bag of fair trade chocolates into the baskets, which will hold the cookies and cards. This was a very good lesson in giving.

Building & Grounds News



The first B&G workday of 2015 will be Saturday, January 10, at 9am. Join us as we clean up from the holidays and stay for a light lunch and great conversation!

From the Committee on Ministry:

Covenant (Revised)

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie is a religious community that affirms and promotes UU principles and values. We honor the rich diversity of our congregants and our varied spiritual paths.

We freely enter into this covenant, promising to other members mutual trust and respect.

As a UUFP member, I will:

Accept and support other members and contribute my energies and resources in service of a healthy community;

Work to bridge differences that keep me from fully cooperating in the Fellowship;

Strive to fully live the UU principles and values in my daily life.



Fundraising

In 2014/2015, we will focus on getting the most out of the events we already have in place: Goods & Services **AUuction** (2/28/2015, **UUniplayers** and **Tag Sale** 10/9&10/2015). To these, maybe we want to add the **Holiday Concert** and a **Plant Sale** as well as interspersing **UU Hosted Dinners**.

We have secured a hard copy of Kim Kline's "Fundraising for Social Change". There is information on every aspect of non-profit fundraising. Especially Team Leaders may wish to read the section that pertains to their event or duty...it's chock full of useful suggestions and information! The book will be kept in the office and must be signed out to borrow.

Joyce Marra, Fundraising Development Co-Chair, 845-453-1188, ajoy12601@hotmail.com

Stewardship Committee

The UUA offers inspirational material on their web site and I came across this. It was part of a sermon delivered by the Reverend Peter Friedrichs, UU Pastor of the UU Fellowship in Media PA. It is a Hopi indian prayer which, I think, describes our journey at UUFPP.

There is a river flowing now very fast. It is so great and swift that there are those who will be afraid. They will try to hold on to the shore. They will feel they are being torn apart, and they will suffer greatly.

Know the river has its destination. The elders say we must let go of the shore, push off into the middle of the river, keep our eyes open, and our heads above the water. See who is in there with you and celebrate.

At this time in history, we are to take nothing personally. Least of all, ourselves. For the moment that we do, our spiritual growth and journey comes to a halt.

The time of the lone wolf is over.

Gather yourselves!

Banish the word struggle from your attitude and your vocabulary.

All that we do now must be done in a sacred manner and in celebration.

We are the ones we've been waiting for.

Paul Osgood

Seniors Group

On **January 25th** Anne Lancellotti will speak to the group. Her topic is "**Stay Active, Stay Safe, Stay on Your Feet**".

We will meet for this program in the Conference Room at 12:15. **Anyone interested is invited to attend.**"

Thalia Sudnik

Small Group Ministry

Small Group Ministry is back. We plan to start new groups the end of January. The program this year will be in a different format, using a book called Heart to Heart. It includes readings and suggested ways to get the most out of each session. Each group will go until June and we'll evaluate the program at that time. Look for signup sheets **this week and next**.



Social Justice News

Wednesday, **Jan. 7** at 7 p.m. Monthly meeting of the Social Justice Committee. All are invited.

Thursday, **Jan. 8**, 11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Rally against fracking at Gov. Cuomo's State of the State address, New York State Capitol Empire Plaza, Hallways to the Concourse, S Mall Arterial,

Albany, NY 12242. A bus is leaving from New Paltz at 9 a.m. and returning at 6 p.m. For more information and to buy tickets, go to

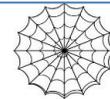
[http:// act.foodandwaterwatch.org /site/Calendar?id=110481&view=Detail](http://act.foodandwaterwatch.org/site/Calendar?id=110481&view=Detail).

Let's get a good group of us from the Fellowship to go! Please contact Pat Lamanna, 452-4013 or patla42@gmail.com if you plan to go.

Monday, **Jan. 19**, 10 a.m. **Second annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade**, starting at the Springfield Baptist Church, 8, Mattie Cooper Square, Beacon. (There will probably be an event in Poughkeepsie, but that information was not available at press time. We will get it into The Blast in early January.)

Thurs. **Jan. 22** – Sat. **Jan. 24: Creating Common Good: A Practical Conference For Economic Equality** January **22** 7pm-9pm; **January 23** 7:45am-5pm; **January 24** 8am-4pm
FEATURING: The Most Rev. Justin Welby, The Archbishop of Canterbury; Cornel West, The Rich and The Rest of Us; Barbara Ehrenreich, Nickel and Dimed; This Land is Their Land; Robert Reich, Former Secretary of Labor; Juliet Schor; The Right Rev. Julio Murray; Rachel Held Evans; Jennifer Jones Austin; R. R. Reno; and Nicole Baker Fulgham. TO REGISTER: email Reverend Cooper Conway at REVCOOPR@GMAIL.COM. WHERE: Christ Episcopal Church, 20 Carroll Street, Poughkeepsie. COST: \$20 Contribution (Covers 2 Continental Breakfasts & 2 Lunches), Students Free, Scholarships Available. For more information contact Reverend Cooper Conway by email at REVCOOPR@GMAIL.COM or by phone at [845-452-8220](tel:845-452-8220). This will be a simulcast of the Trinity Institute's National Theological Conference. See flyer on bulletin board in Lobby for more information.

Spiral Web In January



Spiral Web starts off 2015 with lots of interesting happenings in January! Here's what's on the schedule:

Wednesday, **January 7** at 7pm: Paganism 102 workshop on Chakras;

Saturday, **January 17**, from 9am to 5pm, we will be holding an Introduction to Shamanic Journeying. This workshop will be primarily experiential with participants learning to "journey" to the world of spirits and meeting with spirit allies for healing, divination and more. There is a \$50 fee for this class. Contact Jim at raveninthewood@aol.com if you are interested;

Wednesday, **January 21** at 7pm: Paganism 102 workshop on Imbolc/Brigid/Candlemas.

Sunday, **February 1** at 12:15: Imbolc/Brigid/Candlemas celebration, followed by a pot-luck lunch.

We look forward to seeing you!

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 last of four articles about social justice items at this year's General Assembly. Those of you who were present at the September 21 service may find this familiar.

Business Resolution

My final topic is a business resolution, passed by the General Assembly delegates. This resolution was proposed by a petition of considerably more than the minimum 250 members representing at least 25 member congregations.

First, some background. The UUA maintains the UU Common Endowment Fund (UUCEF), which holds the assets of the UUA's own endowment and assets of UU congregations that choose to invest in this fund. Our own Endowment Fund is invested with the UUCEF. The total value of the UUCEF exceeds \$179 million.

The Carbon Tracker Initiative (CTI) is a non-profit financial think tank working to enable a climate secure global energy market by aligning capital market actions with climate reality. CTI has identified the top 200 major fossil fuel companies (CT200). You might recognize some of these companies, such as ExxonMobile, BP, Chevron, Gazprom or PetroChina.

The resolution calls upon the UUA to immediately cease purchases of CT200 companies for the UUCEF, to divest UUCEF holdings of CT200 companies within five years and to invest a share of the UUCEF funds in companies that will accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy.

An exception is granted for companies in which the UUA leverages its shares in CT200 companies to engage in shareholder activism seeking environmental justice and a transition to clean and renewable energy. It was pointed out that boards of directors are sometimes swayed by shareholder activism.

I wrote in an earlier article that increasing economic inequality, the topic of the Congregational Study Action Issue (CSAI) adopted this year, threatens our democracy. Climate change threatens our way of life. It is a more critical problem than ISIS, Al Qaeda and the dispute with Russia over Ukraine combined. The tie-in with the CSAI is that many of the wealthiest individuals in the world obtained their wealth through coal and oil. They seek to remain wealthy, and to continue to gain wealth, by continuing to exploit fossil fuels, adding

hydrofracked natural gas to their repertoire, in total and utter disregard for the devastating effect they will have on our planet and its capacity to sustain human life in the next few decades.

It was gratifying when in a lecture at SUNY New Paltz a few months ago, Bill McKibben, professor at Middlebury College and founder of 350.org, cited this resolution by the UUA as the first in a list of what faith communities are doing to advance climate justice.

You can read further about this business resolution at http://www.uua.org/documents/gaoffice/140430_tentative_ff_resol.pdf

Tom Hackett

Speaking of Books

The Fellowship's non-fiction book group meets first Mondays of the month at 7pm in the Conference Room. Contacts are Meg Heshner and Jane Bartik.

January 5th: Reading Poetry – rescheduled from December: We will 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.

February 2nd: *Reading Lolita in Teheran* by Azar Nafisi.



You might be interested. Events in our and the wider community.

- **Pat Lamanna sightings:** Sat. **Jan. 3**, 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills, 320 Sawkill Road, Kingston. Pat will be the feature performer at the Hudson Valley Folk Guild coffeehouse. Sign up for open mic at 7; music starts 7:30. Admission \$6.
- **AAUW Presentation** at the UUF: **“Philanthropy, A Student’s Perspective.”** on **January 8th** at 7pm. Vassar Haiti Project (VHP) student volunteers Sahara Pradhan '15 and Robyn Yzelman '15 with Co-founder Lila Meade will be presenting the various facets of VHP's work. They will share their own experiences in VHP and its impact on the students as well as the ways in which VHP is engaged in the local Poughkeepsie community. They will also talk about the four initiatives in Haiti: Education, Health,

Water and Reforestation, and Women's Co-operative, with an emphasis on the Women's Co-op, VHP's newest initiative. They will share a short video and be open to questions and curiosities. They hope to discuss ways in which VHP and AAUW can work together and potential avenues for collaboration. For more information, please go to www.aauwpoughkeepsie.org.

- **A Peace and Justice Tribute to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ; Reconciling War and Peace.** A Conversation about targeted Killing with Armed Drones. Sunday, **January 18th** 1:30pm - UUCRT, 9 Vance Road (off Rte 207, Rock Tavern, NY). Featuring: Kathy Kelly, of Voice for Creative Non Violence; Larry Freedman, rabbi at Temple Beth Jacob and Rev. Chris J. Antal of the UUCRT. This is a free event with a suggested donation of \$5-\$10 but no one will be turned away. Snow cancellation will be posted at www.uucrt.org. Contact Verne M. Bell at 845-569-8965 for further information.

UFP Artwork in the MMR

Karl Volk is our artist for
January and February.

