



“UU News and Views”

The Rev. Walter LeFlore, Minister

Volume 62

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May 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

- May 3rd:** **Engaging Our Diverse World**
 Rev. Erica Baron
- May 10th :** **Mother’s Day Service**
 Mary Ann Osgood
- May 17th:** **Evil Thoughts**
 Rev. Walter LeFlore
- May 24th :** **Blessings From, By, and Of the Animals**
 Soozie Nowak
- May 31st:** **Spirit Moves Us**
 **Rev. Walter LeFlore & The Lifespan Faith
Development Committee/Religious
Education**

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.

Editor: Joedy Kievit
email: uupoknewsletter@uupok.org

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The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie
67 South Randolph Avenue
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
845.471.6580
Web: www.uupok.org
email: 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

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

May Calendar of Events

- 5/2 Coming of Age Workshop & Sleepover 6pm**
- 5/3 Choir Rehearsals (weekly) 9am**
The Early Development of Christianity
(1st & 2nd week) 12:30pm
- 5/4 Speaking of Books 7pm**
- 5/5 Silent Meditation (weekly) 7:30am**
SGM (2nd & 4th week) 12pm
Membership Committee Meeting 6pm
- 5/6 Tai Chi (1st & 2nd week only) 10am**
Social Justice Committee Meeting 7pm
Paganism 102 (1st & 3rd week) 7pm
Uniplayers Rehearsal (weekly) 7pm
- 5/7 Program Committee Meeting 7pm**
BOT Meeting (2nd, 3rd & 4th wk this mo. only) 7pm
- 5/8 Adult OWL (2nd, 3rd & 5th) 7pm**
Drumming Circle 7pm
- 5/9 Buildings & Grounds Workday 9am**
- 5/10 Seniors Group (2nd & 4th week) 12:30pm**
- 5/11 SGM (2nd & 4th week) 1pm & 7pm**
Beading Together 7pm
- 5/13 Adult OWL 7pm**
- 5/14 Bridge Club (2nd & 4th week) 7pm**
- 5/17 Town Meeting 12pm**
- 5/18 Stewardship Committee Meeting 1pm**
- 5/21 Finance Committee Meeting 6pm**
- 5/22 Meal for the Homeless Shelter 4:30pm**
- 5/26 Membership Committee Meeting 6pm**
- 5/28 LFD/RE Meeting 6:30pm**
- 5/29 "Inequality for All", R. Reich Movie 7pm**
- 5/30 Trinity Conference Talk by Juliet Schor 10am**
Popcorn Theology & Sleepover 6pm
- 5/31 Corporate Meeting 12pm**
Adult OWL 3pm



Lily of the Valley
is the birth flower for
May.

Reminder from the Program Committee:

Summer IS a Cumyn In! Anyone interested in leading a Service during the Summer months, please contact Soozie Nowak (soozienow@yahoo.com)

Sunday Service Information



Our May 3rd Service: Engaging Our Diverse World - Rev. Erica Baron, UU Congregation of the Catskills.

As we seek to become more interdependent with other UU congregations in the region we've been looking for ways to work together. On May 3rd, the Rev. Erica Baron and Rev. Walter will exchange pulpits. They will preach at each other's congregations. Our RE program has also been in conversation with the congregations at Rock Tavern and the Catskills. We hope to be able to join resources more often in the future.



Mother's Day is May 10th. We always have the children and teens play their instruments, dance or sing for their mothers on that Sunday. If there are any children who want to play, sing or dance on that day, please call Mary Ann Osgood at [845-255-9404](tel:845-255-9404). Thank you. Mary Ann Osgood



May 24th: Blessings From, By, and Of the Animals: a lay-led celebration of a new layer of Stewardship as practiced in our Seventh Principle. Look for details as the date approaches....
Soozie Nowak

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN – MAY 2015

Why does our Seventh Principle refer to the “web” of existence? To me the web reflects our infinite interconnections. This week, the leader of my Small Group Ministry group, Wayne Cochran, showed me a beautiful poem of his, in which he describes each of us as a thread within a web of stardust. And even though, we may not be sure who/what the Spider(s) is/are, Wayne says we can each express our “spiderness” as we tend to our part of the web. I’m keeping this image close to me.

Some of the most important threads in our lives are those that connect us to other people. While some of the strongest, they can also be some of the most complicated and challenging. Last month we had a great introduction to Compassionate Communications by Rev. LoraKim Joyner. We learned some powerful tools for how to engage with each other more effectively and compassionately. Given the great feedback we got from the session, I am working with the Committee on Ministry to develop follow on sessions for the summer and fall, that will enable us to more deeply exercise our “communications muscles”. This is a very practical and grounded way that as “spiders” we can help respect the “inherent worth and dignity of all people”.

It has also been a good month for building our connections within our larger UU community. The Growing Stronger team (Rev. Walter, Jeff Asher, Judith Knauss and I) hosted the final meeting with leadership teams from other congregations in the Metro NY District. Through the Growing Stronger process, we have shared ideas about effective programs and approaches for strengthening the life of our congregation. The next

Steward of the Month



Margie Watters

This month the Board of Trustees honors the work of Margie Watters. As you are likely aware, Margie is the Chair of our Lifetime Faith Development Committee (LFD aka RE). In this key role, she helps lay out the plans and goals for the program, as well as making sure it all comes together. It is a challenging role and one that is critical for the health of the congregation. While she would be the first to acknowledge that it takes the whole RE team to “make the magic happen”, we would like to honor the many ways that Margie is key to our RE success: from teaching, planning, lesson creation, teacher scheduling, coordinating babysitters, to keeping track of supplies and running off to the store for last minute items, and so much more.

She has been a key player for many years now – enough to see her daughter Kayla evolve from RE student to a terrific RE child care giver. In her past few years as co-chair and then chair of LFD, she has taken on a bigger role, taking on more planning and administration, and helping to make our brand new Spirit Play curriculum a reality. She has also initiated activities to allow interactions between our different groups: Spirit Play, Coming of Age, and Youth Group. Margie has also helped to build connections in our larger UUFP community, by helping to keep our UUFP Facebook Page engaging and interesting.

While this has only briefly outlined the contributions she has made, please join the Board in expressing our appreciation for the ongoing gift of service she has made to the congregation. Thank you Margie!!



Erica Chase-Salerno's Reading from the 4/12/15 Service

At the April 12th Service, Erica Chase-Salerno's heartfelt reading resonated with many of us. For those who missed it, or want to enjoy it again.....

"The spiritual dimension of life is available, awaiting our call, our attention, our presence.

We must be present. We must be mindful. We must have an openness and an expectancy to glimpses of the spirit.

We must have a language, a story, a song, an image, available to express that which we glimpse.

And, we must have a community to affirm and support the glimpses and experiences that will come.

As we move along our spiritual journeys, we are inspired and guided by our Unitarian Universalist Principles and Sources.

By our experience gained from daily life, and the struggles we face and our responses to them.

And by our community.

Our leaders and educators work with us in the art of making meaning within our faith formation, helping to provide us with an existential toolkit to support us in our struggles through the puzzling times, the sad times, the angry times and even the joyful times.

Given this container to work with, questioning is at the core of religious exploration."



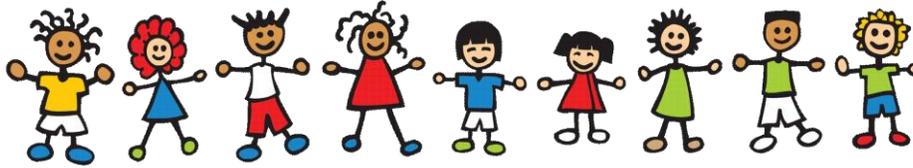
Our Annual Pledge Drive

On behalf of the members of the Stewardship Committee, Len Marcus, Pat Buckstrup and Barbara Corona, I would like to express our deep appreciation for the response we have received from the members of the Fellowship during our recent pledge drive.

Unfortunately, as of April 23rd, we have not reached our stated goal. But most of the members and friends have pledged and we are hopeful that we will continue to receive pledges from those members that have not yet committed.

So thanks to all who have participated. The budget will be presented to the membership at the Town Meeting on May 31st.

Paul Osgood
Co-chair, Stewardship Committee



Lifespan Faith Development Committee

QUIZBOWL HAPPENING

Do you know what country gave birth to Unitarianism? Do you know what the fourth principal is? Our Quuuizbowl wiz's know? Three multigenerational teams demonstrated their knowledge of Unitarian Universalism at our April 12th Sunday service. They vied for this year's trophy as an admiring, energized congregation looked on. And the winning team was TD²B²M. Don't know what that stands for? Hmm...ask one of our children or youth. If they don't know the answer, they'll throw a life line to someone who does!

THE ROOMS HAVE BEEN BUSY

On a recent Saturday evening, our UU was hoppin' and poppin' with a group of thoughtful teens, mentors and other guiding adults. In the Baldwin Room, eight Coming of Age (COA) candidates and their mentors explored ethics and morals through collaborative reflection and storytelling.

One story, for instance, posed this scenario.

'You are sitting on the school bus next to your best friend. She has been ravaged by an illness. A popular boy targets her. He hurls terrible insults at your friend, for all on the bus to hear. What would you do?' Erica Chase-Salerno, who led this exercise, asked: Is there a background to this story which, if known, would alter what you do? What UU principle is at work here? How would consideration of this principle influence what you do?

Our **COA** youth impressed their mentors with their insights and wisdom. This they did after having spent an entire day at Braeside camp in Middletown. There, they and their mentors lent their hands to a general clean-up of the camp. This was in preparation for their Vision Quest weekend, which will be held at the camp in June. Vision quest weekend is the culmination of the COA experience. The congregation will hear more about this when these extraordinary students conduct their Coming of Age Commencement service in June.

COA youth and their mentors are: Ava Barnes/Judith Knauss (COA Coordinator), Paavo Parish Hegley/Craig Altmann, Brigid Hickey/Beatrix Clarke, Victoria Horner/Julie Colacchio, Clare Kunaschk/Georgette Weir, Rosie Trammell/Cathy Augello, Brooke VanAckooy/Erica Chase-Salerno, Zack Wolin/Nick Garin.

Across the hall, of our **Uniteens**, Becky DeCusatis, Chad Halson, Merrylea Bullock and Morgan Hickey, gathered with Carol Gustafson, the coordinator of **Popcorn Theology**. All grabbed their popcorn and settled down for an evening with Star Trek V. They were not distracted by the munching of their snack. Who could be? It was Star Trek, complete with a discussion about truth and meaning, which is at the core of our fourth principal. Our '**uniteens**' and Carol explored ideas of truth as part of an individual's perception and how these ideas might change during a person's lifetime.

Our younger children listened to **Spirit Play** stories told by a varied group of storytellers. Our president, Paul Silverstein told the story of the Passover Seder which prepared them well for Rev. Walter LeFlore's story of Easter. Our very own teacher, Nick Garin, guided the children through the story of Our Church Lesson. During this story, the children had the chance to name who and what it takes to keep our Fellowship strong. To quote

Nick, 'the best was saved for last...they got the symbolism of the flame as our spirit, our search for knowledge, understanding and warmth...reflecting our caring and love for one another. '

COMING UP

There are a number of activities coming up in May including Mother's Day service where you will see many of our children and teens performing on May 10th, and Animal Panel on May 24th.

On Sunday, May 31st, come explore our religious community with us.



Board Changes

We have had some changes to the Board of Trustees in the past couple months. In January, Jane Bartik, resigned as Corporate Clerk in order to alleviate an overloaded work schedule. We applaud her wisdom, and more importantly, thank her for her years of outstanding service as our Corporate Clerk. Job well done, Jane!

Julie Colacchio has gracefully stepped forward to take on the Corporate Clerk role. A big thanks to Julie, for that!

Finally, the Board has approved Eleanor Harmantas to fill Julie's slot as one of our at-large Board Members. Welcome aboard Eleanor!

Paul Silverstein, Board President



Caring Circle

Mission Statement: Supporting and coordinating the caring needs of our community is the responsibility of us all. You can help in two ways. Please contact a member of the Caring Circle if you know of anyone in our community that has caring needs and/or if you would be willing to help meet our caring needs. The CC will provide or help coordinate hospital visits, home visits, meals, rides, shopping and card writing. Everyone is also encouraged to

continue to reach out to those you know and want to contact directly. Please contact Katy Corcoran, Paul Hirsch or Rev. Walter.



UUF Nature Walks

Sunday **May 17**, Cary Institute trails in Millbrook: meadows, woods, creekside (Wappingers), fern glen. Approx 4.5 easy-moderate miles. Leader: Georgette Weir (georgette.weir@gmail.com). Meet 12:30 at UUF parking lot. Bring water, lunch/snacks. Tick precautions recommended.

Sunday **July 19**, Vanderbilt estate 3-mile loop walk, with riverside stop for 30 minutes of qigong. Two hills: one down, one up. Leader: Georgette Weir (georgette.weir@gmail.com). Tick precautions recommended.

(Note: No walks are scheduled for June or August.)

Thank You!



Wednesday, May 6 at 7 p.m.: Meeting of the Social Justice Committee.

Friday, May 29 at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship: Free film showing, "Inequality for All," a documentary that follows former U.S. Labor Secretary Robert Reich as he looks to raise awareness of the country's widening economic gap. "Until we can take a step back and understand the big picture, we can't do anything to get ourselves out of this mess. Our democracy as we know it depends on it. One of the best ways to help people understand the challenges we face, is with a movie that can grab an audience and move them to action. And this movie will do exactly that." – Robert Reich

Saturday, May 30 at 10:00 a.m. at the Fellowship: Free screening of a talk, "What Can We Do About Income Inequality?" This talk was given by economist Juliet Schor on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2015 at the Trinity Institute Conference on Income Equality. This talk is an excellent antidote to the bleak picture offered by Robert Reich, as it provides inspiring, real-world examples of actions being taken around the country to counteract the effects of income inequality. Continental breakfast will be provided.

Sunday, May 31: Our Fifth Sunday Collection will be taken to help rebuild the First Universalist Church in Southold, Long Island, which burned to the ground on March 15, 2015.



It is not the beauty of a building you should look at; its the construction of the foundation that will stand the test of time.

--- David Allan Coe

Read more at

<http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/building.html#ZqhLXzD8qMIhde18.99>

The next Buildings and Grounds Workday will be Saturday, **May 9**, from 9am to 12pm, with a light lunch served afterwards. Please consider coming out to help keep our beautiful building and grounds in tip-top shape!

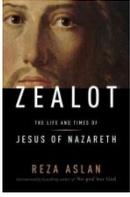
We would like to remind everyone that we share our building with several renters, some long-term, some recent, some regular, some occasional. One of our most recent arrangements is with a home-schooling cooperative that uses four classrooms, the conference room and the east wing library and kitchen every Tuesday. It's been a wonderful arrangement so far, with lots of mutual benefits. Recently, however, one of their pieces of equipment, a new "white board" with the name "Sundberg" written on the back was removed, and a used one was put in its place. It may be a simple matter of someone not realizing that the equipment was not the Fellowship's to loan or swap, but it is a matter of some importance that the new white board be returned. Also, one of our guest artists is missing a tabletop easel used to display artwork. Again, it would be very nice to have this item returned. No questions asked!

Given the fact that we often have items donated to the tag sale on the first two levels of the building, It may be confusing about what belongs to whom, and what might be "up for grabs," but if you have any doubts, it is recommended that you check with a member of B&G or a member of the tag sale task force before appropriating or repurposing an item.

Co-Chairs John Colacchio & Judith Knauss

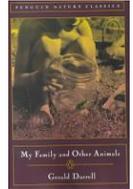
Speaking of Books

Speaking of Books is the Fellowship's non-fiction book group. We meet 1st Mondays of the month at 7PM.

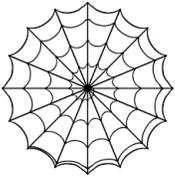


Our May book is: *Zealot: The Life and Time of Jesus of Nazareth* by Reza Aslan. "a fascinating, provocative, and meticulously researched biography that challenges long-held assumptions about the man we know as Jesus of Nazareth." There are 40 copies in the library system. Borrow the book and come join us!

Our June book is: *My Family and Other Animals* by Gerard Durrell. "When the unconventional Durrell family can no longer endure the damp, gray English climate, they do what any sensible family would do: sell their house and relocate to the sunny Greek isle of Corfu." The book was first published in 1957. Used copies can be bought for 4 dollars on www.abebooks.com.



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



Spiral Web

May will be a slow month for Spiral Web, with the only activities being our bimonthly Paganism 102 workshops, as follows:

Wednesday, **May 6**, at 7pm: Working with Water

Wednesday, **May 20**, at 7pm: Working with Ether

We hope you will join us!



You Might Be Interested In:

- [NARAL Pro-Choice New York](#) - Tuesday, **May 5th** where we will spend the day speaking to elected officials about a range of important issues including reproductive rights, comprehensive sex education and contraceptive access. This day will be a great opportunity to advocate for proactive, progressive legislation and stand up against the anti-choice attacks on reproductive rights we're seeing even here in New York State. We hope you will help us spread the word and join us at this [important event on Tuesday, May 5th!](#) NARAL Pro-Choice New York Lobby Day; Tuesday, **May 5th, 2015**; New York State Capitol, Albany, NY. contact Trudy Wurm, Political and Organizing Intern, National Institute for Reproductive Health / NARAL Pro-Choice NY, 470 Park Avenue South, 7th Floor NY 10016, twurm@prochoiceny.org for more information.
- The Young Center provides Child Advocates, similar to *guardians ad litem* or CASAs in the domestic child welfare system, for unaccompanied immigrant children. Our model uses volunteer Child Advocates who undergo a Young Center training, meet with a child on a weekly basis, and learn the child's story, all supervised and supported by Young Center staff; together, volunteers and Young Center staff advocate for the child's best interests. There is a two-day Child Advocate training on **May 16th & 17th** in New York City. Please contact Geoff Wood, Administrative Assistant/Volunteer Coordinator, New York/New Jersey Office, The Young

Center for Immigrant Children's Rights, 205 E. 42nd St., 14th Floor, New York, NY 10017, (P): [646-838-0229](tel:646-838-0229) for more information.

• Pat Lamanna Sighting: Wednesday, **May 27**, Beacon waterfront, 6-8 p.m.: Pat will be providing music on board the Clearwater, sailing out of Beacon. The Poughkeepsie sail that was to take place on April 18 was cancelled due to low registration. A sail on the Clearwater is such a wonderful experience! Take a chance and buy tickets here: <http://www.clearwater.org/come-sailing/sail-schedule/>

• Pat Lamanna Sighting: Sunday, **May 31**, Gomez Mill House, off Route 9W just south of Marlboro, 1 p.m.: Pat will be singing historical ballads, along with Lydia Adams Davis and Susan Boszo at this fascinating historic house. Go to <http://www.gomez.org/sundays.html> and note the directions for visitors, as your GPS will not get you there.

ARTIST OF THE MONTH INFORMATION:

Our very own **Harvey Frankel** will be our artist of the month of May and June.



The deadline for June's Newsletter is **Friday, May 22nd**.

June will be our last publication until September.
Please send in your summer input.

All newsletter submissions should be mailed to uupoknewsletter@uupok.org.



Thank You!