

"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.

June Services

June 3: "Why Does the Giraffe Have a Long Neck" UU Catskill Puppet Group, Multigenerational, led by Tom Hackett

June 10: Reason To Be Proud. Rev Walter LeFlore

June 17: A Beautiful Bouquet. Rev Walter LeFlore

June 24: Religious Education Arts Sunday, Multigenerational, led by Soozie Nowak and Judith Knauss, special appearance by Uncle Joe Cosentino and Bryan Cook

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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Officers

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June

June 9: Buildings and Grounds work session 9AM-Noon

June 10: Corporate meeting 12:15

June 16th: QUUIzbowl evening

June 22: Homeless meal

June 23: Spoken Word Cafe 7PM

June 24: Seniors group Noon



The Helen Baldwin Singers

will participate in the Dutchess County Interfaith Council's annual concert on **June 3rd**. The concert will be held at **4 p.m.** at the **Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church**, located on **2381 New Hackensack Road** in Poughkeepsie. Many groups of singers and dancers from churches in Dutchess County will perform. There will also be a large choir made up of members or many church choirs under the direction of Polly James.

Judith's Missive

We must have infinite faith in one another.

Henry David Thoreau

Dear Fellowship Mates:

The official Fellowship year, which runs from July 1 to June 30, is now drawing to a close, as is my term as President. It has been a challenging and rewarding time in which to be serving the congregation in that capacity, and I am grateful to have had this opportunity. Thank you.

I was recently asked what it means when we, as UUs, sign our correspondence "In faith." For a moment, I had no response. It was a phrase I started using almost without thinking. I wanted, somehow, to set a different tone for my communications concerning the Fellowship. I wanted a closing with more substance than "yours truly." I began using "In fellowship" and "In faith." But what did it really mean? After thinking about it for a little while, this is my answer.

During the years of the ministerial search process, which was exciting, there were also some nerve-wracking moments as the Board struggled with serious budget concerns. We were afraid to offer a compensation package we weren't sure we could deliver, but we knew that if we didn't offer such a package we were severely limiting our ability to attract the kind of minister the congregation was seeking. In the end, we took a deep breath and decided we needed to have faith that if we offered the right package, we would be giving our Ministerial Search Committee, four members of the Fellowship in whom we had great faith, the tools necessary to conduct a successful search.

This faith was rewarded. Not only was the ministerial search highly successful, we have had the most successful stewardship campaign in our sixty year history. We *will* be able to deliver, to bring ourselves into alignment with the UUA's fair compensation recommendations for all staff members, fund all our current programs and begin building a capital preservation fund for long range maintenance and improvements. Of course, these and other successes this year were not based just on faith. They are the result of hard work on the part of many friends and members. But underlying all of the hard work was a solid foundation of faith. So what do I mean by faith? Rather than frame my response in the negative (what my faith is not), I am framing it in the positive: what my faith is. I have faith, that is, a sense of trust or confidence, in us. I have faith in each of you, as fellow members and friends of this congregation, to be supportive companions on our joint spiritual journeys and searches for truth and meaning. I have faith in this congregation to be a passionate and active voice for justice, equity and compassion in human relations and an equally passionate and active advocate for the environment. I have faith in this religion - Unitarian Universalism - to be a model of right relations for a dynamic community in which diverse peoples with diverse beliefs and opinions can live together in productive harmony, moving beyond tolerance to acceptance.

In other words, I have faith that we can help create a world in which we all strive to be worthy of the infinite faith we place in each other, a true Beloved Community.

In fellowship, and with faith,
Judith

From the Minister:

As our fiscal year comes to a close at the end of June, I find myself reflecting on the year past. Sometimes, our experience of time can be quite confusing. In some ways, it seems the time since last August has gone by shockingly quickly. At the same time, it feels like I've been here a long time already. But by any account, I think we've had a fantastic year!

Improvements to the building and grounds are both a blessing and a welcomed development. Floors in the conference rooms have been sanded and one has new furniture. The labyrinth and grounds are well planted and mulched. Two series of classes intended to better orient new members (as well as long timers) to UUism and our Fellowship were held. A class on Loss, Grief and Bereavement and one on learning to better articulate our faith have been offered.

Your input on congregational priorities laid the groundwork for a very successful stewardship campaign and a budgeting process that reflects those priorities. We are now closer to being able to fund the priorities the Fellowship has identified. Our Lifespan Faith Development program has limped along without the assistance of a Director all year and still managed to provide a valuable service to our young people and the Fellowship at large. The Program, Membership and Caring Committees have provided valuable ministry to our congregation.

We've established a consistent Sunday morning worship experience including a good music program. The Social Justice Committee continues to support Fair Trade and help feed the hungry. Perhaps a record number of members attended the Annual Metro NY District Meeting this year. We were also accepted into the District's, three year Growing Stronger Program. Programmatic goals have been identified and a number of them have already been implemented.

As should be the case for any thriving congregation, there is much that remains to be done. Plans are in place for some activities during the coming year, while others remain to be understood or fleshed out. In addition to a solid historical foundation, we are fortunate to have both talent and commitment. We should be proud of what we've accomplished. We should be grateful for what we have and the possibilities that are within reach. Yeah for us!

In Faith,
Walter

Senior Group:

June 24th **Noon**
Genealogy.

An interesting study of our lineage.



Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship committee has wrapped up its pledge campaign for 2012/2013 fiscal year. The results were much better than we hoped for and we extend our thanks to all the members and friends of the Fellowship who were so generous with their support.

You identified your priorities in our January 2012 town meeting and then you showed your support for those priorities.

Our pledge total, as of May 21st is \$137505, \$25000 more than we received in 2011/12. We received 77 pledges, up from 65 last year. Of those pledges 33 were increases over last year. Twenty pledges were new, that is a new member or a new pledger.

The committee would like to thank James Pittman for his great work in designing our pledge brochure which laid out our goals for the coming year. Assisting greatly was Jeff Asher. To our visiting stewards, we couldn't have done it without and we thank them most deeply.

The energy and enthusiasm that I see every day at the Fellowship shows me that we have found our Spiritual Home and we will support it with our efforts and our contributions.

Thank You All!

Paul Osgood

Co-chair, Stewardship Committee

Religious Education

Greetings from upstairs!



RE is winding down for the year, hitting Spring holidays and special services: at the same time, we are winding up for two very special occasions!

QUUizbowl, a UUnique friendly competition, will take place in the evening of Saturday, June 16th. Teams of children will answer questions, Jeopardy-style, based on lessons learned during the year. A very modest entry donation will be asked to enjoy what has become an annual night of rollicking laughter and tension as the scores rack up. We will offer a dessert sideboard to sustain strength: you never know when YOU may be picked as the team's "lifeline" answer provider!!

And on Sunday, June 24th, make a point of attending RE Sunday, the day on which our younger generation gets to give the "adult" part of the congregation an idea of what we have been doing all year. Look forward to some creative expressions of our yoUUth!

And, as always, if YOU are interested in learning more and joining the cohorts of teachers, assistant teachers, or special adjutant teachers, just let us know!

Thank you!

The RE crew...

Social Justice



Thanks to all who contributed to the Social Justice Committee's "ethical" Third Sunday Lunch on May 20, and to all who partook of it! Remember to patronize Farmers Markets this summer, and continue to buy Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate.

The following events coming up in June promote peace and social and environmental justice. Fellowship members might enjoy attending some of them.

- Friday, June 1 through Sunday, June 3: Gathering of Peoples Music Network for Songs of Freedom and Struggle. Camp Epworth, High Falls, NY. Friday night concert featuring noted singer-organizer Si Kahn, plus Jay Mankita, Ruth Pelham, Professor Louie and more. Saturday workshops and a "Round Robin." www.peoplesmusic.org for more information.
- Thursday, June 7 at 7 p.m.: Poems for Peace. Students from Highland High School, Vietnam vets and others will read poetry on peace and social justice themes. After the presentation there will be an open mic for members of the audience to share their own spoken word offerings on these themes. At the Crafted Kup, 44 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie. www.dutchesspeace.org for more information.
- Sunday, June 10, 12 noon-5 p.m.: Beacon Sloop Club's annual Strawberry Festival. On the Beacon waterfront. Music, food, social justice and environmental booths, all to benefit the Beacon Sloop Club's work to raise awareness about preserving the Hudson. www.beaconsloopclub.org for more information.
- Saturday, June 16 and Sunday, June 17: Clearwater's annual Hudson River Revival. See above, but much bigger. www.clearwater.org for more information.

Have a great summer!

Pat Lamanna

SPIRAL WEB AND SOLSTICE RITUAL

There will be a meeting of Spiral Web (the Fellowship's CUUPs chapter) on Sunday, June 17, following the service. Lunch will be available through Third Sunday Lunch.

The meeting will be brief, and will be followed by a Summer Solstice ritual. Weather permitting, the ritual will be held in the Labyrinth. For more information, please feel free to contact Jim Wood or Judith Knauss.

TAG SALE

The Coordinating Council has tentatively scheduled a Fellowship tag sale for Saturday, June 23. If you are interested in helping out with this effort or if you have items you would like to donate, please contact Judith Knauss.

The Fellowship used to have an annual tag sale, called Unifair, which often netted \$2000 or more for use toward the general fund. We are once again trying to develop a fundraising strategy that would include one or two annual events to put our efforts into. The tag sale could become one these annual events.



June Steward of the Month

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie's Steward of the Month for June is our very own lovely and musical MaryAnn Osgood.

Several years ago, MaryAnn began filling as director of the Fellowship Singers when founder and director Helen Baldwin fell ill. Following Helen's death, the singers were renamed the Helen Baldwin Singers, and MaryAnn became the official director of the choral group. She has served selflessly and tirelessly in that capacity ever since. MaryAnn and the Singers continually provide professional level performances, not just on Sunday mornings, but at special Fellowship events such as the Installation of Reverend Walter LeFlore, and also at outside venues.

We gratefully acknowledge MaryAnn's dedication to and impact on the life of our faith community.

What is the Committee on Ministry?

The Fellowship has a Committee on Ministry (CoM). "Ok, but what is its mission?", you may ask. In the past, a CoM oversaw the relationship between the minister and the congregation. However, the UUA is promoting the concept of a shared ministry, in which we all have responsibility for our relationships with each other. This ties to the vision of the Beloved Community, first articulated by Martin Luther King, Jr.

To this end the UUA has recommended that a CoM take on a broader mission, to oversee the quality of our relationships across the congregation. In other words, to help nurture the Beloved Community.

"And who is on it?"

The members of the committee, as per bylaws, are term appointments. The current members are Pat Holtz, Brad Kendall, Paul Silverstein-chair, and Ellen Waggener.

"And what are your responsibilities?"

o The first responsibility is to listen to the congregation. We will do this two ways

§ 1) By reaching out to you. We will do this by keeping our ear to the ground, by initiating conversations with the members, and if appropriate, by other mechanisms, such as surveys.

§2) By you reaching out to us. We will be a sounding board for you to come to about any concerns or ideas that you have about how we can improve our community. If topics are sensitive, we will honor the code of confidentiality.

o The second responsibility is to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees about how we can improve the quality of our relationships.

o The third responsibility is, the traditional role of facilitating the yearly evaluation of the minister.

We look forward to working with you in helping to grow and strengthen our Beloved Community.

NOTICE OF CORPORATE MEETING

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie Annual Corporate Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 10, 2012, at 12:15pm. The agenda will be as follows:

Opening Words

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of June 2011 Corporate Meeting

Adoption of Budget

Bylaw revisions (the revision is limited to changing the name of the Nominating Committee to the Leadership Development Committee in Article IX Section 8 and Article X Section 4)

Election of Officers and Trustees:

President: Nina Lynch (term ending June 2013, may serve until June 2016)

Vice President: Jeff Asher (term ending June 2013, may serve until June 2017)

Corporate Clerk: Jane Bartik (term ending June 2014, may serve until June 2018)

Trustee: Larry Decker (term ending June 2014, may serve until June 2018)

Trustee: Beth Kon (term ending June 2013, filling the balance of Jeff Asher's first term as Trustee, may serve until June 2018)

Trustee: Anne Lancellotti (terms ends June 2014, may serve until June 2017)

Election of members of Endowment Fund Committee (to be announced)

Election of members of Leadership Development Committee (from floor)

Election of delegates to General Assembly (to be announced)

Resolution on Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery (see below for details on resolution)

Adjournment

Resolution on Doctrine of Discovery

Members of the UUFP are being asked to vote to advise any delegates to the 2012 General Assembly as to the will of the congregation regarding their vote on the following resolution concerning the "Doctrine of Discovery."

WHEREAS the delegates of the 2010 General Assembly instructed the UUA Board to create a "Justice General Assembly" in 2012, whose business is accountable to partner organizations doing human rights work in Arizona; and WHEREAS the Unitarian Universalist Association has been asked by partner organizations working with the Arizona Immigration Ministry to educate our member congregations about the Doctrine of Discovery and to pass a resolution repudiating it; and

WHEREAS the UUA Board of Trustees has submitted to the member congregations a report explaining the Doctrine of Discovery and why the Board believes it to be contrary to Unitarian Universalist principles:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the delegates of the 2012 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery as a relic of colonialism, feudalism, and of religious, cultural, and racial biases having no place in the modern day treatment of indigenous peoples globally, and American Indians nationally; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call on the leadership of the Unitarian Universalist Association to make a clear and concise statement repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery and its current use in U.S. laws and regulations, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage other religious bodies to reject the use of the Doctrine of Discovery to dominate indigenous peoples, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we call upon the United States to fully implement the standards of the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in U.S. law and policy without qualifications. In doing so, we support the establishment of commissions that include accountable representatives of American Indian nations.

Building and Grounds News

Are you interested in participating in the continued upgrading of our beautiful building and grounds?



The plans for the new Fellowship year include modifications to increase handicapped accessibility and aesthetic appeal.

If you would like to be part of this exciting process, please contact 2012-2013 co-chairs Dale Sutton and Judith Knauss.

And don't forget to sign up for lawn mowing duty at least once during the summer, if you're able! The grass is growing! It doesn't know No ONE has signed up to mow!

Next B&G work day is Saturday June 10th 9AM to Noon.

SUMMER SERVICES:

JULY 1: Jolanda Jenson and Lisette Muntslag, "Pim Fortuyn, being an immigrant in Amsterdam"

JULY 8: James Pittman and Paul Silverstein, "How to Define Being a UU"

JULY 15: Kathy Boone, "The 7 Keys to Calm"

JULY 22: Lisa Hickey, "Walkway Over the Hudson" (bring a bag lunch)

JULY 29: Karen Lovequist, "Green Worship"

AUGUST 5: Paul Gherson with Reed Asher, "Judaism"

AUGUST 12: Charlie Rubin, "Living Heroes,"

AUGUST 19: Jamie Fisher-Hertz, "The Juvenile Justice System"

AUGUST 26: Jim Wood, "Druids and Shamans"



Membership

Visitor to the Fellowship Regina Conroy has attended services four times and would like to become more involved. She thanks everyone for welcoming her. Regina is in the process of recovering from Lyme disease, unable to drive, and is currently in need of rides to Sunday services (she lives near Vassar College). She would also welcome a ride to the Sunday night Zen meditation group. Lastly, she is looking for green housing in the Poughkeepsie, Hyde Park, or Rhinebeck areas -- "green" meaning free of the chemical outgassing that is so typical of a lot of home construction. If you would like to discuss possible rides, or if you have leads on green housing, please call Regina at 462-3141.

Thanks! Michelle Sutton for Regina

Homeless Meal

This month, the Meal for the Homeless takes place on Friday June 22nd. Please send a note to michellesutton33@gmail.com if you'd like to help make sandwiches and fruit salad for a summer evening's meal. The numbers of guests at the shelter dinners are consistently higher than two years ago, which would seem to indicate there is more hunger in our community. Please join us, it's fun and feels really good! Michelle Sutton

Coffee Hour



June Coffee Hour Hosts

June 3: Amy Strom, Margie Walters and Russ Brown

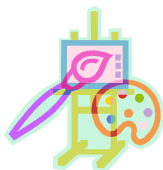
June 10: Russ Brown

June 17: Kevin Barnes and Sue Sciacca

June 24: Chris Tessler and Russ Brown

Our artist for June is Lisette Muntslag.

Our artist this summer is Karl Volk



There is no Newsletter July and August.
Deadline for September newsletter is August 28th.

The Playwrights Lab presents
a free staged reading of a new full length play
"Two Old Knights Dancing"
by **UFPF member Joe Cosentino**
Tuesday, June 5, 6:30pm
The Arts Society of Kingston
Regional Center for the Arts
97 Broadway, Kingston, NY 12401
845-338-0331

SPOKEN WORD CAFE

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

On Saturday, June 23rd we will feature

Celia Bland

Celia Bland is Writer in Residence at Bard College. Poet and author of numerous works of fiction and nonfiction for young adults, including *The Conspiracy of the Secret Nine*, and finalist for 1996 Heekin Award, Bland has been at Bard College since 2000 where she has taught for the Bard College Prison Initiative, and where she was formerly the Dean of Studies. Her poetry collection, *Soft Box*, was published by Cavan Kerry Press in 2004. She has a B.A. from Sarah Lawrence and an M.A. from New York University and Bland is a winner of the Silver Medal for poetry from *ForeWord* magazine. The Spoken Word Café in Poughkeepsie is pleased to welcome Celia Bland as the June 2012 Featured Speaker. Come join us!

June 23, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

Admission \$5

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie

Open Mic – Refreshments –

Info: Angela at 917-509-5636