


"2121 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.

November Services

November 4: "A View of Hinduism" Rev. Walter LeFlore

November 11: "My Spiritual Path" Joe Cosentino and UUFP members

November 18: "Things To Be Thankful For" Rev. Walter LeFlore Multigenerational Thanksgiving service with breakfast

November 25: "Preparing for Hanukkah" Rabbi Rena Blumenthal (Vassar College Chaplain) with Joe Cosentino

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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The UU Fellowship of Poughkeepsie is a member of the Society of the Unitarian Universalist Association
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We are one of 52 Societies in the Unitarian Universalist District of Metropolitan New York

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November Highlights

Nov 1: Caring Craft Corner **6 to 9PM**

Nov 2: Caring Craft Corner 2nd session
Noon to 3PM

Nov 13: A talk by a panel of Hudson Valley Farmers on The Politics of Food: Government Regulations and their impact on Organic Farming **7PM**

Nov 14: A talk by Shirley Adams, Executive Director of Catharine Street Community Center **7PM**

Nov 15: Board of Trustees meeting **7PM**

Nov 18: Thanksgiving breakfast **10:30AM**

Nov 23: Homeless meal

Nov 24: Spoken Word **7PM**

Notes from The Choir

The Helen Baldwin Singers will be singing the Vivaldi Gloria on December 9th at 3 o'clock at the Fellowship. If you or anyone you know would like to sing with us, we are rehearsing for this on Wednesday evenings at 7p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Mary Ann Osgood



Nina's Noodlings....

Ten or so years ago the conversation at one of our Social Justice Meetings turned to the question of fair trade coffee. A newly arrived member shared that the UU congregation from which she moved had served fair trade coffee but she did not know where how they got it. I found Equal Exchange at an organic farm stand in Millerton...emailed to the address on the bag and UUFP's connection with Equal Exchange was begun.

Soon after we started purchasing coffee for our hospitality table, the Equal Exchange Interfaith Store started and a vibrant network of thousands of faith communities began working together to create a greener and more just food system. We began to sell Equal Exchange products both after services at Fellowship and at the Alternative Gift Fairs...which grew into the Fair Trade Bazaar.

Since 1986, Equal Exchange, a worker-owner co-operative has worked with small farmer cooperatives in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the US building just trading relationships based on fair prices, affordable credit, environmental sustainability and trust. In short, our coffee, tea, chocolate, etc. sales allow us to live out our values through products that we love! How easy to enjoy our delicious cup of coffee...and at the same time know it is a cup of justice!

Fair trade practices are at a major crossroads having to do with the decision of Fair Trade USA to expand fair trade certification to include coffee plantations.

Small producers and democratic cooperatives are core to the founding principles of the fair trade movement and market. By definition, small producers are vulnerable, excluded and under resourced in the global market. In the coffee sector, small farmers produce approximately 70% of the global coffee supply. Despite the current high prices in the coffee market, many fair trade co-ops are still unable to sell the majority of their coffee under fair trade terms. Expanding fair trade certification and market access to large-scale plantations will assure that fair trade cooperatives continue to remain vulnerable to volatile international markets and undermine 25 years of fair trade development.

Importantly, consumers will be unable to distinguish between small farmer and cooperative coffee from plantation coffee. I urge you to learn more about fair trade and plantations on the Equal Exchange website, www.equalexchange.coop.

Nina

Hospitality Corner

The tradition at UUFP on the Sunday before Thanksgiving (November 18) is to feast on breakfast at 10:30 and conclude the hour or so with a slightly truncated worship service led by Rev. Walter. No question that it is mildly chaotic but it is a delightful change of pace and opportunity to visit and 'schmooze'. (No third Sunday lunch in November)

The rest of the tradition is that *you* bring some part of the breakfast! ...and your assignment is below -- . We hope to have a 21st Century Porridge Buffet and anyone with a crock pot and a willingness to participate in making porridge (recipe provided) is welcome to join the fun.



Last Names A-D: bring juice
Last Names E-L: bring bagels and spreads
Last Names M-Z: bring a dozen+ hardboiled eggs

We also need people to come early to set up tables and to stay late to help do dishes. Please call Nina at 876-6043 or email to nina@talynch.com



From the Minister

November 2012

During the month of November we will begin our Small Group Ministry program. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to sign up for a time that works best for you. There will be a SGM table at coffee hour on November 4, or you can call the office and let them know what day and time works best for your schedule. We have several trained facilitators who have been meeting since last spring to get ready to introduce and lead the session plans for our groups.

The Small Group Ministry program holds a place near and dear to my heart. I'm a great fan of SGM because of my own experiences with the program and how it helped me develop a deeper connection to Unitarian Universalism. I also believe its maybe the best thing going to help us build deeper bonds within our faith community.

The Small Group Ministry program provides an opportunity to caulk out space in our work-a-day schedules to savor a time and place to slow down, breathe, focus and be self-reflective. It's a time for spiritual growth, both our own and those in our group. It's a time to be in community, a small community, where there is dedicated space for each person to be heard and to hear the thoughts and experiences of others. It's a time to ponder the big questions that impact on faith, what we believe, questions of morality and how we have or would like to live in the world.

The SGM program will use trained facilitators to help guide us through an established, consistent process that is designed to help keep the group safe and increase the potential for all to gain the most from their time together. Facilitators make sure meetings start and end on time, that everyone has been notified of meeting dates and follow up with anyone who was unable to attend a meeting. In addition, facilitators will meet together monthly with the minister to discuss what worked well and what we can do better. The monthly meetings of the facilitators are another way for groups to maintain a connection with each other and with the larger congregation.

I hope you will find the space to carve out a couple hours a month to be self-reflective and to help broaden and enrich connections within our Fellowship.

In Faith,
Walter



Homeless meal

The monthly dinner for the homeless we provide for Hillcrest House is a project of the UUPF's Social Justice program. Our next dinner is Friday November 23, the day after Thanksgiving. The dinner is always a convivial and rewarding affair--and around the holidays especially so. Please email Michelle Sutton, michellesutton33@gmail.com if you would like to help on November 23. Contributions of food (like rolls or dessert) are a big help even if you don't have time to prepare or serve. Thank you kindly to September's crew of helpers and food donors: Diana Burke, Sue Sciacca, Chad Patterson, Debbie Murray, Joyce Marra, and Ilse de la Puente and to October's crew of Nick Garin, Katy Corcoran, Thalia Sudnik, Joyce Marra and Nina Lynch.

Michelle Sutton

Social Justice Committee News



FAIR TRADE BAZAAR, Saturday, Nov. 10 from 11-5 and Sunday, Nov. 11 from 11-3 at The Aula at Vassar College. Do your holiday shopping ethically; buy fair-trade items made around the world or here in the Hudson Valley by skilled craftspeople who receive fair pay for their work. You may also buy Equal Exchange coffee, tea, chocolate and other food products; sample delicious, ethically-prepared homemade food; enjoy live music and more. Contact Pat Lamanna at 452-4013 or patla42@gmail.com if you can help. Or, just come, shop, and have fun!

TALK on "The Politics of Food: Government Regulations and their impact on Organic Farming," Tuesday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m. at the Fellowship. A panel of Hudson Valley farmers will discuss what our legislators are or are not doing to support the family farm. Come and find out how you can improve your access to locally-grown foods. The Social Justice Committee is co-sponsoring this event with The Sierra Club.

TALK, "Celebrating Catharine St. Community Center's Past-Looking Forward to our Future" by Shirley Adams, Executive Director of Catharine Street Community Center. Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Fellowship. This is the second in a series of second Wednesday talks the SJ Committee is sponsoring highlighting different human services agencies in our community. We had a good turnout at October's talk with Brian Doyle of Family Services New York, and we invite you and your friends and neighbors to attend this event and become familiar with community resources and volunteer opportunities.

The Social Justice Committee currently meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. Our next meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. We are trying to find a time that is convenient for the greatest number of people. We would love to see more Fellowship members involved, and you are most welcome to join us at our meetings, or to assist at other times if you can't make it to the meetings.

Other news of interest: Free film screening of "Life and Debt," Thursday, November 1 at 7:00 pm at the Crafted Kup, 44 Raymond Ave, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Presented by Dutchess Peace: www.dutchesspeace.org. Life and Debt is a powerful, feature-length documentary which addresses the impact of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and current globalization policies on a developing country such as Jamaica. Based on "A Small Place" by Jamaica Kincaid. Followed by an audience discussion; no admission charge.

Pat Lamanna

Lifespan Faith Development

Our RE classes are in full swing, with our core group of dedicated teachers, our wonderful children, and the organization that our DRE, Lynda, brought to the classrooms and to the Sunday morning flow. We are continuing with the Tapestry of Faith curriculum, as it has provided an excellent classroom experience for the children, and eases the task of lesson-planning for teachers. We look forward to another amazing year where our young people learn what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist, and to be part of our **faith** community. In turn, they will teach and remind us about the wonder of a child's-eye view of the world, and about the wisdom that lies in the minds of even our smallest members.

As most of you know, our DRE Lynda will be leaving us due to personal **and family reasons**. We are immensely grateful for the energy and dedication she showed in her short time here. Now we at the Fellowship need to come together to **keep** our RE program vibrant. Until we **are able to hire** another DRE, Lynda's tasks will need to be covered. And we are also still in need of teachers. None of us can do this alone, but if many of us come together, I believe it can be a rewarding and enriching experience for all.

The UUFP board of trustees has committed itself to giving the RE program all the attention it needs to **remain** strong. To quote one of the BOT members, "This is the season for RE". We will be reaching out to congregation members to **ask them to** give **of** their time to this very important aspect of Fellowship life. **We need the help of both committee members and teachers**. Together, we can make this time of transition successful.

Beth Kon...Board liaison to RE Committee



Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship committee has held meetings the past two months to develop a theme for the 2013/2014 Stewardship Campaign. We have some ideas of how to improve our communications with our Fellowship members and discussed several different themes for the drive. We will be choosing a new theme soon and, we hope to inspire you with our vision for the future of our fellowship.

One of our discussions centered on what we could do to in community outreach and getting our message out to possible new members. The past US census identified about ten million people in the US who do not identify with any organized religion and perhaps some of those people would feel comfortable in our Fellowship. We hope to produce a brochure next year which will tell anyone who we are and what we stand for in the religious community.

There will always be needs within the Fellowship for improvements in our facility and programs but we need to go beyond our walls to help those who need assistance in the basics of a productive and healthy life.

So, as the saying goes, "Watch this Space".

Paul Osgood
CoChair, Stewardship Committee

Membership Committee



Membership wants to let people know just how great it is to be a UU!

As part of this goal we will be setting up tables with information at the Fellowship on November 6th and at the Fair Trade Bazaar on November 10th and 11th.

We're in desperate need of volunteers to staff the tables for these dates. Join the fun if you can. Our need is as follows:

Election Day—November 6th: 9:00am-1:00pm and 8:00pm-9:00pm

Fair Trade Bazaar—November 10th and 11th: 11am-5pm

Contact James Pittman via email or phone 845-444-4265.

Being an Usher or Greeter is a very important responsibility because it represents a first impression of our Fellowship. Thank you to the volunteers including Gayle Garin, Jeff Asher, Laura A.G. Bracken, Eleanor Harmantas, Chad Patterson, Terry Novicki, Ellen Waggener and Paul Hirsch.

We always need help with Ushering and Greeting. If you're interested please email Dan Whalen at dwhaleman@gmail.com or James Pittman at jamespittman1@me.com.

James Pittman

Leadership Development Committee

As we start our new year, the LDC would like to reacquaint our membership with our goals and our committee members for the 2012-2013 year.

Our mission is to try to develop and promote leaders in our faith community. To that end we hope to hold various workshops throughout the year for those already in leadership positions and for those who may want to develop their leadership potential.

We will also try to develop a relationship with other committees, such as membership, to help create a “path to leadership” among our potential and new members.

The LDC also hopes to be available to on-going committees and groups at the UUFP as both a resource and a support to help them accomplish the goals and tasks they have set out for themselves.

Our committee membership this year includes: Paul Hirsch (phirsch1@hvc.rr.com), Judith Knauss (judith.knauss@gmail.com), Bryan Cook (rbcook@optonline.net), Maggie LeFlore (mleflore55@gmail.com), Len Marcus (lenmarcus43@gmail.com).

Please feel free to contact us, if you are in a leadership position or not, for any additional information about our role or for any help or support that we may be able to give regarding leadership issues. The more everyone can recognize and develop their leadership potential, the richer and more satisfying our faith community will be.

Paul S. Hirsch, LDC Chair

Gratitude Corner



Members of the Board of Trustees say *thank you* to **Jeff Asher** for his skillful execution of the arduous task of synthesizing individual board member's ministerial evaluations into a package for presentation to Rev. Walter and the UUA. Thank you Jeff!

Calendar



Let Joedy Kievit in the office know of any Fellowship events so she can put them on our calendar. Contact information for Joedy and the Fellowship office is always at the front of the newsletter.

You might be interested.

Events in the wider community.

► Classics in Religion Reading Group

On **November 7, 14, 21, and 28**, the group will discuss the **Creation Epics of the Ancient Near East**

The near east is recognized as “the cradle of civilization,” where agriculture, cities, trade, art and religion first emerged. While we may recognize the stories of Genesis, we may need to be refreshed by accounts from Egypt and Mesopotamia, as well as their mutual influences. Such accounts reflect “myths” but provide understandings of human nature, society and natural occurrences. The series will read portions of *The Gilgamesh Epic*, *Enuma Elish*, and Memphite Theology as well as *Genesis*.

The discussions will be led by the Rev. Dr. **Bob Gram**, pastor of the Hurley Reformed Church. They take place **Wednesdays at 10:30 A.M.** in the **Community Room of the Kingston Public Library at 55 Franklin St., corner of Prospect in mid-town Kingston.**

► **Holiday Contra-dance Party When: Saturday, November 17 Where: St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church 55 Wilbur Blvd., Poughkeepsie**

Dance to the awesome tunes of **Crowfoot** With the inspired calling of **Kathy Anderson**

3- 5 PM, Dance \$8, 5 - 7 PM, Potluck, schmooze, jam, etc. (Bring enough food for 6)

7 - 10:30 PM, Evening Dance—\$15, Both dances for \$20 (Sorry, but we can't offer student discounts)

Children are welcome but must be supervised by an adult

For more info: www.hudsonvalleydance.org or Susie, tel. 845/473-7050

The Spoken Word Café

November is Tellabration[©] month,

and the Spoken Word Café

will join thousands of others around the globe in celebrating storytelling and storytellers.

Please join us!

Nov 24th at 7PM

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

67 South Randolph Street, Poughkeepsie

Admission \$5 – Open Mic – Refreshments – Angela for
Info: 917-509-5636

2012 FAIR TRADE BAZAAR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 11-5PM & SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 11TH, 11-3PM

THE AULA IN ELY HALL AT
VASSAR COLLEGE, 124 RAYMOND AVE.,
POUGHKEEPSIE

In preparation for the holidays, every year in November the Dutchess County Interfaith Council co-sponsors the Fair Trade Bazaar with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Poughkeepsie. Our Fair Trade Bazaar committee led by Pat Lamanna, pulls together non-profits, local crafts people and vendors selling hand-crafted merchandise from around the world. All international merchandise featured is purchased from co-operatives of craftspeople who receive decent pay for their work. The Fair Trade Bazaar is about making people socially and economically aware of the origins of their goods, and what better time than when buying holiday gifts for friends and family.



FAIR
TRADE
BAZAAR

Caring Craft Corner



Presents the opportunity for members and others to make beautiful hand crafted jewelry including genuine gemstones and Swarovski crystals in beautiful original designs for only \$12.

Multiple jewelry pieces can be made for the entry fee, 2 or 3 items depending on items selected in a single 3 hour class.

Designs include ankle bracelets, rings, earrings and necklaces.

All supplies will be provided with instruction from experienced jewelry craftsmen, Katy Corcoran and Jane Bartik.

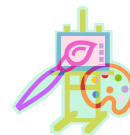
All funds raised above the cost of supplies will be donated to the UUPF for use in the general fund.

Hoping to see you there for the joy of creative growth and companionship!

Classes to be held at the fellowship **Thursday November 1st 6:00 to 9:00 PM** and **Friday November 2nd 12 noon to 3:00 pm.**

Teen agers and adults of all skill levels welcome.

Art at the Fellowship
Our November artist is
Pat Buckstrup



Deadline for December newsletter is November 21st which is the Wednesday *before* Thanksgiving. Please send submissions to uupoknewsletter@yahoo.com