

"2121 News and Views"

The Rev. Walter LeFlore, Minister

Volume 62 Number 3 Founded 1952 November 2014

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 2: The Arc of Time Rev. Walter LeFlore

November 9: Our Spiritual Paths UU members with Joe Cosentino

November 16: Hello Darkness My Old Friend Rev. Walter LeFlore

**November 23: Thankful Giving (a multi-gen breakfast service)
Rev. Walter LeFlore**

November 30: A Place at the Table 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.



"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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November Highlights

Nov 3: Speaking of Books. Discussing The Universe Story by Brian Swimme and Thomas Berry **7PM**

Nov 5: Social Justice meeting **7PM**
Paganism 102 **7PM**

Nov 8: Building and Grounds work day **9AM-Noon**

Nov 15 & 16: Fair Trade Bazaar: The Aula, Vassar College

Nov 17: Spiritual movie night.
"What Would Jesus Buy" **7PM**

Nov 19: Paganism 102 **7PM**

Nov 20: Board of Trustees meeting **7PM**

Nov 23: Thanksgiving Breakfast **10:30AM**

Emerita Celebration

On Sunday November 2nd we will recognize and celebrate the congregation's election of Rev. Kay Greenleaf to Minister Emerita status. We will have a short ceremony during the service and cake and other goodies after.

President's Column

What do you feel when you say the word “spirituality”? Does it resonate deeply with you? Do you shrug? Do you reject it, feeling it subverts reason to faith?

For me, “spirituality” connotes connections; specifically those connections between myself and something larger, of which I am but a small part. I feel those connections to many things: to my family, to my ancestors, to humanity overall, to marvelous nature, to the cosmos. Others feel connections to a loving God, or perhaps to a universal consciousness.

These connections move me beyond myself and give me strength and grounding. When bad things happen, they don't seem as terrible or threatening when I feel connected. I also feel more compassionate and loving to the other parts of the “whole”.

Sometimes we get distracted by the differences in how we feel connected. But we all benefit from focusing on these connections, whatever their form. They bind us to the universal. As a community we come together to sustain and celebrate that fundamental sense of belonging to an infinitely interconnected whole. To me, that is what spirit-uality is all about.

Paul Silverstein



From the Minister

November 2014

The Theme of the month is Maturity. Pause with the term for a moment. Consider your reaction to the word. Does it have positive or negative connotations? Does it feel comfortable or queasy? Both?

My first reaction was positive, with connotations of being a “responsible” grown-up. But then an uneasy feeling crept in as I wondered whether being mature meant I was past the age of being able to play, have fun and be silly?

In our culture being mature doesn't seem to have the same appeal as being youthful. In some cultures, ancestors and elders are held in high esteem. Not so for most of us. We're bombarded with ads for this and that to make us feel, look, even act younger than our age. It's as if growing older, which seems to coincide with maturity, is to be avoided!

Maturity is a coming into full development, ripening, the prime of life. So what does it take for us to come into our own, to develop into our fullness? How do we know when we have “arrived”?

Blessings,
Walter



Many thanks to those who worked hard arranging our wonderful congregational retreat! Thanks to Paul Silverstein, Jolanda Jansen, Beatrix Clarke, Judith Knauss, Soyol Smalls, Rev. Walter LeFlore, Ellen Waggener. Thank you!

Steward of the Month – Anne Lancellotti



Anne is a long time UUFP member who lives in the City of Poughkeepsie with her husband Ed Hayes. She commutes, by foot, to her physical therapy practice. And you can often see Anne and Ed briskly walking to and from the Fellowship.

She has participated in many areas of the Fellowship such as the Ministerial Relations Committee (now known as the Committee on Ministry). She was on the Search Committee for our current minister and just wrapped up a term on the Board of Trustees. Currently she belongs to the Choir, is a member of the Growing Stronger team, and organizes our Team Sundays.

In whatever role Anne plays, she brings grace, energy, good humor, and a knowing intelligence. When things get complicated or tense, her calm steadiness and compassion gets us through. She is a true Steward of the UUFP.

Thanks Anne!!



Lifespan Faith Developments

Have you wondered what all the ‘buzz’ is about Spirit Play? Have you wondered why teachers and children are so excited, enthralled, engaged and enlivened by their new curriculum? Read on, and you may decide you *have* to find out for yourself by visiting a class in progress one of these Sundays.

Adapted from several religious education programs by a UU minister, Spirit Play calls our children to engage in creative work. In doing so, they are inspired to wonder about life's deepest questions: Who am I? What am I here to do? What happens after I die? What do I believe in? The curriculum is based on the philosophy of Maria Montessori, who understood that children's play is work. Through play, young people explore life and their place within our mysterious universe.

How does the curriculum foster this exploration? Here is a description of a typical Sunday class. After convening in their classroom, now known as a 'sacred space, the young people sit on comfortable carpet squares and listen to a story. The story is told by one of our teachers, the 'storyteller.' After the story, the children leave their carpet seats to take work baskets of materials from shelves, which they bring to a new space. This space is marked by their very own rug, where they can sit and work with the materials, alone or with others. They may choose to create work related to the morning's story, or to their own. Imagination is nourished by the teachers' questions, which begin with the phrase, 'I wonder.' Through the stories and work, the children learn 'to place themselves within the UU faith' and to understand what that means in ideas and practice.

What are the topics of these stories? The Spirit Play Curriculum offers 600 stories on topics including the seven UU principles, the sources from which we draw inspiration, community and social justice. And because creativity abounds in our teachers as well as the children, we will occasionally write our own stories, as we plan to do for the Sunday of the Fair Trade Bazaar.

Are you interested in being part of this uplifting curriculum? Do you have an idea for a story? Would you like to write or tell a story? How about sitting in on a class? Speak to a member of the Lifespan Faith Development Committee (LFDC) or email co-chair, Margie Watters (mawatters@aol.com), if you want to join us on this extraordinary journey with our children.

Lifespan Faith Development Committee: Co-chair: Margie Watters. Members: Reed Asher, Erica Chase-Salerno, Julie Colacchio, Carol Gustafson, Judith Knauss, Anne Lancellotti, Soozie Nowak

Thanksgiving Breakfast November 23rd

We will have our Thanksgiving breakfast on Sunday November 23rd. Join us as we break bread together. To help organize the food please use your last name as a guide on what to bring.

Last Names A-D: bring juice or fruit
Last Names E-L: bring muffins, bagels and spreads
Last Names M-Z: bring a dozen+ hardboiled egg



Social Justice Committee News



Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m.: Monthly meeting of the Social Justice Committee. All are welcome.

Sunday, Nov. 30 is a Fifth Sunday. Our Fifth Sunday Collection will benefit Rural and Migrant Ministry (www.ruralmigrantministry.org). This is their vision statement:

Rural and Migrant Ministry Inc. acts to overcome the prejudices and poverty that degrade and debilitate all members of our society by building communities that celebrate diversity, achieve true mutuality and offer

dignity and opportunity to all. Rural and Migrant Ministry is an interfaith organization whose members believe that inspiration comes from participation in the creation of a just world.

Fair Trade Bazaar

The Annual Fair Trade Bazaar will be held **Saturday, Nov. 15** from 11-5 and **Sunday, Nov. 16** from 11-3 at The Aula, Vassar College. Make your money count! Buy Fair Trade, local, ethically sourced and produced merchandise at this international marketplace with distinctive crafts, clothing, jewelry, food, live music and more!

There will be no Third Sunday Lunch on November 16, so everyone can come to the Bazaar and partake of the wonderful offerings at the Soul Full Café. We will have coupons for a free cup of coffee!

We could use volunteers to help with setup, cleanup, selling food and other things. Please see Pat Lamanna if you can volunteer. We would also appreciate help spreading the word. Let us know if you can put up flyers or lawn signs, or publicize this wonderful event in other ways (e.g., social media -- find us on Facebook at Fair Trade Hudson Valley). Thanks!

Pat Lamanna

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 second of four articles about social justice items at this year's General Assembly

Actions of Immediate Witness

Last month, I wrote about Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAIs). Another opportunity to bring social justice issues before the General Assembly, UU congregations and UUA staff comes about through Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs). In contrast to CSAIs, AIWs generally address late-breaking issues requiring an immediate response. Sponsors must gather 150 signatures from at least 25 congregations in at least 5 districts.

Once the petitions have been submitted, delegates choose up to three issues to be put on the final agenda. Each issue on the final agenda is then voted on by the delegates. These do not have the full weight of the UUA, but are considered to express the sense of the delegates assembled at GA. They may be used by UUA staff, districts and congregations as the basis for their own public statements and actions.

This year, six AIWs were proposed, and three were approved by the delegates:

Support the Faith Summit on Stopping Deportations

This action addresses the issue of over 1,000 deportations per day from the United States, the plight of nearly 50,000 unaccompanied immigrant children and the failure of Congress to act on immigration reform legislation. It also supports the Faith Summit which took place in Washington DC July 31 – August 1. In addition, it calls upon UU individuals and congregations to write, call and visit state and federal representatives urging their support for compassionate and fair immigration reform.

Further information on this AIW can be found at <http://uua.org/statements/statements/296757.shtml>

Affirming Congregational Commitment to Gun Violence Prevention

This action endorses a renewed focus on gun violence prevention and calls upon member congregations to work for gun safety, background checks and a ban on assault weapons at all levels of government as well as to take other actions to end the scourge of gun violence.

Further information on this AIW can be found at <http://uua.org/statements/statements/296756.shtml>

UUA Support for “Uganda New Underground Railway” to safely extract LGBT people from persecution in Uganda.

Finally, this AIW recognizes the plight of LGBTQ people, especially in Uganda where they are being rounded up and killed at an escalating pace. Uganda law now criminalizes homosexuality with penalties up to life in prison.

A Quaker group, Friends New Underground Railroad, has been formed to rescue LGBTQ people who are running for their lives. This AIW asks UUs to support the Friends New Underground Railroad, to invite other progressive religions groups to join in this support and, if necessary, to assist asylum seekers to resettle in the United States.

More information on this AIW is found at <http://uua.org/statements/statements/296758.shtml>

Next time, I'll talk about this year's Ware Lecture.

Tom Hackett

HELP WANTED!

From the Leadership Development Committee



The Leadership Development Committee is currently looking for people to join the Membership Committee, with an eye towards development of a Membership Committee Chairperson.

What does the Membership Committee do, you ask? Well, according to our bylaws, the Membership Committee shall:

- organize and promote activities which encourage membership growth and facilitate involvement of all members in the life of the Fellowship community.
 - maintain the official membership list to report to the UUA as required.
 - document attendance, verify voter eligibility and quorum at Corporate Meetings.
 - arrange for greeters and ushers on Sundays and other special services.
 - publish the annual member directory in February to correspond to the official membership list provided to the UUA.
 - orient new members to the UUFP.
 - ensure, through a working group, that caring activities are available.

The tasks performed by the Membership Committee can be discrete, like one-time events (Game night, anyone?) or on-going, or a combination of the above! For example, the Membership Committee is responsible for the development of the Fourth Sunday Hikes, and for the First Monday Book Discussion Group, and for many other fun activities. The committee often plans new member breakfasts and helps coordinate new member classes and the “induction ceremonies,” with Reverend LeFlore.

If you are interested in finding out more about the MC, please feel free to talk to any member of the LDC (Beatrix Clarke, Kathy Boone, Judith Knauss, Len Marcus or Terry Novicki). We'd love to talk to you!

Stewardship Committee



Last week Mary Ann and I enjoyed a wonderful evening of dinner and conversation at the home of a Fellowship member. On the way home I was struck with how congenial an evening it was and how it was an example of true Stewardship. Meeting with people from our Fellowship allows us pursue and listen to ideas that are important to us. Our conversation ranged from politics to education to life experiences. We all listened to one another and it stimulated us to express our own thoughts and feelings on events.

This is what draws me to this Fellowship. This is what keeps me coming back week after week. Perhaps there are other groups of people who share our beliefs but we found this one and never looked any further. Pause for a moment and think about why you attend and I think you will realize why our Fellowship is important.

Paul Osgood.

Team Sunday



An outstanding Team Sunday took good care of our congregation during October. Many thanks to Reed and Jeff Asher, Cathy Augello, Kevin Barnes, Jane Bartik, Dave Bullock, Paul Hirsch, Ellen Waggener, Alex Szczy and coordinators Tom Hackett and Sue Sciacca. Thank you also to Karl Volk, the Helen Baldwin Choir and Chad Patterson for always being on call to help with setting up the chairs for Sunday services. Our teams have been generously serving in 6 month cycles. We extend a hearty thanks to all who have participated and will participate in the Team Sunday endeavor.

The Growing Stronger Team: Jeff Asher, Judith Knauss, Anne Lancellotti, Rev. Walter Le Flore and Paul Silverstein.

Building and Grounds



November 8th, if the weather holds, will be our last opportunity to "batten down the hatches" for the winter! Please join the Buildings and Grounds Committee from 9am to noon as we brace ourselves for the deepening cold! Then join us for a light lunch and help decide on our next projects!

<<<< 7 MONTHS / 6 WORDS =>>>>

For seven months (October to April), UUF's Committee on Ministry is sponsoring an easy "6 Word Challenge" that members of all ages and shoe sizes can play. Each month, we'll ponder one of our Principles and create 6 word sentences about what that principle means to us. You did a great job with our 1st Principle in October, **The Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person**. Come by our table after Sunday Service to see everyone's contribution.



Spiral Web



During the 2014-2015 Fellowship year, we will be offering "Paganism 102" workshops, following our successful "Paganism 101" series of last year. All workshops are on the first and third Wednesday of each month, from 7 to 9, unless otherwise noted). Some workshops will be more lecture-style, while others will be experiential, although even the lecture-style evenings will be interactive.

Wednesday, November 5th at 7pm: Druids. For those of you who didn't know, Jim Wood is an ordained Druid of FoDLA (the Fellowship of Druidism for the Latter Age). Come find out more about this revised ancient faith!

Wednesday, November 19th at 7pm: Reiki. For those of you who didn't know, Judith Knauss is a Reiki Master. Reiki is a powerful but gentle healing technique that allows universal life energy to flow from the practitioner to the receiver. Come find out more about it and, depending on time and attendance, receive a Reiki treatment.

The December workshops will be Crystals on December 3 and Winter Solstice/Yule on December 17.

Spiritual Movie Night

Join us on **Monday, November 17 at 7 PM** to see **What Would Jesus Buy?**

Join us for a playful and thoughtful movie designed to get you in the proper spirit for the Holidays.



An examination of the commercialization of Christmas in America while following Reverend Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping Gospel Choir on a cross-country mission to save Christmas from the Shopocalypse (the end of humankind from consumerism, over-consumption and the fires of eternal debt.)

Following the movie, we will have a discussion and refreshments.

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.

November 3rd: *The Universe Story: From the Primordial Flaring Forth to the Ecozoic Era--A Celebration of the Unfolding of the Cosmos* by Brian Swimme and Thomas Berry.

Notes from the Choir



The Christmas portion of "The Messiah" by G.F. Handel will be presented by the Helen Baldwin Singers on December 7th at 3 p.m. (Mark your calendars).

The choir has been working very hard on this work, and it promises to be an enjoyable afternoon for all.

Mary Ann Osgood

Annual December UUFP Holiday Craft Festival

Save the Date & Call for Volunteers! Sunday Dec. 21 from 1pm to 4pm following the 3rd Sunday lunch

Join us for an afternoon of crafts & fellowship at our annual UUFP Holiday Craft Festival. Crafts for all ages, both adults and youth, will be available to make and bring home.



Anyone interested in helping with the craft festival: contact Carol Gustafson cell: (845) 453-6369

You might be interested.

Events in our and the wider community.

► Joe Cosentino will do an author talk/book reading/book signing for his acclaimed mystery novel, PAPER DOLL, at the Woodland Ponds on Friday, November 7 at 2:30pm; and at Dutchess Community College in Hudson Hall room 406 on Thursday, November 13 at 12:30pm. LGBTQ Center in Kingston on November 13 at 7pm

► Pat Lamanna will open for RJ Cowdery at the "Singer-Songwriter Heaven" house concert series in Beekman on Sunday, Nov. 23. There is an optional potluck at 2 p.m.; the music starts at 3. For reservations and directions, call 917-734-8851.

► Defying Gravity Leadership Day on Saturday November 15 9AM – 4PM - Habits of the Heart
A joint program offered by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock and the UU District of Metro NY
UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, 48 Shelter Rock Rd, Manhasset NY 10030
Coffee and bagels at 9:00AM; program starts at 9:30AM.
Registration \$30 – Lunch included; scholarships available
For more information: http://uumetrony.org/events/Defying_Gravity_2014_flyer.pdf

Art at the Fellowship

Becky Nielsen is our artist for November and December. Her Art Reception will be on November 9th from 3-5PM - all are welcome.

