

BEACON at the BEACH

Embracing Universal Acceptance, Justice, & Compassion

UUSD Newsletter ■ March 2016

March 6 — Objects in the Mirror: Rick Welk, UUSD Member: Rick Welk discusses some benefits of occasionally checking the rearview mirror as we travel through our lives, while still maintaining a clear path forward.

March 13 — What He Meant to Me: Rev. Paula Maiorano, UUSD Interim Minister: The Memorial Service for Reverend Dr. Robert Mabry Doss, long time Wilmington minister and first UU minister/mentor to Rev. Maiorano, was last month. In this service, Rev. Maiorano shares Bob Doss's impact on her own life, and the continuity of one ministry to another.

March 20 — Belonging: Rev. Paula Maiorano, UUSD Interim Minister: Belonging is a human need. This service considers not only the yearning to belong, but also ways membership in a growing and changing congregation may fulfill the need.

March 27 — Transforming Guilt: Rev. Paula Maiorano, UUSD Interim Minister: While it may be an unlikely topic for Easter, it is useful to explore the emotion of guilt in the broader context of spring renewal and transformation.

Special Note from Rev. Paula: If you would like your child to be included in the Easter Sunday Child Dedication, please e-mail [Rev. Paula](#).

Sunday Services at 10:00 a.m.
Religious Education & Childcare

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REV. PAULA MAIORANO



On Settled Ministry

Every minister has a unique style and approach. The most effective ministers are the most authentic ones who are readily able to enter into relationships with individual members and the congregation at large. A settled minister, such as the one UUSD will be seeking, is elected by the entire membership to the role of congregational leader, working co-equally in collaboration with the board. Our churches are not the same as nonprofit organizations, where the CEO or Executive Director is hired (and potentially fired) by the board to whom the executive reports. The minister is accountable to the congregation as a whole, not to its board with whom the minister is a partner.

The relationship of minister and religious body is a unique, organic, dynamic one. It evolves over the years as each changes and grows. It has its ups and downs just like any other relationship. Discernment is critical, for the relationship to remain vibrant and life-giving, especially if dissatisfaction or conflict arise. When it is time for the relationship to end, it is usually the minister who becomes aware and moves on to another ministry, or maybe retirement. Occasionally, this is not the case and the board, with the help of UUA leaders negotiate an end to the ministry. Although the latter is not rare, it fortunately is not usual. The average length of ministry in the UUA is seven years. However, ministries sometimes flourish for decades. Rev Muir who serves our congregation in Annapolis is the closest example. In the summer of 2017, when your newly elected settled ministry joins you, it will be an open-ended relationship.

With love and in peace, Rev. Paula Maiorano

Next month: The role of the Committee on Ministry to a life-giving congregational ministry.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN — Deanna Duby



The power . . . of patience is that it is the antidote to anger, a way to learn to love and care for whatever we meet on the path. By patience, we do not mean enduring — grin and bear it. In any situation, instead of reacting suddenly, we could chew it, smell it, look at it, and open ourselves to seeing what's there. The opposite of patience is aggression — the desire to jump and move, to push against our lives, to try to fill up space. The journey of patience involves relaxing, opening to what's happening, experiencing a sense of wonder.

— Pema Chodron

Regular readers of this column know that I'm a great fan of Pema Chodron. She so often seems to go right to the heart of a concept, leaving one no room to hide or avoid facing the truth of her thoughts.

This quote on patience hit home for me, as patience is something that I've never really been able to master, despite years of trying. (I have to admit that being a parent has helped a bit!) This last year of planning, building, moving and settling in at UUSD has demanded a lot of patience from all of us. And by and large, I think we've done quite well on that front. But it has not been without some tough moments. And one of the surprises for me has been that it seems like the settling in has challenged our patience more than did the creation of our new home. Perhaps we all thought — on some subconscious level? — that once we were in, everything would be fine! But, as we've said and heard many times now, change is never really easy.

I think we are coming to terms with all of the new, however, bumpy though the road has been! That's why I chose this quote from Pema Chodron. She reminds us of the great rewards of patience, and what we get if we are "open to what's happening." And what better time to be reminded of that than springtime!

March has always been a favorite month for me. When I was a kid, it was my favorite because it is the month when I celebrate a birthday. But that's not so much fun now! My reason for loving March now is that it brings us spring. I wait not-so-patiently through the winter, which is my least favorite season by far, counting the days and weeks until the first of March, when the end of winter draws near. Even if there is a blizzard in the early days of March, it's bearable because I know it's almost over!

This year, we have a beautiful new piece of property on which to experience the spring — new trees to see bud, possibly some new flowers to see pop up, new birds to see flying around us, new wildlife to observe around our pond. It will be wonderful to get back out on the deck and patio during coffee hour. And there are some fun spring events to look forward to: our first play on the stage in our new sanctuary, the annual auction in a new setting, and the events surrounding the stewardship campaign (SO important, as we all consider and decide how we can support this community so that UUSD continues to thrive).

So let's follow Pema's advice, "open ourselves to seeing what's there" as we move into spring at UUSD. Let's experience that sense of wonder! Happy Spring!

— *Deanna Duby, Board President*

LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT — Amber Peterson



"The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned." — Maya Angelou

This is one of the things we offer at UUSD. As a child, I remember having so many questions about how I was "supposed" to act and how I was "supposed" to be. In retrospect, I realize that I was often fighting against who I was, trying to fit into a mold of "normal." (I'm sure some of you can relate.) Even as an adult, I have fought those societal expectations. When I found UUSD in 2007, I was so guarded that it was a challenge just to be me . . . mainly because I wasn't sure who that was. It took a while, but as I learned more about the people and UU, I realized I was home. I was in that safe place. I could say and be any part of me here and it was ok. I've said many times in the past that I could only be fully me at home and church. It took some time, leaving jobs, releasing "friendships," and trusting myself, but now I'm centered in who I am. All because I have a safe place where I can go as I am, whenever the world challenges who I am. I share all of this to let you know I see in our children confidence and comfort that didn't exist for me, and I am grateful. I am grateful that my children, no matter how hard it seems to fit in at school, always have their friends at UUSD. I'm grateful that I get to have a small hand in exposing all of our UUSD children to a broader world view than what they receive in school. I'm grateful that I

have a part in helping them feel welcomed and accepted. I'm grateful to so many who are also so welcoming and supportive of our children. To be their safe place (a place so many of us didn't have) that is an awesome gift. And the things that our children are picking up in service and during the Time for All Ages that they share with me or during class have blown me away more than once. What is caught is so much more important than what is taught. By being surrounded by a large group of adults who welcome them, who respect them, who look on them with awe . . . they are learning far more than we will ever know. And someday, they will look back and be grateful, because the safe place will always be here. No matter where the world takes them or how the world treats our children, they can always come home. Namaste.

— Amber Peterson, Director, Lifespan Faith Development

MUSIC NOTES — Dr. Marcelle Schiff



My setting of Rev Mike's words for the extinguishing of the chalice has recently sparked an old discussion regarding which is more important — words or music. Why use pitch and rhythm if we could just say the words? Historically the answer to that question is that music dramatizes the meaning of the words and is thought to give the text greater impact.

Prior to the Counter-Reformation, composers in the Catholic Church used complex techniques that obscured the text and angered some in the church. For example, each section of the choir might sing in a different language at the same time. Martin Luther, during the Reformation, responded by promoting congregational singing in simple settings in the vernacular. Even in today's much simpler music, words may still be difficult to understand. The *Huffington Post* gives some examples, such as "the ants are my friends and they're blowin' in the wind" instead of "the answer my friend is blowin' in the wind." So I wonder — did the folks who heard the "ant" version like the song anyway or was it any more or less meaningful in comparison to those who heard the intended words?

Diction when singing is frequently misunderstood since there can be significant difference between how a word is spoken and how it is sung. Words and the use of vowels and consonants are vital to the development of the acoustic nature of the voice. Ancient Rabbinical scholars described vowels as a word's soul and the consonants its bones. It is the vowel — the soul of the word that gives life to the voice. On the other hand, those singing can get so wrapped up in the text that they forget about the music. Singing without words, such as when the choir sings on OOOs displays the beauty and expressiveness of the human voice.

The unique challenge comes in balancing the music's nature with the intent of the words in a meaningful or even artistic way. This was my hope when I set Rev. Mike's words. I believe the goal is for the words and the music to dissolve into one another in an intimate symbiotic relationship that leaves the listener understanding the message on a very personal level — even if it ends up being about "ants."

— Dr. Marcelle Schiff, Music Director

VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR MUSIC PROGRAM

We are in need of someone with keyboard skills to share the music duties with Dianne Conine and Beryl Martin on weeks when Marcie Schiff is not present. Marcie is contracted for 34 Sundays each year, leaving 18 weeks requiring coverage. Please contact [Marcie](#), [Margaret Keefe](#), or [Dianne Conine](#) if you would like to volunteer your services or find out more about what is needed.

NEWS FROM YOUR UUSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Everyone is welcome to attend. A link to the meeting agenda and reports made available to Communications prior to the meeting are posted on the UUSD website homepage. The link to the Board of Trustees meeting section is: <http://uusd.org/index.php/board-of-trustees-meeting-minutes.html>.

HIGHLIGHTS: BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

February 9, 2016

— Dan Payne, Secretary, Board of Trustees

Consent Agenda: The Consent Agenda, consisting of the January 12, 2016 Board meeting minutes, Financial report, and the Interim Minister's report, was approved by the Board.

Financial Report: Gary Colangelo, Finance Officer

- Gary Colangelo clarified his Finance Officer's report and noted that while January results showed a loss, it was because the month included February payroll prepaid at the end of January since month end was on a Sunday.
- Gary Colangelo also confirmed that based on pledges fulfilled to date, if the trend continues, the projected pledge payments will be met by end of fiscal year (June 30).

Finance Committee Recommendation on Financial Review: Dan Payne, Finance Co-Chair

- Dan Payne noted that Joanne Saltzberg, Finance Co-Chair, will address the make-up of the Review Committee at the March Church Council following the guidelines of the Finance Committee recommendation approved at the January Board meeting.

Update on Budget Recasting: Pat Murdock, Finance Committee

- Pat Murdock indicated progress is going very well, and she and Leah are working to provide sample reports for the February Finance Committee meeting and the March Board Meeting.

Update on Growth Planning Process: Dan Payne (reporting for Joanne Saltzberg)

- In Joanne's absence, Dan gave a brief update and indicated things are progressing well. The next meeting date is set for March 12.

Split the Plate: Sharon Herb, Social & Environmental Justice Committee

- The recommendation of the Social and Environmental Justice Committee to donate one-half of the February 14 cash collection to People's Place was approved by the Board with the understanding that funds will be used to provide services to clients.

Report from the Property Management Task Force (PMTF): Deanna Duby, PMTF Member

- The Board approved a revised charge for the PMTF that will include a Landscape Management – Ad Hoc Committee reporting to it.

Report from the Rental & Usage Committee: Sharon Herb, Member

- Sharon gave an update on the work of the committee. It was confirmed the property is "smoke-free," and this includes E-cigarettes. The smoke-free nature of the campus will be communicated to all. Walt displayed the signs that will be placed in appropriate spaces.

- Pat Murdock, a committee member, indicated that in accordance with the approved guidelines, rental to the American Humanist Society and to Sussex County HUD are being finalized. The former will be at no charge, but a donation will be encouraged. The latter will be rented at a discounted rate.
- Guidance was obtained from outside counsel to insure there were no potential legal problems.

Proposal from Social and Environmental Justice Committee (S&EJ) Re: Resolution of Conscience: Don Peterson, S&EJ Chair

- The Board approved the proposal and the actions steps, which are consistent with the agreed Growth Planning steps. The Resolution will be finalized in time for submission to the congregation for approval at the June Annual meeting.

Vote on Funding to Send RE Director to General Assembly: Rev. Paula

- The Board approved up to \$1,000 to cover this cost.
- While it is likely the costs will exceed the thousand dollars, anonymous congregants have agreed to provide \$500. Also, Ron Schaeffer will prepare an application for UUA scholarship money which, if approved, will help defray the costs.

Process for Selection of Ministerial Search Committee: Deanna Duby, Board President

- Deanna Duby circulated a hand-out from Rev. David Pyle, JPD Executive, regarding the search committee, which included the desirable skill sets of individuals wishing to serve.
- Walt Smith will draft a form, which candidates will complete.
- Deanna Duby will draft announcement to be sent to congregation.
- The target date is May 10 for Board to have made their selections.

Special workshop for RE Start Up: Deanna Duby, Board President

- Deanna mentioned a special workshop to be led by Rev. Pyle on February 27 to focus on RE.
- Board members and interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

UUSD RECEIVES SECOND NEW HOME GRANT FROM JPD CHALICE LIGHTERS

— Betty Kirk, Project Manager



(l to r: Joanne Saltzberg, Donna Curtis, Betty Kirk, and Ann Davis.

UUSD is the grateful recipient of a second \$40,000 Chalice Lighter's grant to defray the costs of our new property. Ann Davis, Chair, Joseph Priestley District (JPD) Growth Committee, and Donna Curtis, Grant Manager, JPD Growth Committee, formally presented the check to the congregation on February 7 during Sunday services.

“UUSD truly would not be where it is today without the support of the JPD and this grant program,” said Deanna Duby, President of the Board of Trustees.

Chalice Lighters is a program of the Joseph Priestley District, serving Unitarian Universalist congregations in southern New Jersey, eastern and central Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, the District of Columbia, and northern Virginia. It is a way for individuals, each contributing a small amount, to provide critical

funding for congregational growth initiatives. During its 26-year history, the JPD Chalice Lighters have provided over \$2.25 million in grants to more than 50 societies.

DID YOU KNOW? — Ron Schaeffer

ANTI-RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM IN AMERICA

I'm deviating from my normal "Did You Know" history article and sharing some thoughts on the current anti-religious bigotry we see in America, which sadly is not all that unique. Many of us may conclude that the anti-Muslim rhetoric coming from several presidential candidates today is unprecedented. But a little over a century ago there was strong public sentiment from right-wing groups accusing Catholic "houses of worship" of becoming dens of sedition and vice. The outcry was so strong that several states passed "convent inspection" laws, in order to help uncover firearms supposedly hidden in nunneries by Catholic traitors planning to destabilize the country. It may be some consolation to many of us shocked by the level and tone of the current intolerance to know that our country has survived this before.

For much of our American history, Catholics have been the main religious target of bigotry, often depicted as clannish, superstitious, and loyal to foreign powers. Actually, this religious hatred dates all the way back to colonial times. Anti-Catholic sentiment increased in the mid-19th century with the influx of the Irish escaping the potato famine, and the arrival of Catholics from Germany. This gave rise to the Know-Nothings, a secret society tied to a political movement just prior to our American Civil War. There were church burnings and deadly riots throughout the country. At the same time in California, there were similar outcries about the influx of Chinese. Anti-Catholic sentiment grew again in the 1890's, but this time directed at the Italians and Slavs immigrating to the U.S. There were many anti-Catholic groups in the country, but one prominent group re-emerged in 1915 after being dormant since Reconstruction, the Ku Klux Klan. They expanded their organized hatred to Jews, which grew throughout the country in the 20's and 30's. The Jews were blamed for the Wall Street crash in 1929 and the First World War. One of the public champions of this anti-Semitism was Henry Ford.



There are some common patterns running through these separate historical situations. One is economic dislocation and unemployment from the cyclical recessions that ran through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries with the steady expansion of industrialization. Another is anxiety over national security, which blossomed with the two world wars. The third is the constant racial and religious unease that has been evident in this country since the American Revolution. These patterns are again all in-play today, with the religious focus now on Muslims. It unfortunately highlights the continuing gap between the ongoing xenophobia and our high ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all. These are systemic cultural problems that seem to rise and decline, but never disappear, as economic and political events bring them back out generation after generation.

With this historical perspective, our Unitarian Universalist Principles take on an even more realistic meaning as we confront this age old tribalism and nativism. And two key elements of our own congregation's mission — Embrace diversity and Strive for a loving world — have a more practical relevance, as we recognize the depth and breadth of these human frailties. In fact, we are a religious faith that directly confronts these racial and religious bigotries with our emphasis on inclusiveness and social justice for all. We are not alone in confronting this bigotry, as many denominations deplore this kind of destructive behavior, but it is central to our UU principles and our congregational mission.

COMMITTEE NEWS AND EVENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

MAJOR MAINTENANCE UPGRADE TO UUSD WEBSITE IS NOW COMPLETE!

— Pat Schaeffer and Joanne Saltzberg, Co-Chairs

For the past several months, Alleane Taylor, UUSD's Webmaster, has spent countless hours, with support from Margaret Keefe, leading an effort to complete much needed major maintenance on our website. Alleane has worked closely with a senior web developer from our outside vendor to install an updated version of Joomla, the free content management system we use for our website. This update, which is now complete, should make our website more secure and will provide much needed new functionality. While website users may not notice much of a change, the "under the hood" part of our website is now up-to-date and will be much easier for Alleane and Margaret to operate in the future.

Thank you, Alleane, for all your hard work to complete this important website project. And, thank you, Margaret, for your continuing work on the website.

SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

— Don Peterson, Chair

Death Penalty Repeal: On January 27, eight members and friends of UUSD traveled to Dover to support legislative efforts to repeal the death penalty in Delaware. We attended a powerful press conference sponsored by the Delaware Repeal Project and African American pastors, highlighting the disparate impact of the death penalty on the African American community. We also visited several of our House Representatives to let them know of our support for repeal. On January 28, several of us also were present for the House floor debate, hearing powerful testimony in favor of repeal. Sadly, the bill failed by a vote of 16 to 23. Every Representative in Sussex County voted against repeal! But all is not lost. Because of a last minute legislative maneuver, the bill will be brought back to House for another vote after legislators reconvene on March 8. Please watch for announcements about what you can do to support the repeal effort.



Soup and Bread Dinner: UUSD held its second annual Soup and Bread Dinner to benefit the UU Service Committee. Sixty members and friends came together to enjoy delicious soups, breads, and desserts. After seeing a video celebrating 75 years of service by the UUSC, we collected nearly \$2,000. After matching funds were counted, the value of UUSD's contribution exceeded \$3,000! The S&EJ Committee wants to thank all who participated and contributed to this worthy cause!

Thirty Days of Love: The theme for this year's celebration was "Seeking Racial Justice," and UUSD members and friends participated in several important events between January 17 and February 14. **Rev. Paula** presented a powerful sermon on "The Dream Interrupted," focusing on the impact of mass incarceration on people of color. The Book Club read and discussed the book "Just Mercy" by Bryan Stevenson, focusing on Mr. Stevenson's work with death row prisoners and his efforts to exonerate those unjustly accused. UUSD's first Darwin Day, sponsored by the Adult Education team, presented two speakers, one of whom offered his assertion that "The Origin of Species" was written as a treatise to oppose slavery. On February 14, the S&EJ Committee delivered its annual "Share the Love" service. Two leaders in the African American community in Sussex County, **Mr. Diaz Bonville** and **Ms. Fay Blake**, delivered a powerful and moving sermon on their own experiences with racism and why the Black Lives Matter movement is so important in this country's on-going conversation about race.

And finally, just to stretch those 30 days a bit further, on February 21, UUSD presented the video of Rev. Dr. Cornel West's rousing Ware Lecture from the 2015 UUA General Assembly in Portland, Oregon. Thanks to all who organized, presented and participated in this important series of events! **Black Lives Matter!**

People's Place: People's Place is a group of shelters for women and children who are victims of domestic abuse. As part of our Share the Love Sunday on February 14, UUSD raised \$160 dollars for this organization. We will be presenting this donation to them in April when the S&EJ Committee launches a collection drive for People's Place. Watch for next month's newsletter and other announcements for a list of all the items we are collecting that are needed by clients to set up a new home when they leave the shelter. And, plan to donate all those extra pieces of luggage that you haven't used in a while!

Advocacy Forum: On Thursday, March 3 at 3:00 p.m. the S&EJ Committee will present a forum on how to effectively influence our legislators. **Peter Schott** has organized the event which will include **Ms. Charlotte King**, Chair of the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice and former Chair of the Delaware League of Women Voters; **Mr. John Flaherty**, President of the DE Coalition for Open Government; and **Patrick Keating**, a former lobbyist at the national level. All are invited to attend!

Volunteers Needed! The 2016 Delaware General Assembly opened in January and ends in June. The S&EJ Committee would like to put together a group of members and friends who are willing to participate in the process of influencing our legislators to support issues important to us. Issues expected to come up this session include repeal of the death penalty, gun control, women's and immigrants' rights issues, environmental issues and budget issues. If you are willing to write letters to the editor and/or call, write or visit your legislators on these types of issues, please contact [Betty Kirk](#) or [Don Peterson](#).

Invitation: Any UUSD member or friend who wishes to see first-hand what the S&EJ Committee is all about is welcome to attend any of our meetings (no commitment required!). Our meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month at UUSD from 3:00-5:00 pm. If you would like to join the Social & Environmental Justice Committee, we would love to have you! Please contact [Don Peterson](#) for more information.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATION FORMS IS APRIL 17

— Ed Fick, Lee Summerville, Kaz Huston, Chair

The nominations for UUSD leadership positions, and the eventual result of having solidly qualified and dedicated leaders for our Church, are always a challenge — for many reasons. Leadership in our spiritual community has untold rewards. Being a contributor on that level is one of the pinnacles of our “Ministries of Connection.” Effective leaders understand the needs of people. Building and sustaining our church ensures our growth as people and our sustainability as a community. It means continuing to expand our spiritual home, influence our larger communities, and affect what our world needs to be more at peace and assure justice.

In 2016, four of seven seats on the Board of Trustees will be up for election. Two of the three Leadership Development Committee seats will be filled.

Please consider running for one of these positions or urge a member you consider a worthy candidate to do so. In March, after a Sunday Service, the Leadership Development Committee and Board of Trustees members will hold a briefing to inform interested individuals about the functions of these important committees that serve to assure the stability and growth of UUSD.

The deadline for nomination forms to be completed and returned to Ed Fick is **Sunday, April 17, 2016**. Form requests or questions may be directed to [Ed Fick](#), Leadership Development or by calling him at 302-644-4850.

LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT ADULT EDUCATION

WINTER UU101 CLASS GRADUATES TWELVE — Betty Kirk, Adult Education Coordinator

The UU 101 Adult Education class at was held for three consecutive Saturdays in February at UUSD. This class introduces the beliefs and history of Unitarian Universalists, as well as providing information about UUSD and its governance. The class is open to anyone who wants to find out about what UUs believe and do. The class is facilitated by Rev. Paula Maiorano, Len Bowman, and Betty Kirk. Those who attended at least two of the three classes were given a certificate.



(l to r: front row: Betty Kirk (UUSD Member), Jo Ann Schifflett, Beth Lister, Doris Lauckner, Marie Fletcher, and Janet Cordiano; back row: Ron Schaeffer (UUSD Member), Jim Gervan, Len Bowman (UUSD Member), Al Lister, Anni Wood, Marty McLaren, and Jean Charles (UUSD Member). Not shown are Jody Dengler, Gloria Dixon, Phyllis Lowe, and Rev. Paula.)

PARTNERSHIP

SENDING EASTER CARDS TO REV. BODOR AND THE TORDATUR CONGREGATION — Ceil Toth, Chair

This is a gentle reminder to anyone wishing to send an Easter card to Rev. Bodor and the Tordatur congregation. The cost of the **stamp is \$1.20** and it usually takes 7 to 10 days to reach them. The address is: **Rev. Bodor, Piroska, Tureni nr 206, 407560 jud. CLUJ, Romania.**

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

DON'T MISS THESE IMPORTANT DENOMINATIONAL EVENTS

— Ron and Pat Schaeffer, Co-Chairs

The **2016 Joseph Priestley District Assembly** will be held on April 8-9 at the Wyndham Garden York in York, Pennsylvania. The keynote speaker will be UUA Moderator, Jim Key. There will be workshops on congregational subjects and an important vote on regionalization. This is a great opportunity to meet other UUs from around the district and learn more about local congregational activities and projects.

The highlight event of the year will be the **UUA General Assembly (GA)** on June 22-26 in Columbus, Ohio at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The theme is, *Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect*, and the Ware Lecturer will be **Krista Tippett**, author, journalist, and radio host. This is a great opportunity to learn more about Unitarian Universalism through hundreds of workshops, enjoy great music, and participate in daily worship services. Join 5,000 other UUs in a truly transformative experience.

It is particularly important to know that GA registration and housing reservations (hotel, B&B, college dorm rooms) are opened up on Tuesday, March 1 at 9:00 a.m. EST. For those planning to go to GA in June, you need to make hotel reservations on March 1 to assure a reservation — accommodations are limited and rooms go fast. Special instructions will be sent out to all members prior to March 1 for guidance on how to register and reserve a hotel room in advance for GA.

Also, UUSD will participate in the **Delaware Pride Festival and the Pagan Pride Festival** both held in Dover in August. Our participation in these events is coordinated by the Delmarva UU Cluster, and you will hear more later in the year.

Yes, there is more to Unitarian Universalism than UUSD and you have the opportunity to grow and transform your lives by participating in these events. See Ron or Pat Schaeffer, Betty Metzler, or Gary Colangelo, all members of the Denominational Affairs Committee for more information.

NEXT UUA PRESIDENT — UPDATE

— Ron and Pat Schaeffer, Co-Chairs

In January, the UUA Presidential Search Committee announced two candidates for the 2017 election of a new UUA president to replace the current president, Rev. Peter Morales, who is by-law limited from running for another term. The Rev. Alison Miller, the senior minister at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship in Morristown, New Jersey since 2005, and the Rev. Sue Phillips, the New England Regional Lead located in Boston since 2007, were the two official candidates.

However, on February 18, Rev. Sue Phillips withdrew her name from consideration. She explained that her current position as the New England Regional Lead will require too much of her time, and therefore, she will be unable to devote the necessary time and energy to a campaign.

Others can enter the race by petition during the period February 1, 2016 to February 1, 2017. Delegates to the 2017 General Assembly in New Orleans will elect the successor to President Morales. No woman has ever held the position of president in the UUA, or in either of the earlier Unitarian or Universalist denominations, since their inception in 1825 and 1790 respectively. You can learn more information about Rev. Miller at her website, www.alisonforuuapresident.org.

MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME DONNA DOLCE TO UUSD

— Bobbi Dunham, Co-Chair



Donna Dolce is a three-year resident of the community of Independence located in Millsboro. She relocated from Fanwood, New Jersey, having moved there from her hometown in western New York. Raised Catholic, she was a former member of the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield in Plainfield, New Jersey. Donna also served two terms as a municipal councilwoman in New Jersey. She retired in 2008 as the CEO for a local Girl Scout council after a career working for several nonprofit organizations. Donna currently serves as a member of the Volunteer Development Committee for CAMP Rehoboth and is a member of her community's Advisory Committee. Donna is known for her organizational and event planning skills and spends her free time playing golf, pickleball, and bowling, as well as pursuing pottery. Donna joined UUSD on January 6, 2016 because she found our congregation very

welcoming. Welcome aboard UUSD, Donna!

WELCOME ANNI WOOD TO UUSD

Bobbi Dunham, Co-Chair

Anni Wood was born in Ridley Park, Pennsylvania, but as a "Navy Brat," she never lived in one place for more than nine months before the age of fourteen when the family settled in Newark, Delaware. Anni retired from



Astra Zeneca three years ago after 30 years of employment. She and her husband Roger and their two dogs, Ernie and Bogie, subsequently moved to southern Delaware. They live in West Bay Park on the shore of Rehoboth Bay, where Anni is active in her community and on the Board of Directors of the community organization.

Since retirement Anni enjoys reading, walking on empty beaches, and especially loves our area in the off-season, watching the sun rise, and spending as much time as possible enjoying nature. She is currently working on a book called *Elemental Balancing* teaching how to experience the seasons of the year in a spiritual way.

Anni's parents were Lutheran, but at an early age she began her search for a different face for god, which brought her to her first earth-based, goddess-centered circles. A close friend encouraged her to check out her local UU fellowship.

Anni has been an active member of the Millcreek Unitarian Fellowship for the past 15 years. She was on the worship committee and has led services surrounding earth-based worship. She also taught the UU curriculum "Rise Up and Call Her Name." Anni has also participated in many Covenant Groups (called Chalice Groups at Millcreek) for several years.

Anni attended UUSD for several months before becoming a member in early January. During that time, she observed the progress as the congregation moved from Toddy's to our present location. This experience brought

back memories of her Millcreek congregation when it went through the same transition. Several months ago, Anni participated in the Cakes for the Queen program where she met several women whom she considers instrumental in encouraging her to become a member.

As a new member, Anni would like to become involved in the caretaking of our new church. She is excited about being part of the momentum of our congregation as we move forward. She is also interested in joining a Covenant group and is excited about the possibility of having a New Members group.

A big welcome to Anni. We're looking forward to having her be part of our community.

WELCOME KATHY AND RANDY ZIPSER TO UUSD

— Irene Fick, Membership

For Kathy and Randy Zipser, joining UUSD made perfect sense. The retired couple moved to southern Delaware two years ago, after serving as members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lancaster, PA for 20 years.

What the Zipsers didn't know, however, was that our own Jean Charles had also been a member of the Lancaster church, and, in fact, many years ago, lived on their street. They met Jean for the first time when they joined UUSD in October, five months after first visiting our church.



The couple had been visiting Sussex County for years, on a part-time basis, and upon retirement, moved to Millsboro. Kathy was an elementary school counselor; Randy, an engineer. Their son, Brian, lives in Lancaster with his wife, Melissa, and their twin five-year-old daughters, Kayleigh and Bella.

The Zipsers were both raised Catholics and found that Unitarian Universalism was more closely aligned with their beliefs.

In her spare time, Kathy enjoys reading, quilting and knitting. She volunteers with Quilts of Valor, a nonprofit organization that provides quilts to military veterans, especially those suffering from PTSD and other disabilities. Kathy's skills will also be appreciated by UUSD since she will be involved in the upcoming craft show.

Randy enjoys woodworking, and last summer, he joined the volunteer crew that worked hard getting our new building ready for occupancy.

The Zipsers travel whenever possible; most recently, they enjoyed a Panama Canal cruise. Both Kathy and Randy also enjoy caring for their dogs, Rascal and Roxie.

Welcome to Kathy and Randy — we're happy to have you with us!

ACCESSIBILITY AT UUSD

— Dianne Conine and Margaret Keefe

Our Unitarian Universalist denomination has a long history of addressing accessibility for people with disabilities. And, UUSD is committed to welcoming and affirming people of all abilities. So we are very pleased to announce that a UUSD member has made a generous donation that has made it possible to purchase and install a “hearing assist” system in our sanctuary. This system is designed to assist those with hearing challenges. The system will enhance the sound output of any part of the service that is transmitted over our microphone and mixer system, which is also delivered through ceiling speakers.



Bea Gibson, the mother of UUSD member Janet Cordiano, enjoys her new hearing assist.

Greeters and ushers in the foyer will show those who wish to take advantage of the hearing assist system where to get the necessary supplies and how to use them. Each user will be loaned a receiver, which must be returned to the foyer after service. Each receiver has an on/off and volume control. Ear buds are available and are to be kept by each user to use again, as needed, each Sunday. The earpiece cord is the antenna, which should be fully unwound for best reception.

In addition to our new hearing assist system, we want to remind everyone that there are two sets of large print hymnals available for those who find the print in either of our hymnals just a bit too small. These hymnals are in the foyer. An Usher or a Greeter will provide the hymnal sets for those who would like to use them.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

FUNDRAISING

SAVE-THE-DATE: UUSD'S AUCTION IS SATURDAY, APRIL 16 AT 6 P.M.
UUSD'S "JOURNEY TO NEVERLAND" AUCTION WILL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!

— Barbara Barnette, Chair



(l to r: Gary Colangelo (Tinker Bell), Barbara Barnette (Wendy), and Paul Barnette (Peter Pan))

UUSD's Auction is one of the most entertaining, fun, and festive events of the church year. This year's auction is scheduled for Saturday, April 16 at 6:00 p.m. The theme is *Journey to Neverland*. You might see Peter Pan, Tinker Bell, Indians, various Pirates, Lost Boys, and maybe a crocodile or two hanging around.

WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS NOW! The most popular donations are handcrafted items, services, vacations, parties, and dinners. We also welcome donations of physical items in excellent condition.

You may enter your donations on our auction website at: togetherauction.com/uussd, signing on with your phone number. **The default PIN is the last four digits of your phone number.** If you have trouble signing on to the auction website, you can email your donations to Barbara

[Barnette](#). Make sure you include the estimated value and suggested minimum bid for each donation. The deadline to get your donations into the auction catalog is March 30. If you have any questions about donations, please call Barbara at 443-944-7379 or e-mail [her](#).

UUSD'S 2016 AUCTION COMING APRIL 16!
HOW YOU CAN HELP WITH BUSINESS DONATIONS
— Kaz Huston, Auction Team

1. **Connect with [Kaz Huston](#)** with your name and email before soliciting a particular business for a donation. This will ensure the business is only solicited by one person from UUSD and does not receive a barrage of requests from several individuals!
2. **Ask for** business donations, like gift certificates of \$25 or more, when you frequent a shop or restaurant where they know you — this is your opportunity to ask the management to support our Auction.
3. **Give** UUSD's official commercial donation solicitation letter and receipt from Rev. Paula at the time the business provides their donation. Kaz tracks this information, and she can provide you with the letter and receipt in advance.
4. **Explain** to the prospective business donor that businesses making donations will be publicized in UUSD's Auction catalog. This catalog is widely distributed to UUSD's expanding membership and throughout the local community to hundreds of people who loyally support them.
5. **Most businesses appreciate** the tax write-off they receive for making a donation to a nonprofit and to support community.

FUNDRAISING

UUSD DEBUTS THEATRICAL FUNDRAISER *LOVE LETTERS* ON MARCH 19 AT 7:30 P.M.
— Jean Charles, Deanna Duby, and Rick Welk

UUSD is about to present its first dramatic production in our new space. We've learned already — thanks to our choir director Marcie Schiff and her wonderful choral group, Ayre Craft — what a great space our sanctuary is for concerts. Now, we'll add theatrical productions to the list of possibilities. On **March 19 at 7:30 p.m.** Deanna Duby and Rick Welk will perform *Love Letters* by A. R. Gurney. Jean Charles is directing the play.



Love Letters opened on Broadway back in 1989, and has been performed widely ever since in both professional and community theatres. In fact, there is a new production, starring Ali McGraw and Ryan O'Neal touring the country this year.

Love Letters opened on Broadway back in 1989, and has been performed widely ever since in both professional and community theatres. In fact, there is a new production, starring Ali McGraw and Ryan O'Neal touring the country this year.

(l to r: Rick Welk, Jean Charles, and Deanna Duby.)

The play is the story of a nearly-fifty-year relationship between a man and a woman, told through their letters to each other. The first letter is the acceptance note to a birthday party when the two are in second grade. The letters tell the story of their friendship, mutual support, romantic entanglement, and estrangements, while also tracking their life events. It touches on addiction, politics, painful struggles, and enormous successes. The dominant themes, however, are their strong connection, their love for one another, and the importance of their often-changing roles in each other's lives throughout the years.

The play, which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Drama, has been described as “deceptively simple and quietly moving.” According to another critic, it celebrates “the dying art of putting pen to paper to exchange news.” (One important note: It definitely has adult themes and a bit of edgy language, so it is not a show for children.)

As many of those in UUSD are aware, Jean, Deanna, and Rick bring extensive theatrical experience to their work on this production:

- Jean has directed or co-directed plays in this area at both the Milton Theatre and Possum Point Players. Prior to retiring and moving to Delaware, she spent 17 years as a high school drama director and seven years directing a drama group at the middle school level. She has also acted, and designed and built sets. Back in 2012, she was the assistant director when UUSD staged “Ready, Set, VOTE!”
- Rick started acting in high school, and later appeared in a number of plays at the historic Everett Theatre in Middletown, Delaware. He has played roles in *You Can’t Take it With You*, *Feiffer’s People*, *Annie*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Into the Woods*, and *The Lion in Winter*. He was one of the six cast members in the UUSD production of *Ready, Set, VOTE!*
- Deanna has acted in and directed educational theatre, community theatre, and with a professional company, the Julian Theatre in San Francisco. Locally, she has acted in productions at the Milton Theatre, Second Street Players, and Possum Point’s New Faces of Shakespeare. Her favorite roles include Big Mama in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Ouiser in *Steel Magnolias*, Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie*, and Martha in *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. She compiled the script for and directed *Ready, Set, VOTE!*

Put **March 19, 7:30 p.m.** on your calendars! This will be an exciting event that will showcase our new space, and will raise money for UUSD. Invite your friends and neighbors! Tickets will sell for \$15, and will be available soon. If you are interested in helping with the production, particularly ticket sales, contact Jean Charles.

ADULT EDUCATION

MERTON MINI-FILM FESTIVAL “JOURNEY OF THE SPIRIT” AT UUSD ON MARCH 5-6

— Len Bowman, Adult Education

The Thomas Merton Society Interfaith Chapter and UUSD jointly announce the Merton Mini-Film Festival, “Journey of the Spirit,” scheduled for March 5-6 at UUSD. Three films, each compelling, engaging and informational, each about one hour, will be screened, and a moderated audience discussion will follow each film. The event is open to the public. A one-time voluntary \$10 donation would be appreciated.

March 5 at 1:00 p.m.: *Merton: A Film Biography*: Discussion moderated by Mary Helms and George Beckerman, Co-Founders, Merton Interfaith Chapter.

March 5 at 3:00 p.m.: *Soul Searching: The Journey of Thomas Merton*: Discussion moderated by The Rev. J. Thomas Ledbetter, Founder, Brandywine Pastoral Institute.

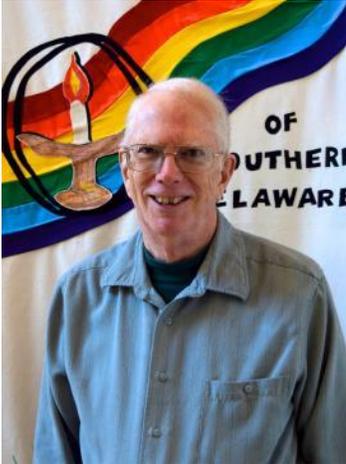
March 6 at 2:00 p.m.: *The Many Stories and Last Days of Thomas Merton*: Discussion moderated by Rev. Keith Goheen, Chaplain, Beebe Healthcare.

Film summaries are posted on UUSD’s website at http://www.uusd.org/images/PDFS/adult-programs/Merton-Matters-Announcement_Mini-Film-Festival-March2016-AAT.pdf.

NEW THREE-WEEK COURSE

“WHAT COMES NEXT?” — EXPLORATIONS INTO WHAT MAY COME AFTER DEATH

A Three-Week Course, Thursdays March 31 – April 14
1:30 – 3:00 p.m. Led by Dr. Len Bowman



Dr. Len Bowman, UUSD member, will moderate a series of three discussions on death, and what death may mean for living. The class begins on *Thursday, March 31 at 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.*

As Dr. Bowman explains, we really don't know what comes after death, if anything. But the world's religious traditions are rich with images of some kind of afterlife. Further, over the past forty years, hundreds of people who were clinically dead and revived have experienced *something* after death, something that defies explanation. Moreover, many people have experienced memories that appear to come from a prior lifetime.

So while we really don't know what comes after death, there are some very interesting possibilities. We will explore these possibilities in three phases.

March 31: In our first session on March 31, we will explore **near-death experiences** — people who have been clinically dead and revived, and who described what happened to them while they were...dead. Studies have revealed common features in near-death experiences and distinguished those from some extravagant claims made about them. A short PowerPoint review of near-death experiences will lead into discussion.

April 7: In our second session on April 7, we will focus on **Reincarnation**. The religious traditions of India speak of reincarnation, so we first turn there, especially to the Tibetan Book of the Dead. Recently, psychiatrist Dr. Brian Weiss was astounded when one patient's hypnotherapy unearthed memories from an earlier life in the ancient Near East — leading to a new approach to healing called “regression therapy.” A short PowerPoint presentation will give us a glimpse into the Book of the Dead and a hint of Dr. Weiss's work. Then **Jeff Cordiano**, a UUSD founding member, will share parts of his life-long UU path that has led him to a faith-based spiritual-construct based on reincarnation.

April 14: “**You Only Live Once**” is the theme of our third and final session on April 14. Western religious traditions, especially Christianity and Islam, teach that each person lives only one life and then at death faces judgment and an eternal (timeless) existence (a “heaven” or perhaps a “hell”). A short PowerPoint presentation will show images of judgment, heaven and hell—including the literary descriptions in Dante's Divine Comedy and the provocative art of Hieronymus Bosch. Discussion of this view of “what comes next” will lead us to reflect again on that basic question and the interesting possibilities it opens to us.

Dr. Len Bowman, a member of the congregation, has taught philosophy and religion for over thirty years, and he currently teaches in the Master of Liberal Arts program of Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Bowman's undergraduate major is philosophy. He holds an M.A. in English Literature from the University of Detroit, and a Ph.D. in Religion and Literature from Fordham University.

This course is open to UUSD members and the public. A one-time \$10 donation is requested for the course. For more information, contact [Len Bowman](#) by e-mail or at 443-286-3495.

FIRST FRIDAY FILM

— Karen Lunstead

MARCH 4 — “WILD”

 When Cheryl Strayed's life throws her one too many hurdles, she turns to the great outdoors for solace and closure from the death of her mother, the dissolution of her marriage and her previous drug addiction. This brilliant and extraordinarily true story follows her as she takes on 1,100 miles of the Pacific Coastal Trail with no previous experience and the hardship that comes with it, capturing terrors and pleasures as she forges ahead against all odds on a journey that maddens, strengthens and ultimately heals her. Starring Reese Witherspoon and Laura Dern. Anne Riley will lead the discussion after the movie.

The potluck starts at 6 p.m.; the movie begins at 7 p.m. The public is invited.

For more information, contact: Karen & Wayne Lunstead, 302-231-8192 or email [Anne Riley](#).

**SAVE-THE-DATE
UU DELMARVA CLUSTER ANNUAL RETREAT
OCTOBER 7-9, 2016
YMCA CAMP TOCKWOGH**

The Delmarva Cluster Annual Retreat will be held for the second year at the beautiful YMCA Camp Tockwogh on October 7-9. Camp Tockwogh is a spectacular, rural camp on 309 well-preserved acres spread over a mile and a half of Chesapeake Bay shoreline. The Retreat organizing team at First Unitarian Wilmington is looking for volunteers from all of the Cluster congregations to help plan this event. Contact [Pat Schaeffer](#), UUSD's Delmarva Cluster representative, if you are interested, in participating on this team. It will be a wonderful opportunity to meet and collaborate with fellow UUs from around the Delmarva Cluster. Amber Peterson, UUSD's Director of Lifespan Faith Development already serves on this team (thank you, Amber). We will share more information on the Retreat when it becomes available.

HELP US DESIGN NEW UUSD T-SHIRTS

— Anne Pikolas

New t-shirts are coming. Now that we are in our beautiful new space we need a design to have new T-shirts, both short and long sleeves, and sweatshirts printed. We love to wear our shirts now when we are in the community, participating in activities, because we are noticed and everyone knows we are from UUSD. So, please put on your artistic caps and send any suggestions [to me](#). More information will come once the design, color, and lettering is set. Anyone want to help?

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH: Tuesday and Thursday, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

ESL Classes

Contact: [Betty Kirk](#)

MARCH 1, Tuesday, 9:00 a.m.

General Assembly Registration Opens

Contact: [Ron Schaeffer](#)

MARCH 3, Thursday, 3:00 p.m.

S&EJ Advocacy Forum

Contact: [Don Peterson](#)

MARCH 4, Friday, 6:00 p.m.

First Friday Film “Wild”

Contact: Karen Lunstead at 302-231-8192

MARCH 5-6, Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

/Sunday at 2:00 p.m. (co-sponsored)

Merton Mini-Film Festival

Contact: [Dr. Len Bowman](#)

MARCH: 7, 14, 21, & 28 at 6:45-8:00 p.m.

Gentle Yoga Ongoing Class – Open to all Levels

Contact: [Holly Piper-Smith](#)

MARCH 7 Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Book Group: *Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks. An unforgettable tale of a brave young woman during the plague of 17th century England. Facilitator: Valerie Andrews.

Contact Bobbi Dunham: 302-644-2207.

MARCH 8, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees Meeting – All Welcome

Contact: [Deanna Duby](#), Board President

MARCH 19, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.

Men’s Group Monthly Meetings

Contacts: [Ron Schaeffer](#) or [Paul Barnette](#)

MARCH 19, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

Play: *Love Letters*

Contact: [Jean Charles](#), Director

MARCH 31, Thursday, 1:30 p.m.

New Course Starts: “What Comes Next?”

Contact: [Dr. Len Bowman](#)



Staff & Officers

Interim Minister

[Rev. Paula Maiorano](#)

Director of Lifespan Faith Development

[Amber Peterson](#)

Music Director

[Dr. Marcie Schiff](#)

Youth Advisor

Eric Standifer

Nursery Teacher

Sabina Beaver-Kepner

Board of Trustees

President: [Deanna Duby](#): 302-684-3589

Vice President: Jane Miller

Finance Officer: Gary Colangelo

Secretary: Dan Payne

Sharon Herb

Wayne Lunstead

Walt Smith

Bookkeeper: Leah Ann Thompson

(Direct all bookkeeping, pledge data requests, and related financial matters to Gary Colangelo, Finance Officer, until further notice.)

Send email and address changes to:

[Joanne Saltzberg](#) (temporary)

[Jean Charles](#)

To email a designated person or open a website in the *Beacon*, move your cursor over the underlined name or text and a small hand comes up, simply click on the name to open the email or site.

Board Committee Chairs

Activities: Paul Barnette

Capital Campaign: Gary Colangelo & Lee Summerville

Communications: Joanne Saltzberg & Pat Schaeffer

Denominational Affairs: Ron & Pat Schaeffer

Finance: Dan Payne & Joanne Saltzberg

Cloud Society: Dan Payne

Fundraising: Barbara Barnette

Leadership Development: Kaz Huston

Lifespan Faith Development: Lora Zachow & Leah Greer-Pinzaru

Adult Education: Betty Kirk & Len Bowman

Librarian: [Joyce Fitch](#)

Long Range Planning: Joanne Saltzberg

Membership: Bobbi Dunham & Betty Kirk

Music: Dianne Conine & Margaret Keefe

Partner Church: Ceil Toth

Pastoral Care: Dianne Conine

Personnel: Deb Davies

Rental & Usage: Pat Murdock

Social & Environmental Justice: Don Peterson

Stewardship: Jean Charles

Worship: Jean Charles & Lin Schmidt

Task Forces & Ad Hoc Committees

Landscape Management Ad Hoc: Dianne Conine & Margaret Keefe

Property Management Task Force: Contact a team member as there is no chair.

UUSD WEBSITE www.uusd.org

Webmaster: [Alleane Taylor](#)

Website Content: [Pat Schaeffer](#)

FACEBOOK

Administrators:

[Pat Schaeffer](#), [Joanne Saltzberg](#) & [Alleane Taylor](#)

NEWSLETTER

Editor at Large: [Pat Schaeffer](#)

Copy Editors: Linda Palmer, Lead; Sue Brown.

- Newsletter Articles due the 20th of each month to [Pat Schaeffer](#).
- Publicity requests to [Pat Schaeffer](#).
- Order of Service notices by Wednesday to [Anni Wood](#) and [Jean Charles](#).
- Weekly Community Updates by Thursday to [Jean Charles](#). Website Calendar Updates as needed.