



UUSD Newsletter ■ APRIL 2017

April 2 — When Imperfections Are Beautiful: Rev. Paula Maiorano, Interim Minister: People sometimes strive for perfection, even when we know that life cannot be perfect. This service suggests that there is joy and wisdom in finding the beauty in imperfections.

April 9 — Why Then a Donkey? Rev. Paula Maiorano, Interim Minister: The Sunday before Easter in the Christian tradition celebrates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. He entered on a donkey. Considering why a donkey, helps Unitarian Universalist hear Jesus’ message of the upside down kingdom for our time and faith tradition.

April 16 — Georgia O’Keefe and the Wonder of Life: An Earth Day Service for Easter: Rev. Paula Maiorano, Interim Minister: In the spring, earth rises in renewal. When we celebrate the earth, we are reminded why it is so important to care for her. In this service, Rev. Maiorano reflects on how the art of Georgia O’Keefe suggests the sheer joy of material being, one of the many reasons to love the earth, our home.

April 23 — Transition: A Look Back and Forward: Rev. Paula Maiorano, Interim Minister: As UUSD members prepare to meet the ministerial candidate

recommended by the search committee, it is timely to notice the ministerial transition in the larger context of the congregation’s past and anticipated future.

April 30 — To Be Announced.

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

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO HOLD TOWN HALL MEETING APRIL 2, 11:30 A.M.

Please attend the Board of Trustees’ Town Hall on April 2 after the Sunday service, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Board will provide an update on their transition to a congregational board and how this change has a positive impact on UUSD members and friends. For more information about the congregational board transition, please refer to the President’s Columns in the November 2016 and February 2017 UUSD Newsletter, Beacon at the Beach (<http://www.uusd.org/index.php/uusd-newsletters.html>).

REV. PAULA MAIORANO, INTERIM MINISTER

APRIL IS A MOMENTOUS MONTH



Not only do we celebrate Easter and Earth Day, but on April 30, the Search Committee will present your candidate for UUSD's settled ministry — exciting and momentous indeed!

Along with the excitement, there is a bit of sadness expressed, that I will be leaving at the end of June. Already, people are telling me they will miss me, giving me hugs, and asking me what I will be doing next.

I am a bit sad too, and yet at the same time, I am looking forward to more leisure to spend with my family in California and Wilmington, especially with little Francesca (aka Frankie), our one-year old first and only grandchild. There is much volunteer work awaiting me with the Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow, and books that I haven't had time to read. I want to write some, and of course, Giovanni and I love to travel.

One thing about leaving that comforts me when I am feeling the sad part is the thankfulness I feel that I had the chance to be your interim minister, and to understand the strength, commitment, generosity, and love that members of UUSD share so easily.

The call of a new minister doesn't negate any of the experiences we have shared. You will always be a beloved part of me, and I hope you hold my memory in a special place in your heart as well.

And best yet, we still have April, May, and June to enjoy.

Happy Spring,

Reverend Paula

REV. PAULA PARTICIPATES IN THE INSTALLATION OF THE NEW METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH MINISTER

— Gary Colangelo



Photo submitted by Gary Colangelo.

On February 25, Rev. Paula Maiorano participated in the installation of Rev. Elder Dianne Fisher as Minister for the Metropolitan Community Church of Rehoboth Beach (MCCRB). MCCRB's Mission is "We are a loving, open, and affirming Christian congregation celebrating the wholeness of body, mind, and spirit. Rooted in and reaching beyond the Rainbow Community, we are a lay-centered fellowship offering a safe and encouraging environment for spiritual transformation through worship, learning, growth, and service."

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN — GARY COLANGELO

ENVISIONING WHAT OUR NEW MINISTER WILL DISCOVER AT UUSD

We are getting closer to the time of another transition at UUSD: Reverend Paula, completing her assigned mission, will leave us for a well-deserved retirement, to be replaced by a settled minister. Many of us have been preparing our minds and spirits for this transition. I am now trying to envision what our settled minister will find when he or she joins us:



- A vibrant congregation embracing UU Principles and enjoying the freedom to choose and pursue individual spiritual paths
- Committees that do the work of UUSD with passion, competency, and dedication to our Mission
- A self-assured Board of Trustees that has accepted the responsibilities of being a congregational board and continually respects its covenant with the congregation through effective member communication
- An Executive Team that understands the culture of UUSD and stands ready to work with our new minister as he or she carries out administrative responsibilities
- A Committee on Ministry that will provide the new minister an effective entrée into the health of the congregation.

You are invited to attend the Board of Trustees' Town Hall meeting on Sunday, April 2 after services. I hope you will agree with my vision for what our new minister will find when he or she arrives at UUSD. The PowerPoint presentation will also be available on the UUSD website, if you are not able to attend the Town Hall.

Gary Colangelo
President, UUSD Board of Trustees

LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT — AMBER PETERSON



Some of you may know that the First Unitarian Church of Wilmington has often given us various grants to support our congregation and help us grow. On March 12, they once again took a collection, in connection with their Grants for Growth program, to support UUSD. Ron and Pat Schaeffer and I, represented UUSD for this special collection.

Through Grants for Growth, UUSD has been granted funds for the next three years to support expenses connected with Religious Educator Credentialing. Credentialing requires completion of a reading program and several other trainings to demonstrate understanding and proficiency in topics including RE program administration, volunteer management, multi-age worship, UU history, professional ethics, and conflict management. Completion of the program may take up to three years and concludes with an extensive portfolio completed, and interview with a panel of

experts in religious education, pastoral ministry, and congregational lay leadership.

Having a recognized as a Credentialed Religious Educator is a testimony to our strength and continued growth, much like when a church moves from being lay-led to having a paid minister. Going through the credentialing process also adds validity to my personal and professional identity. Many peers and fellow UUs understand that the process of credentialing is time-consuming, in-depth, and challenging. Being recognized as a professional in any field is important, both to the individual and the organization. While we are going through exciting yet challenging times, we will be the stronger for it in the long run.

Namaste.

Amber Peterson
Director, Lifespan Faith Development

NEWS FROM YOUR UUSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The meeting agenda and all reports for each meeting, including those described below, may be viewed on the UUSD website in the members-only section at <http://uussd.org/index.php/board-of-trustees-meeting-minutes.html>.

HIGHLIGHTS: MARCH 15 BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT) MEETING

— Gwen Johnson, Secretary, Board of Trustees

Approved: The BOT approved the minutes of the February 14, 2017 meeting, the Minister's Report, and the Financial Report.

Committee Reports:

- **Property (PM) Management:** Gary Schmidt, Co-Chair, reported on items contained in the "Property Management Committee (PMC) Report dated March 15, 2017." Gary reported the recent Rehoboth Band Concert was a huge success.
- **Committee on Ministry (COM) Proposal:** Don Peterson, Transition Team, presented a proposal for new responsibilities for the COM. The proposal was developed by the Transition Team. The Board agreed to continue the discussion at a meeting on March 29 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Board Related Materials on the New Website:** Pat Schaeffer, Communications Chair, shared the background on Board related information that is currently maintained in the members-only section of the website. With the development of a new website, the Board has an opportunity to decide if they want to move this information (Board and Annual Meeting minutes and reports and Budget information) to the public section of the website. The Board will provide a response to Communications at the April Board meeting.
- **Post-Election Environment: What UUSD is Doing:** Rev. Paula stated the following in her March 2017 Minister's Report "The combination of the new Sanctuary Circles and Social Action Subcommittee has been important. These were established as a new approach to the need for the emotional and spiritual care of our members who are feeling oppressed by political action against the issues they care about and for member empowerment to act together on behalf of these same issues."

- **Growth Plan — Setting Priorities and Assessment:** To be discussed at the April 19, 2017 meeting

Executive Session: The Board went into Executive Session to discuss the Management Team.

Future BOT meetings:

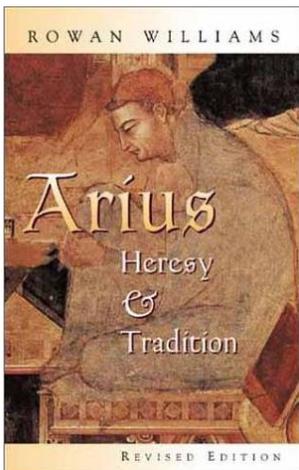
- Continuation Meeting: Wednesday March 29, 2017, 5:30 p.m.
- Regular Monthly Meeting: Wednesday April 19, 2017, 5:30 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW? — RON SCHAEFFER

DIFFERENT THEOLOGIES MERGE

We have quite a few new members in UUSD, and although we have an excellent UU101 class, it might be helpful to provide some insight on the fundamental differences between Unitarian and Universalist theology before the merger of the two denominations in 1961. So, perhaps I can highlight the deep roots and differences, which date back to early Christianity. But I should state up front that for over seventeen hundred years, the one thing Unitarians and Universalists *share* is that they have been seen as heretics by their Christian counterparts.

During the first three centuries of the loosely organized “Christian” church after the death of Jesus, these early believers could choose from a variety of views about this sacred leader. One was a belief that Jesus was an entity sent by God on a divine mission, and which emphasized the Father’s divinity over the Son. The earliest Christian Theologian credited with documenting this popular view was *Lucian of Antioch* in the early third century CE. However, a Christian priest from Alexandria, *Arius*, actually brought this view to the public forefront, and it has generally been labeled as “his” view. But Arius lost his argument about a monotheistic God at the First Council of Nicaea in 325 CE, when a majority of church fathers decided God the Father and God the Son were of the *same substance*, and that led to the Christian doctrine of the Trinity (they added in the Holy Spirit later). But Lucian and Arius established the theological roots of the Unitarian belief, and “Arian” Christian churches actually persisted throughout Europe and North Africa up to the seventh century until finally being suppressed. This is the early Christian root of Unitarianism, and it is the philosophy upon which the modern Unitarian movement was based.



Another religious choice in those first three centuries was the idea of *universal salvation*. This was the belief that no person would be condemned by God to eternal damnation. The Christian scholar named *Origen of Alexandria*, began his writings around 200 CE, and is credited with developing and preaching this view. He was a prolific writer and preacher and argued that no one experiences eternal damnation, no matter who they are. This was the early Christian root of Universalism. But like Arius and Lucian, Origen would not survive the organization of the strict Roman Catholic doctrine. In 453 CE at the Council of Constantinople, he was posthumously excommunicated for his view, and in 553 at the Second Council of Constantinople, the concept of *universal salvation* was declared a heresy — you had to accept the Catholic doctrine to be saved, and you could be put to death for believing in universal salvation. This is generally seen to be the time period when all sense of religious choice and diversity of theological thought within Christianity ended. The idea of religious diversity and choice would not return within Western societies until the sixteenth century with the Protestant Reformation.

In conclusion, there is an old story that says the difference between the Unitarians and the Universalists is that the Universalists believed God was too good to damn them to hell, and Unitarians believed they were too good to be damned. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, Unitarianism appealed to the more affluent and educated class, while Universalism attracted lower and middle class people. Unitarian theology has always emphasized the nobility of the human spirit, while Universalism emphasized the overwhelming love of God for everyone.

Universalism was clearly a more evangelical faith than Unitarianism, and that along with the major cultural differences between the followers of the two denominations, kept them apart until 1961, when finally they merged the nobility of the human spirit with universal love. Part of our challenge as UUs is to bring universal love and the nobility of every human spirit into our daily lives.

Note: I will be on vacation in April, so there will be no “Did You Know” article in the May newsletter.

WELCOME NEW UUSD MEMBERS
Ruth LaMothe, Leadership Development Committee



WELCOME JENNIFER LEON ZAYAS

Jennifer Leon Zayas is a middle school teacher who vibrates with conviction and passion for her profession and the children she teaches. She has been a special education professional for much of her teaching career and now teaches English and Language Arts for eighth graders. Her fierce devotion to her “kids” and her insistence on the highest quality education she can provide is inspiring.

Jennifer was raised in San Diego by her mother. Her maternal grandfather was a proud, stern man who fought in World War II and brought home artifacts from one of the concentration camps. He insisted his four children go to college and paid for their education.

Jennifer’s father was expelled from the family for being gay, leaving her mother under intense financial pressure. She moved her two daughters back into her parents’ house for two years. Jennifer remembers this time as structured and calm. She and her sister were early latchkey kids, wearing their keys under their shirts. Her mother inherited her father’s educational drive and took classes at night, so Jennifer was very much the housekeeper during those years.

One of Jennifer’s English advisors recommended that she go into the honors program, recognizing a level of intelligence and curiosity in her that neither Jennifer nor her mother had realized. She blossomed under the challenge and the attention. After graduating from high school, Jennifer went to the University of Puget Sound and finished her undergraduate education and received her master’s degree at San Diego State. Jennifer has been a teacher for close to 20 years.

Spiritually, Jennifer was raised as a conservative Christian, although the community was loving and focused on charitable work rather than strict and judgmental. She was developing many aspects of her personality during this period. For example, she taught Bible studies while dreaming of girls in bikinis. Ironically, once her community found out that her father was gay, she — the nascent bisexual — was asked to leave. Subsequently,

Jennifer began a process of deeply exploring spirituality. This process grew into a strong spiritual foundation when she sought help from Alcoholics Anonymous. Unlike many others who visit “the rooms” and insist on confidentiality, Jennifer is open about her alcoholism and sees AA as an important wellspring for her spiritual growth. She believes that her openness about her addiction can help others who may be struggling with their own demons.

UUSD has become Jennifer’s spiritual home. She loves the energy and enthusiasm of the congregation and has participated in many activities and events. Our congregation’s passion for social justice is inspiring for Jennifer. She is teaching in the RE program and loves the Goddess Covenant Group and the Newcomers Covenant Group. Jennifer is happily married to Rosa Leon Zayas who she met while singing in a San Diego women’s chorus. She left the job of her dreams to come to Delaware for Rosa’s two-year post-doctoral work and now is delighted and daunted about the upcoming move to Oregon. Rosa would say, Awesome! Jennifer says, Adventure! We will enjoy our time with you until August, Jennifer!

WELCOME ROSA IRIS LEON ZAYAS

Rosa Iris Leon Zayas is our favorite microbiologist. She is a native Puerto Rican, raised in a small town in the jungle in the center of the island. Rosa had an idyllic life growing up, playing in the jungle, foraging for food on the go (coconuts and bananas and yes, she climbed the trees). Her father was a music teacher, and her mother was a middle school counselor. Playing music together was, and is, a popular family pastime. She has always been inquisitive, independent, and self-sufficient, even while being raised Catholic in a male-dominated culture. Rosa went to boarding school at 14. She started college early at 16 intending to become an MD (one of her favorite activities at this time was watching surgery programs on TV). Along the way, she discovered an intense passion for environmental microbiology. She visited the states twice for summer research throughout her undergraduate years. Rosa got her Master’s and PhD degrees from Scripps Institution of Oceanology, San Diego, CA two years ago. She is an active researcher and has a strong commitment to bringing other women into the sciences: she has recorded public service announcements aimed at Latina girls to encourage them to explore science as a career.

As she studied, one of Rosa’s challenges was to become an excellent speaker of English. She accomplished this goal by taking numerous classes and enjoying the support and ribbing of friends and colleagues. She has been able to travel for research purposes to Hawaii, Chile, Panama, Germany, Western Samoa, and Fiji. Rosa has also traveled to Mexico and Argentina. In 2016, she and her wife, Jennifer Leon Zayas spent a magical several weeks in Spain. Rosa and Jennifer met in a women’s chorus they both belonged to in San Diego; they have been married for two years.

What brought Rosa into UUSD was a desire for more “awesomeness” in her life. She rejected Catholicism many years ago. Visiting a Pentacostal church run by friends was also unacceptable; she could not understand the concept of loving the sinner not the sin. She has become an enthusiastic atheist. Rosa appreciates the freedom, compassion, and enthusiasm UUSD offers. She has volunteered for ESL, teaches our children in RE, and loves the Goddess Covenant Group, as well as the Newcomers Covenant group.

Rosa came to Delaware through post-doctoral work on a two-year grant and for a while, it seemed as though we might be able to keep her here as the grant was extended. However, a tenure-track assistant professorship opened up at Willamette University, Oregon. She applied, aced the interview, and an offer was made and accepted. Rosa and her wife Jennifer will be leaving us in August. Until then, we are glad you are part of UUSD, Rosa!

COMMITTEE NEWS AND EVENTS

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR HOOK UP VIRTUALLY!

— Ron and Pat Schaeffer, Co-Chairs



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This year's UUA General Assembly will take place on **June 21-25 in New Orleans, LA**. The theme is **Resist and Rejoice**. The Ware Lecturer will be **Bryan Stevenson**, a public interest lawyer and head of the *Equal Justice Initiative* in Alabama. This will be a justice GA with emphasis on race, class, and environment. We now have nine UUSD members registered to attend and three delegates volunteering to represent us. Registration rates will increase on May 1, so it is not too late to sign-up.

However, even if you cannot attend in person, you can still connect to many of the major events via live streaming at the UUA website. This is a great opportunity to learn more about Unitarian Universalism. Join the expected 4,000 on-site UUs virtually and experience the learning and excitement via the web. More information will be provided on which events will be streamed and what you need to connect.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CANDIDATES FOR LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

— Lee Summerville, Chair

The candidates for election to the Board of Trustees and the Leadership Development Committee are posted in the members-only section of the UUSD website for your perusal. UUSD members will vote on these candidates at the **Annual meeting on June 11**. Please study the candidate's information for these very important leadership positions. Contact Lee Summerville at 301-646-1795 if you have any questions.

SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

— Don Peterson, Co-Chair

UUSD Shows Its Love! We hope you were at the service on February 26, when the staff and clients of the non-profit organization **The Way Home** presented the sermon. It was extremely moving hearing how the organization was formed and its many success stories. For those who were not there, The Way Home provides re-entry services to ex-prisoners who have served their sentences and are looking to start a new life. The organization was the beneficiary of UUSD's new Share the Plate Sunday program, where 50% of the offering (over and above pledged amounts) is donated to the organization. This program will become a regular monthly feature at UUSD starting in July 2017. As a result of the February share the Plate collection, **UUSD will be donating \$900** to The Way Home. That means that UUSD also received \$900 to go toward operations. Thank you for your amazing generosity.

Social and Environmental Justice Activism Sub-Committee: On February 24, the S&EJC formed a new sub-committee specifically designed to provide UUSD members and friends with suggestions for action they can take to either support or oppose actions proposed at either the state or federal level consistent with our UUA Principles and the UUSD Resolution of Conscience. Thirteen UUSD members and friends attended the first meeting. **Teresa and Cass Ripley**, new to UUSD, agreed to lead this effort. If you would like to attend future meetings or otherwise get involved with the sub-committee, please contact [Cass or Teresa](#).

UPDATE: Sussex County Refugee Resettlement Coalition: Thanks go out to all UUSD members and friends who helped the Pakistani family who was recently resettled. They have attended many functions sponsored by members of the Coalition, including UUSD's own First Friday Film and Potluck Dinner. Because of difficulties in finding affordable housing and appropriate employment in Sussex County, the decision was made to move the family to New Castle County at the end of March. While we are sorry to see them leaving the area, we are grateful for the time we have spent with them and wish them all the best! Special thanks to **Claire O'Meara, Susan Goekler, and Karen Lunstead** for their wonderful work on this project.

Thanks to Immanuel Shelter Volunteers: During the month of March, the **Goddess and Coastal Covenant Groups** cooked and delivered delicious meals to the guests of the Immanuel Homeless Shelter and volunteered at the Shelter. Special thanks to **Anni Wood** and **Betty Kirk** for coordinating the groups' efforts.

Solitude & Social Engagement: Lessons from Music & Merton: On March 18, UUSD co-sponsored with the **Thomas Merton Society** and the **Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice** an afternoon with Dr. Christopher Pramuk, Associate Professor of Theology at Xavier University and at its Institute for Spirituality and Social Justice. A lifelong musician, he led a shared music meditation, drawing from his own experience of music and his study of Merton, to explore the fluid boundaries between solitude, prayer, and social engagement.

Action and Advocacy Fair: On March 19, UUSD's S&EJ Committee participated in the fair, sponsored by **Women's March Sussex County** and **Action Together DE**. Representatives from area social justice and political action groups had an opportunity to discuss their programs, distribute literature, and learn about all the programs (old and new) that are organized to increase social and political activism in Sussex County.

All Are Invited! 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 p.m.** If you would like to join the Social & Environmental Justice Committee, we would love to have you! Please contact [Don Peterson](#) for more information.

PARTNER CHURCH
UU PARTNER CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS
Ceil Toth, Chair

The Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council (UUPCC) has moved. The new address is 483 E. Lockwood, Suite 109, St. Louis, MO 63119-3168. The telephone number is 314-918-2618. The website remains the same at www.uupcc.org. The email address is office@uupcc.org.

Two public pilgrimages to Transylvania are being offered this year. One is a cross-cultural tour where you would experience Transylvania alongside Khasi Unitarians from NE India. The dates are August 16-29 with a cost from \$1245/person. The deadline to register is May 15.

The second is the trip UUPCC has been offering for two decades. The trip is September 16-28 with a cost from \$1095/person. On this trip, you would be able to spend the Transylvanian Thanksgiving weekend with Rev. Bodor and our partner Church in Tordatur. The deadline to register is May 27. Betty Metzler, Peter Schott, and Ceil Toth (three of the eight "pilgrims") made this trip in 2014.

Flyers for both trips are posted on the UUSD bulletin board. Please go to the UUPCC website for additional information.

A FEW WORDS FROM THE LIBRARIAN

— Joyce Fitch

I don't often put paperback books on the shelves, but *A Dog's Purpose* by W. Bruce Cameron is a heartwarming and insightful story I just had to share. It is the tale of a dog who is reincarnated several times trying to find his purpose in life. It also shows how the love between a man and a man's best friend is truly unbreakable. A movie based on the book has just been released.

If you attended the recent workshop on Compassion, you will find *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* by Karen Armstrong an excellent resource to build on what you learned in the class. Karen has a wonderful writing style that never gets boring even though she writes a lot about religious history and philosophy (Remember Socrates and Homer?). I learned so much more about these topics than I had ever known. I highly recommend this book as a way to go deeper into your journey to live a more compassionate life.

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd was published more than fifteen years ago. I remember reading it and enjoying it immensely. If you missed it then, now is your chance to pick up a good read. It is not only a book about beekeeping, but the main character's search for a mother and finding one in the most unexpected of places.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

FIRST FRIDAY FILMS

APRIL 7: *INVICTUS*



The next First Friday Film will be held on **April 7** with the movie *Invictus*. The movie tells the inspiring true story of how newly elected Nelson Mandela believed he could bring his people together through the universal language of sport. Mandela joined forces with the captain of South Africa's rugby team to help unite their apartheid-torn country by enlisting the team on a mission to win the 1995 Rugby World Cup. Directed by Clint Eastwood, the film stars Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon. The April First Friday Film night is being sponsored by UUSD's Leadership Development Committee. A potluck will start at **6:00 p.m.**, and the movie will begin at **7:00 p.m.** Kath Johnson will lead the discussion following the film. For more information, contact FirstFriday@uussd.org.

MUSIC RESEARCHER TO PRESENT AUDIO DOCUMENTARY ON BIRDSONG, APRIL 8 AT UUSD



Music researcher Ian Nagoski will present *Ecstatic & Wingless: Bird Imitation on Four Continents*, an audio documentary project on early 20th century birdsong and its direct relationship on human performance — and human action on birdsong — on **Saturday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m.** The presentation will be held at UUSD.

The documentary tells the story not only of the first recordings of cagebirds, but also the practice of bird-imitation, a field that produced amazing and eccentric celebrities during the 1910s-20s. Rarely heard in recent years, bird imitation was also recorded commercially on every continent by 1925 and likely predates music or language in human history.

Music researcher and record producer Ian Nagoski has published dozens of reissue releases of early 20th century music in languages other than English over the past ten years. He has presented his work in conferences in over 20 countries, and in the past year has spoken at the Library of Congress, the University of Chicago, and New York University.

While he has specialized in the music of immigrants to the U.S. from the Near East, his side-project on the earliest recordings of cagebirds and bird imitators has resulted in contributions to a current exhibition at the Wellcome Collection in London in collaboration with the Center for Post-Natural History and the inclusion of his work on the Moon Ark, the first art work for permanent installation on the moon, as well as recent features on the BBC and *The New Yorker*.

Ian Nagoski has previously explored the porous boundaries of culture through 78rpm records of immigrants from collapsing European and Near Eastern empires as they arrived in the U.S. in early 20th century, and in the process, learned the stories of great, forgotten performers. With *Ecstatic & Wingless*, he has opened his exploration to the world of vaudevillians and bird-fanciers; of canaries, nightingales, finches; and the people who studied them, poeticized them, and tried to be them.

Tickets are \$15 cash at the door. For more information, contact Dr. Marcelle Schiff at musicma@gmail.com.

ADULT EDUCATION
APRIL 8, 15, 22, AND 29: UU SEVEN PRINCIPLES
— Betty Kirk and Len Bowman, Coordinators

Beginning on **Saturday, April 8 from 10:00 a.m. to noon**, and running for four classes, ending on April 29, Rev. Paula Maiorano, UUSD Interim Minister, and Betty Kirk will facilitate in-depth discussions of our UU seven principles. The fee for the class is \$22, which includes \$12 for a book on the principles. For more information, contact AdultEducation@uussd.org.

UUSD ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROGRAM
APRIL 8: HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP
— Jeff Cordiano, Coordinator UUSD Adopt-A-Highway Program



UUSD volunteers celebrate the clean-up of the highway in 2013.

For the past 11 years, UUSD has cleaned up our “adopted” Kings Highway from Route 1 to Mr. P’s as part of our commitment to the environment and to Delaware’s Adopt-a-Highway Program. Twice a year, a varied group of UUSD volunteers have donned their yellow florescent highway vests and spent their Saturday morning cleaning up this busy highway.

The big news is that UUSD has adopted a new road much closer to our UUSD home. We first asked for the section of Route 9 in front of our property, but others have already adopted that section. In discussing with DelDot three other possible roadways close to UUSD, we decided that our new adopted road will be Sweet Briar Road. This is the road that intersects Route 9 going north from (Hopkins) Dairy Farm Road. DelDot will move our signs from Kings Highway to Sweet Briar Road in the near future.

Highway clean-ups are scheduled each year on the second Saturday of April and September. ***We invite you to join our clean-up crew on Saturday, April 8 at 9:00 a.m.*** The crew will meet at UUSD and get started from there. Please RSVP to [Jeff Cordiano](mailto:Jeff.Cordiano@uussd.org) or call 302-682-4624 for more information.

ADULT EDUCATION
FIVE-WEEK COURSE ON WORLD RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS STARTS APRIL 13, 7:00 P.M.
— Len Bowman, Adult Education Co-Coordinator

UUSD will offer a special five-week course on world religious traditions, *Seeking the World's Wisdom*, on **Thursdays, 7:00 — 8:30 p.m., starting April 13**. The course is open to everyone. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn not just the "facts" about this or that religion, but also about the underlying meanings and purposes that make religion relevant. Advance registration is not required. A one-time \$10 donation is requested.

The course consists of viewing and discussing five interviews (55 minutes each) held by journalist Bill Moyers with Huston Smith, renowned scholar of world religions and pioneer of interfaith understanding. Smith reviews his lifelong search for ever deeper wisdom in the world's major religions and notes that "if we take the world's enduring religions at their best, we discover the distilled wisdom of the human race."

Each week focuses on a different religion in this order: Hinduism & Buddhism; Confucianism & Taoism; Judaism & Christianity; and Islam & Sufism. The last week discusses Huston Smith's "A Personal Philosophy," a summary of the world's "distilled wisdom."

The interviews contain Smith's presentation of the various faiths' core beliefs and practices, as well as his own personal experiences and interpretations of their meanings. Smith seeks to teach, not preach. No religion is attacked or put down. Positive aspects are found and presented from each. It is his desire that the world will come to believe, like himself, that all religions have a similar basis, and that all mankind can get along, accepting religious differences. The video sessions are a friendly back-and-forth between two well-spoken associates; they are like listening in on a rich, informative, and lively conversation. The series itself was very highly rated and considered by many as one of the best presentations on the wisdom of the great faith paths.

Facilitators for the course are Len Bowman and David Roell LeClaire. Len currently teaches at Johns Hopkins University, and has taught world religions and the philosophy of religion for over forty years. His PhD is in religion and literature, and he counts Huston Smith among his teachers. David followed his spiritual and metaphysical path for 50 years, travelling to India, Europe, Africa, and China exploring world religions, philosophy, and metaphysics. After 18 months in an ashram in Delhi, he returned to the U.S. to complete doctoral studies at Westbrook University. In his late 30's David reconnected with his quest and studied with Bonpo Tibetan monks. In his journey, he has traversed the United States teaching classes, giving lectures, and leading spiritually oriented tours to Egypt. In 1982, he developed the Mantrika meditation series using sound to energize and deepen self-discovery.

ADULT ENRICHMENT
APRIL 14: FIBER MUTT CLUB TO MEET
— Alex LeClaire

The Fiber Mutt Club will meet on **Friday, April 14, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** Fiber Mutts welcomes new pups (beginners) and golden-agers (experienced) alike! Share your fiber enthusiasm! Join us for a "Yarn-day-vu." Bring any fiber art project (knitting, crocheting, spinning, etc.) to work on that travels easily with no special needs. Our purpose is camaraderie with like-minded fiber artists. We meet once a month, keeping the second Friday at 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. where possible. The April theme is Social Justice, Plastic Mats, and "Personhood of the Traveling Fiber" update.

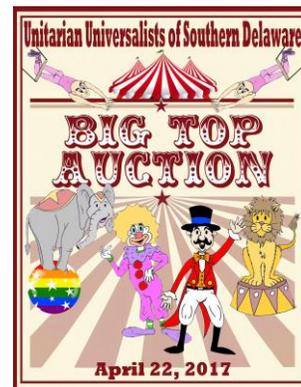
Important: Please bring any recently finished crafts to show. If you would like to participate and learn how to make a plastic mat, bring in some of those small bags like you get at the grocery store, Home Depot, and Lowes.

No pressure. You are welcome to simply come and enjoy the fun and camaraderie of our pack. For more information, contact [Alex LeClaire](#).

FUNDRAISING
APRIL 22: THE BIG TOP AUCTION
— Kris Acker, Chair

Welcome one and all to our BIG TOP AUCTION on **Saturday, April 22**. The circus is coming to UUSD so get ready for a fun event. There will be lions, clowns, and gorillas, oh my, and who knows what else will appear. Please note the new time schedule this year.

- **3:00 p.m.:** Auction Registration begins: Choose a paddle with a bid number; Silent Auction begins; Bar opens.
- **3:45 p.m.:** First Section of Silent Auction Closes.
- **4:05 p.m.:** Second Section of Silent Auction Closes.
- **4:25 p.m.:** Third Section of Silent Auction Closes.
- **4:30 p.m.:** Live Auction Starts with Ring Master Auctioneer, Donna Dolce.
- **5:30 p.m.:** Live Auction Ends; Drawing for 50/50 Winner.
- **5:40 p.m.:** Covered Dish Dinner begins in the Foyer and Gathering Area (*Please bring something to share for the dinner.*)
- **6:30 p.m.:** Check out for item(s) begins in the Large RE Room



For questions about your personal donations to the Auction, please contact Sharon Herb. For business donations, check the Gathering Area table information or contact Kaz Huston with details. The deadline for donations to get into the printed catalog is **April 2**. No donations will be accepted after April 9. Printed catalogs will be available for \$5 (to cover copying costs) as soon as they are ready.

Sylvia Daniels and Jan Daily will be proxy bidders this year. They will place bids on items for people who are unavailable to attend the auction. Please contact them should you need them to serve as proxy bidders for you.

Our Annual Auction is UUSD's biggest fundraiser. Please come out on April 22 to support this year's Big Top Auction, and have a wonderful time.

ADULT EDUCATION
MAY 25 FOR FIVE WEEKS: ETHICS FOR OUR MULTICULTURAL WORLD
— Len Bowman, Co-Coordinator

UUSD will offer *Ethics for Our Multicultural World*, a five-week series on **Thursday evenings 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. beginning May 25**. The course will be led by Len Bowman. Drawing from Dr. Bowman's e-book, *Moral GPS: A Positive Ethic for Our Multicultural World*, the series examines moral decision-making as analogous to driving together on a global Moral Highway. A one-time \$10 donation is requested for the series.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JUNE 18: REV. PAULA'S LAST SERMON AT UUSD
- Gary Colangelo, President

Rev. Paula's last sermon at UUSD will be **Sunday, June 18 at 10:00 a.m.** Please save this date on your calendar as the Board of Trustees is planning a joyous celebration in her honor after the morning service from **11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS & FUTURE EVENTS

APRIL 2, Sunday, 11:30 a.m.

Board of Trustees Town Hall

Contact: [Gary Colangelo](#)

APRIL 3, Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Book Group: *Did You Ever Have a Family* by Bill Clegg. This novel tells the story of a tragedy in a small Connecticut town and how those touched by the event are changed as truths emerge. Forgiveness and hope are its main themes. Facilitator: Bobbi Dunham

Contact: [Bobbi Dunham](#)

APRIL 3, 10, 17, & 24, Mondays at 6:45-8 p.m.

Gentle Yoga Ongoing Class – All Levels

Contact: [Holly Piper-Smith](#)

APRIL 7, Friday, 6:00 p.m.

First Friday Film — *Invictus*

Contact: FridayFilms@uussd.org

APRIL 8, 15, 22, & 29, Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Seven Principles Course

Contact: [Betty Kirk](#)

APRIL 8, Saturday, 7:00 p.m.

Ecstatic & Wingless: Bird Imitation on Four Continents – Ian Nagoski

Contact: [Dr. Marcelle Schiff](#)

APRIL 8, Saturday, 9:00 a.m.

Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up

Contact: [Jeff Cordiano](#)

APRIL 13, 20, 27, MAY 4, 11, Thursdays, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

World Religions Course

Contact: [Len Bowman](#)

APRIL 14, Friday, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Fiber Mutt Club

Contact: [Alex LeClaire](#)

APRIL 19, Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

Board of Trustees Meeting

Contact: President@uussd.org

APRIL 21, Friday, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Friends and Family Game Night

Contact: [Amber Peterson](#)

APRIL 22, Saturday, Auction, 3:00 p.m.

UUSD Auction (Fundraiser)

Contact: [Kris Acker](#)

SAVE-THE-DATE

MAY 25, JUNE 1, 8, 15, & 22, Thursdays, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Ethics for Our Multicultural World

Contact: [Len Bowman](#)

JUNE 18, Sunday, 11:30 a.m.

Celebration for Rev. Paula

Contact: [Gary Colangelo](#)



Staff & Officers

Interim Minister

Rev. Paula Maiorano
Email: Minister@uussd.org

Faith Development

Amber Peterson, Email: DLFD@uussd.org

Music Director

Dr. Marcie Schiff,
Email: MusicDirector@uussd.org

Nursery Teacher

Sabina Beaver-Kepner

Board of Trustees: 2016-2017

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Email: President@uussd.org
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Finance Officer: Pat Murdock
Secretary: Gwen Johnson
Members: Joyce Fitch, Wayne Lunstead, and Joanne Saltzberg

Bookkeeper: Leah Ann Thompson

(Direct all bookkeeping, pledge data requests, and related financial matters to Pat Murdock, Finance Officer)

Send changes in Directory contact information to:
DirectoryUpdates@uussd.org.

To email a designated person or open a website link 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.

- **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](#) with a copy to [Pat Schaeffer](#)
- **Weekly Community Updates** by Thursday to [Jean Charles](#).
- **Website Calendar Updates** to [Jean Charles](#) as needed.

Board Committee Chairs

Activities: TBD

Capital Campaign: Gary Colangelo & Lee Summerville

Communications: Pat Schaeffer
Email: Communications@uussd.org

Denominational Affairs: Ron & Pat Schaeffer

Finance: Joanne Saltzberg & Dan Payne

Cloud Society: Dan Payne

Fundraising: Kris Acker

Land & Building: Allan Cairncross & Jean Charles

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Lifespan Faith Development: Deanna Duby

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Email: AdultEducation@uussd.org

Librarian: Joyce Fitch

Long-Range Planning: Joanne Saltzberg

Membership: Bobbi Dunham

Email: Membership@uussd.org

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Partner Church: Ceil Toth

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Property Mgt.: Deanna Duby & Gary Schmidt

Email: Admin@uussd.org

Energy Team: Email: Energy@uussd.org

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Rental & Usage: Pat Murdock

Social & Environmental Justice: Susan Goekler &

Don Peterson; Email: SocialJustice@uussd.org

Stewardship: Jean Charles

Worship: Jean Charles

Ad Hoc Committees

Ministerial Search: Jean Charles

Small Group Ministry: Bobbi Dunham

UUSD WEBSITE uussd.org

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Email: WebsiteAdmin@uussd.org

Website Content Administrator: [Pat Schaeffer](#)

FACEBOOK

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