



UUSD Newsletter ■ JANUARY 2017

January 1 — New Year: Resolutions? Or Covenant? — Dr. Len Bowman, UUSD

Member: New Year’s Day is traditionally a time for making resolutions — resolutions often forgotten. This New Year’s Day begins a year of serious crisis for our nation and for the earth. Individual, particular resolutions aren’t up to the challenge of this year. This year’s challenge demands that we respond together in loving care for people and for our earth — a New Year’s covenant rather than resolutions.

January 8 — Dobby and the Dark Side of Chocolate — Susan and Mac Goekler, UUSD

Members: Prof. De La Mer (Susan) and Prof. Remus Dumbledore (Mac) will present a service connecting the magical world of Harry Potter with the muggle (real) world. We will connect the house elf Dobby to Africa to Chocolate. We will all learn together what we can do to eliminate modern child slavery in Africa. After the children are sung out, we will discuss child slavery here in Sussex County, and around the world. We will learn how we, as vigilant consumers, can make a difference through “Fair Trade” other means. And yes, we will all get to taste Fair Trade chocolate — the children will pass out mini bars on their way to their classes.

January 15 — A Spiritual Practice of Leadership — Rev. David Pyle, Congregational Life Staff, Central East

Region: Be it in congregations or in other parts of our lives, we are called to be leaders in many different ways. If your leadership brings justice and builds community, no matter where it is, you could be said to be engaging in that leadership as an aspect of your faith and spiritual life.

January 22 — Wholeness amid Division — Rev. Keith Goheen, UU Beebe Chaplain:

A hospital chaplain reflects on the importance of the spiritual life in times of fear and uncertainty. Amid the tempest, the willow tree bends and oak stands firm, but we are not trees and do not possess the spirit of the tree. Ours is the human spirit, and nurturing its growth requires a distinctly human approach when the wintry winds of social and personal change swirl in our lives and our souls.

January 29 — “A Splendid Torch” — Deanna Duby, UUSD Member:

On the annual Jean Charles Service Sunday, Deanna Duby discusses service from several perspectives, including that of George Bernard Shaw who describes a life of service as “A splendid torch which I’ve got to hold up for a moment. I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.”

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

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REV. PAULA MAIORANO, INTERIM MINISTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE



After your Christmas festivities or rest, I hope you are ready for the much-needed resistance, as the onslaught on the poor and immigrants begins.

WAYS TO HELP

January 14 – 21: This is a time when I really am appreciating the Unitarian Universalist Association as it shows us the way with a *Week of Action*. Learn more at <http://www.uua.org/action/show-love/blog/week-action-jan-14-21-2017>.

January 16: 30 Days of Standing on the Side of Love begins: Get your daily updates by scrolling down to the bottom of the page and signing up. Information is available at <https://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/thirty-days-of-love-2016/>.

Moral Manifesto: Also, sign up to receive updates from the Moral Manifesto “We Say Enough Campaign” at www.wesayenough.org.

OTHER WAYS TO HELP

January 10-11: The Senate Judiciary Committee will hold confirmation hearings on the nomination of Senator Jeff Sessions as Attorney General. Let your senators and representatives hear your voice on the way the law impacts the communities you care about. Ask them to press Senator Sessions on how he will address your concerns.

January 14 at 12 Noon: There is a rally in Philadelphia scheduled to “Protect Immigrants and Refugees” organized by United We Dream and a coalition of organized labor and immigration reform groups. More information is available at <https://action.unitedwedream.org/calendars/global-day-to-protect-immigrants-refugees>.

All of the information above was sent out by Susan Leslie, UUA Congregation Advocacy & Witness Director at the office of Multicultural Growth & Witness. To be placed on her distribution list, email her at sleslie@uua.org.

I will return in late January ready to join your efforts on behalf of our nation’s oppressed.

In peace, *Rev. Paula*

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN — GARY COLANGELO



UUSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE CHALLENGE OF COMMUNICATION

Krista Tippett, host of American Public Media’s *On Being*, said in a December 12, 2016 TIME interview, “Listening is not just about being quiet while the other person talks, it is about being present and willing to be surprised and curious.” Since last summer when the Board of Trustees embarked on our transformation to a Congregational Board, the Board has indeed been willing to be surprised and

curious during our discussions with Reverend David Pyle and Reverend Paula, and willing to accept changes after some discussion and discernment. This habit of active listening, understanding, and discernment should not only assure a successful Board transformation, but also assure that the Board continues to fulfill its responsibilities to the Congregation. How will good habits of listening and discerning affect the Board's ability to function effectively? The Board has agreed to adopt the following five tasks of a congregational board:

- **Congregational mission and vision**
- **Fiduciary control**
- **Policy development**
- **Strategic planning**
- **Mission assessment.**

To accomplish these tasks, the Board must communicate and share information among committees (through Board Liaisons), the Congregation, the Church Council, the future Committee on Ministry, the operations Leadership Team, and the Growth Plan Steering Committee. This is a huge communication task, but essential if the Board is to function as a Congregational Board. In 2017, the Board will be completing the transition process and enhancing communication, hopefully by the time our Settled Minister arrives. We do need the help and support of the Congregation to do this, so please continue to stay connected to UUSD through our newsletter, updates, announcements, and emails.

Gary Colangelo, President, Board of Trustees

LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT — AMBER PETERSON



Happy New Year! At this time of year, many of us choose to reflect. We reflect on things that we have done, things we haven't done, things we should have done, and things that have happened in the past year. Some make promises or resolutions, of which some are kept and some are not.

In Religious Education on New Year's Day, we will ask the children to reflect on things that have happened in the past year, sharing as they choose. Then we'll discuss having a focus for the coming year. It may be something they want to learn more about, such as a musical instrument or sport; something they wish to work for, such as standing up to racism or protecting the environment; or something they wish to change about themselves, like being more responsible or more kind to siblings and others. Then we will help them phrase their focus into one or two words and have the words written on a shell that they then decorate. This will be a reminder to them throughout the year of their intended focus. And though their shells may be

lost or misplaced for a time, just as we may sometimes lose our focus on what is really important to us, they will be found again — a reminder of their intention for the year.

So if you are challenged to maintain focus of what you wish to change or what is important to you, perhaps you might write your focus on a shell, stone, jar, or what-have-you, so you might have a reminder of your intended focus. And though it might get lost for a time, little reminders are often helpful. As we enter into the uncertainty of this new year, may we all hold our focus a little closer, bettering ourselves and our world in our chosen ways.

Again, a Happy New Year to you! Namaste.

Amber Peterson, Director, Lifespan Faith Development

NEWS FROM YOUR UUSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Want to know what the Board is talking about at their monthly meetings? Links to the meeting agenda and reports are on the UUSD website homepage and in the members-only section at <http://uussd.org/index.php/board-of-trustees-meeting-minutes.html>.

HIGHLIGHTS: DECEMBER 13, 2016 UUSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT) MEETING

— Gwen Johnson, Secretary, Board of Trustees

Approved: The Board approved the minutes of the November 15, 2016 meeting, the Financial Report, and the Interim Minister's report.

Financial Reports: Pat Murdock, Finance Officer: Pat said we are in a strong financial position.

Executive Team Charge: Conference Call Discussion with Reverend David Pyle

Reverend Pyle said we should have the Executive Team up and running three or four months before the new minister arrives. He explained that the Executive Team takes over operational duties from the Board. The Minister acts with the Executive Team as a member. We agreed on three two-year terms. The draft charge is on the website at: <http://www.uussd.org/images/2016-Dec-BOT-meeting/Executive-Team-Charge.pdf>.

Announcements: Gary Colangelo, President

Gary provided these reports:

- Betty Kirk has requested funds from Sussex County for grant money to support English as a Second Language (ESL). She wants to get new computers, food, and teaching aids.
- Lee Summerville provided a "UUSD Self-Nomination and Election Process" List (<http://uussd.org/index.php/board-of-trustees-meeting-minutes.html>) that provides a schedule of who is responsible and when items are needed for the BOT and Leadership Development Committee nominations.

Committee Reports:

- **Property Management:** Gary Schmidt reported on items contained in the "Property Management Committee (PMC) Report dated December 13, 2016" (<http://uussd.org/index.php/board-of-trustees-meeting-minutes.html>). The number of events scheduled in 2017 for UUSD will challenge our parking, audio visual, and facility capacity.
- **Growth Plan Update — Workshop on November 30: JoAnne Saltzberg, Growth Plan Coordinator:** This item will be discussed in January, as JoAnne was not able to attend the BOT meeting.

Membership:

- **Member Inactivations:** The BOT discussed at length the process that the Membership Committee uses to recommend that the BOT move a member from Active to Inactive status. The BOT approved Membership's request, presented by Gwen Johnson, the BOT Liaison for Membership, to move two members (Rose Ackerman and Carol Toomey) from Active to Inactive status.
- **February 25 BOT and Membership Thank You Luncheon:** The BOT approved the Thank You Luncheon for *February 25, 2107*.

From the Floor/Future Agenda Items:

- Alan Cairncross – At the December 14 PMC meeting, the committee will discuss taking care of more parking spaces. They will provide the BOT with a proposal to expand parking.

Executive Session: Senior Lay Leader position description

DID YOU KNOW? — RON SCHAEFFER

CHRISTMAS IS STILL TO BE CELEBRATED IN SOME PARTS OF THE WORLD!

Well, I guess you thought Christmas was over as we move into the New Year. Christmas, meaning “Christ’s Mass,” is celebrated in most of the western world as the birth of Jesus on December 25. That date was selected by the newly established Christian Church in the fourth century, and it is believed to have been picked, at least partially, to build naturally on the festive Pagan celebrations of the Roman Winter Solstice, even though there was no theological relationship to those events. The actual date of Jesus’ birth remains a mystery (assuming there was a Jesus as described in the Christian Bible — but that’s for another article).

However, for some people in the Middle East and Eastern Europe, Christmas is just about to arrive in January. First, the original date of the celebration in some parts of Eastern Christianity (Eastern Orthodox Churches) was actually January 6 and was in connection with the Epiphany, or the baptism of Jesus, which they saw as his manifestation to the world as the Son of God. The Armenian Apostolic Church still adheres to that date. But for other Eastern Orthodox Christians in Ethiopia, Russia, the Ukraine, Serbia, Macedonia, and Moldova, who use the Gregorian calendar, they celebrate Christmas on January 7, which is the equivalent to December 25 on our Julian calendar (there is a thirteen-day difference). Finally, since the Greeks use the Julian calendar, the Greek Orthodox Church celebrates Christmas on December 25, consistent with the original decree and based on the birth of Jesus. Yes, without an explanation and the right calendar, it is confusing.



All the Protestant denominations, which broke away from the Roman Catholic Church in Europe in the Middle Ages, continued many of their Christian rituals, and, therefore, naturally celebrate Christmas on December 25th. So today, Unitarian Universalists in the U.S., who separated from Protestant churches in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (primarily Congregationalist churches in New England), generally maintain the tradition to celebrate Christmas on December 25, even though we are no longer seen as a Christian-based denomination.

Although we argue that UUs recognize and celebrate traditions from a broad base of religious sources, we clearly give Christmas a bigger celebration than, for example, Buddha Purnima (Buddha’s birthday) on May 17; the birth of B’ab (Baha’i faith founder) on October 20; Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement, on September 26; Ramadan the major Muslim holiday in July; or Diwali, the major Hindu celebration on November 13. Although all these holidays have a different story or theological theory, they all tend to celebrate some mixture of joy, gratitude, love, and respect for life.

Finally, Christmas is not celebrated (broadly, or as a national holiday) in China, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Thailand, Iran, Turkey, and North Korea because Christianity is not a recognized religion in those countries. Although restaurants are generally closed on Christmas in the U.S., you can always get Chinese, Thai, or Japanese take-out on December 25 — now you know why.

NEXT UUSD GAME NIGHT: FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Don’t forget Game Night! The next one will be *Friday, January 20 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.*, and all UUSD members and friends are welcome! Feel free to bring friends with you too! Children are welcome to participate. Just bring a simple snack to share and come prepared to have a good time.

WELCOME NEW UUSD MEMBERS: RECOGNITION SUNDAY — DECEMBER 4, 2016

**MEMBERSHIP
RECOGNITION SUNDAY FOR NEW MEMBERS**

Bobbi Dunham, Chair

On Sunday, December 4, 2016, thirteen of eighteen new members were welcomed into the UUSD family. Members who were present were Marty McLaren, Alex LeClaire, David Roell LeClaire, Claire Griffith, Sue and Mac Goekler, Sue O'Brien, Rosa Leon Zayas, Jennifer Zayas, Lewis Maurer, Jennifer Schultz, Tara Sheldon and Brooke Pikolas. Unable to attend were Sue and Randy Davidson, Laura Borsdorf, Susan Seim and Suzanne Paulson. Rev. Paula read the pledge and current and new members covenanted with each other to fulfill the principles and purposes of UUA and UUSD. New members were presented with a Welcome booklet; Gary Colangelo represented the Board of Trustees and Bobbi Dunham represented the Membership Committee. A celebratory cake was provided by Ceil Toth. Many new members have already become active in the life of UUSD. Welcome to all.



(1 to r: Mack and Susan Goekler, Rev. Paula Maiorano, Rosa Leon and Jennifer Leon Zayas, Lew Maurer, Marty McLaren, Sue O'Brien, Alex LeClaire, David Roell LeClaire, Claire Griffith, Brooke Pikolas, Tara Sheldon, and Jennifer Schultz. Photo submitted by Gwen Johnson)

MORE PROFILES ON 2016 NEW MEMBERS: WELCOME ALL

WELCOME: JIM GERVAN



Jim Gervan is a passionate, humble man. He's passionate about his marriage to Mary, about an illustrious 34-year career in art and education, and about a life lived fully and in service to others. Jim was born and raised in upstate New York. He counts his 7th and 8th grade art teacher as his most influential childhood mentor. Several years after graduating from college, Jim taught at the Albright-Knox Museum in Buffalo, NY, in a weekend program. The woman in charge of the program was his grade school teacher, continuing to inspire and motivate others. Jim's resume is impressive in the depth and range of his professional accomplishments. He came down to Delaware in 1957 as Sussex County Art Supervisor in the State Department of Public Instruction. He became State Supervisor of Art while teaching part-time for 10 years as an Assistant Professor of Art & Art Education at the University of Delaware. Jim took early retirement in 1991 after 34 years in service.

He has been president or chair of many professional groups.

Jim is an unusual combination of creativity and structure. He was an administrator who could also encourage creativity and self-expression in others while maintaining an active arts practice of his own. He has won prizes for printmaking, painting, and sculpture. Jim has shown in numerous one-man and group exhibitions in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Canada, and Mexico. Jim developed a fascinating project, called VIBES (Visually-Impaired Blackout). He developed and constructed a walk-in structure of black plastic that enabled people with visual impairments to identify shapes by means of black lights.

Spiritually, Jim is a humanist. He appreciates activities that focus on the humanity of people. The attitudes of people towards one another and about one another are touchstones for him. He found the thinking and writing of Unitarianism exciting and heartwarming. He grew up as a Presbyterian and was introduced to Unitarianism before moving to Delaware. Jim was active at First Unitarian Church in Wilmington in 1967. He finds UUSD to be a nurturing community.

Since retiring, Jim has kept busy with yard and housework and giving art workshops with science teachers on creativity and science. He continues with his own art, working on ceramics, painting, and sculpture. He and his wife Mary, who have been married for 25 years, continue to be best friends, which Jim believes is key to a successful marriage. They were married on their sailboat, with Mary's two sons in attendance. Between them, they have five adult children. Welcome to UUSD, Jim!

WELCOME: JENNIFER SCHULTZ

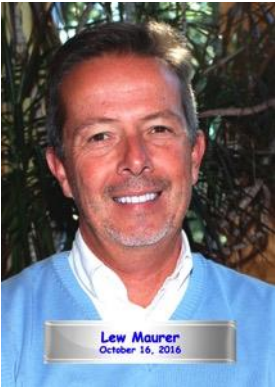
How does one escape the stress of corporate America? If you ask new member Jennifer Schultz, she'll say, "Open a drive-through coffee shop, of course!" Well, isn't that what many of us have dreamed of doing? Jennifer was born and raised in Washington, DC, and like many, came to Rehoboth often during summers. She moved to the Midwest — the Twin Cities, Minnesota — to climb the corporate ladder, working for Fortune 500 companies in performance management and team building for over 10 years. Although burned out on the corporate world, Jennifer still had ambition and drive, so buying a challenging to-go coffee business felt like a great antidote. She quickly learned the joys and challenges of running a small (the shop was 12'x7') business. Developing relationships with her customers was fantastic; coming in at 4 a.m. to open the shop when staff called in sick was not. Jennifer owned the shop – Bean and Gone – for 10 years and sold it to the cartoonist who wrote the strip, "Sally Forth."



During this time, Jennifer also became an actor and sometimes even got paid for acting, performing many shows at the Theatre in the Round in the Twin Cities. Eventually, she decided to return to the East Coast. She chose Lewes because it's far enough away from family, yet close enough for everyone to visit. Jennifer has been here for 1 ½ years and loves it. She loves the parade of friends and family during the summer. And, she is making new friends in the congregation. Her beach passion is shells, which fill her living room.

Spiritually, Jennifer feels like she fits at UUSD. She shopped a bit spiritually while living in the Twin Cities but nothing quite fit. Her oldest and dearest friends in DC are Unitarians, a clue to the direction her evolving spirituality would take. Jennifer defines herself as humanist. For her, UUSD feels welcoming and honest. The congregation is the right size for her, not too small, not too big. She often comes away from a Sunday service inspired. At some point, Jennifer will be more involved in UUSD — she is always looking for new challenges. But she doesn't feel the need to stay busy, although she volunteered for Leslie Ledogar's campaign and was co-producer of the documentary "The Brainwashing of My Dad," that was shown at UUSD last month. "I'm still on vacation," says Jennifer. Welcome, Jennifer!

WELCOME: LEW MAURER



Introducing Lew Maurer, not your father's librarian! He brings a fascinating professional and religious background to our congregation and has already leapt enthusiastically into UUSD waters. Lew was born in hard coal mining country in central Pennsylvania to a Mennonite father and a Catholic mother, in Mennonite terms called unequally yoked parents. Oddly, His parents went on to become Methodists. Lew was raised as a Mennonite, a path he quickly abandoned when he reached high school and got a car. For many years, he was a happy atheist. He first learned about Unitarian Universalism (UU) when living in Denver about 14 years ago. What attracted him was UU's non-dogma focus and the large number of gay men in the congregation. He loved sermons and appreciated the intellectual approach of UU. Over time, Lew has moved more into other dimensions of being a UU, appreciating the emotional aspects and the mystery in Unitarian Universalism. It's no coincidence that Lew has been meditating for many years, using mindfulness to detach from the busy human brain.

Lew's 34-year career as a librarian has taken him all over the country. He began his career in Columbus, Ohio, then worked for organizations in San Francisco, Detroit, Silicon Valley, Syracuse, Ohio (again), Manhattan, Denver, and finished back on the East Coast. Providing technology solutions to libraries, his first territory was every library west of the Mississippi River (he felt like he lived in the St. Louis TWA terminal).

As a sales director with tutor.com, Lew spent a year lobbying the Texas legislature to fund online tutoring for all students in the state. The effort failed; however, he still believes that education is the best hope for change and growth. He completed his career as the first executive director of PAILS, where he provided leadership to a consortium of eventually over 75 Pennsylvania public libraries that share open-source automation software. Along the way, he was lucky enough to have exceptional professional colleagues, own 34 cars, 10 houses, and 4 wonderful rescue dogs. He shares his home now with Willow, a bossy and beautiful middle-aged Sheltie mix.

Lew returned to the East Coast (Hershey, PA) to help care for his mother who was dying of cancer. After her death, he eventually moved to Rehoboth and retired. He first came to Rehoboth in the 70s. Fast forward 30+ years later: Lew has moved into a little rancher in Midway Estates, where he loves the funky, unregulated vibe of his neighborhood (Shhhh! Neighbors are rumored to keep chickens. As pets. Inside their houses.) In his short time with UUSD — he began coming in Spring 2016 — Lew has joined the book club, taken the UU 101 and Seven Principles classes, and become facilitator of the Newcomers covenant group. Welcome to UUSD, Lew!

WELCOME: SUE O'BRIEN



Sue O'Brien spent her childhood and most of her adult life in one small town, Middletown, NY. Sounds ideal, doesn't it? Yet, Sue's mother died when Sue was 12, her father when she was 19. These emotional challenges can have a powerful impact on young teens. She lived with her maternal grandmother after her father's death. Sue was raised as a Catholic in a racially integrated community, which was unusual for that time.

A "good" girl, Sue swerved away from the norm of her family by marrying a non-Catholic. That marriage lasted 12 years during which they adopted two children. The language they used, "The children are our LOVE relatives as opposed to our BLOOD relatives," was a lovely way to teach about love and family. During this time, Sue also got her nursing degree. She went on to get her Bachelors in nursing and spent 30 years as a psych nurse. Sue has been a Vista volunteer in Chicago and has also done disaster mental health work. She retired from the profession in 2010. Along the way, Sue divorced her first husband, met a wonderful man, and married him 30+

years ago. They have a 'blended' family that includes Sue's two adopted children. Sue and her husband moved to Lewes four years ago. She defines the move as a fulfilling adventure.

Spiritually, Sue long ago left the Catholic Church, growing impatient with its singular laws and man-made rules. She wasn't really searching for a spiritual home. She came into UUSD through the side door by taking a class in Tai Chi at Toddy's and never really left! She has taken UU 101 and the Seven Principles classes. Sue is in the Coastal Covenant group and on the Fundraising Committee. She was a great help during the famous 2016 Yard Sale. Sue loves that UUSD's mission and principles are action, as well as spiritually, driven, and she loves the kindness and generosity of the congregation. It is the first religious/spiritual congregation Sue has joined of her own accord. "I feel like I'm home," says Sue. Our response? Welcome Home, Sue!

WELCOME: LAURA BORSDORF

Laura's 45-year career was in education, health, and exercise physiology specifically. Always an athlete, Laura naturally gravitated to health and physiology, earning a Master's from Kansas University and her doctorate from Arizona State University. Laura began her career teaching in western Kansas. After five years, she moved into private wellness work in a little Vermont town close to the New York state border. Many winter mornings found her skiing to get to work. Five years later, she moved to Arizona to teach and work on her doctorate. Arizona was a nice relief from those challenging New England winters. Five years later, it was on to her next (and last) career stop at Ursinus College, a small, liberal arts college in Collegetown, PA, where she taught for 30 years.



Laura still has family in Kansas and is happy that some family has also migrated to the East Coast. Her youngest sister's children see her as close to a mother as can be: their birth mother, Laura's youngest sister, died of inflammatory breast cancer several years ago and Laura stepped in to help raise them. Christmas with Laura at the beach has become an important family tradition.

Spiritually, Laura was raised American Baptist, which is somewhat less conservative than Southern Baptists, but still Baptist. Kansas was a dry state during her childhood, which made her Baptist parents very happy. Progressing through her 20s, 30, and 40s, Laura attended several different churches. However, she never did visit the UU church in Collegetown even though it was on her bucket list. After visiting UUSD, she definitely regrets that lost opportunity.

Laura has been coming to Rehoboth off and on for over 20 years. She retired just this past September and has been busy getting settled into her house and loving retirement. With five kayaks and several bikes, Laura is ready to find new sports buddies. Laura also loves traveling and has been to Europe many times, as well as Japan (three times) and China. She is a student of labyrinths and has studied them throughout Europe and the United States. She built a 35-foot canvas labyrinth and donated it to the UU church in Collegetown before retiring. Part of the research to construct the labyrinth included a visit to St. Peter's Church in Lewes in the 1980s to see their completed labyrinth. Laura has been coming to UUSD for over two years. She finds the church peaceful and a place to gather new insights into living a more fruitful life. She particularly likes the social and environmental justice aspect of UUSD. Even before joining, Laura helped with a variety of fundraising activities and other projects when requested. She has helped with the last two Sock Hops and had a blast. She has also been tapped to serve on the Fundraising Committee. Welcome, Laura!

WELCOME: RANDY & SUE DAVIDSON

Randy and Sue come to us from New England. Randy was born and raised in Massachusetts and Sue was born in



Maine and raised in Connecticut. They met in a store where both worked. The rest is history; they will celebrate their 50th anniversary this coming August. They have two children who were born in West Virginia where Randy & Sue began their professional careers. The now adult children live in Collegeville, Pennsylvania, where they were raised and are raising their five children. A mere three hours away, Randy and Sue are frequent visitors.

Professionally, Randy spent 40 years as an exercise/sports science professor. His first job was at West Virginia Tech. Sue worked as a teacher and tells chilling stories of going into the “hollows” schools in the mountains of West Virginia to work with the children who were mired in desperate poverty. She particularly remembers the futility of trying to teach children and their families about fire safety, when entire families struggled with existence in miserable tarpaper shacks.

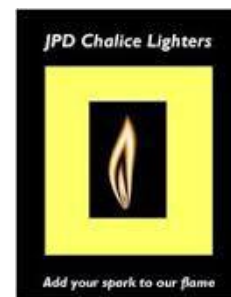
After five years in West Virginia, Randy and Sue headed back to New England when Randy took a temporary job at Ursinus College in Pennsylvania. A funny thing happened, though, they never made it back to New England. Instead, they fell in love with the town and the college — Randy taught there for 40 years — and Sue took over a preschool that she ran for 35 years. Now they live here in a house they built and are thoroughly enjoying retirement.

Randy and Sue stopped in at UUSD about a year and a half ago and never left! Since then, they have been involved with the crafting group, Randy sings with the choir and loves helping with photography. Both Randy and Sue come from traditional religious backgrounds. Randy was raised as a Methodist, and Sue as an Episcopalian. They raised their children in a United Church of Christ congregation where Randy served as a deacon and as president of the church council. What they particularly love about UUSD is the commitment, friendliness, and the work ethic of the congregation. Their spirit is lifted and inspired by UUSD. They also love the many UUSD parties they’ve attended. Both Randy and Sue agree, “We’ve become engaged.” Welcome to the team, Randy and Sue!

COMMITTEE NEWS AND EVENTS

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS THANK YOU TO NEW CHALICE LIGHTERS — Pat & Ron Schaeffer, Co-Chairs

A big thank you goes to 22 new Chalice Lighters at UUSD since our October solicitation. We now have 71 Chalice Lighters from UUSD. This represents 52% of our latest membership, which has also increased this year. Our goal was to achieve 50%, so we have been successful. Many of our new Chalice Lighters are also new UUSD members this year, so a special thank you goes to these new members for stepping up and helping Unitarian Universalism grow and reach out to our communities, spreading a message of justice and love. A plaque of all UUSD Chalice Lighters is located in the hallway near the nametags. Thank you to all UUSD Chalice Lighters.



LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT
UUSD PARTNERS WITH UDEL TO DESIGN BEAUTIFUL SUSTAINABLE GARDENS AT UUSD
— Margaret Keefe & Dianne Conine, Co-Chairs

UUSD's Landscape Management Committee and the [University of Delaware Bachelor's of Landscape Architecture Program](#) worked together this past semester to begin planning sustainable garden areas for our church property. Maggie Heffernan, a Lewes resident in the L/A program, has been doing an internship with UUSD under the supervision of Associate Professor Anna Wik. On December 16, 2016, members of the UUSD Landscape Management Committee heard Maggie and several of her classmates present their garden design concepts. We were absolutely astounded at the wonderful presentation!

The students totally captured the essence of who we are at UUSD and infused that knowledge into every aspect of their designs. They chose plants from wonderful color palettes and indicated how each plant represented a value also honored by our UU faith: compassion, honesty, love, and justice. They told us they chose a wide variety of plants because they knew that we welcome diversity at our church.

The native and sustainable plantings will attract a variety of hummingbirds and bees, in keeping with our Seventh Principle: [Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part](#). One student had even attended a Sunday service at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek so he could get a better understanding of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist! In the design for one garden area, the student incorporated seven cascading rain barrels to represent our [Seven Principles](#).

We encourage everyone at UUSD to [view the complete presentation](#) to understand all the possibilities for beautifying our property while also honoring the natural flora and fauna with which we wish to coexist. In the spring, Maggie will continue her internship to help us bring some of these garden designs into reality. We also hope to invite Maggie, and any of her fellow students who are available, to do a presentation, answer questions, and give everyone the chance to meet these great young people. Those of us who went up to UDel were not only overwhelmed by the wonderful presentation, but also came away feeling a renewed spirit of hope for what the upcoming generation will do to make the world a better — and more beautiful — place.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
UPDATE
— Deanna Duby, Co-Chair

Safety and security have been a major topic of concern for the Property Management Committee (PMC) for some time. We have been evaluating the physical aspects of our property with an eye to safety, such as the potential for falls, risk of break-ins, etc. We have been in communication with the Lifespan Faith Development Committee, which is reviewing and updating the policies designed to ensure the safety of our children and youth. In early December, our committee had a briefing by Corporal Ricky Hargis, Community Outreach Officer of the Delaware State Police. He discussed security procedures, alarm systems, and places in which our building is somewhat vulnerable, specifically the French doors on the rear of the east wing, where there is so much glass. We have discussed the officer's recommendations that we install motion sensor lights, and that we establish a security/safety team. We were somewhat relieved to hear from him that the area in which UUSD is located is a relatively low-crime, safe neighborhood, but he also noted that, because we are so isolated, we remain vulnerable.

PMC's work on safety and security is an ongoing process, and we will be consulting with and reporting to the congregation periodically on various aspects of this topic. We all need to be vigilant while on the property; be sure that if we are the last to leave the building, all doors are securely locked; and be aware of how to call for help when we need it. One of the major recommendations made by Corporal Hargis is that we always call the police

in any dangerous or even suspicious situation. Obviously, if there is immediate danger, we should not hesitate to call 911. If we need assistance but don't believe there is an immediate danger, for example, noticing a stranger on the property who seems to have no reason to be there, or who seems to be checking cars in the parking lot, we can use one of two non-emergency numbers. They are **302-856-5655 or 302- 855-2980**. We are posting these numbers near our landline phones throughout the church. There is one phone in the equipment closet at the rear of the sanctuary, one to the right of the sink in the kitchen/gathering area, and one in the back office just outside the large RE room. We also suggest that UUSD members enter these numbers in your cell phones, so that they will be easily accessible if needed.

Please feel free to communicate with any member of the PMC (Allan Cairncross, Deanna Duby, Al Lister, Pat Murdock, Gary Schmidt, and Walt Smith) on any issue of concern, but particularly if you have concerns or thoughts on safety and security of our building and grounds. We welcome your input!

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
UPDATE ON NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCESS**
— Lee Summerville, Chair

The Leadership Development Committee (LDC) according to UUSD's Bylaws must manage the nomination and election process each year for the Board of Trustees and the Leadership Development Committee. Under the current Bylaws, eligible members may nominate themselves or be nominated by a member for election to the Board of Trustees or Leadership Development Committee. Each candidate must agree to serve in the position if elected. The LDC is responsible for the implementation of the Bylaw requirements and communication of the procedure and process to the Congregation.

Under the Bylaws, there will be three openings in 2017-2018 on the Board of Trustees and one opening on the Leadership Development Committee.

Self-nominations or nominations by another member for the Board or LDC will be accepted from **January 15 through April 1, 2017**. The [Nomination form](#) is available on the website or can be obtained from the Leadership Development Committee: Lee Summerville, Chair; Kath Johnson; and Ruth Lamothe.

Leadership in this vibrant and growing congregation is very important. We have a challenging year ahead as we prepare for a new minister and continue settling into our new home. We are fortunate to have leaders in the congregation with diverse backgrounds and leadership experience. Please consider sharing your expertise with our church. We need you.

COMMUNICATIONS ANNOUNCEMENT

If you send an event announcement for the Order of Service or the Community Update, please remember also to include the Communications Committee by copying [Pat Schaeffer](#), Communications Chair. This will make sure your event announcement reaches even more members, friends, or the community.

**FINANCE
UPDATE ON THE CLOUD SOCIETY**
— Dan Payne

In the December newsletter, there was an update on The Cloud Society and the upcoming induction of new members Janet and Jeff Cordiano, and Helen Flood. That ceremony took place on December 4, and at the same time, we also inducted Susan and Mac Goekler, long time UU's who relocated to Rehoboth and officially became UUSD members in July 2016. Jean Charles, one of the original members, eloquently spoke about what motivated her to join The Cloud Society. As many of you know, all that is required to become a member of The Cloud

Society is to designate UUSD as a beneficiary in one's Will, Life Insurance Policy, Retirement Savings Account, etc. Some members commit to a certain dollar amount; others have indicated a percentage of some or all of their assets, for example, 25% of Life Insurance Proceeds or 15% of estate assets, etc. By way of background, The Cloud Society was formed in 2010, was comprised of 14 individuals, and has since grown to 34 people. Like Jean Charles, their motivation is to insure that UUSD would continue to thrive after they were gone. As the season of giving thanks and sharing is upon us, we are thankful for UUSD being here and we encourage others to join The Cloud Society. Please contact [Dan Payne](#) for more information..

A FEW WORDS FROM THE LIBRARIAN

— Joyce Fitch

January is a good month to curl up in front of the fire with a good book. Let me recommend a few. *The Darkest Secret* by Alex Marwood is a British mystery involving a kidnapped child from a wealthy family. There is an interesting set of characters, all of whom were present in the vacation home when the child disappeared. The story has a number of twists and turns, and really held my interest. I also have the latest books by John Grisham (*The Whistler*) and Patricia Cornwell (*Chaos*). I like both of these authors and know they are popular with many people. You should take a look at a darling little book entitled *Zen Baby* by Adler & Coughlin. It is a series of baby pictures with Zen "sayings" that just fit the photograph shown. I want to thank all you who have donated books during the last year — more than have been donated in a number of years. I also want to remind newcomers to be sure to sign the clipboard provided if you are borrowing a book.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

ADULT EDUCATION

STEPS TOWARD COMPASSION SERIES STARTS JANUARY 12 AT UUSD

— Len Bowman and Alex LeClaire

Dr. Len Bowman and Alex LeClaire will moderate a three-week discussion series on "Steps Toward Compassion." The series is set for **7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Thursdays, January 12 to 26** at UUSD. Advance registration is not required. A one-time donation of \$10 is requested for the course.

The discussion series will focus on how to give a compassionate focus to our lives. It will be based on the book *Twelve Steps Toward a Compassionate Life* by Karen Armstrong. Armstrong believes that each of us needs to cultivate our capacity for compassion to increase the harmonic quality of life on our planet. The Twelve Steps begin with learning about compassion and suggest ways to bring compassion into your personal life starting with yourself. She proceeds from there in ever-increasing spheres of influence with suggestions to enhance and enact compassion in our everyday lives.

On **January 12, *History of Compassion***, we prepare for an expedition and explore how compassion came into being in humanity and wove itself in and out of major religions. Though modern society has made significant achievements, we need to pull from past sages to bring learnings of compassion into current reality. The journey then begins with the self. We journey through our inner landscape managing through the obstacles of fear and our shadow sides.

On **January 19, *Empathy and Action***, we pull from our experiences to apply compassion external to ourselves. Once we view the perspective of applying compassion internally, we are then able to begin to build empathic channels of communication with our fellow travelers. As we focus in mindfulness of ourselves, we begin to glimpse how our perceptions color our interactions, and gain insight into the motivations of negativity we perceive in others.

In the last lecture on *January 26, Listen, Recognition, and Enemies*, we initiate actions to construct new habits of thought. We look at rays of sunshine that we experienced when we were recipients of kindness that nourished our souls, and at the corrosive effects of unkind remarks to marvel at the power of thought and words. In order to appreciate, we look at the impact of hidden assumptions in our interactions, and begin a thought process to question our motivations. Armstrong provides tools to sprint through from self-investigation to bring us to the door whereby we can make the leap to “love our enemies.”

Bowman, a member of the UUSD congregation, holds a doctorate in theology from Fordham University. He has taught philosophy and religion for over 30 years and is currently teaching in the master of liberal arts program of Johns Hopkins University. Alex LeClaire is currently completing a Masters in Project Management and works in the Information Technology project management field for the State of Delaware’s Department of Natural Resources. A lifelong spiritual seeker and avid fiber artist, Alex has spent his life teaching and sharing in small groups many aspects of spirituality, philosophy, and fiber art, and is currently a member of the UUSD congregation.

If you have questions, please contact Bowman at LenBowman@gmail.com or 443-286-3495.

SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
FORUM: ESCALATING INEQUALITY ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 8 AFTER WORSHIP SERVICES
— Sue and Mac Goekler, Members

On *Sunday, January 8*, the Social and Environmental Justice Committee will host a forum to discuss the draft UUA Statement of Conscience on Escalating Inequality. At that time, we will solicit comments from the UUSD congregation to submit on behalf of the congregation to the UUA to inform deliberations for a revision of the statement before it is presented for a final vote at the New Orleans UU General Assembly in June of 2017.

In 2014, the delegates at the UU General Assembly selected this topic for four years of study and action. The process includes developing a statement on the issue that will, if adopted in June of 2017, become the official policy position of the UUA. Congregations are encouraged to engage in the issue and to consider using the adopted statement in their work locally. When congregations throughout the U.S. engage in the same issue, our small denomination can have more clout than we could as individuals or as individual congregations. To read the draft statement in advance of the forum, go to <http://www.uua.org/economic/escalatinginequality/escalating-inequality>.

At the forum, we will introduce the process and the draft statement, and then divide into groups to consider each section. We will reconvene and share comments, questions, suggestions, and concerns. If you have comments and are unable to attend the forum, please share them with Susan or Mac Goekler or Don Peterson. The forum will be from **11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.** with some heavy snacks to satisfy hunger. For more information about the process or statement, contact Susan or Mac Goekler (susangoekler@gmail.com or macgoekler@gmail.com) or Don Peterson.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
FIBER MUTT CLUB – JANUARY 13, 4:30 TO 6:30 PM
— Alex LeClaire

What are Mutts? Mutts are unique, varied, enigmatic, colorful, and quirky! Fiber Mutts share their enthusiasm and interest in fiber! Let’s get together for a “Yarn-day-vu!” Fiber Mutts welcomes new pups (beginners) and golden agers (experienced) alike! Bring whatever fiber art project you have going to work on while we share our fiber interests. It could be knitting, crocheting, spinning, or some other fiber art. The only criteria are that it easily travels, requires no special equipment, and can be done in the lap or on a table requiring no more space

than a TV tray. Our purpose is camaraderie with like-minded fiber artists. We meet once a month, keeping to the second **Friday at 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.** when possible.

Theme: The theme for our next meeting, since its Friday the 13th and we are waist deep in winter and on the dark side of all the year-end festivities, is “**Boo Be Gone, Talismans!**” Please bring something fiber, that you might consider to be a talisman, to share its story! Please, no more than two. If nothing comes to mind, then consider bringing a fiber art piece that has a story you would like to share, and we’ll dispel the long winter night and any heebee geebees through our art! And, if all else fails, simply come and enjoy the story of others, no pressure! For more information, contact [Alex LeClaire](#).

LDC HOSTS COMMITTEE FAIR ON JANUARY 15
— Lee Summerville, Chair

Come one, come all to the Committee Fair and find out about the myriad of activities that are going on at UUSD. The Leadership Development Committee is very happy to present the first committee fair in our new church. Committees will set up stations in the lobby to explain their activities and how they fit into “our church fun and work.” To make it even more interesting, we plan to have a contest with prizes for the person who visits the most committee stations. So, put the Committee Fair on your calendar and visit the committees in the church lobby on **January 15** right after church. Contact Kath Johnson if you have any questions.

FIRST FRIDAY FILMS
— Karen Lunstead



There will be a meeting on **Friday, January 6** to make plans for the movies for 2017. Bring your ideas, and if you cannot attend the meeting, contact Karen or Wayne Lunstead or Anne Riley with your suggestions. Please note that all movies have to be checked to be sure that we have the right to show them under our licensing agreement. The potluck starts at 6 p.m., and the meeting will start immediately afterwards. If you have any questions, contact Karen & Wayne Lunstead at FridayFilms@uussd.org or [Anne Riley](#).

FUNDRAISING
ATTENTION ALL CRAFTERS AND THOSE WHO WANT TO BE!
— Jane Miller and Karen Lunstead, Co-Chairs, 2017 Craft Faire

We have a wonderful group who help us prepare crafts during the year for our November Craft Faire, and we would love to have more join us. Even if you don't “craft” yourself, we'll find something for you to do! An organizational meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 11 at 10 a.m.** — bring your craft ideas and mark your calendars for these workshops on the second Wednesday of each month. Bring a sandwich and salad or dessert to share and be prepared to have fun!

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS
SAVE-THE-DATES: CENTRAL EAST REGION WORKSHOPS
— Pat & Ron Schaeffer, Co-Chairs

Stewardship: Saturday, January 14, 2017 - 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Central East Region (CER) and the UU Congregation of Columbia, Columbia, MD. The workshop will enable participants to re-energize their stewardship efforts for our times, with a special focus on annual budget drives. It will present best practices and explore how new ideas and approaches stack up. The workshop will support the work of stewardship leaders in that it will address organizing and planning effective campaigns, creating a compelling stewardship message and case for giving, recruiting visiting stewards, and developing and executing effective communication and engagement plans. It will also support the work of visiting stewards (canvassers) in making appointments,

conducting one-on-one stewardship conversations, making an effective “ask,” and serving as passionate, confident ambassadors for Unitarian Universalism and their congregations in engaging with fellow congregants. **Presenters:** Barry Finklestein from StewardshipforUs and Rev. David Pyle, CER Congregational Life Staff. **Cost:** \$15 per participant. Website Link and Registration: <https://www.uua.org/central-east/events/region/effective-stewardship-and-annual-drives-2017?month=2017-01> and [Register Now](#).

Mental Health Forum: January 24 – 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the library in Prince Frederick, MD. Hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Chesapeake. The forum will consist of a viewing of the documentary: “Shattered Families: The Collapse of America’s Mental Health System” by Stephen Seager and Nicole Forston. The committee is still in the planning stages for the forum, but so far the agenda will be to view the film and then have some time afterward for Q and A. Handouts will be available. All are invited. Please contact Marilyn Martin concerning the forum at mokies17@comcast.net.

The Care and Feeding of Volunteers: April 15, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration Deadline: **April 12, 2017**. The workshop will be held at the UU Congregation of York, 925 S. George Street, York, PA 17403. This workshop will focus on strategies for recognizing, building, supporting, and sustaining the volunteers of a religious community, and how to encourage more people to want to volunteer! The event is free, but there is an optional lunch option for \$10. Registration Link: <https://uua.wufoo.com/forms/wiw62cbai798aeh/>

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 2, Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Book Group: *Stonewall* by Ann Bausum. The first history of gay rights written for teen readers but appropriate for all ages. Facilitator: Karen Lunstead. Contact: [Bobbi Dunham](mailto:BobbiDunham@uussd.org)

JANUARY 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30, Mondays at 6:45-8 p.m.

Gentle Yoga Ongoing Class – All Levels
Contact: [Holly Piper-Smith](mailto:HollyPiper-Smith@uussd.org)

JANUARY 6, Friday, 6:00 p.m.

Only Discussion to Select 2017 Films
Potluck at 6:00 p.m.; discussion at 7:00 p.m.
Contact: FridayFilms@uussd.org

JANUARY 8, Sunday at 11:30 a.m.

Forum on Escalating Inequality
Contact: [Susan](mailto:Susan@uussd.org) or Mac Goekler

JANUARY 10, Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees Meeting
Contact: President@uussd.org

JANUARY 12, 19, & 26, Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

Steps Toward Compassion Adult RE Program
Contact: [Len Bowman](mailto:LenBowman@uussd.org)

JANUARY 14, Saturday, 11:00 a.m.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade in Lewes
Contact: SocialJustice@uussd.org

JANUARY 14, Saturday, 4:30 p.m.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dinner at the CHEER CENTER (Ticket deadline was December 16)
Contact: SocialJustice@uussd.org

JANUARY 15, Sunday, 11:30 a.m.

UUSD Committee Fair
Contact: [Lee Summerville](mailto:LeeSummerville@uussd.org)

JANUARY 20, Friday, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Friends and Family Game Night
Contact: [Amber Peterson](mailto:AmberPeterson@uussd.org)

EVENT CANCELLATION

The Bread & Soup Fundraiser Dinner for the UUSD Service Committee previously scheduled for Friday, January 20 at 6:30 p.m. is CANCELLED.



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

President: Gary Colangelo
Email: President@uussd.org
Vice-President: Sharon Herb
Finance Officer: Pat Murdock
Secretary: Gwen Johnson
Members: Joyce Fitch, Wayne Lunstead, and
Walt Smith

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](mailto:Pat.Schaeffer@uussd.org).
- **Publicity** requests to [Pat Schaeffer](mailto:Pat.Schaeffer@uussd.org)
- **Order of Service** notices by Wednesday to [Anni Wood](mailto:Anni.Wood@uussd.org) and [Jean Charles](mailto:Jean.Charles@uussd.org) with a copy to [Pat Schaeffer](mailto:Pat.Schaeffer@uussd.org)
- **Weekly Community Updates** by Thursday to [Jean Charles](mailto:Jean.Charles@uussd.org).
- **Website Calendar Updates** to [Jean Charles](mailto:Jean.Charles@uussd.org) 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

Leadership Development: Lee Summerville

Lifespan Faith Development: Deanna Duby

Adult Education: Betty Kirk & Len Bowman

Email: AdultEducation@uussd.org

Librarian: Joyce Fitch

Long-Range Planning: Joanne Saltzberg

Membership: Bobbi Dunham

Email: Membership@uussd.org

Music: Dianne Conine & Margaret Keefe

Partner Church: Ceil Toth

Pastoral Care: Jan Daily

Personnel: Deb Davies

Property Mgt.: Deanna Duby & Gary Schmidt

Email: Admin@uussd.org

Energy Team: Email: Energy@uussd.org

Landscape Management: Dianne Conine & Margaret Keefe

Rental & Usage: Pat Murdock

Social & Environmental Justice: Don Peterson

Email: SocialJustice@uussd.org

Stewardship: Jean Charles

Worship: Jean Charles

Ad Hoc Committees

Ministerial Search: Jean Charles

Small Group Ministry: Bobbi Dunham

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