



UUSD Newsletter ■ October 2016

October 2 — Reflections on “Heartland: Where Faiths Connect,” Highlights from General Assembly 2016: Interim Minister Rev. Paula Maiorano, Susan and Mac Goekler, and other UUSD members share their personal experiences and heart felt remembrances from this year’s denominational meeting in June in Columbus, Ohio.

October 9 — Does God Play Favorites? Rev. Dr. Richard Speck: We are in the midst of college football season as well as a heated political situation. Teams pray for God to grant them victory over their rivals. Every politician calls on God to bless America at the end of a speech. Is God listening to the varied pleas for divine intervention? We will explore the complexity of involving God in the affairs of us humans this Sunday.

October 16 — What Worship Means To Us: Rev. Paula Maiorano, Interim Minister: The Unitarian Universalists of Southern Delaware have a higher than usual ratio of worship attendees to membership. And yet members often ask some variation of the question, “Why do we call our Sunday service worship if professing the same belief in God is not the central uniting principle of our faith?” This service is by way of response to what is actually a very important question.

October 23 — Celebrations! Rev. Paula Maiorano, Interim Minister: Today, as members and friends mark the completion of a full year of living in their new spiritual home, it is important to look back over

the past year, noticing changes and growth in the overall context of the significance of human celebrations. Today’s service reflects on why humans celebrate milestones, memories, and achievements.

October 30 — We Are All One — Carol Carter Walker, UUA: Carol Carter Walker, UUA, Beyond Categorical Thinking Facilitator, will talk about the urgency of looking beyond categories and stereotypes in our ministerial search and in the fulfillment of our principles and purposes. She will be leading a related Workshop after the service.

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

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— IMPORTANT NEWS —

SEE YOUR BOARD IN ACTION: Everyone is welcome to attend the next Board meeting on Tuesday, October 11 at 7:00 p.m. at UUSD. The agenda and meeting documents will be posted on the UUSD website (uusd.org). Check the homepage for information.

REV. PAULA MAIORANO, INTERIM MINISTER



Autumn brings to mind crisp, clear days, falling leaves, and harvest celebrations. Apples abound as do pumpkins and cider. Bonfires and fireplaces are lit as friends and family gather close. Autumn marks a transition from the heat of summer to the winter cold. Some autumn days are warmly reminiscent of the summer left behind. Others with their chill foretell the winter freeze. And some fall days gloriously highlight the season's unique wonder.

Such transition is reminiscent of the way of life. We are in moments of the present, with the past as a memory that often is with us, and the future an unseen mystery. The present moment becomes the past, the future the present. Life is always transition. Change is the only constant. The ability to navigate changes with equanimity is a spiritual practice.

Equanimity is a summary word for mental calmness, composure, and evenness of temper, especially in a difficult situation. This month, as the country heats up for the November election, we all need to hang onto our equanimity. The classic approach is to stay focused on the present moment mindfully, gently chasing the fear of tomorrow out of today. If ever there was a time to practice equanimity it is now. The polls are ricocheting from one story to the next and uncertainty prevails.

When the fear for what the future might bring wells up, light a candle, and draw a deep breath. Count to three. Exhale. Relax into a meditation that will empty or a prayer that will envision what you want. And when you are done, enjoy this season of transition with the joys it offers — a walk on the beach free of the covering crowds, the carving of pumpkins, crackle of fires, and creativity of Halloween costumes. It's all here for us. We just have to notice the beauty and fun of this season of transition.

In peace, *Rev. Paula*

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN — GARY COLANGELO

Can We Talk...About E-mail?



Electronic communication (e-mail, texting and social media) has certainly changed the way we communicate to each other, but are those changes good or bad? E-mail provides the convenience of being able to communicate 24/7 to as many people as we want, but in exchange for this convenience we become victims of spam, scams, viruses, and unsolicited mail. Without face-to-face contact, electronic messages can be misunderstood since body language and vocal expression are missing. Some communication experts are saying that the overuse of e-mail is leading to isolation and the inability to form meaningful relationships. Not a good a thing, if you believe in the interconnectedness of life.

At UUSD we use e-mail extensively. Our newsletter, updates, announcements, and all sorts of interpersonal communication depend on e-mail. Are we using e-mail appropriately? In our haste to communicate, are we following our Covenant of Good Relations? Are we assuring that “the basic building block of good communication is the feeling that every human is unique and of value?”

To answer these questions, I went on-line and found “18 suggestions for better e-mail communication and etiquette,” Michael Hyatt, The Virtual Mentor, <https://michaelhyatt.com/e-mail-etiquette-101.html>. I looked at each suggestion and tried to find a justification of that suggestion in our Covenant of Good Relations. I found that 16 of the suggestions could be an expression of our Covenant or show respect of the receiver’s time and attention. Here are my adaptations of the suggestions for UUSD.

- **Understand the difference between “To” and “CC.”** As a rule of thumb, the more people you send an e-mail to, the less likely any single person will respond to it, much less perform any action that you requested. The people you include in the “To” field should be the people you expect to read and respond to the message. The people in the “CC” field should only be those who need to know the content of the message.
- **Keep messages brief and to the point.** Make your most important point first, then provide detail if necessary. Make it clear at the beginning of the message why you are writing. There is nothing worse for the recipient than having to wade through a long message to get to the point. Worse, if you send long messages, it is much less likely that the person will act on what you have sent or respond to it. It’s just too much work. It often gets set aside and, unfortunately, forgotten.
- **Don’t discuss multiple subjects in a single message.** If you need to discuss more than one subject, send multiple e-mails. This makes it easy to scan subject lines later to find the message you need. It also contributes to briefer e-mail messages and a greater likelihood of a response. Also, the more specific you can be about your subject heading, the better.
- **Reply in a timely manner.** Most e-mails do not need an instantaneous response. Once a day should be sufficient. However, you should reply in a timely manner, otherwise you will incrementally damage your reputation and decrease your effectiveness.
- **Be mindful of your tone.** Unlike face-to-face meetings or even phone calls, those who read your e-mail messages don’t have the benefit of your pitch, tone, inflection, or other non-verbal cues. As a result, you need to be careful about your tone. Sarcasm is especially dangerous. If something gets “lost in translation,” you risk offending the other party. The more matter-of-fact you can be, the better.
- **Don’t use e-mail to criticize others.** E-mail is a terrific way to commend someone or praise them. It is not an appropriate medium for criticism. Chances are, you will simply offend the other person, and they will miss your point. Especially, don’t use e-mail to criticize a third party. E-mail messages live forever. They are easily forwarded. You can create a firestorm of conflict if you are not careful.
- **Don’t reply in anger.** Such e-mails almost never serve their purpose or your long-term interests. They burn up relationships faster than just about anything you can do. If it makes you feel better, go ahead and write the message, then delete it. Usually a day or two after you didn’t send an angry e-mail, you’ll understand the wisdom of restraint.
- **Don’t overuse “reply to all.”** Before you reply to everyone, make sure that everyone needs to know. A large amount of in-box clutter is from “reply to all” messages that should have never been sent.
- **Don’t forward chain letters.** They only add clutter in the in-box and nine times out of ten, the information is bogus. If you feel you absolutely must pass it on, please make sure that it is valid information. If in doubt, check it out at Snopes.com, a Web site devoted to tracking urban legends and rumors.
- **Don’t “copy up” as a means of coercion.** You may be tempted to do this when you don’t get a response to an earlier request. You will be better served to pick up the phone and call the person. If they are not responding to your e-mails, try a different communications strategy.
- **Don’t overuse the “high priority” flag.** Most e-mail programs allow you to set the priority of the message. “High priority” should be reserved for messages that are truly urgent. If you use it for every message, you will simply be ignored.

- **Don't write in ALL CAPS.** This is the digital equivalent of shouting. Besides ALL CAPS are harder to read.
- **Don't send or forward e-mails containing** libelous, defamatory, offensive, racist, or obscene remarks.
- **Use a signature with your contact information.** This is a courtesy for those receiving your messages. It also cuts down on e-mail messages, since people don't have to send a second or third e-mail asking for your phone number or mailing address.
- **Use your spell-checker.** E-mails reflect the sender and if you misspell words, use bad grammar or punctuation, it reflects negatively on you. Lapses in grammar or punctuation can be forgiven, but misspelled words cannot. That's why we have spell-checkers.
- **Re-read your e-mail before you send it.** Most people have difficulty keeping their fingers consistent with their thoughts so it is not unusual to drop a word or two or use the wrong word in expressing a thought. Therefore, it's a good idea to re-read your messages and make sure that you are communicating clearly and observing good e-mail etiquette.

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— Gary Colangelo, Board President

LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT — AMBER PETERSON



Well, summer has come to an end and our new curricula classes have begun! We are using Tapestry of Faith curricula provided by the UUA for first graders and older, which are then modified for our classes. Grades 6 - 9 are learning how Love Connects Us through exploring our Unitarian and Universalist roots. They will investigate their connection to one another and in our beloved community while learning to live these connections in loving service, inquiry, and action for social justice. This is a positive and empowering curriculum, which will help participants grow in their Unitarian Universalist identity and understanding. Grades 1 - 5 are learning to live their UU values. Through a focus on the Seven Principles, participants learn how to translate our Unitarian Universalist values into life choices and everyday actions. Each lesson shares a story about a UU doing important work, whether from history or modern day. These works are models for how our participants can put their faith into action, and they are given regular opportunities to share about how they are living out their values. The

Kindergarten and under, or Nursery group, will begin their curriculum soon. We are developing a theme-based curriculum for this group, which will center around a monthly theme such as Love, Sharing, Respect, and Compassion. These lessons will include a story and a game, activity, or craft relating to the monthly theme. All of our lessons have a chalice lighting, joys & concerns, and chalice extinguishing.

And how do we run all these fabulous lessons? **Our Wonderful Teachers!** Our call for volunteer teachers this year was well received, and we had a number of fantastic people answer the call as well as several great people who agreed to be substitutes. Thank you all so much! These programs wouldn't happen without you! We are still in need of one Nursery teacher once a month with no preparation required. If you are interested, please let me know.

I am looking forward to a great year with a fantastic group of teachers, and children and youth attending often to learn more about being UU and how to put their values into action! 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://uusd.org/index.php/board-of-trustees-meeting-minutes.html>.

HIGHLIGHTS: SEPTEMBER 13 UUSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

— Gwen Johnson, Secretary, Board of Trustees

Approved: The minutes of the August 9, 2016 Board of Trustees meeting, the Financial Report, and the Interim Minister's report, were approved.

Financial Report: Pat Murdock, Finance Officer

- Pat Murdock said we are in a strong financial position based on the Cash on Hand in the amount of \$161,920.71 from the August 2016 Balance Sheet.

Committee Report from Property Management: Deanna Duby, Co-Chair

- Deanna reported on items contained in the "Property Management Committee (PMC) Report dated September 13, 2016" (<http://www.uusd.org/images/2016-Sept-BOT-meeting/Property-Management-Report-Aug-2016.pdf>).
- Phase 2 of the solar panels was installed on September 12, 2016. The first Delmarva Power bill showed some reduction of the bill as a result of the solar panels.
- PMC is working on a donation policy and will make clear who is responsible for accepting donations. They will bring this to the Board for approval.

Board Representation in Sunday Services: Rev. Paula & Jean Charles, Chair of Worship Committee

- The format for UUSD services was presented:
 - Five to seven minutes ahead of the service: chimes in the foyer; gathering music starts.
 - 10:00 a.m. – Minister rings the worship bell.
 - Call to Worship: Minister.
 - Welcome: Worship Associate does the announcements etc., introduces the Board and Board Representative for that day.
 - Followed by Chalice Lighting.
 - The rest of the service is the same.
- Jean said she learned at General Assembly that most UU churches are using this format. Jean said we should do this now as it allows the minister we are searching for to see this format, which represents that of a larger church. Rev. Paula said it is the job of the Interim Minister to make changes that will help the congregation achieve its goals. After a very lengthy discussion by the BOT, a unanimous consensus was reached to embrace the proposed change to the Order of Service.

UUSD Member Recognitions: Rev. Paula

- Rev. Paula suggested that from the Growth Planning process, people are not getting enough recognition. She said she can not thank people enough in our congregation. This will be discussed at the next BOT meeting.

UUSD Board Retreat: Gary Colangelo, President

- The Board Retreat is scheduled September 29, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Gary wants to change how our Board operates. He said the Board needs to become a strategic board. Gary said the BOT will focus on these five strategic tasks at the Retreat: Congregational Mission/Vision; Fiduciary; Policy; Strategic Planning (Growth Plan); and Assessment (of the congregation every 3 years.)

- Gary also said the BOT would be working on “centering” as lay ministry leaders at the BOT Retreat.

From the Floor/Future Agenda Items:

- **UUSD Name Change:** To be discussed at the next BOT meeting.
- **Growth Plan:** Joanne Saltzberg will be at each board meeting for a short update. Joanne gave an update to the Board: “UUSD Growth Plan – 10/15 -12/17- Status Report (<http://www.uusd.org/images/2016-Sept-BOT-meeting/UUSD-Growth-Plan.pdf>)
- **Plate Sharing:** To be discussed at the next BOT meeting.
- **Directed Donations:** To be discussed at the next BOT meeting.

Executive Session:

- **UUSD facility financing; honoring committee charges. Not needed** - Pat Murdock withdrew the request for Executive Session.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at UUSD. Everyone is welcome.

DID YOU KNOW? — RON SCHAEFFER

**THE YEAR OF THE WOMAN SERIES
Part III: Elizabeth Cady Stanton**



In July, I began a series of monthly articles on famous Unitarian and Universalist women who played key roles in the suffrage movement in the U.S. Many women from different backgrounds and faiths played important roles in bringing about the right to vote for women in 1920, however, the leadership, and particularly the early leadership, came heavily from women, who also found their religious faith in Unitarian or Universalist congregations. So far, I have provided brief sketches of Lucy Stone, Julia Ward Howe, and Susan B. Anthony, all Unitarians, who attended Unitarian churches. So, this month, I’m actually making an exception and including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who was not affiliated with any church or religious organization. However, because of her dedicated work on abolition and women’s rights, she was closely associated with many Unitarian women, and in particular, with Susan B. Anthony.

Stanton found religion in general too conservative on women’s rights, and in fact, in 1895 published the *Woman’s Bible*, which highlighted the small role of women in the Bible, and provided “corrected” Biblical interpretations, which she found unfair to women. It met with considerable criticism for its more liberal view of the Bible, and it symbolized Stanton’s deep conviction to women’s rights and how she felt religion in general had failed women. She was never popular with the more conservative members of the women’s rights movement because of her liberal stance on divorce and interracial marriage. Her argument went well beyond women’s voting rights, and advocated for a new understanding of a women’s position in society overall.

Stanton was born in 1815 in Johnstown, NY to wealthy and successful parents. She was the eighth of eleven children, six of her siblings died in early childhood, which motivated the parents to support the development of their remaining five daughters. She was formally educated with tutors at home and she excelled in Latin, Greek, French, math, religion, and science. However, she was never able to attend a recognized college, due to the discriminatory gender acceptance practices at the time. She continued her self-education throughout her life as an avid reader and “sitting in” on college lectures on subjects of interest.

Her Declaration of Sentiments presented at the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848 is credited with starting the organized women's suffrage movement in the U.S. She was a social activist, an abolitionist, and a leading figure in the women's rights movement. Her husband, Henry Brewster Stanton was a strong supporter of women's rights, and a co-founder of the Republican Party in 1854.

She, more than Susan B. Anthony, led the resistance to the passage of the 14th and 15th constitutional amendments, which extended legal protections and voting rights to African-American men, while denying these same rights to women, black and white. Sojourner Truth, a former slave and feminist, joined with Stanton and Anthony opposing the 14th and 15th amendments unless they included the same rights for women. Both amendments of course became law, so the Stanton/Anthony organization changed their strategy and argued that the amendments did actually extend voting rights to women. They attempted to vote and encourage other women to challenge the law. This led to a schism in the women's rights movement, and to the formation of two separate women's rights organizations that remained split for almost 20 years, finally reuniting in 1890. Stanton became president of the newly merged *National American Woman Suffrage Association*, even though she had opposed the merger. She was deeply respected for her unwavering commitment and intellectual capability, but her unorthodox views at the time on issues such as divorce and interracial marriage, and her publishing of the *Woman's Bible* created animosity and many enemies. She died in 1902 and for almost 50 years, Susan B. Anthony received much of the credit for the founding of the women's movement. The Ken Burns special in 1999, *Not for Ourselves Alone: The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony*, re-established Stanton's central founding role in this history, and highlighted her broader focus on an equal position in society for all women.

COMMITTEE NEWS AND EVENTS

WORSHIP

— Jean Charles, Chair

The Worship Committee, Rev. Paula, and the Board have been in discussion about changing the opening part of worship to better reflect the UUA approach to worship with growing congregations such as ours. In June, the Worship Committee Chair, Jean Charles, attended a UUA General Assembly workshop on national best practices for worship. The ideas that she brought back are similar to recommendations Rev. Paula has made to the Worship Committee and Board. When implemented, there will not be a separation of "board matters" before the worship service begins. The goal is an integrated worship experience beginning at 10:00 a.m. The final changes with language will be completed by the Worship Committee, shared with the Board at its October meeting, and introduced Sunday, November 6. Look for more details mid-October. The Worship Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m., and all visitors are welcome.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

— Lee Summerville, Chair; Members Kath Johnson and Ruth Lamothe

Greetings, from Lee Summerville, Kath Johnson, and Ruth Lamothe, your Leadership Development Committee (LDC). There is so much in the works around leadership development that we wanted to share some highlights with you. For example, our last meeting in August included Bobbi Dunham from Membership, Sharon Herb from the Board of Trustees, and Rev. Paula. We had wonderful discussions and idea swapping that brought energy and creativity to all four areas — LDC, Membership, Board, and Minister. One change we are implementing is to move the new member interviews over from the Membership Committee to LDC because we are particularly interested in identifying folks who may want to assume leadership roles in UUSD in the future.

Another activity we are working on includes a Committee Fair after church. Basically, all the committees will have a table in the foyer and the gathering area with related materials and members of the committee available to talk with everyone about what that committee does. Did you know that we have almost 20 committees? Lots of committees, lots of work, lots of progress! The Committee Fair, which we have done before, is a great way to match names and activities with member faces. Many of us wear many hats. Stay tuned for more on the Committee Fair.

We are also working with Joyce Fitch to develop a section in the church library on leadership. Anyone who would like to contribute books that will move the topic forward and give food for thought is welcome to contact Joyce or one of us. Speaking of the topic of leadership, the quickest search on Google turned up 45,200,000 entries. That's 45 million people. It's a huge topic and a subjective one; there will be more to come about leadership in future columns.

Other leadership-related activities we are moving forward on include having Rev. David Pyle, our District Executive from the Joseph Priestley District, give a sermon on leadership in January while Rev Paula is on vacation. Our wonderful Lifespan Director, Amber Peterson, will be attending our next LDC meeting to begin talking about how we can discuss and develop leadership in the congregation's children. UUA has an online course on leadership that we can organize for those who are interested. And we will get on the Friday Film schedule to show a film on leadership. A film on Gandhi, perhaps? Selma, which highlights the extraordinary leadership qualities of Dr. Martin Luther King? We would love your suggestions on film possibilities, on leadership activities we might consider, and any of the above.

Talk with any of us — Lee, Kath, or Ruth. Next month, we'll talk about the wonderful "Care and Feeding of Volunteers" workshop we attended in September given by Rev Pyle. There was so much to think about and develop around leadership in that workshop we have to share with you. It's exciting to think one good workshop will seed other committees and activities. Thanks for listening. See you next month!

MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME NEW UUSD MEMBER: DAVID ROELL LECLAIRE

— Betty Kirk, Member

David Roell LeClaire was born in Evansville, Indiana, but has moved around the country and world in what has proved to be a very adventuresome lifetime. He moved here from St. Louis with his husband, Alex, about one and a half years ago and lives in Lewes. He has studied metaphysics and religion and holds a Ph.D. in world religions. His career has been in the arts — painting, music, gemology, and more. He has lived on an ashram in India, led tours to Egypt, and lived in Panama. His interests, in addition to art, lie in Darwinism, anthropology, and social activism. He marched in Selma as a teenager.



Photo courtesy of Randy Davidson.

David was raised Jewish, but became a minister in a spiritualist church in Terre Haute Indiana at the age of 17. He did attend a UU church briefly in Eau Claire, Wisconsin around 2003, but was not an active member. He was drawn to UUSD because he felt welcomed, and liked the open-mindedness of the congregation. He says that Unitarian Universalism embraces everything he thinks about spirituality.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER: ALEX LECLAIRE

— Betty Kirk, Member

Alex LeClaire was born of French-Canadian heritage, and his parents were born, lived, and died in Bellingham, MA. He has one sibling, a younger sister. He started out in life introverted and attempted to break those bonds many times, including by attending college in Chicago. After a challenging year and a half and bonding with like-minded spiritualists, he returned home and was going to live a small life in his parent's basement in Bellingham and continue to operate his little tailoring shop. Through his new-found friends in Chicago, at the age of 24 he went on a trip to Egypt, a life-changing experience. There he met the tour guide, David Roell, whom he married and moved with to Chicago, two weeks later. They have been together ever since, 32 years and counting!



Photo courtesy of Randy Davidson.

Alex was raised Roman Catholic and has explored many religious paths. He briefly attended a UU church in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, but the minister there was entirely too Christian. While he and his husband David and best friend Claire were looking for like-minded spiritualists and to build foundations in their new home of Lewes, they were intrigued and attracted to the new building being built for UUSD.

His career focused around project management and computers, but he really lives and breathes fiber: knitting, spinning, weaving, and dying. Alex said his idea of heaven is being surrounded by all things fiber. (He was knitting during this interview.)

He, David, and Claire sing in the choir and Ayre Craft, and Alex wants to continue weaving his craft into the life of this church.

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Thank You to UUSD's "Water Brigade"

— Margaret Keefe and Dianne Conine, Co-Chairs



Photo courtesy of Pat Schaeffer.

If you have enjoyed the flowers around UUSD this summer, you can thank the people listed below for helping with the watering. Our lovely plants would not have survived this hot, dry season without their help. Sadly, our impatiens in the front bed succumbed to a disease called downy mildew, which is wiping out this particular variety. The Landscape Management Committee welcomes new members and wants to thank the following for stepping up to their weekly water duties: Nancy Sigman, Al Lister, Don Peterson, Kay Creech/Pam Everett, Dara Schumaier, Lew Maurer, Joanne Saltzberg, Bobbi Dunham, Matti Laschenski, Joyce Bramsen, and Lisa Crim.

SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

UUSD SHOWS UP!

— Don Peterson, Chair

The month of September gave UUSD two wonderful opportunities to participate in public witness. Public witness is when we stand up and speak out at public gatherings in support of our UUA principles and beliefs — where we publicly demonstrate the foundation of our faith!

National Day of Moral Monday Action: On September 12, good people of faith and moral courage, including 30 members and friends of UUSD, members of other Unitarian congregations and other denominations, gathered at the state capitol in Dover to deliver the "Higher Ground Moral Declaration" that calls on our governor, senators, state legislators and candidates for office to move away from extremist politics and policies that benefit the few and move toward policies and laws that are just and fair and guarantee a better life for the majority of the people. We joined groups across the country in more than 30 states to help "heal the heart of our nation." The demonstration included a march, chanting and singing around the Capitol building, and the reading of the Moral Declaration by a variety of clergy and lay leaders. It was then delivered to the Governor's office. To read the powerful words of the Declaration and learn about its background, please go to <http://www.moralrevival.org/moraldeclaration/>.

International Peace Day: On September 21, 30 members and friends of UUSD participated in a Peace March and Celebration in Rehoboth Beach. The event was organized by the Lewes-Rehoboth Coalition for Peace Week Delaware and was planned, supported, and staffed in large part by members of the Social & Environmental Justice Committee. This event was one of over 30 events that were being held statewide in all three counties — a first for Delaware! A rainbow of nearly 100 people from a variety of faiths, backgrounds, and organizations sang and chanted in the march along the boardwalk and up Baltimore Avenue to the CAMP Rehoboth courtyard. The Celebration combined inspirational talks and meditations from Muslim, Christian, Unitarian, and non-faith leaders, including UUSD's **Rev. Paula Maiorano** and UUSD member **Sue Greer**, representing the Lewes Insight Meditation Community. **Don Peterson** emceed the event and dedicated a Peace Pole. The Epworth UMC Praise Team, led by **Doug Yetter**, greeted the marchers with song as they arrived and sang two additional numbers. The **Christy Taylor** Music Studio singers also provided beautiful and inspiring music. **Steve Elkins**, Executive Director of CAMP Rehoboth, gratefully received the Peace Pole, which will be permanently installed on the grounds of CAMP Rehoboth.



Photo courtesy of Jeffrey Richman.



Photo courtesy of Sue Brown.



Peace Pole Donated: On September 18 and 25, in recognition of International Peace Week, our chancel was graced with a Peace Pole donated to UUSD by members **Mac and Susan Goekler**. Sometime in the near future, UUSD will have the Peace Pole permanently installed on our grounds. The peace pole has become an internationally recognized symbol of peace, displaying its message of “May Peace Prevail on Earth,” the message of the hopes and dreams of the entire human family. The Peace Pole Project was started in 1955 in Japan by Masahisa Goi, who was greatly affected by the destruction caused by World War II and the atomic bombs that fell on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He dedicated his life to spreading the message of peace. Having a peace pole makes us part of a global community of all faiths and nationalities working to make a better, more positive world. There are more than 200,000 Peace Poles that have been dedicated in nearly every country on Earth. With our own peace pole, UUSD will truly be part of a global community of peace. **Thank you Mac and Susan!**

Get Out the Vote! UUSD is participating with the League of Women Voters of Sussex County this year to help register citizens to vote and to get voters to polls for this important election year. The League is targeting those communities that have been most disenfranchised in the past — African Americans and Hispanics. Spanish speakers are needed. All help is appreciated. If you would like to participate, please contact [Betty Kirk](#).

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 p.m. to 5:00 pm. If you would like to join the Social & Environmental Justice Committee, we would love to have you! Please contact Don Peterson at SocialJustice@uussd.org or any member of the S&EJ Committee for more information.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE YOUR CONGREGATION

Maintenance Team: We need members to do basic repairs and upkeep, as the need occurs, for our facility. Other duties include minor preventative maintenance (PM) on equipment not covered with an outside contractor and set up routine PM programs. Contact [Walt Smith](#) or any member of Property Management to sign up.

Painters: PMC needs two teams of three to four painters to finish the surface of the deck off the Gathering Room. Contact [Walt Smith](#) or any member of Property Management to sign up!

Ushers: Being an usher once a month is simple, easy, and a great way to meet people. Call Chuck Herbert at 301-651-3165 for more information or to volunteer. There is also a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area.

Music Duties: Someone with keyboard skills is needed to share the Sunday service music duties with Dianne Conine, Beryl Martin, Sally Crouch, and Arlen Herb on weeks when Marcie Schiff is off. Please contact Marcie at MusicDirector@uussd.org, [Margaret Keefe](#), or [Dianne Conine](#) if you would like to volunteer your services or find out more about what is needed.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

ADULT EDUCATION

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

— Len Bowman, Co-Coordinator

Dr. Len Bowman and Jeff Cordiano, UUSD members, will moderate a series of three discussions on death, and what death may mean for living. The class will be held at UUSD on **Thursday evenings October 6, 13, and 20**

from 7:00 p.m. — 8:30 p.m. A one-time \$10 donation is requested for the course. For more information contact Dr. Len Bowman at AdultEducation@uussd.org or call 443-286-3495.

We really don't know what comes after death, if anything. But the world's religious traditions are rich with images of some kind of afterlife. Further, over the past forty years, hundreds of people who were clinically dead and revived have experienced *something* after death, something that defies explanation. Moreover, many people have experienced memories that appear to come from a prior lifetime. So while we really don't know what comes after death, there are some very interesting possibilities. We will explore these possibilities in three phases.

First (in our **October 6 session**) we will explore **near-death experiences**—people who have been clinically dead and revived, and who described what happened to them while they were...dead. Studies have revealed common features in near-death experiences and distinguished those from some extravagant claims made about them. A short PowerPoint review of near-death experiences will lead into discussion.

Reincarnation is the focus of our **second session (October 13)**. The religious traditions of India speak of reincarnation, so we first turn there, especially to the *Tibetan Book of the Dead*. Recently, psychiatrist Dr. Brian Weiss was astounded when one patient's hypnotherapy unearthed memories from an earlier life in the ancient Near East — leading to a new approach to healing called "regression therapy." A short PowerPoint presentation will give us a glimpse into the Book of the Dead and a hint of Dr. Weiss's work. Then **Jeff Cordiano**, a UUSD founding member, will share parts of his life-long UU path that has led him to a faith-based spiritual-construct based on reincarnation.

"You Only Live Once" is the theme of our third and final session (**October 20**). Western religious traditions, especially Christianity and Islam, teach that each person lives only one life and then at death faces judgment and an eternal (timeless) existence (a "heaven" or perhaps a "hell"). A short PowerPoint presentation will show images of judgment, heaven, and hell — including the literary descriptions in Dante's Divine Comedy and the provocative art of Hieronymus Bosch. Discussion of this view of "what comes next" will lead us to reflect again on that basic question and the interesting possibilities it opens to us.

FIRST FRIDAY FILM: AMELIE ON OCTOBER 7, 2016

 A painfully shy waitress working at a tiny Paris cafe, Amelie makes a surprising discovery and sees her life drastically changed for the better. From then on, Amelie dedicates herself to helping others find happiness in the most delightfully unexpected ways. But will she have the courage to do for herself what she has done for others? Roger Ebert wrote that *Amelie* "... is a delicious pastry of a movie, a lighthearted fantasy in which a winsome heroine overcomes a sad childhood and grows up to bring cheer to the needful and joy to herself." The potluck starts at 6 p.m. with the movie at 7 p.m. First Friday Films are open to the public. Please email any questions to [Anne Riley](mailto:Anne.Riley@uussd.org).

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS HELP KEEP THE CHALICE LIT FOR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM — Ron and Pat Schaeffer, Co-Chairs

October is JPD Chalice Lighters month and **Sunday, October 23 is Chalice Lighters Sunday** at UUSD. We will solicit new members for this program, which provides financial support to the congregations within the Central Eastern Region. Currently, UUSD's participation rate is 40% of our membership. Our deepest thanks to all of you who have pledged your financial support to this wonderfully successful program. UUSD would have had a much more difficult time without the significant Chalice Lighters financial support we have received over the years.



You can become a Chalice Lighter by signing up at the UUA website, www.uua.org/central-east/programs/chalichelighter/jpdclighter, or calling 302-778-4564, or sending your pledge in by mail. All methods are explained on the website and in a brochure that is available at the church. See us if you have any questions, and also see us to get your Chalice Lighter sticker to proudly wear on your name tag.

The Denominational Affairs Committee — Ron & Pat Schaeffer, Betty Metzler, and Gary Colangelo — thanks you very much for your generous support of Unitarian Universalist growth.

FUNDRAISING
NEXT CRAFT WORKSHOP DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED
— Valerie Andrews Craft Faire Coordinator

We will meet to finish up our crafts twice in October so keep an eye out for an announcement about the dates! Any questions, please speak with [Val Andrews](#) or [Kris Acker](#).

UUSD CRAFT FAIRE ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4 AND SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5
— Valerie Andrews, Craft Faire Coordinator

The Third Annual UUSD Craft Faire will be held on Friday, November 4 from 4:00 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, November 5 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. You and your friends will be able to purchase handmade gifts from the many talented crafters ranging from delicate sea glass jewelry, original painted art work, holiday ornaments, amazing bubble wands and much, much more. We also have gifts for the Furry Friends in your life. The Bake Sale features sweet and savory items that you may enjoy at home, or at our beautiful site with homemade soups, cider, and more. Come early to get the best choices. A new feature this year is the Unique Boutique. This shop will offer non-handmade specialty items of all kinds where you will be able to find that special thoughtful gift. And throughout our Craft Faire there will be a strolling autoharp performer! The sights, sounds, and lovely smells of this event will be a great start to this year's holiday season, and may very well become a new family tradition. So please come and relax, refresh, and shop with us. There is ample parking and our site is accessible.

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS
EVENTS: UU DELMARVA CLUSTER
— Pat Schaeffer, UUSD Delmarva Cluster Representative

DON'T MISS THE UU DELMARVA CLUSTER RETREAT

Announcements about the upcoming UU Delmarva Cluster Fall Retreat have been in the newsletter for the past several months. Now, the time for this beautiful UU Retreat is almost here. The Retreat will be held on **October 7-9** at beautiful **Camp Tochwogh in Worton, Maryland**. The link to the online registration site is at <http://registration.uudelmarva.org>. The Cluster Retreat is a great event for UUs and friends of all ages. Contact Pat Schaeffer or Amber Peterson if you have any questions. We hope to see a great turnout from UUSD.

NEXT UUSD GAME NIGHT: OCTOBER 21; 6:30 P.M. — 8:30 P.M.

Don't forget Game Night! The next one will be *October 21 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.

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 1, Saturday 10:00 a.m. to Noon
Continuation from September
Exploring the UU Seven Principles in Depth
Contact: [Betty Kirk](#)

OCTOBER 3, Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Book Group: *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. The author, in a letter to his son, depicts the history of black life in America from slavery to the present. This book clearly illuminates the past, bravely confronts our present, and offers a transcendence vision for a way forward. Facilitator: Karen Lunstead. Contact: Bobbi Dunham: 302-644-2207.

OCTOBER: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Mondays at 6:45-8 p.m.
Gentle Yoga Ongoing Class – All Levels
Contact: [Holly Piper-Smith](#)

OCTOBER 6, Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
Continuing October 13 and 20
Adult RE: What Comes Next? Explorations into
What May Come After Death
Contact: [Len Bowman](#)

OCTOBER 7-9, Friday, 6:00 p.m.-Sunday, Noon
UU Delmarva Cluster Retreat – Camp Tockwogh
Contact: [Pat Schaeffer](#) or [Amber Peterson](#)

OCTOBER 7, Friday, 6:00 p.m. Potluck;
7:00 p.m. Film
First Friday Film: *Amelie*
Contact: [Anne Riley](#)

OCTOBER, 4, 11, 18, 25, Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30
p.m. Continuation from September, ending
November 22
Honey in the Heart – Journal Writing Class
Contact: [Claire Griffith](#)

OCTOBER 11, Tuesday, 7-9:00 p.m.
Board of Trustees Meeting – All are welcome.
Contact: [Gary Colangelo](#)

OCTOBER 21, Friday, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Friends and Family Game Night
Contact: [Amber Peterson](#)

OCTOBER 23, Sunday, 10:00 a.m.
Chalice Lighter Sunday at UUSD
Contact: [Ron Schaeffer](#)

OCTOBER 30, Sunday, 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop
Contact: [Jean Charles](#), Chair-Ministerial Search

FUTURE SAVE-THE-DATES

NOVEMBER 4 & 5, Friday and Saturday
UUSD Craft Faire
Contact: [Valerie Andrews](#)



Staff & Officers

Interim Minister

Rev. Paula Maiorano
Email: Minister@uusd.org

Faith Development

Amber Peterson, Email: DLFD@uusd.org

Music Director

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

Nursery Teacher

Sabina Beaver-Kepner

Board of Trustees: 2016-2017

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

Send changes in Directory contact information to:
DirectoryUpdates@uusd.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](#)
- Weekly Community Updates by Thursday to [Jean Charles](#). Website Calendar Updates to Jean as needed.

Board Committee Chairs

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Email: Communications@uusd.org

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Email: WebsiteAdmin@uusd.org

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