



Grist from the Mill . . .

Volume 23

July-August 2010

Issue 11

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek

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We are a Welcoming Congregation serving the Hockessin/Pike Creek/Kennett Square region, meeting every Sunday morning. Childcare is available; religious education is held September to June. All are welcome at our services and invited to stay for refreshments and conversation following the service. Should weather conditions be in question on Sunday mornings, call the UUSMC telephone 369-2712 or check our website (www.uusmc.org). Note that if most area institutions are closing, we will also.

Anyone interested joining our UUSMC need only contact Vicky Tosh-Morelli or Donna Salek, Co-Chairs of the Membership Committee, on Sundays after service.

August 29: Third Annual UUSMC End-of-Summer Pool Party

Everyone is welcome to come join us for a UUSMC potluck lunch and pool party at Prakash and Chitra Vaidyanathan's house directly following the service on **August 29**. Bring your pool attire and something to share to services. The Vaidyanathans' house is in Lakewood Farms—just six minutes away from UUSMC. There is a volleyball set up in the pool. Feel free to bring grillables like hamburgers, etc. Just sign up on the bulletin board in the church foyer, and MAPQUEST 579 Polly Drummond Hill Rd., Newark, DE 19711 to 30 Lakewood Circle, Newark, DE 19711 for easy directions (2.76 miles). Any questions, contact Randy Ploener at (302) 234-8832.

Be on the lookout this summer for unique and Fun Auction Ideas! Can you please, as you participate in fun summer activities, think of businesses that might be able to offer a service, experience, or item for our church auction next year? If you could grab a brochure or business card and email the idea to Kim Anderson (kimnjb@comcast.net), she will contact the business later this year. Thank you!

Summer choir rehearsals will take place on July 18, August 8 and maybe August 29 (TBD). Rehearsals will be from 9 am -10:15 am. No prior music reading skills are needed; just a love of singing! We hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please email Kristen at music@uusmc.org.

Standing Up to the Side of Love Conclusion of the 2010 – 2011 Budget Drive

Jamie Kegerise, Budget Drive Leader

Ninety-three of our members and families stood up for love and a strong UUSMC community by pledging \$168,680.00 for our fiscal year beginning July 1. Although this is not quite the number the Board and Finance Committee were hoping for, it does come very close and we typically gain a few additional pledges as the year progresses. This number also represents an increase in giving from 42 of our members, which is remarkable considering the economic conditions.

We are all quite grateful to the 26 members who indicated that their contributions met the UUA's "Fair-Share" giving guidelines. As more families are able to make "Fair-Share" pledges our congregation is put on a firmer financial foundation. If we could have about half of the membership giving to this very high standard, we would not have to rely on additional fundraising to make ends meet (and those funds might go to outreach).

Another very positive sign is the \$12,820.00 in commitments we received from new members and families this year. Families are joining our faith with a desire to get involved and play important roles in the stewardship of our church.

There were several members who were unable to make a pledge because of their difficult economic situation, and there were also several members who had to decrease their giving for similar reasons. One big way we 'stand on the side of love' is by giving what we can of our time and talent. We are certainly delighted when we receive a pledge of several thousand dollars, but we are truly grateful for the efforts put forth by those in more difficult financial situations who give what they can.

That is really what the fund drive is all about: collecting what we can marshal to use to fulfill our mission, and each one of us giving from the heart. So from our hearts, let us be grateful for everything we do for each other, "Standing Up to the Side of Love."

We would like to recognize 20 members who made "Fair-Share" gifts to UUSMC:

Laura and David Bonner	Kate and Clem Bowen
Judy and Richard Cronin	Laure Deschere
Rev. Nancy Dean	Jane Frelick
Jay and Bob Gibson	Jean and Brian Hanson
Sharon and Michael Hilgart	Jamie Kegerise
Mary Pat and Keith Knauss	Pat and Fran Loeffelholz
Liv Reichle	Lauri and Robert Rickard
Ann Roschinsky	Linda Steere
Jennifer and Larry Stomberg	Linda Lucero and Allan Thompson
Beatrice Webb	Carol and Dan Welch

Please note that several other members did make "Fair-Share" pledges but they did not wish to be recognized as such. We are very grateful to those very generous members. UUSMC would also like to recognize all our families and members who made financial commitments to our church during this budget drive. They too "Stand on the side of Love" in a very big way (list continues on page 3):

Jean Ackerman
Shirlee and Donald Anderson
Kim and J.B. Anderson
Noreen Bayly
Dawn Granquist and Wes Bowman
Ellie and Richard Burgess
Jodi and Herv DiCosta
Katherine Davis
Peggy Duffy
Cyndy and Allan Falcoff
Janet and Ernie Freund
Margaret McDermott and Keith Goheen
Sue Fuhman and Ron Hamlen
Roberta Headley
Jeannine Ignatz
Karen and Will Johnson
Catherine and Adam Kegler
Joanne Knowles
Brenda and Andrew Levin
Pam Allenstein and Richard Lyons
Fran Major
Lida McCready
Betsy and Steve Mortenson
Wendy and Tim Myers
Marina Van Reissen and Matt Nolan
Lauren and Stephen Petersen
Martha and Randy Ploener
Darlene Regan
Sarah Rose
Donna Salek and Tina Guerrette
Claudia Scheffler
Kathy Stamm
Ginger Stein
Chitra andPrakash Vaidyanathan
Tom Vincent
Amy and Jim White
Dottie Wood

Sally and Richard Allenstein
Stefanie and Craig Anderson
Peter Avakian
Jennifer and Mark Berry
Heather and Charlie Brooks
Michele Cavanaugh
Kathy Dale
Heather and Matt Doty
Lynn Fabian
Pat Ferich
Bill Garlington
Susanna and Thad Gough
Joanne and Tom Hartline
Colleen and John Herman
Terianne Lavin and Mike Janis
Lucille Avakian Karnik
Susan Klugerman
Judi Krause
Paula and Phillip Lowe
Frank and June MacArtor
Jeannie Matsen
Margaret McLaughlin
Karen Myers
Roberta Noble
Judy Pappenhagen
Terri and Don Pippin
Linda Pugh
Leslie and Gerry Robertson
Doris and Gordon Roth
Diana Saunders
Felicia and Bill Shaw
Ester Steffens
Anna Bloom and Dan Tessler
Rachael VerNooy
Natalie Weber
Joanne and Bob Wood

Thank you again for all you do for the Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek.

And don't forget to get those final 2009-2010 contributions in (we could really use the help as our current fiscal year draws to a close).

Do you know your Lay Minister?

Our Lay Ministers function as an additional level of support for the minister. Below are the current lists headed by the Lay Minister responsible for those members. Feel free to contact your lay minister if you need to find ministry services, have questions regarding UUSMC, or to just get acquainted.

LAY MINISTERS LISTS (as of June 2010):

<p><u>Brian Hanson</u> (Chair of Lay Ministers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowen, Clem & Kate • Frelick, Jane • Headley, Roberta • Hoffman, Helen & Bruce • Lowe, Philip J. & Paula* M. • Major, Fran • Welch, Dan • Rosemay (Ro) Noble • Claudia Scheffler • Mark & Jennifer Berry 	<p><u>Jeannie Ackerman</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambrose, Migdalia (Miqui) • Bara, Sue • Beran, Joseph & Sharon Cooper • Burgess, Ellie & Dick • Fabian, Lynn • Howard, Sharon • Jones, Linda Laskowski • O’Neill, Sean and Darlene • Roschinsky, Ann • Stamm, Kathy • Wood, JoAnne and Bob 	<p><u>Tina Guerrette</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andersen, Donald and Shirlee • Hanson, Jeanne & Brian • Kegerise, Jamie • Klugerman, Susan • Knowles, Joanne • Lavin, Terrienne & Mike Janis • Saunders, Diana Headley • Tosh-Morelli, Kristen & Vicky • Weber, Natalie • Stephen Hentkowski • Anna Bloomer & Daniel Tessier
<p><u>Mary Pat Knauss</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anderson, Kimberly & J.B. • Cole, Sarah • Dale, Kathy • Falcoff, Cyndy & Allan • Hartline, Tom & Joanne • Hubbard, Frank & Therese • Lyon, Richard & Pam Allenstein • Myers, Tim and Wendy • Sani, George and Karen • Thomas, Diana • Thompson, Allan & Linda Lucero • Woods, Dottie* 	<p><u>Paula Lowe</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anderson, Craig & Stefanie • Brooks, Charlie & Heather • Cavanaugh, Michele and Margaret McLaughlin • Wendi Rapisarda Croft • Czerwinski, Charlie & Tara L. Haugen • Ferich, Patricia (Pat) • Matsen, Jeannie • Mortenson, Steven and Betsy • Shaw, Felicia & Bill • Stomberg, Larry & Jennifer • Vincent, Tom • Melissa Watson & Steve Friedemann 	<p><u>Phil Lowe</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caster, Cyril • Davis, Kathy • Doty, Heather & Matt • Gough, Thad & Susanna • Ignatz, Jeannine • Jones, Courtney • Levin, Brenda & Andy • Hansen, Amy K. (Mueller) • Ploener, Randall S. & Martha S. • Pugh, Linda • Robertson, Gerry & Leslie • Kegley, Adam & Catherine <p>(list continues on page 5)</p>

<p><u>Linda Pugh</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allenstein, Richard & Sally • Barry, Peter & Stephanie • Duffy, Peg • Edmiston, Elyn • Gibson, Bob & Jay • Johnson, Karen & Will • Loeffelholz, Pat & Fran • McClain, Rachel • Roth, Gordon & Doris • Smith, David • VerNooy, Rachel • Watson, Sarah Small • Ackerman, Jeannie • Salek, Donna 	<p><u>Donna Salek</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avakian, Peter • Bowman, Wes & Dawn • Cronin, Dick & Judy • Goheen, Rev. Keith & Margaret McDermott • Medoff, Steve & Theresa • Pappenhagen, Judy • Reichle, Olivia (Liv) • White, Amy • Catherine “Kerri” Nagy • David Smith 	<p><u>Esther Steffens</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilton, Jerry • Bonner, David & Laura • Brancati, Drew and Pam • Peacock, Roy • Petersen, Lauren & Stephen • Steere, Linda • Vaidyanathan, Chitra & Prakash • Wilkes, Betty • DaCosta, Jodi • Hilgart, Sharon and Mike
<p><u>Liv Reichle</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karnik, Lucille Avakian • Hughes, Renee • MacArtor, Frank & June • McCready, Lida • Rose, Sarah • Stein, Ginger • Steffens, Esther • Webb, Beatrice • Wood, Debra • Herman, Colleen & John • Pippins, Terri & Don 	<p><u>Ann Roschinsky</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brechter, Claire & Bob • Freund, Ernest & Janet • Garlington, William D. • Knauss, Mary Pat & Keith • Krause, Judi • Myers, Karen • Nolan, Matt & Marian Van Renssen • Regan, Darlene • Rickard, Lauren & Bobby • Deschere, Laura 	

UUSMC Members Invited to Attend 9/11 Unity Walk on September 12

Our Jr. Youth plan to travel to Washington, DC on Sunday, September 12 to participate in the Annual 9/11 Unity Walk, and we are inviting any members and families who would like to attend to join us. The Unity Walk was started in response to the attacks of 9/11, and it has grown in participation and international stature each year since then. People from all faith backgrounds are welcome, and the walk pauses at different houses of worship to hear messages of hope and cooperation from known international speakers and preachers.

We will leave UUSMC fairly early by van and carpool, and then use the Washington-area Metro for transportation through the city. We will bring bagged lunches and stop at a restaurant in University Park to enjoy some delicious Halal pizza.

You should see a sign-up sheet and more detailed information over the next several weeks. Please visit the website at www.911unitywalk.org and see pictures and descriptions of previous walks, and information regarding this year's walk. You can register if you like and they will send you e-mail updates. Please contact Jamie Kegerise at jamie@dsofurniture.com for more information.

August 29

Change in the Workplace—A Professor's Perspective

Larry Stomberg

As UUSMC faces its transitional time, we can also explore other transitions in our lives, including the workplace. University professors face personal transition with regularity, particularly in working with students who are, by their nature, transitory.

September 5

Mill Creek: A Natural History

Stephen Petersen

Our church is named after a geographic region, "Mill Creek Hundred," which in turn takes its name from a geologic feature, a stream that runs from Southern Chester County in Pennsylvania to the White Clay Creek in northern Delaware. By tracing both the topographical path and the historical evolution of the creek, we can peel back the layers of acculturation to find significance in the enduring landscape we so transiently inhabit.

Sunday Flowers: Flowers make a lovely addition to our services. You may donate a flower arrangement to honor a special person, an occasion, or just because. The donating member may bring the arrangement home after the service. Simply sign up in the lobby or contact Debby Damiani, our office administrator. Write your check for \$30, \$40, or \$50 to UUSMC and write flowers and the date of the chosen service on the memo line. Place your payment in the box outside of the office or in the collection plate. Flower orders will be placed on Monday so payment must be received by the Monday prior to the Sunday requested. Alternatively, you may bring in an arrangement from another source or one you've made yourself. If you'd like to bring in your own arrangement, please provide the office with advance notice so dedication information can be printed in the order of service (administrator@uusmc.org). Thank you to the following people who donated flowers in June: Heather & Matt Doty.

Food Bank Donations: The Food Bank of Delaware has an ongoing need for donations. **MONETARY donations are gladly accepted as well.** You can make a monetary donation by making your check payable to UUSMC and put "Food Bank" in the memo. Or you may place your cash donation in an envelope marked "Food Bank." Your donations make a big difference – *thank you.*

Have you checked the Lost & Found area lately? There are several coats and jackets hanging in the cloakroom and multiple items in the container. Please take a look to see if anything belongs to you or your family. **Remaining items will be donated to Goodwill at the end of June.**

<p>REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE: In keeping with this theme, we participate in the Staples ink cartridge recycling program. We receive \$3 in Staples rewards for every cartridge we bring to the store each month; our maximum per month is 20 cartridges. This results in \$60 in Staples rewards each month if we fully participate in the program. These rewards are used toward the purchase of office and building supplies, including hand towels, toilet paper, etc. So don't throw those empty cartridges away! Look around your home and office and drop them in the box located underneath the nametag rack in the foyer. We appreciate your participation!</p>

*The thought manifests as the word;
The word manifests as the deed;
The deed develops into habit;
And habit hardens into character;
So watch the thought and its ways with care,
And let it spring from love
-Buddha*

Sacred is this place of acceptance, this home for the spirit. Here, all are welcome, with all our differences, who come in peace and with an open heart. We enter in celebration, to learn, to share, and to grow together in our Unitarian Universalist faith. Blessed be this gathering.

Greetings! What an exciting time of change! I'm excited for our journey and for Nancy's—as I reflected on her gifts to me as I said farewell to her (not goodbye!), the most precious she gave was this community. Thoughts of this community are what stirred me to action in joining the board. Thoughts of being a visitor during a Sunday that was a potluck and being welcomed to a table even though I didn't know to bring something to share. Thoughts of sharing my beliefs with others during an adult religious education class and being taken seriously. Thoughts of being part of a chalice circle, where friendships were born that will never die. Thoughts of beautiful banners that proclaim truths as profound and spiritual as each sermon. Thoughts of fundraisers that created smiles on each face I saw that day. Thoughts of the rhythms of life reflected in drumming. Thoughts of watching children mature from the beginning of their teen years into the young adults they are becoming (and hopefully not doing any irreparable harm!). Thoughts of teaching my children what the Principles mean. Thoughts of giving sermons where I was so freaked out by standing in front of you all that I thought I couldn't do it (and I speak in front of people for a living!). Thoughts of performing "I'm too sexy for my shorts" with a friend on Prakash's karaoke machine during the Yankee gift swap (it was a set up!). Thoughts of smiles, thoughts of tears, thoughts of love, thoughts of community.

So much have I been given! It is these thoughts that ground me in this new role. As we begin our work to bring a new settled minister to UUSMC let's focus on our greatest strength—our community. Let's focus on sharing together of ourselves as we have been doing since I joined five years ago. Let's focus on coming together as families who are a part of the greater family—the greater community of UUSMC. Let's focus on participating in helping to raise our kids, in sharing our intellectual selves, sharing our spiritual selves. Let our focus be grounded in our strongest suit—our Unitarian Universalist principles and our love for one another.

May we go from here with Love in our hearts, Hope in our minds, Help in our hands, To live our principles and give of our gifts, For those whose lives we touch, whose lives touch ours.

--Phil

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Kathie Stamm, Chair

Share Our School Supplies On August 8 and 15 we will be collecting school supplies to be donated to needy children. Suggested items are notebooks, binders (especially 1-1/2" and 2"), colored pencils, mechanical pencils, rulers, calculators, notebook paper, erasers, highlighters. Binders and calculators are especially needed.

Share Our Plate The Share Our Plate charity for July and August is PAWS for People™ (PAWS). PAWS provides therapeutic visits to any person in the community who would benefit from interaction with a well-trained, loving pet. Teams consist of one volunteer and one pet who, after undergoing rigorous training and testing, commit to making therapeutic visits at least twice a month at a partnering site. From nursing homes and hospitals to substance abuse centers and schools for children with disabilities, thousands of people are experiencing the benefits of one-on-one therapeutic visits thanks to over 280 dedicated volunteers and their loving companions every year. Half of our undesignated collection plate cash during July and August will go to this worthy charity.

Committee Meeting The next meeting of the Social Action Committee will be on August 8, after the service. Please join us if you are interested.

UUSMC BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

Cyndy Falcoff & Amy White, Coordinators

The **Sunday After-Services Book Group** has chosen the following books for summer and fall reading and discussions: *Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India and Indonesia* by Elizabeth Gilbert, our summer read, will be discussed when we meet on September 19th. We will also discuss her sequel, *Committed*, an interesting exploration of marriage and cultural expectations from a woman's point of view. Agree or not with Elizabeth Gilbert's views of life and love and food, there is much here for discussion. As you go through the summer, think of one word that describes yourself. Elizabeth Gilbert finally did. Read about it in her book.

Mudbound by Hillary Jordan and *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett, are our books for discussion in October and December, respectively.

All are welcome to join us, whether you have read the book or not. We're always open to discuss thought provoking books. Questions or comments, contact Cyndy Falcoff, cjofal@comcast.net.

The **Evening Book Group** will be discussing Annie Proulx's novel *The Shipping News* at its next meeting in September (date TBD ... please check the September *Grist*). This novel won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award in 1994. The following book review is from Amazon.com: "In this touching and atmospheric novel set among the fishermen of Newfoundland, Proulx tells the story of Quoyle. From all outward appearances, Quoyle has gone through his first 36 years on earth as a big schlump of a loser. He's not attractive, he's not brilliant or witty or talented, and he's not the kind of person who typically assumes the central position in a novel. But Proulx creates a simple and compelling tale of Quoyle's psychological and spiritual growth. Along the way, we get to look in on the maritime beauty of what is probably a disappearing way of life."

All are welcome to attend. Please contact Amy White at amywwhite@comcast.net or (302) 652-1952 for more information about the Evening Book Group.

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Contact the Joseph Priestley District Website for information on UU activities in the region:
<http://www.jpduua.org/pages/archive-jpd-packet.php>

The Grist is published eleven times a year by the Unitarian Universalist Society of Mill Creek and is distributed free of charge to members and friends of the congregation. If you would like to contribute to publication and postage costs, please send your tax-deductible donation to UUSMC, 579 Polly Drummond Hill Road, Newark, DE 19711. Editor, Heather Doty. Send editorial materials via email to grist@uusmc.org.