



UUCV Newsletter • August 2008

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### **The New Coordinator of Religious Education**

Thank you for welcoming me back in a new position: Religious Education (RE) Coordinator for the children's programs of the UUCV. I earned bachelors and masters degrees in

anthropology because I wanted a broad perspective of humanity. When I walked into my first UU church (Society) in Sacramento and saw religious symbols from around the world I knew I was home. I hope to bring this breadth of perspective and my life experience to my work at UUCV. Pictured is my family: my partner in marriage Theo Light, myself, and our daughter Becca.

On a recent visit to the National Museum of the American Indian I heard about the Inuit tradition of the men's house, where the elders pass on the heritage and traditions to the younger generations. For example, when a boy was old enough he could learn to tend the oil lamps in the house. This was a symbolic beginning of his learning and carrying on the traditions. It inspired me to have the children light the children's chalice in church, to vest them with the responsibility of learning and carrying on the traditions. Judy suggested to me that families light the children's chalice. So I hope to see families lighting the children's chalice in the future. I will include a column to sign up on the RE teaching schedule.

At the parents' meeting held on July 16<sup>th</sup> some goals were agreed on for what we want our children to get from RE. The top ones were UU values, a UU identity, and spirituality. Several methods to reach these goals were agreed on, including creating tradition, ritual, and structure to help build a UU identity. Being able to articulate beliefs is a desirable outcome of RE, especially in interactions with others with differing beliefs. Music and prayer were suggested methods for developing spirituality. Also, social networks among youth and adults would help reach goals of building enthusiasm and encouraging attendance. Teaching values through activities that are alternative to curriculum was a highly valued recommendation.

That's why there will be one Sunday a month (the last) that is not a curriculum lesson, but will involve all ages interacting in cooperative games or projects: Fundays Sundays! This will break up the curriculum in ways that we hope will be enjoyable, develop social networks, and will also help families to be consistent in attendance for scheduled lessons. We will be using the new UUA series of educational programs for elementary ages called "Tapestry of Faith." The programs nurture UU identity, spiritual growth, and faith. We are also planning a Coming of Age program for eighth graders. The curriculum will be available for reference on the RE table, as well as a schedule to sign up for teaching or helping with a class. The curriculum will spread each lesson over two weeks, so a teacher or helper would sign up for a two-week slot. Be involved; create the bonds of caring that will carry our faith.

—Margaret Light



**Light Family**

## What's This?

Summer reading, that's what.

For several weeks I've been wading — trudging, slogging — through the novel that's sitting on the nightstand. It's not broken into chapters and some of the paragraphs are amazingly long. The plot is not memorable, the characters not likeable, the reading soporific. Several nights I've fallen asleep and dropped the book onto my chest.

I haven't given up on it because the author has made clever use of language; of punny names for people, places, and organizations; and the dialogue has delightfully twisted meaning (in more than one sense). I suppose it's that cleverness that keeps me reading, though truth be told, I wonder why I don't just close the cover for good. Never mind the title or author — I wouldn't want to offend you if it's one of your top novels. Someone whose suggestions usually hit the mark recommended it.

What I look for in summer reading is material to take in slowly, to chew on and savor, to spark new thoughts. It might be poetry, essays, nature writing, or memoir. Or something for escape — a page-turner novel that engages me completely in the lives of its characters so that I simply can't stand to put it down and will stay up very, very late to read on. This summer reading is not read for sermons, though more often than not it awakes the muses of creativity and sparks a homiletic notion.

I've set aside three books so far for my vacation reading. All three are of the take-in-slowly-in-small-pieces-and-chew-on-this-all-day-long sort. They're best read with journal and pen at hand to record musings and capture some of the sparks. I haven't yet found a new page-turner to take along, and if I had, I would probably have already read it.

First on my list is *Red Bird*, Mary Oliver's latest (and largest) collection of new poems.

(<http://www.beacon.org/productdetails.cfm?SKU=6892>) Like much of Ms. Oliver's work, this one is a Beacon Press book (from our own Unitarian Universalist Association). The poems cover a big territory with her expected lovely use of natural images. In "Sometimes," she offers instructions for life:

*Pay Attention  
Be Astonished  
Tell About It.*

The second book on my short list is published under the other official UUA imprint, Skinner House. It's part of their ongoing series of mediation manuals, which appear about twice a year. This one is a collection of prayer/poems by my colleague the Rev. Mark Belletini, called *Sonata for Voice and Silence*. (<http://www.uuabookstore.org/productdetails.cfm?SKU=4717>)

Mark is an amazing scholar of the Gospels and a man of deep compassion and care. He chaired the hymnbook commission that produced our 'gray' songbook, and he served as adjunct faculty at Starr King School for the Ministry — both Judy and I were in his classes.

*Sonata* is in three parts — a Prelude describing the project, a set of prayers written for and used in Sunday worship to lead the congregation into silence, and a set of prayers to ease the final days of a mentor. It's a sure bet that some of the prayers will find their way into our worship services.

In "August" Mark writes,

...  
*O World, you never stop,  
you always astonish,  
you hold nothing back!  
What can I offer you in thanks  
but a small portion of the Silence  
that once gave birth to you,  
as once you gave birth to me.*

Mark was asked by the Rev. Harry Scholefield to write a book of prayers to ease Harry's last days. It was, of course, a request that could not be refused. These are seven very personal prayers, written for Harry's voice as his life ebbed, and they close out this lovely collection. What a loving gift Harry and Mark have given us as we witness these prayers!

The third book is *Photography and the Art of Seeing* by Freeman Patterson. It will be a bit more difficult to find than the first two, but remainder and used copies can be had — just be sure to look for the third edition, published in 2004 by Key Porter Books. And it's in the Cumberland County Library System.

Patterson is one of the deans of nature and garden photography. This is an instructional book, with exercises with a camera to learn to see the world differently. I'm continuing my sabbatical project to explore use of images as tools to en-

hance spiritual growth. This book is an invitation to thinking outside the box with respect to visual representation. It encourages new ways of seeing the world around us.

He writes,

*“...[A]ll barriers to seeing are related to ... preoccupation with self. A good deal of our self-concern is a natural part of the responsibilities of feeding our families, looking after our health, and paying our bills. But all these things can be done without closing our eyes to the remarkable world around us.*

*“Seeing, in the finest and broadest sense, means using your senses, your intellect, and your emotions. It means encountering your subject matter with your whole being. Good seeing doesn’t ensure good photographs, but good photographic expression is impossible without it.”*

One of the things I learned during my sabbatical is that good photography is less a matter of equipment and its operation and more a matter of learning to see well. This book is an important step toward seeing well. It’s a skill not just for photographers, but for anyone interested in visual arts or simply in experiencing the world nearby — and that’s virtually all of us, is it not?

Those and my journal and camera will be going with me on vacation.

For the page-turner, I’ll just browse the used bookshop at the local library where we vacation — we make a pilgrimage there every summer and have yet to leave without an armload or big bag of books, all at very fair prices. Let me know what you’re reading this summer and why. And I’ll see you on Sunday (after we return in mid-August).

—Duane Fickeisen

### **From the new President of the Board**

Those crazy, hazy, lazy days of summer! To a teacher August seems like the calm before the storm: the last chance to vacation, an opportunity to either frantically plan for the coming year, or to relax and gather a little more wool.

As the new board president, I’m happy to reflect on the many successes of the past year and excited to contemplate the prospects ahead. It has always struck me that the more involved I become in this our beloved community, the more rewarding and enriching the experience is. The paradox that the more we give, the more we get fascinates me. And the good news is that opportunities abound.

Someone is sure to ask if I’d be willing to help with the thus and such, or I can take matters into my own hands and sign up for anything from being a greeter, gleaning for Project Share, creating a new auction event, hosting the homeless, serving strawberry shortcakes, or building houses in Honduras. While none of us can do everything, we all can do something. What new “something” can I add to the list of things that help change lives and transform the world? Whatever it is, I know that by being a part of our caring community, I too will be nourished. I relish the unlimited prospects of the year ahead. Don’t you? See you on Sunday.

—Jon Tarrant

### **Small Group Ministry**

Many of us are members of the Small Group Ministry. There is still room for more of us to join one already existing group or another, or even to start a new group. See last month’s newsletter for a description of the program. If you are interested in joining a small group, please, get in touch with Duane Fickeisen, Margery Andrews, Anne Gero, or Gisela Roethke.

For the next few months, we will include testimonies from members about what the SGM means to them:

Ken Laws: “This group consists of about eight people who demonstrate substantial mutual respect in our discussions. This is apparent in the care with which we avoid interrupting others who are speaking, and in the attempt by all of us to engage even the quieter ones in the conversation. And I think all of us believe our minds are stretched in these discussions. No one gives evidence of feeling pressure to speak, even when there is silence that lasts long enough that, in other contexts, discomfort would be created.

This group, of which I have been a part for three or four years, is an important part of my life. I hope it continues in pretty much its current form.”

Jill Kachmar: “Small Group is a moment out of my day to be in deep reflective and loving community with others. I cherish the sacred time we create – and enjoy – together.”

Margery Andrews: “For me, SGM is a home within the greater UUCV home. Learning to listen deeply, getting to know fellow UU’ers well, stretching my mind on interesting topics is an enriching experience every month.”

Char Klein: “To me the best part of Small Group Ministry is getting to know fellow UUs in a comfortable non-threatening setting. I like how caring and thoughtful my group members are.”

Anonymous: “What I like about small group: I like getting to know others in a deeper way. The group frees us up to be thoughtful and serious. That becomes the norm, rather than superficiality.”

—Gisela Roethke

### **Next Newsletter Deadline**

**Sunday, August 17**

Please send your submissions to [newsletter@uucv.net](mailto:newsletter@uucv.net)  
and be economical with your words.

Fewer words = more photographs  
and interesting graphics.

### **Attention Youth Group (age 14-18)!**

Please plan on meeting after the water ceremony on September 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss what you would like to see your youth group take part in during the next year. From fun activities to service projects—give voice to your ideas and help make this a great year! Pizza will be provided! Questions? E-mail Jill Kachmar at [dipbrat@hotmail.com](mailto:dipbrat@hotmail.com).

### **RE Alert!**

Attention parents and teachers: September 7<sup>th</sup>, following the coffee hour please join the RE Committee in the Dining Room for pizza and conversation. Come learn about the new curriculum, Funday Sunday, sleepovers and more ... Teachers Needed! Any questions, please e-mail Margaret at [Margaret@UUCV.net](mailto:Margaret@UUCV.net)

### **Our Seventh New Member**

Somehow BJ Wilke got left out of the article last month about our newest members. Please give her a warm welcome! She goes by “BJ,” but her full name is Barbara June Wilke. She retired from East Stroudsburg University in 1991, having served on the faculty there for 23 years as Chair of the Physical Education Department and women’s tennis coach. BJ moved to Green Ridge Village in 2005 with her 13-year old calico cat, “Ginny.” She is an avid hiker, biker and golfer. BJ is delighted to become a member of such a diverse and talented congregation.

### **All in the UUCV Family**

There are some huge thank-yous in the air. One is from Janet and Doug Spencer to the whole congregation for their send-off party on July 11 at Leslie Carr’s house — it was overwhelming. Another thank you to the Freemans and all the other adults who made a terrific summer camp experience at Peace Camp this year. We are happy to hear good news about Richard Elco’s follow-up treatment for cancer, and are also glad to see Will Guilliams doing so well. Loving condolences to Margery Andrews on the death of her beloved dog, Sunny. Ken and Priscilla Laws are excitedly looking forward to welcoming a new grandson into the family next winter; the sonogram suggests he’ll look like his father. Happy recent 15<sup>th</sup> birthday to Michael Politzer. And loving condolences to Lexi Abeln and her family on the death of her mother, Dale Battey; both are charter members of UUCV. Dale’s spirited memorial service was celebrated in our sanctuary on July 19.

### **Change For The World In August**

The August recipient of our Change for the World is Project S.H.A.R.E., our local food bank. SHARE (Survival Help And Recipient Education) is an interfaith, non-profit cooperative effort created to meet the needs of the hungry by providing supplementary food on a monthly basis. Food boxes containing about 45 nutritious food items, or approximately

one week's groceries for a family of four, are distributed in the third week of each month. Folks with an income of 150% of the poverty level or below are eligible for assistance. SHARE also has a Farm Stand where people can get fruits and vegetables during the weeks in which there is no regular distribution.

SHARE is currently serving almost 1000 households – 72% of these are headed by females. About 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the recipients are children – and SHARE doesn't have enough money to purchase milk for all of them! Our contribution will be used to defray the cost of milk so that each family can continue to receive a gallon each month.

In June we collected \$259 for Olivia's House in York. Thank you everyone—keep those nickels and dimes coming!  
—Carol McAnulty

### **Help Refugees?**

Refugees from Bhutan (but of Nepalese ethnicity) arrived in our area last week, through Catholic Charities, but they have only a few of the basics that they need to get established. Dave Reed, a UUCV member who was a Peace Corps volunteer in Nepal and who can speak Nepalese, is trying to help. They need items like furniture, old TV and computers, Capitol Area Transit bus passes, PP&L vouchers, Walmart or other gift cards; and they could use the help of someone who would like to tutor English or run people to the doctor or assistance office. If you can help, contact Dave at [davereed@kuhncom.net](mailto:davereed@kuhncom.net).

—Dan Cozort

### **Annual Auction**

Be sure to set aside November 15th for the annual UUCV auction. Stay tuned for this year's theme to be revealed next month. It's not too early to start thinking about those unique activities and items you may want to donate this year.

—Carol McAnulty

### **On a Musical Note...**

Singing hymns is a crucial part of our worship every Sunday when we turn to *Singing the Living Tradition*, our hard-cover hymnal at UUCV. Perhaps you have seen the choir using paperback-bound teal books when singing or introducing the congregation to a new hymn. Our beloved music director, David Glasgow, would like to have enough new books for the congregation to use on a more regular basis. To raise money for the new hymnal supplements, the Music Committee is planning a fun "Variety Show" on Sept. 20, 2008. Similar to last year's "Talent Showcase", the 1st part of the show will take place in the sanctuary, followed by an intermission with refreshments. The 2nd part will then follow in the social hall. Show attendants will have an opportunity to purchase and dedicate the new hymnals. Even if you cannot attend the "Variety Show", you will have a chance to dedicate or purchase hymnals on Sunday mornings starting Aug. 17th in the social hall. All proceeds from the "Variety Show" and hymnal dedications will go toward the purchase of teal hymnal supplements.

"Variety Show" acts of music, drama, dance, magic, etc. are currently being sought. Check your calendars and then contact Janet Lutz-Folsom at [Janetfolsom@cs.com](mailto:Janetfolsom@cs.com) or Mary Lynn Lynch at [marylynn\\_lynch@yahoo.com](mailto:marylynn_lynch@yahoo.com) or speak with them by phone or in person. They're anxious to sign up your act ASAP. If you aren't performing, please save the date, Sept. 20th, and plan to attend this exciting event! Thanks!

—Mary Lynn Lynch

### **Emily Dickinson's World**

The UU Society of Amherst, MA is holding a weekend event with home hospitality titled "Emily Dickinson's World: Amherst in Autumn" the weekend of October 10 – 12, 2008. There will be a tour of the Emily Dickinson Museum, several poetry readings, and lectures by noted Dickinson scholars. The \$385 inclusive cost covers accommodations, most meals, and local transportation.

See the flyer on the UUCV upstairs bulletin board for more information and a registration form, or call 413/253-2848 or send a message to [unitar@crocker.com](mailto:unitar@crocker.com).

## Sunday Worship Services • August 2008

### August 3 - "When Life Throws You a Curve Ball"

Jill Kachmar (Worship Associate) and John Kallmann (Liturgist), music by David M. Glasgow. Life doesn't always go according to our plan—in fact, it rarely does. What happens when our best laid plans fail or tragedy strikes? Can we ever really prepare for the unexpected? Join us as we discuss what we can do to cope-and thrive-in an unpredictable, ever changing world.

### August 10 - "Disaster of Hiroshima and Nagasaki: A Political Expediency or Unnecessary Violence Against Innocent Civilians?"

John Kallmann (Worship Associate) and Ellen Lyon (Liturgist) will present a commemorative program on the subject of nuclear war. Music by Pat Spader.

### August 17 - "A Question-Box Sermon"

Revs. Judy Welles and Duane Fickeisen, music by David M. Glasgow and the Question Marks. Let's welcome Judy and Duane home from their vacation with all the questions you've always wanted to ask them. You will write your questions on cards during the service, and they will do their best to answer them on the spot. The children's moment will give our children an opportunity to ask questions as well. Parents, please, help your kids think of some questions to ask.

### August 24 - "Faith in a Crisis"

The Rev. Duane Fickeisen and Ellen Lyon (Worship Associate), music by David Glasgow. Where can we turn in a crisis, either of personal or wider scope? How does our faith sustain us, and what do we do when we really do need to call on it in an emergency? We'll look to UU theologian Rebecca Parker for some help in understanding our religious values and heritage as a source of strength.

### August 31 - "Ramadan in Turkey"

Revs. Judy Welles and Duane Fickeisen, music by Pat Spader. This year Ramadan, the most important Islamic holiday period, begins at sundown on September 1. Last year Judy and Duane were in Turkey during Ramadan; they will tell some stories about their travels, and we all will learn something about this Islamic holy month.

## Other Events in August

The **Compassion and Caring Circle (CCC)** will not be meeting during August. Anyone needing the help of the group is asked to call Bee Miller at 776-9451.

**Friday, Aug. 1, at 6:30 p.m.** - The **Pot Luck Supper** will be held. Music for the evening will be Country-Western 2. Bring a dish to share, get out of the heat, and dine in a cool dining room by candlelight.

**Saturday, August 2, at 9a.m.** - **Soul Collage**

**Monday, August 4** – **No Music Theory**. Session on Monday, Aug. 11 will be held at Dickinson College in the Tome Building, Room 101 (W. Louthier St, around the corner from College St.). Further Music Theory classes on Monday, Aug. 18 and 25 at UUCV.

**Saturday, August 23 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** - The **Writer's Group** will meet at the home of Susan Helm, 618 Mill Race Court, Carlisle. Call or email Susan if you plan to attend in case of changes to the schedule. Tel. 218-5136; [shhelm@embarqmail.com](mailto:shhelm@embarqmail.com). Come join us for a fun and creative afternoon. You can share prose or poetry you've written or read a favorite written by someone else. As always, new members most welcome!

**Sunday, August 24, at 6:30 to 8 p.m.** - **Serious Stuff Book Group** will meet in the church library. The book for discussion will be "Twenty Cases Suggestive of Reincarnation" by Ian Stevenson, M.D. See August Pre-Views issues for details.

**Sunday, August 31, from 1:30p.m. to 4:30p.m.** – **Drumming Circle** at UUCV.

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