



Newsletter • December 2009

Auction News: The Aliens landed at UUCV

UUCV's annual auction, Space Odyssey 2009 was truly a spectacular event. The costumes were very original from ET the extraterrestrial to a beautiful silver comet to a Star Trek Vulcan. Attendees were in awe as they entered what was once known as the social hall as it was transformed into a celestial galaxy.



Rachel Teates, our Star-Trekkie
Photo by Bobbie Bassett

A big "thank you" goes out to all the folks who donated items, services and events. The success of the auction depends upon these wonderful donations, and we had some truly great ones this year.

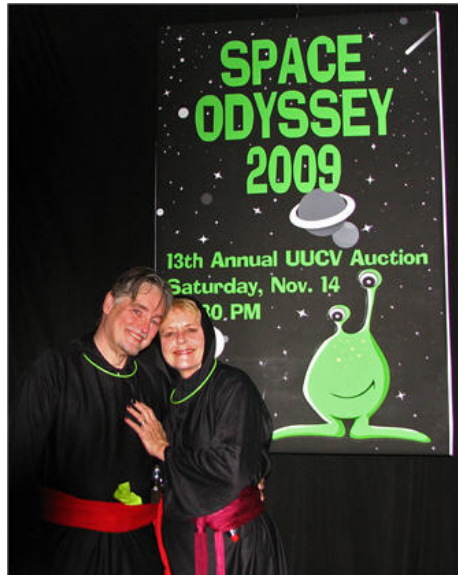
Our gratitude goes out to all the volunteers this year. Planning for this auction starts in early summer, so it is quite a process. From the auction



committee, to the planning folks, set-up crew, workers on the night of the auction, tear-down crew—you were all fabulous! And the food; all the cooks and bakers out there, pat yourselves on the back. Everything tasted out of this world. The auction is one of our biggest fund raisers of the year and it is definitely one of the most fun. Thanks to all who participated.

—Carol McAnulty

We hope you filled up your calendar for the year with star parties, hikes, pizza dinners, brunches to name a few. There are still some openings in some of the events so if you missed out, we will advertise these events in the Social Hall and in PreViews.



Laurel Belding and Will Guilliams, The Peace Makers
Photo by Bobbie Bassett



Geneva Politzer, a Celestial Being



Carol McAnulty (Main Auction Organizer) with her Cling-On and Devonna Jonsson, Auction Decorator
Photo by Bobbie Bassett

MINISTER'S COLUMN

From the Well

I grew up with a mother who (a) loved Christmas, (b) didn't work outside the home, (c) loved to cook and entertain, (d) loved to shop and find a good bargain, and (e) was very competitive, though she would never admit it. So the Christmas of my childhood was always some kind of extravaganza involving many gifts, a sumptuous dinner with a wide circle of admiring family around the table, and a beautifully decorated house. By the time the holiday season was over, my mother was exhausted, and cranky as all get-out. I was almost glad to go back to school.

I was headed down this path myself, but my little daughters put a stop to that when they were five and three years old. That year, I was in a frenzy of creating hand-made gifts, decorating our house, and baking every cookie from scratch. Those little girls were eager to help, and as any parent of a three-year old and a five-year old can tell you, such help is... well, not always exactly helpful.

When they were at their most enthusiastic moment — involving colored cookie frosting all over the counter and silver sprinkles crunching underfoot — I snapped. "Get out of here and leave me alone!" I yelled at them. "Can't you see I'm trying to make a wonderful Christmas for you??" Their stricken faces were all it took to convince me that I was on the wrong track, and Christmas has gotten easier and easier ever since.

So here are my annual two pieces of Christmas advice from One Who Has Been There. Take it for what it's worth, and know that it comes to you with love.

- 1) Figure out what really gives you joy during the holidays, and do it. Closely related to this advice is the second piece...
- 2) Figure out what you really dislike doing at the holidays, and don't do it.

Some people truly hate to bake; some people look forward to it. Some people really love the musical concerts of the holidays; some would rather take a long walk in the cold, snowy woods. For some of us, reconnecting with a wide circle of friends through holiday cards gives meaning; others run screaming from the room if they have to lick one more stamp.

If you live alone, or if your own Christmas memories are less than happy, I encourage you to make new memories with people whom you care about. Start a tradition that feeds your soul. For example, one family I know bundles up after breakfast on Christmas morning and goes out to scatter birdseed in the woods and parks nearby. This is a tradition inspired by St. Francis of Assisi, who said that the animals, too, should be able to celebrate this joyful day, and their happiest celebration

would be with abundant access to food.

Author and environmentalist Bill McKibben wrote, "...the biggest problem in the holiday season is that it illustrates just how time-stressed we are, because our lives simply cannot absorb one more set of activities superimposed on already stressful lives. That's why an awful lot of people are extremely thankful when January 3rd rolls around and we're back to the normal insane busyness of our lives. To the extent that it brings out the best in anyone, it's proof of the Holy Spirit at work in difficult circumstances."

So give the Holy Spirit a break at the holidays. Relax, breathe, be kind to yourself and to the birds. Come to our Open House party on December 13, enjoy the company, and let yourself be cared for. Do what gives you joy.

Love, Judy



You Are Invited!

All members and friends of UUCV are cordially invited to Judy's and Duane's annual Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 13 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. . Come and enjoy good company and good food at 145 East Pomfret Street, Carlisle.

We are not mailing invitations this year. If you are reading this, you are invited! We look forward to a house full of guests and a joyful celebration of the holidays.

All in the UUCV Family

Congratulations to *Clara Cozort*, who was selected for the Carlisle Middle School cheerleading squad. Is anyone surprised? We're relieved to hear that *Alan and Kit Franklin's* daughter Mary is recovering from a serious injury brought on by serious illness. *Tom and Carole DeWall* are celebrating the marriage of Tom's daughter Neva and the 93rd birthdays of both their mothers. Let's send good wishes to *Sunny Hettenschuler*, who has gone back to the work he loves, selling real estate. *Dan and Joan Bechtel* are celebrating the birth on November 21 of their fourth great-grandchild, Melizwe Mndzebele, the son of their granddaughter Khulile Bechtel.

See someone listed in "All in the UUCV Family" whom you'd like to honor or congratulate? Send a \$10 contribution to UUCV (designated for religious education, building improvements or music) and a one-sentence tribute, marked to Marilyn Durr's attention, by the second Sunday of the month for inclusion in the next newsletter. You also can drop your check and tribute message in the offertory basket.

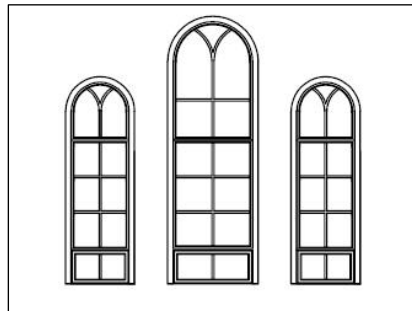
In Tribute:

With a contribution to the Music Fund, Joan and Dan Bechtel extend congratulations to the newly-married Susan Helm and Bill Vernon, and wish them "many happy years together."

Thank you Notes:

A big "thank you" to all who contributed to the amazing success of this year's auction, most importantly the auction's main organizers: Carol and Paul McAnulty, Geneva Politzer as the catalogue copy editor, Devonna Jonsson as the fabulous decorator, Bev Motich keeping the accounts, Keith Bittinger and Dave and Missy Molino plus others putting together the computer records. And many others help with various contributions and being there to make it such a fun event.

Another "thank you" to all the folks who have volunteered to bake for the visitor bags: Sandy Cones, Dot Everhart, Cindy Good, Margery Andrews, MaryLynn Lynch, Marilyn Durr, Kathleen and Olivia Gorak, Adie Mooney, Rima Bowser, Kay Graham.



These are the windows which a majority of you selected for the sanctuary



From the President of the Board:

We have much to celebrate at UUCV as this year draws to a close. Thanks to a creative and hard-working team of volunteers the decorations, costumes and atmosphere at last month's auction were "out of this world." By the time Space Odyssey 2009 landed more than \$13,500 in revenue was raised. Kudos goes to auction Co-Chairs Carol and Paul McAnulty and the auction committee for organizing a memorable and successful evening.

Our building improvement project is well underway. The ballots for the new sanctuary windows were tallied at the Nov. 22 town hall meeting and design "C," with the gothic-style grille, emerged as the clear winner (see the image in the previous column). Within a few months we should be able to say good-bye to the current cloudy, bathroom-style windows and hello to a sanctuary with a view! The heat pump should arrive by spring in time to cool the sanctuary next summer. The new roof came in under budget and is already overhead.

You'll notice a change in the "coffee hour" after the Sunday service. The Membership Committee has asked that we stop making announcements from the stage because it interferes with welcoming newcomers. Visitors tend to head for the door when we start talking business and we'd like to keep them around a little longer so we can get to know them. We're going to experiment over the next several months with providing announcements in a visual format in the Social Hall. Let us know what you think of the alternatives we offer. As always, pay attention to the weekly Previews and the monthly newsletter to keep informed.

As you crack open that 2010 calendar, look ahead and pencil in a few Sundays next year when you can make coffee, bring flowers and serve as a greeter. Then add your name to the sign-up sheets in the Social Hall for these easy but essential jobs. If everyone takes their turn we shouldn't have a problem filling the slots for 52 weeks. Remember, rotating chores is just another part of being a member of the family!

I wish for you a blessed holiday season and a new year filled with the promise of good things to come.

—Ellen Lyon



Finding Their Voice

My daughter asked recently: “Why do you want me to go to church (religious education = RE)?” I said: “To learn about religion, and God, and yourself.” One of my early questions as a new UU member was: “With all our diversity, what holds us together?” I have come to realize it is our shared values. I want my daughter to know these values, but to also discover her own. I think our RE programs prepare her to identify her values, which will help her to make good choices in life.

For example, we attended the National March for Equality for gay/lesbian families, which began with a worship service at All Souls Unitarian, in Washington, D.C. The message of UUA President, Reverend Peter Morales’ sermon and the Standing on the Side of Love campaign that supported the march was that when we stand in love we are connected to God. When we are connected to God, there is no separation between us and others. Reverend Morales said that standing in love is a religious stance. He challenged us to stand in love with all oppressed people. This is Unitarian Universalist identity.

I saw in the newspaper that a Sunday School Society was hosting a conference, and I briefly thought of going. Then I knew that we differ from Christian Sunday Schools in that we don’t teach a creed, but we teach personal development and values. To do so, we look at major religions to identify principles or values in these belief systems that are the basis of our own faith. This is Unitarian Universalist identity.

I know that consistent attendance at the religious education classes is difficult for many reasons. But it is in community that we reinforce our values for each other. By being present we are modeling our values for our children and each other. Engaged democratic participation is Unitarian Universalist identity.

Our curriculum makes explicit our values and ways for children to engage them. Our RE programs offer a chance to address topics that may not be addressed elsewhere in our children’s lives. Hopefully, they can continue the conversations at home. Although we live in a secular world, we want our children to know that the sacred is all around us. This is Unitarian Universalist identity.

By identifying values, we help our children to find their voice. By finding their voice, our children make choices based on their values. We can know that we have helped to prepare our children for a continued search for truth and meaning. This is Unitarian Universalist identity. Please model the way.

—Margaret Light, Religious Education Coordinator



Nurse’s Notes

As the flu season is in full swing, we seem to be all a little more careful with hand washing, covering our mouths when coughing, and general all around awareness of potential contaminants. I have heard of a couple isolated cases of H1N1 flu among our church folks. Judy gave me a link to how one pastor is handling the flu epidemic in his church. As Andy B. of Campbell Church writes, “Each individual who gathers for worship (or some other meeting) is able to decide for him or herself the level of contact with which he or she is comfortable, including the choice not to gather together at all. Each person’s decision will be respected by others, so that in interpersonal interactions, the one whose comfort level is for the least amount of contact will determine the response.” He goes on to say, “You could even use this as your conversation starter when you greet someone. You say, “Hi! Are you a hand-shaker?” They say, “Nope, I’m a waver!” You say, “Great! Good morning!” And give them a big friendly wave. ...touch is very important for some, and very uncomfortable for others.” He finishes up with, “So if you want to shake my hand, do so. If you want to give me a big hug, do so. Knuckle bump? Groovy! ...It doesn’t matter; the point is that I want to greet you.”

—Carol McAnulty



Compassion and Caring Circle:

Caregivers and the Holidays

The Holiday Season has begun. Especially at this time of year, anyone who is a caregiver needs your special thoughts and/or gifts of self. Beyond basic care, caregivers might also be the hands, arms, legs and even the voice of loved ones who cannot function on their own.

These special people would surely welcome knowing someone cares about them. Why not bake a half dozen more cookies or spend an hour visiting someone to give their caregiver a breather or come up with a better idea to brighten this Holiday for a caregiver. You will be richer for it.

—Bobbi Bassett

Change for the World

December's recipient of our Change for the World is GATHER THE WOMEN. If you are a woman looking for a place where you can receive a listening ear, emotional support, help with finding and accessing community resources, and assistance with financial management, GATHER THE WOMEN is where you want to be. GATHER THE WOMEN is an economic self sufficiency and personal growth program for women with limited financial resources. Each group meets every other Thursday, helping participants resolve economic and personal issues/obstacles in their lives. YWCA provides child care. An interview is required. For more information, contact Sonya Browne, GATHER THE WOMEN Program Manager at 243-3818.

We collected \$145 for Common Roads in October. Common Roads is now a part of the LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central Pennsylvania.

—Carol McAnulty

New Meeting Place for Knitters

It's official! On the afternoon of November 11, some of us tried out our new meeting place and decided it works very well. So after this, on the second Wednesday of each month, we Knitters and Stitchers will gather in Room 1, the 6th-to-8th grade room on UUCV's lower floor. (That's the one with the comfy furniture!)

As usual, bring a lunch-type dish to share, and we'll serve ourselves from the kitchen counter before we settle in our room for knitting, stitching, and conversation. The time will be 12 noon to around 3, and the side door will be open. You'll be hearing the Head Start kids that meet there at the same time, but we won't get in each others' way.

And you need not be a knitter or a stitcher to get in on the early afternoon camaraderie. Questions? Call Marilyn Durr at 249-4019 or e-mail her at mdurr137@comcast.net

—Marilyn Durr

From the Board and the Communications Council:

We're selling ad space for the 2010 newsletters. We're offering local businesses a package of 12 ads (one in each monthly newsletter) for \$120. UUCV members who wish to advertise a business or service can buy a 12-ad package for \$100. To place an ad or to suggest a business we should contact Ellen Lyon at emlyon1@gmail.com or 731-1324.

From the Communication Council:

Dear Loyal Readers of the UUCV Newsletter:

At our November 20 meeting, the Communication Council discussed some concerns about handling submissions / articles that were either too long or too late. Below are some guidelines that may help:

- The newsletter is limited to only six pages; consequently, all articles submitted need to be edited for space. (Contributors are asked to keep longer articles to less than 420 words --about one column's length.)
- Any articles submitted after the deadline---the third Thursday of each month---will be held for the following month's issue.
- If there are too many articles for the available space in any month, the editor has the right to hold some for the next month's newsletter.
- In order to make color photos reproducible to black-and-white copies, those who take the pictures should aim for a 300 Dots Per Inch (DPI) setting.

Many thanks,

Katie McFarland

Chair of the Communication Council

Winter Weather Cancellations

We try to open the Meetinghouse every Sunday morning, regardless of weather. Of course there may be mornings when that's just not feasible. We hope they are rare.

If a storm does impact the roads on Sunday, we'll try to make a decision about canceling services by 9:00 a.m. and post a notice on the UUCV web site (www.uucv.net) as well as on the church voice mail (249-8944). If you're in doubt, check there. Board members and committee chairs are encouraged to post meeting and event cancellations on the web site as well.

Road conditions can vary quite a bit in the region we serve. If it seems hazardous for you to travel, please stay home. If you have a responsibility that morning, try to let us know that you won't be there by calling the Meetinghouse and the appropriate staff person or volunteer who was expecting your participation.

The Mitten Tree

We plan to have a mitten tree again this year. It may be decorated with hats, scarves and mittens from December 13 to 27. Questions? Ask Kit Franklin at akfrank@kuhncom.net

THE 2010 BURSARY CAMPAIGN BEGINS ON DEC 6TH

Sunday December 6th is the kickoff date for the Social Action Council's 6th annual Mozambique Bursary Campaign. If the campaign is successful we hope to raise \$20,000 for bursaries that will enable 133 girls to attend grades 6 through 12 and vocational schools in the Zambézia Province in Central Mozambique.

This day will be a blast! Just before and after the service the display tables in the front of our Social Hall will feature photos and stories about Priscilla Laws' and Terri Smiley's Fall 2009 review trip. Friendship bracelets made by our Bursary Girls will be on sale for \$3 each, and information about the campaign and how to donate to the project will be distributed.

During the service Judy Welles will discuss the Social Action Council's Social Justice initiatives, Priscilla Laws will summarize UUCV's 5 year history of the bursary project -- its growth, its phenomenal success, and reasons why the program has become more and more cost effective. Terri Smiley who just traveled to Africa for the first time will share her impressions of the Mozambican landscape, the girls, their families, a Methodist service in a small rural church, and the amazing impact this project is having on several agricultural communities in the Zambézia Province. The service will be enriched by African music including favorite Hymns and several songs performed by the Adam's Family Tree-O +1.

Shortly after the service there will be a complimentary Mozambique luncheon in the dining hall including vegetarian fare. Then Terri and Priscilla will show a



This photo shows the joy that singing brings to members of the Macedonia Methodist Church in Nicoadala (Sunday, October 4, 2009. Photo by Terri Smiley)

new video featuring our 2009 girls singing, acting and talking about their aspirations, and answering questions.

Circle Suppers:

The December Circle Supper is scheduled for Saturday the 12th at 6 pm. The green sign-up sheet will be available until the end of services on Sunday, December 6th in the church social hall. Please consider putting your John Hancock down to be our host - or, if not, then guest - for this entirely social and gastronomical event! You may also sign-up by email at kg1562@gmail.com.

—Kathleen Gorak



Holiday Greetings

The following UUCV members extend good wishes for the holiday season to UUCV members and friends:

Dan and Joan Bechtel
Rich and Muriel Bronakoski
Ellen Buller
Carole and Tom DeWall
Marilyn Durr
Kit and Alan Franklin
Ellen Lyon
Bev and Liz Motich
Nancy and Jon Tarrant
Ann Sheehan



Sunday Worship Services • December 2009

December 6

10:00 a.m. Family Worship: — “It’s Hard to Wait.” The Revs. Duane Fickeisen and Judy Welles; Heather Flaherty and Holly Smith.

Some things are worth waiting for, but the waiting takes so long! In this season of Advent we’ll talk about why a wait is sometimes worth it. Children of all ages (and their parents) are invited to attend this 20 minute service, which will include an offering and Joys & Sorrows. Funday Sunday activities at 10:30 will include holiday cookie decorating with an “Around the World” theme.

10:30 a.m. — “On the Occasion of the Visit of Mae Princilla and Mae Teresa.” The Rev. Judy Welles, assisted by Priscilla Laws and Terri Smiley; music by The Question Marks, Adam’s Family Tree-O +1, and Carole Knisely.

The Book of James states that “a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.” What is religious about taking action for justice? We’ll explore this question today with special reference to the Mozambique Bursary program, which helps over 100 girls continue their education in Mozambique.

December 13—“Chanukah: Keep the Light of Faith Burning.” Julie Ham and Ellen Buller, Worship Associates. Music by David Glasgow.

Chanukah is a celebration of religious freedom. In today's service, we'll explore some of the challenges faced by people of minority faiths in a country, and a world, that daily challenges this basic human right.

December 20 — “The Last Straw.” The Revs. Judy Welles and Duane Fickeisen; music by David M. Glasgow and the UUCV choir.

This Story Sunday service welcomes people of all ages into our sanctuary to celebrate a little-known aspect of the Christmas story that tells of Hoshmakatu the Camel and how he found the strength for his difficult journey to Bethlehem. Our service will feature a choir anthem composed by David especially for the occasion.

There will be no separate children’s R.E. program today.

Dec 24 Christmas Eve 7:30 p.m. —“Lessons and Carols.” The Revs. Duane H Fickeisen and Judy Welles, music by David M. Glasgow and the UUCV Choir.

Join us for our traditional service of lessons and carols, drawing from the Gospel narratives of the nativity of Jesus and from modern stories. We will end in candlelight. Bring your family and friends and stay for mulled cider and cookies.

December 27—“One Minute Less” Worship Associates Geneva Politzer and John Kallmann. Music by David Glasgow.

Rather than resolving in the new year to do more—exercise regimens, weight-loss, chores, which quickly become stressful self-imposed obligations—we might benefit from resolving to do less, to relax, de-clutter our lives and minds, attend to gratitude, kinship, spirituality. Embracing this ancient Taoist practice, we can transform our lives, and the lives of our loved ones, by spending one minute less each day doing, and one minute more in simple presence.

Other Events in December

(Be sure to check the on-line calendar at <http://www.uucv.net/calendar.html> for other information and details.)

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 7-9p.m.: Membership Committee

Saturday, Dec. 5, 9a.m.-12p.m.: Soul Collage

Sunday, Dec. 6, 6:30-8p.m.: Serious Stuff in the church library. Books will be chosen for the coming year.

Monday, Dec. 7 (and all subsequent Mondays in Dec.), 7-8:30p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, Dec. 8, 7-9p.m.: Social Action Council in the library.

Wednesday, Dec. 9, 12-3p.m.: Knitters and Stitchers in Room 1 lower level.

Wednesday, Dec. 9, 7-8p.m.: F&F Committee in the library.

Saturday, Dec. 12, 6-9p.m.: Circle Supper, place yet to be determined.

Sunday, Dec. 13, during the service: Kick-off for the Mitten Tree campaign.

Sunday, Dec. 13, 1-5p.m.: The ministers’ Holiday Open House at 145 E. Pomfret St, Carlisle.

Thursday, Dec. 17, 7-10p.m.: Board of Trustees in the Meeting House Board Room.

Thursday, Dec. 24, 7:30-8:30p.m.: Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols in the Sanctuary and Social Hall.

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