



SOCIAL ACTION MATTERS

*A publication of the Social Action Council
Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley*

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A group of the girls who attended school in Namarroi last year are singing and dancing in their new UUCV Tee Shirts and Capulanas (Photo by P. Laws, Sept '07)

Bursary Campaign News for 2008

By Priscilla Laws

Our 2008 Bursary Campaign that began in December and ended in January was very successful. Thanks to you, we helped provide schooling for over 100 girls from Northern Mozambique during 2008.

We raised almost \$4,000 over our official goal of \$20,000! Here are the "stats."

- Total Raised: \$24,000
- No. of Donors: 97
- Range of Donations: \$25 to \$4700

Some of the extra money will go toward repairs in a smaller residence in the Village of Molumbo where some of our bursary girls from outlying villages near Molumbo now attend school.

In addition we are saving some extra money to help pay half the cost of sending two UUCV donor members to Mozambique to meet the girls and review the project in Fall 2009.

UUCV Bursary Project History

More than four years ago in early 2005 we started the program with 24 girls. These girls had finished the top grade (5th, 6th, or 7th) in their village schools and were enrolled in grades 6, 7 and 8 at a regional school in Namarroi town.

Each year we've added about 25 new girls and lost almost no students. The girls fully appreciate the incredible opportunity provided by your continued support. Also, the girls have been carefully selected as responsible members of AIDS prevention groups (known as PEDRA clubs) that Karen Butt, our Mozambique Bursary Coordinator, organizes for girls ages 10-14.

Our program has become more diverse as some villages have added 6th and 7th grades. Also, 12 girls who finished 8th grade during their first year in the program entered Nicoadala Teacher's "College" almost 3 years ago and are currently completing practice teaching. They will be certified to teach elementary school by the end of November. Our most advanced student has relocated in the big city of Quelimane to attend 11th grade this year and 12th next year.

Although most Bursary funds come from your donations to UUCV, United Church of Canada members contributed an extra \$7000 this year. So the 2008 Bursary Program is currently supporting 111 girls in five different settings.

Molumbo (6 th -9 th grades)	40 girls (\$250 ea)
Namarroi (8 th -10 th grades)	35 girls (\$320 ea)
Local Villages (6 th -8 th grades)	23 girls (\$70 ea)
Nicoadala (Teacher prep)	12 girls (\$540 ea)
Quelimane (11 th grade):	1 girl (\$620 ea)
TOTAL NO. 111 (Average Bursary Cost \$240)	

* Anastasia Agustino who turned 18 a couple of months ago, was drafted into the Mozambique army. But, she plans to rejoin the program as soon as her 2-year tour of duty ends.

NOTE:

(1) Any UUCV member who has donated to the bursary project and is interested in traveling to Mozambique to review the program in Fall 2009 should contact Priscilla Laws at: lawsp@dickinson.edu. The Bursary fund can provide up to 50% of travel costs for two reviewers.

(2) Our 2009 campaign begins in late November when we determine how many girls need each type of support. However, you are welcome to make an early donation by writing a check to UUCV with **Bursary 2009** in the subject line and sending it to **Priscilla Laws, UUCV, PO Box 207, Boiling Springs PA 17007**.

Many Learning Environments

As you can see from the summary of the school settings on the previous page our 111 girls are studying in 5 different environments. Here are some stories about a few of our girls.

Aida

Aida who just turned 18 came from a village in the northernmost part of the region we serve. Her small village did not have any schooling beyond 5th grade available to her.



Aida is often a lead singer when the girls treat Bursary Program visitors to joyous call and response music. (Photo by P. Laws, Sept '07).

Fortunately Molumbo, a larger village in Aida's region, had schooling through 7th grade. Aida lived in a new residence (lar) that had just been established by a local women's group and she completed 7th grade in 2004. When our bursary project was established in early 2005, Aida was able to travel south to live in a bigger lar in Namarroi. There our bursary funds enabled her to complete 8th, 9th and 10th grades. As our most advanced student, our 2008 bursary funds allowed her to enroll in the 11th grade in the city of Quelimane. After Aida finishes high school in 2009, she plans to go to nursing school.



Cecilia is in the center holding her baby brother, Virginia Jackson is holding Cecilia's new baby (named Priscilla). A friend and Cecilia's mother, wearing a fur cap, look on. (Photo by P. Laws, Sept '07)

Felizarda



Felizarda uses strong arms to pedal to Regone School each day. She wants to be a nurse (Photo by P. Laws, Sept '07).

Felizarda lives on her family's farm. She had polio as a young child and finished 5th grade at a local school by dragging herself there. The village of Regone has added a 6th grade this year and is adding a 7th grade in 2009. Felizarda is now able to travel to her 6th grade classes using a special tricycle created from two bicycles with a welding torch. In addition, your donations have provided standard bicycles so other girls can attend higher grades in local villages near their farms.

Cecilia

Cecilia, like Aida, finished 7th grade in Molumbo and 8th grade in Namarroi. Since Cecilia wants to be a teacher, she and 11 other bursary girls started a 3-yr course at a Teacher's College in Nicoadala in 2006. Thanks to our help these girls will be qualified to teach elementary school when they finish their practice teaching this November.

When Cecilia became pregnant early last year, we thought she would have to drop out last September when her baby was born. But Karen Butt rented an off-campus house for her, the father's parents donated food, and this year Cecilia's mother has been caring for the baby in Molumbo. "It takes a village!"

GLBT JUSTICE INITIATIVE:

Key Activities as of September 15, 2008

By Alan Franklin

A number of activities have been worked on this year. The major ones are discussed in this interim report. (GLBT stands for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender)

Local Human Relations Ordinance

We expect, or perhaps hope, the ordinance we have proposed to the Carlisle Borough

Council will be brought up for consideration and a vote this Fall. Briefly, the ordinance was, at the request of the Mayor, subsumed under the Mayor's Carlisle Inclusive Cities Initiative (CICI). It was considered, and adopted, by the Sexual Orientation subcommittee of the Task Force the Mayor put together to give advice on how the proceed with the CICI. It was then considered, and approved, by the Task Force itself as it gathered together the most important recommendations made by the various subcommittees. Instrumental in reaching this Task Force recommendation was a report arranged by the Mayor dealing with how the is kind of ordinance has worked in the

other jurisdictions that have already adopt one. Now, one of the Council members is attempting to produce a revised ordinance that will meet the various objections of the Council members as they read through the draft ordinance we had supplied.

Our current efforts are being directed at lining up support for the ordinance among major institutions in Carlisle. So far, leaders of Dickinson College and the Dickinson School of Law have indicated that they will supply a letter of support once the ordinance is formally brought before the Council. The President of the Carlisle Chamber of Commerce, while personally sympathetic, has indicated that she thinks the Chamber will not provide a public expression of support. We are approaching individual companies and organizations like the Downtown Carlisle Association, the Rotary, Giant Food Stores, Inc. etc.

Six-Church picnic

Last year we held an indoor "picnic" as a get-together of the gigt justice programs in the area UU churches. Lunch was provided by a very able volunteer crew, headed by Janet Spencer. We wound up inviting 6 local UU churches (those at Harrisburg, Gettysburg, York, Lancaster, Reading, and State College, and of course UUCV was here). Also on hand was Steve Glassman, chair of the State Human Relations Commission; Steve gave a short talk on State-wide gigt issues and progress. Only 4 (Harrisburg, York, State College, and UUCV) actually came, although expressions of interest and regret were received from the other 3. It turned out to be a good program with lots of church - church interaction.

We will try again this year, on Saturday, October 11. Julie Miles has agreed to organize lunch, and the invitations to the 6 churches have been sent out, with 4 churches (Harrisburg, York, Centre County, and Reading) responding positively. Additional guests will be invited again: Steve Glassman; Jake Kaskey of Equality Advocates; and Andy Hoover of the Pennsylvania ACLU.

Lobbying at Harrisburg for gigt-friendly legislation

This past year 2 bills were introduced, one in the Senate (SB761) and one in the House (HB1400) that would have added sexual orientation and gender identity and expression to the categories protected by the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. We had discussions with our State Senator, Pat Vance and with Will Gabig, the Representative of most UUCV's,, urging support for these bills. With Pat we had a good discussion, but we met with total opposition from Gabig. Neither bill has made it out of committee so far, and they both appear to be dead for this legislative session.

There was also an effort this year to amend the State constitution to define marriage as only between a man and a woman, and to deny benefits to civil unions of all kinds. UUPLAN, the UU Pennsylvania Legislation Advocacy Network, sponsored a rally in opposition to this attempt to enshrine discrimination in our State Constitution, the Rotunda at the Capitol. We attended it, a boisterous and spirited rally. That, and other

actions, caused the amendment to be tabled. In other words, fortunately the amendment failed (in the Senate, Pat Vance helped to vote it down) and is dead for this year.

Harrisburg Pridefest and the Silent Witnesses

Harrisburg Pridefest this year was held on July 26, 2008. Sixteen members of UUCV signed up to take part in various activities - Silent Witnesses, staffing a joint UU booth, marching in the parade, and volunteering to Pridefest itself. We had 9 members active in Silent Witnesses, and 4 more who have taken training and been active, but who were not at Pridefest. Eleven signed up as booth staff and eleven to volunteer at the Festival. Silent Witnesses is expanding its activity by appearing all over Central Pennsylvania at glbt events; so far, we have had only a minimal participation in these wider events

For The Bible Tells Me So.

This film deals with two important themes relevant to glbt issues: the misuse of the Bible in attempts to marginalize glbt folk, and the trauma that can occur in a family when a child comes out as glbt to the parents. It has been shown to large, and mostly enthusiastic, crowds all over Central Pennsylvania. We tried, and failed, to interest the Carlisle theater in showing it, and the cost of showing it ourselves in the Theater was prohibitive. Now we have arranged with Dickinson College to show it, mainly to an audience of students, but with the public allowed to come in as long as there is space. We had put together a panel to deal with questions from the floor after the showing. The members were to be President Durden of the College as moderator; Duane Fickeisen; Richard and Marianne Karlake, the father and mother of the director of the film, who fairly recently came out to his parents; and Paul Richards, swimming coach at the College, who also had the experience of a child coming out to him. We were going to show it on September 29, but this is also the start of Rosh Hashanah. The College decided they could not create that conflict, so it has been postponed to another date.

Effective January 2008, UUCV will be publishing Correctional Justice Matters, a new semi-annual newsletter focusing on the congregation's Correctional Justice Initiative. It will be available on the SAC page on the UUCV website or on the SAC Table in the Social Hall.

The showing of **For The Bible Tells Me So** is now set for Sunday, October 26, at 7 pm in the Stern Center Great Room on the Dickinson campus. The Stern Center is on the south side of Louther St., just west of the intersection with West St. The Center faces inward, toward the campus, and the entrance leading to the Great Room is from the campus. It is open to the public. The panel arrangements are largely the same as before.

HONDURAS MISSION TRIP - MARCH 2009

Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley
& Carlisle 2nd Presbyterian Church



WHAT: Volunteer with Heifer International to help indigenous Mayan people create life-sustaining improvements in their community, e.g. Building cement block houses, eco stoves, latrines, improving school facilities, etc.

WHERE: Copan Ruinas, Honduras.

WHEN: March 7–14, 2009 (Dates may be altered by 1-2 days for best airfare)

WHY: Transform lives and care for the world.

WHO: UUCV volunteers and 2nd Presbyterian Church volunteers. Can accommodate up to 10 UUCV volunteers (age 16 minimum).

HOW: Air transportation from PA or MD to San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Heifer International bus for in-country transportation.

COST: \$1300 - \$1400 per person, PLUS a \$200 contribution for materials. Group will seek UUCV fundraising to cover donations for cost of materials.

- Oct 1, 2008 DEADLINE for non-refundable trip deposit of \$700
- Balance of funds due Feb. 1, 2009

CONTACT: Terri Smiley 486-4503,
cell 406-250 -1741 tallterri09@yahoo.com

Honduras *Update*

Oct 10 at 7 pm we are having a Welcome Reception for our Heifer International hosts from Honduras, Tim and Gloria Wheeler. They will give a presentation about their work in Honduras over the past decade, and answer questions about our mission team might expect during our March 7-14, 2009 trip to Honduras.

Oct 31 is the deadline to sign up for the trip. A \$700 non-refundable deposit is due. Make check payable to UUCV and put "Heifer Honduras" in the memo line. Contact Terri Smiley to confirm that you are on the list.

UUCV's Heifer Honduras Mission Team will be raising funds for construction materials for the trip over the next few months. Details to follow.

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Change For The World for October

Our recipient chosen for the October collection of CFTW is the Knoxville Relief Fund. This fund was set up by the UUA and the Thomas Jefferson District to bring ministry, spiritual care, and practical financial assistance to those affected by the tragedy of July, 27, 2008 in the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (TVUUC) in Knoxville, TN. A man with a shotgun invaded the sanctuary of the church that morning, when children were putting on a performance, and started shooting. No children were harmed, but eight adults were, two of whom died. One was a respected member of TVUUC, the other a visitor from the Westside Unitarian Universalist Church in nearby Farragut, TN.

The motives of the gunman have not been made clear, but appeared to combine despair over his job situation with hatred for liberals and those who support gays. The church was apparently selected because of its welcoming congregation policy and actions. Two years before, the church's support group for gay teens organized a public demonstration in downtown Knoxville on behalf of gay teens. In a letter, not yet made public, the gunman apparently expressed his disdain for and hatred of gays and liberals, and deliberately targeted this church.

In response to this tragedy the UUA has been aware of the danger that such an attack could have the effect of causing churches with similarly liberal and welcoming policies to become more cautious in their public actions and pronouncements. In a full page ad in the New York Times for August 10, the UUA said in part:

"We will not give in to fear. We will meet hatred with love. We will continue to work for justice. Our hearts, and the doors of our more than 1000 Unitarian Universalist congregations nationwide, remain open. Unitarian Universalists stand on the side of love. We invite you to stand with us."

The Rev. William Sinkford, President of the UUA, said in part in a press release dated July 29:

"Unitarian Universalism is a faith that is not based on a particular creed. Instead, it is grounded in a few deeply held principles. First among these principles is 'the inherent worth and dignity of all people,' a belief that compels us to speak out on important justice issues. This has been part of our mission since the early days of abolitionism,

continuing through women's suffrage, the civil rights movement, and our current advocacy on behalf of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons. We truly are a church of 'all souls,' not just some souls."

"It will take time for Unitarian Universalists to mourn and to heal. But let me assure you that we will not change our beliefs or compromise our demands for social justice. Fear will not prevent us from standing on the side of love, and we will continue to open our doors and our hearts to all people. This Sunday, just like any other, more than one thousand Unitarian Universalist congregations will be open for business, and our business is to welcome the stranger, to love our neighbor, to nurture the spirits of our people, and to help heal our wounded world."

Our part, like that of all other UU churches, is to respond to this tragedy with what resources we can, represented now by this CFTW collection, and to recommit ourselves to our work of fostering universal respect for the worth and dignity of every person. We have not muted, nor will we mute, our voices in support of justice for all people. It is who we are.

The recipient for our CFTW collection in November will be C.A.R.E.S., the organization that sponsors the sharing, among the area churches, the provision of temporary shelter for the homeless. As usual, the Social Action Council invites your suggestions of other local charitable organizations as possible recipients of CFTW collections in future months.

CARC KICK-OFF: 2008-2009

By Julie Ham

The Carlisle Area Religious Council (CARC) looked toward the future as its September monthly meeting.

Returning after their summer hiatus, council members began the meeting with a presentation on the Chaplaincy Program for Cumberland County Prison and Claremont Nursing Home. The presentation was created and presented the Institutional Pastoral Care Committee, a subcommittee of CARC, for a planning meeting with Country Commissioners; and will also be used for community presentations and fundraising for the Chaplaincy Program.

Along with the usual monthly reports, CARC members discussed priorities for the coming year, including increasing attendance and membership, the council's on-going relationship with Project SHARE, and exploring future events and projects to benefit the Carlisle community.

If you would like more information about CARC, or would like to sit in a future meeting, please contact Julie Ham at jlham1959@copper.net or 243-6056.

UPCOMING CARC EVENTS

OCTOBER MEETING: Tuesday, October 21 at United Church of Christ, Pitt and North Louther Streets, Carlisle, 7:00 p.m. Contact Julie Ham at jlham1959@copper.net or 243-6056 if you have questions.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE: Wednesday, November 26, at St Paul's Lutheran Church, Carlisle. More details soon.



Project S.H.A.R.E.

Save that receipt! Project SHARE is collecting Giant receipts again, for this annual fundraising project.

Giant will give \$1.00 to SHARE for each receipt received, up to \$5000.00. And gas, as well as grocery, receipts count, too.

So save your Giant receipts from October 1 through October 31, 2008. You can drop them off at the Social Action table in the Social Hall, or contact Julie Ham at jlham1959@copper.net or 243-6056, for additional information.

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UU PEACEMAKERS

Jon Tarrant

Our congregation has been invited to join over 120 UU congregations nationwide to participate in peace activities.

We would benefit from newsletters, program ideas, resources and curriculum and this would give our congregation a voice in writing and approving the UUA Peacemaking Statement of Conscience.

Social Action Committee is seeking an individual willing to be the point of contact and local leader of this incentive. Could this be you? Contact Priscilla Laws or Jon Tarrant if interested

Please forward this message to your minister and Social Justice chairperson or a GA enthusiast.



Is your congregation a **Peacemaking Congregation**? Over 120 UU congregations nationwide are. They are sponsoring workshops, lectures and book clubs exploring peaceful **alternatives to violence** on the personal, societal and international levels, as part of the national Congregational Study/Action Issue on Peacemaking (2006-2010).

Ministers: We invite you to share your best Peacemaking sermons on our Peacemaking Website (under construction) email john@schaibly.com for details.

How do you become a PARTICIPATING CONGREGATION?

Identify an individual to be your point of contact and hold at least one peacemaking activity. Have them **reply to this email** with the word **"Participate"** in the **Subject Line**.

Help Spread the Peace



UUCV's Social Action Council now gathers at the Meetinghouse, in the Library. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 PM. If you have a favorite social action project you'd like to work on through SAC, maybe with help and guidance from the Council, please join us. Or perhaps you'd like to help with existing activities, or just come to observe what goes on, . If you'd like to be on the agenda, please contact Alan or Kit Franklin at akfrank@khuncom.net

SAC Members

Kathy Bell
Alan Franklin
Kit Franklin
Julie Ham
Priscilla Laws
Drew Lynch
Jon Tarrant