

# "2121 News and Views"

## **Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie**

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The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie is a community that values diversity, peace, democracy and the interdependent web of all existence. The Fellowship nurtures and challenges its members in their religious journeys, and advocates for social justice in the larger community. We are engaged in worship, study, public service, fellowship and social action. We invite your attendance and participation.



### **HIGHLIGHTS OF BOARD MEETINGS SUMMER 2009**

1. We wrote the contract for our Interim Minister.
2. We discussed a change to the By-laws to clarify the definition of membership. This will be brought to a special Corporate Meeting, probably to be held in December.
3. We developed a series of Covenant Agreements explaining clearly the roles of Board trustees, Board officers, and Committee chairs. These will be signed by the individuals filling those roles, and they will be recognized in a ceremony to be held near the beginning of each program year.
4. We approved a Policy on Committees and a Policy on Conflict Resolution. All of these documents can be viewed on our web site, [www.uupok.org](http://www.uupok.org). Go to the home page and click on "Official UUPF Documents" in the lower right.
5. We discussed options and sought out estimates to fix the leaking roof in the nursery and to purchase a new carpet for the main meeting room.
6. We now have a link to Amazon.com on our website. Whenever someone makes a purchase on Amazon.com using this link, the Fellowship gets a percentage of the amount. We encourage anyone who uses Amazon.com to go to their site through this link.
7. Our new Treasurer, Jim Wood, expressed a wish to get some assistance from someone knowledgeable about bookkeeping and tax procedures for a short (2-4 hours) information session. If anyone in the Fellowship can help, or knows someone who can help, please contact Jim.
8. We are still trying to fill some committee chair positions.

Submitted by Pat Lamanna, Corporate Clerk

## "UU News and Views"

is published monthly (except July and August) by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie.

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email: banner@sunydutchess.edu

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12 pm

Friday: 9 am – 1 pm

The UU Fellowship of Poughkeepsie  
is a member  
Society of the Unitarian Universalist  
Association

25 Beacon Street Boston, MA 02108

We are one of 52 Societies in the  
Unitarian Universalist District of  
Metropolitan New York



## The Children are our FUUTURE

by Jane Podell

On a May morning sixteen years ago, Bob Boris, R.E. Chairperson at the time, tapped me on the shoulder during Worship Service and whispered, "Would you be willing to lead our R.E. program next year?" It took me about a half second to answer with an exuberant "YES!" After having taught in R.E. for a year and a half and been a member of the R.E. Committee for one year, I knew I would love this position. I began working as Director of Religious Education in September of 1993 when the Rev. Jerry Goddard donated his pay raise to me. That year I received \$1,500 for my work with the children of our Fellowship. I would have done it without pay but Jerry said that the position needed to be lifted up to the congregation and insisted on sending a message that this is important work. I will be forever grateful to Jerry for offering me this calling.

Now sixteen years later, my job, my calling, is coming to an end. I will miss it terribly as there has been little separation of what I do in this ministry from who I am. As I leave you as Director of Religious Education, I would like to thank you all for being my support and part of my family. When I see you in September, rather than entering our building loaded with kids' stuff, I will most likely be empty handed and ready to greet you, my friends, as a regular member of this wonderful fellowship and denomination..... just like you.

### R.E. Teachers

Please remember to return any curricula or R.E. Library books that you have borrowed over the last year. Books can be left in the main office - just be sure to label them "R.E. Library." THANK YOU so much!

# The Prez Sayz

Hi Everybody,

Well, it's the end of the summer already – I hope everybody had a great summer and is ready for an exciting year ahead. First, don't forget to bring some water for our traditional water ceremony on September 13! It can be water from a place you visited over the summer, symbolic water representing a place that is meaningful to you, or even water from your faucet.

And, of course, the most exciting event is the arrival of our interim Minister, The Rev. Orlanda Brugnola. She will be with us for the next year or two, helping us get ready to call a settled Minister. As you are all well aware, your Board of Trustees believes that the most important factor for the success and growth of the UUF is a full-time Minister. The first step in this process is the interim Minister, and we are very lucky that Rev. Brugnola has accepted this position.

And we could not have done this without... all of you! During our Budget Drive, all of you were asked to help fund this vision, the vision of hiring a full-time interim Minister, followed by calling a full-time settled Minister. And you all responded! Even in these difficult economic times, even with the loss of several large contributors, our Budget Drive raised almost as much as the previous year – with fewer pledge units. I want to offer a hearty congratulations to the tireless efforts of Jim Olsen, his co-chair Judith Knauss, the other members of the Canvass Committee, and all the stewards for this accomplishment.

So now we begin a new year, a year of transition and change. It will be different, and perhaps even unsettling. Among other changes, Rev. Kay is no longer here, and we will no longer have a Director of Religious Education. All of us will have to pitch in a little more, but Rev. Brugnola will be there to help us and guide us. I am completely confident that we have embarked upon a path that will lead to a stronger, more vital Fellowship. But we have only embarked – there is still much work to be done. And one of the most important tasks is forming our Ministerial Search Committee. There is no more important work you can do right now to help our Fellowship than volunteer to be on this Committee. The guidelines and application are on our web site ([www.uupok.org](http://www.uupok.org)). Please consider this.

There is a great opportunity for Unitarian Universalism in general, and the UUF in particular. Traditional organized religion is on the decline, but the need for spiritual fulfillment is on the rise. There are more people than ever who are UUs but don't know it! And it is our duty to help them.

And that's why we are reaching out to other groups. We have been in contact with the Hudson Valley Humanist Group. We have also made contact with the Freethinkers of the Hudson Valley, and are starting to work with GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network) to strengthen the GSAs (Gay Straight Alliances) at Dutchess County High Schools.

These are exciting times – who wants in?

Finally, one more mundane, but important note. As part of the effort to increase our fund-raising, we now have a link on our web site to Amazon.com. If you got to Amazon via this link, the UUF will receive up to 15% of your purchase. This is an easy yet important way to help the UUF. Just go to [www.uupok.org](http://www.uupok.org) and click the Amazon.com link – and we get some money! Not too shabby!

In Fellowship,

Bryan



## **Peace One Day**

Free Film Screening

Saturday, September 12 at 7:30 pm  
Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting  
249 Hooker Ave.,  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

The remarkable 5-year journey of filmmaker Jeremy Gilley as he meets heads of state, Nobel Peace laureates, media moguls, the innocent victims of war, and everyone who was anyone at the U.N. in his quest to persuade the global community to officially sanction a global cease-fire day; a day of peace worldwide.

The screening will be followed by an audience discussion. This is part of the "Give Peace a Film" series sponsored by the Dutchess Peace Coalition.

There is no admission charge.

The deadline for the  
October 2009  
"UU News and Views"  
is September 18.

Please send to  
[banner@sunydutchess.edu](mailto:banner@sunydutchess.edu)  
or Rita Banner  
20 Oak Crest Drive  
Highland, NY 12528

## *Calling All Artists*

# **Member Art Show**

Karl Volk has once again responded to the desire for an art show consisting of members' art works.

Chosen works (paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, etc.) will be hung in the Main Meeting Room and, if the number warrants, the Assembly Room, during the months of November and December.

Although the goal is to display works from all members who wish to participate, preference will be given to those who have not had a solo showing during the last year.

Please contact Tom Hackett ([HackettT@acm.org](mailto:HackettT@acm.org) or 845-464-2177) if you are interested in participating.

The annual

## **CROP Walk**

sponsored by the  
Dutchess County Interfaith Council  
will be held

**Sunday, October 18**

Once again the Fellowship has been asked to be a checkpoint.

If you are willing to be present at the checkpoint at some time between 12 noon and 5 p.m. on that day, please see Pat Lamanna.

Also, see Pat if you would be willing to coordinate the walkers, or be a walker yourself.



**2009-2010 COFFEE HOUR HOSTING -  
HOW IT WORKS:**

"Volunteer" host teams provide UUFPP Sunday Coffee Hours. Our Coffee Hour Procedure is so easy, UU's can do it!

**WHO** = A team of your pledge unit + 1-2 other pledge units

**WHEN** = An assigned Sunday. Most members help host 1 Sunday/year.

**COST** - UUFPP provides coffee. Hosts provide coffee hour goodies.

**NEXT STEPS** = IF your name is on the Hosting . . .

- 1 = Get a copy of Coffee Hour Procedure (on refrigerator door).
- 2 = Contact other Hosts for your assigned date, to confirm they will participate, using UUFPP Directory information.
- 3 = If your hosting team needs more help, contact others (UU friends, new members, or others who have put their names on the Coffee Hour Helper List, in the red notebook (on the lobby sign-up table).
- 4 = With enough lead time, your group can agree to TRADE Sundays with another Host group. IF all hosts agree to the trade, please update the Coffee Hosting Schedule in the red notebook on lobby sign-up table and notify Kathy Boone, to ensure next newsletter info is correct.
- 5 = Please follow UUFPP Coffee Hour Procedure, to plan, prepare, and host a happy coffee hour!
- 6 = CLEAN UP, EXHALE, THANKS!!
- 7 = **PLEASE add your name to UUFPP Coffee Hour Helper List, if you're willing to help future Host teams in need.**



**September and October**

Is your name on the  
**COFFEE HOUR HOST LIST?**

**September 13**

Kathy Boone  
Barbara Corona  
Roseanne Ashby

**September 20**

Marla Bastone  
Maureen Beck  
Bob Bomersbach  
Jim Mearns

**September 27**

June Gillespie  
Pat Holtz  
Paul Kelley  
Karen Lovequist

**October 4**

Terry Novicki  
Soozie Nowak  
Richard Mattocks & Margie Watters

**October 11**

Bryan Cook and Beth Kon  
Thalia and Rich Sudnik

**October 18**

Laura Price  
Carolyn Reynard  
Betsy and Paul Silverstein

**October 25**

Patti and Chris Tessler  
Gunul and Markly Wilson  
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# **F.O.I.**

## **(For Our Information)**

I want to share with UUFU leadership and via the newsletter something I found.

I have been enjoying podcasted sermons from Marlin Lavanhar of All Souls Unitarian in Tulsa for some time. The congregation seems to be dynamic, eclectic, and growing. They have two Sunday services, each different to accommodate different preferences of the members and guests attending. They also have a Wednesday evening service, and once a month a Soulful Sundown service on Friday night. They donate 100% of their Sunday offering to local charity. They offered a home to the New Dimensions congregation of Carlton Pearson (If you don't know that story, it's worth checking out. Rev Pearson, an African American protégé of the white Evangelical establishment, had an epiphany of universalism, started preaching his beliefs, and lost his support, his church, etc. You can read about his story via All Souls sermons, or via the story done by This American Life [http://www.thisamericanlife.org/Radio\\_Episode.aspx?sched=1273](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/Radio_Episode.aspx?sched=1273))

The website for All Souls is at <http://www.allsoulschurch.org/>. A link to their podcasted sermons is at <http://allsoulschurch.libsyn.com/> and a link to read them is at <http://www.allsoulschurch.org/read-sermons>.

At a time when our community is taking time to envision our future, I find it useful to consider what's working in other areas, and what might be adapted for our use. I hope others will find this material inspiring.

Regards,

Patti Tessler

## The Spoken Word Café

The Spoken Word Cafe begins its 4th season this September 26th. We have become a successful venture with a loyal following. Newcomers, having heard about us through the grape vine or publicity, join us - often for the express purpose of sharing some of their work. The Hudson Valley is filled with talented artists and we have become a favorite place for them to share their talents.

Our Featured Guest for September is Raphael Kosak, a poet who teaches English at Marist College and Dutchess Community College. Her poems have appeared in *Margie: Journal of American Poetry*, *Kalliope*, *Water-Stone Review* and many other journals and anthologies. Billy Collins has chosen one of her poems as a winner in a national contest. Her chapbook, *Letting Go* has received praise from writers such as Eamon Grennan and Nancy Willard. Raphael reading her poems is sure to be a most interesting evening.

We meet the 4th Saturday of every month except December, July and August. So mark your calendars now. You don't want to miss a single word. Our featured guest begins at 7 pm and shares his/her work for 1/2 hour. Intermission is next, always with delicious desserts. Open Mic is the time that anybody can share their work or the work of a favorite author. The time limit for each person is 5 minutes. Open Mic is always a favorite because of its diversity.

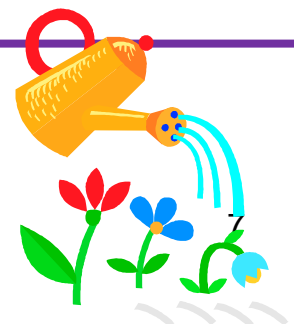
Come join us - listen &/or participate. We'll be looking for you.

Mary B. Summerlin & the Board

## The Big Backyard Project

Summer is garden time and a lot has happened this past summer in the Big Backyard. Thanks and kudos to the following folks who made planting our butterfly garden possible. Mel Tiger for roto-tilling the entire spot, Richard Mattocks for removing sun blocking vegetation, Roseanne Ashby, Jane Bartik, Paula Greenspan, Eleanor Harmantas and Karen Lovequist for planting the garden and Jane Bartik, Laura Bracken, Eleanor Harmantas and Kathy Jackson for donating plants for the garden. Thanks too to Barbara Corona, Paul Silverstein, Paula Greenspan, Eleanor Harmantas, and Karen Lovequist for planting butterfly bushes along the edge between the driveway and backyard. Thank you to Heather Whitefield for donating the use of a trailer to haul lots of yard debris away from the Fellowship. We also wish to express our thanks to the Master Gardeners of Cornell Co-operative Extension for a generous donation of plants that were planted in our established garden beds on the June 13<sup>th</sup> Building and Grounds work day.

As we head into Fall we are still on the lookout for more stones for the labyrinth. If you have any rocks that are mostly smooth (if they have sharp edges it needs to be on one side only so we can put that side facing down) and round and about 6 inches along one dimension please bring them to the Fellowship so they can join their fellows as part of our future labyrinth.



# **MURRAY GROVE HOMECOMING: A MID-ATLANTIC UU CELEBRATION**

Saturday, September 26, 2009, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Minimum suggested donation \$24

Rev. Meg Barnhouse, Unitarian Universalist Evangelist, Storyteller and Musician, new interim minister at Princeton, on “All Fire, No Brimstone”

## **Workshops:**

*Healing and Community Building with Interplay: Learn how to change your life and your world through movement: an active, creative way to unlock the wisdom of the body.* With Pamela Michel Altoffer LCSW, Certified Interplay Leader, and Donna Renfro, Interplay Leader in Training

*Sing Yourself Well: A participatory workshop exploring how singing positively affects body, mind, and spirit.*  
With Marjorie K. Herman, D.M., Music Director at the UU Congregation of Princeton

*An American Courtship – Universalists and Unitarians: A look at the history of the relationship between Universalists and Unitarians over the years, especially as they led to the merger that created Unitarian Universalism.* With Rev. Dr. Peter Lee Scott

*Transitioning Our Views on Gender with UU Principles: Explore how gender shapes who we are and how we interact.* With Debbie Duncan and Allison Woolbert

Music by uu4ia

Fellowship and Fun under the big white tent!

*Very Special Pre-Homecoming Concert* -- “Songs, Stories and Illumination”

featuring Rev. Meg Barnhouse and Kiya Heartwood

Friday, September 25, 2009 - 7:00 pm

Minimum suggested donation \$12; package of concert, overnight and breakfast \$48

*Post-Homecoming Service Party* – Wind down from the excitement of Homecoming, in fellowship and service, together with others of like mind and heart. Sunday morning service in the historic chapel by

Rev. Dr. Michael Tino

September 26-27, 2009

Minimum suggested donation \$48: package of overnight and breakfast

## **SAVE THE DATES:**

WORK WEEKEND – October 11-12, 2009

UU NEW YEARS at Murray Grove, with Rev Craig Hirshberg – December 31, 2009-January 1, 2010

For information and registration:

Murray Grove Retreat and Conference Center

PO Box 246, Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734

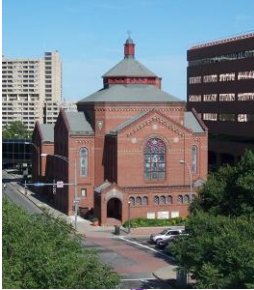
609-693-5558murraygrove@murraygrove.org

www.murraygrove.org

## October Happenings

### What happened in Syracuse?

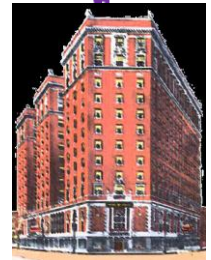
### What is the missing U?



Two fantastic conferences are coming our way in October. The 181<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the New York State Convention of Universalists takes place October 16-17 at the First Universalist Church of Rochester.

(You will remember that this meeting took place at our own UUF in 2008, with Charlie Clements of the UUSC as the Keynote speaker.) This year's keynote address is *The Missing U* by The Rev. Dr. Richard S. Gilbert, Minister Emeritus of the First Unitarian Church of Rochester.

Two weeks later, at the Hotel Syracuse, we will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the adoption of a plan for consolidating the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America to create the Unitarian Universalist Association. Insights and perspectives will be shared by David Bumbaugh, David Parke, Richard Gilbert and Elizabeth Strong, four prominent UU scholars.



Tom Hackett has further information or you can visit

<http://www.nyscu.org>

<http://www.sld.uua.org/50thAnniversary/50thanniversary.html>.