May 2014

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

May Services

May 4

Courage in the Digital Age

Rev. Robin Capoor

Courage in the digital age-How do we gather and implement courage in an age when swash-buckling is generally discouraged?

May !! Mother's Day

Rev. Don Garrett
We'll explore how o

We'll explore how our ideals have changed from the first wave feminism of Julia Ward Howe to the present. There will be a liturgical dance by Sarah Carlson, and the Beacon Choir will sing

May 18

Our Covenant Rev. Don Garrett

We approved a congregational covenant last year, but we need to study and live our covenant if it's going to make a difference. We'll also have a Bridging ceremony for our departing high school seniors.

May 25

The Courageous Universalism of Carlton Pearson

Rev. Don Garrett

We'll explore the journey of a renowned Christian evangelical who faced a profound turning point when he gave up on the idea of hell.

Don Sense - by Rev. Don Garrett

May Theme: Courage

What do you think of when you hear, "courage?" In our culture, we tend to go for the big-ticket, big deal kind of courage. You know what I mean – someone pulls a stranger from a burning car, or taking a risky stand against abuse or violence. We think of civil rights workers who put their lives on the line working for equality, or first responders or soldiers who risk life and limb to aid those in need.

But what about the rest of us? Does courage have a role to play every day? Instead of dramatic acts that change history, there are those choices we make every day that keep history from changing us – ordinary actions by which we maintain our integrity and sense of self.

Once you look at it this way, the list of ordinary courage keeps getting longer: turning down that drink one day at a time; making yourself get out of bed when the depression tells you to stay there; keeping that rainbow sticker on your car and holding your partner's hand in public. Sometimes it takes all the courage we have just to keep our hearts open when we'd reather be grumpy. There are dozens of acts of ordinary heroism we rise up to every day.

This is why courage matters so much. It's not the big acts that change history so much as the little ones that make us who we are. When we focus on big courage, we can lose sight of just how important our ordinary courage is. When we hear about those big stories, paralysis can set in. We know we're not Nelson Mandela or Martin Luther King Jr. or Susan B. Anthony, so why even try? We need each other to remind us not to give up. We need to remember that, while Nelson and Martin and Susan may have changed the world, it is the daily bravery of the rest of us that keeps the world going in the right direction.

This month I invite you to wrestle with some question about courage.

- What does courage mean to you? Is it a virtue or a strength or both?
- Are you as 'courageously vulnerable' as you'd like to be?
- When did you have the courage to admit you were wrong?
- Do you have the courage to ask for help? And do you need that kind of courage in your life right now?

Let's see if we're all brave enough to explore courage together! See you in church.

- Don

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD



From the President and the Board of Trustees

Spring with its proclamation of new life has finally arrived. After a cold, snowy winter – and even a bit of snow in mid-April! - I

appreciate the green grass and flowers even more than usual. At the UUCLV, warmer weather has meant completion of our front sidewalk. The Capital Projects committee has been hard at work during the winter so repairs to the south wall and RE building capstones will be underway soon. As you pay your pledges to the capital fund, you make all this essential work to our church home possible. Thank you. Take a few minutes to look around, appreciate your investment in our future and thank the members of the Capital Projects committee who are making our dreams come true.

Spring also brought the annual Joseph Priestley District (JPD) Assembly. Jan Phillips, Tom Repasch, and I had the honor of representing our congregation at this year's gathering of about 170 UU's outside Philadelphia representing the 67 congregations in the district. Inspiring worship, informative workshops, and the opportunity to network with UU's from other churches are the highlights of the annual assembly.

Tom Repasch accepted a gold YES award (Youth Empowering and Supportive Congregations) on behalf of our church. Only eight congregations in the district received the award, six gold and two silver. The JPD website describes this honor as follows:

The YES Award is given annually by the Joseph Priestley District Youth Steering Committee to those congregations nominated by their high school-aged youth groups (YRUUs), and adjudged as demonstrating balanced youth-led and adult-advised programming, containing six essential components of leadership, learning, worship, social action, community building and youth-adult relations in addition to showing youth community interaction on both local congregation and district levels.

Many thanks to our Senior High Youth Group for nominating our congregation and for being such a vital part of our beloved community.

See you in church!

-- In faith and love, Marie Tweed

NEXT NEW UU

The next New UU Class will be held on Sunday, May 18, 2014 at 12noon in the Religious Education Library. If you have not had an opportunity to participate in a class and are considering becoming a member of UUCLV, this is the place for you to be. After a light lunch, we will have time to talk and learn more about this congregation and the larger denomination of which we are a part. Please stop by the Membership Table in the Community Room during Coffee Hour and sign up. You can also contact us at membership@uuclvpa.org and indicate your interest in being a part of this event.

-- Robin Capoor, Interim Chairperson

NEXT POTLUCK

New Member Joining & "Long Standing" Member Recognition

Sunday, June 1 will be another "Red (orange, yellow, green and blue) Letter" day. We'll be joining new members, and recognizing those who have been members for thirty years or more during the service and at the following potluck lunch. Plan ahead.

Please bring your best "covered dish" or "Potluck Presentation" for the lavish June 1 festivities. We've asked the Coming of Age Class and the High School group to help with clean up and set up, and we'll have it in the gym downstairs (young people helping with the up and down stairs part). Mark June 1 with a rainbow on your calendar! Plan to join us for the double celebration of several generations of UUCLV members!

THE UU-LINK

The UU-Link is published and mailed monthly, and is also available on our website.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley

424 Center Street, Bethlehem PA 18018

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The Link email: thelink@uuclvpa.org
Sunday Bulletin & OOS: sunday@uuclvpa.org
The eNews: uuclvnews@uuclvpa.org

We're on the web at www. uuclvpa.org

THE CENTER & WALL STREET JOURNAL

April 2014

We've completed the three-quarters of our church fiscal year. A summary of our income and expenses through March 2014 is as follows:

| YT | 'D Budget | YTD Actual | Mar. Actual |
|------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Total income | \$ 229.7K | \$ 253.6K | \$ 16.1K |
| Total pledge payment | s \$ 162.0K | \$ 189.0K | \$11.6K |
| Total expenses | \$ 229.7K | \$231.6K | \$31.8K |
| Total Facilities Expen | se \$ 72.0K | \$ 72.6K | \$ 10.2K |

Year-to-date pledge income, including payments on prior year pledges, continues to be ahead of budget. However, pledge payments have slowed considerably in the last few months. Since pledges make up the lion's share of our income it is important that we all try to stay current with our pledge payments so that our cash flow allows me to pay our bills in a timely fashion. Also, we want to finish our fiscal year at the end of June in the black.

Total expenses are running a bit above budget. The facilities expense, one of the largest components of our church expenses, is the amount it costs to run our building and office, including the salaries of the Administrator and Sexton. Total facilities expense is very close to the budgeted amount, even considering the severity of the past winter. Through April, heating the building has cost over \$12,100, while snow removal cost us over \$5,700.

As of March 31 over \$311K in Capital pledge payments have been received, 64% out of a total of \$486K pledged. We have completed four long range planning items: retiring member loans used to finance the RE Building roof renovation of several years ago; conversion of our heating system to allow for gas burning; the reconstruction of the sidewalks around our building; and installation of a new kitchen stove. The next project will be renovation of the south exterior church wall. Planning continues for renovation of the community room and for improving church access. Please continue to pay your capital pledge commitments so that we can complete the capital improvement tasks in our long range plan.

We also invite anyone to join our Finance Committee. Please contact Cease Blocker or any member of the Finance Committee if you'd like to participate in the financial life of our church.

-- Allen Zinnes, UUCLV Treasurer

MAY BREAKFAST FORUM

May 4

May Worship Theme: Courage

Rev. Don Garrett, Facilitator

There will be a brief presentation, followed by a small-group discussion format, reuniting later to share what we've learned on the topic of "Courage." Join in this adventure in speaking, listening, thinking, reflecting and sharing together in a new way; another way to live our values of compassion, nurture, and justice in our beloved community.

May 11

UU Spring Transylvanian Pilgramage

John/Fran Kennedy & Dan/Marilyn Hazelton , Presenters

The Kennedys and the Hazeltons will share their experiences and impressions of the Unitarian pilgrimage they took in April. Their tour visited the most significant of the Unitarian holy places in Transylvania, Romania, including Cluj, Torda, Meszko, Gyulaferhervar & Deva, the medieval walled city of Sighisoara (a UNESCO World Heritage site) and included a village home stay hosted by the local Unitarian minister and congregation.

May 18

Consciousness Revisited

Frank Stone, Presenter

The 21st century has seen enormous work done to bring the subject of consciousness down to a truly scientific level. I hope our discussion will show that consciousness, while not by a long shot completely understood, has a reasonable explanation in terms of neurons and the fantastic number of interconnections they make.

May 25

Violin Master: Two Gentlemen of Verona lan Phillips, Presenter

During the late 17th and early 18th centuries, two violinmakers from the same small town were making the most sought-after violins ever created. Everyone has heard of Antonio Stradivari, but few know the name Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesù. This documentary tells the story of these two violin masters and why the instruments they sculpted 300 years ago are worth millions to musicians and collectors today. — DVD

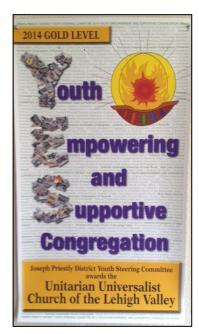


FROM THE LIFESPAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

It is hard to believe that there are only a couple of RE classes left in this RE year. Although the winter seemed to last forever, spring was way too short. Next month after the end-of-year party for children and youth on June 1, and the teacher and volunteer recognition breakfast on June 8 (followed by the flower communion service), we'll jump right into summer religious education. As has been the case in previous years, we will provide a multi-age program to appeal to children in preschool and primary school grades. There will be opportunities for upper elementary and middle school youth to assist in the classroom. The RE committee is researching a curriculum that will include a worship element, a learning and exploring element, and a creative element. It will be designed so that members who are not regular or

experienced teachers can try their hand at it, with plenty of support in the preparation and presentation of the program. When you get a call or an e-mail from an RE Committee member, I hope you will have already considered volunteering on one or two Sundays during the summer months, either as an assistant or program leader. Keep an eye out in this column or in the weekly e-newsletter for announcements about the specifics of the program and how to sign up.



-- In faith, Jansen Wendell,

Lifespan Education Coordinator

RE CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

May 4: Story for All Ages followed by RE classes

May 11: Story for all ages followed by a Fesitival – children in grades preK through 6 meet in room 312 for a worship service and Mother's Day related project

May 18: Bridging ceremony for graduating seniors, followed by RE classes

May 25: Gardening Sunday – children are invited to do planting, weeding or other projects on the UUCLV grounds (weather permitting)

May 29: June 1: Coming of Age trip to Boston

June 1: Festival - End of year party in the gymnasium

June 8: RE volunteer appreciation breakfast; Multigenerational service and Flower Communion

June 15: Summer RE begins

June 22: Summer RE continues

June 29: Summer RE continues

ADULT RE PROGRAMS

Compassionate Communication:

Thursdays, 7pm

Contact: Robin Capoor at adultre@uuclvpa.org or 973-632-3211.

Based on Principles of Non-Violent Communication, this class, or practice group, meets weekly to learn and use the four simple steps developed by Marshall Rosenberg in the 1960's. This system of effectively communicating our feelings and needs to one another transforms compassion from a distant goal to a daily reality. This is a small group which is open to anyone who wants to learn how to communicate more effectively and compassionately.

Mindfulness Practice Group

Tuesday evenings

Contact: Rev. Don Garrett minister@uuclvpa.org
With the help of conscious breathing we are able to touch
and be nourished by the peace and joy that are available
within and around us, in the here and now. With continued
practice, we shall touch and understand the roots of the
pain that lie deep within us, such as fear, anger, despair,
thus making transformation and healing possible.

BOOK/CD/DVD SALE FOR COA

Coming of Age (COA) will hold a Book/CD/DVD Sale to help pay for this year's trip to Boston. There will be a great selection that should appeal to all ages and priced to sell! Sunday, May 4, 2014 from 9am to 1pm at the side entrance of UUCLV (424 Center Street, Bethlehem). Contact: tanvaallison71@gmail.com/610-533-4723

2014 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This year's **General Assembly (GA)** is in Providence, **RI, June 25-29**, less than a day's driveaway, which presents a great opportunity for those who have never attended GA. Ask anyone who has attended a GA in the past, and they'll tell you it is an experience not to be missed.

The meeting is always filled with great music, workshops, dynamic speakers and a chance to socialize with UUs from all across the country. Hotel reservations become available March 1 and they will go very quickly. For more information, please contact Chris Davis or Tom Repasch, or visit the <u>UUA website</u>.

IRON PIGS NIGHT - SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2014 - ORDER DEADLINE!

ORDER DEADLINE IS MAY 7th

Yeah, we know there's still snow on the ground. But before you know it, they'll by crying "Play Ball" at Coca-Cola Park in Allentown.

So this is a reminder that the deadline for ordering tickets to the **June 7 UUCLV Nite at the Iron Pigs is MAY 7**. All ticket orders must be in by then. Tickets for the 6:30 p.m. game against Indianapolis are \$10 each, with a \$2 credit per ticket at most vendors. There is a small parking fee. Please contact Frank Claps at 610-346-7629 or benchpress1@verizon.net.

NEW UUCLV DELEGATES TO CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES

Johanna Herren will represent the UUCLV membership at the Lehigh County Conference of Churches for the 2014-15 church year. The Conference is based in Allentown.

Johanna is receiving her Master of Divinity this month just five days before Conference's 2014 Annual Meeting on May 15. Currently Johanna is an associate chaplain and crisis response chaplain at St Luke's Hospital. "Feeding the hungry is where my ministry is going to go," she says, adding, "This will work perfectly."

The Conference was founded in 1954 to address food, nutrition, housing, mental and physical health issues for residents of the greater Lehigh County area. There are 138 member churches, 3,000 volunteers

and a 30-member staff associated with this mission. Johanna replaces Karen Berry who was the UUCLV delegate in 2013-14.

-- Karen Berry, UUCLV delegate to the Conference

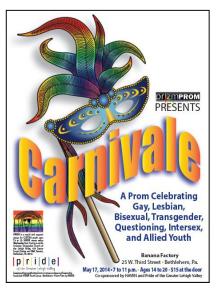
HOSPITALITY FOR MAY AND JUNE

The zip codes south of Allentown are responsible for hospitality for the Sundays in May. Please contact hospitality south@uuclvpa.org and Anthony Gazzillo and Janet Oesterling will put you on their list. They will also be sending a VolunteerSpot announcement to all in their Sunday hospitality neighborhoods.

If you are in SOUTH ZIP CODES 18034, 18036, 18041, 18049, 18055, 18062, 18077, 18081 or 18955, please look at the Sundays in May and prepare to volunteer as a Greeter, an Usher, bring snack or bring flowers for that Sunday. You can do 3 of the 4 on the same Sunday, if you so choose. Thanks for being part of our Sunday Hospitality Teams. We all are, and all of us thank you! And thanks to Anthony and Janet for taking on this new responsibility!

June will be back to Central, with Jean Davis and Jackie Simone asking those in zip codes 18015 and 18018 for Sunday Morning help. Please say yes, and make their jobs so much easier! Thanks.

HAVEN PROM NEEDS YOU!



HAVEN needs your help. The annual HAVEN prom for gay, lesbian, bi, and transgender teens will be on Saturday evening, May 17, at the Banana Factory and the theme is Carnivale. We need adult chaperones to supervise the youth. If you can help out, even for part of the evening, please see Pete Pellegrino (peterp10@ptd.net) or Ilse Zinnes. It promises to be a great party for these wonderful kids!!

MAY BOOK DISCUSSION

The May selection is "The Man He Became: How FDR Defied Polio to Win the Presidency" by James Tobin. A saga long buried in halftruth, distortion and myth- Franklin Roosevelt's ten-year climb from



paralysis to the White House. Reexamination of original documents, James Tobin uncovers the twisted chain of accidents that left FDR paralyzed and he shows that FDR's true victory was not over paralysis but over the ancient stigma attached to the crippled. As Tobin persuasively argues, FDR became president less in spite of polio than because of polio.

For those who like to read ahead the June selection is "The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion" by June Haidt.

For more information, please contact Pat Herring at herringp@ptd.net or 610-965-6776, or Kathy Stagl at pabirder@ptd.net or 610-965-3452.

MINDFULNESS PRACTICE

Our Mindfulness Practice Group is meeting weekly, Tuesdays at 7 pm in Room 304. Janice Lovegrove is sharing leadership with Rev. Garrett. Come and enjoy all the richness and depth of the present moment!

STOVE CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Our new gym kitchen stove, paid for by Capital Campaign donations, made its official "debut" at the Men's Spaghetti Dinner on April 5. But many of you may not have been able to attend.

Well, we want you to enjoy the fruits of your contributions. So we have declared Sunday, May 18 "Stove Celebration Sunday." On that day, during coffee and conversation, the vendors renting the kitchen will offer their goods and give you an idea of who they are and what they do. You can also look at the stove if you like.

And don't forget to admire the new Center Street sidewalk, also financed by your Capital Campaign contributions. There are still more projects that require our attention. So please keep your contributions coming in.

FAREWELL

Wednesday March 26^{th} we said goodbye to our shelter guests for the last time this 2013/2014 season. Our program has grown this past year in the number of men we shelter and in the number of volunteers who helped make each winter Wednesday night a very special night.

Our number of guests grew every week as the winter progressed with one night totaling the maximum capacity of 55 men... talk about stepping on each other's feet...how about bodies and cots. Ouch!

Our volunteer numbers also increased totaling at the least 49 individuals with many people coming multiple times. We had various ages and groups volunteering, UUCLV church members and nonmembers from the community at large, teenagers from Haven, mothers and fathers with children, families of 3 generations, high school teachers and other church groups.

So many generous and loving people were there to make this community outreach a great success...cooking meals, serving, washing dishes, spooning out ice cream, showing movies, singing and playing guitar, bandaging cuts, sharing conversations, donating clothes, socks, toiletries and so much more. The Sheltering committee thanks you all.

Many if not most of the men who left us that last Thursday morning are still homeless now and many will even be next year. We were there for them this harsh winter and with all your help will be there again in the next. We will never forget them and the friendship we shared. If you see them around town be sure to say Hi.

"There is much suffering in the world - physical, material, mental. The suffering of some can be blamed on the greed of others. The material and physical suffering is suffering from hunger, from homelessness, from all kinds of diseases. But the greatest suffering is being lonely, feeling unloved, having no one. I have come more and more to realize that it is being unwanted that is the worst disease that any human being can ever experience.

Hungry not only for bread-but hungry for love. Naked not only for clothing-but naked of human dignity and respect. Homeless not only for want of a home of bricks-but homeless because of rejection." -- Mother Theresa (1910-1998)

CONCORD CHAMBER SINGERS CONCERT AT UUCLV

The Concord Chamber Singers present **Felix and Fanny; an Evening with the Mendelssohns,** a concert of the siblings' choral and chamber music on Saturday, May 17th, at 7:30pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Canter St. Bethlehem. Jennifer Kelly conducts the 36 voice chorus along with accompaniment by Anna Maria Marzullo at the grand piano. The Elysium String Quartet will play chamber music by Felix Mendelssohn as well as join the chorus as they perform "Christe, du Lamm Gottes. Tickets are \$18.00 in advance from any CCSinger or from the website, ccsingers.org. using any credit card through PayPal or downloading a ticket order form. \$20.00 at the door, \$10.00, students with ID. A

SPRING CLEAN-UP

Many thanks to the following people who helped on Saturday, April 19th with the Spring Cleanup:

Marie Tweed, Rich Brooks, Henry Bennick, Dave Campolongo, Judy Wright, Linda Hanna, Sue Weber, Ilse Stoll Zinnes, Karen Berry, and Pat Herring.

We cleaned the coat closet, scrubbed the gym kitchen floor, cleaned out a refrigerator, raked the yard, and planted flowers. Kudos to Henry Bennick who scraped and spackled the kitchen ceiling in preparation for painting. It is amazing how much we can get done when we all work together! Won't you join us next time?

-- The Property Committee

OFFICE REMINDERS

The UUCLV offices will be closed on Monday, May 26 for the Memorial Day Holiday. The submission deadline for the June UU-Link newsletter is Sunday, May 18 at 5pm.



UUCLV

The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley 424 Center Street Bethlehem, PA 18018

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| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | May 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 9 Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30 Sunday Service 11:45 Town Hall-CR 12p Membership Facilitato 12:15p Membership - BR 4p Santana Party-CR | 6:30p Men's Group - FM | 4p Freckle Face Fudge-Kit 4p Kendo-Gym 7p Mindfulness Practive-Ri | 7p Haven-Rm 100 7p Choir - Sanctuary | 8 Warm Sugar-Kitchen 1:30p Membership & Lead 4p Kendo-Gym 7p Board Meeting-CR/FM | (5:00pm) Art Con - entire c 8 Warm Sugar-Kitchen 7:30p Eckankar-208 | hurch 8 Warm Sugar-Kitchen 9 Native Plant talk-Sanctu 9 Plant Sale - Side yard |
| 4 Art Con - entire church 9 Plant Sale - Side yard 9 Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30 Sunday Service | 5 | 6 4p Freckle Face Fudge-Kite 4p Kendo-Gym 6:30p Org for Action-CR 7p Mindfulness Practive-Ri | 7p Choir - Sanctuary 7:15p Finance Comm-RE I | 8 8 Warm Sugar-Kitchen 4p Kendo-Gym 5:30p Yoga - 312 | 9 8 Warm Sugar-Kitchen 7p 2nd Friday Film - CR/FM | 10 8 Warm Sugar-Kitchen 9 Plant Sale - Side yard 10 Yoga - 312 1p Yoga - 312 3p Contra dance - Gym 4p Rental-CR |
| 9 Plant Sale - Side yard 9 PIE Comm-Rm 212 9 Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30 Sunday Service 12p Personnel - 308 12p Book Discussion - RE 2p Yoga - 312 4p Polano Party-CR | 12 10 Yoga - 312 7:15p Social Action - FM Kir | 13 4p Freckle Face Fudge-Kit 4p Kendo-Gym 5:30p Yoga - 312 7p Mindfuiness Practive-Ri | 7p Choir - Sanctuary | 15 8 Warm Sugar-Kitchen 4p Kendo-Gym 5:30p Yoga - 312 | 16 8 Warm Sugar-Kitchen 6:30p Concord Chamber re | 17 8 Warm Sugar-Kitchen 9 Yoga - 312 11 Tao Study Group-RE Li 7:30p Concord Chamber- |
| 18 9 Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30 Sunday Service 12p New UU - 304 12p Property Committee-R 5p The UU-Link deadline | | 20 4p Freckle Face Fudge-Kit 4p Kendo-Gym 7p Mindfulness Practive-Ri | 7p Haven-Rm 100 | 22 8 Warm Sugar-Kitchen 4p Kendo-Gym 6:30p ACLU - FM | 23 8 Warm Sugar-Kitchen 7:15p 4th Friday Film - CR | 24 8 Warm Sugar-Kitchen 3p Contra dance - Gym |
| 25 9 Breakfast Forum-CR 10:30 Sunday Service 11:45 Town Hall-CR 12p Membership Facilitato 2p Baez Party-Gym | 26 | 27 4p Freckle Face Fudge-Kib 4p Kendo-Gym 7p Mindfulness Practive-Ri | 7p Haven-Rm 100 | 29 8 Warm Sugar-Kitchen 4p Kendo-Gym | 30 8 Warm Sugar-Kitchen | 31 8 Warm Sugar-Kitchen 3p Contra dance - Gym |