



The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg is an inclusive, gloriously diverse, deeply connected spiritual community dedicated to the practice of radical service.

## Minister's Message

Excerpted and expanded from the sermon of 12/16/12



Ministry is an itinerant profession. Ministers go where their calling leads them, and they must be ready to move where they are led. I have felt a very strong calling to be the minister at UCH for over a decade. Many times in the last 12 years, I have checked in with my call to see if it was still true. I checked in during good times and during struggles. Each time the answer was clear—until it wasn't. Six months ago, dogged with exhaustion and frustration, I asked myself again if I was in the right place. Was this where I belonged? The previous assurance eluded me. So I asked again and again and again over the next six months. I did more and more soul searching—usually in solitude—to see if I could figure out what was next.

**MY DEEP LOVE FOR THIS CONGREGATION** kept me wishing and hoping that the energy would come to me to lead it further. It did not. I started this church year with depleted energy. The temporary calm I felt during my summer vacation vanished. And I began doing what most of us do when we are faced with losing something we love—I grasped at it harder. The fear of losing this congregation made me more and more desperate to do something, anything, to save the ministry. I felt as if I was flailing about in the water grasping for anything that would help me float. Some of you saw that grasping—grasping for something that would make things better. It was only when I finally could hear colleagues and friends calmly telling me to stop thrashing about, be still, and calm down that I could float. Only by ceasing to save this ministry did I come to the place where I realized that I was not drowning after all. Rather, I had forgotten how to float. I had forgotten that the water would hold me up. I began trusting the unknown again. So I let go of this ministry. I release it back to you. And I float away.

**WE NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY** to give the gift of time to one another; we have the gift of time in which to say goodbye. There is no going back to the way things were. But we are still together, though in a different way. I have already become less and less important to the future of this congregation, with less input into decisions for next year. I will not interfere with the plans that your capable leaders devise. As the outgoing minister, I am here to lead you in worship, pastor to you, and be of help to the lay leaders. In resigning, I hand the leadership of the congregation back to you. You will take it from here. In a few months, I will be gone; shortly thereafter, an interim minister will arrive.

## Unitarian Church of Harrisburg

### February 2013 At-a-Glance

Please check website for last-minute updates

DATE	TIME	SPEAKER
Sat 2	3:00	Imbolc/Groundhog Day, Ann Stillwater
Sun 3	9:00	<i>Imagination</i> , Rev. Howard Dana
	11:00	
Mon 4	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Ed Sykes
Tue 5	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group (MMG), Chuck Daley
Wed 6	6:00	Queen Spirit, Randa Todd
Sat 9	9:00	Common Ground Café, Clay Lambert
Sun 10	9:00	Moral Issues Forum: <i>Dance and the Human Spirit</i> , led by Andrea Rudolph
	11:00	Multigenerational Service: <i>The Power of Love</i>
	7:00	Philosophy and Literature, Dick Hoke
Mon 11	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Sykes
Tue 12	7:00	MMG, Daley
Wed 13	7:00	Board of Trustees, Judy Linder
Sun 17	9:00	<i>Investing in UCH</i> , Rev. Dana, followed by Coffee with the Board
	11:00	
Mon 18	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Sykes
Tue 19	7:00	Silent MMG, Daley
Wed 20	7:00	Clover Grove, Nikki Stone-Thonus
Fri 22	5:00	All-Church Pot Luck, Jen Ziegler/Jenny Pomerantz
	7:00	Clover Lane Coffee House, Bart Carpenter
Sat 23	9:00	Common Ground Café, Lambert
	6:50	Banthe Sujatha
Sun 24	9:00	<i>At the Heart of Hope</i> , Rev. Dara Olandt Rev. Olandt is a minister in Fellowship with the UUA. A life-long UU of Jewish heritage, she brings a passion for serving UU communities and working with people from diverse faith traditions. Prior to ministry, she worked for eight years serving adults with disabilities.
	11:00	
Mon 25	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Sykes
Tue 26	7:00	MMG, Daley

  Market Street Event

**THE INTERIM MINISTER WILL HAVE** the skills to lead you gently and deliberately through the next two years. He or she will love you and care for you. He or she will want what is best for UCH. And then, after all that work, you will be ready to begin a new settled ministry. The way you and I are able to say goodbye to one another will determine, in large part, how you will be able to say hello to the next settled minister. So that is our work together over the next few months—saying goodbye well. It has been an honor to walk with you for 13 years.

See you in church.

Love, Howard

## President's Message



For the last two Sundays, we have had sermons very apropos to our current situation. Rabbi Choper explored the interconnectedness of all – and how to compromise two opposing views. He spoke of one view that the New Year of Trees should be celebrated on the first of the month of Shevat, the other view to have it on the 15th. Both views were held by well respected scholarly houses. How could that possibly be reconciled? God stepped in and declared that both were right. That meant that either date could be used, although the 15th is more commonly observed because its proponents belonged to the group that was respectful and compassionate toward the other.

Dr. Karanen talked about the use of labels as either being divisive or unifying, depending on how they are used, and how negative labels can separate us from others, even allowing violence in the name of one group against another. These are important lessons for us as we go through more than two years of transition to a new settled minister. The challenge to the congregation is to stay within the guidelines of the Covenant of Right Relations: to remember to respect each other, to speak only for oneself, assume good intentions on the part of others, deal directly to resolve conflict instead of using rumors, and support those who serve this community.

In December, we had a workshop on the challenges of having two campuses and one theme came to the forefront. It was a call for unity within the congregation. Our two locations are physically separated, but we are still one congregation. We ascribe to the same mission statement: to be a beacon of love, tolerance, justice, reason, and spiritual exploration as we worship together and foster growth in ourselves, each other, our community, and our Earth. In this time of transition we need to focus on our mission and our beloved community.

One of the things promised at the workshop was an in-depth survey. With that in mind, the Board has opted to execute several short surveys with follow-up workshops; this will prepare us for the lengthier survey that occurs as part of the process of introspection led by our interim minister next year.

**SURVEY #1 WAS AVAILABLE** at both services on Jan. 20 and Jan. 27 and will be distributed via email to all members and friends, then a follow-up mailing to any who have not returned their survey. All are encouraged to respond. Other short surveys will follow on a variety of subjects. This is our way of reaching out to the congregation and

starting a dialogue on issues that may have different views but, as in Rabbi Choper's sermon, may be equally true.

Another way to bring us all together is to have events that are fun. On Jan. 26, there was a Tu B'Shvat Seder, involving Clover Grove, Green Sanctuary, the Volunteer Task Force and others. There were short readings honoring the earth, trees, and their importance to all of us. After the readings about 35 people enjoyed a potluck dinner that had dishes made from 39 different fruits, nuts, and seeds. At the end of the dinner Ann Stillwater gave a guided meditation focused on trees and our connection to the Earth.

**OTHER FUN EVENTS** are already scheduled. We have an all-church potluck Feb. 22 preceding the family-oriented coffee house (page 4). On March 2, we will screen the classic comedy "*Some Like It Hot*" with potluck snacks. Warren Hardman has also offered to sponsor a reading of *Monty Python's Holy Grail* (he has the scripts). Other suggestions for fun will be graciously received by Laura Edinger, David Smith, or Alanna Berger.

Two changes at UCH I need to bring to your attention involve governance and worship. Several months ago, Howard asked to be relieved of his duty as chief executive officer (CEO) so that he could concentrate his efforts on his ministry and managing staff. The Board formed an Executive Team comprising the President, Vice President, and Senior Minister to function as CEO. We tried it on a *de facto* basis for two months and formalized it at the December Board meeting. The primary purpose was to allow our pastor to concentrate on being a pastor and chief of staff instead of a business manager. In addition, having a team in place will ensure a smooth transition to an interim minister. The team approach takes on the tasks of auditing procedures, identifying opportunities and providing monitoring reports to the Board. One thing accomplished by the team was an audit of the church insurance policy resulting in better coverage and a several thousand dollar reduction in premiums.

**THE SECOND CHANGE** is the formation of a "Worship Arts Ministry," spearheaded by Kate Carpenter and Linda Pehlman. They and others will work with Sparkie Radcliffe and the interim minister to plan energetic and diverse worship services for our congregation. The formation of this ministry was suggested by several members of the congregation.

Let us go forward to new and exciting times, and realize the potential of the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg!

May we all be well, happy, and peaceful! *Judy*

**Sat 2 3:00 Imbolc/Groundhog Day/Taffy Pull**

Join Clover Grove for a Groundhog Day/Imbolc/ Taffy Pull to help celebrate the returning daylight. Casual dress ~ but whacky, groundhog, or ritual outfits are encouraged! Suitable for all ages.

Contact Ann Stillwater ([astill@alum.colby.edu](mailto:astill@alum.colby.edu)) with any questions or to donate items/ ingredients for the taffy pull.

**Schedule of Events**

3:30 Short, family-friendly ritual  
 4:00 Taffy Pull  
 4:30 Potluck

**Mon 4 6:30 Amrit Yoga (weekly)**

Amrit yoga is a form of hatha yoga developed by Yogi Amrit Desai. The entire process moves and stretches every part of your body for an energetic workout and includes a calming, meditative relaxation at the end. Led by Ed Sykes, [esykes@state.pa.us](mailto:esykes@state.pa.us). No experience necessary! **Repeats every Monday.**

**Tue 5 7:00 Mindfulness Meditation (weekly)**

Two 25-minute periods of meditation with a short reading, discussion and rest between. Coordinated by Chuck Daley, [MMG@harrisburguu.org](mailto:MMG@harrisburguu.org). **Repeats every Tuesday.** Third Tuesday is silent meditation.

**Wed 6 6:00 Queen Spirit: "We Make the Way by Walking"**

Queen Spirit is a co-created women’s spirituality circle that meets on the first Wednesday of the month. This month, Libby Tisdell with Sarah Preston will present a circle on "We Make the Way by Walking: Spiritual Pilgrimage, the Camino De Santiago, and a Woman's Journeying over 472 Miles."

Last summer Libby walked the famous pilgrimage route of the Camino de Santiago from St. Jean Pied de Port in the South of France, to Santiago de Compostela in Northwest Spain. In this presentation/workshop she will discuss the most important things that she learned, through pictures, stories, music, and ritual as a woman walking into a new way of being. The first part of the presentation will focus on her own experience with opportunities for question and discussion. Given that the notion of pilgrimage is also an inward journey as well as an outward journey, she asks participants to bring a symbol of their own pilgrimage (or journey) either in the literal sense or figurative sense. The second part of the session will include a ritual that celebrates the notion of spiritual pilgrimage or journey. Bring a favorite dish, dessert or beverage to share and your place setting and serving spoons and plates.

We come together to share our stories, be nourished and affirmed in our journeys, and provide and receive spiritual enrichment. Potluck at 6:00, followed by the circle. Contact Randa Todd, [Irrt1946@yahoo.com](mailto:Irrt1946@yahoo.com).

**Sat 9 9:00 Common Ground Café Market Street**

In collaboration with the Shared Ministry, the UCH is now in its fourth year of operating the Common Ground Café at our Market Street campus. It occurs on the second and last Saturday of the month, and attendance continues to increase! The café opens at 9:00 a.m., and you can be a part of the action! No experience necessary, and drop-ins are always welcome. We also need volunteers to work with neighborhood children.

To join the e-list of community volunteers, please contact Clay Lambert, [commongroundbreakfast@gmail.com](mailto:commongroundbreakfast@gmail.com).

**Sun 10 9:00 Moral Issues Forum: "Dance and the Human Spirit"**

The Forum meets on the Second Sunday for lecture/discussion on moral and ethical issues from a non-religious viewpoint. Normally, a speaker presents his/her views on a topic with ethical and moral implications, then the floor is open for discussion and questions. This month, our topic is "Dance and the Human Spirit." Why do people like to dance? Why do we like to move? And why does it raise our spirits and bring us joy? Bring your ideas to discuss — and be prepared to move!



Our speaker is Andrea Rudolph. She is a Mindfulness Counselor and Life Coach; founder and director of Oryoki Zendo, dedicated to raising awareness of mindful and sustainable living; and an ordained Osho (Buddhist priest) with the Blue Mountain Lotus Society. She is also a motivational speaker, a wedding officiate, certified Mat Pilates Instructor, and a professional dancer, choreographer and teacher for over 30 years.

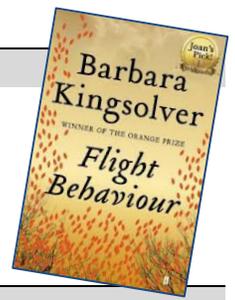
For more information, please contact David Spear, [spear130@gmail.com](mailto:spear130@gmail.com).

**Sun 10 7:00 Philosophy & Literature Group**

The Philosophy & Literature Group meets on the second Sunday. This month, the group meets at Tucker Susskind's to discuss *Flight Behavior: A Novel*, by Barbara Kingsolver. From *Publishers Weekly*:

*With her powerful new novel, Kingsolver delivers literary fiction that conveys an urgent social message... a clarion call about climate change, too lucid and vivid for even skeptics to ignore.*

Contact Dick Hoke, [Rrhone@aol.com](mailto:Rrhone@aol.com).



**Fri 22 5:00 All-Church Potluck**

Celebrate with our UCH community at a family potluck, coordinated by Jen Ziegler [jenniferz@mail2world.com](mailto:jenniferz@mail2world.com) and Jenny Pomerantz [jenny@pomerantz.net](mailto:jenny@pomerantz.net), in the Common Room at Clover Lane. This is a prequel to the coffee house, which will be held in the sanctuary this month.

**Fri 22 7:00 Clover Lane Coffee House**

**\$10 admission/\$25 max per family**

Clover Lane Coffee House offers a series of concerts by local and traveling artists, normally monthly on the Third Friday. This month, we've moved to the fourth Friday to intercept a throat-singing ensemble from Tuva, sponsored by the Susquehanna Folk Music Society. **Please note early start time.**

All members of Alash were trained in traditional Tuvan music since childhood, first learning from their families, and later becoming students of master throat singers. In 1999, as students at Kyzyl Arts College, they formed a group called Changy-Xaya and soon became the resident traditional ensemble on campus. At the same time they learned about Western music, practiced on hybrid Tuvan-European instruments, and listened to new trends coming from the newly opened doors to the West. Under the guidance of Kongar-ool Ondar (best known to western audiences for his role in the film *Genghis Blues*), they began to forge a new musical identity. They introduced the guitar and sometimes even the Russian баян (*bayan*, i.e., accordion) into their arrangements, alongside their traditional Tuvan instruments. They experimented with new harmonies and song structures. The effect is an intriguing mixture of old and new.



Alash's inaugural U.S. tour in 2006 was sponsored by the Open World Leadership program of the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Arts. Since then, they have returned to tour extensively, playing to enthusiastic audiences and presenting workshops to eager students of all ages.

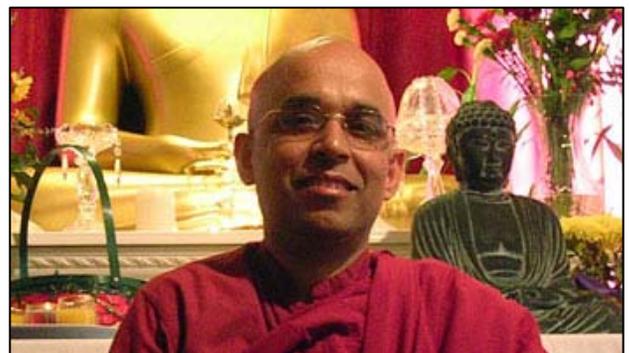
Admission is \$10 at the door, \$25 max per family. All are welcome.

Contact [a.bart.carpenter@gmail.com](mailto:a.bart.carpenter@gmail.com).

**Sat 23 6:50 Bhante Sujath**

Mindful Meditation Group is pleased to sponsor an evening with Buddhist monk Bhante Sujatha. All are welcome; no experience necessary.

Born in Sri Lanka, Sujatha was 11 when he entered the Sri Subodharama International Buddhist Centre (monastery). After graduation, he taught meditation at Sri Subodharama and in Brisbane, Australia, before moving to the U.S. in the late 1990s. Originally focused on teaching to the Sri Lankan community, he eventually realized that the people he was living among already "got it" and he could teach the typical stressed-out, overworked Westerner how Buddhism could bring peace and happiness to their lives. He now teaches based at the Blue Lotus Buddhist Temple near Chicago.



Admission is free; voluntary contributions on behalf of Bhante's work will be gratefully accepted.

## Other News

News on UCH members and activities

### UUPLAN

UUPLAN is the Unitarian Universalist Pennsylvania Legislative Advocacy Network of Pennsylvania UUs. UUPLAN serves over 6,000 PA UUs in 40 congregations throughout the state. We mobilize around issues that speak to UU core values and work to increase awareness among UU members and call on PA legislators to act with justice.



Rachel Mark and Anita Mentzer attended the December UUPLAN annual meeting held in Lancaster. At that time, we were given the challenge to find additional UCH members who are interested in advocacy work to join our UCH UUPLAN team. If you are willing to write a letter to the newspaper or your legislator, make a phone call or visit your legislator at their local office, participate in lobby days at the State capitol or talk to your friends and neighbors about justice issues in PA, you would be the perfect partner for the UUPLAN team. Please consider joining UUPLAN for those Pennsylvanians who need a voice.

At the December 2012 meeting, UUPLAN decided to focus on five justice issues in Pennsylvania for 2013. These issues include environmental justice, economic justice, immigration, reproductive rights, and LGBT issues. You can find out more about these important topics at the UUPLAN website: <http://www.uuplan.org/>

Look for the UUPLAN column in future UCH newsletters. We'll keep you posted each month with the current events regarding 2013 issues. If you would like more information on UUPLAN, please contact either Rachel Mark at [rachelmark@paonline.com](mailto:rachelmark@paonline.com) or Anita Mentzer at [anita.s.mentzer@gmail.com](mailto:anita.s.mentzer@gmail.com). Membership in UUPLAN is \$20 per year. A link to a UUPLAN membership form is on the UUPLAN homepage at [www.uuplan.org](http://www.uuplan.org) or request one from Rachel or Anita.

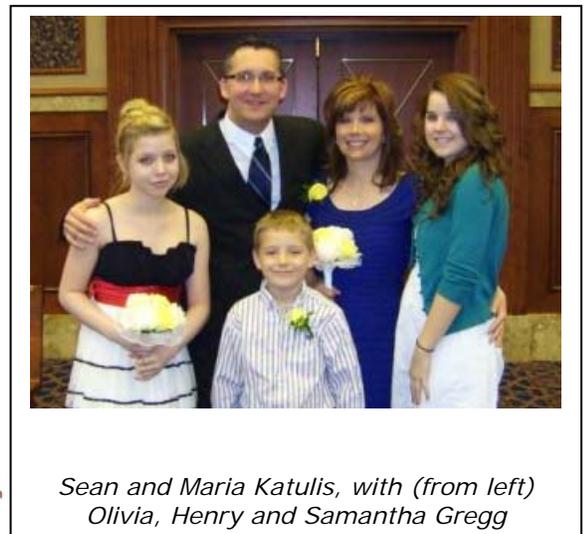
—Submitted by Rachel Mark & Anita Mentzer

### Espresso Your Love for the UCH!

As Kathy Stewart explained in last month's *Reporter*, "Espresso Your Love for the UCH!" is the theme for our annual pledge drive. Since then, our congregation learned that we are entering a time of transition with the resignation of Rev. Howard Dana. This type of change can throw some of us for a loop.

I admit to feelings of trepidation and sadness. However, I know that my dedication to this church is one of "principles over personalities." While I will miss Howard greatly, my commitment to the good works of UCH will continue. My pledge is tangible proof of my faith in the future of this church—I hope that yours will be too.

—Submitted by Maria Katulis

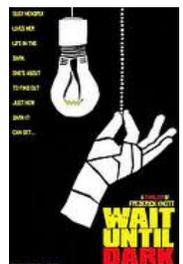


Sean and Maria Katulis, with (from left) Olivia, Henry and Samantha Gregg

### Wait Until Dark

UCH has historically supported the Ecumenical Food Pantry with food and with financial donations. Now you can provide additional support while having a great evening at the theater. As a benefit performance for the Ecumenical Food Pantry, Theatre Harrisburg presents *Wait Until Dark*. This popular suspense thriller is guaranteed to keep you on the edge of your seat through the dark tension-filled final scene.

**Sunday, March 17.** Dessert Buffet, 6:30 pm, curtain 7:30 pm. Krevsky Center, 6th Street at Hurlock, Harrisburg. Tickets \$30; Contact Michael Mark, 566-6055, [mmarkpa@aol.com](mailto:mmarkpa@aol.com).



## January in Review

January was an exciting month for all UCH members!

# January 2013



Out with the old,  
in with the new.



Tu B'shvat (ט"ו בשבט)

"The New Year For the Trees"



Long-time Unisinger Deborah Samkoff unwraps the cake honoring the Rev. Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. Our MLK celebration was organized by her sister, Judith Samkoff.



Silver Academy had an all-school service day on MLK Day. Kate Carpenter's kindergarten class collected supplies for our Saturday morning breakfast ministry at Market Street.