



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

## Minister's Message

Rev. Eric Posa begins his new position with us on August 8.



Hello, UCH! I am very glad to join you here in Harrisburg. While my time with you will be limited, I do look forward to teaming with you in engaging the work of moving through this time of transition, with all its related issues.

Together we will explore the many joys and sorrows of UCH's past and present, to prepare for entering into a bright future with

a new, called minister when the time comes.

Interim ministers do not simply keep the doors open until you settle your next long-term minister, nor do we worry about assigning fault or blame for events in the past. My goal here is to help you explore all the ways, intentional and unintentional, that you have been functioning, discern with you which best serve to further your mission and live into your covenant, encourage you to maintain and support those that do, and to make positive changes to others.

My thanks to the newly-appointed Transition Team — Kevin Geist, Karen Grimm-Thomas, John Hargreaves, Andrea MacDonald, and David Spear — for the many hours of work each of them has already invested in "providing insight, organizational and facilitative talent, and willing hands" (per their formal charge) as the transitional ministry period launches. Among their first duties are to help schedule initial meetings between me and several small groups of lay leaders, so I may begin assessing the various perspectives on the church's strengths and growing edges. They will also help facilitate upcoming gatherings over the next several months, to reflect on the history of the church, examine our shared understandings of our mission, vision, and covenant, etc.

I look forward to seeing many of you on Sunday, August 11, for my first Sunday in your pulpit...that is to say, your pulpits! For this one Sunday only (the second Sunday of the month), I have asked our various worship leaders to break from the summer worship schedule, for a one-time return to the fall and spring schedule. As it's the second Sunday, this means I will lead a Forum at 9:00 a.m. at our Clover Lane campus. Essentially, this will be a Q&A session for our members and friends to ask questions about interim ministry generally, and/or about me as your new minister. This will be followed at 11:00 a.m. by a multigenerational worship service at our Market Street campus. August 18 and 25, we will resume our summer schedule, and I will preach at one service each week. Each of the three sermons I'll offer in August will focus on a particular person important to UU history. See you in church!

In faith, *Rev. Eric Posa*

## Unitarian Church of Harrisburg

### August 2013 At-a-Glance

Please check website for last-minute updates

DATE	TIME	SPEAKER
Sun 4	10:00	"This I Believe" service, Jane Bechtel
	10:30	"Beloved Community" service, David Spear
Mon 5	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Ed Sykes
Tue 6	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group (MMG), Chuck Daley
Wed 7	6:00	Queen Spirit, Randa Todd
Sat 10	9:00	Common Ground Café, Lambert
	7:30	Movie Night at Clover Lane, John Katz
Sun 11	9:00	Second Sunday Forum, Rev. Eric Posa
	11:00	"Sauntering into Harrisburg" (a la Thoreau), Rev. Posa
	1:00	Sacred Dance, Bart Carpenter
	7:00	Philosophy and Literature, Don Brown
Mon 12	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Sykes
Tue 13	7:00	MMG, Daley
Wed 14	7:00	Board of Trustees, Judy Linder
Sun 18	10:00	"Ministry in Transition" (Olympia Brown), Rev. Posa, followed by Coffee with the Board. Youth Group: Refreshments - Reconnect - Rejoice
	10:30	"Beloved Community" service Clay Lambert, followed by Coffee with the Board
Mon 19	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Sykes
Tue 20	7:00	Silent MMG, Daley
Wed 21	6:00	Clover Grove, Nikki Stone-Thonus
Sat 24	9:00	Common Ground Café, Lambert
	10:00	Pinchot Park Picnic, Wendy Shaver
Sun 25	10:00	"This I Believe" service, Josh Csyk
	10:30	"Living in Covenant" (John Robinson), Rev. Posa
Mon 26	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Sykes
Tue 27	7:00	MMG, Daley
Thu 29	6:45	Unisinging for all. Sparkie Radcliffe

Occurs at Market Street campus

Date	Clover Lane		Market Street	
Aug. 11	10:00	Jane Bechtel	10:30	David Spear
Aug. 11	9:00	Rev. Posa	11:00	Rev. Posa
Aug. 18	10:00	Rev. Posa	10:30	Clay Lambert
Aug. 25	10:00	Josh Csyk	10:30	Rev. Posa

## President's Message



What does your Unitarian Universalist faith mean to you? What would you be willing to do to defend its principles? I had an opportunity to explore these questions by going on a pilgrimage in July. I went with a small group from West Shore Unitarian Church in Cleveland, which organized a trip to visit sites in Transylvania (Romania)

that are key locations to our Unitarian faith. They have a partner church in Bagyon, just a few miles from Turda,<sup>1</sup> the site of the Edict of Torda in 1568.

We stayed as guests of members of the Bagyon Unitarian church (photo), enjoying their hospitality for about a week. Our host family spoke very little English, so we experienced total immersion in Hungarian. If any of you who are reading this are former Peace Corps Volunteers, you know how much fun it can be.

We had an abridged dictionary, and several phrase books in Hungarian and Romanian. Dinner time was filled with laughter as we drew pictures when we couldn't find a word. On our final day of our visit, their teenage daughter Hilda brought her laptop, complete with a wi-fi router connected to her cell phone.

(The tower was on the ridge above the village). She found Google Translator, and our laughter and conversation continued! The organizers of West Shore made our family assignments based on common interests with our host families. Peshtu Csep turned out to be the president of the church Board in Bagyon, and a farmer, with fields of grain, melons, and other vegetables. I had forgotten what being with a farmer was like, as he spoke of his crops, the weather forecast (via internet), harvesting small grains with a combine, and marketing his produce. One late afternoon we stood together under the eaves of the house watching a fierce rainstorm pass through the village, and worried about damaging hail.

Although the village had well maintained gravel roads, we did not "rough it." The village has municipal water thanks to infrastructure projects by the Romanian government. We stayed in the home of our host's brother who lives most of the year in Toronto. We had a bedroom with flatscreen TV, satellite dish (didn't have time to watch it), and a beautiful private bath. After the Communists left

power, Romania has had the chance to adopt the newest technology, so we saw technology in use there that hasn't reached the United State in such a wide scale. Just outside the village large fields of wheat, sunflowers, corn, hay, and other small grains stretched almost to the horizon, much like in Iowa or Nebraska. The Carpathian Mountains loomed in the distance. There were still some smaller fields tended by hand, the hay being mowed by hand with a scythe.

So much for the beautiful scenery, what about the pilgrimage? If you have a chance to see the time-line in the hallway at Clover Lane you will see the year 1568, and a note about Francis David and the Edict of Torda. Transylvania is literally the birthplace of religious freedom. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edict\\_of\\_Turda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edict_of_Turda) Although it granted freedom to only Catholics, Lutherans, Calvinists, and Unitarians, it was one of the first attempts in Europe to



guarantee a move toward religious tolerance. This concept of tolerance is, of course, one of the most important aspects of our modern UU faith. Our pilgrimage took us to the church where Francis David argued his case with the Catholics and Protestants in front of King Sigismond. We stood in

the very spot where he spoke. We also saw the famous painting by Aladár Körösfői-Kriesch which now hangs in the museum in Turda, which is almost life sized. It was stored in the museum's basement until about two years ago. We saw prints of this painting in almost every Unitarian church that we visited. We saw the rock that Francis David stood upon to announce the signing of the edict. It is in the Unitarian church in Cluj (Koloschvar). We also travelled to Deva, to the fortress located on a mountaintop, and stood in one of the cells where Francis David may have died, still refusing to recant his beliefs. How many of us would take this kind of stand for our Unitarian Universalist beliefs? While we were in that cell, Rev. Katheen Rolenz and Rev. Wayne Arnason of West Shore UU gave reflections as we gathered around the memorial stone, and then we all sang "Spirit of Life."

We also visited the Unitarian Church in Cluj and listened to their pastor speak about what the Unitarians in Transylvania believe. As a former Catholic, my first thought was, "No wonder they were burned at the stake for what they believed." The Unitarians in Transylvania

<sup>1</sup> Hungarian "Torda" until 1920, now Romanian "Turda"

are Christians, but in a very different sense. They believe that Jesus was mortal, not divine. They also believe in only one God. That is why the phrase "Egy az Isten" ( One is God) appears in every Unitarian Church in Transylvania. The joint service that we attended in Bagyon was very simple. There was an introduction by the minister, some hymns, a reading from the Bible, and a sermon. They read the New Testament in a way similar to the approach taken by Thomas Jefferson. They pay attention to what Jesus actually said. The Unitarians in Transylvania also celebrate communion four times a year: harvest, Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost, with Pentecost being the most important. We were told that Pentecost is the most important because that was when Jesus' followers said "What next?" Our beloved UCH is now at a similar point of asking "What next?" Do we go out and spread the news about our faith

to a place that desperately needs us? How do we do that? We offer a unique place where many paths are respected as part of our seven principles: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations; and free and responsible search for truth and meaning. As you can see, tolerance for the beliefs of others has a very long tradition in our church. It matters that we do accept one another's beliefs and values.

Francis David is attributed to the saying "You don't have to think alike to love alike." I am proud of UCH because we do show tolerance, acceptance, and love to others in our congregation regardless of their beliefs. I hope that you share this pride with me.

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

### Sunday Service Assignments for August

AUGUST	CLOVER LANE		MARKET STREET	
DATE	TRUSTEE	USHER	TRUSTEE	USHER
Aug.4	Dennis Hursh	Brad Bechtel	Judy Linder	Bart Carpenter
Aug.11	Dave Forster	Cordell Affeldt	Laura Edinger	Nej Mefflah, Ruth Salinkas
Aug.18	Nan Cavanaugh	Jim/Nan Cavanaugh	Chris Dutton	John/Anita Mentzer
Aug. 25	Marilyn McHenry	Bart Carpenter	Judy Linder	Tammy Cassel, Diane Kuhns

### Meet Kel Kyle, Office Administrator

*Ed. Note: Kel Kyle is our new office administrator, as of July 8. The REPORTER asked her to submit a mini-bio, printed below. Please stop by and introduce yourself!*

"The wheel is come full circle, I am here." — William Shakespeare

My circle began where I grew up in Williamsport, PA, lead me to San Diego, CA, and then to Atlanta, GA. During those times I have worked as a legal administrator and paralegal in San Diego, a customer support analyst and software engineer at Dunn and Bradstreet Software, and finally as a web designer/developer (WebbedOtter.com) and photographer (KelKyle.com and BackyardShots.com), building my own businesses for the past 13 years in Atlanta.



For years I have been hoping to move back to my home state of Pennsylvania. Now, my life has come full circle as I begin working with UCH. I've really enjoyed working alongside the dedicated staff and have been overwhelmed by the kindness and friendliness from the congregants. I look forward to working with Rev. Eric Kyle when he comes aboard in August and to being an integral part of the growth at UCH.

My interests include photography, music, hiking, and swimming for fitness. I live in Enola with my girlfriend and our four-legged children.

—Submitted by Kel Kyle

CONTACTING KEL KYLE:	
Office hours	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Tue-Fri
Telephone	717-564-4761
Email	office@harrisburguu.org

## August Lay Speakers

*Our popular summer series of lay-led services, with sermons by members of the UCH!*

### August 4: Jane Bechtel, Clover Lane

Jane Bechtel joined UCH in 1997, along with her husband, Brad, and one-year-old daughter. That same daughter, Libby, is now heading into her senior year of high school and her brother, Grady, is starting 4th grade.



In the intervening years, Jane has worked with the children and youth of UCH as a member of the RGL Committee, an RGL teacher, and director of the youth choir. Jane also sang alto with the Unisingers for many years and is proud to be one of the voices on their CD. Currently a science educator at Whitaker Center, Jane is starting graduate studies in special education at Shippensburg University.

### August 4: David Spear, Market Street



David Spear works as a math and science tutor at Harrisburg Area Community College. He enjoys working with the students and has found it to be a very educational experience for himself as well. After years of living in Camp Hill, David moved to Midtown Harrisburg 18 months ago and enjoys the city life.

David joined UCH in 2007 and later assisted Peter Houts in starting the Sunday forum. In his free time, David enjoys contra dancing, playing with computers, and exploring Harrisburg.

### August 18: Clay Lambert, Market Street

Clay Lambert is originally from Richmond, VA, where he was raised in the Baptist church tradition. He graduated from James Madison University, where he met his wife, Erica.

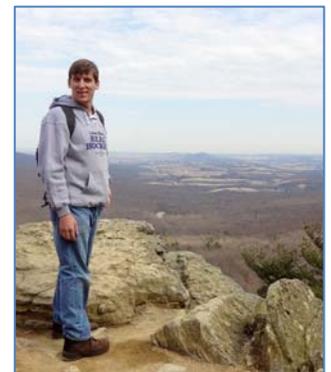


Clay serves as volunteer coordinator for the Common Ground Café community breakfasts and works in business development for the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency. In his spare time he enjoys bike riding, golfing, performing with his brass quintet, and spending time with his family.

Clay has been a member of UCH since 2005 and is a newly elected member of the Board of Trustees.

### August 25: Josh Cysyk, Clover Lane

Josh Cysyk lives in Hershey with his wife, Christine, and their three children: Matt, 8; Gwen, 6; and Casey, 3. They started attending UCH in 2010 and became members in 2012.



Josh is originally from Laurel, MD, where his family attended a Lutheran church. After going to college at Penn State, he lived in Boston and Baltimore before moving to Hershey five years ago. Prior to coming to UCH, he has not been very active in any church since his youth besides a brief stint at a Lutheran church while living in Baltimore.

Josh is a professor at Penn State Hershey in the Division of Artificial Organs where he works on developing blood pumps and artificial hearts. He spends most of his free time with his family, enjoying the outdoors as much as possible. When not involved with kids activities on Saturday morning he volunteers at the Common Ground Café. He loves music and books and has begun attending the philosophy and literature book club when he can. In the time that's left over, he plays hockey as much as possible.



LABOR DAY WEEKEND (SEPT 1)	
SERVICE	SPEAKER
10:00 a.m. Clover Lane	John Hope
10:30 a.m. Market Street	Laura Edinger

***Non-Parent Volunteers Needed for Children/Youth 2013-14***

Please check out these curricula for next year and sign up to give a hand! Children/youth RGL need adult assistance to manage the workload. Please contact Trish Brandon (preferably with e-form in e-hand...) at [DREHarrisburg@gmail.com](mailto:DREHarrisburg@gmail.com).

*Which Program Will You Help Lead?*

GRADE	TOPIC	TITLE	LINK
Ages 14-15	<b>World Religions</b>	This is a world religions program to deepen youths' understanding of the dynamic, fascinating, and varied world in which they live.	<a href="http://uaa.org/re/tapestry/youth/bridges/">uaa.org/re/tapestry/youth/bridges/</a>
Ages 12-15	<b>Social Justice</b>	“Heeding the Call: Qualities Of A Justice Maker”	<a href="http://uaa.org/re/tapestry/youth/call">uaa.org/re/tapestry/youth/call</a>
Middle School	<b>Riddle &amp; Mystery</b>	Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going? Does God exist? What happens when you die? Can we ever solve life’s mystery? How can I know what to believe? What does Unitarian Universalism mean to me?	<a href="http://uaa.org/re/tapestry/children/riddle">uaa.org/re/tapestry/children/riddle</a>
Grades 2-3	<b>Faithful Journeys</b>	This series takes the students on a pilgrimage of faith, exploring how Unitarian Universalism translates into life choices and everyday actions. In each session, they hear historic or contemporary examples of UU faith in action	<a href="http://uaa.org/re/tapestry/children/journeys">uaa.org/re/tapestry/children/journeys</a>
K-1	<b>Wonderful Welcome</b>	Children explore how and why we are willing to welcome others into our lives. We welcome not only strangers, but family, our peers, our neighbors and even entities that are not people such as our animal friends and nature itself.	<a href="http://uaa.org/re/tapestry/children/welcome">uaa.org/re/tapestry/children/welcome</a>

***Children & Youth Registration***

Registration for the 2013-14 church year is now past due! Unregistered children or youth are invited to stay in the sanctuary for the entire service with their family until registration is completed. This procedure will begin in September. It does not apply to guests.

Copies of the registration form are available in the common area at each campus. You may request an electronic registration form by email to: [DREHarrisburg@gmail.com](mailto:DREHarrisburg@gmail.com) or submit a paper copy which is available under the “Forms” tab on the church website .

*—Submitted by Trish Brandon, Director of Religious Education*

**Detail Calendar**

**August 2013**

*Please synchronize your calendar for these UCH-sponsored events.*

**Mon 5 6:30 Amrit Yoga (weekly) Clover Lane**

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 6 7:00 Mindfulness Meditation (weekly) Clover Lane**

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 7      6:00      Queen Spirit      Clover Lane**

Queen Spirit is a co-created women's spirituality circle that meets on the first Wednesday of the month. This month, Debbie Page and Randa Todd will present a circle sharing Reflexology, showing how it can enrich and improve your life. All women are encouraged to bring something for the altar that has improved and enriched their lives.

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 10      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 volunteers, please contact Clay Lambert, [commongroundbreakfast@gmail.com](mailto:commongroundbreakfast@gmail.com). Repeats August 24

**Sat 10      7:30      Movie Night at Clover Lane      Clover Lane**

UCH members and friends are invited to a convivial "Saturday Night at the Movies." This month's feature is "The Gods Must Be Crazy" (1980). The South African comedy is an allegory about a traveling Bushman who encounters modern civilization and its stranger aspects, including a clumsy scientist and a band of revolutionaries.

Contact John Katz, [carjatz59@gmail.com](mailto:carjatz59@gmail.com).

**Sun 11      9:00      Second Sunday Forum      Clover Lane**

The Forum meets on the Second Sunday each month 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 guest speaker is Rev. Posa! Eric will introduce himself and answer questions. A great opportunity not to be missed!



**Second Sunday Forum**

Rev. Posa will also be leading the 11:00 am service at Market Street and preaching the sermon there. Consider attending both events: 9:00 am for an informal, interactive experience, and 11:00 am for a structured service. For more information, please contact David Spear, [spear130@gmail.com](mailto:spear130@gmail.com).

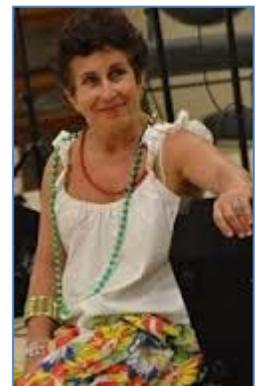
**Sun 11      1:00      Sacred Dance: Four Faces of the Goddess      Clover Lane**

A Dance Journey to awaken and integrate the four main feminine archetypes of the African Brazilian tradition:

- 🌞 Oshun, the Lover: Goddess of beauty and sensuality
- 🌞 Yansan, the Warrior: Goddess of strength and power
- 🌞 Yemanjá, the Mother: Goddess of unconditional love
- 🌞 Nanán, the Priestess: Goddess of ancient wisdom

In this women's workshop, Lucia combines healing process, creative movement and African Brazilian sacred dance to explore the magic, power, and wisdom of Divine Feminine energy.

**About the instructor:** Lucia Cordeiro is a dancer and a journalist who dedicates her life to researching Brazilian rhythms and dances, and in particular, the African tradition. She believes movement and sound are the best healing medicine of all. An interview, including excerpts from a 2009 performance of Viver Brasil at Aratani/Japan America Theater, Los Angeles, is available at this URL: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Swiw5wbWyp0>.

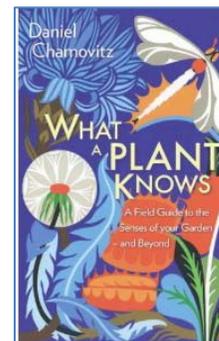


**Tapas potluck at noon!** Please bring a favorite dish, dessert or beverage to share, plus your place setting and serving spoons and plates. The dance session is co-sponsored by Clover Lane Coffee House and QueenSpirit.

Admission \$20 donation at the door. No prior dance experience needed ~ all women are welcome. Contact [a.bart.carpenter@gmail.com](mailto:a.bart.carpenter@gmail.com) for additional information.

**Sun 11 7:00 Philosophy & Literature Group Clover Lane**

The Philosophy & Literature Group meets on the second Sunday of each month, usually at Clover Lane. The book for August is *What A Plant Knows: A Field Guide to the Senses*, by Daniel Chamovitz, Ph.D. A captivating journey into the lives of plants—from the colors they see to the schedules they keep. How does a Venus flytrap know when to snap shut? Can it feel an insect’s spindly legs? How do flowers know when it’s spring? Can they actually remember the weather? And do they care if you play them Led Zepplin or Bach?



This month, the group meets at Clover Lane. Please call for directions. Any person who loves serious fiction and non-fiction is invited to join the group. Contact Don Brown, [dabrown57@gmail.com](mailto:dabrown57@gmail.com).

**Sat 17 8:00 Adopt-a-Highway Clover Lane**

The Adopt-a-Highway cadre is responsible for two miles of Lindle Road near the Clover Lane campus. Policing actions are held in the spring, summer and fall. THIS IS THE DAY. PennDOT provides orange safety vests and highway warning signs that we use during litter pick-ups. It also provides trash bags and picks up the bagged litter from the roadside.



Volunteers must be at least eight years old, and those under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Please contact John Hargreaves, [cierpinski@comcast.net](mailto:cierpinski@comcast.net). Meet at Clover Lane to start.

**Wed 21 6:00 Clover Grove/Full Moon Ritual Clover Lane**

Clover Grove is a group of earth-centered and pagan spiritualists. This group meets monthly at Clover Lane to discuss spiritual issues related to those of a similar path and celebrates, with ritual, the phases of the Earth and Moon. All are welcome. This month, the group will gather in Circle as we perform a Full Moon Ritual in Pagan style.

We are family-friendly, so bring the wee folks, if you want. Weather permitting, we will be outside by the big rock. We generally cast a Circle, Call Quarters and invoke Deity. Then each person has the opportunity to share an Act of Power that resonates with them on Full Moon. An Act of Power is a contribution to the circle, a strength or interest you have that may add to the circle. For example, if you enjoy/have an interest in working with herbs, you could bring a variety of herbs to be blessed at the full moon and share with the group; if chanting is more your thing, bring a chant and we can make copies if you wish the group to join in. After cakes and ale, we close up shop and enjoy a Pot Luck snack/meal.

Please bring something for the potluck, as well as your own beverage. Contact Nikki Stone-Thonus, [bnlady79@yahoo.com](mailto:bnlady79@yahoo.com).

**Sat 24 10:00 All-Church Picnic Pinchot Park**

All are welcome to the UCH summer picnic at Gifford Pinchot State Park, 2200 Rosstown Road, Lewisberry 17339. Festivities take place from 10 am - 4 pm at the Quaker Day Use Area, Lakeview Pavilion 4, where you will find a sandy "beach" with a swimming area, hiking trails, and a canoe launching area. There is no charge for any activity - this is a pure fun event before the next church year begins. The two canoe sessions are offered through the Canoe Ministry of Phyllis and Scott Brown. Each session has 8 canoes which can hold two paddlers plus a non-paddler in the middle, as well as a safety and paddling lesson and all safety equipment. Meet at the canoe launch area. Morning session is 10:15 - 12:15. Afternoon session is 1:30-3:30.



RSVP, let us know what food you are bringing, and sign up for a free canoe session at this link.

[signupgenius.com/go/70AOC49AFA928AB9-august](http://signupgenius.com/go/70AOC49AFA928AB9-august)

**Thu 29 6:45 Unisinger Rehearsal Clover Lane**

Unisingers wants yUU to give it a try! Tonight and the following Thursday, we welcome all and sundry to our weekly rehearsals, no experience necessary! If you've been wondering about how to lift your voice, we'll show you how!

No reservations necessary ~ just come a little early (6:45) for orientation. Repeats Sept. 5. Contact Sparkie Radcliffe, [sparkier@comcast.net](mailto:sparkier@comcast.net).

*Unisinging for the Uninitiated*



Through all the tumult and the strife  
I hear the music ringing;  
It finds an echo in my soul—  
How can I keep from singing?

## Save the Date

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Put these dates on your calendar:

- 🌟 **Friday, Sept. 6**  
Clover Lane Coffee House opens the season with a "first Friday" concert (first of four)! We have scheduled Sept-Dec on the first Friday this year. Opening the season is Cary Cooper, the wildly popular Dallas-based singer who opened last year with Brad Yoder. She's on a CD-release tour this fall.
- 🌟 **Saturday, Sept 21**  
Re-entry Breakfast at Market Street, as we Help People in Prison and Their Families
- 🌟 **Saturday, Oct 19**  
Bhante Sujatha returns for a meditative teaching in the Buddhist tradition.
- 🌟 **Tuesday, Oct. 29**  
Dan Cozort, UUCV member, author, and professor at Dickinson College, will discuss Buddhist social theory as described in David Loy's book, *The Great Awakening*.
- 🌟 **Saturday, Nov. 2**  
**Lights! Camera! Auction!** We have a Hollywood theme this year - save the date!

## Save the date

Plan to join our Reentry Breakfast crew on September 21 at Market Street as we **Help People in Prison**.

## Membership

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News about members of our community

### ***Michael Remaley/John deBary***

Michael Hamill Remaley, son of UCH member Joan Hellmann and the late Robert L. Remaley Jr, was married July 13 to John Nichols deBary, son of Victoria and Paul deBary of Cos Cob, CT. Michael is vice president for communications and public policy at Philanthropy New York. John is the bar manager for the Momofuku restaurant group in New York, a bartender at Please Don't Tell, and an assistant editor of a cocktail book published by *Food & Wine* magazine. The couple lives in New York City.

### ***Moe Weimer***

Moe Weimer, son/stepson of UCH members EvAnn and Rick Hawley, respectfully, graduated *summa cum laude* from Kutztown University in May with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education and English. Beginning this month, he will be teaching English and helping with theater at South Dorchester High School in Cambridge, MD. Cambridge is a small town on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay; settled by English colonists in 1684, it is one of the oldest colonial cities in Maryland.

### ***Edward Charles Sykes***

UCH member Jonathan Sykes and his wife, Adriana, are pleased to announce the birth of their son Edward Charles "Teddy" Sykes, on June 9, 2013. He weighed 8 pounds and was 21 inches long. Jonathan is the son of UCH members Ed and Karen Sykes. Karen provided on-site assistance for three weeks in June-July at the younger Sykes' home in Missouri, where Jonathan is stationed in the Air Force; the new family is scheduled for a Pennsylvania visit during August. Teddy is named after Jonathan's grandfather/Ed's father.



## Youth Group Mission Trip

Youth Group spent the week of June 16-22 on a mission trip to The Pilgrimage in Washington, D.C. The Pilgrimage provided a unique opportunity for learning and reflection through the various speakers and facilitators they provided. This allowed participants to ask questions, role play scenarios, and apply their learnings to broaden their perspective. Everyone came home with changed attitudes about homelessness and empathy for homeless people.



### *Reflections from the youth and youth leaders on The Pilgrimage mission trip*

— Submitted by Leann Rhoades

#### General reactions to the trip

“Homeless people are a lot unlike the stereotypes and without the D.C. experience, I probably would not have realized that.” - Aidan Loza

“The thing that impacted me the most was hearing the stories of people going through rough patches. I realized that they are humans just like the rest of us. Everybody wants and needs to be loved and acknowledged by other human beings.”

“Something I learned that really got me thinking was that homelessness can happen to anyone, regardless of how smart, funny, or caring you are.” - Grace Roane-Hopkins

My experience on the mission trip was nearly life changing. I could never have known the full extent of how homelessness occurs in not just the city but everywhere. I've dealt with the homeless before since I volunteer at a soup kitchen, but it still shocked me to see all those people working hard and trying to make enough money to get something to eat. But what do most people do when they see a homeless man? They shun him like a criminal. But on a brighter note, I got to meet a lot of nice people through soup kitchens, donation centers, and a free clinic. - Steve Fromml

#### Reactions to Allen Banks, speaker from the National Coalition for the Homeless

“Now I love taking out the trash... because it is the result of my having my own place” by Allen, a formerly homeless man who spoke to the UCH group, who had been a US Marshall until he developed mental health and then drug abuse problems.

“Homelessness can happen to anyone.” - Libby Bechtel

“The talk by Allen Banks was one of my favorite moments; I felt so fascinated and enlightened by his story of homelessness.” - Katy Alberici

Beneath Those Stone Faces  
by Libby Bechtel

In this cold-stoned city,  
You see stone faces  
All in their heads  
In this cold-stoned city,  
There are the suit-wearers  
There are the finders & keepers  
The many faces & the many stories

The suit-wearers' world  
spins around coffee,  
taxis, & hobnobbing with officials  
The finders & keepers' world  
spins around the next meal,  
next sleeping spot,  
& survival  
The two worlds cohabiting,  
but living in their own worlds  
The stereotypes swimming

Beneath those stone faces,  
There are stories  
There are hobbies, interests,  
& characteristics that many share  
To unlock this gold from  
within a suit-wearer,  
It might take most a cell phone  
Because they need to  
constantly be in "the know"  
But to unlock this gold  
from a finder & keeper,  
Most likely it will only take  
a smile & a "good morning"

Beneath those stone faces  
Are people

## Reactions to David Harris poetry workshop

Peter, in response to a question from David Harris about what surprised you during your week's experiences: "I have managed service operations with 400 to 1,000 employees. I found it to be extremely difficult to ensure that service would be consistently customer-friendly. Published management research indicates that ensuring consistently customer-friendly service is a widespread problem. Therefore, I find it incomprehensible that so many social service organizations serving the homeless have achieved consistent customer-friendly service. This is especially so because most of these organizations are being supervised or managed by people who have come up through the ranks and appear to lack graduate degrees from prestigious schools, and most of the line employees are either entry level employees with minimal training or volunteers."

David Harris said this way after being homeless for years, "Life is good! I have my own bathroom, food in my refrigerator that I bought at the grocery store and a nice warm bed."

He took these things for granted when he grew up in a "normal" middle-class nice neighborhood.

## Reactions to working in food kitchens

- 👤 "I have opened up my eyes to the lives of other people and have been able to connect with all people." - Adam Malarich
- 👤 "The homeless care just as much for the people helping them as the helpers care for the homeless."
- 👤 Paul Jones, floor manager at Charlie's Place, "I'm not homeless, I just don't have a home."
- 👤 Peter, volunteer – "What do you think of the food here?"

Miguel, client who is in the US illegally for more than five years – "If you are hungry enough, the food is always good."

- 👤 Peter, elderly volunteer – "Do you want sweetener for your coffee?"

Julius, elderly client, sternly – "Look at my coffee!"

Peter, elderly volunteer – "Okay, but do you want sweetener for your coffee?"

Julius, elderly client, with a smile – "No, you looking at my coffee made it sweet enough."

### Michelle

By Leeann Rhoades

Michelle  
archetypal amazon goddess.

My heroine in her velvety smooth ebony skin,  
spiked hair like a warrior's helmet &  
commanding voice that bellowed through a  
mother's smile.

Michelle told me,  
"Treat them like kings and queens – with dignity!"  
"Raise them up and they will do the same for  
themselves."

"Only 3 sugars"  
"Add water if the coffee is thick black"

"Call them by name or "friend"

I began to see through new eyes.

So efficiently we wiped, we set, we swept – to  
prepare for the next shift  
& the next & the next.

How they adored Michelle. I now know why.  
Michelle - my heroine.



## UCH Youth Group



### **What's Growing On Across the Street?**

*Ed. note. This organization was featured in a Patriot-News column last month by Nancy Eshelman. Read the flattering profile at this link: [http://blog.pennlive.com/life/2013/07/growing\\_strong\\_is\\_going\\_strong.html](http://blog.pennlive.com/life/2013/07/growing_strong_is_going_strong.html)*

Strength is growing in the rented lot across Market St. and 16<sup>th</sup> St. from the UCH building in Allison Hill. GROWING STRONG is a project of the Foundation for Enhancing Communities, fiscal sponsor. The project is working closely with UCH to strengthen the neighborhood around the church. While UCH is growing relationships with the neighbors to promote social justice, GROWING STRONG is raising vegetables and sharing them with our neighbors to promote good health and demonstrate that empty lots can become a source of sustenance, beauty and pride to Allison Hill.

GROWING STRONG is the brainchild of Dr. Judith Samkoff (alto I in the Unisingers) and Susan Norris (volunteer at Community Hours and Common Ground Café). Although it is not a project of UCH, GROWING STRONG benefits from priceless support from the church, ranging from allowing us to use the Market St. facility to prepare food and store garden tools to sharing the churches' personal relationships with our neighbors in need.



Susan Norris



Judith Samkoff

As of July 15, GROWING STRONG has harvested more than 80 pounds of produce (collard greens, kale, radishes, lettuce, Swiss chard, onions, garlic, spinach, cucumbers and delectable herbs). We give some of the produce directly to our neighbors at Community Hours, at Common Ground Café breakfasts or straight from the garden. GROWING STRONG has also contributed finished products to some of the Common Ground Café breakfasts. Did you taste our mulberry syrup last month? We also contribute both ingredients and prepared dishes to the sidewalk cookouts hosted by Naed Smith, the Catholic Worker, one block south of UCH's Market Street campus.

You probably know someone in the congregation who has been involved with GROWING STRONG. Rachel Mark, Chair of the Green Sanctuaries Ministry, is the official renter of the garden lot, as well as a stalwart volunteer in garden and kitchen. Mary Kay Doyle contributes her considerable gardening knowledge and impressive lawn-mowing prowess, and Debbie Manlove lends a hand every chance she gets. The multi-talented Tom Connors worked with Susan to repair one of the raised beds and to create a new one out of donated lumber. Donna Hoskins-Helm and Clay Lambert bravely work our culinary efforts into the Saturday breakfasts, never knowing what we might be leaving in the refrigerator for them until Fri. evening. Next time you're on Market St., check out what's growing strong! — *Submitted by Judith Samkoff*

### **Report on UU Plan**

The Economic Justice Team is monitoring the movement of Medicaid expansion and minimum wage legislation. PAYDAY loans never made it to a PA Senate floor vote this spring. So for now, thanks to all of your calls, emails and visits to legislators, the STOP Payday Loan Coalition has been able to keep predatory lending out of PA. However, we're bracing for another push from the industry lobbyists when the legislators return in September. We'll keep you posted.



Food for Thought: Mark your calendars for October 19, 2013. UUPLAN Economic Justice Team in cooperation with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) and Restaurant Opportunities Center (ROC) is sponsoring a one-day forum about Ethical Eating. Look for more information in future newsletters and Sundays in September.

The Environmental Justice Team is tracking legislation regarding (1) a Marcellus shale fracking moratorium and (2) the Agriculture-Gag bill. Senator Jim Ferlo is seeking co-sponsors for legislation that would impose a moratorium on well drilling in Pennsylvania. The second bill, which we oppose, would prohibit public release of information obtained from factory farm investigations. Rep. Gary Haluska introduced HB683 in the General Assembly and Senator Mike Brubaker promises to introduce a similar bill in the Senate in the fall. The E-J team is also pursuing information regarding "Climate Action Team" registration, a new UUA initiative that will register individual congregations as a "climate action team".

— *Submitted by Rachel Mark and Anita Mentzer*