



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

Minister's Message

It seems we have arrived at a crossroads in our church, financially speaking. So let me be as open and transparent with you as possible about where we are financially, and what our next steps are as a congregation. An expanded version of this column was mailed to all members.



As some of you know, our projected income for next year (2014-15) is significantly down from the current year ending June 30. As it stands today, our projected income for next year is down more than \$69,000, from \$559,490 to \$490,060 – and that's if each of our outstanding pledges comes in at exactly the same level as this year, which is not guaranteed. (I outline several possible reasons for this in the letter.)

I have consulted with our board, and various lay leaders and staff involved in the church's finances, to inform the general financial direction of the church in the year to come. We considered many options, including cancelling the search for an assistant minister for next year, and instead hiring a new director of religious education (DRE). That would save about \$16,000 – significant, but less than half the current deficit. I am hearing from leaders – and I frankly concur – that the benefits of this new staffing structure are more than worth the savings. With their guidance, I am working on a budget with some significant spending cuts, including reductions on other staff positions, but it still contains a deficit of about \$37,000.

So, our search for the second minister continues. We did have to extend the search, as our first choice took another position. However, we've had interest from several ministers since then, and we hope to announce our second minister by the end of May.

But the question remains: what next? Clearly, we need to re-examine our giving levels – and other sources of income, as well. For example, we invite all of our members to engage our Gift Card program. We will have tables set up May 11 during fellowship hour at both campuses, where gift cards can be purchased; you also can find the order form on our church website. Plus, we are asking our members who have not yet submitted a pledge, to do so ASAP. If you HAVE submitted a 2014-15 pledge, please consider increasing it.

We'll hold informational sessions on the budget following worship, at each campus, on May 11 and May 18. Members of the board and the Finance Committee will be on hand to answer questions about the proposed budget. We seek a final total of \$377,000 in pledge income, for the hoped-for expenses. Even with the spending cuts I currently am recommending (reluctantly), we seek a total of \$340,000. To date, we have received \$245,000.

We hope you will join us in engaging our church to your fullest possible financial extent.

In faith,
Rev. Eric Posa

Unitarian Church of Harrisburg

May 2014 At-a-Glance

DATE	TIME	SPEAKER
Sun 4	9:00	"Responsible Truth,"
	11:15	Rev. Aija Simpson
Mon 5	6:30	Amrit Yoga
Tue 6	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group
Wed 7	7:00	QueenSpirit (offsite)
		Getting Ahead Graduation
Sat 10	9:00	Community Café
	7:30	Movie Night
Sun 11	9:00	"In the Freedom of Truth," Rev. Eric Posa
	10:30	Second Sunday Forum
	11:15	"In the Freedom of Truth," Rev. Posa
	12:45	UU Christian Fellowship
	7:00	Philosophy and Literature
Mon 12	6:30	Amrit Yoga
Tue 13	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group
		Women's Night Out (offsite)
Fri 16	7:00	UUPlan, Friday Film Forum
Sun 18	9:00	Flower Communion
	11:15	
Mon 19	6:30	Amrit Yoga
Tue 20	10:00	CroneSpirit
	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group
Wed 21	6:00	Clover Grove
Sat 24	9:00	Community Café
Sun 25	9:00	"Mom, I'm Going in the Air Force," Karen Sykes
	11:15	
Tue 27	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group
		UU Christian Fellowship
Sat 31	9:00	Community Café
	Noon	Potluck
	1:30	Annual Meeting

Occurs at Market Street campus

**May Theme:
Truth**

Grocery cards are available for purchase after services on the second Sunday of each month.

President's Message



May will be an important month this year. It is the time for you, members of the congregation, to take an even more active role in determining what the church will be accomplishing next year. The first thing concerns the financial health of our community. Each of us needs to turn in our pledge for 2014-15 so that the budget will be reasonable and ensure there will be funds for the programs and services that we use. I also mailed out a request for a special year-end gift to the church so that we can go into the next fiscal year with a strong cash position. At the writing of this article several thousand dollars have been raised, and hopefully several more thousand will be donated.

A second item is the formation of a Search Committee responsible for choosing a candidate to present to the congregation to call as a new settled minister. That call will be preceded by Candidate's Week, where you can meet the prospective minister. There will then be a congregational meeting where a vote will be taken. This is a very different process from many other faiths. We have "Congregational Polity" which means that we choose our next settled minister. The formation of the Search Committee is almost finished. We attempted to call everyone in the congregation and ask who they trusted to serve on the Search Committee. The answers from those that were interested in providing their opinion were tabulated. The list was compiled using the information from the phone survey done by the Board. People whose names were mentioned were called and asked if they could commit to serve. You will be asked to vote for 7 on the list at the Annual Meeting this month.

The Finance Committee, Staff, and the Board are finalizing the budget for next year. Issues of staffing needs are a priority. Last year about 70% of our operating costs were salaries and benefits. The coming year is about the same, only the proposed staff structure will be different. The

main change is due to the resignation of Trish Brandon. Instead of hiring a replacement Director of Religious Education (DRE) the plan is to hire an assistant minister who will have the responsibility of religious education as well as pastoral duties. This will allow for many more options for services at both campuses.

1:30 pm May 31
Congregational Meeting

Currently the times and places of Sunday services are determined by staffing; with an additional minister/DRE there are more options for the times of services and religious education. The level of pledges and other sources of income are the factors that will allow the church to have the staff levels it needs for the present programs as well as allow for growth in the future. Having adequate staff may also be an important factor to attract a prospective minister.

In May we will be refinancing the balloon payment on the Clover Lane mortgage. The Finance Committee is still working on an agreement. The good news is that interest rates are significantly lower than they were five years ago, so our interest expense will be significantly less. It is also an opportunity to pay down the principle amount of the mortgage, so contributions for that will be gratefully accepted.

Stewardship of our church involves more than just "treasure". It also involves the gift of your time and talents. A form went out with your pledge cards asking about your talents and interests. Your interests and talents will be matched to the needs of our church. Often there is the need for a volunteer, and it would be helpful if the information was there to match volunteer to project. If you have not filled out one of these forms, contact Linda Hope.

The Annual Meeting on May 31 will be preceded by a potluck at noon and followed by an informal discussion.

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

Search Committee Candidates

The Board is pleased to announce the following candidates for the Ministerial Search Committee. Seven will be elected May 31 to serve on the committee:

- Peter Adams
- Margaret Carrow
- Linda Hope
- Andrea MacDonald
- Karen Mallah
- Roger Ostdahl
- David Spear
- Karen Sykes
- Kendra Trufahnestock
- Nick Wilson

MAY TRUSTEE ASSIGNMENTS

DATE	CLOVER LANE	MARKET ST
4	Dennis Hursh	Mary Henninger-Voss
11	Marilyn McHenry	Dennis Hursh
18	Dave Forster	Laura Edinger
25	TBD	Judy Linder



The Board of Trustees invites all UCH members to an open "Brew with the Board" forum, following Sunday services on the Third Sunday at each campus.

Ed. Note: UCH has sponsored two iterations of Getting Ahead, at our Market Street campus. Graduation is May 7 for the 2014 students.

The Getting Ahead program of the Tri-County Community Action Commission that has been meeting at the Market Street campus since December operates on a simple and yet profoundly life-changing premise—those who know the most about poverty and what is needed to improve one’s life are those who are living in poverty, and not outside “experts.” Thus, the Getting Ahead program spends 16 to 18 weeks facilitating discussions among community residents living in poverty and encouraging them to help each other identify and solve their own problems. The program is based on the work of Ruby K. Payne, Ph.D., founder of the aha! Process, which offers a broad range of training solutions for higher education and communities based on her research on poverty and its effects on education.

Natashia Woods, the lead facilitator for this group, explained that they re-evaluate their process every time to be more aware of the issues facing participants and find more resources. The program is highly individualized and helps each individual find out what will work for them. Each group has unique issues such as living in poverty in rural areas, those who don’t speak English, individuals with intellectual disabilities. These are things that cause facilitators to have to constantly adapt the program and resources.

Most participants are recommended by social service agencies. Potential group members submit an application form and are interviewed by a screening committee. Classes normally have about 12 participants. Childcare is provided each time the program meets to enable parents to participate; meals are also provided.

The Getting Ahead approach resonates with those who have been participating in the current session.

Mackendra Sellers, who attends with several of her children, says the three most important things she has learned are to identify what her needs are, to identify what her skills are and what she needs to work on, and to know which community agencies that she hadn’t been aware of can help her. She also has learned networking skills with the other participants.

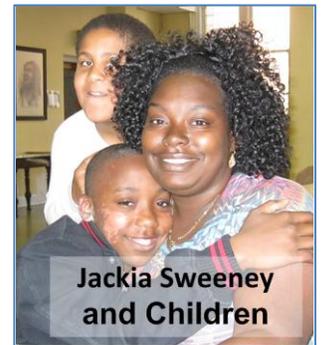


Mackendra Sellers

“In our classes we start talking about one thing and it goes into many other things,” she says. “We’ve learned so much about each other. If you don’t know something, someone else in the class does and will share it.”

As the program nears its conclusion Sellers, who says she is currently “in transition,” will be working to find housing and to develop a budget. She expects to pay what she has learned forward. “You learn and then you teach,” she declares firmly. “I’m trying to better myself so I can then give back to the community.”

Jakia Sweeney, who also attends the current program, says it has been “inspirational and given me a sense of hope.” She describes this as her “Wednesday family” and “the highlight of my week.” The participants are in contact with each other at other times during the week and often remain in contact long after the program ends and provide each other with ongoing support.



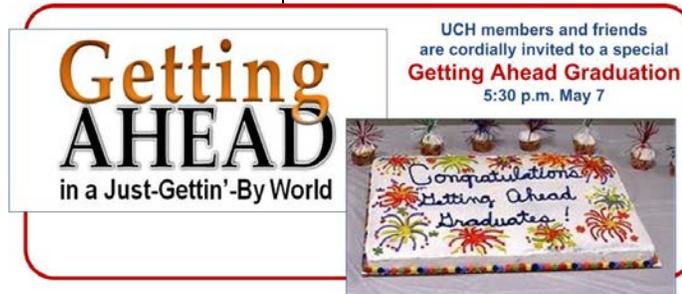
Jakia Sweeney and Children

According to the county’s Acting Human Services Director, Randie Yeager, the best way to provide help is to facilitate persons helping themselves and each other. A government program can’t accomplish what this grassroots approach can, nor can it be available for support at any hour day or night the way the participants can be for each other. This approach empowers people to help themselves by giving them tools, helping them identify things that stand in the way and figuring out how to overcome or work around those blocks.

UCH provides in-kind resources; a safe place to meet, and volunteers to provide dinner before each session. In addition, UCH’s Sparkie Radcliffe has been sitting in and getting trained to be a facilitator for the program. “I was intrigued with this program from the first class they held,” she says. “It struck a chord with me because its approach to



(From left) **Randie Yeager, Natashia Woods, Sparkie Radcliffe**



poverty is so different than any other agency's approach. Instead of determining what people in poverty need and developing a way to fulfill that need, Getting Ahead asks the people in poverty to discover exactly what they need and helps them develop a plan to obtain their needs and to report their findings to the community organizations."

Sparkie will be certified as a Getting Ahead facilitator and says she was "thrilled" to be asked to take that step. "I learn something new every time I'm with the group," she says. "I learn as much about myself as I do about poverty. Even after four years of working at this, I only have a glimpse into what generational poverty must be like. This experience has totally changed my perception of what poverty really is and

— Submitted by Linda and John Hope

Find Out More

To learn more about Getting Ahead, go online to [Getting Ahead](#). UCH members and friends are invited to attend the Getting Ahead graduation at 7:00 p.m. May 7, in the sanctuary at the Market Street Campus.

what it isn't. It has underscored for me the deeper meaning of what our first and last principles call us to do--to promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to respect the interdependent web of all existence of which I am a part. It is the kind of work that gives my life meaning and hope for the future. It makes music in my heart."

Children/Youth RGL

Plans Afoot for Children's RGL

Wendy and Jess are gearing up for the summer sessions! The summer class sign-up has been e-mailed. We're asking parents to sign up to lead two classes this summer. If you've never led a session before, this summer is a great time to start. We're making it super easy with the entire session packaged together (story and craft/activity materials). All you'll need to do is show up and read (then lead!).

And not to jump too far ahead, but we're also beginning our fall planning, so be on the lookout for the 2014/2015 RGL registration form in your email.

Interested in working in the nursery? The RGL Coordinators are looking to hire additional nursery help for Sunday mornings at both campuses. This is a great summer job opportunity! Contact Jess at childrenloverln@harrisburguu.com or Wendy at childrenmarketst@harrisburguu.com

— Submitted by Jessica Chuckalovcak

Bridging Ceremony for High School Seniors

The Bridging Ceremony for high school seniors is Sunday May 11 at the Market Street service.

Bridging is a UU rite of passage ritual welcoming our youth to young adulthood. We will be celebrating this transition with the following seniors; Libby Bechtel, Zoe Roane-Hopkins, Katy Alberici, Adam Malarich, Olivia Gregg, and Annie Jastrebski

Congratulations to this wonderful group of UCH youth!

— Submitted by Leann Rhoades

April 6, 2014

Dear UCH friends and associates,

I have arrived at another crossroads in my life and regret to inform you of my intent to resign at the end of June 2014 following the mission trip to the Heifer International Farm. Let us be mindful that each day is remarkable and it is up to each of us to make the most of each remarkable day. It is time for me to devote my time and energy to my creative pursuits. I realize that my life has a purpose and meaning in other directions at this time. I was raised in a family of artists and educators, taught art education for most of my career, served Cumberland Valley School District as an administrator in Curriculum/Instruction and Professional Development, and raised two fabulous children as a single mother. The time has come for me to honor and develop the artist within; the artist that sat in the back seat for so long.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity afforded me to serve the teens, families of teens, and UCH for the past two years. Whatever I have accomplished, I could not have done without the full support of Trish Brandon, the youth leaders, the UCH staff, and the families. It takes the collective efforts of many to raise our children.

My service as Youth Ministry Administrator has been very rewarding and I feel privileged to have been supported and inspired by so many kind and gifted church people. I look forward to the exciting changes and growth happening at UCH. You are very special people.

Standing on the side of love, *Leann*

Activist Reports

UUs are making a difference in the community.

UUPLAN Goes to Harrisburg

On April 29, over 50 members of UUPLAN participated in a Lobby Day in Harrisburg. Participants from across the state came to join with one of the three UUPLAN issues teams: Environmental, Immigration or Reproductive Justice. Each issue team joined with a larger coalition on their specific issue, received training, divided into small groups of 3-4 and were assigned to meet with a legislator.



Environmental Justice united with the Sierra Club to keep our state forests and parks off limits to fracking. The PA Immigration and Citizen Coalition (PICC) was joined by our Immigration Justice team to urge the passage of the PA Dream Act which permits the children of undocumented workers to pay in-state tuition to attend PA state colleges. Reproduction Justice collaborated with Planned Parenthood to lobby for the passage of the Women's Health Agenda – a comprehensive collection of 7 bills based on what women want in regard to their own health.

At the close of the day, volunteers met together for a "UU Justice Gathering" in a conference room of the Capitol. We had a brief time to greet fellow UUs, to share reflections on the experiences of the morning. Participants were led in a meditation on justice and our UU core values, facilitated by Rev. Joan Sabatino, minister at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Indiana, PA, and Board Member of UUPLAN.

The UCH Reproductive Rights team hosted a discussion session on Saturday evening, May 26th with guest minister, Rob Keithan (son of Nan and Jim Cavanaugh). Rev. Keithan, director of outreach with the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, delivered the message on April 27 on the topic of Religion, Abortion, Sexuality and Justice.

Coming in May – UUPLAN's Economic Justice Team in support of Raise the Wage, PA will join in Harrisburg's Local Day of Action at 11-12 noon in the Capitol Rotunda on May 8th. Rev. Erica Posa will speak. Please join us.

Friday Film Forum

UUPLAN Friday Film Forum is scheduled for May 16 from 7-9pm. Join us for a discussion of Immigration in American.

Friday Film Forum: Cinema 2 Make U Think

A graphic titled "Friday Film Forum: Cinema 2 Make U Think" displays four film posters. From left to right: 1. "The WISDOM to SURVIVE: Climate Change, Organisms of Community" by Old Dog Documentaries, Environmental Justice, March 14. 2. "THE WIRE" (The Final Season), Anti-Incarceration, April 18. 3. "ENTRE NOS" (Inspired by a True Story), Immigration, May 16. 4. "INEQUALITY FOR ALL" (Top 1% Income Share), Economic Justice, June 13. The posters are arranged in a row, with the "Immigration" poster slightly overlapping the others.

Abruptly abandoned by her husband in a country completely foreign to her, Colombian native Mariana (Paola Mendoza) struggles to take care of herself and her two young children on the unforgiving streets of New York City. Inspired by a true story. 2009, 80mins.

– Submitted by Rachel Mark and Anita Mentzer

Keystone XL Pledge of Resistance

On April 5, Barbara Van Horn and I went to a Keystone XL Pledge of Resistance training at the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia. We had both, much earlier, signed a pledge of resistance to KXL i.e. if the pipeline were approved, we would risk arrest to protest. Thousands of people have taken this pledge across the country and over 100 local actions have been planned. Barbara and I were both arrested previously protesting KXL (thought at different events, and before I knew Barbara). The intent of the training was to have local leaders in place who would figure out the details: site, time, action, etc.

The organizers were Rainforest Action Network (RAN). Here are some quotes from the literature ...

In the face of a decision on the Keystone XL Pipeline coming in the next few months, the KXL Pledge of Resistance is a commitment to massive and historic nationwide acts of peaceful, dignified civil disobedience if President Obama takes the first step to approve KXL. The Pledge is being organized by CREDO, Rainforest Action Network and the Other 98% to put direct political pressure on President Obama to reject KXL. More than 78,000 have signed the pledge...

– Submitted by Betsy Conover

2014 LaGrone Scholar

We are thrilled to announce selection of Merced Ramirez Saldana as our 2014 LaGrone Scholar. He will receive \$1,375 for his continuing studies at Messiah College and is eligible for a total of \$5,500.

Merced is a Messiah College student entering his sophomore year; he graduated in the top five percent of his class with honors from Harrisburg High in 2013. While in Harrisburg High School, he was involved in the National Honors Society, Youth and Government Club, the Joshua Group, varsity soccer team, track and field team, and more. He has been a recipient of many awards throughout his academic career, including the Super Sophomore Award and the John Q. Waters Scholarship. His favorite subjects in school include mathematics and languages.



Merced has a strong commitment to helping others and serving his community. He developed the desire of helping others through the Joshua Group, a mentoring program he has been part of since 7th grade. The Joshua Group is an at-risk youth mentoring organization located at 1442 Market Street that works with youth living primarily in Allison Hill. Through the group, he's become the dedicated and driven young man in college today. He is majoring in International Business, hoping to minor in Chinese. He hopes to work abroad after graduation and work with professionals of all backgrounds and careers.

Merced strongly believes in giving back to communities and reaching out to young students with backgrounds similar to his; he wants to open a secure pathway for those students through education.

Members of the Selection Panel included David Botero, Community Policing Coordinator, Harrisburg Bureau of Police; and UCH members Lydia Hursh and Kelly O'Neill.

Oliver LaGrone (1906-1995), a longtime Unitarian Universalist, was noted as a poet, sculptor, educator and humanitarian. He was a man of towering intellect and prodigious creativity, an elegant man with a knowing spirit. The LaGrone Cultural Arts Center at Penn State Harrisburg was named after him.

All UCH LaGrone Scholars must be graduates of the Harrisburg School District. The LaGrone Scholarship is the largest of any local scholarship available to graduates of the Harrisburg School District. More than \$100,000 has been disbursed since 1992.

— Submitted by Margaret Carrow

Community Profile

Douglas Brunson

Harrisburg resident Douglas Brunson has become one of the “regulars” in the kitchen at UCH’s Market Street campus. About a year ago, he heard about the Common Ground Café from family members. On his first visit, Douglas knew right away that he wanted to be a part of the breakfasts and so now, two Saturdays every month, he is “The Pancake Guy.”



When I asked Douglas what it's like to cook 300 servings of pancakes in one morning, he replied, “This is light work!” Back when he lived in his hometown of New York City, Douglas was a cook for the NYC Board of Education and routinely fed up to 4,000 kids a day!

Douglas helps out in the Market Street kitchen during the week as well, washing cups and pots during Community Hours on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Thank you, Douglas, for all you do!

— Submitted by Amy Allen

UCH OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer needed: UCH is hosting Celebration Sunday on Nov. 3, 2014 at Hadee Mosque in Harrisburg. This is a joint service with some of our sister congregations in the Priestly district. We need a “contact person” who can help coordinate the event, send out emails, reminders, and work with the planning team. This person will be a single point of contact for a 3-5 person Planning Team. For meetings a cell phone with speaker would work well.

Should be versatile with e-mail and phone and able to quickly move messages to the appropriate persons. It is a short term need—not a forever job. For more specific information please contact Judy Linder (jlinder09@gmail.com) or Linda Hope (neesa46@gmail.com).

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. **Repeats every Monday**

Led by Ed Sykes, esykes@state.pa.us. No experience necessary!

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. **Repeats every Tuesday.** Third Tuesday is silent meditation.

Wed 7 7:00 QueenSpirit Clover Lane

Queen Spirit is a co-created women's spirituality circle that meets on the first Wednesday of the month. This month, we meet for dinner at Fiesta Restaurant in celebration of Cinco de Mayo! The address is 3957 Paxton Street, a few blocks from our Clover Lane campus.

Contact Randa Todd, lrrt1946@yahoo.com.



Sat 10 9:00 Common Ground Café Market Street

In collaboration with the Shared Ministry, the UCH operates the Common Ground Café at our Market Street campus on the second and last Saturday of the month. 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. **Repeats May 31.** To join the list of volunteers, please contact Clay Lambert, commongroundbreakfast@gmail.com.



Sat 10 7:30 Movie Night Clover Lane

UCH members and friends are invited to our monthly Movie Night. This month's feature is *Marty*, a 1955 romantic drama film starring Ernest Borgnine and Betsy Blair. In addition to gaining an Academy Award for Best Picture, the film enjoyed international success, becoming the second American film to win the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. In 1994, *Marty* was deemed "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant" by the Library of Congress and selected for preservation in the National Film Registry. Contact Judy Linder, jclinder09@gmail.com.



Sun 11 10:30 Second Sunday Forum Clover Lane

Come talk about the wonders of Japan...the people and the culture. UCH members Don and Linda Brown will talk about their experience in Japan during the three months they spent there recently. They both describe it as an extraordinary place with much to teach us. All are welcome. Please contact David Spear, spear130@gmail.com.



Sun 11 12:45 UUCF Market Street

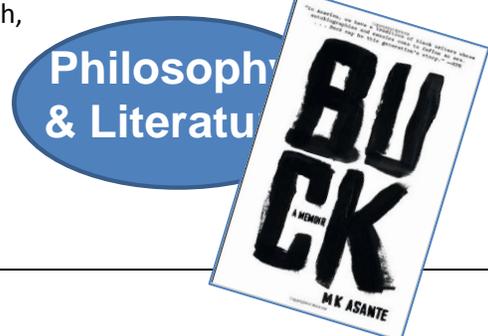
UU Christian Fellowship (UUCF) is group of UCH members who meet twice each month to explore Christian-themed topics of interest to UUs. The group meets on the second Sunday at Market Street and on the fourth Tuesday at Clover Lane. All are welcome. **Repeats at 7:00 p.m. May 27 at Clover Lane.** The topic this month is "Teacher, Guide, Companion: Rediscovering Jesus in a Secular World," by UU Minister Eric Walker Wikstrom. Contact Linda Hope, neesa46@gmail.com.



Sun 11 7:00 Philosophy & Literature Group Off-Site

The Philosophy & Literature Group usually meets on the second Sunday of each month, usually at Clover Lane. This month, the group meets chez Linder to discuss *Buck: A Memoir*, by MK Asante. All UCH members and friends are welcome. The book is a coming-of-age story of an African-American youth in "Killadelphia, Pistolvania."

Please contact Judy Linder jclinder09@gmail.com for directions.



Tue 13 7:00 Women's Night Out

Off-Site

Women's Night Out (formerly the Craft Group) is a lay-led ministry of the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg that focuses on the friendship and support of its members and giving back to our local community. We meet on the second Tuesday of every month at a local restaurant chosen by our committee, alternating locations between the East and West Shores each month.

SCHEDULE FOR SPRING 2014		
DATE	VENUE	LOCATION
May 13	Hong Kong Ruby	East Shore
June 10	Café Magnolia	West Shore

Besides the very social aspect of our dinners, members contribute, as they are able, to the support of a local charity, right now the [Ecumenical Food Pantry](#). To join *Women's Night Out* and experience the fun and friendship of our group first-hand as well as providing support to the Ecumenical Food Pantry, please contact Linda Brown (731-8755, librown50@comcast.net).

Tue 20 10:00 CroneSpirit

Clower Lane

The new lay-led ministry, CroneSpirit, meets on the third Tuesday each month. This month, our topic is "Housing." We are:

- A discussion group for women over 65, both UCH members and non-members
- Honoring a crone tradition of conscious female aging and self-power
- For personal enrichment, such as through intellect, knowledge, comfort or companionship, anticipating a maximum attendance of 10 women
- Sharing, listening and learning; without gossip or speaking disrespectfully of others
- Topics planned quarterly by those in attendance; group guidelines refined at least annually



We look forward to seeing you. Please contact Joan Hellmann, joan_elizabeth@comcast.net.

Wed 21 6:00 Clower Grove

Clower Lane

Clower Grove is a group of earth-centered and pagan spiritualists. The group meets monthly at Clower Lane to discuss spiritual issues related to those of a similar path and celebrate, with ritual, the phases of the Earth and Moon. All are welcome.



The May Calendar for Clower Grove will see the group conceiving the Ritual for the Midsummer Celebration coming up next month. This is a continuation of the Winter Solstice, but from the opposite side of the spectrum. Please mark your calendars to join Clower Grove Saturday, June 21, to celebrate the Summer Solstice! Much as you help us to honor the longest night of the year at Winter Solstice, we hope you will join us in celebrating this longest day of the year! Child care is available for a small fee for the first hour so that parents may have an opportunity to focus and meditate on the activities. Contact Nikki Stone-Thonus, bnlady79@yahoo.com.

Thu 29 6:30 Auction Planning

Clower Lane

Come be a part of the fun, food, and fabulous auction committee. We welcome your talent and help planning the 2014 All Church Auction. We are looking for ideas to make this year's auction a huge success and need your help. Please contact Patti Hazell pahazell@yahoo.com or Ann Stillwater annstillwater@gmail.com with any questions or if you want to help and can't make the meeting.



Other events

News from lay-led ministries or other items of interest

Interfaith Service 5:30 p.m. May 5

UCH members are invited to attend the annual Commonwealth Interfaith Service, held this year at Pine Street Presbyterian Church, 310 N. 3rd Street, Harrisburg. There will be music during the pre-service interval and a reception afterwards. Please join other people of faith and raise a collective voice for a more just and peaceful world. -- Submitted by Betsy Conover

Prison Ministry Concert, 7:00 p.m. May 7

Please save the date for the sixth annual "Concert of Hope" sponsored by the Prison Action Committee (PAC) of Christian Churches United of the Tri-County Area. The concert will feature gospel and other Christian-themed music provided by choirs from God's Army of Tenacity (G.A.T.) Fellowship; North 17th Street Church of God, Harrisburg; Trinity Church of God, Camp Hill; and the Male Chorus of Wesley Union AME Zion Church. Contact Jim Cavanaugh (nanjim65@verizon.net) for information.

Membership News

News about our membership

Obituaries

Anna Gerlach

UCH member Anna Emma Gerlach of Palmyra died Friday, April 18, 2014, in her home. She was born Nov. 17, 1926, in Philadelphia and married Shirl Gerlach on Nov. 1, 1947. Shirl preceded her in death after 58 years of marriage. Anna was an organizing member of Meadville's People for Peace during the Vietnam War and was a member of the Unitarian Universalist Churches of Meadville and Harrisburg.

Survivors include two sons: Robert Gerlach and Jonathan Gerlach; Jonathan's wife, Mitzi; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; a sister, a brother, and three nephews. A private memorial celebration will be held at the convenience of the family.

Lucretia Back

Lucretia Back, 71, mother of UCH member Andy Back, died April 28, 2014. She was raised in Malvern, received a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science from West Chester University, and taught science and biology throughout her working years.

She is survived by her husband, Carl; five children, including Andy, and their spouses; five grandchildren; and other extended family. A Mass of Christian Burial was held May 2 in Lancaster.



Hellmann 25th Anniversary

UCH member Joan Hellmann and her husband, George, celebrated their 25th anniversary last month. They were married April 15, 1989, at the UCH. The Hellmann's returned to New Orleans, the site of their honeymoon, to celebrate the occasion.



Race Against Racism

The UCH fielded a team again this year for the then annual Race Against Racism sponsored by the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg. Located in Allison Hill at 1101 Market Street, the YWCA Greater Harrisburg is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.



Anklam-Smith Wedding

UCH members Donald Anklam and Mark Smith were married April 26 at Ayse Meze Lounge in Frederick, MD, by the Rev Dr. Rob Taylor. Music for the occasion was provided by UCH members Blaise Liffick and Alanna Berger.

The wedding occurred almost to the date on the 10-year anniversary of their Holy Union, April 24, 2004.