

# The Phoenix

November, 2011

## Coming soon to a UU church near you...

A lovely selection of holiday cards promoting the spirit of Unitarian Universalism! Proceeds from the sale of these cards will go to the UU Service Committee which focuses on Rights in Humanitarian Crises, Economic Justice, Civil Liberties, and Environmental Justice.



**This program is sponsored by the UUCSV Social Concerns Committee.**

### Ministerial Musings

Zoom! and another month goes by. And what a good month this has been.

After the last two Octobers, I was willing to let go of the month altogether. Maybe a mention in the history books, but enough. And then there was *this* October: RGL is back and off to a good start; Jen and Harvey got married; Together with the King Street Coffee House, with the gifts of Steve Mitchell and KJ, we raised 600 for Camp Victory and Kid's Kash; Virginia Zimmerman completed treatment and is now instructed to say she *had* cancer; Calcedony was born to Clare and Chris and Zach; Ruth was born to Barbie and Josh; Our Labyrinth was finished and Lenore got great press for it; We had a great showing of UUCSVers at Occupy Lewisburg; We had our inaugural concert

with Barry Hannigan on our restored 1917 Stieff Piano; and Friend of the Congregation and my b-i-l had his esophagus removed and is steadily recovering.

As you know, I loved the opportunity to sit with our friends who were sick and departing. But let me tell you, doing the UUCSV baby tour in Lewisburg is a pretty wonderful thing. And there are certainly people and life situations to be prayerful about, but it helps to have so much to celebrate!

November is bidding fair to be a great month as well: Members will join on November 6. I'm being installed on the 20th. We've more work to do on our mission and vision, but we're moving right along!

I look forward to our celebration of shared ministry with great joy. Thank you, Ann.

## Susquehanna Valley Leadership Program

We had our first program meeting. This month's topic was education. It was held at Sun Tech. I'd never been there, so it was interesting to hear from management and tour the school. It's quite an impressive place.

It was an amazing and somewhat disturbing day. We heard from two superintendents, a business manager, a financial aid person, a purchasing agent, a director of education at a for-profit school and a principal. It was impressive to hear how hard superintendents are working to make a good education possible for our local children. It's daunting to hear how little money there is to prepare these kids for the lives they will need to live and how little leverage there is for finding the funds needed. It seemed short sighted that people were mostly worried about containing personnel costs and not about creating wealth to support what's necessary.

This was the first time we got a real indication of the differences in people in the program's world views. Who was interested in which type of solution really began to emerge and people had to work to keep the discussion level. There are a lot of potential allies for work we might be interested in doing, and this program will offer me the opportunity/challenge to work across very different world views. I think there will be some volunteer opportunities that will arise from this topic. The more I listened the more I feel that we, both church and society, have work to do concerning educating our children today for tomorrow's world. Too many of us don't even know what today's world looks like!

I think, despite the challenges that education is facing, the educators were fairly upbeat and excited about the task ahead of them and the students with whom they're working. It was an inspiring outing.

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I'm always slightly terrified when I exit out of Word and it asks me if I want to save any changes to my ten-page research paper that I swear I did not make any changes to.

## Equal Exchange Prices Increase

Due to rising costs of inventory, costs of the Equal Exchange coffee and chocolate bars will rise in November. Regular coffee will be \$8 per package and decaf will be \$9 per bag. (Still lots cheaper than a certain local grocery store!) Chocolate bars will be \$3 per bar. All other items on the cart will continue at the same price. We have hot cocoa for \$6, a variety of teas for \$4, t-shirts for \$3, and bumper stickers for \$1. Other items, such as olive oil, can be ordered if demand is high enough. Ask when Barbie returns!

### Choir Schedule

Regular Rehearsals on Sundays at 9:15am: Nov 6, Nov 13, Nov 20, Nov 27, Dec 4, Dec 11, Dec 18. All Singers are welcome

### Food, Faith and Justice

Jen Partica

Many religious organizations are involved in charity and mercy, providing food for hungry people. Some take it a step further by organizing actions targeting the source of poverty, a greedy economic system whereby the rich get richer and the poor get hungrier. I'm proud to be a UU for many reasons, however I am specifically proud of our response and support of Occupy Wall Street. The UUSC published an open letter of support for Occupy that can be found on the [UUSC website](#), and everyone is invited to sign it and share it.

Occupy Wall Street has been going on for weeks now, its ranks growing everyday. Other cities are forming their own occupation, including relatively nearby Baltimore and Philly. Occupy is not a political debate within the traditional framework of Republican versus Democrat. Rather Occupy is focused on creating a better world, a better government and economy designed around the idea that "All people have a fundamental right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and their families." Protesters

at Occupy describe themselves as the 99%, meaning that 1% of the population possesses the vast majority of wealth while the remaining 99% are left seeking jobs that are not there while slipping through social safety nets that are fast dissolving.

The leap from social justice to food justice is not so far. In a capitalist economy, basic human rights, including a roof over your head and access to nutritious food, are for many denied. I was floored by Kathy Hummel's sermon on Sunday (Oct 16<sup>th</sup>) about food justice. Her assessment of the problem was perfect. While our government spends frighteningly large sums of money to build bombs, schools are suffering, basic health-care drifts further out of our reach, and people go hungry. Clearly food and justice are linked. While many politicians are afraid to get their hands dirty by supporting Occupy, some faith communities are recognizing Occupy Wall Street as a movement that has the potential to create a better community and a better world for all.

Interfaith Worker Justice has beautiful, printer-ready [interfaith resources on their website](#) on the Occupy movement that I think many people would be interested in sharing. People have been asking how we can get more involved with the Occupy movement right here in the Valley. On October 15<sup>th</sup> there was a rally in Lewisburg in solidarity with Occupy Wall Street. Many of us showed up. On November 5<sup>th</sup>, there will be another action. As of now, actions are being planned and posted on the website [Occupy Together](#). Now is a great time to get involved. Print and share resources from Interfaith Worker Justice, sign the UUSC petition online, and RSVP for the rally on November 5<sup>th</sup>. See you there!

### **First Sunday Program at Priestley Chapel on Sunday, November 6, 2011**

Priestley Chapel Associates presents an informal program of words and music from 9:30 to 10:10 am on Sunday, October 2nd at Joseph Priestley Memorial Chapel, 380 Front Street ,

Northumberland , PA. This Sunday continues a multi-year recognition of the US Poet Laureates with the reading of several poems of William Meredith (1978-80). month Levine is the author of some 20 collections of poems and the winner of the 1995 Pulitzer Prize for his book "The Simple Truth," Of his selection of Philip Levine, James Billington, the librarian of Congress, said, "He's the laureate, if you like, of the industrial heartland. It's a very, very American voice. I don't know that in other countries you get poetry of that quality about the ordinary workingman." The music portion of the program will be provided by Charles Phelps on the historic John Wind organ and the chapel piano.

Priestley Chapel Associates is a secular, non-profit 501 (c) 3 corporation established in 1977 to care for and manage the Joseph Priestley Memorial Chapel, the beautiful memorial garden and the historic 1811 John Wind organ located in the chapel. This lovely country chapel was built in 1834 by descendants of Joseph Priestley and members of the Unitarian congregation in Northumberland. Currently, the chapel is open to the public the first Sunday of each month for a program of words and music. The chapel is also used for wedding ceremonies, memorial services, and community events. For more information visit: [www.priestleychapel.org](http://www.priestleychapel.org).

### **UUCSV Book Group**

The UUCSV Book group will meet on Wednesday, November 2 at 7 pm at UUCSV to discuss *A Visit from the Goon Squad* by Jennifer Eagan. Discussion leader will be Jennifer Curley.

Upcoming books and discussion leaders are:

#### **Discussion Leader(s) Meeting Date Title and Author**

**Gunilla Geise and Jim Spaits Dec 7, 2011 *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See**

**Jennifer Schneidman Jan 4, 2012 *God's Bits of Wood* by Sembene Ousmane**

**Tom Bresenhan Feb 1, 2012 *God of Animals* by Aryn Kyle**

**George Manning Mar 7, 2012 *Exiles in the Garden*** by Ward Just

**Paul Schaffer Apr 4, 2012 *Wolf Hall*** by Hilary Mantel

**Pat Williman May 2, 2012 *Cane River*** by Lalita Tademy

**Barbara Schaffer Jun 6, 2012 *The Tiger's Wife*** by Tea Obreht

### **Bits From The Board October 9th 2011**

Present: Jen Curley, Brenda Harrison, Hope Kopf, Joann Yano, Harriet Bresenhan  
Annual meeting will be May 6th  
Bring a friend Sunday needs to be planned.  
Jen Curley will contact David Campolongo regarding having the carpet cleaned and regarding some concerns over what appears to be mold on the ceiling and water in one of the lights.  
The board voted to take a stand with other local churches against fracking.  
Jen Curley and Sara Kelley created a detailed job description for our RGL Coordinator position.  
Steven Curley is no longer the RGL director.

### **UFO and ET TALK DATE SET**

DANVILLE, PA-OCTOBER 22, 2011--A real-life account of multiple encounters with UFO's as experienced by Nancy Hood, daughter of former Geisinger chief of staff, Dr. Henry Hood, will be just one of the fascinating tales presented at the Thomas Beaver Library in Danville on Thursday, November 10 at 6:30 p.m. Elizabeth Richie, Susquehanna Valley author, and chairman of the 2011 Kingman Arizona UFO Sightings Conference, will guide this journey into the "outer limits" of human experience in a presentation titled *Ancients, UFO's and ET's: A Conversation*. With this program, Ms. Richie hopes to stimulate a broader public "conversation" about the topic.

According to Ms. Richie, far too few people are having a serious conversation about the possibilities that "We are not alone..." and never really have been. Many UFO experts believe that the government will soon officially "disclose" the fact that it has had interaction with extraterrestrials for over 50 years. Meanwhile, Dr. Steven Greer-- an MD who quit his lucrative emergency room practice

to devote himself to UFO/ET disclosure--spear headed "The Disclosure Project." He has videoed hours and hours of witness testimony from highly credentialed military, airline and government officials and staged media events at the Washington Press Club. Dr. Greer also asserts that the "powers-that-be" have totally suppressed astounding energy technologies that could free humanity from carbon-based fuels, wars fought to control oil resources, and the electric grid.

Our culture dotes on science fiction films such as *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *ET* and *Avatar* and the History Channel's *Ancient Aliens* and *UFO Hunters* are quite popular. According to Ms. Richie, many Ufologists suggest that the government has had a hand in shaping these media presentations and call it "soft disclosure." Because the first ET encounters in modern times occurred right after WWII and the Cold War was waging, many UFOlogists also think that US government officials were afraid the public would panic if it was told the truth--that humans were not in control of the skies. To keep the truth secret, ridicule of people who reported sightings became the order of the day.

During her talk, Ms. Richie will tell about the famous landing of a triangular UFO near two US airbases in England in 1980 known as the Rendlesham Forest Incident. The British Ministry of Defense has released documents that bear witness to this "close encounter." A former security guard, Sgt. James Penniston, says that he actually touched the craft and received a telepathic "download" of information given in binary code. For fear of jeopardizing his career, he kept the experience to himself for thirty years, but has recently come forward. Ms. Richie heard James Penniston speak last February at the World UFO Congress held in Phoenix, AZ.

Many profound questions that surround the UFO/ET mystery will be touched upon during the library presentation. Were ancient civilizations taught by extraterrestrials (ET's)? If "They (ET's) are here," are they friendly? Is there a government cover-up? Are advanced technologies kept hidden from mainstream society by a power elite? If a UFO landed on the White House lawn and ET's parleyed with our president, how would that affect our spiritual beliefs? Can humans initiate their own "Close encounters?"

A Riverside resident, Ms. Richie, is the author of **The Whole Kit and Caboodle Is...As Sacred As 1,2,3**, a book that describes why humanity "is evolving to become free, responsible, self-conscious, ever-living, ever-loving citizens in an ethereal, Divine cosmos." She holds a BA degree in the study of religion from Princeton University and has apprenticed nearly 20 years with a Cherokee Medicine woman.

Ms. Richie sites several factors that have led to her keen interest in UFO's and ETs. First, she says, there is overwhelming evidence that ancient technological feats could not possibly have been executed without knowledge that far exceeds that of our modern science and technology. Secondly, with release of government files across the world combined with extensive,meticulous compilations of witness testimony, there is a virtual mountain of evidense supporting the case for ET's visitations. Thirdly, she believes that our spiritual destiny is inevitably going to lead us to a revolutionary state of consciousness in which we become much more aware of a myriad of intelligent life-forms in the universe. Learning that "we are not alone," she asserts, "is part of that process of our awakening."

The November 10th program, *ANCIENTS UFO'S and ET's: A CONVERSATION*, is free and open to the public.

Contact Elizabeth Richie at 809 Avenue E Dr., Danville, PA 17821 or at [sunrichs@frontiernet.net](mailto:sunrichs@frontiernet.net) or by dialing (304) 771-8756.

## UUA President Issues Statement on Occupy Wall Street Protests

(BOSTON) The Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), has [issued a statement regarding Occupy Wall Street](#) and accompanying protests around the country. The [statement says](#), in part:

"Unitarian Universalism embodies a long tradition of working for economic justice and workers' rights. Today is another opportunity for us to live our faith, and the Occupy protests are a first step on the road to repairing our country.

"I reach out to Unitarian Universalists everywhere to consider how you might be of service to any among us who are struggling to provide for their families, those who have been cheated and abused by financial institutions, and all those whose backs ache under a burden of debt, unemployment, and fading hope. Let the world see the power of our faith in action."

### Resources for Economic Justice

- A November 2010 article from Rev. Morales in *The Huffington Post*: ["Poverty and Thanksgiving: A Call to Righteous Love"](#)
- A September 2011 article from Rev. Morales in *The Huffington Post*: ["Unemployment as a Spiritual Issue"](#)
- An October 2011 article from Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) President Rev. William F. Schulz in *The Huffington Post*: ["Why the Left is Often Late to Tea"](#)
- A [statement](#) from the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation President Rev. Marti Keller.
- [Economic justice information and resources](#), including information on our most recent Faith Advocates for Jobs campaign, from the UUA Witness Ministries staff group.
- A September 2011 [letter to the United States Congress](#), signed by Rev. Morales for the UUA, urging representatives to exercise their Constitutional duty to "promote the general welfare" in ongoing budget negotiations.
- A list of Unitarian Universalist [blogs currently discussing the Occupy movement](#) from [UUupdates.net](#)
- [Facebook page](#) for Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community

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**Even under ideal conditions people have trouble locating their car keys in a pocket, finding their cell phone, and Pinning the Tail on the Donkey - but I'd bet everyone can find and push the snooze button from 3 feet away, in about 1.7 seconds, eyes closed, first time, every time!**