



Connections February 2017

The Unitarian Universalists of Central Delaware
340 North Queen St.
Dover, DE 19904
uucd.org



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Emergencies: Rev. Chute (302) 369-6499

We are a welcoming congregation!

Chartered 2009

Services

Sunday, 5 February: Opportunity is Knocking (On Our Garden Gate) Fran Riddle

Wesley College and Restoring Central Dover are building a collective garden, consistent with the missions of both entities to contribute to the vitality and unity of downtown Dover. Learn how the joint project fits in with UU values, how you can help the garden grow, and how the garden can help you grow.

Children's Religious Education: Looking For Signs of Community

Sunday, 12 February: "Stages of Faith" Rev Greg Chute

James Fowler's book Stages of Faith: The Psychology of Human Development and the Quest for Meaning offers some interesting perspectives on religion and its role and influence on humans and society at large. It is best understood when explored alongside the developmental psychology presented by Robert Kegan in The Evolving Self and Beck and Cowans' Spiral Dynamics.

Sunday, 19 February: "The Evolution of Humanism" Rev Greg Chute

Scholars often refer to the rise of "humanism" in the early renaissance; that time when there was a great awakening of interest in the pre-Christian classical world. Art and philosophy were being rediscovered. New ways of thinking and of expression were being explored. The idea arose that human beings had a great capacity for creative genius. The organization of society and the political climate all came into question. The term itself didn't come into existence until 1808 however, and since then the definition has undergone a great transition. It is well worth exploring the evolution of the idea and to better understand the world view it represents.

Children's Religious Education: Signs of Welcome

Sunday, 26 February: VegDover

Charles Wolfe

Join us as Charles Wolfe discusses veganism as a social justice movement and shares information about his local vegan group, VegDover.

Calendar

Monday, 6 February: DIMH dinner. Head chef Lorna McElhone
Thursday, 9 February, 6.30: Diners Club at Brick Works in Smyrna
Saturday, 11 February, 11-3: Transgender workshop at UUFN
Sunday, 12 February: Social Justice Sunday (Dover Interfaith Mission for Housing)
Sunday, 12 February, 11.30am: Social Justice Committee meeting at CBS
Wednesday, 15 February, 7.30pm: Board meeting at CBS
Sunday, 19 February, 11.30am: Corruption of our Democracy at CBS

Announcements

- UUFN in Newark is offering a free workshop on Sat., Feb. 11 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to raise awareness about the Transgender community. The workshop and light lunch is free, but you must register for the event. This is a wonderful educational opportunity to increase your sensitivity and learn firsthand what the Transgender issues are. If you are interested in learning about more about the schedule of events and would like to register this link will give you that info <https://www.facebook.com/events/1349085095131071/> Gloria Gross rv.grandmom@me.com is attending and has room for four people in her car.
- The Mindfulness practice group meets on the first Wednesday of the month. We are led by Abby Miller who has practiced mindfulness in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh for many years. The group meets from 7.00pm to 8.30pm at CBS. Guided Meditation, Walking Meditation and Silent Meditation are included. If you could benefit from some tools to reduce stress, join us as we follow out breath to focus on the present moment.
- The monthly study/discussion group Corruption of Our Democracy will be meeting February 19th at 11:30. All are welcome.
- UUCD Diners Club! We're back yet again. Last month 12 of us met at Franco's for a scrumptious gastronomic experience and a delightful evening out. This month we're meeting at the Brick Works restaurant in Smyrna on Thursday, February 9th at 6:30PM. Be sure and let me know if you intend to attend so I can include you in our reservation. Everyone invited. See you then. Yuuuuum! - Greg
- Save the date for the canvas kickoff potluck dinner! March 18th at the Hesseltine farmhouse at 6pm. More details to follow.
- On Sunday, the 5th of February, there will be a CRE planning meeting after service.
- There will be an Adopt-A-Highway event on the 11th of March, 9-12. Please let Jayce (jayce.r.lesniewski@gmail.com) know if you can make it!
- We had a great #UUmomsnightout on the 20th of January! Moms mark your calendars for the 17th of March, and we'll do it again! (Is that St. Patrick's Day?!?! Yes!)

Birthdays

Debra May (1), Mark Guiteras & Greg Foster (3), Allie Foster (4), Cade Gibson (10), Jesse Rich and McKinley Alden (14), Greg Chute (15), Wendy Pickett (18), Casey McElwee (14)

The Corruption of Our Democracy

The Unitarian Universalists of Central Delaware (UUCD) is hosting a series of monthly programs and discussions on the topic of “The Corruption of Our Democracy.” The next meeting is Sunday, February 19th, beginning at 11:30- at Congregation Beth Shalom, 340 North Queen Street, Dover. Everyone is welcome.

This free public service program consists of readings and/or videos and group discussion designed to raise awareness of some of the challenges facing the future of democracy in our country. In December participants viewed the video Legalize Democracy. This video provided an excellent historical review of court decisions determining rights of individuals and corporations - detailing the influence of corporations on US Democracy. At the January meeting, we explored the impacts of structural racism on our democracy. At the February meeting we will explore the Sanctuary City movement and the response of the City of San Francisco Board of Governors in response to federal threats.

This topic - “The Corruption of Our Democracy”- encompasses much that is important to our lives and to social and environmental justice worldwide. Please join us on February 19th. Come early and join us for 10am worship. Childcare and children's religious education are provided. For more information visit our website at www.uucd.org, or contact us at uucdcontact@gmail.com. Stand up for Justice in Washington DC

Monday April 3 through Wednesday April 5, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 301 A St SE, Washington, DC

The rising tide of inequality, intolerance and racism makes it more important for UUs to stand up for their values. UUJEC and UUs for Social Justice in the National Capital Region (UUSJ) are organizing a spring conference in Washington DC to give UUs an opportunity to advocate for a vision of a fair and compassionate society directly to decision makers on Capitol Hill. We cannot take a step back on progress in equality and human rights. Now more than ever we must act...

We will be joined by several of our justice allies, including Sister Simone Campbell and Chuck Collins, build advocacy skills and spend time on capitol hill talking with decisions makers. This is an exciting and important time to be in our nation's capital.

Join a community of like-minded people making a difference by not only defending our gains for social and economic justice but also join people standing for a world that is more compassionate and just.

For registration information, visit: <http://uujec.com/ReversingInequality>
Contact: Rachel Bennett Steury uujec@uujec.com at 260-837-8938

March Madness FUNdraiser

Dear UUCD members and friends,

2017 promises to be a year full of surprises. It remains to be seen how the uncertainty we all may be feeling will play out in our political system. Being a part of our community is reassuring for many of us. We have also been having more visitors who are looking for a group of people who value human and civil rights.

More than ever, I feel that having a UU presence in Kent County is very valuable. In order to ensure our continued existence in Dover, we will need to meet our budget. This year, we balanced our budget but putting our deficit into the "Fund-raising Activities" category. That line requires us to come up with \$8,619.00. Through our various fund raising activities such as Redner's cards and Amazon and the items that Leigh Hesseltine took to Wilson's auction, we have earned \$1,323.52 leaving us approximately \$7,300 to come up with.

Our biggest community building and fund raising event, MARCH MADNESS, a silent and live auction party will be coming up Saturday, March 4th at CBS. In order for it to succeed, we will need everyone's help. Hopefully, as many of you as possible will participate in as many of the following ways as possible; Lorna's article (below) will detail those ways.

As many of you now know, the auction leads into a year of fun, as we participate in various anticipated activities such as dinners, trips, wine or beer tastings, babysitting or raking, etc. There will be short planning meetings after each service between now and then. Please volunteer to help or respond, if asked, with what you can do to help out. If everyone helps, it can be really fun and even more successful than last year.

If you have a group of friends outside of your church friends, consider reserving a table for you and your friends to share at the auction. The more the merrier!

We hope to have more dancing this year and a smoother check out process. Put your thinking caps on! Please start thinking about what you can contribute, who you can invite, what fun you can have and what you might like to purchase or explore with your purchases.

Looking forward to March Madness and lots of fun,
Sheryl

Getting the March Madness Auction together requires 100% Participation

Sheryl Winsby has already discussed the importance of the March Madness Auction to our overall budget. Again, it is our major fundraiser for the year and as such requires 100% participation. There are so many opportunities to contribute to the Auction and to support UUCD. **So, ask yourself "What can I do?"** Below are ways in which it is possible to support this fellowship through the March Madness Auction. I hope that you will be able to find a way to help in both areas. If not, feel free to overcompensate in one area. With tickets at an affordable \$5 per person. I hope you will all bring a few friends.

Area 1. Work to be done

We need people to work in all areas of preparations, set-up, execution and clean-up. Here are some of the specific area you can sign up to work in: publicity, food and bar preparation and service, dining room or auction set up, recording of bids and checkout. I promise you there is something for everyone.

Area 2. Items and Services Needed

We need items and services to be auctioned. Items should be serviceable and in good condition. In the past, this included a variety of items many of them new or lightly used. Gift basket and handmade goods are also popular items. Gift certificates or goods from merchants are most welcome.

You may also provide a service you are willing to perform and the church will receive the money. Last year people offered to make meals, provide DNA testing, provided a time share, and a very well researched and educational beer tasting was also a big hit. A ride to and from Philadelphia airport is something Roger and I would bid on. With several young families in our congregation an evening of babysitting might also look very appealing. Use your imagination. I look forward to talking to everyone about how they plan on helping.

Lorna McElhone

Lessons in:

Knitting Crocheting
Flower arranging
Computer skills
Quilting
Dancing, singing
Sewing
Jewelry making
Instrument playing

Handmade Goods:

Baby blankets, bath towels, etc.
Baked goods, candies, or ice cream
Vinyl family name board
Themed baskets
Jewelry

Services

Yard care, raking, etc.
Piano Tuning
Bike maintenance
Cleaning
Haircut and style

Snow shoveling

Massage

Babysitting

Car wash or detail

Sew a Halloween Costume, hem skirts or pants, sew on badges, etc.

Digital Invite, announcement or card (or taught as a skill)

Scrapbook kits or premade pages (or taught as a skill)

Christmas present wrapping

Professional family photo

Genealogy research

Transportation to Baltimore or Philadelphia airports

Events

Dinners, e.g., ethnic or thematic

Beer or wine tasting

Tickets of places of interest, Longwood Gardens, etc.

Excursions as a group to events, including tickets or admission



Food for Thought

It isn't love that makes the world go round but compassion – starting over in gentleness when love hasn't been enough or other factors have failed: a gentle refusal to blame oneself or others and just begin again. - Nancy Shaffer (UU Clergy)

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Three thousand Unitarian Universalists.

Three thousand Unitarian Universalists who?

Three thousand Unitarian Universalists who aren't just reading ahead in the hymnal to see if they agree with the words, but are actually singing the words.

Hard to believe, I'm sure. But it does happen annually at General Assembly (GA). GA is the annual meeting of the denomination held the end of June every year. It is a time to connect, do business, worship, celebrate, converse with fellow Unitarians and Universalists from all over the country. It is reassuring and encouraging to experientially realize that there are a great number of us doing great things in communities in every corner of this great nation. For more information go to the webpage at UUA.org and look for GA. Registration opens March 1.

Or you can ask me. I have attended several over the years, as have several members and friends of UUUCD. This year it is in New Orleans (one of my favorite cities) Wednesday, June 21, to Sunday, June 25. I have already made my hotel and plane reservations; and have noted that already space is becoming limited. So I invite you to join me. It is a grand and glorious experience.

AND, I invite you to consider another magnificent travel experience. Mary and I are headed back to South Africa next year in February, 2018 (my 18th trip). The actual time and itinerary are yet to be determined. We do know it will include a game reserve, many world renowned wineries, Cape Town, the Unitarian congregation established there in 1853, the Cape of Good Hope, Table Mountain, Gods Golden Acre (GGA), and any other destinations you might suggest. We have been associated with GGA for fifteen years, and the option of spending some extended time working on a service project there is also a possibility. We will work out the specifics once we have assembled an interest group.

So let me know if you have questions about either of these travel opportunities, and if you are interested in going. Together we can have an amazing experience.

Of all the ingenious mistakes into which erring man has fallen, perhaps none have been so pernicious in their consequences, or have brought so many evils into the world, as the popular opinion that the way of the transgressor is pleasant and easy. - Hosea Ballou

Please Enjoy these photos from the Klings:
Women's March, 21 January



Diners Club, 17 January



Service, 15 January

