

CONNECTIONS

Unitarian Universalists of Central Delaware | A Welcoming Congregation | Chartered 2009

Save These Dates

Wed **4/5**, 7pm: Mindfulness
Meditation at CBS

Mon **4/6**: DIMH dinner

Sun **4/9**, 11.30: Social Justice
Committee meeting

Sun **4/16**, 11.30: Congregation
Study Action/Issue at CBS

Wed **4/19**, 7.30pm: Board Meeting
at CBS

Sat **4/29**, 9-noon: Adopt-A-
Highway (contact Jayce
Lesniewski)

Look Ahead

Sun **6/4**: Congregational meeting

Wed-Sun **6/21-25**: General
Assembly of the UUA in New
Orleans (and streaming live!)
<http://www.uua.org/ga>

Several people from UUCD are going (including Greg). It is a great time to meet with other UU's, to celebrate and to experience our wider liberal tradition. Contact Greg for more information, or if you have questions.

Sunday Services

April 2: "Growing in Faith" Beth Watkins

Beth Watkins, Christian missionary, will share about her six (somewhat tumultuous) years working overseas with vulnerable populations, how her faith has changed in those years, and God's heart for the poor and for justice.

April 9: "Evolution Is Not Just a Theory" Rev Greg Chute

There seems to be some confusion about Evolution and Creationism, about which is "right," and about which deserves a place in our public school curriculum. Join us today to clarify the concepts and to explore the consequences of distinguishing between the two.

Social Justice Sunday. Offering goes to Delaware SPCA

Children's Religious Education: Finding Beauty in Uniqueness

April 16: "The Real Jesus" Rev Greg Chute

What better day than Easter to recall the life of the itinerant Galilean rabbi who spoke to and about the best in human nature? Sometimes the myth overshadows and obscures the real legacy of his life: love & compassion. We still need to heed his message today.

April 23: "The Wonder of It All" Rev Greg Chute

Earth Day has rolled around again. Once again we are called to pay close attention to this wondrous plant earth, to its beauty and majesty; and to reflect on all it means to us as home.

Children's Religious Education: Fair Group Decisions

April 30: "The 'Greatness' of a Founding Father" Ricky Shehorn

Inspired by a Napoleon Hill quote, Ricky Shehorn examines the life and actions John Dickinson. We will hear about some of the great things John Dickinson did and consider the lenses through which we view history.

Meet A Board Member

Get to know Kerry Mcelwee, your Vice President.

VEEP!!



- What is your favorite part of UUCD service? **I like joys and concerns, get to know a little more about each other.**
- What books are you reading these days? **Anything by JD Robb.**
- What was in that amazing, yummy dip you brought to the potluck?!? **Shredded chicken, cream cheese, blue cheese, and hot sauce.**

Is there something you'd like to know about a board member but were afraid to ask? Let me ask for you. Email suggestions to laura.e.parks@gmail.com.



UUCD Stewardship

April is Stewardship month (again). You will be receiving a letter from the Stewardship Committee (Sandy Nelson, Esther Curtis, Mark Jarrell, Greg Chute) with information about pledging and a request to make a pledge for our next Fiscal Year, which starts July 1, 2017 and goes through June 30, 2018. We count on each and every member & friend to pledge so the UUCD Board of Trustees can present a draft budget for next year at our UUCD Annual Meeting on **June 4**. So please reply by May 1st. No particular amount is required or requested. We count on your generosity and commitment to help us plan ahead, to pay our bills, and to support our presence in the community. Thank you for your continuing support.



We had a great canvass kickoff potluck last month at the Hesseltine farm!

Membership Book Signing

The UUCD Membership Book will be out on **Sunday, April 16** during the service for any new comers who would like to become Members. Of course we welcome people to join and celebrate with us in whatever capacity they choose. "Membership" is not a requirement; this is an opportunity for those who wish to formally become Members to sign our book. Article IV of our by-laws, which details membership qualifications, expectations, and removal, is available to view in church or by request. Contact Greg for more information or if you have questions.

UUCD New Comers Orientation

There will be another 3 part orientation program for new comers beginning in April. The three Sundays are **April 9, 23** and **May 7**. We will gather after coffee from around 11:30 to 1:00 to discuss Unitarianism and Universalism, to get acquainted, and to explore what we are each seeking and what being a part of our UUCD community means to us individually. Contact Greg for more information, if you have questions, and to sign up.

Website Update

Our Webmaster, Tom Gower, decided to move our site to a new hosting company with better technical support.

Unfortunately, during the move, all the content was lost; so Tom had to rebuild the whole site.

The rebuilt site is now up.

Check it out: UUCD.org

In addition to losing all the content, all the registered user information was lost. On the former site, people could register themselves; but, despite safeguards, there were many spam registration requests every day. So, Tom decided to create accounts upon request. Having an account is only necessary if you want to access the online Membership Directory or the Newsletter.

If you'd like an account, or if you have any questions or problems, please send an email to Tom (tlgower@aol.com), and he will set up your account and send you a user name and password, which you can later change.

Webmaster Tom



A Note From Our President

What's Happening at UUCD?

The **directory** is happening!!! Would you like a paper copy of members and friends of UUCD? Help make this happen by verifying your information in the draft copy (available after services).

Facebook is happening!!! We are trying to post things of more relevance—more issue-related than strictly political. Follow our page, like our postings (if you do) and share when appropriate. You can also "check in" when you are at church and forward to me, Kerry or Susan items you think would enhance our page.

The **annual meeting** is happening!!! It will be Sunday, **June 4th**. At that meeting we will be voting on some new officers, including a new president (Yes!), discussing and approving the budget and discussing a variety of other issues, one of which is coffee and snack offerings. We won't have this lovely little luxury if we don't all contribute to making it happen.

The **auction** happened. My social calendar is greatly enriched by the events I have purchased at UUCD and the extracurricular events we have at church. If you didn't have a chance to attend the auction, you can still make a reasonable offer on any of the items



or, in the case of the two services, pay what the other attendees will be paying to participate. You can email me at

sjwinsby@verizon.net. Here are the items that are still available:

Little Tikes Basketball Hoop, with ball \$15; Christmas Cards, pack 1, \$20; Christmas Cards, pack 2, \$33; 3 Arm Glass Candelabra, \$35; Anne of Green Gables collectible doll, \$50; 10K White Gold Diamond Ring, \$60; Patricia Green Slipper, \$66.

Yoga class offered by Mara Ormond's yoga class (highly recommended). 11 slots available at \$15 each.

Beer Tasting. 6 slots available at \$25 each, Sunday, June 25th.

Tom and I are going to the Reversing Inequality Conference, focused on healthcare justice as a UU value, in DC next week.

<http://uujec.com/ReversingInequality> We are being asked to bring letters from people in our congregation addressing this issue.

Please consider writing a letter about health care for us to take to Congress.

I will be talking about our conference experience in a service scheduled for either 5/28 or 6/4. I hope to see everyone at some of the services in April. Happy Spring!

Sheryl Winsby



UUCD Book Club

Several of our UUCD members & friends do meet occasionally to discuss recommended books we have read. Everyone is invited to read Yuval Harari's Homo Deus, and to gather on Tuesday, **April 18** at 7pm. The location is still to be determined. (Any volunteers to host?) This is Harari's second book, following after his excellent Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind. In May we intend to gather to explore Richard Dawkin's latest, The Greatest Show on Earth. Time and place are yet to be determined, but you may want to start reading now. This is one of his best books, clearly explaining the whole miracle of evolution. Contact Greg for more information, if you have questions, and to sign up.

Corruption of Democracy

On April 16 after the service, we will have our final discussion on the Corruption of Democracy.

The topic will be the movement toward the National Popular Vote. In two out of the last five presidential elections, the winner of the popular vote did not win the election. We will discuss the problems with our Electoral College system, and a possible way to overcome these problems that has already attracted the support of 10 states plus the District of Columbia.



Sheryl Winsby (6), Bob Rice (10), Bob Ellingsworth (12), Sally O'Neil (20), Ginny Alexander-Lauber (23), John Abraham (24), Debbie Lettieri (27)

Guest Food For Thought



The day the refugee organization we worked for in Egypt had our big goodbye and send off, one of our refugee co-workers, Micah (not his real name), asked to speak with us privately before we left for the day.

Micah is a man we came to respect immensely in our time there. He is a South Sudanese refugee, has been in Egypt for years and years. He has a big family that he bends over backwards to provide for. This man works hard. Twice as hard as most of the rest of staff, always taking courses, and trying to improve himself. I saw many times him being stepped on, blamed, and taken advantage of. Other people got credit for his good work, he had to work 12 hour days and weekends sometimes, and was grossly underpaid.

We walked back to the clinic, long deserted from the chaos of pregnant women and malnourished kiddos that flooded the place a few hours before. He put his head down and gently explained that, it was still on the hush, he and his big family had been selected for resettlement in the US.

This is news he'd been waiting for more than a decade for. He'd been through years of vetting – from UNHCR, from 6 federal US agencies, through rounds and rounds of interviews and mountains of paperwork – and was down to the last few steps. Only a few more months out.

I cannot think of anyone else I know who deserves a new chance and start and opportunity with his family more than Micah. They are one of the lucky ones. Of all the refugees I know, for each lucky person who gets granted resettlement, there have to be hundreds of others who are permanently stuck in places that don't want them, and where they don't want to be, but with no way to safely return to their homelands, and no other options.

But now there is a new executive order on immigration. A process that is already extremely stringent, and takes no less than 2 years to get through (after years and years of waitlists to even be considered), now has refugees halted in the process for at least 120 days. And bans Sudanese.

This month's guest columnist is Beth Watkins, a Christian missionary from Seaford who has spent six years in North Africa, South Sudan, and Egypt, working and living with vulnerable populations. She will be our speaker on April 2nd, as well.

This column is an edited version of one of her blog posts. Find the entire text, and other posts, at iambethwatkins.com.

I hope you enjoy this new newsletter feature. Let me know what you think!
laura.e.parks@gmail.com

Worship with us!



Visit us! Contact us!

The Unitarian Universalists of
Central Delaware
340 North Queen St.
Dover, DE 19904
uucd.org
uucdcontact@gmail.com or
pastoruucd@gmail.com
Emergencies: Rev. Chute
(302) 369-6499

(Note: My friend is South Sudanese. But South Sudan only became a country in it's own right a few years ago. When those from the South fled the long, bloody civil war to the North, they were still Sudanese, as the country was still one. As such, he and many other South Sudanese still have Sudanese passports, though they are Southerners. So, they are part of the ban. It is messy and complicated and horrible, as most things are in refugee law and practice.)

Micah and his family, after enduring so much, and finally who have dared to hope that a new day is dawning for their family, will be stopped cold.

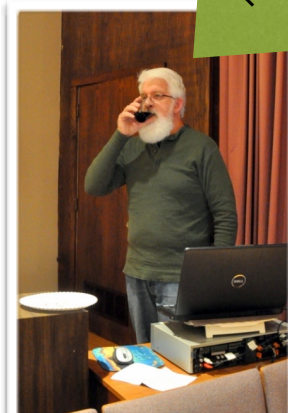
I am so sad and I am so angry. I think about all they have already endured and suffered. Fleeing war, being in a place where they have limited rights, face persecution, and are treated as second class. (Sometimes even in the church.) Those who have suffered long, now must endure even more.

We who count ourselves Christian, worship and pray to a man who was a refugee. A man who promised to judge the world on how they treat strangers. (Matthew 25: 31-46)

May we fight to welcome the stranger. Because when we put promises of safety at the top of our list, and build higher and higher walls, anxious to keep out those who Jesus welcomed to the table, we isolate ourselves. According to Matthew 25:40, what we've done for the least of our brothers we've done for our King. So I think when we fight to keep out the sick, the widow, the orphan, the refugee, and the stranger, I think who we are actually keeping out is Jesus.

Surely we will be judged for this.

Photos by Wayne Kling



A monthly calendar will be posted on the UUCD church website. Contact Sheryl Winsby (sjwinsby@verizon.net or 422-8187) for questions or to add events.

Have feedback about the newsletter? Contact Laura Parks (anytime before the last minute)
laura.e.parks@gmail.com