

CONNECTIONS

April 2018

Message from Our Minister

2017-2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Season of Extravagance

With buds, blooms, and showers, April begins the season of Spring Extravagance, a time of transformation, a time of riotous colors, when Mother Nature wears her mantle of abundance.

UUFN's services and activities are organized to help you meet the coming of Spring in a way that fulfills the promises and calls of this season of extravagance. From

Transformation Sunday (Easter in some traditions), to celebrating Earth Day, to rising to the call for the promise and practice of our faith, to finding beauty in imperfections, April at UUFN is a month of change that challenges us to the renewal of our hearts and actions.

The month ends with the April 28 conference from the Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow, a ministry of UUFN's Social Justice Committee and my personal volunteer hours. The conference is a call for Power and Change: Dismantling Racism through Community Action.

The Coalition's conference is free to the public (registration is required), so as to not discriminate between the haves and the have nots, and includes free continental breakfast and lunch. I am told we will not be disappointed by the keynote speaker, Dr. Barbara Love, and her path to creating a liberatory consciousness, which requires participation by all races to create change. (See details of the conference, its breakout sessions, registration, and Dr. Love's biography at endnewjimcrowde.org)

Indeed, let us make April a month of extravagant multi-racial beauty as well as inaugurating the season of transformation and hope, of riotous natural beauty and color.

Happy Spring,

Rev Paula Maiorano



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or email a request to:
officeadmin@uufn.org

Letter from the President

Next year's UUFN operating budget is rapidly taking shape, although that shape is likely to change at least once before it solidifies with the vote at the Annual Meeting. Events change so quickly that my pronouncements in these pages are often made obsolete, but one that seems to be on track is my earlier statement that we will not have a surplus of funds that we do not know what to do with. Every dollar of income will find a spending home.

At our March Board meeting, I wondered aloud whether committees had enough money. We cut committee spending back pretty drastically this past year, and not for the first time. Although we have not heard complaints or requests for added funding, consider this a shout-out to committees and activities to make your budget needs known to the Finance Committee or Treasurer.

By the time you read this, we will already have had our first congregational conversation about the budget. At least one other will be held. I hope that you can take advantage of this opportunity to let your voice be heard because to propose amendments to the budget at the Annual Meeting will require that the Board and Finance Committee take a recess to vet the proposal(s), or to table the vote until a future time. This is because our bylaws require the budget-creating process go through the Finance Committee, Treasurer and Board. In other words, (ideally) we should not be making changes to the proposed budget at the Annual Meeting. That should happen earlier.

The budget that was presented at the March 18 congregational conversation, though it was a first draft, funded most everything that we wanted to fund, and was balanced. It assumes achieving the stewardship campaign target of \$180K in pledge income.

Sounds great. All we have to do is make sure we hit that \$180K pledge campaign target. But it won't be that easy, in view of what I am about to tell you next. There are new developments. As our stewardship theme is "Funding our Future", we need to be thinking about that future. One component of this future is that

we need to be thinking about our ministerial needs after Rev. Paula. One service that the Unitarian-Universalist Association provides is that of "compensation consultants," although the advice that they give may not always be welcome. One such UUA compensation consultant has told the Board that, to be attractive to ministerial candidates, we need to offer at least a ½ time position. We also have been told that retaining a minister as an independent contractor is appropriate only for a temporary position; we should be treating an ongoing minister as an employee. In addition, the UUA has "fair compensation guidelines" for salary and benefits. These are not requirements, but recommendations. Nevertheless, part of what goes into a ministerial candidate's decision to accept an employment offer is the compensation package. The UUA recommends that congregations offer benefits to their employees once they work 1000 hours in any 12-month period (about ½ time).

So, for legal reasons, we need to start treating our minister as an employee and not an independent contractor. Separately, Rev. Paula has also made us an offer that, if accepted, would put us on a compensation path that is closer to ½ time, with benefits. This would put us in a position to get acclimated to the idea of employing a minister as a ½ time employee, with benefits. If implemented in the coming church year, the Board estimates that this would cost the Fellowship an extra \$10K. But for this extra money, our minister would be increasing her level-of-effort from 28% to 50% of full time—a pretty significant increase. Please note, however, that compensation costs likely would increase further for the next minister, as Rev. Paula's health insurance benefits paid by us would be lower-than-usual. All of this of course assumes that we decide to go down this path in the next church year.

So with that as an introduction, let the conversation begin.

In fellowship,

Jeff

Religious Education

Now that the youth group is done preparing the service they did for us on balance, they will spend some time choosing their next activity. Some ideas they are considering include picking up trash, visiting the cat café in Kennett Square, and working on Rain Barrels for Greenlight New Orleans

COA had a very successful Escape Room Fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who came and participated. They will be on their Boston Pilgrimage from April 5-8, and will be visiting several historic UU sites. When they return they will be working on writing their personal credos.

The Roots and Shoots class is continuing their work on animals and are hoping to be getting outside. They are planning an education puppet show around issues of animal conservation. Look for them to be selling handmade bracelets soon to raise money for elephant/ rhino conservation.





UUFN Sunday Services



April 1—Transformations

Transformations: Spring, Easter, and Passover all revolve around transformations. In this multigenerational service, Gary Jackoway will talk about how we are impacted by transformations large and small.

April 8—Flying By the Seat of Our Pants

I have been an airplane pilot for over 40 years. I have discovered that there are many analogies between commanding an airplane and life. We will explore a few of these in this Sunday's service. Our estimated time of departure is 10 am. Fasten your seat belts! Presented by Rev. Richard Speck

April 15—The Call to the Promise and Practice of Our UU Faith

Now, more than ever, we are being called to a deeper practice of the promise of our faith. In this country, we see systemic racism and discrimination being emboldened in rhetoric and in policy. And in this moment, we are called to do more to invest in Black lives, Black leadership and resources to move forward the vision of a radically inclusive, justice centered faithful practice of the beloved community within and beyond our faith.

This call means investing more fully financially, spiritually, faithfully, and collectively in support of Black Lives. There will be a special collection for BLUU, Black Lives UU immediately following the sermon. Presented by Rev. Paula Maiorano

April 22—Celebration of Earth Day

Recognizing and thriving with the spiritual paradox of our existence: interconnectedness and loneliness. Presented by David Guinnup

April 29— When Imperfections Are Beautiful

People sometimes strive for perfection, even when we know that life cannot be perfect. This service suggests that there is joy and wisdom in finding the beauty in imperfections. Presented by Rev. Paula Maiorano

March Share the Plate: Healthy Foods for Health Kids (HFHK)



Teaching Delaware's children about healthy food and gardening!

HFHK works with Delaware schools to integrate healthy eating and vegetable gardening with "seed-to-table" growing. The students are actively involved in the entire process and get a hands on experience while learning about healthy eating and gardening according to the NGSS National Science Standards for their grade level. Please support them in helping to create a healthy next generation.

Committee Updates and Announcements

2018/2019 Stewardship Campaign:
Funding our Future - Update

Our annual Stewardship Campaign helps us plan for our future. We need to know our income before we can budget for the upcoming year.

As of March 18, \$97,132 has been pledged from 48 people/families/pledge units. Thank you!

We hope during March you have learned about our plans and our needs. We hope you have been inspired:

by the stewardship packet, by the UUA giving guidelines, by the weekly personal “why I pledge” testimonials, by the Stewardship Luncheon, by what you get from UUFN.....

If you have not yet pledged, we can send you a pledge packet. Just call the office at 302-368-2984 or email stewardship@uufn.org. You can also download pledge materials at www.uufn.org/stewardship. Please pledge generously.

If you have already pledged – thank you very much. YOU are helping to Fund Our Future!

From your Stewardship Committee,

Carol Boncelet, Janet Arenson, Mary Bauernschmidt, Anne Green, Nancy Plummer, Glen Schmiesing, and Rev. Paula

Social Justice Committee

Two items from the Social Justice Committee:

1) Power & Change: Dismantling Racial Bias Through Community Action

Saturday, April 28 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Salesianum School, 1801 N. Broom Street, Wilmington

Sponsored by The Coalition to Dismantle the New Jim Crow

This free conference is meant to galvanize everyday Delawareans to realize that the power to change Delaware is their hands. Keynote will feature Dr. Barbara Love, who will speak on Liberatory Consciousness. Workshops will offer insight on how and where to get involved on issues in education, criminal justice reform, fair policing, and economic justice.

Register now!

<https://endnewjimcrowde.org/power-and-change-dismantling-racial-bias-through-community-action/>

2) UUFN Social Justice Committee is very active and meets on the second Sunday of each month! Next meeting will be on April 8. Come learn how you can get involved!

Contact: socialjustice@uufn.org

Green Sanctuary

Earth Day 2018

Congratulations UUFN! We have emphasized recycling this year, and YOU did it. Every week, the blue recycle bins have been full and there have been very few recyclables in the dumpster. These recycle bins sit beside the dumpster, and we have recycle baskets around kitchen and RE class rooms. As a reminder, we can recycle cans, bottles, office paper, newsprint and cardboard. PLEASE: No garbage, foam core poster board, plastic cutlery, Styrofoam or plastic bags. These foul up the conveyors at the recycle sorting plant. You are encouraged to bag your clean Styrofoam packing material and drop it off in the cloakroom by the entrance. (No “peanuts” please.) It will be taken to the DSWA recycling center.

Volunteer for Earth Day: Spring community clean up: City of Newark, April 14, 8AM to noon. For other areas check local websites and: <http://www.christinarivercleanup.org/>

Contacts: Amani Thurman has been outstanding as a leader among our young UUFNers. He recently introduced us to the Citizens' Climate Lobby of which he is a member. We commend this group to your attention: <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>

Book Discussion: Duane Wilcox is leading a discussion on the book “A Hole in the Wind” about climate change. The discussion has two more sessions to go in April, and has a video you may be interested in seeing. Link on: <http://uufn.org/book-discussion-group-hole-wind/>

On Sunday April 22, the worship service will focus on a topic related to Earth Day. At coffee hour, we will survey the fellowship to find what the next UUFN priority should be.

For more information see Guat-Lian Kreamer or Kip King, Co-Chairs Green Sanctuary

COA Thank you!

The Coming of Age class had a very successful Theology Escape Room event! Thank you to all who attended, gave donations, and participated in our raffles. We raised over \$700 to help send our Coming of Age class on their Unitarian Universalist pilgrimage to Boston in April. We are also very thankful to all who volunteered to make this such a successful event. An additional Thank you goes to Anne Green for getting us a donation of \$100 gift certificate from Great Escape of Delaware. The lucky winner of that raffle was Susan King! A special shout out to the team with the shortest escape time - Denise & Peter Hartranft, Karen Barker and Pat Wisniewski, and Heather Robb!

Fire Drill

Please become familiar with the fire drill procedure that can be found in at the back of this issue. It will also be available on your seats during service in the next few weeks. Sometime in April or May we will have an unannounced fire drill.

UUFN Springtime Choir!

The Choir will sing May 6, which is flower communion, and hopefully June 3, which is the coming of age worship service.

We will rehearse from nine to 9:30 AM on the following dates in MacKinnon hall:

Please join us. The more the merrier!

April 8

April 22

May 6 - *rehearse and sing in the service*

May 20

May 27

June 3 -*rehearse and sing in the service*

Summer 2018 – Healing through the Expressive Arts

The Outrageous Owls are planning a day-long retreat on a Sunday following service. Participants will engage in hands-on-workshops offered to celebrate the expressive arts as a path to emotional wellbeing. Contact Pat Field if you are interested in offering your talents.

RE Summer Program

It's time to start thinking about summer again. Please contact the RE Committee if you are able to run a low-key program one Sunday this summer. It doesn't have to be involved or time intensive. Yoga or tai chi, a nature walk, cooking, singing, and storytelling are all ideas. Attendance is usually light and the age range is 4-13.

Auction Decoration Help Needed!

Auction planning time is here! This year's theme is BROADWAY! We have some nifty ideas for decorations. One idea is that each table will have a Broadway show theme. We are looking for people to decorate one table with their favorite Broadway theme. Table decorations can be as simple as a center piece or could include additional items if you are so inspired! We also need help with set up the day before and the day of the auction. Please contact Rachael Coffey if you are able to help with any aspect of decorations (and if you have ideas!!!)

The Kitchen Witches Gift to You

Gift #1 The new refrigerator have shelves that are labeled just for you, just find your area and VOILA you have a home.

Gift #2 There are labels and markers for you to use—FOR FREE! Please label and date.

Gift #3 Take left over food home. You are great for volunteering. If you are thinking that **Somebody** will use this food—**Somebody** does not live here anymore. Take the food home and enjoy it. It will just be thrown out.

Gift #4 The Kitchen Witch will clean the refrigerator out frequently. If you find something missing it is because the dark forces changed it to cottage cheese or penicillin and it has been removed—for free!

Gift #5 Items in the freezer will be kept for 6 months then- ABRADADABRA-It will disappear.



Blessings from the UUFN Kitchen Witch

Events

Visit the uufn.org [Events page](#) to see a full list of upcoming public events.

Visit the uufn.org [Calendar](#) to find out about committee meetings and recurring events.

Preserving Financial and Other Assets at the End of Life
Wednesday, April 11
3:30 p.m.

All of UUFN is invited to this special program scheduled to replace the regular monthly meeting of the Outrageous Owls. The Levinson Legal Firm of Wilmington, DE, is generously donating their time to help us understand what is involved in preserving financial and other assets at the end of life. This program arose from a conversation about using a "Miller Trust" as a tool to prevent destitution of the well partner, in the event of mental incapacitation of the other partner. It has shaped up to be something of interest to all.

Young Adult Supper • Saturday, April 21 • 6:00-8:00 p.m.
If you are looking for a place to connect with other young adults 18-32 please join us. There is no need to RSVP, just drop in.

Connecting Around the Chalice
Sunday, April 22
11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Please join in a opportunity to connect with each other in a chalice circle format. One of the things we learned during our discussions last year was that we wanted to be more connected to each other and that we needed to make opportunities for that to happen. That is what Connecting Around the Chalice is for. We hope as many people as possible will join us for lunch and conversation about how we as individuals and we as the UUFN are, as well as how we feel about moving forward as a congregation. We will provide the main dish and we ask that anyone attending bring a side dish or dessert to share. The Minister's Staff Resource and Support Team (Gary Jackoway, Lois Hoffman, Janet Louise, and Rachael Coffey) and Rev. Paula are organizing the Connecting Around the Chalice, please feel free to contact any of us.

2018 UUFN Service Auction

Saturday May 5, 5:30-9:00

Bob & Michael's Broadway aUUdition Results

Bike rides and dinners, and picnics on rivers
Gardens and whisky, and hot pies delivered
Lessons and compost, and spring birding flings
These are a few of my favorite things!



What are a few of your favorite things? Tell us at the Auction table at coffee hour or find ideas & submit your service online at the Auction link on the UUFN website, www.uufn.org

Time is running out -deadline April 22!

Monthly Meetings

Recurring committee meetings and social gatherings are a great way to stay involved throughout the month. Some groups are more structured than others, so if you're new, please check the [calendar](#) or reach out to the organizer to confirm dates and times!

[Wednesday Coffee Group](#).....Every Wednesday, Panera Bread on Main Street, 9:00–11:00 a.m.

[Zen Meditation](#)Every Wednesday, 6:30–8:15 p.m.

[Women's Spirituality](#).....2nd Tuesday, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

[UUFN Board Meeting](#)2nd Wednesday, 6:45–9:00 p.m.

[Social Justice Committee Meeting](#)2nd Sunday, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

[Ladies Lunch Bunch](#)..... Usually 3rd Tuesday of the Month, time and location vary

[Communications Committee Meeting](#)....3rd Thursday, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

[Hope Dining Room](#).....4th Thursday, Kingswood United Methodist Church, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

[Friday Game Night](#).....4th Friday, 6:00–9:00 p.m.

Fire Drill Protocol

When the Fire Alarm sounds:

MACKINNON HALL

1. Calmly exit the building through the nearest safe exit. Move to the far right away from the entrance to the parking lot to allow the fire truck to enter.
2. Adults without children in RE should walk across Willa Road and gather at the West Park Elementary School field.
3. If you have a child in RE please meet them at the designated area; alert the teacher and sign your child out, then proceed across the street with your child.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSROOMS

1. Calmly gather children and lead them from the building by way of the nearest safe exit. One adult should be at the head of the group and one behind. Please bring the attendance book with you. Fire exit routes are posted on the inside of each classroom door.
2. Move by the safest route to the paved circle with a bench in the far right (SE) corner in front of the building. This is in the green space between the parking lot and the sidewalk at the far end away from the entrance where cars enter.
3. Once there, keep children together and take attendance.
4. Do not release children from your care until a parent/guardian comes to sign them out and escort them across the street.

5. When all children are picked up you may join the rest of the congregation across Willa Road on the West Park Elementary School field.

NURSERY (CHALICE CHILDREN)

1. Move the children in stages. First outside the building. Then outside the playground, then across the parking lot.
2. One parent of each child in the nursery is permitted, upon leaving the building, to go to the outside entrance of the nursery to provide assistance in evacuating the nursery. A parent who does so should remain with their child and the nursery group until all children are moved to the waiting area.

IF YOU BECOME AWARE OF A FIRE BUT THE ALARM HAS NOT SOUNDED

Fire alarm pulls are located at all the outside exits in the main building and Fahs Hall. Do not call 911. The worship leader and associate will be responsible for seeing that 911 is called.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

There are fire extinguishers throughout the main building and Fahs Hall. Please make sure that you know where these fire extinguishers are located. The main building is also equipped with a fire suppression sprinkler system throughout the building. This system uses water, not chemicals.

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