



The Univoice

Introducing Paula Rosenberg, DRE

When one door closes, another door opens up. So the saying goes, and so it came to pass in the search for a new Director of Religious Education. Joanna Groebel left to pursue other interests, and in through the door came Paula Rosenberg of Terre Hill, Pennsylvania.

Paula will begin as our DRE some time this fall, after she fulfills her current commitments.

In May, Paula had just completed her second year as DRE for Universal Unitarian Congregation of Queens in Long Island (UUCQ). She had just moved to Lancaster County, and the last three months of that time required a commute from Terre Hill, PA to Long Island on Sundays. Hardly ideal, but not unreasonable for Paula, who has felt called to UU education since becoming Youth Coordinator at South Nassau Unitarian Universalist Congregation (SNUUC) in 1999.

In June, Paula was still trying to adjust to her new rural surroundings and perhaps meet some other UUs when she learned of the DRE opening at our church. Intrigued, she sent in her resume and she was selected by our DRE Search Committee among several fine candidates.

Paula's qualifications are exceptional. She is a trained OWL facilitator, founder of Long Island Youth (LIYUUTH), and currently pursuing a UUA credential for religious education. Most impressively, Paula was honored to receive the UUA Youth Advisor of the Year Award in 2003.

Colleagues from Long Island speak of Paula's enthusiasm, creativity, and



Paula Rosenberg

special touch with so many youth. They credit her devotion, talent, and charisma for building two thriving programs from just a few kids at the start. One parent spoke of Paula's positive influence on her son and how his social activism distinguished him in the college application process.

All of this is easy to understand once you've met Paula. Please welcome her warmly to our church community.

--by Mike Mannix, DRE search committee chair, with Susan Pena, Joanne Matz, Lisa Frank, and Rev. Sandra Fees

The church office is open from 12-5pm, Tuesday through Friday, but please call ahead to ensure access. If you need to get in at other times, contact the office manager to arrange for a temporary key.

Rev. Fees has office hours by appointment. To schedule, please call the church at 610 372-0928 or email sandrafees@verizon.net. Monday is Rev. Fees day off.

Board of Directors
 Norman Block, president
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 Doug Mealing, secretary
 Jeanne Hey, treasurer
 Members at large, Richard Bromley, Mike Mannix, Miryha Thibalt, Jeff Woodward, Cindy Mock

Welcome Kate Diller, student minister, page 2

From Sandra's Study Rev. Sandra Fees

When I was in theological school, one of my requirements was field education at a church. Working in a field site gives students an opportunity to learn and practice ministry with ongoing supervision and feedback. It is akin to what student teachers are required to do.

I completed field education for one year at our Lancaster congregation where I taught K-1 and offered other RE programs. I had the opportunity to work with an experienced Director of Religious Education and excellent teachers. I learned about the developmental needs of my class, studied UU curricula, and developed a strong bond with the children in my class. I worked with a teacher with experience with autistic children, and she was invaluable in teaching me how to be a presence and positive influence with the children in our class who struggled emotionally or with learning disabilities.

Knowing how much my own field education meant to me, I am looking forward to our having a student minister with us this coming year. It seems somehow fitting that she comes from the very church where I did my field

education and from the seminary where I studied.

Kate Diller, a longtime member of the Lancaster UU congregation and a second-year student at Lancaster Theological Seminary, will be serving as our student minister this fall and spring.

Her background prior to entering seminary was in the medical field. She will be spending approximately 10 hours of her time each week on field education with our congregation, including the time she spends with us on Sunday mornings.

Kate and I are finalizing her learning covenant to reflect her particular vocational needs. Her broad goals are to continue to explore what it means to be a minister and to continue to develop her leadership skills. Her particular focus will be membership – helping us develop our plans for outreach, welcome, and hospitality for visitors and members – as well as stewardship programs that will support our short- and long-term goals. Kate will also teach an adult education program, assist with worship, and get involved in other areas of church life, as her time permits. I will be providing supervision and feedback to her



on a weekly basis. I will also be gathering a small lay team to meet with her regularly.

I look forward to Kate's time with us and to our building a relationship with her. I know you will welcome Kate warmly into our community and do your best to help her develop and explore her skills as a minister.

Yours in faith and love,

Sandra

Univoice Submission Guidelines

Email submissions by sending a Word file, or including your material in the body of an email message, to univoice@uuberks.org. You may also put typewritten submissions in our mailbox in the deBenneville Room. The deadline is the 15th of each month. Please include the date, time and location of events, and the full name and phone number or email of contacts.

--Jane Palmer and
Erika Bricker, co-editors

First UU lives up to status as “Welcoming Congregation”

By Kimberly McGarvey

It has been a busy summer season for the Social Justice team and church members who support the GLBTQ Community.

In June, FUUBC participated in the Silent Witness program at the first Lancaster Pride festival.

July included two local training sessions for Silent Witness volunteers and the 2nd annual Reading Pride event. No matter where you were on the festival grounds, you couldn't help but see many faces representing our local UU community. The highlight of the day was a performance by our own Church Choir, which was an incredible, as usual.

Also in July, a few people attended the Harrisburg Pride Parade & Festival where a beautiful new banner, designed and constructed by members of the SJT, made its debut down Front St. along the Susquehanna River along with other representatives of other regional UU churches. We supported the Silent Witness program there, as well.

Tragically, the month ended with news of the horrific crime in Knoxville, TN, which targeted the UU community for its support of liberal causes. A special memorial service was held in Harrisburg and attended by Silent Witness volunteers.

Activities to support the GLBTQ community continued August 17th, when once again, Reading Silent Witness volunteers supported our neighbors in Allentown during the Lehigh Valley Pride Celebration.

A HUGE Thank You to all those who volunteered throughout the busy summer season, for not backing down to the violent backlash of these hate spreading street preachers, and standing up for the GLBTQ folks, not only in our Community, but all those regionally and beyond. I hope this trend will continue by growing the numbers for next year's festivities.

Splinters from the Board

At the August board meeting, Nelson Simonson introduced some exciting fundraising news. If you shop online, consider going first to www.goodshop.com and registering under our church-- *First Unitarian Universalist Church of Berks County*--before logging on to the many stores with links on the page. Stores include Target, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Lands End, and many others. Each merchant donates 0.5 to 37% of your bill to our church. See article on page 7.

A Special Plate Collection will be taken Sunday, October 12th to celebrate Association Sunday. This collection will go directly to the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) to support lay

theological education programs and programs supporting excellence in ministry. A joint service between the central PA UU churches will be held on this day in Harrisburg as well.

Recent events in Knoxville, TN, underscore the need to be aware of potentially hazardous situations in and around our church. Please review the church's Safety Guidelines and Disruptive Persons Policy posted on the bulletin board in the Gerber room.

Please wear your name tag and remember to greet new faces during coffee hour. Name tags help newcomers feel welcome and at ease.

After discussing possible conversion to all-online version of the *Univoice*, Board decided to keep the beloved printed copy coming to your homes. Remember, the *Univoice* is printed on 35% post-consumer recycled product in keeping with the “green” philosophy of our church. The *Univoice* can also be found online at our website www.uuberks.org.

The Board meets every second Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is September 9th at 7:00pm at the church. All are welcome.

RE Calendar of Events

September 7th Intergenerational Water Communion Service.

Please join us for our traditional ingathering service for all ages. Please bring a small vial of water symbolic of your summer adventures to share for our traditional water communion.

September 14th RE Kick-Off Breakfast 9:30-10:15 The RE Committee cordially invites you and you all to come to church early for a simple family breakfast together. Register your children in RE, look over this year's curricula, and meet your child's teachers. If you wish, you may sign up to be a Sunday Helper at this time as well.

September 14th First Day of Formal RE Classes You may have heard that the building project has experienced a bit of a delay...but have no fear, your children will all have safe, comfortable spaces in which to gather, worship and learn in from day one of this very exciting year in the life of our church!

Nursery News!

Check out the beautiful "Roots hold me close, Wings set me free" mural in the Nursery. With all of the new babies born into the community this year, we wanted to spruce up their first church home. Please thank Scott Kaufmann for painting the fabulous tree, and the RE Committee for their work in creatively forming the detail work.



RE Mission

Within an inviting and safe environment, we pledge to:

- Encourage spiritual growth by providing opportunities for religious experience, inquiry, reflection, creative expression, and celebration.
- Develop identification with Unitarian Universalism such that youth strive to affirm and promote its principles and purposes.
- Engage our youth in service to others and develop their capacity for compassion in interpersonal relationships.
- Celebrate diversity and model the acceptance of differences among people.
- Instill reverence for the interdependence of all life.

Adult Programs

SPIRIT OF LIFE: EXPLORING SPIRITUALITY FOR

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

Thursdays, Sept. 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13 – 7-8:30 pm.

Facilitator: Rev. Sandra Fees
 The Spirit of Life program, like the song from which it derives its name, seeks to bring meaning, beauty, and growth to UU adults as they deepen their spiritual awareness and connections. It taps into one of the central functions of religion, to make sense of the mystery, wonder, and awe of being alive. A donation of \$10 will hold your space in the class.

Participants are expected to commit to regular attendance. Register by Sept. 21 with Rev. Fees.

LUNCH BUNCH

Third Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 16 – Noon-1:30 pm. Facilitator:

Rev. Sandra Fees

The Lunch Bunch will meet in September over a brown bag lunch

to explore the topic of Unity (and Diversity). No registration is required.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

This fall, the Shawl Ministry will meet three consecutive Sundays in October: the 11th, 18th, and 25th – from 9-11:30 a.m. We will knit and crochet shawls for individuals in our religious community who are ill or shut in, for parents with newborns, and for other pastoral concerns. Contact Rev. Fees.

SMALL CIRCLE GROUPS

Would you like to gather with fellow UUs on a monthly basis to deepen relationships and explore your spirituality? If so, contact Rev. Fees. I am looking to coordinate a group of 8-10 committed individuals who would like to meet at the church.

Book Discussion Group “Rides the Bus”

By Cindy Mock

Greetings, book-lovers! This fall, we may have to be flexible when finding a place to meet as the construction of the Capital Campaign begins. Two changes to our book group are (1) we will be meeting the SECOND Sunday of the month from now on (this will help us avoid several holiday weekends) and (2) we will be choosing books to coincide with Rev. Fees' monthly themed topics.

September's book, *Riding the Bus with My Sister*, by Rachel Simon, fits into the monthly theme of 'Unity' well. It is a "true life journey" about a big sister choosing to know her little sister better. The 'little sister' is mentally handicapped. This is a unique, memoir-type book with a true life component based in a small Pennsylvania city. We will meet on September 14th at 9:15 at the Chalice House. Please bring your own coffee. Snacks will be provided.

October's book will be *Gilead*, by Marilynne Robinson, following the October's theme, 'Spirit'. This book received awards and many 'thumbs-up' recommendations.

Everyone is welcome to join the Book Discussion Group. Please contact Cindy Mock for more information.

Working Together on Migrant Mural

First UU friend Jessica Chadwick was one of lead artists on *UniŪn es Fuerza ~ Working Together*, the 2008 Pennsylvania Migrant Education Summer Mural Project. “I want to share with the congregation the beauty of this project and the tremendous sense of community building possible with type of mural,” says Jessica. We are invited to join her in celebration and dedication at Opportunity House Community Garden on Thursday, September 16 at 5:30pm. The garden is at the corner of Beech and Pear Streets, in Reading (near the campus of Opportunity House). Rain date, September 17.

This month's VOLUNTEERS

Coffee Corps



September 7, Group IX
 Fay Oxenreider, Henriette Alban, Ruth Epler,
 Karen Nierle, Michele Post, John Showalter,
 and Ron Smith.

September 14, Group X
 Nelson and Caroline Simonson, Kent and Rachel Gutzler,
 Nadine Smet-Weiss, Mike Szajana, Kelly Wiegand, and Sam
 Tyson.

September 21, Group I
 Joanne Just, Joan and Richard Bromley, Barbara and Greg
 Burdan, Raydell Hymon, Kim McGarvey, and Doug Wray.

September 28, Group II
 John and Mary Jo Weishampel
 Norman and Bonnie Block, Tracy Brant, Carolyn Brown,
 Joanna Groebel, and Zane Szurgot.

Ushers

September 7, Sam Tyson, Richard Baker
 September 14, Nelson Simonson, Miryha Thibault
 September 21, Steve DeBroux, Laurie Gerson
 September 28, Joe Plageman, Fay Oxenreider

News from the Pantry

Our pantry served 125 households on August 7 with a total of 433 children and adults. There were 23 new families. Our next pantry will be held on Thursday, September 4.

New volunteers are always welcome, anytime between 8:30 and noon on the first Thursday of every month. Duties include unloading the Greater Berks Food Bank truck, stocking the shelves, distributing the food, cleaning up and recycling the cardboard. For more information please contact Liz Eshelman. Thank you very much.

Directory Updates

Concerns for privacy prevent us from including directory updates on the website. Please see a printed copy of the Univoice for information.

2008-09 Membership Directory in progress

The 2008-2009 Membership Directory is now being prepared for publication.

If you have changed your name, address, phone or email--and haven't already updated the information in our database--please complete the Membership Directory Update Form, available in the Gerber Room. The deadline for submissions is September 15. Any questions, please contact Janet Tomlinson.

Grocery Scrip Now Available Two Ways!

You may now place orders to have scrip for Giant or Weis mailed to your home or continue to buy scrip in the Gerber Room after church. Contact Randy Newnham or Diane Van Bodegraven for order forms or details. Remember: Scrip doesn't cost you a penny more, but the church makes 10% on every dollar purchased!

September		
Sep 4, 2008	Capital Campaign Steering Committee	7pm
Sep 9, 2008	Board Meeting New Earth Workshop	7pm 7pm
Sep 10, 2008	UUJEC	5:30 PM
Sep 13, 2008	Full Moon ECCG	6-10pm
Sep 14, 2008	Building Committee Meeting	Noon
Sep 16, 2008	Lunch Bunch	12-1:30pm
Sep 17, 2008	SJT	7:30 PM
Sep 19, 2008	Drum Circle	
Sep 21, 2008	Worship Committee Meeting	After service
Sep 23, 2008	PFLAG	
Sep 24, 2008	UUJEC	5:30 PM
Sep 25, 2008	Spirit of Life	7-8:30pm
Sep 28, 2008	PFLAG Luncheon	After service
Sep 29, 2008	Auction Begins	

Attention all ye who use the internet!!

That should include a few of us. Those who use the internet for research, shopping, reservations, etc. can now do so in a special way that benefits the church.

Good Search.com is a search engine that donates about a penny per search to the charity it's users designate--including our church! **Good Shop.com** is an online shopping service which will likewise donate a percentage of each purchase. The percentage, is typically 2 to 4% of the purchase price but can be as high as 37%!

By the time you read this, we will have established a link from the Church website, www.uuberks.org, so go there first. Alternatively, go to www.goodsearch.com and enter the *First Unitarian Universalist Church of Berks County* as the charity you want to support.

Then when you do your normal searching and online shopping, funds accrue to the church. It may be only cents per "click" but with all of us participating, the dollars will roll in.

You won't have a problem with this procedure. If "Nerd Nelson" can do it, anyone can. But if you do have any questions, contact Nelson Simonson.

Worship Services in September

September 7 We Are Many, We Are One

Rev. Sandra Fees

This Sunday we celebrate homecoming with our water communion ceremony. Each person is invited to bring a small amount of water that symbolizes his or her spiritual journey over the summer or past year. This is an all-ages service, and the children will share some of their creative movement work from the summer RE program.

September 14 Kite Strings and Clotheslines, Hippos and Tortoises

Rev. Sandra Fees

Among our Unitarian Universalist values is the call to honor the differences among us. This morning we will consider how well we do this and how we might become more appreciative of the small and large ways in which we are all different.

September 21 Do Fences Make Good Neighbors?

Rev. Sandra Fees

Walls are being built and torn down in our own lives and throughout the world, both literally and metaphorically. We will consider the theological implications of fences and walls by looking at Robert Frost's poem "Mending Wall," Joshua's battle at Jericho, and the wall at the U.S.-Mexico border.

September 28 A Celebration of Pride

Members of our congregation and Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) will lead us in a celebration of being gay through story, song, readings, and reflections. PFLAG will host a lunch following the service.

First Unitarian Universalist Church
of Berks County

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