

THE REPORTER

The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg • February 2010 • Vol. 45, No. 6

Listening Assistance Devices available, see an usher for assistance. The building is handicap accessible.
Child care for children under age 6 is available during both services.

February Services		
7	9:30 & 11:00	Outlasting the Fog
14	9:30	at Clover Lane: Second Sunday Forum
	11:00	at 1508 Market Street: The Power of Love
21	9:30 & 11:00	Married to a Skeptic
28	9:30 & 11:00	To be Announced

From Your Minister

*The Reverend
Howard N. Dana*

UCH is a breakthrough congregation! We are one of four churches in our denomination to earn this distinction in 2010. It means we join a dozen other churches that have also won this award - churches like All Souls Church in Washington, DC and the First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon. Let me say loud and clear - THIS IS A BIG DEAL! We can be very proud of having won this award. It means that the UUA recognizes us as a church with something to teach. It means we are doing new and daring things.

The Unitarian Universalist Association identifies the following qualities as evident in a "breakthrough congregation:" dynamic ministry, strong family ministry, growth in numbers, radical hospitality, social justice, small group ministry, young adult presence, excellence in worship, change in demographics, successfully dealt with the past, rebirth, broke size transition, fair share with the UUA and District, generosity in stewardship, arts/music/worship, and "spiritual aliveness." UCH stands up very well to these criteria. In nearly every way, we are the model of a "breakthrough congregation." From successfully dealing with the past to the forward-looking purchase of a second church building, we fit the bill.

If you are surprised that we won this award, you are not the only one. Most us just do what we do at Church because that is the way we are. We would participate in Church activities this way even if no one were looking. So, how much the nicer to have leaders of the denomination notice! For the past six years, the UUA has been identifying "breakthrough congregations" as part of its growth strategy. Through this strategy, they identify exceptional congregations, honor them at General Assembly and District Assemblies, invite the congregation's leaders to teach others about their congregation's success, and learn from them. Here is how that happens:

- **Identify:** District staff members, presidents, and trustees, are asked to identify congregations that have been "breakthrough" in one or more significant

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President's Message

Cathy Montes

**Bold Dreams, Bold Actions:
A Mid-Year Review**
with Tom Winner, UCH Treasurer

How amazing are we! Together we have accomplished several daring "firsts" for this congregation, like hiring an associate minister. Expanding to a second campus on Market Street was even bolder.

Having an associate minister gives us more pastoral care and support for developing healthy relationships within this beloved community. After settling in, Associate Minister Suzanne Marsh is working with a small team of UCH and Shared Ministry members to build social service outreach from 1508 Market Street. The Board heard from her in January about the deepening relationship with Shared Ministry, about sharing a vision with them for providing life-changing services for our Allison Hill neighbors, and about how volunteers can learn to work with sensitivity in the neighborhood.

The Racial Justice and Cultural Understanding lay-led ministry has led the way as we get to know our Allison Hill neighbors during Saturday breakfasts at Market Street. It's personal relationships, not handouts, that bring some neighbors back for Second Sunday services. And we have had some fabulous services on Second Sundays and Christmas Eve that rock the roof and stir the spirit. Meanwhile, the Harrisburg Area Humanists have led us in Second Sunday forums at Clover Lane. The forums offer fellowship and practical dialogue about changing our community for the better.

(Continued on page 5)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Yoga 6:30 pm Hellmann <i>COUCH</i> 7 PM	2 Clover Grove presents Groundhog Day Mindfulness Meditation Group 7 PM Helping Women in Prison 7:30 PM	3 QueenSpirit Potluck/Circle 6 PM AI-ANON 6 pm Community Cmte 7 pm	4 Tyger <i>COUCH</i> 9:30 AM Unisingers 7 pm	5 UCH Playgroup 9:30 AM Coffeehouse 8 PM	6
7 Services 9:30 & 11 AM Doyle <i>COUCH</i> 7 PM	8 Yoga 6:30 pm	9 MMG 7 PM Adult RG&L: The Prophetic Imperative 7 PM	10 REPORTER deadline QueenSpirit Adult Religious Growth & Learning: Cakes for the Queen 6 PM AI-NO 6 pm Board Mtg 7 PM Adult RG&L: Clutter Support 7 PM	11 Adult RGL: Laughter Class 6 PM Unisingers 7 pm	12 UCH Playgroup 9:30 AM	13
14 Clover Lane Forum 9:30 AM Second Sunday in the City (1508 Market Street) 11:00 AM Phil & Lit Group 7:30 PM (at Clover Lane)	15 Cmte on Ministry 6 PM Yoga 6:30 pm Hellman <i>COUCH</i> 7 PM Presidents Day	16 PrideFest Mtg 6:30 PM MMG 7 PM Adult RG&L: The Prophetic Imperative 7 PM	17 QueenSpirit Adult RG&L: Cakes for the Queen 6 PM AI-NO 6 pm Clover Grove 7 PM Community Cmte 7 pm	18 Tyger <i>COUCH</i> 9:30 AM Unisingers 7 pm	19 UCH Playgroup 9:30 AM Coffeehouse 8:00 PM	20 MMG presents Bhante Sujatha Workshop See page 11 for schedule
21 Services 9:30 & 11 AM Doyle <i>COUCH</i> 7 PM	22 Yoga 6:30 pm Harrisburg Area Humanists present Humanism in Judaism 7 PM	23 MMG 7 PM Membership Action Council 7 pm Adult RG&L: The Prophetic Imperative 7 PM	24 QueenSpirit Adult RG&L: Cakes for the Queen 6 PM AI-NO 6 pm Adult RG&L: Clutter Support 7 PM	25 Unisingers 7 pm	26 UCH Playgroup 9:30 AM	27
28 Services 9:30 & 11 AM	<p>at 1508 Market Street: Narcotics Anonymous at 4 PM, Wednesdays</p> <p>See a full calendar of events at the Market Street campus online; visit harrisburguu.org and click on the link just above the Upcoming Events listing.</p>					



February

2010



Directory Updates

Reserved for Members of UCH

JOYS & CONCERNS

Reserved for Members of UCH



**TAKE
NOTE!**

Opportunities to Volunteer *on Market Street*

The Racial Justice and Cultural Understanding lay-led ministry is looking for continuing volunteer support for the Market Street community breakfasts on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. Mike Allen and the Shared Ministry community breakfast staff have been invaluable in their support and guidance as we expand our volunteer efforts as two joined congregations and we're looking for volunteers willing to help return the favor.

The next Shared Ministry breakfast is scheduled for February 13 and we're looking for volunteers to help make the buffet-style service a success. Volunteers are needed from 8 to 11 AM. Please consider joining other UCH volunteers as we serve the community and dine together. Volunteers should email Clay Lambert (clay.jh.lambert@gmail.com) if they'd like to join us. Breakfast will be served from 9 to 11 on the following mornings:

February 13 and 27, March 13 and 27
(every second and fourth Saturday)

If you're curious about volunteering or maybe just a little nosy and want to see "what's up" on Market Street, you're welcome to come on down and join us for breakfast. We promise a fun time you won't soon want to forget.

*Submitted by Clay Lambert
for The RJCUC Lay-led Ministry of UCH*

A Request from the **Committee on Ministry**

As our Associate Minister, Suzanne Marsh, proceeds on her journey toward Final Fellowship, she will be guided and evaluated by her UCH Committee on Ministry. Members of the committee are: Tammy Adams, Greg Boyd, Peter Holtz, Phyllis Slater, and Joan Hellmann, Chair. We will complete an evaluation form and submit it to the UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee in the fall. The evaluation covers counseling and pastoral care, administration, congregational ministry, personal and professional growth, teaching, worship, denominational activities, and social justice. We would be happy to hear your joys, concerns, and other comments about Rev. Marsh. Your confidential comments will help us complete her evaluation and will help in her growth as a minister. Please contact any of us at Church, by phone or e-mail.

Joan Hellmann, Chair,
Committee on Ministry
236-6749 or joan_elizabeth@comcast.net

The REPORTER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY
UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HARRISBURG
1280 CLOVER LANE
HARRISBURG, PA 17113

Alcoholism/Addiction Recovery Ministry

YOU ARE NOT ALONE



I put my hand in yours and together we can do what we could not do alone.

“As long as alcoholism remains essentially a moral problem, it will be met with the weapons of moral issues -- condemnation and punishment or, at best, shame, exclusion and ostracism.” *Yvelin Gardner, National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence acting executive director, 1950.*

While this statement was written 60 years ago, many of us still have difficulty accepting the disease concept of alcoholism and other addictions. After all, if “they” or “we” really wanted to stop... if there was enough willpower, enough love of family, etc., then “they” or “we” would simply quit.

There are many lengthy explanations of the disease concept of addiction in textbooks, but for those in the midst of these storms, simplicity may be more immediately helpful. Would we blame, shame or berate the diabetic or cancer patient, even if their lifestyle choices may have contributed to the disease? If it were a simple choice, who wouldn’t be logical and stop behaviors that cause pain to themselves and loved ones, job and legal consequences, loss of hope...and the list goes on.

As UUs we covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person...justice, equity, and compassion in human relations and acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregations. If we apply these principles to addicts and their loved ones, we can be a Church home without stigma and shame - not a bad goal at all.

Submitted by Maria Gregg

People Count on the Food Bank

More people than ever need help with feeding their families. We can’t slack off now! If you have enough to feed your own family, then please remember to donate to our food ministry. Your February donations will be given to the Central PA Food Bank.

Thanks for all your help so far. Let’s keep on keepin’ on.

Submitted by Nathalie Hoke

MINDFULNESS Meditation Group

“To stop your mind does not mean to stop the activities of the mind. It means your mind pervades your whole body.”

- Shunryu Suzuki

DINE-IN WITH PRIDE!

The Pride Festival of Central PA is seeking volunteer hosts for Pride “Dine-In” events as part of fund-raising for the 2010 PrideFest. These are hosted events, similar to the UCH auction events, where the host offers a meal, cocktail party, brunch, etc., and charges admission. The Festival Committee has material about Pride Festival, its value to the GBLT community, and its financial structure. They will send a Committee member to make a presentation at your event, or you can make it yourself. The events can be anytime this spring or early summer.

Suggested price ranges are as follows: evening dinners \$30-50 per person, cocktail party (limited to drinks and hors d’oeuvres) \$15-25 per person, Sunday brunch \$20-35 per person. You are also expected to solicit attendance from your friends and colleagues, i.e., the event is a means of raising awareness as well as raising funds.

Pride Festival of Central PA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations to the organization are tax-deductible, including your costs as host(ess). Please contact Donald Anklam at donank71@gmail.com for further information.

submitted by Donald Anklam and Mark Smith

Say what? Do you ever get the feeling that all of this Zen stuff is a lot of double speak? If so, you are not alone. There may even be some traditions utilizing meditation at their core that would take Suzuki to task over this statement.

Yet, consider coming into a comfortable position allowing your awareness...your full awareness to observe the breath, to observe the sensations that are presented through the posture itself, to observe the thoughts that arise as though they are merely passengers in a car passing by as you drive along Interstate 81, simply allowing your awareness to stay with the passengers in your own car...the body and the breath. Then, with this full awareness sit with your limitations without being disturbed by them or allowing them to define you...just come into a place where you can be non-reactive in the midst of all that is happening.

The Mindfulness Meditation Group meets Tuesday evenings at 7:00 in the Margaret Fuller Chapel. The February 16th meditation (the third Tuesday of the month) will be held in complete silence. We are also pleased to once again have Bhante Sujatha with us for the day on February 20th. See page 11 in this REPORTER for details. Please feel free to direct questions to mmg_of_uch@comcast.net .

Submitted by Jeanne Shellman

President's Message

Cathy Montes

(Continued from page 1)

It's not too hard to imagine a future where we really can change people's lives for the better and become more whole and heart-filled people in the process. But we have to commit extra effort to it until we get there. Simply put, our income is not where it should be for this time in the year. Let me assure you — UCH is in no danger of folding due to our finances. However, to avoid drawing on the endowment fund, we will have to cut some expenses. However, to avoid drawing on the endowment fund, we will have to cut some expenses and increase our income by tens of thousands of dollars and increase our income by tens of thousands of dollars.

As a Congregation we have done fairly well at meeting our planned pledge goals, but pledges have never covered our operating expenses. We have other sources of income, but those haven't done as well. For example, every year we plan to receive Sunday collections and other donations at a certain level, and we just haven't seen that this year. We offer a Grocery Gift Card Program that is not bringing in what it should be. We had two fundraisers, the Church auction and the yard sale, that did not meet their goals. The yard sale didn't take place because of a lack of volunteers (it is a big effort!) and the auction suffered to some extent for the same reason. We had planned to have rental income both at Clover Lane and Market Street, but it takes (volunteer) effort to market the spaces and we haven't had that either.

Those of you who can, how about being a little bold with your pocketbook? If you can increase your giving, now is certainly the time! If you are not current on your pledges, please make a plan to come up to date. If you have not pledged, please do.

If you are not buying grocery gift cards, it's easy. For every dollar you spend at Giant, Karns, or Weis, the store contributes money back to the Church. Or how about organizing a supplemental fundraiser?

Think back to all the wonderful things we have done together, and think of all the great things we *will* do. Those dreams are within reach . . . with an extra stretch!

- For grocery gift cards, contact Anne Moore at giftcard@harrisburgUU.org.
- To contact Alanna Berger, stewardship coordinator, e-mail stewardship@harrisburgUU.org.
- Monthly financial reports are available on the "Member Login" section of the UCH website at <http://www.harrisburguu.org/>

Free Feel Good RX!

Come join Helen Szollosy as she teaches us how laughter can help us elevate stress, uplift us and help us do all the good things we do! Join us February 11th from 6 to 7:30. Contact Kelly Cain at Lotusn21@vzw.blackberry.net for more information and to register.

Submitted by Warren Hardman

From Your Minister

Rev. Howard N. Dana

(Continued from page 1)

ways. Because there are so many ways of being breakthrough, congregations of all sizes, shapes, styles, methods, techniques, or visions are capable of being or becoming breakthrough congregations.

- **Honor them:** At General Assembly each year, four congregations of four different sizes that have been identified as "breakthrough congregations" will be celebrated and honored. These congregations will be featured and made visible to others for their breakthroughs. They will be honored in the *UU World*, *InterConnections*, and a myriad of other ways.
- **Call out its leadership:** The leadership teams of each breakthrough congregation will be invited to teach others just how they became breakthrough in their particular way. Congregations who desire to be partnered with them will be encouraged to work with them. It is understood that the learning goes both ways; that is, the "breakthrough" congregations have something to teach, and the "learning" congregations will likely have insights that can be shared in other ways.
- **Learn from them:** The UUA Growth Team keeps coming back to one reality: Various congregations have "cracked the nut" on challenges that had prevented them from becoming breakthrough. So, it makes sense to learn from them.

One of the tasks we will have as a "breakthrough congregation" will be to produce a video that shows how we broke through. This twenty to thirty minute video will be shown at General Assembly during a plenary session. It will also be distributed to all other Unitarian Universalist Churches jointly with the other three breakthrough congregation videos. This means we will soon need to be recording video footage of Church events and activities. We will figure out how best to tell the story of our purchase of the Market Street Church and how it has pointed our congregation in new and exciting ways. Of course, anyone with interest and experience in video filmmaking will be most welcome on the production team!

For now, however, let us rest a moment and be proud. We can be proud of the way our Church has grown and flourished in the last decade. We can point to our radical hospitality, our strong family ministry, and our social justice efforts as ways new people have found us. Our worship and spiritual life is strong - of that we can be proud. We have been consistently fair share to the UUA and the Joseph Priestley District. And we show our "spiritual aliveness" every week through music and the arts. We deserve to be a "breakthrough congregation." Now, let's enjoy the recognition. And let's do all we can to pass our wisdom on to others.

See you in Church.

Love, Howard

Suzanne's Corner

On Monday January 11th, a Federal Court in San Francisco, California began hearing the first challenge (at a federal level) to the CA constitutional amendment, passed by voters last November, that defined marriage in that state as being between a man and a woman. It is thought that this case, no matter which way it is decided, has an excellent chance of being the same gender marriage case that will ultimately be decided in the United States Supreme Court.

There have been amazing gains and heartbreaking losses in the fight to have the civil right of marriage made available to all citizens of the United States. In 2004 Massachusetts was the very first state to recognize marriage rights for same sex couples. In late 2008 and early 2009, the Supreme Courts in Connecticut and then Iowa ruled that denying marriage to same sex couples was unconstitutional. In early 2009, the Vermont and Maine legislatures each passed bills that granted marriage rights to same sex couples and both bills were signed by their governors. Maine voters ultimately amended their constitution to prevent that law from taking effect. New Hampshire joined their fellow New England states in mid 2009. Finally, Washington, D.C. jumped on the bandwagon when the City Council approved same gender marriage in late 2009.

So, you may ask, what does this have to do with me, here in Pennsylvania? This recitation of history is my way of asking you to participate in any way that you can in the various events of "Freedom to Marry Week" here in Harrisburg. This "week" (it's more like two weeks) which runs from January 30th through February 16th, will include several events which include the participation of Howard and/or me, plus some other UCHers.

A few events that I would like to highlight are: The Press Conference and Rally at the State House on Monday, February 8th, beginning at 3:30; the Interfaith Celebration and candle-light vigil that begins at St Michael's Lutheran Church on Thursday the 11th at 7 PM and our very own blessing for all couples after our service at Market Street on Valentine's Day. Details of all of these and many other events can be found at:

www.freedomtomarrypa.org

I hope you will attend as many of these events as you can!

There are many reasons why this is important to me as a Minister and as a Unitarian Universalist. But there is also a deeply personal side to this issue for me.

As I know that many of you do, I believe that denial of civil rights to anyone always comes at enormous cost to society and causes each and every one of us to be a little "less free". However, I am also a person who, despite the fact that I don't mean to, goes "in and out" of marriage depending on my geography! You see, when same gender marriage was legal in California, Nancy and I got married. And when it upheld the amendment to the California constitution, the California courts did allow the approximately 18 thousand marriages that were performed between the 1st Supreme Court ruling and election day to stand. So I am married.....sort of.

When I crossed the borders of California to come here to Harrisburg, I was not married, except when I was passing through Iowa. And now, unless I am in one of the states mentioned above, I do not have the legal protections that come with marriage, even though I am legally married under the laws of one state.

I am asking you to show up, to do whatever you can, for those folks who are afraid to stand up and speak for themselves. To join other UU's all over the country in Standing on the Side of Love. Please join me, so I can be married, once and for all.

I leave you with these words of Alice Walker, a poem written for her husband in 1967. He was a white man and her marriage to him was still illegal in many southern states:

*While love is unfashionable, let us live unfashionably.
Seeing the world, a complex ball in small hands;
Love our blackest garment.
Let us be poor in all but truth and courage
Handed down by the old spirits.
Let us be intimate with ancestral ghosts
And music of the undead.
While love is dangerous
Let us walk bareheaded beside the Great River.
Let us gather blossoms under fire*

*Peace & Blessings,
Suzanne*

To help with the 2010 pledge drive:

if you can write or edit drafts, have time to call more people to volunteer, have a testimonial as to why you've already made the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg the number one receiver of your financial gifts, or want to help serve brunch at Market Street in March let Alanna Berger know! Sign up by calling Alanna at 361-2992 or emailing her at stewardship@harrisburguu.org.



Philosophy & Literature Group

The Philosophy and Literature Group will meet at 7:30 PM on February 14, to discuss *The Sunflower*, by Simon Weisenthal.

May Dooley will host the meeting at our Church on Clover Lane.

submitted by Dick Hoke



*Changing the World,
One Heart at a Time*

As I reported last month, one thing I've noticed over the years is that people who feel connected to our Church – its members, activities, goals and mission – tend to pledge generously. I thought it would be fun to share everyone's stories, and this month, I'm including Robin Stillwater's – a teen member of the Church:

"Almost every religion I have studied or heard of preaches love, kindness, and helping others. Most religions and religious people strive to be a positive force in the world. As someone who simply wants to do good work in the world, this can make it hard to pick a religion that best suits me. I celebrate Jewish, Christian, and Pagan holidays, and am aware of and respectful of many other traditions. I have been a Christian, a Pagan, an Atheist, a Theist, and an Agnostic. How do I choose?!"

"About 6 years ago, my family moved from rural Ohio, where I grew up, to Harrisburg, PA. At this time, my family wanted to find a spiritual home. We visited different churches, and chose the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg. I did not like it at first, everyone was too open minded, and I couldn't believe these people liked GLBT!, but as time went on, I saw and liked how diverse we were, and it was easy to see how eager these people were to make a difference in the world. Plus, in the UU tradition, I could celebrate all my religions! The accepting attitude of the Church allowed me to explore and grow spiritually, figuring out what I wanted, regardless of what other people wanted from me. Now, I am a loving, faithful, religious, imperfect human trying to make a positive difference in the world. I am a Unitarian Universalist."

Our award-winning Religious Growth and Learning program and her subsequent membership in the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg changed Robin's heart, and now she's out in the world, changing hearts wherever she goes. All of this is possible because our generous members support this community with their time, talent and treasure!

If you haven't shared your story, there's still time!

*Alanna Berger, Stewardship Coordinator,
717-361-2992, stewardship@harrisburguu.org*

2009 Gift Card Sales

\$424,950 of Gift Cards were sold for Giant, Weis, and Karns cards in 2009. This raised a total of \$40,570 of profit for the Church. Thank you to all who currently participate in this fundraiser. Giant gift cards earn 10% profit, while Karns and Weis gift cards earn 5% profit.

Cards are mailed on the 1st and 15th of each month, along with an order form for you to place your next order and a postage-paid envelope to use for your payment and order form. If you would like to participate, or if you have questions about this fundraiser, call Anne Moore at 717-877-8576, or e-mail gift-card@harrisburguu.org.

Submitted by Anne Moore

Pull Taffy on Groundhog Day!

All are welcome to join Clover Grove for their Imbolc Ritual on Tuesday, February 2. Celebrate the returning sunlight and enjoy the gifts of community. Childcare available if requested ahead of time. The movie will be shown in the Priestley room, all else will be in the Common Room. Come for all or part!

- 4:20 See the movie *Groundhog Day*, ages 12 and up due to mature themes
- 6:00 Short interactive Imbolc ritual
- 6:30-8:00 Potluck and Taffy Pull
- 8:00-8:30 Clean Up

Submitted by Ann Stillwater



IMPORTANT Newsletter Notice

This year there will be a combined June/July issue of *The REPORTER*.

Please plan accordingly - The deadline for submissions for the June/July issue is May 10. The Weekly Reminder and Church website are not affected.

Thank you,
Della Hoke-Uvick
Editor

Copenhagen & the Green Sanctuary Program

by Don Brown

My experience in attending the United Nations climate change conference in Copenhagen in December has led me to conclude that the climate change work of the Green Sanctuary program at our Church is more important than ever.

Despite growing scientific evidence that the world is running out of time to protect the poorest people in the world from the harsh impacts of climate change, the best the international community could do in Copenhagen was to adopt a very weak, non-binding document called the Copenhagen Accord.

Throughout the two weeks in Copenhagen, attendees from poor, at-risk countries could be heard despairingly describing killer droughts and growing deserts in Africa, loss of glacier-fed water supplies on which their agriculture depends for millions in Central Asia and South America, and rising seas that are now threatening the very existence of small island states. Suffering caused by the human-induced warming that the Earth has already experienced is now visible around the world although not as much in the United States. Because warming is expected to accelerate in the years ahead, for many poor countries climate change is an urgent matter of life and death.

Yet in Copenhagen many developed countries continued to oppose meaningful climate change commitments on the basis of narrow, economic self-interest to them. In so doing, these richer nations ignored their moral responsibilities. That is, those who are causing a problem that devastates defenseless tens of millions of others have duties and responsibilities to the victims and therefore cannot make domestic climate change policy on the basis of national self-interest alone. This is a moral imperative.

In Copenhagen, President Obama could not commit to anything that he could not get through the US congress. Because a bill pending in the US House is very weak compared to what science says is necessary to protect the world's poorest people, the United States took a position in Copenhagen that



continued to be the weakest of all the developed countries. As a result, most vulnerable developing countries saw the US position as a death sentence.

However, President Obama was at least willing to recognize that the United States had some responsibility to the poorest nations for climate change, a profound change from recent US administrations. Because of a potential future, but yet unrealized, new US direction, President Obama managed to get support from many nations on the Copenhagen Accord, a deal which he personally negotiated on the last day of the conference. Yet, to get this deal, President Obama had to ignore the positions of the most vulnerable nations because politically his hands were tied. The Copenhagen Accord will not solve the climate change crisis as even President Obama acknowledged, because it does not contain commitments necessary to avoid dangerous climate change.

All of this makes the United States' domestic climate change legislation enormously important. The world agreed to the Copenhagen Accord because it was hopeful that the United States might soon pass meaningful climate change legislation before the next meeting of the international community in November in Mexico City. After over twenty years of international climate change negotiations, (climate negotiations started in 1988 and have continued every year since then), the world is still waiting for the United States. What happened in Copenhagen makes US action on climate change even more of a key to any hope that the world will respond appropriately.

Because of this the work of the Green Sanctuary in encouraging people of conscience to push for meaningful US climate change legislation is extremely important. All compassionate people in the United States need to turn up the volume on the ethical dimensions of climate change and Unitarians, in my view, should be in the front row with a bullhorn in hand.

Don Brown is Professor of Environmental Ethics, Science and Law at Penn State University.

Why are UU compelled to do Social Justice?

Join Associate Minister Suzanne Marsh as she leads a discussion on Richard Gilbert's book *The Prophetic Imperative*. There will be self-study, personal reflection, and group discussion on how and why we engage in this sometimes difficult, but rewarding work.

Classes will be held on eight Tuesdays starting February 9th, 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Please contact Church Administrator Sandy Wilburn at 564-4761 or office@harrisburgUU.org to register.

Submitted by Warren Hardman

Did I Miss Something?

Where's the latest Adult RGL booklet?

In order to save both the Church's and the planet's resources, the latest Adult RGL booklet wasn't sent to everyone. We have classes on how to improve your life with laughter, what importance our area had in the civil war and underground railroad, how and why UU's do Social Justice work, gender identity, and LOTS more. Look for "Adult Religious Growth and Learning Programs" on the Church web site. Printed booklets are also available on the visitor's table inside the front doors of the Church. We are sure we have something to interest everybody! We look forward to seeing you!

Submitted by Warren Hardman

Helping Women in Prison & Their Families

Our Success Story is ... Folks at UCH!

The Giving Tree for the forty or so women at Woodside Family Center (the women's work release center for Dauphin County Prison) and their children was a huge success, in spite of the weather. There were maybe 140 tags, and every one of them was taken and a gift provided. They went to the PROGRAM (the nonprofit which operates Woodside, Promise Place and the Community Center) in time for distribution Christmas Eve, and the women were soooooo appreciative! It is incredibly easy for them to feel like "the last, the lost and the least" as someone put it, and the gifts reminded them that our congregation cares. WAY TO GO! Particular thanks go to Lynne Davies, Trish Brandon, who worked from home with a cold until it became bronchitis, Nancy Pratt, Kathy Malarich, Randa Todd, Queen Spirit, RGL, the Ostdahl family and all those members of UCH and the community who took a gift tag and returned hope for a brighter day.

Small Successes Which Continue:

Responding to the need of some new residents at Woodside Family Center for warm scarves and gloves. The word went out to the HWIPF supporters mail list and the UCH google group listserv, and several folks responded – and the women at Woodside are able to be warmer as they walk to work or wait at the bus stop.

Bringing in the classified ads from your Sunday Patriot-News so they can be taken to the Community Center for women to use in their job search. Donna Lattimore, the employment coordinator, told me the women use the papers and appreciate them. Before we began this, there was one copy for all to share – and the 'sharing' wasn't always pretty, with the women under court mandate to get a job quickly. If you can join the rotation to take them on Sunday from Church to Woodside Family Center (next to the Dauphin County Prison), please get in

(Continued on page 11)

Clover Lane Coffee House

We are pleased to present two coffee house concerts this month at Clover Lane! Both are at 8:00 PM in the Common Room. Admission \$10 at the door; all are welcome. Please note: "Music on Market Street" has been displaced this month by the Harrisburg Men's Chorus performing February 14, followed by a Valentine's "blessing of the couples."

Idgy Vaughn - Friday, February 5



We are thrilled to intercept Texamerican musician Idgy Vaughn on a rare East Coast tour. She once opened for Richard Thompson before having any clue who he was, and won the prestigious New Folk Competition for Emerging Songwriters at the 2004 Kerrville Folk Festival despite breaking down in a fit of laughter mid-performance due to an instrument malfunction. She has also been featured on National Public Radio.

There are a few things you won't learn about Idgy Vaughn simply by listening to her debut album, *Origin Story*. Like the fact that she was born in Chillicothe, Missouri, a town otherwise best known as "The Home of Sliced Bread." And that she was born on the same day that Jimmy Hoffa disappeared, which seems to perversely please her. She skipped her senior year and enrolled in college early after scoring freakishly high on her ACT Assessment, but was "politely asked to leave" Quincy University at the end of her first semester after being busted for writing papers for football players. She's been bitten by a hog (while eight months pregnant), lived in the projects, and, on her first trip to New York City, was mugged by a pair of 11-year-old boys.

Oh yes, and she has a fantastic, stunningly beautiful voice.



Bobbi Carmitchell, Womack & Lowry - Friday, February 19

Our regular Third Friday coffee house is a local double header: Bobbi Carmitchell of Lancaster paired with perennial favorites Janie Womack and Julie Lowery, now playing as "Womack & Lowry."

Bobbi has both a local and national presence. Equally comfortable in intimate house concerts or concert

halls, she has a way of involving her audience in every aspect of the live performance. She continues to donate her talents in support of various causes: Farmland preservation, domestic violence awareness, breast cancer research, AIDS education, Relay for Life, Arts In the Schools program. Recommended by "our own" Ann Stillwater!

Janie Womack and Julie Lowery are popular on the local coffee house scene and were a smash hit last year at Clover Lane! The duo perform "music of many colors" including originals, blues, country, ballads, folk, and Americana.

Submitted by Bart Carpenter



Freedom to Marry Week

Harrisburg, PA

Plans are already underway for Freedom to Marry Week! For the past several years, the main activity has been our annual rally on Valentine's Day. However, starting last year, we received more attention from more groups, and this year, several activities are being planned between February 6th and February 16th. Among them:

- Feb. 7th – 14th, 2010 **PA Diversity Network: Photo Project**
 380+ Photos of Same-Gender Couples *including members of our congregation!*
 On Display in the PA Capitol Rotunda
 3rd and State Streets, Harrisburg
- Feb. 8th, 2010 Monday **Meet your State Legislators** and drop off Valentines
 Capitol 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Press Conference
 Capitol Rotunda: 3:00 p.m.
Freedom to Marry Rally 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 Market & Front Streets
- Feb. 11th, 2010 Thursday **Celebration of Faith Approved Same-Gender Marriage**
 St. Michael Lutheran Church
 118 State Street Harrisburg, PA
 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Feb. 14th, 2010 Sunday **UU All Families March on the Capitol**
 Following our Second Sunday in the City service.

If you are ready to Stand on the Side of Love, we need your help! Check out www.FreedomToMarryPA.org for updated schedules and information. Contact Alanna Berger at alanna-berger@comcast.net for more information on how you can help make this year the most spectacular event ever!

We need help:

- Tabling January 17th, 24th & 31st to get our UCH members to sign valentines for our legislators.
- Selling t-shirts during coffee hour for a fundraiser.
- Rally captains – getting our signs and banners to the rally sites and back to the Church afterwards.
- Photographers to record the events.
- Coming up with ideas for other planned events!

Submitted by Alanna Berger

QueenSpirit

POTLUCK & CIRCLE

Wednesday, February 3
 6:00 to 9:00 PM
 Unitarian Church of Harrisburg
 Common Room and Joseph Priestley Room

- ☞ Bring a favorite dish, dessert or beverage to share
- ☞ Bring your place setting and serving spoons and plates

The program is based on a portion of the book, *The Pure Heart of Yoga*, by Robert Butera, PhD, Director of the YogaLife Institute in Devon, PA. Copies can be obtained on Amazon.com, but are not required for the circle. You may read and bring the book if you like.

TURNING THE CHAKRAS

Denise Smith and Betsy Stone will lead a meditative and inspiring program using 'seed' sounds that resonate with the seven major Chakra centers.

QueenSpirit is a co-created women's spirituality circle.

Submitted by Anne Moore

Humanism Lecture Series

Humanism in Judaism

Rabbi Carl Choper

The Religion and Society Center of Harrisburg

Monday, February 22, 2010, 7:00-8:30 PM
 UCH Sanctuary, Clover Lane

Join us to learn about the long history of humanism within Judaism. Hear Rabbi Choper describe the basis for these values, learn how it is practiced today, and discuss how secular humanists can appreciate and learn from this religious tradition.

Submitted by David Spear

Mark Your Calendars for Chalice Camp 2010

Chalice Camp 2010 will be held from July 26-30, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM each day. Don't miss out on this opportunity for your children to strengthen their connection to Unitarian Universalism. Registration forms coming soon. Contact Wendy Shaver for more information at 795-9013 or wendy-shaver@verizon.net.

Submitted by Wendy Shaver

Helping Women in Prison & Their Families

(Continued from page 9)

touch with Dick Hoke or Margaret Carrow.

Alice Winner's "Time and Paper Management" classes each month. If you want to help her (an assistant is always appreciated) get in touch with her at SilkSpinnerAW @ verizon.net.

You – if you get a copy of *Change or Die: The Three Keys to Change at Work and in Life* by Alan Deutschman. That will our book-to-discuss this spring, and while we will have new copies for sale a bit below cost, it will be cheaper if you buy a used copy on-line – and you will have plenty of time to read it.

Coming Up in February

Please join us at the Steering Committee on February 2 (the first Tuesday each month) as we work out how to have our book discussion group, and follow up on all the continuing efforts at helping women in prison and their families.

Thoughts from Chaplain Jim Cavanaugh.

As a volunteer lay chaplain at Woodside Family Center, I am there at least twice a week with 'office hours' where a resident can talk privately with me. If I am ready to leave and a resident in distress needs to talk, I stay a while, because like any chaplain, my motto is "Here if you need me." The second Friday each month I open the mandatory house meeting at 7:30 AM with a benediction, and then am privileged to listen as residents speak of others who have helped them, new jobs they have, plans for departure. Want to support them and get a good meal? Dine at Five Guys (excellent burgers at High Pointe Commons), Isaacs, or McDonalds (at Harrisburg Mall) – they all have hired women from Woodside.

One on one, a little at a time.

Submitted by Margaret Carrow and Jim Cavanaugh

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

📖 BOOK DRIVE 📖

A drive to collect books for young children began on January 18 and will continue until February 28. Gently used or new books for young readers may be donated in the designated boxes located in the Common Room at Clover Lane and in the Fellowship Hall at Market Street. The goal is to collect at least 42 books at each site to reflect the 42 years since the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Books will be distributed to children participating in the Capital Region America Reads Tutoring Program or to other needy students in March. For more information, contact Douglas Dockey at 939-4190 or douglasdockey@yahoo.com.

Submitted by Douglas Dockey

Applying Mindfulness Meditation Practices to Everyday Living



A Day Long Retreat With Bhante Sujatha Saturday, February 20, 2010 In the Sanctuary

This will be Bhante's third visit with our group since July 2009. He is a Theravada Buddhist monk originally from Sri Lanka who has been meeting with a number of groups throughout the mid state. He is appreciated for his understanding of how to bring mindfulness into a fast paced western culture.

Schedule:

9:30 AM	Gathering
10:00 AM	Introduction
10:20 AM	Guided Meditation
11:00 AM	Sitting and Walking Meditation
Noon	Lunch (brown bag lunch - beverages provided)
1:00 PM	Sutra Study and Discussion (Aghatavinaya Sutta) - "Five Skillful Ways of Dealing with Feelings of Hatred Toward Others"
3:00 PM	Tea (beverages provided)
3:30 PM	Teaching - "The Mind and the Five Mental Hindrances"
4:00 PM	Questions & Answers
4:30 PM	Loving-Kindness and Closing

Please bring a brown-bagged lunch for your nourishment and a generous donation to support Bhante's work and missions:

Bhante Sujatha's Human Potential Foundation:

www.dahamsevana.org

Blue Lotus Temple and Meditation Center in Chicago:

www.bluelotustemple.org

RSVP appreciated for planning purposes. Walk-ins are welcome. Please contact mmg_of_uch@comcast.net or Holly Hartman at 623-3051.

Submitted by Jeanne Shellman

The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg
1280 Clover Lane
Harrisburg, PA 17113

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February 2010

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Anne Moore

**Wondering if a Church service or event has been delayed
or cancelled due to the weather?**

When inclement weather is expected, call the Church at 564-4761 for any special announcements regarding delays or cancellations of services or events or tune in to one of the following stations.

Television: FOX43, CBS21, CW15, WITF

Websites: abc27.com, fox43.com, cbs21.com, cw15.com, WITF.org

Use your best judgment about driving. Closures will be posted on our website whenever possible.

Newsletter Information

The REPORTER is published monthly by the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg. Della Hoke-Uvick is the Editor.

Submissions to *The REPORTER* are due on the 10th of each month. Please include a name and phone number in case of questions.

Submissions may be

- ♦ **Mailed to or dropped off at:** 1918 Princeton Avenue, Camp Hill, PA 17011 (by 8:00 PM);
- ♦ **emailed to:** dellahoke@yahoo.com. *Please note that there will be a return reply acknowledgement* - if you do not receive an acknowledgement within 24 hours, please call Della!
- ♦ **or** dropped off in *The REPORTER* mail slot at the Church by 2:00 PM;
- ♦ **Call** Della at 737-9251 with questions, please, no calls after 9:00 PM.

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