



**F**IRST  
**U**NITARIAN  
**S**OCIETY OF  
**P**LAINFIELD



Established 1889 (Unitarian-Universalist)

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October 2009

## UPCOMING SERVICES

### October 4 - Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks

#### OUR PATCHWORK QUILT

This morning, Unitarian Universalist congregations around the country are participating in Association Sunday. Association Sunday is one way to celebrate the UUA, our connections with other UU congregations and who we are as UU. The theme this year is Grow our Diversity. Our partner congregation is the Northwest UU Church in Southfield, Michigan. We will be asking you to make a donation to the UUA this morning. A percentage of the donations raised by each district come back to the district in order to support our diversity programming. Our children will join us this morning for the first part of the service.

### October 11 - John Hawkins

#### SERVICE AS FULFILLMENT

Congregations exist because people work together to create them. Some people volunteer out of a sense of duty, but most do so because it satisfies a need: to be of use, to be part of the community, or to grow and learn. Through service in this congregation and in the District to which our congregation belongs, I have found fulfillment and expanded my horizons. This service is a reflection on congregational service as an element of spiritual growth. It includes personal history, lessons learned, and a chance for us all to make beautiful music.

### October 18 - Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks

#### A JOYFUL PAWS

Pets are important members of many families in our congregation. I am mindful, too, that not everyone has a pet and some people are allergic to them. Yet, everyone has a story about an animal that has touched them in some way. This morning I will share some stories about some amazing animals and then we will have an animal blessing. Everyone is invited to bring a pet(s) to be blessed during the service. Children will be participating in this service. Further details can be found later in this newsletter.

October 2009

# WORSHIP MINISTRY

## UPCOMING SERVICES—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

October 25 - Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks

### GIVING HOPE, NOT HATRED

John Murray, the father of Universalism, said give them hope, not hell in response to the brimstone and fire religion of the day that said that many were pre-destined to end up in hell rather than heaven. The Universalists believed all would go to heaven and their message was so needed and so readily embraced that Universalism grew throughout the country. Now, some 239 years after Murray came to New Jersey, the message of the loudest of the fundamentalist Christians is still one of hatred and damnation, not hope. What is a UU response to the hate language of today?

### SECOND COLLECTION

Second Collection for October 12 will be for P.I.E.C.E.S. (Plainfield Initiative for Early Childhood Educational Services). Evelyn Motley, Director, will explain the program and the request for funding Spanish books and readers for the children.

### ANIMAL BLESSING AT FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF PLAINFIELD

On October 18, we will have a blessing of the animals. Well-behaved, friendly pets on leashes or in cages are welcome. We will have a regular service and then at the end of the service animals will be brought up to the front of the sanctuary and will be blessed. Our children will be joining us for this part of the service. If you will be bringing an animal to the service to be blessed please let Tracy know in advance.

If you are allergic to animals, I invite you to come listen to the sermon in my office. We will make sure we can do this so that you are comfortable and feel included.

You do not have to own a pet to participate in the animal blessing. If you have an animal you love (such as you love dolphins but don't own one) or a social cause that involves animals, we can offer a blessing for these too.

The animal blessing service was originally a Catholic service; however, with the UU principle that we are all part of the interdependent web of existence as a guide, many more UU congregations are developing a service of blessing in a uniquely UU way.

Again, please let Tracy know in advance if you will be bringing your pet to the service for a blessing. Please do not bring an animal that is not on a leash or in a cage unless you consult with Tracy beforehand.

# WORSHIP MINISTRY

## BEYOND THE PULPIT— REV. TRACY SPROWLS-JENKS

Gordon B. McKeeman wrote that “ministry is a quality of relationship between and among human beings that beckons forth hidden possibilities; inviting people into deeper, more constant more reverent relationship with the world and with one another.” This is how I feel called to ministry, to do and to be the very thing that Gordon McKeeman suggests. I am so privileged and blessed to be able to live out this calling with you.

Sometimes people are unclear about what exactly ministry is or what exactly a minister does. When do I call the minister is a question that often comes up, particularly when a new minister is beginning in a congregation. Always keeping in mind the words of McKeeman, I also give you these words from another colleague, Peter Lee Scott with additions and edits from other colleagues who have used his words:

Call on the Minister:

- When you don't know me, but would like to.
- When you have problems you would like to discuss with your job, children, marriage, or anything else where a sympathetic ear might help.
- When you are going to the hospital or know of someone else in the congregation who is.  
When someone close to you has died or is critically ill or you're dealing with a significant loss of some kind.
- When you are planning to be married or divorced.
- When you would like your child dedicated.
- When you are pregnant and glad you are or wish you weren't, also if you want to be pregnant but aren't.
- When you feel ready to join the congregation.
- When you have concerns or suggestions.
- When you have religious or spiritual questions.
- When you are seeking to deepen your spiritual life.
- When you are upset with me or would like to express appreciation.
- When you have won the lottery and want to make a large donation to the church.

*-Continued on page 4*

# WORSHIP MINISTRY

## BEYOND THE PULPIT— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Rev. Marilyn Sewell adds some reasons NOT to call on the minister:

- When you want to give her "the real scoop" on another member.
- When you want to explain that you'll have to cut your pledge in half because you are spending the summer in the south of France.
- When you want to tell her you didn't like what she wore in the pulpit last Sunday.
- When you want to tell her that one of the reasons you are a UU is that you have always distrusted organized religion. (Our church is, after all, a part of organized religion).

I am glad to serve as your minister. I look forward to getting to know you through our Sunday morning encounters, our shared ministry together and our phone calls and visits.

### OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks will be in the office on Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 10:00 AM until 3:30 PM. She will be working from home on Thursdays and will answer calls & emails. On days when there is an evening meeting at FUSP that she needs to attend, Rev. Tracy may come in later that day. Please note that Rev. Tracy will occasionally be away from the office for meetings and visits during office hours so it is best to call and make an appointment to see her. On Fridays, Rev. Tracy writes her sermons from home. Monday is her day off. In an emergency, the office administrator (M-Th, 9AM-3PM) will be able to reach her & she checks voice mail on days she is not in the office.

These hours are flexible and experimental. Please be patient as Rev. Tracy adjusts her schedule to best fit the needs of FUSP and her travel time. Please feel free to call Rev. Tracy at the office or to e-mail her. The best e-mail to use is [revtsj@fusp.org](mailto:revtsj@fusp.org). She will return your call or answer your e-mail as soon as she can.

### REV. TRACY'S AVAILABILITY

Below is a listing of the Sundays I will be off this coming year. Please note the special events such as Big Music on December 6th and my Installation as the Minister at FUSP on April 18, 2010 at 5:00 PM.

In addition, I thought I would let you know in advance the times I know I will be away from FUSP.

—Continued on page 5

## **WORSHIP MINISTRY**

### **REV. TRACY'S AVAILABILITY**

This is a very unusual year as I am working on my Doctor of Ministry degree and going to the Parliament of World Religions in Melbourne, Australia. I deeply appreciate your wanting your minister around so I want to reassure you that I am available and accessible via email and phone almost always. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me even if I am not in town.

Thank you for letting me serve as your minister. And thank you for giving me the opportunity to grow intellectually and spiritually through these times that I will be away from you.

Rev. Tracy is out of town on the following dates:

1. Melbourne, Australia for the Parliament of World Religions - Nov. 30 thru Dec. 10
2. I will be in school for three weeks out of this year. I will be available by phone and email but I will not be in the office for regular hours. I am also available for emergencies and by appointment. The three weeks are October 25-30, 2009; February 14-19, 2010; June 13-18, 2010
3. Greenfield Group (my minister's study group) meets April 27-29, 2010

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **CHANGE IS GOOD FOR THE HEART AND SOUL**

*"If nothing ever changed, they'd be no butterflies" — Author unknown*

My grocery store recently changed their store around. The cookies and crackers are where the coffee and tea used to be and the cereal is where the canned goods used to be and the international foods are where the baking needs are and so it goes. At first I was annoyed with this disruption I thought, "Why couldn't they leave it alone, I used to know where everything was located, now I have to look in different places for my items on the list!" On the one hand I'm sure there's a marketing strategy behind the change, but on the other hand it does force me to look at the organization of the store differently. Change with a purpose enables us to see the usual in different ways. — *Cont. on pg 6*

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **CHANGE IS GOOD FOR THE HEART AND SOUL— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5**

This idea of change has happened to me recently in my professional life as a religious educator. Looking back, I have to acknowledge that my motivation to provide an outstanding R.E. program has been two-fold; one for the FUSP community and one for my own children. Now that my children have aged out of the program and moved into their lives as young adults that motivation no longer exists. My decision to continue my professional life as a professional UU religious educator has presented some specific challenges. Two in particular stand out; the part time (25 hour/week) position and the total compensation package, neither are currently meeting my needs. I fully understand the financial constraints of FUSP. and have agreed to continue to serve as your Director of Religious Education under these conditions.

After much deliberation I've decided to make two major changes. One, the need for another part-time job to supplement my income and two I need to reorganize my work as a professional religious educator in serving the FUSP community. In making the first change I've accepted a part time tutor position at Brookdale Community College and I will be working on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. As far as the second change goes I've decided to adopt the unit method of work division. Each unit is a four hour measurement. So, on Sundays and Tuesdays I'll be accomplishing four units of work and on Wednesday PM, Thursday and Saturday I'll work a total of six units leaving one hour for professional development totaling 25 hours/week.

My commitment to both the FUSP and the RE program are still strong and vital. Reorganizing and prioritizing my schedule will bring greater clarity and value to my professional and personal goals. I'm looking forward to continuing our journey together.

Peace, Sue Fertig, Director of Religious Education

### **THE HAUNTED BASEMENT**

Sunday, November 1st - Stevens Wing— To all children in the RE program (and adults, if you dare) The pleasure of your company is requested at The Haunted Basement presented by The Youth Group on Sunday, November 1st, after service. A small admission fee will be used for a Midnight Run to feed the homeless.

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## FUSP COMING OF AGE YOUTH BIOGRAPHIES 2009-2010

For the Purpose of Mentor Review: The following biographies were written by this year's Coming of Age youth. We request that you read and get to know our terrific group of young adults, with an eye and ear to what you can contribute to them by being a mentor. The mentor selection will take place shortly and is the key element in the COA process. Thank you for considering to become a COA mentor. You will benefit as much as the youth, perhaps more!

My name is **Tyler Stafford**. I am fourteen years old and am a freshman at the Hudson School in Hoboken, NJ. I live in South Orange with my mom, dad and two cats. My interests include photography, architecture and graphic design. I'm hoping that the COA program will help me to develop stronger spiritual and ethical views.

My name is **Nava Caluori**, and I am fourteen years old. I've lived in Metuchen, NJ my whole life and I am currently attending Metuchen High School. I live with my mom, Bettina, and my dad, Paul,. I'm most interested in dance and music. My hobbies include dance classes, playing guitar and playing violin. The part of Coming of Age that I am looking forward to is getting to know myself and my religious beliefs better.

My name is **Jess Braham** and I am fourteen years old. I am a freshman at Union High School. I live with both of my parents and my older sister who just went off to her first year of college. I am a dedicated athlete. I play varsity soccer and also enjoy running track. I am also into musical theater and instrumental music. I am looking forward to learning about other religions and what I truly believe in.

My name is **Tara Elizabeth Sciortino** and I am fourteen years old. I am attending Westfield High School and I reside in Westfield, NJ. I refer to many people as my family, but my immediate, blood-related family consists of my brother James, 10, my mother Diane, and my father, John. Some of my interests are music and photography. I have yet to learn how to play the guitar and piano and I'm saving up for a professional camera. I don't have many hobbies, but I enjoy art, drawing and painting and other stuff like that. I am in the marching band and I am considering the Rugby team. This year in Coming of Age I am looking forward to defining my beliefs and bonding further with the congregation. Hopefully, by the end of COA I will have found a significant, if not large part, of myself and my beliefs.

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## FUSP COMING OF AGE YOUTH BIOGRAPHIES 2009-2010

My name is **Zachery Schultz** and I am 12 years old. I live in Piscataway and will be attending Piscataway High School in September. My family members are: my father, Steve, stepmother, Dawn, and brothers Jacob and Devin. My interests are music, creating skateboard videos with my friends and photography. My main hobby is skateboarding. I love skateboarding; I skate whenever I can. This year at FUSP, I look forward to meeting new friends, learning new things and having a great time!

My name is **Valerie Frances Neuhaus**, I am 14 years old. I am starting 9th grade at SPF High School. The activities I like are singing, Algebra, Computer games and hanging out with my friends. Recently, I am eating less meat. I love to sing in choirs. I can get a little crazy at times and be very hyper. I am very caring, loving and happy.

My name is **Chloe Williams**. I am 14 years old, and will be fifteen in October 2009. I love to read and enjoy interesting discussions. I have recently become a vegetarian and feel strongly for animal rights. I have played clarinet for the past five years and plan on joining the NP High School concert band. I love music, mostly alternative and pop. I am caring and understanding. I look forward to meeting my new mentor and to a great Coming of Age Year!

Hi, my name is **Chris Walsh**, I am 15 years old, and I'm in 10th grade at Westfield High. I live in Scotch Plains with my sister, Lindsay, and my mom, Julie. My favorite things to do outside of school are to play the trumpet, hang out with my friends, golf, and play video games. I play the trumpet in the New Jersey Youth Symphony, Westfield High School Marching Band, and the Wind Ensemble. I am looking forward to learning more about myself from the COA Program and thinking more about what I believe in.

My name is **Ian Cauley**. I'm 14 years old and have been at FUSP pretty much all of my life. I live in Westfield and I attend Westfield High School. In my family I have a mom and a dad, of course. Other than my parents, I have a brother, a sister and two dogs. My brother is 34 and lives in London. My sister is 20 and she has performed at FUSP playing the piano (Roe Cauley). My two dogs are mutts (mixed breeds). My dog is named Mosly and my mom's is named Mojo. Did I mention that I have 2 birds named Jack and Sally? For hobbies I love cars, swimming, skate boarding, biking, and soccer. Another hobby is Tae Kwon Do for 8 years. I am a red belt. So that's my life.

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## FUSP COMING OF AGE YOUTH BIOGRAPHIES 2009-2010

I always hate it when people start off a get-to-know-me paragraph with “My name is ...”, so I will try to find a different way to tell you that my name is **Elsa Leistikow**. I’m 14 years old, I live in Scotch Plains and attend SPF High School. There, how’s that? Hmm, my family members. I’ve got an older sister named Anna, a younger brother – Thomas – and two parents: Dean & Kathleen. Oh, and ME! I enjoy all kinds of sports – swimming, soccer, lacrosse, tennis, ultimate Frisbee. You get the idea. Reading a book, playing Wii and jumping on my trampoline are also fun ways to relax. In COA this year, I am looking forward to getting to know my mentor and going on the Boston trip!

**Nicholas Schrum** is a 14 year old student at Bridgewater High School, located in the town of Bridgewater. He lives in that same town with his family, consisting of a father, Jack, mother, Martha, a younger brother Isaac, and a cat, Daisy. He enjoys playing the baritone horn and piano and consistently excels at school. He occasionally dabbles in art as well as spending the majority of his free time on electronic devices.

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Lots of good wishes for a happy birthday and all year long to:

Caleb L. Ivaniuc

Charlotte Williams

Chloe Williams

### REFLECTING ON OUR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOURCES

Because we are a religion that has no creed or dogma, our faith draws from many sources. These include the Jewish and Christian traditions as well as wisdom from all the world’s religions, to name just two of these sources. Some of us are very familiar with the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism, but how many of us can name the sources? Seldom do we take a good look at them and so this class will do just that. We will do some reading and also some deep sharing about these sources (there are six!)

I invite all of you to participate in this class, including our teenagers. Because I want as many people to take this class as possible, it will be offered twice. Please join me for three **Sundays** after the service at **11:45 AM until 1:30 PM on October 18, November 15, and December 13**. Bring your lunch! It will **also be offered on Thursdays 7:30 PM until 9:00 PM on October 22, November 19, and December 17**. —*Cont. on pg 10*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### UU SOURCES — *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9*

These classes are spread apart like this so that you have time to think about the sources and engage them in a meaningful way between sessions. Ideas on how to do this will be presented at each session. We will also be using the book called “A Chosen Faith.” While this is not required reading, I encourage all participants to read it. It is available at the book table. Alice Logie has several copies.

Please come to all three sessions. If you can't make a Sunday, come that Thursday or vice versa. Sources we will discuss at each session:

October 18, 22 - Sources 1 and 2 (Optional Reading: Part 1 and 2)

November 15, 19 - Sources 3 and 4 (Optional Reading: Part 3 and 4)

December 13, 17 - Sources 5 and 6 (Optional Reading: Part 5 and 6)

No sign up is necessary. Childcare will be provided if requested. Just bring your enthusiasm and interest to explore our religion and our spiritual lives in a deep and meaningful way.

## FINANCE MINISTRY

### COUNTING UP, COUNTING DOWN

This is a new column, mostly about the financial aspects of our Historic Building Preservation project. Believe it or not we are half way through the first phase. Grand plans have been made to improve our foundations, repair the Robinson Window, put a new roof on the Parish Hall, and install a lift for persons who are handicapped. A matching grant has been approved by the state of New Jersey. In the initial fund raising goal 89 members and friends pledged \$420,000 to the project. \$220,000 has been paid on these pledges. The goal is to raise \$447,000 which will be matched dollar for dollar by the state. As most of the work will be done in the next eight months we need pledges and payments to be made now. Many of you have joined the church since the initial campaign in April 2008 and some have not had the chance to make a pledge, we ask you to stop at the Booktable for a copy of the plans and a pledge form. I will be glad to talk with you about the preservation of our sacred space.

Alice Logie, CFO Historic Building Preservation Project

# **FINANCE MINISTRY**

## **CHURCHYARD BBQ**

**Sunday, October 4th** after the Service Join your fellow FUSPers over a burger or hotdog, whether you be meat eater or plant eater, sit down with the people who make FUSP the wonderful caring community that it is! If you haven't yet attended a churchyard BBQ, this is your opportunity before the winter is upon us! Don't miss out on a few hours of fun, conversation, good food and fresh air! If you'd like to help out, contact Melissa Logan or Julie Walsh.

## **HOME-MADE JAMS - YUMMY!!**

Sandy Kaplan will be selling jams, made from his home grown, pesticide free fruits (strawberries are store bought) after services most Sundays. He has only made gooseberry and strawberry-rhubarb jams this year and doesn't have as much as usual. They are packed in 8 oz. jars and cost \$5 each. The full proceeds go to the church. Please look for him soon - they go fast.

## **FUSP SPAGHETTI DINNER (AT LONG LAST)**

Tired of cooking after a long week of life? Swing by FUSP on **Friday, Oct 9th** for a hot delicious meal with friends. We'll try out some recipes from the FUSP Spaghetti Dinners archive (compliments of Sandy Kaplan). What an easy, enjoyable way to spend a couple of hours...no program planned...just good ole' spaghetti to warm the soul. If you'd like to help out, contact Melissa Logan or Julie Walsh.

## **IN HONOR OF OUR WEDDING**

Sue Nevel and Jim Sedlak will be married in October. In honor of their marriage they are making a financial contribution to FUSP.

## **RECYCLING EFFORTS**

On July 25 and August 22 a total of 22 volunteers from FUSP helped recycle at the Fanwood Recycling center. We raised \$450 for operating funds at FUSP. The following people volunteered: Steve and Ian Cauley, Cam, Becky and Sarah Douglas, Fred Lange, Paul and Dillon Monti, Charlie Neiss, Emma and Robert Reading, Kate Riegel, Jack, Isaac and Nicolaus Schrum, John, Tara and James Sciortino, Denise Soppas, James Tuite and Charlotte and Chloe Williams.

# SOCIAL JUSTICE & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## JOIN US AT THE FREE FILM SERIES ON FRIDAY NIGHT

October is the traditional "Coming Out" month, a time when closeted BGLTI people are encouraged to positively assert their true identity. On **Friday, October 23**, 7 PM, Steven's Room, the Welcoming Congregation Committee invites FUSP members and their friends to view the heartwarming film, BOBBIE'S GIRL, which demonstrates some of the perplexities involved in this process, as well as some other life challenges, not at all unique to lesbians. As a middle age person in a long-term committed relationship, and living a comfortable life together, how would you handle being asked to care for your ten-year old nephew after his parents are killed in an accident? How might you decide to deal with a serious health diagnosis if your partner seems to get overly emotional about even the most mundane situations? What does the word commitment truly mean when confronted by such challenges?

This well-acted TV film stars RACHEL WARD (Bobbie), BERNADETTE PETERS (Bailey, her partner) and JONATHAN SILVERMAN (Bailey's eccentric brother, David) who adds a fun quirkiness throughout, as the three of them run the "Two Sister's Pub" together in a tiny Irish village by the sea. The natural scenic landscapes and the man made structures found in the city of Dublin add to the effectiveness of this touching video.

Popcorn and refreshments provided. Childcare available (call Valerie Mead if needed). Discussion to follow film-viewing.

## UU LEGISLATIVE MINISTRY OF NJ FALL WORKSHOP

On Saturday, **October 3 from 9 to 1** at the Unitarian Church in Summit there will be a meeting of the UULMNJ. The purpose is to review how the legislative process in NJ works, to meet Julia Hamilton the new director of the UULMNJ, to understand how UULMNJ works, to hear about the work that has been done by the Health Care, Environment, and Economic Justice task forces, and to prepare to take action on pressing issues like Marriage Equality. I will be attending as our congregation's liason to the UULMNJ, but I invite other members who are interested in the above issues and want to learn about how to take an active part in the process to attend also. To register go to: [www.workshop@uulmnj.org](http://www.workshop@uulmnj.org) —Heather Brown

# **SOCIAL JUSTICE & COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

## **SEPARATE BUT EQUAL -- SEPARATE IS NOT EQUAL WHY CIVIL UNIONS DON'T WORK**

New Jersey's civil union laws do not provide the LBGT (Lesbian Bi-Sexual Gay Transgender) individuals equality. In states where the civil union is the law, people in civil unions are not being treated the same by their employers as people who are married. Even if the rights and responsibilities spelled out in a state's civil union law are identical to marriage in every way, Marriage and Civil Unions are not equal. One reason is that marriage is recognized in every state and country, while civil unions are not. Therefore, the rights and responsibilities do not follow you when you leave the state that granted them. Another reason is marriage is an institution that has existed for thousands of years and means something in our culture in a way that civil unions do not. As history has demonstrated, separate but equal is pretty much by definition not equal. This fight will not be over in this country until same-sex marriage is legal and fully- recognized in all 50 states. "You can put nice cushions in the back of the bus -- but it's still the back of the bus."

Participate in the phone bank on Nov 8th at FUSP and you will have a hand in shaping history.

### **MARRIAGE EQUALITY PHONE BANK**

Join FUSP members and Garden State Equality **on Sunday, November 8th** for a marriage equality phone bank from **11:30 AM to 3 PM in the Steven's room**. New Jersey legislators are widely expected to consider a same-sex marriage bill after the November gubernatorial election and before the January swearing-in ceremony. Therefore this is perfect timing for us to contact people and ask them to contact key legislators during our Nov 8th phone bank. Training will be provided with lunch at 11:30. Please bring a cell phone and charger as we have a limited number of phones.

Everyone's help is needed whether you are a first-timer or a veteran activist; together we can make a difference and live our Unitarian principles. Sign up for the phone bank on Sundays in the Parish Hall during the month of October. Please contact Denise Soppas if you would like to sign-up for the phone bank or if you need childcare during the phone bank.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

## WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

**Saturday, October 17th, 10 AM - Stevens Room** — Join us for this important meeting to discuss ideas about who we are as an organization and who we can be. The search committee labored for this entire past year analyzing the needs of FUSP, reviewing materials and interviewing prospective candidates. We are grateful that they were successful and found a wonderful match in our new minister, Tracy. But in the process of meeting other prospective candidates and hearing their reactions to us, many insights have been gained. Come join us and the women of the search committee for a lively discussion of what they have learned and how we can become more than we are. Facilitated by Breda May. Please notify Bonnie Rowan several days in advance if you need childcare.

## SPECIAL WII FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Join us for our next game night on **Friday, October 9 from 7 to 10 in the Steven's Room**, right after the Spaghetti Dinner. Game night is held on the second Friday of each month and is a great opportunity to meet new friends or get to know some old ones better. We are trying something a little different this month. We will be setting up a Wii game system and playing bowling and Rockband. Rockband is a little like karaoke, but you can play drums or guitar in addition to singing along with your favorite Beatles song. No previous experience is necessary. Friends of all ages are welcome, and a variety of card and board games are also played. You can bring a game you love, or just come ready to learn a new one. Contact Heather Brown for additional information.

## FROM THE CARING COMMITTEE

**Bernie Mellies** had a very serious accident at work. He is in a coma at Cooper Hospital in Camden. **Gerrie Heinzer** is ill at home with symptoms related to his heart & lungs. **Bruce Gast** is doing well at home following open heart surgery. We wish them all a speedy recovery. **Charlie & Gail Sweeney** are celebrating their 25th anniversary. Congratulations! **Gloria Deodato** has moved but she is still within easy access to her office and to FUSP. **Hal Relking** died on August 29. He is survived by his wife, Vera, his son & daughter-in-law, Rustin & Megann, and 4 grandchildren. Our condolences to the family.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Men's Breakfast will be at **9 AM on Saturday, October 10th in the Stevens Room**. Dick Aronson and Jack Schrum will lead the following topic, which might help us to discover why we are what we are.

Many of us are liberals, and despite some differences we generally support one another. But why? Many of us would say that it is based on our ethics and conscience—on our sense of what will serve the larger community well and justly.

But many conservatives would make the same claim: that government and policies of a conservative disposition would, in the long run, serve the body politic better in all regards.

So the question is: Have we ordered our perceptions to fit the philosophical outlook that somehow suits us temperamentally? If so, what is it that makes a liberal or a conservative by nature? How did we become what we are?

What is it that makes one person look at a situation and perceive injustice (e.g., exclusion of minorities from higher education)? And another person look at the same situation and perceive a conflicting injustice (e.g., in affirmative action the unfairness to a white candidate who is passed over in favor of someone with lesser credentials)?

## STEEL MAGNOLIAS

Anybody who is anybody goes to Truvy's beauty salon. That means you! Come see Act IV's production of "Steel Magnolias" in the **Parish Hall on Nov.6, 7,13 and 14 at 8 p.m. and on Nov. 8 and 15 at 3 p.m.** "Steel Magnolias" is a very funny look at the lives of six southern women who were raised to be delicate flowers, but when needed, can handle anything with nerves of steel as well as well-kept hair. On opening night, Nov.6, there will be a free reception in the Stevens Room following the play!!!!

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINES FOR NOVEMBER

**Print/Advertising: Noon, Oct 12**      **Electronic: 5 PM, Oct. 16**  
**Assembling : Oct. 27**      Submit to [newsletter@fusp.org](mailto:newsletter@fusp.org) and  
[website@fusp.org](mailto:website@fusp.org) to be included on the website & in the newsletter. —  
**Priscilla**

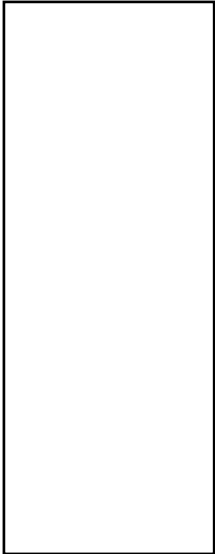


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October 2009