

MARCH 2003

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Allegheny ADVOCATE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ALLEGHENY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

MARCH 2

The Transformative Power of Relationship

Rev. Art McDonald

We are all involved in multiple relationships in our lives within families, neighborhoods, work environment, religious congregations, etc. Some of these relationships are joyful, some supportive, some challenging, some difficult. This morning Art will reflect upon the importance of relationships and how some can transform our lives.

MARCH 5

Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 PM

Rev. Art McDonald

For those who are inspired by the religion of Jesus, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of a time of repentance (Lent) in preparation for Holy Week.

MARCH 9

The Spiritual Journey of an Unruly Quaker

Mary Parish

Who am I meant to be? What do I believe? And what is my purpose? With these questions orienting her reflections, Mary Parish, a member of the Friends' Meeting, will address the dynamics of her spiritual journey through the lens of family, work, and her experience at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

MARCH 16

Nationalism, Conflict, and Us

Josh Searle-White, Ph.D.

We are delighted to have Josh Searle-White, a Psychology professor from Allegheny College, and a member of the Meadville UU Church, with us this morning. Josh has written about the *Psychology of Nationalism* and will explore with us why human beings get involved in conflicts and why we cling to those conflicts so tenaciously. He will ground his ideas in a spiritual understanding of people.

MARCH 23

Communion Service 10:00 AM

Reader: Donald Zeilman

Monthly Service that reconnects us to our community of faith and action.

Margaret Fuller: Unitarian Radical 11:00 AM

Rev. Art McDonald

Margaret Fuller, raised as a Unitarian and a key member of the Transcendentalist movement, is most famous for her work, *Women in the 19th Century*. This morning, Art will reflect upon her contribution to our faith tradition.

MARCH 30

Healing/World Health Day

Jane Dirks & Friends

Our CLL, Jane Dirks, will be joined by Allegheny members and friends to help us commemorate World Health Day with a Service about healing.

Sunday Services at
Allegheny Unitarian
Universalist Church
begin at 11 o'clock.
All are welcome!

FROM THE COMMUNITY

Annual Empty Bowls Dinner

Just Harvest's annual fund raiser, the Empty Bowls Dinner, will take place on Sunday, March 9, from 3–7 PM, at Rodef Shalom Congregation, 4905 Fifth Avenue. Call 412-431-8960 for details.

First Church Group Meets

The theme for the March meeting of the First Church Humanist Group will be, *Does Humanism Have a Future in the UUA?* The meeting will be held in First Church's Schweitzer Room on Tuesday, March 11 at 7:30 PM.

GREEN PERSPECTIVE

Eating Less Meat

Eating less meat is an important part of taking responsibility for the environment. It's an achievable pledge as Allegheny takes steps to go green.

The biggest culprit is the factory farm, and our economy supports this model. Instead of the small family farm, government subsidies are given to the larger corporations. When we go the supermarket or McDonald's, meat we consume is most likely produced by the likes of Tyson, Perdue, et. al. Factory farming consumes many of our natural resources. According to *factory-farming.com*, most of the grain grown in the United States is fed to these animals that has "forced agribusiness to exploit vast portions of land." According to Jeremy Rifkin, "it requires 2500 to 6000 pounds of wheat to produce one pound of meat." In addition, the quest for profit by the likes of the large corporations, such as Monsanto, has led to the controversial practice of genetically modified foods. We also know the cows, chickens and turkeys developed in factory farm atmosphere are invariably mistreated.

PROGRAM NOTES

Communion Service: New Day & Time

When the Program Committee first discussed the best time to schedule the Communion Service, we were undecided between a weekday night and Sunday before Service. After having tried six Services in the Wednesday evening slot, we will now be trying Sunday morning.

If you have wanted to attend the Service, and have not been able during the week, this could be your opportunity! Join us for the first of the Sunday morning Communion Services on March 23 at 10 o'clock. All are welcome.

Jennifer Wood

The Communion Service will take place on Sunday morning, March 23 at 10 o'clock. Please join us!

Agricultural waste is another danger to the eco-system. Thousands of tons of animal waste is improperly disposed of every year in our water systems, causing fish-kills and contaminating ground water.

So what can we do? We ask that people take the time and effort to find out where the meat is coming from. Eat less of it, waste less of it. Buy meat from the local butcher, a Kosher butcher, or from a whole foods store. Try to buy organic food when possible. Many supermarkets now have organic foods section, there is the Whole Foods Co-Op in the East End and a new market in Oakland called Whole Foods Market, a chain based in Texas that sells only certified organic products at a reasonable cost. A little research goes a long way in discovering what we are consuming.

A couple of accessible resources for information is www.factoryfarming.com and the book *Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser, published by Penguin Books.

MEMBER TRIBUTE

Many of you heard Rev. Bill Moore's wonderful tribute to Minister Emeritus, Jesse Caviller, at our Capital Campaign/Award gathering in December. Here it is:

My Favorite Jesse

I know a lot of Jesses, and I'm sure that
you do too,
Please bear with me, until I see,
if I can name a few.

The Bible talks about Jesse's son David;
he killed a giant;
I have an uncle named Jesse,
he loves to kill a pint!

There's Jesse Willard, the boxer,
who was a heavyweight,
He won the belt, and so he felt, that he was
really great;

But when it came to running fast, and
jumping over things,
In '36 old Jesse Owens was wearing
four gold rings;

In politics old Jesse Helms won
time and time again,
And I can only think of twice,
he ran but did not win;

One Jesse ran for President,
but missed it by a mile,

But Jesse Jackson junior
will try it after awhile;

And on tv I'm sure you see old movies
with big names,
But none could be much bigger than
old Frank and Jesse James;

Sally Jesse Raphael is smart as smart can be,
She is a glow on radio and brilliant on tv;

Now I shall name just one more name, and
then I shall sit down,
It is the name of the one,
that I say should be crowned;

This man is for the underdog,
he works hard in the church,
He is a man who has found God, and
now helps other's search;

He loves to recycle love,
he's a guy that I hold dear,
And I can say, right here today,
it's Jesse Cavileer.

SERVING THE CONGREGATION

Greeters

March 2

Benita Campbell and Linda Deafenbaugh

March 9

Kim & Sophie Winbush and Jill Brethauer

March 16

Andy Schwarz and Steve Hirtle

March 23

Jane Schwarz and Rebecca Davis

March 30

Marie Ellavich and John Engberg

Refreshments

March 2

Lynn Glorieux and Susan Hillman

March 9

Betty Schwarz

March 16

Pat Downey and Kathy Graham

March 23

Ann Sitrin and Beth Halliday

March 30

Jane Dirks and Jeanne Zang

March 2003

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 Anti-War rally at church — Noon
2 Choir 9:30 a.m. Giant Eagle certificate sign-up	3 Board of Trustees 7:00 p.m. NA 7:00 p.m.	4	5 Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 p.m. 	6	7	8 Anti-War rally at church — Noon
9 Choir 9:30 a.m. Finance 9:30 a.m. G.E. cert. delivery	10 Women's Group CNNC Mtg. Arch Court NA 7:00 p.m.	11 RE Committee 7:30	12	13 PIIN Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m. Wesley Center AME Zion	14 Newsletter Deadline!! OMD Men's Retreat starts	15 Anti-War rally Dinner, Talent Show and Auction 5:30 p.m.
16 Choir 9:30 a.m. St. Patrick's Day Celebration (RE)	17 St. Patrick's Day NA 7:00 p.m.	18	19	20 Pleasant Valley Shelter Meal	21	22 Anti-War rally at church — Noon
23 Choir 9:00 a.m. Communion Service 10:00 a.m.	24 NA 7:00 p.m.	25	26	27	28	29 Anti-War rally at church — Noon
30 Choir 9:30 a.m.	31 House Comm. 6:30 p.m. NA 7:00 p.m.					

April 2003

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 Program Committee 7:30 p.m.	2	3	4 OMD Annual Meeting Youngstown	5 OMD Annual Meeting Anti-War rally — Noon
6 Choir 9:30 a.m. Giant Eagle certificate sign-up	7 Board of Trustees 7:00 p.m. NA 7:00 p.m.	8 RE Committee 7:30 p.m.	9	10	11	12 Anti-War rally at church — Noon
13 Choir 9:30 a.m. Finance 9:30 a.m. G.E. cert. delivery Palm Sunday	14 Women's Group NA 7:00 p.m.	15	16 Passover begins at sundown Passover Seder??	17 Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 p.m. 	18 Newsletter Deadline!! Passover Seder??	19 Anti-War rally at church — Noon Coffee House 7:30 p.m.
20 Annual Breakfast 9:30 a.m. Easter Sunday	21 St. Patrick's Day NA 7:00 p.m.	22	23	24 Pleasant Valley Shelter Meal	25	26 Anti-War rally at church — Noon
27 Choir 9:00 a.m.	28 NA 7:00 p.m.	29	30			

A Passage With Such Dignity

When Bob Follette called us at home at about 5:30 AM last Friday morning, I immediately knew it was to share with us that Dian had died. I had been there with Dian and Bob, Nicole, the nurse's aid, the nurse from Hospice, and Dian's sister, Alice, on Wednesday afternoon. The Hospice nurse shared with us that she thought Dian was dying. She patiently and lovingly explained what to expect and what to do. I spent about 20 minutes alone with Dian after hearing these words from the nurse, and we shared some precious moments together. I don't pray very well, but words came to me and she whispered along with me; Dian prayed often. She was good at it. I didn't expect to see Dian alive again. Then on Friday, the phone call.

When Bob shared the news of Dian's death, he began to sob. So did I. But he was ok. His sister and brother-in-law were right there; his son, Adam, was on his way. They were spending time with Dian's body before the funeral parlor folks were to come.

They did this so well. From the time Dian was diagnosed with Multiple Systems Atrophy, until her untimely death at age 58, they continued to live as fully as the disease allowed, and made every attempt to combat the illness with all that medical science had to offer. Neither Dian or Bob ever stopped hoping for a restoration of health, and yet, at the same time, they courageously faced the likelihood of death with honesty and care. Their love, their energy, their joy in each other never seemed to wane. Dian never lost her inquisitiveness, her charm, her smile, her joy, her grace. She never lost her faith. A born Roman Catholic, who prayed the rosary often towards the end, she died a Unitarian Universalist, ever open to the next adventure.

I so well remember when Bob and Dian first contacted me about visiting the church. I believe it was the Summer of 2001. Bob came alone to talk, but most especially to check out the logistics of getting Dian in and out of the church. She was already struggling with her walking and was having difficulty negotiating stairs. When Bob was satisfied that it was workable, he said they would be back together. That's how Bob dealt

with this illness from the start. He wanted Dian to continue to enjoy everything possible, whether it be a symphony, a Pitt basketball game, a night at the theatre, or a Sunday at church. Bob would visit the site ahead of time and strategize how to go in and out, where the bathroom facilities were, how close they could park, etc.

Dian was only able to come to the church for less than a year, her last visit the day we dedicated Founders Hall, last May. Dian entered from the back way and waited for us downstairs. As we all filed down for the words of dedication read by UUA President, Bill Sinkford, Dian greeted us with that classic smile. In that short time with us, Dian made a deep impression on many of us. And as she became more disabled, a number of AUUCers visited her and Bob, and kept the communication flowing. Thanks to Kathy Kozachenko, Dian had two wonderful nurse's aids, who cared for and loved Dian in her final days. They became part of the family. Jeanne Zang kept the communication flowing through the internet. Another wonderful example of shared ministry that has so beautifully grown here at Allegheny.

When Dian was failing in the last few weeks, it was her wish not to go off to the hospital. As always, Bob made sure her wishes were honored. Dian occupied the front room in the upstairs of their house; a pleasant, very bright room with a lovely view of Chatham Village. Bob slept on a mat on the floor beside her. When Dian's other caretakers came to the house, they chased Bob away so that he could shop, go to the gym, attend a game, etc. In the last week, Dian's sister Alice joined in from Philadelphia. On Tuesday before her death, she asked Alice when her brother George was coming from Philly. "Saturday," replied Alice. "I won't make it 'til then," she replied. "He has to come sooner. Tell him to quit messing around and get here." With Dian, what you saw was what you got. She was always direct. George came on Thursday. Two hours after he arrived and spent time with Dian, She lost her ability to speak. The next morning she died. On Saturday Bob called and asked if I could meet with him and his in-laws to discuss the

private (family) Memorial Service. He suggested 5:00 PM at Max's Tavern on the North Side. I couldn't do at that time, I replied, because I was due at Cindy Tyler and Brian Koehler's wedding gathering. "Great," said Bob, "I approve of weddings!" So we planned on the phone. Much like the wedding on Saturday, the theme at Sunday's Memorial Service was love. Both celebrations, both rooms were filled with love. Melanie and I had the privilege of being part of both. Both celebrations mixed tears with laughter and joy. It was a rich weekend.

We will miss Dian's smile and childlike enthusiasm and inquisitiveness. Fortunately, we'll continue to enjoy Bob's passion and warm presence as he begins to shape the next stage of his own life. Soon we will spread the word about Dian's Memorial Service for the congregation and other friends, likely in early March. Please try to participate in that celebration of a very special life. It will mean a lot to Bob and the family.

Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network

As I write this column, PIIN Task Forces are putting the last touches on the agenda for our major public meeting set for Thursday, February 20. As of February 16, Allegheny had 31 people signed up to attend; only 4 short of our goal of 35. I am confident we'll reach that goal when all is said and done. It has been over two years since we actually started this effort and it has been an enormous effort to get to this point. Whatever we accomplish at this first meeting, as we seek commitments from public officials, it is still amazing to me that we have gathered a group of over 30 congregations, Jewish, Christian, Muslim, UU, Quaker, etc. to attempt to change the city and county we live in.

Anti-War Efforts

The anti-war movement has developed in a way I don't think anyone could have imagined only a few months ago. The reports about major demonstrations across Europe and in major cities in the U.S. is astounding. The 4-5,000 who marched in Pittsburgh exceeded expectations a month earlier. Our North Side rally had 35 joyful honk-seekers last Saturday, the largest yet. In a month maybe we'll stretch from Resaca to Palo Alto! Starting Feb. 17, from 4-6 PM every day there will be an anti-war presence at the Federal

Building downtown. Please join in whenever and wherever you are able. There are weekly vigils on Saturday in East Liberty and Frick Park at the corner of Braddock and Forbes. Phone calls to legislators should also keep flowing. Who knows, though war seems inevitable, maybe the national and international pressure will become to great for the administration to continue its current path. I never lose hope.

Transitions

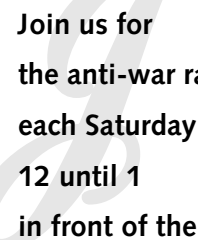
I am very pleased that under the leadership of the Board of Trustees, a plan for small house meetings is currently underway for members and friends of the congregation to discuss my departure and for developing plans for the next phase of ministry and direction for Allegheny. Early reports are that the initial meetings have been very well attended. The discussions have been rich. Thanks to Kate Tomlinson for designing an excellent model for such a process. If you haven't signed up for a group, please do so soon. Contact Kathy Kozachenko if you have questions.

In the next few months before Melanie and I leave for Massachusetts, I hope to have many conversations with members and friends who are interested. I have appreciated and respected so many of you and I would like an opportunity to tell you personally how much I have appreciated the relationships, the love and support. I am convinced that it will be best for us all if such conversations take place. I'm trying to understand how to leave well.

Muggletonians!

Thanks to several AUUCers who found some information for me about the identity of the Muggletonians! For those who think I am making this up, if you weren't at my February 2 sermon about an early Unitarian, William Ellery Channing, I mentioned that as he became pretty radical in his later years, Emerson accused him of hanging around with "Muggletonians." I never heard of them. Others had. They were a radical religious sect which came together after the English Civil War in the mid-seventeenth century.

Peace and Blessings to all, Art



**Join us for
the anti-war rally
each Saturday from
12 until 1
in front of the church**

CONTACTS

The *Allegheny Advocate* is published monthly (except August) by Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church. Submissions must be received by the third Friday of the month preceding publication. Contributions or inquiries may be directed to Donald Zeilman

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