

The Pulse

April 2019

SUNDAY SERVICES, 10:00 AM

April 7 – Barbara Kotch – *Melusine Needed It and You Need It, Too!*

Melusine, a two-tailed sea serpent, agreed to marry only if her husband agreed to one condition: he could not see her on Saturdays, no matter what. Today, there are a multitude of reasons why individuals should spend time alone. Perhaps Melusine knew all along....

April 14 – Reverend Larry Smith – *Will You Go to Jerusalem?*

What are you living for? What might be worthy of your life?

April 21 – Gail and Pete Costanza – *You Are An Eyewitness: A Unique View of Passover and Easter*

This service celebrates Passover and Easter and gives a fresh perspective on the events of 27 A.D.

April 28 – Reverend Dr. Flo Gelo – *Becoming*

Continually striving to be faithful to our Unitarian Universalist principles, how do we also remain faithful to our personal, moral and creative yearnings to become whoever we can fully be, at any time in our life?

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 10, 7 PM: Book Discussion Group – “The Red Tent” by Anita Diamant

April 11, 7 PM: Humanist Forum

April 13, 6 PM: Dinner Discussions – Held at homes of the Chawlas, the Costanzas and Kirsten Miles and Clarissa DeLuca – Each group chooses a topic, for example, “Why has growth of UUism in this country remained relatively stagnant? What, if anything, should we or can we do to accelerate growth?”

UPCOMING EVENTS (continued from page 1)

April 13, 12:30 - 5 PM: Greater Philly Cluster's "Singers Workshop"
[Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County](#)
145 West Rose Tree Road, Media, PA 19063

April 14, 10 AM – Brief congregational meeting concerning the Spirit Circle before the Sunday service

April 14, 12-2 PM: Butterfly Garden Cleanup, Lime Kiln Alley Park, Federal St., Bordentown

April 15, 7 PM: Spirit Circle

April 18, 3:30 PM: Motel Meals Preparation

April 27, 5 PM: Game Night/Pot Luck

April 30: Deadline for registration for the Universalist Convocation, May 17-19, Murray Grove Retreat and Renewal Center, Lanoka Harbor, New Jersey. Register at: <https://universalistconvocation.org/announcement>

(Note: All events at DDUUC, 39 Park St., Bordentown, unless otherwise specified.)

List of DDUUC Officers 2018-2019

President – John DeMasi
Vice President – Christina Sturgis
Secretary – Mike Skelly
Treasurer – Jen Chaiken
Religious Education – Raquel Parker
Social Action – Joan Cseh
Sunday Service – Joan Spengler

The Pulse is the newsletter of Dorothea Dix Unitarian Universalist Community.

It is published monthly, September through June. Articles are solicited from members and friends. The Pulse is edited by Pete Costanza.

DDUUC has services every Sunday at 10:00 AM from the Sunday after Labor Day through the end of June. Informal Sunday services are held on selected Sundays during July and August. Sunday services are provided by guest ministers, outside speakers, or members and friends of the congregation. DDUUC has an ongoing religious education program for children. We have many activities in which to participate, and are also involved with the Greater Bordentown area through our sponsorship of an Interfaith Dialogue and many social action tasks.

Hi all,

As your President, people say that I have worked harder than any other President ever, except for maybe "Honest Abe," to "Make DDUUC Great Again." That's because my motto has been, "Ask not what DDUUC can do for you, ask what you can do for DDUUC." We must do this, "not because it's easy, but because it's hard!!"

I have kept my promise when I pledged, "Read my lips, no new offerings!"

I will continue to work my hardest to make DDUUC "the shining city on the hill" so that it can continue to shine like "a thousand points of light."

And...Happy APRIL FOOLS!!



The Jim Scott Concert on the night of March 16 was a great night for me, though I did not play a single note. My people – both in our beloved community and my friends and family on the outside – turned out to hear some wonderful music because I invited them. I was deeply touched.

The evening began with a welcome from John DeMasi, our congregation president, a professional musician and an enthusiastic supporter of Jim Scott. He led the audience in a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the mass shooting at two mosques in New Zealand.

Appropriately, Jim played a new song to his repertoire, “What We Don’t Need is Anymore Guns,” about the need for food and education and things that build up a society. This song can be heard on his website, www.jimscottmusic.com

He navigated seamlessly through Caribbean rhythms and into the blues with deft humor. One song hinged on a description of digital photography as “light remembering itself.” He drew laughter with a song about “Old Devil Time” in which a couple laments each other’s changes from age while reminding the other, “You’re getting older too.”

Jim talked about his daughter, Louisa, who recently visited Prague as a violinist in her high school orchestra. She asked him if he would ever write a song about her and he replied with a tune called, “Home is Where You Are.” He closed the evening with his signature tune, “May Your Life Be as a Song.”

Promoting the concert through social media gave me an opportunity to build traffic on the website www.dduuc.org, as did the recent Music Fest in Princeton. (Yes, they spelled Music with the letter U twice as in Unitarian Universalist, but I find that confuses people.) Most of the people visiting our site are based in the U.S. but one chimed in from Ireland and another from Germany.

The concert also gave me an opportunity to contact a few members and ask them how they felt about the concert. If it was not something they found appealing, I had a chance to ask them what kind of activities would better suit them. This bit of “market research” helped me get to know some good friends better.

The Concept of the Void in Taoism

(This is the first of a series about Taoism, a religion that reflects one of the UU sources: "Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.")

To understand Taoism, one should understand the concept of "the Void." "The Void," also known as "emptiness" or "nothingness," is basically the same in Taoism as in Buddhism. In Taoism it is "kung." In Buddhism it is "sunyata." This is another example of why the two religions have merged into Zen Buddhism. The Void is that ultimate principle out of which every thing emerges. Yet from this "no-thingness" springs "the One" of Taoism. Then this Oneness begins to differentiate itself. "Tao," translated as the "Way or Course of Nature," is the relationship between the Void and the natural dynamic balance between opposites, yin and yang, producing the rhythms of nature.

We normally speak in terms of time, but all that exists occurs in the Eternal Moment. The past is but a memory. The future does not exist as yet. The future is the Void. Everything comes from nothingness. It has always been that way. "Nothingness" or the Void is not the same as nothing at all, a big blank. It is the principle in which "no thing" exists but from which all things emerge.

The Tao is not a supreme, anthropomorphic being who created and rules the universe. The Tao is not God, nor is it a god, nor do Taoists worship or deify it. It is impersonal. This is why reverence for wise ancestors is so important in China. They become as gods to provide spiritual guidance in their writings and remain in the memories of the followers. This is also why the Taoists have created specific deities that are related to various aspects of life and nature. Deities, models in achieving Tao, are intended to teach and redeem all creatures, and are therefore worshiped by Taoist followers. They are not omnipotent, omnipresent, infinite or eternal. They are simply guides to spirituality. The worship of Deities is understood, fundamentally, to be an unveiling and honoring of aspects of our own mind, rather than the worship of something outside of us.

April Showers and May Flowers

It's hard for me to say which is my favorite season as I love them all. They all have a special place on the wheel of the year, and I enjoy each for what it is. Summer, when fruits are ripening on the vine, when you can watch the world go by from the warm comfort of a park bench in the shade. Autumn, when the world starts turning colors and there's a bit of a welcome chill in the air. Winter, when the world gets silent and rests. But I must admit there is something special about Spring.

I didn't realize I had become a 'birder'. But going through my photographs, I noticed there were a lot of shots of birds and nests. I think seeing the Bald Eagles at Veterans Park on a regular basis made me more aware of birds than I had been before. And now there are more birds with varied colors and different songs and it's all so wonderful.

I don't mean to sound like a Pollyanna, but this is what Spring does to me. Everything becomes beautiful and I guess my mood reflects that. Even dark, dreary, rainy days become special in the Spring. I think that's because it may rain for a day or two, but when it stops it will be nice out again, not frigid and dismal.



Spring is the time to plant. Whether you plant actual seeds or metaphorical ones doesn't matter. It's time to make those dreams you had during the long cold winter come into being.

It really didn't sink in that it was spring until Thursday the 21st, the first full day of spring. That's when I went to the church for motel meals and went into the meeting area to take down some more books. That's when I noticed Joan's Wicca setup for the Equinox. Not something a skeptic is going to pay much attention to, but if a skeptic were to honor and ritualize particular natural events they would celebrate the ones signaling the new season. Actually, I wanted to celebrate the equinox by playing golf, but it rained all day. And the day before was a very nice day but my golf buddy had an appointment with the stove doctor. So I started an ambitious landscaping project that will involve a long path and rhododendrons and azaleas. And then I started thinking, wait, I'll have to wait another month to plant them. After all, this is zone 6. Can't plant anything early here. And then I thought some more, to the effect that since I'm in the winter of my life, why don't I just hire a landscaper like I did at my parent's house when they were still alive. That was really nice, just drawing up the plans, giving them to the foreman and watching young immigrants doing what I would ordinarily be doing. But then it dawned on me that I didn't have to pay for it. Just the materials will cost me a bundle. And then, as if to justify my doing it all myself, I thought how wonderful it is to dig into the soft, wet earth. How close to nature can you get? Digging, shoveling, hoeing, raking... and aching. Gardening and landscaping are hard work but worth it when your labors pay off, and, while you are waiting, a nice cool beer always helps.

So, yeah, Joan and her Wiccans have their ways of celebrating the seasons, and I guess every 3 months around the 21st day, I, like them, like to do something special with the earth and whatever is covering it at the time. This is something I can believe in: seasons, yes; saints, no.

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