

July 23, 1987

The following people attended the meeting at the Pontier home to discuss the possible formation of a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship or Society in the Upper Delaware Valley area: (7/26/87)

Helga Andkjar - RD 1, Box 186, Callicoon, N. Y.	914-887-4274
Fred Andkjar - " " "	"
Thomas Perry - P. O. Box 1325, Monticello, N.Y.	914-482-5730
Alix L. Perry - " " "	"
Alix A. Perry - " " "	"
Barbara Yeaman- P. O. Box 281, Milanville, PA	717-729-7053
Barbara Pontier - RD 2, Box 626, Narrowsburg, N. Y.	914-252-7553
Ray Pontier - " " "	"

The following people expressed interest in forming a UU group, but were unable to attend the initial meeting:

Tom Rue - P. O. Box 47, Milanville, PA	717-729-7197
Randy Robinson - Barryville, N. Y.	914-557-6483
Laurie & Glenn Stuart-Pontier - Narrowsburg, N. Y.	914-252-6626

At the meeting on Sunday evening, July 26th, a stimulating discussion was held about the possibilities for forming a Unitarian Universalist group in the area. The reactions were very positive, with those attending expressing the desire to continue to meet and to reach out to other people. Alix L. Perry offered to do some initial publicity by contacting area newspapers.

IT WAS DECIDED THAT A SECOND MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 2ND AT 11:00 A. M. AT THE PONTIER HOME ON ROUTE 97 LOCATED 2½ MILES NORTH OF FORT DELAWARE. It was the general feeling that Sunday morning was preferable to the evening.

ALL INTERESTED PEOPLE ARE INVITED TO ATTEND! INVITE A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR.

M E E T I N G D A T E -- A U G U S T 2 N D

M E E T I N G T I M E -- E L E V E N A . M .

Join us for discussion and coffee

C. Unitarian Universalist Principles*

For working purposes in this handbook I have broken the Principles document down into four units: the Covenant, the Affirmations, the Sources, and the Benediction. I mark them as follows:

(Section C.2.1. Principles)

Covenant

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

Affirmations

- **The inherent worth and dignity of every person;**
- **Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;**
- **Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;**
- **A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;**
- **The rights of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;**
- **The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;**
- **Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.**

Sources

The living tradition we share draws from many sources:

- **Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;**
- **Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;**
- **Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life.**
- **Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;**
- **Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.**

Benediction

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision.

As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

Adopted June 1985

*Material to photocopy for each participant.

August 13, 1987

Dear Tom,

I meant to get off a letter earlier this week, but somehow the time eluded me. There are a few things I want to mention before I forget -- considerations for the weeks ahead.

This past Sunday was very encouraging in terms of attendance, even though some were just visitors -- as with my daughter and her children. I was also pleased that you accepted the responsibility as temporary President/Chairperson. You (or Alix) are logical persons for the job, for you have both the UU background and the interest.

Here are some of things I have been thinking about -- not necessarily in the order of importance or urgency, but to be dealt with if we manage to keep going:

1) If we become viable it will be necessary to think about incorporation, either in New York or Pennsylvania. Perhaps some local attorney will give us free advice on this. I believe it is needed for tax exemption and income tax purposes.

2) Of immediate priority is getting people to lead the worship part of Sunday services, in addition to getting speakers, for when I am not here. I am sure you and/or Alix, Tom and Bud Rue, Glenn Pontier, plus others can do it. It will be a matter of setting a schedule.

3) For contributions to the Fellowship, some people may want to have envelopes available so their financial contribution can be recorded for income tax purposes. Plain white envelopes would do, and the treasurer could keep a list of contributors.

4) At some point people who are interested and committed should be asked to sign a membership book. I will find out from the UU Association in Boston what the basic number is required to be recognized as a UU Fellowship or society.

5) Enclosed is a schedule of when I will be available to speak here. I believe the group can ~~XXX~~ count on me for the 2nd Sunday of each month. In September, however, I will speak on the 1st Sunday -- September 6th. Because the Wayne Fellowship will just be starting, I believe I should be there the balance of September.

6) In terms of organization and structure, it might be wise to hold a special meeting some afternoon or evening just for this purpose. Everyone should be invited, but perhaps the officers plus some interested people might constitute a planning committee to report back.

7) Publicity is specially important at this point, and also notices to everyone we think is interested.

I hope all of this is not overwhelming, but these (and other matters) need to be considered. A bit more time will tell if we have a firm base.

Best to you and Alix (and thanks),



Tom Perry

August 13, 1987

Dear Tom,

I meant to get off a letter earlier this week, but somehow the time eluded me. There are a few things I want to mention before I forget -- considerations for the weeks ahead.

This past Sunday was very encouraging in terms of attendance, even though some were just visitors -- as with my daughter and her children. I was also pleased that you accepted the responsibility as temporary President/Chairperson. You (or Alix) are logical persons for the job, for you have both the UU background and the interest.

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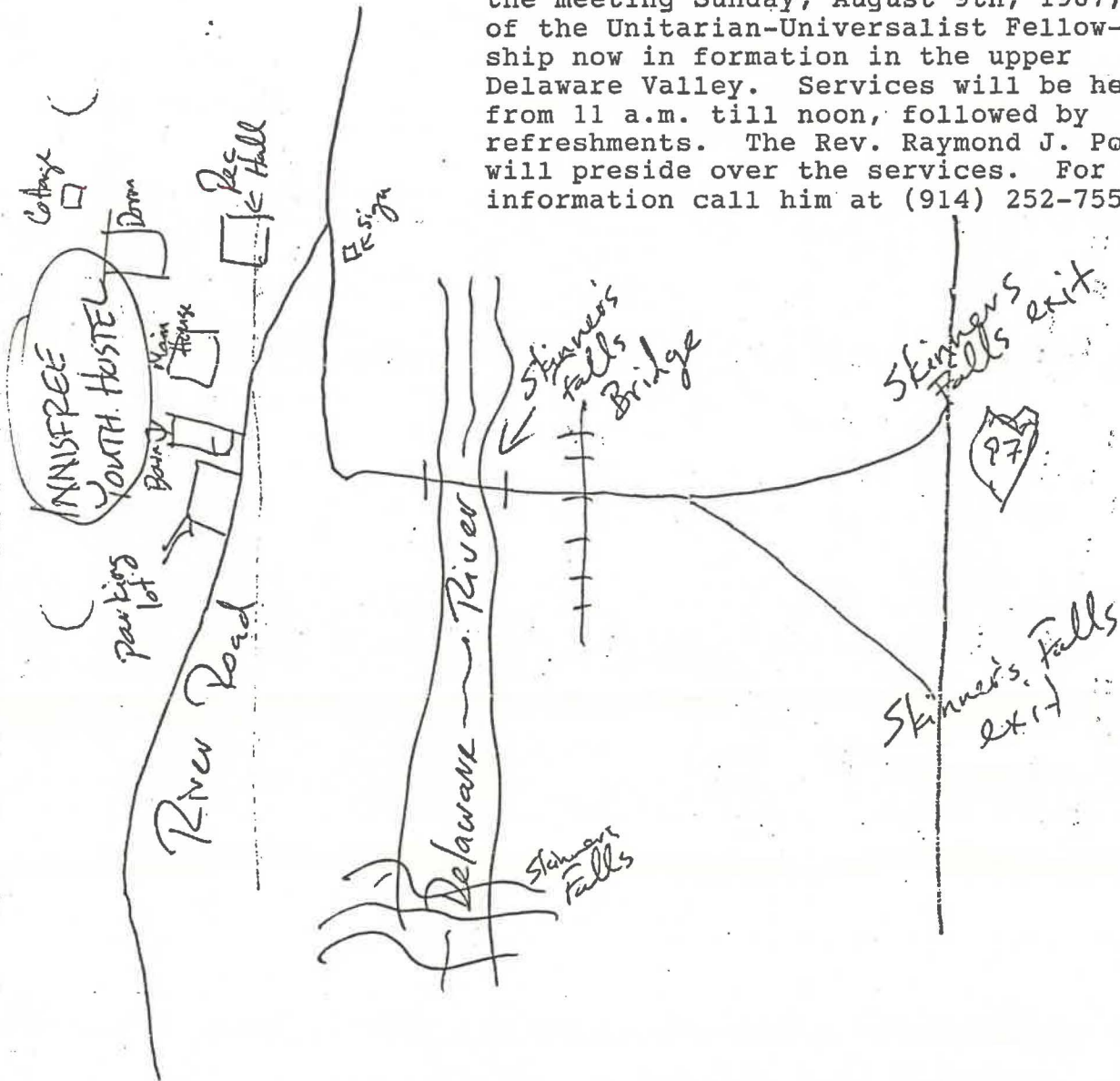
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Best to you and Alix (and thanks),

UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST

Fellowship in Formation

Below is a map showing how to get to Rec Hall for the meeting Sunday, August 9th, 1987, of the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship now in formation in the upper Delaware Valley. Services will be held from 11 a.m. till noon, followed by refreshments. The Rev. Raymond J. Pontier will preside over the services. For more information call him at (914) 252-7553.



The Meeting will be held in the Recreation Hall of the Innisfree Youth Hostel near Milanville, PA. The map above shows how to get there by crossing the Delaware River at the Skinner's Falls Bridge. Unitarian-Universalists from both the New York and Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River are welcome.

Here is the announcement
to your list of
addresses back
see you there!
Tom & Alix
Dorris

JOB DESCRIPTION

Part Time Minister

The part time minister of the Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship shall do the following:

- Attend as many meetings of the fellowship and any committees as he or she is able, at his or her convenience.

- Speak regularly at one Sunday service per month, and at any other occasions which he or she may be requested to do so by the Executive Committee. The minister shall have freedom of the pulpit, as well as freedom to express his or her opinion outside the pulpit.

- Make available the use of his or her name for presentation to the public as "minister" of the fellowship.

- Offer his or her services to members of the fellowship and others who may so desire, for the dedication of children, weddings, or memorial services.

- Provide support, guidance and counseling to individual members when it is desired, and to the Executive Committee in administering the functions of the fellowship.

- Attend and participate in meetings of the Executive Committee whenever present, and of such other committees as the Executive Committee shall designate. The minister shall have one vote.

- Such other functions and tasks as may from time to time be agreed upon by vote of the Executive Committee and the minister.

Dated: April 29, 1990

BY-LAWS

of the

UPPER DELAWARE
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP, INC.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this religious society shall be the Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this fellowship is to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to individual growth in our congregation;
- A free and responsible search for truth, meaning and self-enlightenment;
- The right to conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; and
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are all a part.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Any person may become a voting member of this fellowship who is in sympathy with its purpose and program, has signed the fellowship membership book, and makes an annual contribution of record.

Membership is open to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, affectional or sexual orientation, age, handicap, or national origin.

ARTICLE IV - DENOMINATIONAL AFFILIATION

This fellowship shall be a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and of the Metropolitan New York District. It is the intention of the fellowship to make annual financial contributions equal to its full share as determined by the Association and the District.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

The dates of regular nonbusiness meetings of the congregation shall be determined by the congregation itself, or by any person or persons designated.

The annual business meeting shall be held each year in the month of June at such time and place as determined by the executive committee. A quorum, consisting of one fifth of the membership, shall be necessary to conduct business. Notice of this meeting, together with the proposed annual budget, will be sent to all members at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At each annual meeting an Executive Committee shall be elected after nominations have been received from the membership.

Officers shall consist of a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer - all of whom shall hold office for one year and until successors have been elected and qualified for office.

Three members-at-large shall serve three-year terms of office, with one position elected each year. No member-at-large may serve more than one consecutive three-year term.

The president shall chair business meetings, moderate meetings as the need arises, and serve as a spokesperson for the fellowship.

The vice-president shall serve in the absence of the President or the Treasurer.

The secretary shall keep minutes of all business meetings, and oversee the handling of correspondence and press releases.

The treasurer shall be responsible for collecting, recording and disbursing the fellowship's finances.

Together, these officers and members-at-large shall constitute the Executive Committee, which shall have general charge of the property of the fellowship and the conduct of all business affairs and the control of its administration, including the appointment of such committees as it may deem necessary. It shall fill vacancies with persons who shall serve until the next annual meeting.

The current expenses of the fellowship shall be based on an annual budget, prepared at the direction of the Executive Committee and approved by the membership at the annual meeting.

The Executive Committee shall meet regularly, as often as it determines necessary, but at least once a month. A quorum shall consist of one more than half of its present members. All meetings shall be open to the congregation for attendance and participation.

ARTICLE VII - PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Whenever a majority of members think it desirable, the fellowship may employ a minister or other professional staff person, either part or full-time. Job descriptions for each position shall be attached to these By-Laws.

ARTICLE VIII - FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year shall end on June 30.

ARTICLE IX - SEAL

The seal of the corporation shall be as follows:

ARTICLE X - CONSTRUCTION

If there be any conflict between the provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation and these By-Laws, the provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation shall govern.

ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended or replaced at any meeting of the fellowship by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting. Notice of any proposed change shall be contained in a meeting notice, which shall be distributed to members two weeks before the meeting.

ARTICLE XII - DISSOLUTION

Should this fellowship cease to function and the membership vote disband, and remaining assets of the fellowship will be transferred to the Unitarian Universalist Association for its general purposes.

Dated: April 29, 1990

tsr

Return: Rev. Ray Pontier - RT 21 Box 626, Narrowsburg, NY 12764

Your Input is Wanted Please share your suggestions, ideas, hopes, desires for a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in our area —

- 1) What should it be named?
- 2) Is Sunday morning at 11:00 a good time for services?
- 3) List suggestions for subjects + topics for Sunday Services (Things that interest you)
There can be a wide variety: religious, personal, social, political, etc.

4) Can you suggest people who could be asked as speakers from the general area?

Would you be willing to lead a program?

5) Do you want more information about Unitarian Universalism? (History, people, principles, etc.)

Include the above on Sunday mornings?

6) Are you willing to serve in a leadership role — as an officer, on a committee, etc.?

7) Can you suggest people who might be interested? Will you contact/invite them?

8) Write any additional ideas or thoughts on reverse side. —

Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Minutes, business meeting
August 16, 1987

Present: Tom Perry (President), Barbara Pontier, Rev. Ray Pontier, Bud Rue, Tom Rue (Secretary), Helen Sidwell (Treasurer), Tom Sidwell.

1. Business Meetings. Business meetings will be held at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, prior to coffee hour and worship services. Officers are asked to attend, and interest members are welcome.

2. Treasurer's Report. Helen Sidwell reported that \$40.50 was collected last week, and \$23.00 this week. There have been no expenditures.

3. Refreshments. To share responsibility for coffee and refreshments, a signup sheet will be circulated regularly. A special fund will be established, with collections taken in a can beside the coffee-maker. Coffee is 15 cents a cup. All members are asked to assist with cleanup, to be supervised by the person whose week it is to provide refreshments. As a general practice, coffee and social hour will be the half hour prior to and following Sunday services.

4. Worship Leader. On a rotating basis, one person will be designated each Sunday to preside as "Worship Leader". Functions will include: giving Opening Words, making announcements, a reading, passing the tamborine for an Offering, introducing the speaker and moderating dialogue. Worship leaders will be make sure that speakers stick to the 25-minute time limit. The person signed up for the following week will serve as backup, in the event of an absence.

5. Publicity. Tom Perry will contact the Times Herald-Record about advertising rates for churches, and will purchase an ad provided the cost does not exceed \$50. Tom Rue will draft and mail another press release to area newspapers and radio stations announcing the election of officers. He will also contact the Wayne Independent about advertising rates. Bud Rue will write a "letter-to-the-editor" to be sent to area papers.

6. Newsletter. Tom Perry will prepare a newsletter or program. This will be distributed at services and mailed out to interested parties.

7. Organization. Ray Pontier will contact UUA in Boston regarding what steps we need to take to become a recognized fellowship. Bud Rue will call Citizens Savings Association, Honesdale, for checking account signature cards. Future incorporation and tax-exempt status were briefly discussed, with no resolution.

8. Community Service. Feelings were expressed that the Fellowship should adopt some sort community service project, or a series of such projects. This would not only be of intrinsic value in itself, but would provide the group with a sense of purpose. Several possibilities were proposed.

Attest:



Tom Rue, Secretary

UPPER DELAWARE VALLEY UNITARIAN UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP
 Milanville, Pennsylvania

1987

Date	Service Leader	Speaker/Program	Refreshments
7/26*	Ray Pontier	Ray Pontier (Sermon: <i>At Pontiers</i>)	Barbara Pontier
8/2	Ray Pontier	Ray Pontier (Sermon: <i>At Pontiers</i>)	Barbara Pontier
8/9	Ray Pontier	Ray Pontier (Sermon: <i>A Unitarian Universalist View of God</i>)	Barbara Pontier
8/16	Ray Pontier	Ray Pontier (Sermon: <i>A Unitarian Universalist View of Jesus</i>)	Barbara Pontier
8/23	Ray Pontier	Ray Pontier (Sermon: <i>What Does It Mean to Be Religious?</i>)	Barbara Pontier
8/30	Bud Rue	Ray Pontier (Sermon: <i>Taking Time to Stand and Stare</i>)	Helen Sidwell
9/6	Tom Rue	Martine Kenny, etc. (W.R.C.: Domestic violence)	Tom Rue
9/13	Helen Sidwell	Roe Bedford (S.C.N.O.W.: Rape)	Helga Andkjar
9/20	Ray Pontier	Ray Pontier (Sermon: <i>Get Me to the Church on Time</i>)	Alix Perry
9/27	Glenn Pontier	Schubert Frye (Sermon: "30 of pieces silver")	Ann Rue
10/4	Gil Mende	Michael Mulvey (Penna. Dept. of Health: AIDS)	Coffee only
10/11	Tom Perry	Helen Sidwell (Review: "Closing of the American Mind")	George Bailey
10/18		Bert Feldman (Sermon: "The holocaust that failed")	
10/25		<i>Ray Pontier</i>	
11/1		<i>Wage</i>	
11/8	Ray Pontier	Ray Pontier (Sermon: <i>On Being A Do-ooder</i>)	Coffee only
11/15	Glenn Pontier	Van Swisohn (N.Y.S. Comm. of Corrections: prison reform)	Coffee only
11/22	George Bailey	George Bailey (Meditation)	Coffee only
11/26	Ray Pontier	Thanksgiving buffet	George Bailey, organizer
11/29	Tom Rue	Laurie Stuart (Folk music)	
12/6	George Bailey	James Sibals (Egyptology)	Deborah Lazarus
12/13	Ray Pontier	Ray Pontier (Sermon: "When our reach exceeds our grasp")	Rosemary Murtha
12/20	Gil Mende	Beverly Sterner (Meditation)	George Bailey
12/27	-	[No meeting planned]	-

Organization Meetings

1st Service at home 8/9

Service of Fellowship 9/20

two

(*) First five meetings held in Pontier home, Narrowsburg N.Y.

UPPER DELAWARE VALLEY UNITARIAN UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP
 Milanville, Pennsylvania

1987 Programs

<u>Date</u>	<u>Service Leader</u>	<u>Speaker/Program</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>
7/26*	Ray Pontier	Ray Pontier (Organizational discussion)	Barbara Pontier
8/2*	Ray Pontier	Ray Pontier (Organizational discussion)	Barbara Pontier
8/9	Ray Pontier	Ray Pontier (Sermon: "A U-U view of God")	Barbara Pontier
8/16	Ray Pontier	Ray Pontier (Sermon: "A U-U view of Jesus")	Tom Rue
8/23	Ray Pontier	Ray Pontier (Sermon: "What's it mean to be religious?")	Bud Rue
8/30	Bud Rue	Ray Pontier (Sermon: "Taking time to stand and stare")	Helen Sidwell
9/6	Tom Rue	Martine Kenny, etc. (W.R.C.: Domestic violence)	Tom Rue
9/13	Helen Sidwell	Roe Bedford (S.C.N.O.W.: Rape)	Helga Andkjar
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10/4	Gil Mende	Michael Mulvey (Penna. Dept. of Health: AIDS)	Coffee only
10/11	Tom Perry	Helen Sidwell (Review: "Closing of the American Mind")	George Bailey
10/18	Jim Murtha	Bert Feldman (Sermon: "The holocaust that failed")	Coffee only
10/25	Ray Pontier	Ray Pontier (Sermon:	Coffee only
11/1	Jim Murtha	Harold Waage (<i>"The Intelligent Keyboard"</i>)	Rosemary Murtha
11/8	Ray Pontier	Ray Pontier (Sermon: "On being a do-gooder")	Coffee only
11/15	Glenn Pontier	Van Swisohn (NYS Comm. of Corrections: prison reform)	Coffee only
11/22	George Bailey	George Bailey (Meditation)	Coffee only
11/26	Ray Pontier	Thanksgiving buffet	George Bailey, organizer
11/29	Tom Rue	Laurie Stuart (Folk music)	Coffee only
12/6	George Bailey	James Sibals (Egyptology)	Deborah Lazarus
12/13	Ray Pontier	Ray Pontier (Sermon: "When our reach exceeds our grasp")	Rosemary Murtha
12/20	Gil Mende	Beverly Sterner (Meditation)	George Bailey
12/27	-	[No meeting planned]	-

(*) First two meetings held in Pontier home, Narrowsburg N.Y.

September 1, 1987

The Rev. Thomas Chulak
25 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02018

Dear Tom:

It was good to talk with you this past Friday about our efforts to start a UU Fellowship here in the Upper Delaware River Valley. I look forward to hearing from you -- and receiving whatever information, materials, advice you have to offer.

Enclosed with this letter is an assortment of items from this end, including a letter I have written and am sending to our prospect list this week.

By way of background: about two years ago my wife and I bought a home in Narrowsburg, N. Y. where we hope to retire someday. Thus far we have spent two summers here, and drive up for a day or two during the off-summer months -- about two hours from Wayne where I serve the Lakeland Fellowship. A beautiful area along the Delaware, and now under the protection of the National Park Service.

It had been my feeling that there is a place for a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, for there is nothing within a range of fifty or more miles in every direction. In July I wrote a letter to The River Reporter (which my son edits), and also placed an ad, inviting anyone interested to attend a meeting at our home to discuss the possibility of forming a UU group. The first two gatherings, July 26 and August 2, were at our home, with about a dozen people attending. At the second meeting several people expressed the desire to hold a Sunday service instead of just meeting to talk about organizing -- and an offer was made to hold services at the recreation hall of a youth hostel called Innisfree in Milanville, Pa. -- about two miles from where I live and five miles from Narrowsburg. We have now held four Sunday services at Innisfree during the month of August -- with a total of 27 people attending some or all of them. Including a few visitors from the youth hostel, we have had between 20 to 25 at each service. Before or following each service we have had a business meeting of the new officers (plus others) who were elected on August 2nd.

I have been the speaker at each of the August services, and I have promised to come back to speak on the second Sunday of each month during the year. A committee has been formed to secure speakers for all other Sundays, and several people have offered to lead the worship each Sunday. Coffee-hours were started the very first Sunday. September, of course, will be a real test to see if there is sufficient interest, desire, and leadership to carry on by themselves. I have offered, however, to be available for whatever advice and leadership I can give at all times, and they can use my name as their minister.

The letter I am sending this week will do much to determine the future, for it sets September 20th as a target date for formalizing membership. - - - - - I am interested in a possible training session -- and our President, Tom Perry, sounds as if he might be interested.

All in all, I have positive feelings and believe there is a future for the Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Sincerely,

Raymond J. Pontier

Upper Dlaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Minutes, business meeting
Sunday, September 6, 1987

Present: Bud Rue, Tom Rue (secretary), Helen Sidwell, Tom Perry

1. Treasurer's Report. Helen Sidwell reported that \$22.50 was collected this week in the tamborine; and \$2.50 coffee drum. There were no expenditures. Helen noted she thought it might be appropriate to have a separate person handle coffee money - apart from the general treasury, in order to avoid confusion. She reminded us she will be leaving in October and we will need a replacement Treasurer. Helen brought signature cards for United National Bank which she received from Ray Pontier; she will bring them back next week for signing when Tom Perry is present.

2. Program discussion. Shubert Frey of Port Jervis, noted peace activist and former pastor of the Hortonville Methodist Church, will speak on September 27 on world peace and economics. Helen Sidwell expressed an interest in sharing with us her perspectives of Alan Bloom's book, "The Closing of the American Mind".

[Editorial Note: It seems to be the consensus of the fellowship that we will attempt to engage a program schedule which is as varied as possible and not limit ourselves to one particular format, theme, or a narrow set of topics. Following worship service today, one first-time visitor remarked she had come because of a reference in a letter-to-the-editor to Quakerism. She said it had been her experience that Unitarians sometimes succeed in organizing pro-social community action or promoting constructive discussion, but their meetings are often not very "spiritual". Quakers, on the other hand, she said are known for their silent spiritual communion. She observed this morning's worship format was not particularly oriented toward spiritual matters, and wondered if future services might be more so. One possibility might be to schedule one Sunday per month for a more reflective open-topic service, where people may sit in silence or get up to speak briefly as moved upon or on such topics as concern them.]

Publicity. Several area papers published a letter to the editor this week, signed by the three officers, announcing the new fellowship. Bud Rue is also sending out a letter. A Women's Resource Center press release on domestic violence in Wayne County mentioning this morning's Unitarian service appeared Thursday in The River Reporter, but has not made it yet into the Independent or the Democrat. Presumably, when the article does run in those papers, the reference to today's speaking engagement will have been deleted.

Refreshing

To the Dispatch,

It is a pleasure to witness the emergence of the new fellowship of Unitarian-Universalists that meets weekly at 11 am in the Innisfree Rec Hall at Millanville, Pa.

It is refreshing that divergent views of humanity and its relationship to God are welcome here. It seems here an honest attempt to understand through reason and the sharing of meaningful experience is to be accepted without the condition of blind faith. This is different, and I for one am thankful for it.

Bud Rue
9/10/87 Millanville, Pa.

Upper Delaware Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Minutes, Business meeting
Sunday, August 30, 1987

Present: Alix Perry, Tom Perry, Glenn Pontier, Rev. Ray
Pontier, Bud Rue, Tom Rue, Helen Sidwell, Tom Sidwell.

Treasurer's Report. Helen Sidwell reported that \$30 was collected this week in the tamborine; and \$2.86 in the coffee drum. There were no expenditures. It was resolved that people who submit receipts for expenses incurred on behalf of the fellowship shall be reimbursed by the Treasurer.

Meeting Quarters. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Fellowship shall pay Innisfree Corporation \$45.00 per month for use of the Recreation Hall meeting room, to cover its share of utilities.

Refreshments. We need a bigger coffee maker.

UUA Recognition. Ray Pontier said he spoke to a person at UUA Headquarters in Boston regarding official recognition of the Fellowship. He said he had been informed that a fellowship's "fair share" is generally considered to be about \$16.00 per person per year, but half that for a new fellowship. Benefits of recognition by UUA include financial aid for advertising, and leadership training.

Shubert Frye to Address Unitarian Universalists ^{SCD} 9/11/87

MILANVILLE, PA — Shubert Frye, former pastor of the Hortonville Presbyterian Church, and noted peace activist will address the Upper Delaware Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. The sermon will be held at 11 a.m. on Sunday, September 27 at the Innisfree Recreation Hall, on the River Road in Milanville. Frye will be accompanied by his wife Eva. Refreshments are served at 10:30 a.m.

Basing his text on the Biblical parable of the widow's mite, Frye's sermon, "Two copper coins and a lot of

money," will concern world-wide poverty, wealth, and the roots of hunger.

Frye, sponsored by an American group called Witness for Peace, visited Nicaragua for two weeks in August, 1985. During that time he was kidnapped off a boat on the San Juan River, and spent 29 hours in captivity. During his captivity he was taken to a military base in Costa Rica by U.S. backed "Contra" rebel soldiers.

For more information on the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, call (717) 729-7762.

9/18/87

The Rev. Howell Lind
Metro District Executive
3261 East Boulevard
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Dear Howell,

Tom Chulak suggested I get in touch with you about my efforts to start a new UU Fellowship in the Upper Delaware River area, in the vicinity of Narrowsburg where my wife and I have a summer home. The enclosed letter I sent to Tom will give you some of the background.

I will be speaking at the Fellowship on Sunday, September 20th — and have offered to speak there once each month. The September 20th Sunday will seek to have people sign a membership book — and this will go a long way toward determining its future. There certainly is a need for a liberal religious presence in that area, and I believe there is a core of interested people.

I will be back here in Wayne on the 24th of this month and will be happy to hear from you. Tom thought the new group, if all goes well, will be in the Metro District. He also has copies of publicity materials I sent him, and you may be interested in receiving duplicates from him.

Best wishes to you in your new job.

Sincerely,

Raymond J. Pontier



THE UPPER DELAWARE VALLEY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

September 1987

Dear Friends:

This letter is being sent to all those who have attended any of the meetings or Sunday services of the Upper Delaware Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, as well as to a number of people who have expressed interest. We believe that all of you, as well as others, feel there is a real need for a liberal religious group in this area -- and we hope that you will help to make it happen.

Making it happen is what this letter is about. Since the end of July we have had several planning meetings, along with four Sunday morning services at Innisfree. The summer is about at an end -- and now we have to decide if this has been merely a summer romance or whether it will develop into a lasting relationship.

During this past week I called the Department of Extension of the Unitarian Universalist Association in Boston to ask about the requirements for being accepted as a recognized Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Among the basic requirements are these:

- 1) Have 20 adult members who live in the area of the Fellowship
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It is hoped that you will be one of those who signs the Membership Book of the Upper Delaware Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Sunday, September 20th. Please be with us! If you are unable to attend, let Tom Rue or Ray Pontier know of your interest.

Although I will be serving the Lakeland UU Fellowship in Wayne during the coming year, I have promised to speak at the Upper Delaware Valley Fellowship once each month. I will also be available for some ministerial services, for my wife Barbara and I will be coming to our Narrowsburg home with some frequency at other times during the month. It is my wish to provide leadership to this new Fellowship and to be of service to individuals.

We have some good things going for us. Regular Sunday services are scheduled for each week at 11:00 A. M.. Thanks to the Rue family, we have a meeting place at Innisfree in Milanville, Pa. Leadership is being provided by Tom Perry as President, Helen Sidwell as Treasurer, and Tom Rue as Secretary.

Our prospects for the future seem promising. But whatever future this Fellowship has is in your hands. We need your desire for a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, your enthusiasm, and, above all, your commitment. On September 20th be one of those who makes it possible to be a viable Fellowship by signing the Membership Book.

Starting a new Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is a creative, meaningful, and exciting venture. We invite your participation!

Yours in Fellowship,

Raymond J. Pontier
Raymond J. Pontier

914-252-7553 Narrowsburg, N. Y.
201-628-9478 Wayne, N. J.



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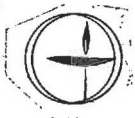
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Signing of Members 9/20/87

THE UPPER DELAWARE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
SEPTEMBER 20, 1987 11:00 A.M.

(Meeting at Innisfree, Milanville, Pa.)
=====

THE OPENING WORDS

A HYMN - No. 7 "For the Joy of Human Love"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A CEREMONY OF MEMBERSHIP

Those who would like to make an identification and commitment as members of the Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship by signing the Membership Book, will be invited to do so at this time.

A READING

THE OFFERING - All offerings and gifts are used for basic expenses: sharing costs of meeting at Innisfree, postage, printing, literature, etc.

THE SERMON/TALK - The Rev. Raymond J. Pontier
"Get Me To The Church on Time"

DIALOGUE

CLOSING WORDS

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WHY IS MEMBERSHIP IMPORTANT?

"It does not make you into a Unitarian Universalist by the mere fact of joining; you become one by the slow process of thought and life-experience. But it does stand as a symbol of your commitment to a liberal, inclusive, reasoned and contemporary approach to life. It enables you to take part in the democratic ordering of the policies of this congregation. It strengthens our voice and our work in a world where the illiberal forces opposing us are powerfully organized. And it brings you into full participation in a life of a fellowship we find richly rewarding in personal satisfaction."

(The Rev. Philip Hewitt, Vancouver UU Church)

What happens today will go a long way toward determining the future of the Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship -- and of the cause of liberal religion in this area. We hope that there are many who will make it "happen"!

Services are held every Sunday. Ray Pontier will speak the second Sunday of each month.

DATE

NAME

Sept. 20, 1987
Signers of Membership Book

September 20, 1987

Thomas J. Perry

"

Arlene L. Perry

"

Ali Amir

"

Deborah Lazarus Yanzagoray

"

James A. Murtha

"

Rosemary Murtha

"

Clyde B. Rue

"

Raymond J. Porter

"

Barbara E. Porter

"

Margaret Brewster

"

Kare H. Sandersen

"

Helen J. Sidwell

"

~~Ther E. Sidwell~~

"

Gilbert H. Mende

"

George Bailey

"

Sophie Krongel

"

Irving Krongel

"

Glen Porter

"

Janice Stuart

"

Helga E. Andkjær

"

Ann Rue

"

~~Ann Rue~~

"

John B. Thift

"

Carol A. Irving



THE UPPER DELAWARE VALLEY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
oo

MEETING AT INNISFREE A liberal religious community
MILANVILLE, PA 18443

September 24, 1987

Dear New Members:

This past Sunday, September 20th, was truly a momentous day as twenty-four people stepped forward to sign the Membership Book of our newly formed Upper Delaware Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. It was exciting as people came, one by one, to sign their names and to identify themselves as members. My wife, Barbara, remarked later that this was the closest to a Unitarian Universalist altar call she had ever seen. But with a difference! For this was a commitment, not to a narrow dogmatism, but to the freedom and openness and diversity of a liberal religious tradition.

Both the desire and need for a liberal religious presence in this area is evident -- as indicated by the response on Sunday. It hardly seems possible that our "happening" on Sunday took place only eight weeks after I sent a letter to The River Reporter asking if anyone out there was interested. Indeed there are! What happened on Sunday was made possible because you helped make it happen.

This, of course, is just a beginning. The number signing the Membership Book is more than enough to have us apply for affiliation with the Unitarian Universalist Association. Before this happens, there is work to be done: becoming incorporated and approving by-laws.

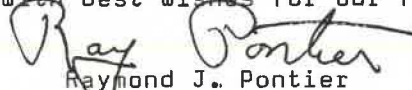
Our biggest need, however, is for us to establish our own sense of identity as a Fellowship and to build a sense of community as we get to know one another and learn how best to work with each other. A Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is a relationship between people -- and this, along with all relationships, needs to be nurtured and developed.

We can be certain that there are many other people in the area who share our concerns and convictions. It is hoped that many others will be attending our Fellowship and signing the Membership Book. Let us not be reluctant to reach out to others who are looking for a liberal religious faith. Invite them to attend with you!

I am most anxious to work closely with you during the days ahead. I will be speaking at least once each month throughout the year, and more frequently during the summer. Beyond that, I hope you will consider me as your minister and count on me for whatever service I can render to the Fellowship and to you personally. Both my Narrowsburg and Wayne, N. J. address and phones are listed below -- in the event you want to reach me.

Our officers (President Tom Perry, Secretary Tom Rue, Treasurer Helen Sidwell) join me in welcoming each of you. All of us look forward to working together to make for a vital Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in the Upper Delaware Valley.

With best wishes for our future,


Raymond J. Pontier

231 Parish Drive, Wayne, NJ 07470
(201-628-9478)
RD 2, Box 626, Narrowsburg, NY 12765
(914-252-7553)



THE UPPER DELAWARE VALLEY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

MEETING AT INNISFREE
MILANVILLE, PA 18443

A liberal religious community

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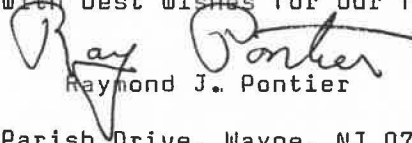
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World Service Sunday

Since 1939, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has worked in countries all over the world to promote human rights and self-determination, provide emergency relief, and educate and mobilize people to work for peace and justice.

Our work is rooted in and inspired by liberal religious principles that affirm the supreme worth of every person, the interdependence of all people and each individual's right to peace, justice and freedom. In Africa, the Caribbean, Central America, India and the United States, our programs provide people with the skills and resources to create a better future for themselves.

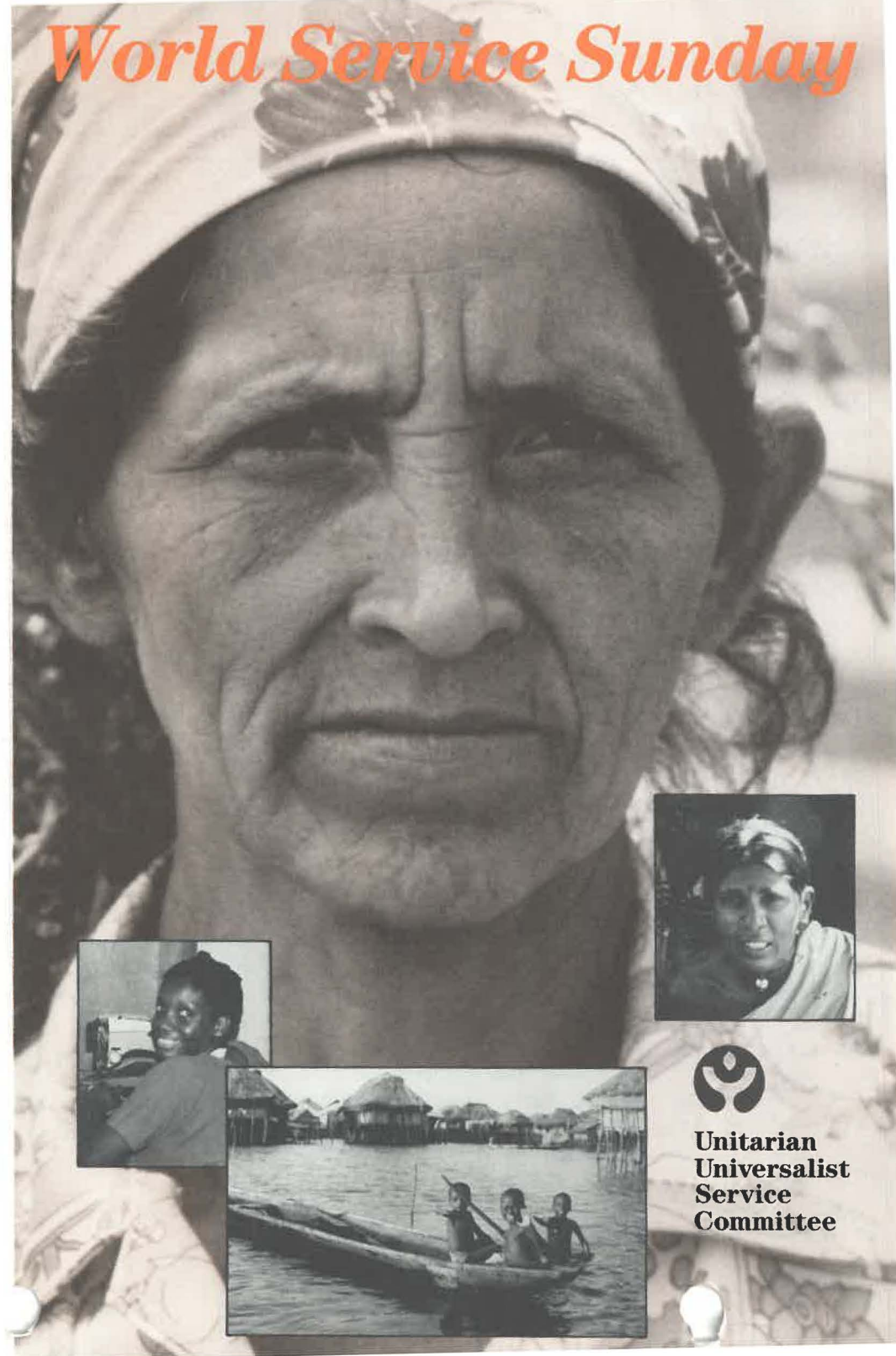
The photos on the Guest at Your Table box represent four of the Service Committee's many projects:

- A peasant woman from Nicaragua, where the Service Committee supports health care projects, and works for justice and peace. *Photo by Richard Scobie.*
- Three boys in Benin, where the Service Committee helped establish an innovative village health program that has become a model for development throughout Africa. *Photo by Elizabeth Coit.*
- A woman in India, where the Service Committee supports programs to improve health care and education for women. *Photo by Elizabeth Coit.*
- A student at the Olympic Gardens Skills Training Project in Jamaica, where young people learn job skills and leadership training. *Photo by Lou Witherite.*



**Unitarian Universalist
Service Committee**

78 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108 USA



**Unitarian
Universalist
Service
Committee**

THE UPPER DELAWARE VALLEY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
MEETING AT INNISFREE MILANVILLE, PA
NOVEMBER 8, 1987 11:00 A. M.

=====

THE OPENING WORDS

A HYMN - "We Sing Out For Freedom"
(Words on opposite page)

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

A READING

THE OFFERING - Please place your offering in the
plate by the literature and name-tags.
Your contribution supports the ongoing
work of the Fellowship.

THE SERMON/TALK - "On Being a Do-Gooder"
The Rev. Raymond J. Pontier

THE DIALOGUE- Your questions, comments, and
observations are most welcome!

THE CLOSING WORDS

* * * * *

Thanksgiving at Innisfree! All members and friends are
invited, as well as someone you may know who has no
place to go on that day. But please sign up so plans
can be made.

Interested in becoming a member? The Upper Delaware
Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship welcomes any-
one who is interested in liberal religion to join with
us. Please speak to Tom Perry, our President, or one
of the members about signing the Membership Book.

Sunday Services are held each week at 11:00 A. M. here
at Innisfree. You are urged to tell others about this
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Better yet, invite
a friend or neighbor to come with you.

The Rev. Pontier is minister of the Lakeland UU Fellow-
ship in Wayne, N. J. and will be speaking here once a
month.

WE GATHER TOGETHER TO SING OUT FOR FREEDOM

(Tune: We Gather Together)

We gather together to sing out for freedom,
To join with each other and make our love known.
No dark inquisition will sway our disposition,
In freedom we are born -- we forget not our own!

The sons and the daughters of freedom assemble,
We come to reclaim all the rights which are ours,
We make no concession to tyranny's oppression,
Our faith is in the people and their sov'reign powers.

So let us rejoice in the faith of our forebears,
Who dared to conceive of a land of the free;
Whose proud declaration brought forth a great nation;
We pledge hearts and hands that this country be free.

(Words by Wm Wolff)

.....

A GUEST AT YOUR TABLE. This is a program of the Unitar-
ian Universalist Service Committee, designed to raise
funds for its various service projects. Boxes are
available (for those who want them) for a daily contrib-
ution at meal times or once a day -- with moneys coll-
ected to be sent to the UU Service Committee by the
first of the new year. If interested, help yourself
to one of the boxes.

WHAT WE OFFER

We can offer you no titles to celestial
real estate, but we can offer you ground
to stand upon today. We can offer you
no non-cancellable fire insurance for
future protection, but we can be volun-
teer firemen with you to extinguish cur-
rent flame.

We can offer you no book on God's
final revelation, but we will share with
you the loose-leaf pages of the ever-
growing bible of human inspiration.
Joining this church is not so much a
commitment for eternity as it is an affir-
mation of society; it strengthens your
bonds with the cause of freedom.

If your days are dark, our light may
help you. If your days are bright, we
need the help of your light.

Rev. Christopher Gist Raible, Toronto



THE UPPER DELAWARE VALLEY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

MEETING AT INNISFREE
MILANVILLE, PA 18443

A liberal religious community

September 24, 1987

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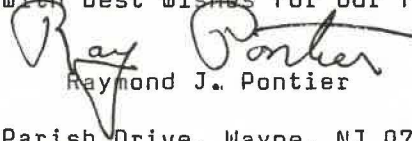
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Upper Delaware Valley
Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship

=====

A LIBERAL RELIGIOUS FAITH

=====



MEETING AT INNISFREE
MILANVILLE, PA 18443

January 10, 1988

Dear Members and Friends:

This letter has a double purpose. First, at the beginning of this new year, I send personal greetings and best wishes to all of you who have helped in so many ways to launch the Upper Delaware Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Much has been accomplished in the past six months since we first organized -- with many people to be thanked for their support, commitment, and hard work. Because of you, something really good is underway!

But I also write to urge all of you to make a special effort to attend our service and workshop on Sunday, January 24th. At our service at 11:00 A. M. I will be speaking on the subject, "The Fairy Tales of the Reverend Pat Robertson" -- dealing with some of the dangerous fantasies of this far-right presidential candidate.

Immediately following the service we will have a pot-luck/covered-dish lunch and a workshop to discuss some of the things we need to do to ensure our future as a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Among our primary concerns is that of growth and reaching out to the larger community. But we have many practical concerns, including such mundane things as becoming incorporated, approving by-laws, dealing with finances, and becoming accepted by the Unitarian Universalist Association. These, plus any other concerns, will be the focus of the workshop.

Leading the Workshop session will be the Rev. Howell Lind, the Field Services Executive of the Metropolitan New York District of the UU Association. A resident of Bethlehem, PA, Howell Lind is knowledgeable about the needs of both established and newly-developing churches and fellowships. We are fortunate to be able to have him with us.

Your support on Sunday, January 24th is really important! Everyone is invited: members, friends, occasional visitors, and anyone who has the slightest bit of curiosity about Unitarian Universalism. Please come and help us build on what has been started in initiating and forming a liberal religious group in our area.

I look forward to seeing you. Bring a friend or relative or neighbor if you can -- and, of course, something in the food line for our luncheon. Keep your fingers crossed that the sun will shine and the snow will not fall on the 24th!

Yours in Fellowship,

Raymond J. Pontier

THE REV. RAYMOND J. PONTIER, MINISTER

RD 2, Box 626, Narrowsburg, NY 12764
(814-252-2553)

231 Parish Drive, Wayne, NJ 07470
(201-628-9478)



Lakeland Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

231 PARISH DRIVE, WAYNE, NEW JERSEY 07470
THE REV. RAYMOND J. PONTIER (628-9478)

February 19, 1988

James J. Murtha, President
Upper Delaware Valley UU Fellowship
RD #3
Honesdale, PA 18431

Dear Jim,

When I decided to start a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship along the Delaware Valley area back in August it was because I believed in the need for a liberal religious group in this strongly conservative region. Barbara and I also felt that it would be great to have a compatible group in this area where we bought a home and plan to spend more time. Both of us know how very meaningful and enjoyable the Lakeland UU Fellowship has been over the past twelve years. We have found Unitarian Universalists to be a special kind of people. So it has been especially exciting to get the group going up here. We looked forward to a good relationship.

But all of that has been turning sour over the past month because of some phony conflict over ministers and my role as a minister with the Upper Delaware UU Fellowship. At the January 24th workshop you surprised me by using a public forum to try to put me in my place by saying I could be a member of the Fellowship but not its minister. At the executive meeting on February 14th you moderated your tone, but George Bailey used the back room to vent his vehement antagonism toward me personally and his evident hostility toward ministers in general. It has all been very unpleasant for Barbara and me personally, and in the long run it will be most divisive for the Fellowship.

I do not know what brought all of this on, other than a knee-jerk reaction to ministers. My own role in the Fellowship has been low-key and advisory. Apart from speaking once a month (by invitation before you came) and offering my services as a minister, the group has carried on largely by itself. I hope that the Fellowship will continue to develop its own style and leadership, but I have no intention of allowing my lifelong position as a minister to be denigrated or of being drummed out of the Fellowship because of the anti-clerical stance of a few.

Unitarian Universalism has a deep commitment to the democratic process, and the issues raised should be openly discussed by the entire membership. The manner in which all of this is dealt with and resolved is of real importance to the Fellowship, as well as to my relationship to it both as a minister and a member. Your obligation as President, surely, is to make certain that all the facts are presented and all sides receive a fair hearing.

Best wishes for the February 28th program. I will be sending some of my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Raymond J. Pontier

cc: Tom Rue, Secretary



March 23, 1988

231 PARISH DRIVE, WAYNE, NEW JERSEY 07470
THE REV. RAYMOND J. PONTIER (628-9478)

WHY ARE WE HERE?

I regret that I cannot be with you this morning to share in the interchange of discussion, but I do send this personal statement along at the suggestion of Jim Murtha. In trying to put my thoughts together, I realized that the larger question of "Why are we here?" must first be dealt with on the individual level of "Why am I here?". There will be, certainly, different agendas for being part of this group, with different people having differing expectations. But in the long run I believe there will be common threads to bind us together in community. Without being exhaustive, my reason for being here includes at least the following:

First, I am here because I want to be part of the larger Unitarian Universalist movement throughout the world. I want to be identified with this larger Unitarian Universalist community because, to me, it offers the most attractive and meaningful expression of the liberal religious spirit. Earl Morse Wilbur, the Unitarian historian, said that our movement was characterized by devotion to three leading principles:

"First, complete mental freedom in religion, rather than bondage to creeds or confessions; second, the unrestricted use of reason in religion, rather than reliance upon external authority or past tradition; third, generous tolerance of differing religious views and usages, rather than insistence upon uniformity in doctrine, worship, or polity."

This past Sunday, a woman who signed the Membership Book of the Lakeland Fellowship in Wayne remarked after the service, "It took me 72 years to find that there was a group like this!" It did not take me that long, but having found Unitarian Universalism after years in a more orthodox church, I most definitely want to hold on to it.

Second, I am here, not only because I want to be identified with the larger Unitarian Universalist movement, but also because I want to be associated with a UU Fellowship or society on the local level. When I first organized the Upper Delaware Valley UU Fellowship in August of last year it was because there was not, so far as I was aware, any liberal religious group in this entire area. The closest Unitarian Universalist body is in Middletown, New York. Barbara and I own a home in Narrowsburg. We plan to spend more time here, and eventually will retire to this area. The motivation in starting a Fellowship here was partly to fill a vacuum, but also in large part to assure that there will be a compatible Unitarian Universalist group in the area where we intend to live.

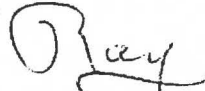
Third, I am here because I want to be part of a community of people who care for one another, care for the larger world out there, care for such things as freedom and justice and the search for truth. I believe in community because I feel that we need others of similar values if we are to hold fast to our principles, retain our integrity, and fulfill our potential. It is within a community that we both receive support for ourselves and give it to other people. Building community, however, is not easy. It is more than being in the same room or all subscribing to liberal tenets. Building community is a process, coming out of such things as mutual respect, acceptance of diversity, commitment to and responsibility for the group, acceptance of the democratic method in decision-making. In the final analysis, building community is a matter of relationships -- and relationships take time. The Upper Delaware Valley Fellowship is at the beginning of the process of building community, but it is my hope

that a vital community will develop as we get to know one another. This does not mean that the group will ever be free from tension or disagreement, for such things are part of all relationships. But the development of community will mean that we are able to deal with conflict without acrimony toward one another or disruption of the group. The motto of an Indian ashram can serve any community or Fellowship well:

"Here we enter a Fellowship;
Sometimes we will agree to differ,
But always we will resolve to love
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When this Fellowship was first organized in August I offered my services to assist in the guidance and direction of the Fellowship. That offer, of course, still stands. Although the Upper Delaware Valley UU Fellowship must rely on its own considerable resources and leadership, I am most willing to provide whatever assistance is needed and desired as a Unitarian Universalist minister. My primary hope and wish is that this Fellowship become a vital presence throughout this area. It is a goal toward which all of us can work.

Best wishes for a good service,



Raymond J. Pontier

3/23/88

A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

We, the members of the Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, are gathered into a committed relationship:

To make possible a caring and supportive community in which each individual will feel free to chart her or his own spiritual journey in the search for ultimate meaning in life;

To create an atmosphere in which each person will be able to share convictions, express doubts, and explore new dimensions of truth and reality.

To provide a community in which there will be no divisions because of class, ethnic origin, race or sexual orientation;

To offer a place and climate for regular worship, which include such things as fellowship, meditation, learning, and a free and open pulpit;

To work for the vision of a better world by standing for the cause of social justice and human rights, support efforts for world peace, and seek to protect the earth's environment through our respect for the interdependent web of all living things;

To join with others in the tradition of free and open religion in affiliation with the Unitarian Universalist Association;

To bear witness to our convictions as Unitarian Universalists in this entire region by giving our support to the Upper Delaware Fellowship through the dedication of our energies and time and finances, knowing that unless the local group is strong and healthy, little else can be accomplished.

(Adopted June 17th, 1990)

Draft: March 13, 1988
FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

JOB DESCRIPTION

Minister

The minister of the Upper Delaware Valley Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship shall do the following:

1. Attend as many meetings of the Fellowship and any committees thereof as he is able, at his convenience;
2. Speak at one Sunday service per month, and at any other occasions which he may be requested to do so by the executive committee;
3. Make available the use of his name for presentation to the public as "minister" or "consulting minister" of the Fellowship;
4. Offer his services to members of the Fellowship for dedication of children, weddings, or memorial services;
5. Provide support and and guidance to the executive committee in administering the functions of the Fellowship;
6. Attend and participate in meetings of the executive committee whenever present, and have one vote.
7. Such other functions and tasks as may from time to time be agreed upon by vote of the executive committee and the minister.

Adopted: _____

t sr

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Adopted: _____

tsr

N O T I C E O F A N N U A L M E E T I N G

TO THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE
UPPER DELAWARE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP:

TAKE NOTICE that the first Annual Meeting of the Fellowship is hereby called to be held on June 26, 1988 at 11:00 in the morning at the Innisfree recreation hall, near the Skinners Falls bridge, River Road, Milanville, Pennsylvania.

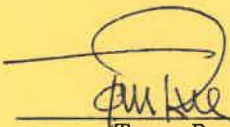
The purposes of the proposed meeting shall be to:

1. Resolve to affiliate with the Unitarian Universalist Association;
2. Consider and adopt proposed By-Laws (see Attachment 1);
3. Elect officers and a board of directors as set forth in the By-Laws;
4. Resolve to incorporate as a not-for-profit corporation under the laws of the State of New York;
5. Consider and adopt a 1988-1989 operating budget (see Attachment 2);
6. Consider program suggestions, community service, and other needs and other matters concerning the Fellowship;

This meeting will not be as stuffy as the form of this Notice might suggest. While anyone may participate in discussion, only those who have signed the Membership Book will be entitled to vote. A pot-luck luncheon will follow.

Everyone is urged to attend.

Dated: Milanville, Pennsylvania
June 15, 1988



Tom Rue, Secretary

tsr
Attachments



Lakeland Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

231 PARISH DRIVE, WAYNE, NEW JERSEY 07470
THE REV. RAYMOND J. PONTIER (628-9478)

February 1, 1988

James J. Murtha
RD #3
Honesdale, PA 18431

Dear Jim,

I meant to get this off to you earlier, but last week was out of kilter with the snow storm, plus getting back into the swing of things here in Wayne. In thinking about our January 24th meeting I felt that, all in all, it was a good gathering. There was an excellent turn-out, a fine level of participation, and a good presentation by Howell Lind.


I must say that I was a bit taken back by the intensity of your remarks about the by-laws of the Lakeland Fellowship, ministers in general, and my designated role in the Upper Delaware Fellowship. Wherever your concerns stem from, let me say at the outset that I am not angling for another job (with or without pay), I have no desire or intention of seeking to dominate this Fellowship, and I do not want to become a focus of contention. The Upper Delaware UU is under no obligation to consider me as its minister, to assume any direction or leadership, or even to speak at Sunday services. If this is what the Fellowship wants, I am quite ready to bow out at any time.

When I initiated the start of the Upper Delaware Fellowship in August, it was because of my commitment to Unitarian Universalism and my strong feeling for the need of a liberal religious presence in this area. During the early days of formation I offered to provide any possible direction and leadership, including speaking once a month and lending my name as minister. Although I have knowledge and competence as a UU minister, I have not tried to impose myself on the group -- and any ideas I have should be considered on their merit, not because I am a minister. Within UU circles the role of a minister is never authoritarian or arbitrary, and final decision-making always lies within the province of the membership. Clergy do not negate the democratic process.

The Lakeland by-laws, of course, were given only as a sample guideline, and not to be taken with any sort of exactness or literalism. If you read them carefully, you will find only one section (Article VII) about salaried personnel dealing with the ministry -- and this was added only after they asked me to serve as their minister. It is obviously an article that should be deleted from Upper Delaware UU by-laws. The only other reference to a minister is in Article VI, Section 1 where it states that "The minister is ex-officio officer and voting member of the Executive Board." By-laws should be written to reflect the needs of the group, and subject to revision to meet changing circumstances. This is what the Lakeland Fellowship did, but in no way is that Fellowship or its by-laws dominated by some kind of ministerial role. I serve only in the capacity of leadership, subject to the approval or disapproval of the entire group.

What I have done so far has been a labor of love. I neither need or want it to be a matter of irritation or aggravation. It might be helpful if we could openly discuss my role at a meeting of the executive committee.

My best to you and Rosemary,


Raymond J. Pontier

cc: Tom Rue



Lakeland Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

231 PARISH DRIVE, WAYNE, NEW JERSEY 07470
THE REV. RAYMOND J. PONTIER (628-9478)

February 19, 1988

James J. Murtha, President
Upper Delaware Valley UU Fellowship
RD #3
Honesdale, PA 18431

Dear Jim,

When I decided to start a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship along the Delaware Valley area back in August it was because I believed in the need for a liberal religious group in this strongly conservative region. Barbara and I also felt that it would be great to have a compatible group in this area where we bought a home and plan to spend more time. Both of us know how very meaningful and enjoyable the Lakeland UU Fellowship has been over the past twelve years. We have found Unitarian Universalists to be a special kind of people. So it has been especially exciting to get the group going up here. We looked forward to a good relationship.

But all of that has been turning sour over the past month because of some phony conflict over ministers and my role as a minister with the Upper Delaware UU Fellowship. At the January 24th workshop you surprised me by using a public forum to try to put me in my place by saying I could be a member of the Fellowship but not its minister. At the executive meeting on February 14th you moderated your tone, but George Bailey used the back room to vent his vehement antagonism toward me personally and his evident hostility toward ministers in general. It has all been very unpleasant for Barbara and me personally, and in the long run it will be most divisive for the Fellowship.

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Unitarian Universalism has a deep commitment to the democratic process, and the issues raised should be openly discussed by the entire membership. The manner in which all of this is dealt with and resolved is of real importance to the Fellowship, as well as to my relationship to it both as a minister and a member. Your obligation as President, surely, is to make certain that all the facts are presented and all sides receive a fair hearing.

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Lakeland Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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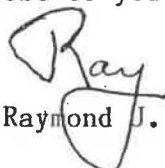
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My best to you and Rosemary,


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February 1988

The Upper Delaware Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

A meeting of the Executive Committee following the Sunday service on Sunday, February 14th was, largely, a continuation and extension of the Workshop meeting held on January 24th, with the Rev. Howell Lind, the Field Service Executive for the Metro New York District of the UUA. Attending the February 14th meeting were the President Jim Murtha, the Vice President George Bailey, the Secretary Tom Rue, the Treasurer Deborah Lazarus, the Rev. Raymond Pontier, Bud Rue, Rosemary Murtha, and Barbara Pontier. The central focus of the discussion was the question of to have or not to have a minister related to the Upper Delaware Valley UU Fellowship.

The question of ministers and ministry became an issue at the January 24th Workshop when Jim Murtha stated strongly and vehemently that this Fellowship should not have a minister. His initial attack was on the By-laws of the Lakeland UU Fellowship in Wayne which I had submitted only as a general guideline for the preparation of the By-laws for the Upper Delaware UU -- and not to be copied or followed with any sort of exactness or literalism. His objection was to a section in the Lakeland by-laws about ministers and paid personnel, added only after I began to serve this Fellowship, and which I suggested be deleted. But his objection to the Lakeland by-laws were, I believe, a take-off point for objecting to the whole concept of ministers and ministry under any circumstances. His particular target was with me and my relationship to and with the Upper Delaware UU Fellowship. In essence he said that the Rev. Pontier was welcome to remain with this Fellowship as an ordinary member, but in no way should he be considered, or to consider himself, as its minister. I could, of course, perform weddings (and I assume funerals) if I was asked and wanted to.

There was no response or rebuttal, from me or anyone else, to Murtha's remarks at that meeting. I did respond to him on February 1st in a letter (copy attached), suggesting that it be shared with the officers and Executive Committee. I also suggested that it would be helpful to discuss my role at a meeting of the executive committee.

February 14th, became the occasion for my role as minister of the Upper Delaware Valley UU Fellowship, and essentially if anyone can have a place as minister here. Although it was said that there was nothing "personal" in what was being said, it was impossible for me to ignore the fact that I was the focus and object of controversy. The chief antagonists at the meeting were Jim Murtha and George Bailey. Whereas Jim Murtha led the attack against ministers at the January 24th workshop, it was George Bailey who now took up the cause. It seemed as if the two of them had agreed that it

was now George's turn to play the role of the heavy. The statements and reactions of the various people at that meeting were varied and interesting.

George Bailey's attitude and tone were surprisingly hostile, not only toward the whole concept of ministers and clergy, but toward me personally. Although he did not quite say it, I imagine that if he were my employer, he would fire me. He did not like my name on the letterhead of a letter I had sent him. He does not want a minister of this Fellowship. He does not want me to speak once a month. If I do speak, it is to be only when I ask to or when I am invited to do so, but I should have no regular turn for speaking. What I should do is come, sit in the group, listen to what great things the Fellowship is doing by itself. I am not to have any central role of leadership. What I heard was, "We don't need you, we really don't want you -- we carry on very well by ourselves and get excellent programs and speakers."

Jim Murtha was much more moderate and friendly than on January 24th, but still 100 percent anti-clerical. In the February 14th meeting he continued to object to the Lakeland UU by-laws, in spite of my insistence that the part he objected to should be deleted. Both he, and his wife Rosemary, seemed to agree to having me speak to the Fellowship once a month, and Jim even stated that he had no quarrel with having my name as minister on the publicity flyer I had prepared. His bottom line, however, is that he wants no part of having a designated minister of the Upper Delaware UU Fellowship.

Deborah Lazarus was warm and friendly. Although she was not able to stay for the entire meeting, she expressed the desire to have me as a speaker once a month.

Bud Rue has always been friendly. He expressed appreciation to me for having started this Fellowship. He was sensitive to my feelings, and was concerned with how I felt after George and Jim stated their case about ministers in general and about me in particular. But he struggles with the concept of ministry, and said he began to understand about me "being just part of the group" rather than the leader. He is personally sympathetic, and wants to have me continue speaking once a month.

Tom Rue is also friendly and supportive. He is one of the hard-working members of the Fellowship, serving as Secretary, doing regular publicity, keeping membership and visitor list up to date, preparing the Newsletter. I have worked more closely with him than anyone else. At the end of the meeting he made the positive suggestion that "we define the role of a minister in the Fellowship."

In view of what was said loud and clear at the meeting by Jim Murtha and George Bailey, it is most unlikely that they want to "define role of a minister in the Fellowship." They want no part of a minister. Period! George was adamant on this point, although Jim seemed ready to tolerate me as an occasional speaker. But only so long as I kept in my place as just an ordinary member! Both Jim and George represent an anti-clerical stance which prevailed in many Fellowships 15 or 20 years ago, but does not seem all that prevalent in UU circles today. Unitarian Universalism in general recognizes the importance and place of trained, professional leadership. Each Society or Fellowship, of course, can do its own defining of the role of its minister, limiting or expanding it as is seen fit. But an absolute no to clergy or ministers negates any discussion at the outset.

It is doubtful that Murtha and Bailey represent a majority viewpoint of the Upper Delaware UU Fellowship. At the February 14th meeting they were the most outspoken, and because of their strong views they will carry a lot of weight with others in the Fellowship. But the issue has not been tested with the full membership, and if and when it is, it is likely to be divisive. Neither Jim Murtha nor George Bailey were part of the Fellowship during the first seven weeks when I helped organize it, so their perspective differs from many of those who were part of the organizing stages. The Fellowship is still at a fragile stage of development and I do not want to see it split or destroyed by conflict. On the one hand, I very much oppose having a group run by one or two people who impose their views on the majority. Throughout my ministry I have always insisted on the democratic method for dealing with all issues affecting the membership. Whether or not this Fellowship shall have a minister, either now or at any time in the future, should be decided only after a thorough study and a vote by the entire membership. Dictatorial members or officers are no more to be desired than dictatorial ministers. Reliance on and use of the democratic process is very much at the heart of the Unitarian Universalist tradition.

On the other hand, I am not happy with being the focus of a debate about having or not having a minister. In spite of the disclaimers of Murtha and Bailey that there is nothing personal in their objection to a minister, it has become unavoidably personal because I am the particular minister to which objections are being raised. If the members are asked to vote on the issue, they will be voting in large measure on their feelings about or toward me. The question I must decide is whether or not it is better for all concerned just to bow out gracefully, no matter how much I dislike allowing a vocal minority to have its way.

In many ways the situation is ironic and the issues are phony. When I first organized the Fellowship I stated that it would have a future only if enough people really wanted it -- and if it developed the leadership to carry on by itself. I

remember stating that the Lakeland Fellowship in Wayne had no minister for the first twelve years of its existence, although it did participate in the Minister-On-Loan program and made use of UUA resources. I also stated that my primary obligation was to the Lakeland Fellowship in Wayne, but that I was willing to come to the Upper Delaware Fellowship once a month through the year to speak and also to offer any possible guidance. During the first four Sundays after organization I offered to speak at the Sunday services, prepared promotional literature, helped with organizational procedures, contacted Boston concerning affiliation with the UUA, and tried to be of general assistance. At that time I said the Fellowship could use my name as its minister, and the offer was readily accepted. As a UU minister I believe I have a certain amount of experience and competence in the field of religious leadership, and I felt then as I do now that I could be of genuine help to the Upper Delaware UU Fellowship. But at no point, then or now, did I try to assert or assume some kind of control, to take over the operation, to run the show. What I have done has been a labor of love because I believe in the importance of the liberal religious perspective as represented by Unitarian Universalism.

Personally, I am delighted that the Fellowship has been able to carry on with its Sunday programs so successfully during the months since it organized. If it wants to continue in all aspects without me, that is fine. Although I am a minister, I do not aspire to be "the minister" of the Upper Delaware UU. I have, of course, expressed the willingness to be of service and leadership. But if I hear Bailey and Murtha, they do not want me in any "ministerial" role. Therefore, until there is better clarification by the executive committee and the membership, I feel it is better that I stay out of the life and affairs of the Fellowship.

*Thoughts at the time it
was written, but never circulated
then - and is not to be
circulated now.*

Raymond J. Ponther



3/22/88

231 PARISH DRIVE, WAYNE, NEW JERSEY 07470
THE REV. RAYMOND J. PONTIER (628-9478)

WHY ARE WE HERE?

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that a vital community will develop as we get to know one another. This does not mean that the group will ever be free from tension or disagreement, for such things are part of all relationships. But the development of community will mean that we are able to deal with conflict without acrimony toward one another or disruption of the group. The motto of an Indian ashram can serve any community or Fellowship well:

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Best wishes for a good service,

Ray

Raymond J. Pontier

3/23/88

July 16, 1989

Dear Members and Friends:

At the end of June, after 48 years in the active ministry (14 of them as a Unitarian Universalist), I retired as the minister of the Lakeland UU Fellowship in Wayne, New Jersey. As of July 1st, Barbara and I moved to our home in Narrowsburg as permanent residents. Although I have no intention of resuming an active ministry, both Barbara and I do plan to be active members of the Upper Delaware UU Fellowship. Along with other members of this Fellowship, I do hope to provide some leadership -- and perhaps share some of the skills I have acquired as a minister. I will be available for some "ministerial" functions such as weddings, dedications, and memorial services, and I have also agreed to the request to speak at Sunday services once a month when in the area. Come winter, Barbara and I probably will head south for a month or so.

The end of August, I believe, will mark the second year since this Fellowship was first organized. All kinds of credit goes to those who have kept the Fellowship active and vital during this time! This is a particularly opportune time to ask some questions and to do some thinking about the future. Where are we going? What kind of a Fellowship do we want? What about Sunday programming? How do we attract new members and friends? How do we achieve a distinctive Unitarian Universalist identity?

There are, obviously, all kind of questions. Some time ago the Board suggested I prepare a questionnaire to be sent to all interested people. I worked on it, but decided I needed more input before I could frame the pertinent questions. What is needed at this point is a general "rap session," with as many people as possible, to discuss and outline needs and purposes and goals -- and to set some priorities. If this is an acceptable suggestion, I would be happy to lead it in the near future.

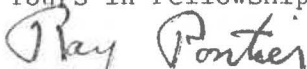
For the time, this letter and a sharing of a few thoughts and reflections will have to do as a substitute for a questionnaire.

1) There is a continuing and urgent need for a liberal religious group in this entire area. When we first purchased a home in Narrowsburg three years ago, I realized that apart from the Unitarian Universalist Church in Middletown, our religious option in this area consisted of nothing but traditional/orthodox Christian churches ranging from moderate to conservative to fundamentalist. Faced with that dire alternative, I decided that either I would stay home on Sunday and read the paper or help organize a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship where freedom of thought is celebrated. Personally, I have a desire and need for our kind of liberal religious community -- and I am certain there are many others who feel the same way.

2) We already have a significant core group of people who feel as I do about the need for a liberal religious community. There are many others who have expressed an interest, some who have occasionally attended on Sunday, and a few who have dropped out after a brief period of activity. You are the people we really need to help us achieve the vitality necessary for a meaningful future. If you believe that the existence of a liberal religious community is important, both to you personally as well as for the wider area, plan to be with us on a Sunday morning. Get to know us, ask your questions, share your feelings. We are really trying -- but we need your help.

3) After many years as a liberal in the ranks of Christian orthodoxy, let me say that my discovery of Unitarian Universalism was a highlight of my life. Suddenly I found where I really belong -- in the clear climate where freedom and reason and diversity are celebrated. As someone who is "high" on Unitarian Universalism, I invite all of you, not only to share it for yourselves, but to help in the building of the Upper Delaware UU Fellowship so a liberal presence can be felt in the entire area.

Yours in Fellowship,


Raymond J. Pontier

Upper Delaware Valley
Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship

=====

A LIBERAL RELIGIOUS FAITH

=====



MEETING AT INNISFREE
MILANVILLE, PA 18443

March 13, 1988

P.O. Box 41
Milanville PA 18443

Rev. Raymond J. Pontier
231 Parish Drive
Wayne NY 07470

Dear Ray:

At your earliest convenience, will you please review the enclosed draft Job Description and return it with any modifications or additions, so I may present it for consideration this Sunday? It seems time we get this issue resolved.

Many thanks.

Best wishes,

Tom Rue
Secretary

P.S. I am sending a similar letter to Jim Murtha, along with the enclosure.

tsr
Enclosure

THE REV. RAYMOND J. PONTIER, MINISTER

RD 2, Box 626, Narrowsburg, NY 12764

231 Parish Drive, Wayne, NJ 07470

Draft: March 13, 1988
FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

JOB DESCRIPTION

Minister

The minister of the Upper Delaware Valley Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship shall do the following:

1. Attend as many meetings of the Fellowship and any committees thereof as he is able, at his convenience;
2. Speak at one Sunday service per month, and at any other occasions which he may be requested to do so by the executive committee;
3. Make available the use of his name for presentation to the public as "minister" or "consulting minister" of the Fellowship;
4. Offer his services to members of the Fellowship for dedication of children, weddings, or memorial services;
5. Provide support and and guidance to the executive committee in administering the functions of the Fellowship;
6. Attend and participate in meetings of the executive committee whenever present, and have one vote.
7. Such other functions and tasks as may from time to time be agreed upon by vote of the executive committee and the minister.

Adopted: _____

tsr



Lakeland Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

231 PARISH DRIVE, WAYNE, NEW JERSEY 07470
THE REV. RAYMOND J. PONTIER (628-9478)

March 15, 1988

Tom Rue
P. O. Box 41
Milanville, PA 18443

Dear Tom,

Many thanks for your letter -- and particularly for putting together a fine job description for a minister of the Fellowship. It is, as you say, time we get this issue resolved, for it is a source of irritation and disharmony when we need to focus our energies on building the Fellowship.

Your proposed job description is very positive, and it should help in bringing about a resolution. I have no particular changes in what you have written, for it is broad enough to provide a reasonable working relationship for both the Fellowship and the minister.

You say that you are going to present this for consideration this Sunday. Do you mean the executive committee, the membership, or both? The executive committee may want to consider and discuss it first, but something of this importance should be subject to the approval of the full membership.

The Fellowship is going through some natural and necessary growing-pains. I hope, that as we grow and find our identity, it will be with good spirit and good humor.

Again, thanks to you for all your hard work and many contributions toward the success of the Upper Delaware UU Fellowship.

Every best wish,

Raymond J. Pontier

CHARTER MEMBERS OF

The Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

1. George Bailey, P.O. Box 24, Milanville PA 18443
2. Margaret Bryant, P.O. 313, Smallwood NY 12778
3. Jane DeEsch, P.O. Box 35, Greeley PA 18425
4. Kaare H. Gundersen, Lake Ariel PA 18436
5. Shirley Marshall, 627 Park Street, Honesdale PA 18443
6. Gilbert H. Mende, P.O. Box , Honesdale PA 18443
7. Eve Murphy, R.D. 3, Box 515, Honesdale PA 18443
8. John B. Niflot, R.D. 1, Box 11, Long Eddy NY 12760
9. Barbara E. Pontier, R.D. 2, Box 626, Narrowsburg NY 12764
10. Glenn Pontier, R.D. 2, Box 363, Narrowsburg
11. Rev. Raymond J. Pontier, R.D. 2, Box 286, Narrowsburg NY 127641.
12. Ann Rue, P.O. Box 47, Milanville PA 18443
13. Carmen Hernandez Rue, P.O. Box 706, Monticello NY 12701
14. Clyde B. Rue, P.O. Box 47, Milanville PA 18443
15. John D. Rue, P.O. Box 47, Milanville PA 18443
16. Thomas S. Rue, P.O. Box 706, Monticello NY 12701
17. Jay C. Shames, 11 Schumacher Pond Road, Barryville NY 12719
18. Helen J. Sidwell, 1225 N.W. 21st Street, Stuart FL 34994
19. Thomas D. Sidwell, 1225 N.W. 21st Street, Stuart FL 34994
20. Laurie Stuart, R.D. 2, Box 363, Narrowsburg NY 12764
21. Deborah Lazarus Yarzagaray, P.O. Box 621, Jeffersonville NY 12748

22. *Laura De Simone*

UPPER DELAWARE VALLEY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

P.O. BOX 123, MILANVILLE, PA 18443

~~DEBORAH KAYANUS, PRESIDENT X 814 482 3520~~
June 18, 1990

Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
25 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Greetings:

On September 20, 1987, the UPPER DELAWARE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP was organized. Since then, we have met regularly on Sunday mornings, at the Innisfree Recreation Hall, River Road, Milanville, Pennsylvania. After incorporating, the Fellowship reorganized on June 17, 1990, with 21 Charter Members.

The following persons have been elected as officers, to serve for the 1990-1991 year:

President:

Thomas S. Rue
P.O. Box 706 (23 Fisk Avenue)
Monticello, New York 12701
(914) 791-7014

Secretary:

Bernette Ann Rue
P.O. Box 47 (River Road)
Milanville, Pennsylvania 18443
(717) 729-7197

Vice-President:

Margaret Bryant
P.O. Box 313 (River Road)
Smallwood, New York 12778
(914) 583-7324

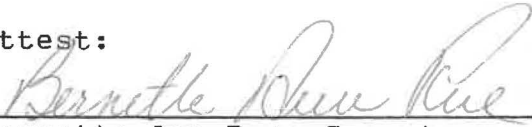
Treasurer:

Carmen Hernandez Rue
P.O. Box 706 (23 Fisk Avenue)
Monticello, New York 12701
(914) 791-7014

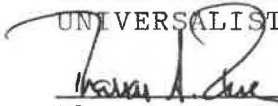
Subscribing the the purposes and principles of the Association, including the stated policy of the UUA that applying congregations welcome into membership all qualified persons "without regard to race, color, sex, affectional or sexual orientation, age, or national origin," and pledging to support the Association, it is the desire of this congregation to become a member organization of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

We enclose with this Letter of Application: 1) a list of the Charter Members; 2) Certificate of Incorporation, with an appropriate dissolution clause, filed with the Secretary of State of the State of New York on March 13, 1990; 3) By-Laws of the congregation (which also contain the appropriate dissolution clause) dated April 29, 1990; 4) Unanimous Consent to Action Taken in Lieu of Organizational Meeting dated April 29, 1990; 5) Minutes of Annual Meeting dated June 17, 1990; and 6) an initial contribution of \$220.00, toward the suggested fair share to the Annual Program Fund. Dependent on budgetary considerations, the fellowship Executive Committee will consider the viability of sending an additional contribution of \$220.00, in January 1991.

Attest:


Bernette Ann Rue, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,
UPPER DELAWARE UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP, INC.


By: Thomas S. Rue, President

tsr

Enclosures

cc: The Rev. Howell Lind, District Executive
The Rev. Raymond Pontier, Minister

A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

We, the members of the Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, are gathered into a committed relationship:

To make possible a caring and supportive community in which each individual will feel free to chart her or his own spiritual journey in the search for ultimate meaning in life;

To create an atmosphere in which each person will be able to share convictions, express doubts, and explore new dimensions of truth and reality;

To provide a community in which there will be no divisions because of class, ethnic origin, race or sexual orientation;

To offer a place and climate for regular worship, which include such things as fellowship, meditation, learning, and a free and open pulpit;

To work for the vision of a better world by standing for the cause of social justice and human rights, support efforts for world peace, and seek to protect the earth's environment through our respect for the interdependent web of all living things;

To join with others in the tradition of free and open religion in affiliation with the Unitarian Universalist Association;

To bear witness to our convictions as Unitarian Universalists in this entire region by giving our support to the Upper Delaware Fellowship through the dedication of our energies and time and finances, knowing that unless the local group is strong and healthy, little else can be accomplished.



UPPER DELAWARE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

FELLOWSHIP

A LISTING OF

MEMBERS

AND

SUPPORTIVE FRIENDS

SUNDAY SERVICES AT 11:00 A. M.

Meeting at Innisfree in
Milanville, Pa.

Thomas S. Rue - President

Rev. Raymond J. Pontier,
Consulting Minister

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

(* denotes members)

*Edris & William Artis
Lugtón Lake,
Narrowsburg, NY 12764
also
430 East 120 Street
New York, NY 10035
(212-996-6229)

*Jesse & *Colette Ballew
RD 1, Box 284
Damascus, PA 18415
(717-224-6387)

*Robert & *Muriel Brewer
Briar Hill Summit
Lakeville, PA 18438
(717-226-9269)

*Laura DeSimone
PO Box 423
Honesdale, PA 18431
(717-253-0726)

*Kaare & Ruth Gundersen
Lake Ariel, PA 18436
(717-688-9512)

*MarJeana Howard & Erin
1114 Court Street
Honesdale, PA 18431
(717-253-8742)

Marc & Lorna Hollander
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Shohola, PA 18458

Liz Huntington
HCR 69, Box 799
Galilee, PA 18415

*Barbara Lutz
John Pritchard
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Milanville, PA 18443
(717-729-8973)
Also
85-55 118th St. #2-F
Kew Gardens, NY 11415-2942

Laurel & David Mason
PO Box 137
Rowland, PA 18457
(717-685-4634)

*Gil Mende
PO Box 40
Milanville, PA 18443
(717-729-8007)

*Eve & Gerry Murphy
125 Sugar Street
Honesdale, PA 18431
(717-253-7887)

*Sharon & *Tom Paige-Lissenbee
Box 172
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(717-685-2714)
also
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Brooklyn, NY 11231
(718-875-5634)

*Barbara & *Ray Pontier
2797 Route 97
Narrowsburg, NY 12764
(914-252-7553)

*Glenn Pontier
*Laurie Stuart
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(914-252-6626)

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*John Rue
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Naomi Teppich
Martin Springhetti
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Galilee, PA 18415
(717-224-6538)

Eveline Tempkin
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*Joseph Walker
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Barbara Yeaman
HC 1, Box 1926
Milanville, PA 18443
(717-729-7053)

NOTES ON THIS MEMBERSHIP/FRIEND LIST

Asterick (*) indicated a member of this UU Fellowship -- those who have signed our Membership Book.

Active Friends include those who attend our Fellowship with some regularity and/or make a financial contribution of note.

Please make corrections of addresses, phone numbers, etc.

Anyone wishing to sign the Membership Book is asked to speak to the Consulting Minister, Ray Pontier or any of the members.

Information about Unitarian Universalism and our Fellowship is available.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

(* denotes member)

*Colette & *Jesse Ballew
RD 1, Box 284
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*Robert & Muriel Brewer
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*Margaret Bryant
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*Jane DeEsch
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*Laura DeSimone
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*Eve & Gerry Murphy
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Eldred, NY 12732
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*Laurie Stuart
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*Harold Waage
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Greentown, PA 18426
(717-857-1024)

Barbara Yeaman
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Milanville, PA 18443
(717-729-7053)

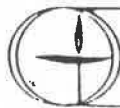
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WHO'S WHO IN OUR MEMBER/FRIEND LIST

MEMBERS (with asterick) -- include all those who have signed the Membership Book of the Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

ACTIVE FRIENDS -- all those who make a regular financial contribution to the Fellowship and/or attend Sunday services with some frequency.

NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST -- includes all members and active friends, as well as others who sign our Guest Book and express an interest in our Fellowship.



Upper Delaware
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

7/22/93

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

*Edris & William Artis
Luxton Lake
Narrowsburg, NY 12764
also

430 East 120 Street
New York, NY 10035

*Jesse & *Colette Ballew
RD 1, Box 284
Damascus, PA 18415
(717-224-6387)

Wilma Beam
RR 5, Box 195
Honesdale, PA 18431

*Robert & *Muriel Brewer
Briar Hill Summit
Lakeville, PA 18538
(717-226-9269)

*Dorothy Cameron
*Tom Oliva
600 West 111 St., Apt 14F
New York, NY 10025
also
Innisfree
Milanville, PA 18443

*Laura DeSimone
PO Box 423
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(717-253-0726)

*Kaare & Ruth Gunderson
Box 50
Lake Ariel, PA 18436
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Honesdale, PA 18431
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*Carmen & *Tom Rue
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(914-791-7014)

*Loran Shlevin
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(914-932-8781)

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Stuart, FL 34994

Millie Tait
PO Box 386
Glen Spey, NY 12737

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Galilee, PA 18415
(717-224-6538)

Barbara Yeaman
HC 1, Box 1926
Milanville, PA 18443
(717-729-7043)

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Upper Delaware
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



MEETING AT INNISFREE SUNDAYS AT ELEVEN

Phone 717-729-7197 or
914-252-7553

P.O. Box 123, Millanville, PA 18443

Dec. 1989

UPPER DELAWARE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
Innisfree Recreation Hall
P.O. Box 123
Milanville, PA 18443

Helga Andkjar 30 Old Forge Road Sparta, NJ 07871	Business Home Member? yes
Mary Abplanalp 6 Cross Street Liberty, NY 12754	Business Home 914-292-4234 Member?
George Bailey P.O.Box 24 Milanville, PA 18443	Business Home 717-729-7197 Member? yes
Linda Bastian RD 1 Box 171A Callicoon, NY 12723	Business Home Member?
Lee Beckett P.O.Box 87 Jeffersonville, NY 12748	Business Home Member?
Muriel and Robert Brewer Lakeville, PA 18438	Business Home 717-226-9269 Member?
Malcolm Brown North Branch Road Hortonville, NY 12745	Business Home Member?
Margaret Bryant P.O. Box 313 Smallwood, NY 12778	Business Home 914-583-7324 Member? yes
Robert Carson SR Box 250 Honesdale, PA 18431	Business Home Member?
Cheryl and Greg Celesky 1308 West Street Honesdale, PA 18431	Business Home 717-253-1185 Member?
Peter Comstock 326 Hollow Road Glen Spey, NY 12737	Business Home Member?

Upper Delaware UU Fellowship Contd.

Laura DeSimone
P.O.Box 425
Honesdale, PA 18431

Business
Home 717-253-0726
Member?

Anne and Bert Feldman
P.O. Box 209
Mongaup Valley, NY 12762

Business
Home 914-583-6174
Member?

Lynn Elfert
P.O.Box 8
Mileses, NY 12741

Business
Home 924-887-4569
Member?

Karen Greenhill
P.O.Box 377
Lake Huntington, NY 12752

Business
Home
Member?

Charlie Grotha
1753 S. Broad Street
W.Trenton, NJ 08628

Business
Home 609-771-8227
Member?

Kaare and Ruth Gundersen
Lake Ariel, PA 18436

Business
Home 717-688-9512
Member? yes

Carla Hauser
P.O.Box 9
Hortonville, NY 12745

Business
Home 914-887-5288
Member?

Andrea and Chuck Heyn
RD 1 Box 137
Damascus, PA 18415

Business
Home 717-224-4841
Member?

Carolyn and Thomas Hubers
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Callicoon, NY 12723

Business
Home
Member?

Hedy E. Janko
Star Route Box 290
Milanville, PA 18443

Business
Home
Member?

Nancy Januze
P.O.Box 212
Swan Lake, NY 12783

Business
Home
Member?

Kristian Kodet
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Business
Home 717-224-6455
Member?

Upper Delaware UU Fellowship Contd.

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Business
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Member? yes

Deborah Lazarus
P.O.Box 621
Jeffersonville, NY 12748

Business
Home 914-482-3520
Member? yes

Katherine Lazarus
157 Prospect Place
Brooklyn, NY 11238

Business
Home
Member?

Craig Livingston
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Waymart, PA 18472

Business
Home 717-488-5589
Member?

Christina Maloney
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Business
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Member?

Shirley Marshall
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Honesdale, PA 18431

Business 717-253-1080
Home 717-253-0886
Member?

Valerie Mensi
8 West 90th Street #7
New York, NY 10024

Business
Home 212-724-1643
Member?

Eve and Gerry Murphy
RD 3 Box 515
Honesdale, PA 18431

Business
Home 717-253-7887
Member?

James and Rosemary Murtha
RD 3 Box 2653
Honedale, PA 18431

Business
Home 717-253-0768
Member? yes

John Niflot
RD 1 Box 11
Long Eddy, NY 12760

Business
Home 914-887-5200
Member? yes

John and Ruth Olver
Conklin Hill Road
Damascus, PA 18415

Business
Home 717-224-4600
Member?

Karen Pane
RD 1 Box 187B
Callicoon, NY 12723

Business
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Member?

Upper Delaware UU Fellowship Contd.

Mary Parker
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Cochecton Center, NY 12727

Business
Home
Member?

Alix and Tom Perry
P.O.Box 17998
Boulder, CO 80308

Business
Home
Member? yes

Palline Plum
RR2 Box 638E
Narrowsburg, NY 12764

Business
Home 914-252-3242
Member?

Barbara and Ray Pontier
RD 2 Box 626
Narrowsburg, NY 12764

Business
Home 914-252-7553
Member? yes

Sarah Reid
RR 1 Box 156 River Road
Beach Lake, PA 18405

Business
Home 717-729-8720
Member?

Ann and Bud Rue
P.O.Box 47
Milanville, PA 18443

Business
Home 717-729-7197
Member? yes

Bill and Beverly Rue
92 des Violetes
Chateauguay, Quebec Canada J6J-3V1

Business
Home
Member?

John Rue
P.O. Box 47
Milanville, PA 18443

Business
Home
Member?

Tom Rue *Carmen*
P.O.Box 706
Monticello, NY 12701

Business
Home 914-791-7014
Member? yes

Jay Shames
11 Schumacher Pond Road
Barryville, NY 12719

Business
Home 914-557-6269
Member? yes

Helen and Tom Sidwell
1225 NW 21st Street
Stuart, FL 34994

Business
Home
Member? yes

ALSO Eldred, NY 12732
914-557-8688

Peggy Simon
RD 3 Box 1860
Honesdale, PA 18431

Business
Home 717-228-4607
Member?

Upper Delaware UU Fellowship Contd.

Rita Spilken
12 Carrier Street
Liberty, NY 12754

Business
Home
Member?

Beverly Sterner
River Road
Milanville, PA 18443

Business
Home 717-729-7068
Member?

Glenn and Laurie Stuart-Pontier
RD 2 Box 363
Narrowsburg, NY 12764

Business 914-252-7414
Home 914-252-6626
Member? yes

Susan Sullivan
Box 282 River Road
Milanville, NY 18443

Business
Home 717-729-8645
Member?

Christine Swanson
410 Broad Street
Honesdale, PA 18431

Business
Home
Member?

Carrie and Orvis Vanatta
RD 1 Box 55
Narrowsburg, NY 12764

Business
Home 914-252-3558
Member?

Geraldine and Ruth Vernon
Burr Road RR 1 Box 164
Cochecton, NY 12726

Business
Home 914-583-6628
Member?

Harold Waage
P.O.Box 214
Greentown, PA 18426

Business
Home 717-857-1024
Member?

Heather Wood
RD 2 Box 546
Narrowsburg, NY 12764

Business
Home 914-252-3631
Member?

Barbara Yeaman
HCR Box 281
Milanville, PA 18443

Business
Home 717-729-7053
Member?

THE RIVER REPORTER

35¢

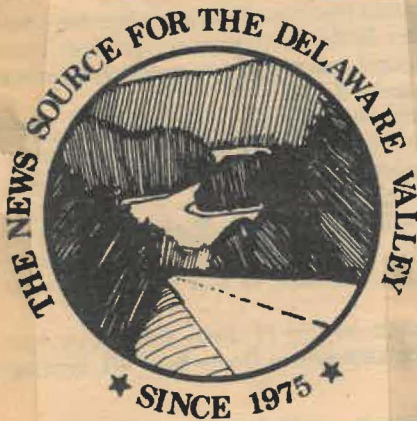
Weekly

*Walking isn't a lost art — one must, by some means,
get to the garage.*

Evan Esar

NARROWSBURG, NEW YORK

JULY 23, 1987



letterslettersletters

To the Editor:

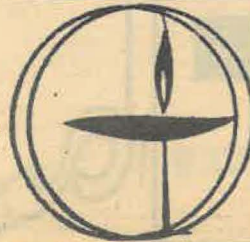
As an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister I am interested in exploring the possibility of organizing a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship or Society here in the area of the Upper Delaware Valley. Anyone who may be interested in a liberal and open approach to religion is invited to attend a meeting at our home on Sunday, July 26th at 7:00 p.m. We are located on Route 97, about 2½ miles north of Fort Delaware.

Unitarian Universalism is solidly rooted in American history. For many years it represented the liberal wing of New England Congregationalism, and in 1825 went its separate way as an independent body. Over the course of the years, Unitarian Universalism has stood for individual freedom of inquiry and belief, the unrestricted use of reason and the scientific method, and an acceptance of diversity regarding differing religious and philosophic views and practices. On the overall, Unitarian Universalism is more concerned with the ethical implications of religion and life than with theological or metaphysical abstractions.

Those attending the July 26th meeting are, of course, under no obligations. The purpose is only for an exploration of interest. For information and/or directions, call 914/252-7553.

Raymond J. Pontier,
Narrowsburg

*Tired of narrow dogmatism?
Interested in liberal religion? If so, attend a meeting
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home of the Rev. Raymond Pontier on Rt. 97, 2½
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7/23/87
Pat A a m
The River
Reporter

THE RIVER REPORTER

35¢

Weekly

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NARROWSBURG, NEW YORK

JULY 23, 1987



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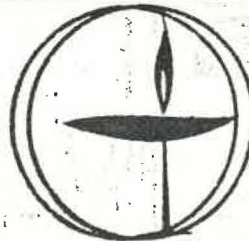
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7/23/87
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Reporter

letterslettersletters

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 ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS
 
UNITARIAN GROUP'S FIRST MEETING

NARROWSBURG — Last Sunday evening, a sizable group of people met at the home of the Rev. Raymond and Barbara Pontier to discuss the possibility of forming a Unitarian Fellowship or Society in the Upper Delaware area. A wide range of interest was indicated, with those at this initial meeting coming from Callicoon, Jeffersonville, Milanville.

Several of those attending had previously belonged to Unitarian Universalist Fellowships in other areas, and expressed the hope that something could be started here. After considerable discussion, it was decided to hold a second meeting at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 2 at the Pontier home, located a little over two miles north of Fort Delaware on Route 97.

Anyone interested in learning about a free and open approach to religion is invited to attend. For more information, call Rev. Pontier at 914/252-7553 or Alix Perry at 914/482-5730.

Unitarian Universalism is an avowedly liberal religious faith which stresses the right of the individual to do his or her own searching for truth. It is a national religious denomination, having roots in New England Congregationalism. In an increasingly authoritarian society, it represents an open and non-dogmatic approach to the issues of life and living.

*Middletown, NY*THE TIMES HERALD **RECORD****22**

Saturday, August 1, 1987

religion

NARROWSBURG — A discussion period and get-acquainted meeting will be held at 11 a.m. for the Unitarian-Universalists in the Upper Delaware Valley. The meeting will be held at the home of the Rev. Raymond J. Pontier on Route 19 north. A July meeting to determine the level of interest in such a fellowship or society drew a small but enthusiastic core. For information, call 252-7553.

Wayne Independent
Aug. 8-9, 1987

Unitarians organize on Upper Delaware

A new Unitarian Universalist group held its first meeting in the Upper Delaware Valley on July 26 at the home of minister Raymond J. Pontier near Narrowsburg, N.Y. With more than 25 people who have expressed interest in organizing more formally, the fledgling congregation has already outgrown its initial meeting quarters.

Hoping to draw from both sides of the Delaware River, the new group tentatively plans to alternate Sundays at the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance gallery on Narrowsburg's Main Street and at the Innisfree Youth Hostel on River Road in Milanville.

Pontier, a part-time Narrowsburg resident, is minister of a fellowship in Wayne, N.J., but has pledged to

meet with the Upper Delaware group once monthly. Sunday services are slated to be conducted by lay members, with speakers from the congregation and general community. Cooperative child-care during meetings is planned.

An avowedly liberal denomination, Unitarianism is outside the mainstream of modern religion, according to Pontier, as it does not subscribe to any formal creed or statement of beliefs. Members claim the freedom to believe and worship as they please, so meeting formats vary widely.

Members present at an August 2 meeting in Narrowsburg stressed their commitment to principles of diversity, tolerance, and dialogue in structure and meeting content. A national organization, the Unitarian Universalist Association, comprises people of all faiths, including Jews, Christians, agnostics, and others.

Unitarian Universalism traces its organizational roots to the 1960 merger of two older bodies. The Universalists, in the 1740s, denounced the idea that a loving God would damn certain children to hell, while affording eternal bliss to a few chosen "elect." America's first Unitarian churches were founded by the discoverer of oxygen, Dr. Joseph Priestley, who immigrated from Great Britain, fleeing religious intolerance.

Modern Unitarianism is described by some of its adherents as "a refuge for rebels, a haven for heretics, and a shelter for skeptics," according to a pamphlet published in Boston. It is an alternative to the authoritarian, paternalistic structure of

Wayne Independent - Honesdale, Pa

traditional organized religion.

Interested residents or visitors in the Upper Delaware region are invited to join the new local group

Sundays at 11 a.m. for fellowship and discussion. For more information on meeting locations, call Pontier at (914) 252-7553.

TRI-STATES GAZETTE - Port Jervis, NY

Unitarian Universalist group forms

Gazette 8/6/87

NARROWSBURG — A new Unitarian Universalist group held its first meeting in the Upper Delaware valley on July 26 at the home of the Rev. Raymond J. Pontier.

With more than 25 people expressing interest in organizing more formally, the fledgling congregation has already outgrown its initial meeting quarters.

The new group tentatively plans to alternate Sundays at the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance gallery on Main Street in Narrowsburg and at the Inisfree Youth Hostel on River Road in Milanville, Pa.

Pontier, a part-time Narrowsburg resident, is minister of a fellowship in Wayne, N.J. but has pledged to meet with the Upper

Delaware group once a month. Sunday services are slated to be conducted by lay members with speakers from the congregation and community. Cooperative child-care during the meeting is planned.

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Interested people may join the new group Sundays at 11 a.m. for fellowship and discussion. For more information on meeting locations, call (914) 252-7553.

Pike County Dispatch - PA

Unitarians to meet

8/6/87 Dispatch

NARROWSBURG — A discussion period and get-acquainted meeting will be held Sunday, August 2, 11 a.m. for Unitarian-Universalists in the Upper Delaware Valley at the home of the Rev. Raymond J. Pontier, Route 97 north of Narrowsburg. Those interested in attending may call 914/252-7553 for more information.

The Rev. Mr. Pontier is an

ordained minister in the Unitarian-Universalist Church and serves a congregation in New Jersey. He has offered his services to those interested in forming a Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship or Society in this area. "Unitarianism-Universalism is concerned with the ethical implications of religion and life," said the Rev. Mr. Pontier.

AUGUST 13, 1987

Pike Co. Dispatch

Unitarians organize on Upper Delaware

NARROWSBURG — A new Unitarian Universalist group held its first meeting in the Upper Delaware valley July 26, at the home of minister Raymond J. Pontier, near Narrowsburg. With more than 25 people who have expressed interest in organizing more formally, the fledgling organization has already outgrown its initial meeting quarters.

Hoping to draw from both sides of the Delaware River, the new group tentatively plans to alternate meetings at the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance gallery on Narrowsburg's Main Street and at the Innisfree Youth Hostel, River Road, Milanville.

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adherents as "a refuge for rebels, a haven for heretics, and a shelter for skeptics", according to a pamphlet published in Boston. It is an alternative to the authoritarian, paternalistic structure of traditional organized religion.

Interested residents or visitors in the Upper Delaware region are invited to join the new local group Sundays at 11 am for fellowship and discussion. For more information on meeting locations, call Pontier at (914) 252-7553.

THE RIVER REPORTER

THE RIVER REPORTER

Narrowsburg, NY

AUGUST 20, 1987 Page 11

ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

UNITARIANS ELECT OFFICERS

MILANVILLE — The newly formed Upper Delaware Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship held its first worship service on August 9th at the Innisfree Recreation Hall in Milanville. Some 24 people were in attendance, as the Rev. Raymond J. Pontier spoke on the subject, "A Unitarian Universalist view of God".

Following the service, a brief business meeting was held with the following people chosen as officers for the balance of 1987: Tom Perry of Jeffersonville, president; Helen Sidwell of Eldred, treasurer; and Tom Rue of Milanville, secretary.

The group is exploring the possibility of alternating Sundays between Milanville and Narrowsburg, in order to encourage attendance by residents and visitors from both sides of the Delaware River, Perry said.

Unitarian beliefs are unstructured and the organization has no formal creed, according to Pontier. The denomination stresses individual freedom, diversity, and dialogue. Services are held at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday. They are open to anyone, regardless of ethnic background or organizational affiliation, and visitors are welcome.

For more information, call Pontier at 914/252-7553, or Innisfree at 717/729-7197.

THE POCONO SHOPPER

P.O. Box 565
742 Main St.,
Honesdale, PA 18431

The Pocono Shopper-Wayne & Pike County Edition, Wed., August 26, 1987

UPPER DELAWARE VALLEY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP now meeting Sundays at 11 am at Innisfree in Milanville, across Skinners Falls bridge. Call (914)252-7553 for information about this liberal religious group.

The Tri-State
Gazette

Thursday, August 20, 1987

Unitarians elect officers

The newly formed Upper Delaware Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship held its first worship service on Aug. 9 at 11 a.m. at Innisfree Recreation Hall in Milanville, near the Skinners Falls Bridge. Twenty-four people attended.

The Rev. Raymond J. Pontier led the service and spoke on the subject "A Unitarian Universalist View of God." Following the service, a brief business meeting was held. The following people agreed to accept leadership responsibilities for the remainder of 1987: Tom Perry of Jeffersonville, president; Helen Sidwell of Eldred, treasurer; Tom Rue of Milanville, secretary.

The group is exploring the possibility of alternating Sundays between Milanville and Narrowsburg in order to encourage attendance by residents and visitors from both sides of the Delaware River.

Unitarian beliefs are unstructured and the organization has no formal creed, according to Pontier. The group stresses individual freedom, diversity, and dialogue. Services are open to anyone, regardless of personal conviction or background.

For more information call Rev. Pontier at (914) 252-6626 or Innisfree at (717) 729-7197.

Pontier
Jeffersonville, NY

ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

**UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP
NOW AT 10:30 A.M.**

MILANVILLE — The Rev. Raymond J. Pontier will speak at the regular service of the Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on July 23 at Innisfree in Milanville. Beginning this Sunday, the service will start promptly at 10:30 a.m. Visitors are welcome.

The subject of the talk is "What Makes For a Meaningful Life?" Although no simplistic or pat answers will be given, the talk will deal with ways to add meaning and purpose to life in this age where so many seek escapism through trivial or self-destructive avenues, Pontier said.

The Rev. Pontier and his wife, Barbara, moved to Narrowsburg at the beginning of July. For the past 14 years he served as minister of the Lakeland Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Wayne, NJ, while she has been a computer teacher for many years in Clifton High School.

Rev. Pontier speaks at the Upper Delaware fellowship once each month, and is available for such ministerial duties as weddings.

The fellowship starts its second year in August. Newly elected officers are: president Deborah Lazarus, vice-president Margaret Bryant, secretary Tom Rue, treasurer Carmen Hernandez, and directors Bud Rue, Jay Shames and Barbara Pontier.

For more information, call 717/729-7197 or 914/252-7553.

NARROWSBURG, NY

THE RIVER REPORTER

Page 4 AUGUST 27, 1987

letterslettersletters

To the Editor:

There are several of us who believe that this region is ripe for a "non-traditional" congregation for worship, discussion, and fellowship. In our opinion, the nearest contemporary religious framework to Unitarian Universalism might be the Society of Friends. And while we understand there is a meeting in Grahamsville, there is no such organization in our area; nor is there a Unitarian fellowship known to us anywhere in the vicinity.

Meeting near the interstate Skinners Falls Bridge, the Upper Delaware Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship recently elected officers to serve for the remainder of 1987. We intend to hold new elections in January. Hopefully, by that time our ranks will have grown considerably. This past Sunday, we had 25 in attendance.

Rev. Raymond J. Pontier, a part-time Narrowsburg resident, is minister of the fellowship in Wayne, New Jersey, but has pledged to meet with our group once per month. Sunday services are presently being slated to be conducted by lay members with speakers from the community and congregation. Cooperative child-care during services is planned.

Modern Unitarian Universalism is described by some of its adherents as "a refuge for rebels, a haven for heretics, and a shelter for skeptics," according to a pamphlet published in Boston. It is an alternative to the authoritarian, paternalism structure of traditional organized religion.

Sunday services take place 11:00 a.m. each week at the Innisfree Recreational Hall in Milanville, Pennsylvania.

Readers of this newspaper who are interested in helping to build this new congregation are invited to call Rev. Pontier at 914/252-7553, or Innisfree at 717/729-7762.

Very truly yours

Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Thomas Perry, Monticello

Helen Sidwell, Eldred

Tom Rue, Milanville

The Times Herald
RECORD

Volume 33 No. 31

Saturday, August 29, 1987

Middletown, N.Y.



DIRECTORY
of Churches & Temples



THE UPPER DELAWARE
UNITARIAN-
UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP
SERVICE

NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA
Meets Sunday Morning
Social Period 10:30 A.M.
Service 11:00 A.M.

At

INNISFREE
in Milanville Pa.

For information call:
914/252-7553 or 717/729-7197

THE POCONO SHOPPER

WAYNE & PIKE COUNTY EDITION
P.O. Box 565, Honesdale, PA 18431 • (717) 253-6488

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1987

UPPER DELAWARE VAL-
LEY UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST FEL-
LOWSHIP now meeting
Sundays at 11 am at Innis-
free in Milanville, across
Skinners Falls bridge. Call
(914)252-7553 for infor-
mation about this liberal
religious group.

ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

UNITARIANS OPEN MEMBERSHIP BOOK

MILANVILLE — A new Unitarian Universalist fellowship will officially take form at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 20 in the Innisfree Recreational Hall on River Road, Milanville. The group of religious liberals, organized by the Rev. Raymond Pontier, has been meeting since the end of July.

A part-time resident of Narrowsburg, Pontier is minister of a fellowship in Wayne, New Jersey, but will meet with the Upper Delaware group once per month. Other Sunday services are conducted by members, with speakers from the community and congregation.

A permanent record book for members to sign will be circulated at Sunday's meeting. One of the requirements for affiliation with the national Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is a congregation of 20 adults who live in the area. Other conditions are that the group incorporate, adopt by-laws, make an annual contribution to UUA, and abide by Unitarian Universalist purposes.

Interested visitors are always welcome. Coffee and refreshments are served. For more information, call Tom Perry at 914/482-5730. If you would be interested in childcare, call Roe Bedford at 914/887-5103.

ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

PEACE ACTIVIST TO SPEAK

MILANVILLE — Retired Presbyterian minister and noted peace activist G. Shubert Frye of Port Jervis will address the Upper Delaware Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 27 in the Innisfree Recreation Hall on River Road in Milanville.

Basing his text on the Biblical parable of the widow's mite, Frye's sermon, "Two copper coins and a lot of money," will concern worldwide poverty, wealth and the roots of hunger.

Frye is former pastor of the Hortonville Presbyterian Church.

Sponsored by an American group called Witness For Peace, Frye visited Nicaragua for two weeks in August, 1985. While there, the group was kidnapped off a boat on the San Juan River by U.S. backed contra rebels and held captive in Costa Rica for 29 hours.

Coffee and refreshments are served at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call 717/729-7762.

ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

TALK ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

MILANVILLE — Martine Kenny, a volunteer from the Women's Resource Center in Honesdale, will address the Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 6. She will speak about her agency's work with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

The fellowship meets each Sunday morning at the Innsfree Recreation Hall on River Road in Milanville. Coffee and pastries are served, and visitors are welcome.

For directions or more information, call 717/729-7762.

Shubert Frye to Address Unitarian Universalists ^{SCD} 9/11/87

MILANVILLE, PA — Shubert Frye, former pastor of the Hortonville Presbyterian Church, and noted peace activist will address the Upper Delaware Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. The sermon will be held at 11 a.m. on Sunday, September 27 at the Innsfree Recreation Hall, on the River Road in Milanville. Frye will be accompanied by his wife Eva. Refreshments are served at 10:30 a.m.

Basing his text on the Biblical parable of the widow's mite, Frye's sermon, "Two copper coins and a lot of

money," will concern world-wide poverty, wealth, and the roots of hunger.

Frye, sponsored by an American group called Witness for Peace, visited Nicaragua for two weeks in August, 1985. During that time he was kidnaped off a boat on the San Juan River, and spent 29 hours in captivity. During his captivity he was taken to a military base in Costa Rica by U.S. backed "Contra" rebel soldiers.

For more information on the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, call (717) 729-7762.

letterslettersletters

To the Editor:

It is a pleasure to witness the emergence of the new fellowship of Unitarian-Universalists that meets weekly at 11:00 a.m. in the Innisfree Rec Hall at Milanville, PA.

It is refreshing that divergent views of humanity and its relationship to God are welcome here. It seems here an honest attempt to understand through reason and the sharing of meaningful experience is to be accepted without the condition of blind faith. This is different, and I for one am thankful for it.

Bud Rue
Milanville

ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

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THE RIVER REPORTER

Page 2 AUGUST 17, 1989

AROUND THE AREA ◇

**'RIGHT TO CHOOSE'
TALK AT INNISFREE**

MILANVILLE — "Celebrating and Protecting a Woman's Right to Choose" is the topic of a talk by the Rev. Raymond Pontier at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 20 at the Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Innisfree in Milanville.

In view of the recent Supreme Court decision regarding abortion, the talk will deal with some aspects of the fanaticism and intolerance of the "right-to-life" movement, along with the fundamental religious and democratic right of the freedom of conscience.

An ordained Unitarian Universalist minister, Rev. Pontier served for eight years as coordinator of the NJ Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, a pro-choice organization which is supported by over 20 Jewish and Protestant national bodies, as well as by Catholics for a Free Choice. He previously served for 30 years as a minister in the Reformed Church in America.

Saturday, August 19, 1989

The Times Herald **RECORD**

religion

MILANVILLE, Pa. — The Rev. Raymond J. Pontier of Narrowsburg will be the speaker at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow at the Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Innisfree. The Rev. Pontier, who for eight years was coordinator of the New Jersey Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, a pro-choice organization, will speak on the topic "Celebrating and Protecting a Woman's Right to Choose." Unitarian Universalism advocates no doctrines or dogma. Visitors are invited to Sunday services. Information: call (915) 252-7553.

THE WAYNE INDEPENDENT

UDUUF to hear Rev. Ray Pontier

On Sunday, Sept. 24 the speaker at the Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will be the Rev. Raymond J. Pontier. The subject for his talk will be "When Symbols Become Idols." The talk comes out of the furor over the flag-burning decision of the United States Supreme Court. It will deal with the all too-frequent tendency to worship and idolize such symbols as the flag, and failing to get to the reality for which the symbol is meant to represent.

The Upper Delaware Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship meets every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. at Innisfree in Milanville. Unitarian Universalism celebrates such principles as the freedom of conscience, the use of reason, and diversity of opinion. Visitors are always welcome.

Unitarian Universalist

A Unitarian Universalist fellowship meets Sundays at 11 a.m., at the Innisfree Youth Hostel, River Road, Milanville. Child care is available. -Consulting minister, Rev. Raymond J. Pontier, phone (914) 252-7553; or call Innisfree at (717) 729-7197.

religion

MILANVILLE, Pa. — The speaker tomorrow at the Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will be the Rev. Raymond J. Pontier, who will talk on "When Symbols Become Idols," based on the flag-burning issue. The talk will begin at 10:30 a.m.

religion

MILANVILLE — The Rev. Raymond J. Pontier will be speaking on the topic "The Wit and Wisdom of Robert Fulghum" tomorrow at the Upper Delaware Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. The public is invited. The Fellowship meets 10:30 a.m. Sundays at Innisfree. For information, call 252-7553.

Rev. Pontier set to speak at UD Fellowship

On Sunday, March 18, the speaker at the Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will be the Rev. Raymond J. Pontier. His subject will be: "The Welcoming Congregation: Unitarian Universalists and Homosexuality."

The Unitarian Universalist Association has been at the forefront of affirming rights of homosexuals in the church and in society, and for the past several years has had an Office of Gay and Lesbian Concerns headquartered in Boston.

The Rev. Pontier will be dealing with some of the issues regarding gays and lesbians in religious groups and society as a whole, and will seek to provide some directions which come out of love and understanding instead of hate and vindictiveness.

The Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship meets in the recreation hall of Innisfree in Milanville, located just across the bridge at Skinner's Falls, off Route 97.

The time for Sunday services is 10:30 a.m. with a coffee-hour preceding and following the service. The Fellowship represent the spirit of liberal religion and extends a warm welcome to all who care to attend.

Saturday, March 17, 1990

The Times Herald **RECORD**

religion

MILANVILLE, Pa. — The Rev. Raymond J. Pontier will speak 10:30 a.m. tomorrow at the Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, which meets in the recreation hall of Innisfree. His topic will be "The Welcoming Congregation: Unitarian Universalists and Homosexuality." A coffee hour will precede and follow the service. For information, call (914) 252-7553.

Gun advocates rally support at Milanville fellowship program

By JIM LEE
Staff Writer

MILANVILLE — A crowd of about 125 people — most of whom oppose gun control — gathered at the Upper Delaware Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, in Milanville, and listened Sunday afternoon as the general manager and editor of *The Wayne Independent* informed them it was time to move from talk to action on gun control.

James A. Kalbaugh, of *The Wayne Independent*, said after the meeting he had expected to present his views to 10 or 15 people, and was surprised when he encountered the crowd. His message, however, remained the same.

"I think both sides, if you will, are wholly without courage on really doing anything," Kalbaugh said in a prepared speech. "We had better figure out what we can do beside engage in colorful mouth battles, or intensive study sessions. We need action."

According to Tom Rue, secretary for the fellowship, the weekly talks usually draw 10 or 15 people. The nucleus of regulars handled the crowd in different ways, but Rue said most thought the program was

informative.

"There was one woman — she had the most negative reaction," Rue said. "She left and went down to the river to pick up cans."

10 minute speech

During the 10 minute speech, Kalbaugh told those present that he grew up with guns. "It was a kind of rite of passage, when at 12, for Christmas, I got a rifle, a .22 Remington Scoremaster with open sights, bolt action, and a clip for six," he said.

Kalbaugh said he hunted through his youth, but that he prefers shooting cans, bottles, or targets. "It's hard for me to pass up a shooting gallery at a carnival," he said.

While in college, Kalbaugh said atrocities committed with guns affected his viewpoint. A 14-year-old boy who shot his entire family; teenagers toting guns in Guatemala; a next-door-neighbor who bought a shotgun and committed suicide; and a number of shootings he covered as a reporter all contributed to his present view on guns.

"Our idea of conquering gun crimes is to up the firepower, or the numbers," Kalbaugh told the audience. "I think that is wrong."

Kalbaugh also addressed the issue of alleged one-sided coverage of gun issues by *The Wayne Independent*. He said Mike Peters cartoons appearing in the newspaper have sparked a greater reaction in Wayne County, than in any other place in the country where the same cartoons have appeared.

Kalbaugh cited an anti-gun Peters cartoon which appeared in the February 17-19 edition of *The Wayne Independent*, and noted that an extensive pro-gun article by Dr. Alan Krug had appeared on the same page. "Most people missed [Krug's] piece on that same page as Peter's work," Kalbaugh said.

Mike Jones, owner of Northeast Firearms and instigator of a boycott against *The Wayne Independent* for "biased" coverage, was among those who listened to Kalbaugh's remarks.

Following the prepared speech by Kalbaugh, Jones and other pro-gun advocates aired their views in a 40-minute dialogue period.

A peaceful showing

Jones said most of the people attending the talk, many carrying hand-written signs bearing slogans to support their point, had heard

Gun advocates

(Continued from page one)

about the meeting through word-of-mouth.

Jones said, "There was no real organization behind it. People just got together and decided they would show up."

He added, "We wanted to show them in a peaceful manner what we think about people who want to take away our guns."

As he has stated in an extensive article on page one of *The Wayne Independent* last Thursday, Jones maintains that more regulation is not necessary. He says there are already enough laws on the books, and that lawmakers cannot enforce those.

"What we are trying to do is educate them," Jones said. "Generally it is good to get the issue out in the open, and I think we got our point across."

Jones said after the meeting that he felt the article which appeared in the paper "made a mockery" of his views on gun control. He stated that Kalbaugh should not have injected his views into the article, even though the boycott is directed at Kalbaugh's newspaper.

He added that he is now in the initial stages of setting up a "town meeting" to help get information to the public. Tentatively scheduled for later this month in White Mills, Jones said he hoped to be able to prompt county commissioners, the media, National Rifle Association representatives, and the state police to attend.

"I would rather have the room filled with anti-gun people," Jones said. "Those of the people we need to educate — to get the facts out to."

Record crowd

Rue, in a telephone conversation following the meeting, said he had never seen so many people at a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship program. "We hold these every week," Rue said, "but this was by far the largest group we ever had."

Rue said the topic of discussion varies weekly, and added upcoming guests include a chiropractor, and a talk by the Rev. Raymond Pontier, minister of the fellowship in Wayne. N.J. Pontier gives monthly talks at the Milanville fellowship, and will be moving to this area when he retires later this year.

Of the regulars in attendance Sunday, Rue said that most were

surprised by the crowd, but few were offended.

He added, "The feeling among the members of the program committee was that it was a positive experience." He said that while the fellowship does not actively seek controversial subjects, "we make a deliberate effort not to shy away from them either."

Rue said there were one or two times during the presentation when things got loud, but overall the crowd stayed reasonable.

Concerning the unexpected number of people present, Rue said, "They were all invited guests. The meeting is open to the public. There was some shouting, and as moderator I tried to keep that to a minimum. They were excited — emotionally wound up. I don't think they quite knew what to expect."

When all was said and done Sunday afternoon, Rue and the fellowship committee retired pleased with the meeting; Mike Jones said he felt the pro-gun contingent had gotten their point across; and the anti-gun contingent had remained silent, as Kalbaugh noted, it has throughout the affair.



SUNDAY SERVICES

AT



**THE UPPER DELAWARE
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP**

EVERY SUNDAY AT 11 A.M.

**SERVICES HELD AT INNISFREE
MILANVILLE, PA.**

(ON PENNSYLVANIA SIDE OF THE BRIDGE AT SKINNER'S FALLS)

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL!



Lakeland Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

231 PARISH DRIVE, WAYNE, NEW JERSEY 07470
THE REV. RAYMOND J. PONTIER (628-9478)

AN INVITATION

- **If you do not presently have a religious affiliation and are not active in any church,
- **If you are turned off by narrowly dogmatic religious views which discourage honest doubt and questioning,
- **If you want an alternative to the rising tide of fundamentalist and conservative religious groups,
- **If you want a religious community that is more concerned with the here than the hereafter and more interested in the issues of living than in theological abstractions,
- **Then we invite you to learn more about Unitarian Universalism in general and the Lakeland UU Fellowship in particular.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religious body, rooted in early American history, and counting such people as Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Susan B. Anthony, and Clara Barton among its members.

"Ours is a free faith, dedicated to the search for truth and the love for humankind;

We believe in knowledge, for there is no help in ignorance;

We believe in reason, for without it a person surrenders to the blind forces of falsehood and prejudice;

We believe in compassion, for revenge and hatred destroy the spirit;

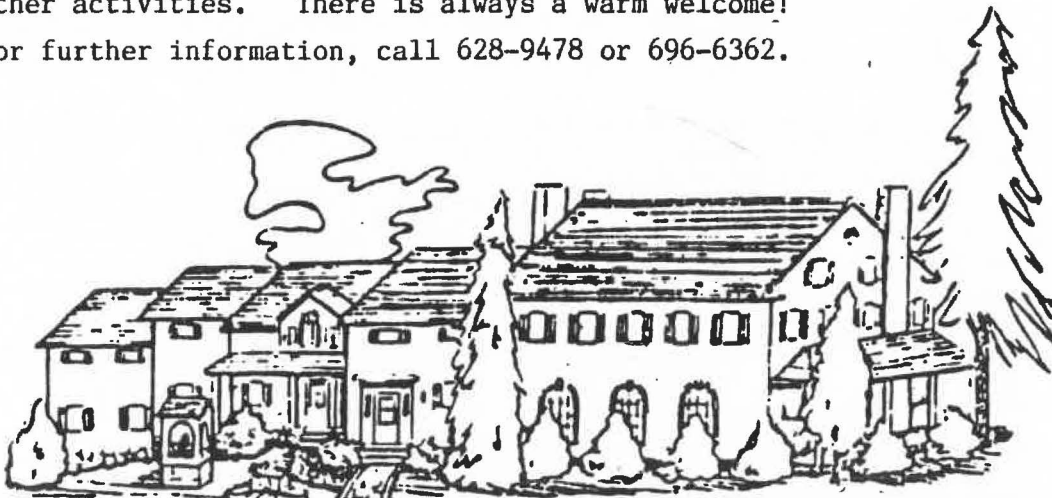
We believe in love, for it is life's most creative power;

We believe in community, for no one can flourish alone."

THE LAKELAND FELLOWSHIP

The Lakeland Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is located at 231 Parish Drive in Wayne, N. J. Sunday Services and Religious Education for children are held each Sunday at 11:00 A. M., along with a wide variety of other activities. There is always a warm welcome!

For further information, call 628-9478 or 696-6362.



231 PARISH DRIVE, WAYNE, NEW JERSEY 07470

and religion: Pelagius, Origen, Socinus, Servetus, Francis David. On this continent we go back to the Massachusetts settlers, to men like John Murray and Hosea Ballou, Joseph Priestley and William Ellery Channing, and to some of the founders of the Republic. During the last century and a half, some of the outstanding Unitarian Universalists have been people like Ralph Waldo Emerson, Theodore Parker, Clara Barton, Susan B. Anthony, John Haynes Holmes, Clarence Skinner, and A. Powell Davies. Less famous, but as important have been the thousands of men and women in our congregations leading unspectacular but vital, dedicated, and useful lives.

DEMOCRATIC

All our Unitarian Universalist congregations are democratic in policy and operation. Authority and responsibility are vested in the membership of the congregation. That membership is open to all without regard to color, race, sex, or national origin.

Each local congregation (usually called a church or fellowship) adopts its own by-laws, elects its own officers and trustees, approves its budget, and transacts other necessary business. Every member is encouraged to take part in church or fellowship activities and to support the group financially and otherwise.

These local congregations are united in the Unitarian Universalist Association to represent their interests on a continental scale. Authority for action on all organizational levels of the Association comes from the member congregations.

Our devotion to democracy is not merely a matter of method, but our profound belief in the way people should relate together. All human beings are worthy of participation in the affairs of human society, and should be encouraged to accept its opportunities and disciplines.

NON-CREEDAL

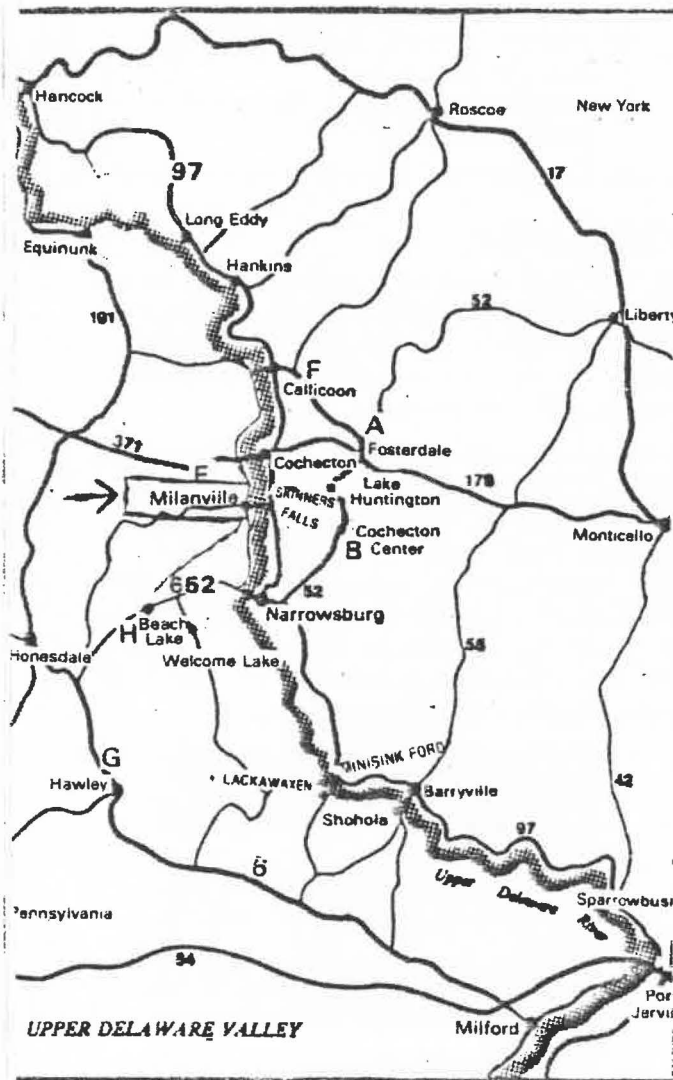
A basic principle of our Unitarian Universalist movement is freedom of belief. We do not require assent to any creed or statement of faith before a person can join us. We hold that all persons have an obligation to seek out truth and to follow that truth wherever it leads.

E A S Y

T O

F I N D

We meet at Innisfree, in Milanville, Pa. -- just over the bridge between New York State and Pennsylvania at Skinners Falls off Route 97 in New York. From Pennsylvania take Route 652 out of Honesdale and watch for signs to Milanville.



The Rev. Raymond J. Pontier
Minister

(914-252-7553)

(201-628-9478)

Upper Delaware Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



MEETING AT INNISFREE IN MILANVILLE, PA

SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY AT 11:00 A. M.

Everyone Welcome!

For Information or Directions, call:

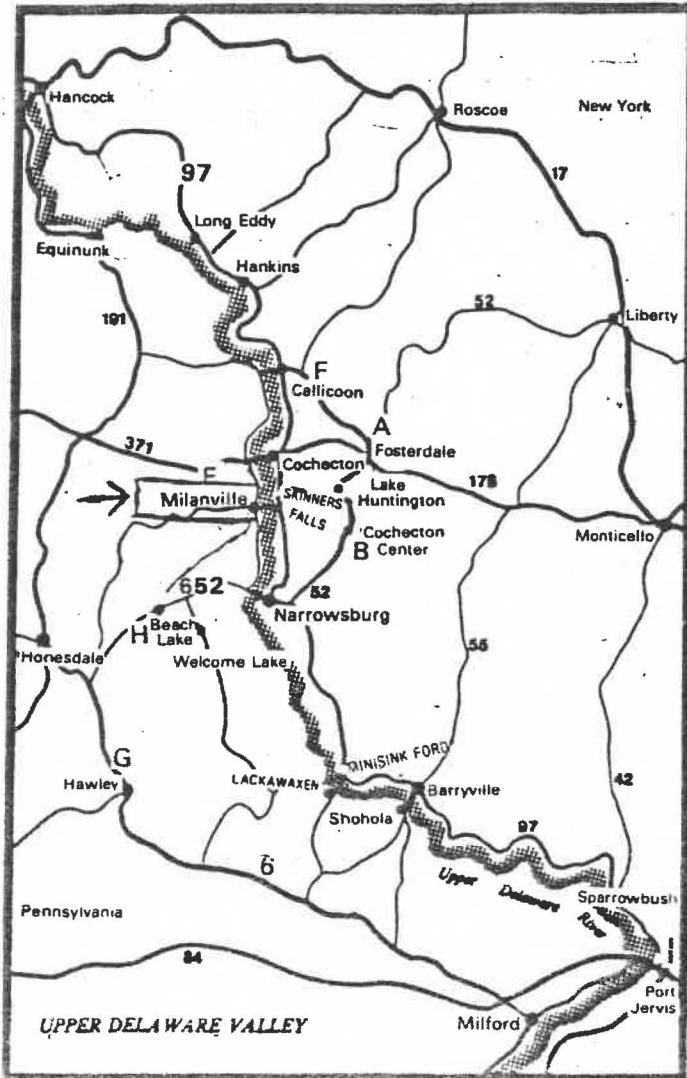
717-729-7197



THE
UPPER
DELAWARE
VALLEY
UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP

A LIBERAL RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY
SERVING THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE

You are invited to attend
our Sunday Service held
each Sunday at 11:00 A.M.
at Innesfree in Milanville,
Pennsylvania.



EASY TO GET TO

From New York
State take Route
97 and cross to
Milanville at
Skinners Falls

From Pennsylvania
take Route 652
out of Honesdale
and watch for
signs to Milan-
ville -- or pick
up Route 97 out
of Narrowsburg.

For directions
or information,
call 717-729-
7197.

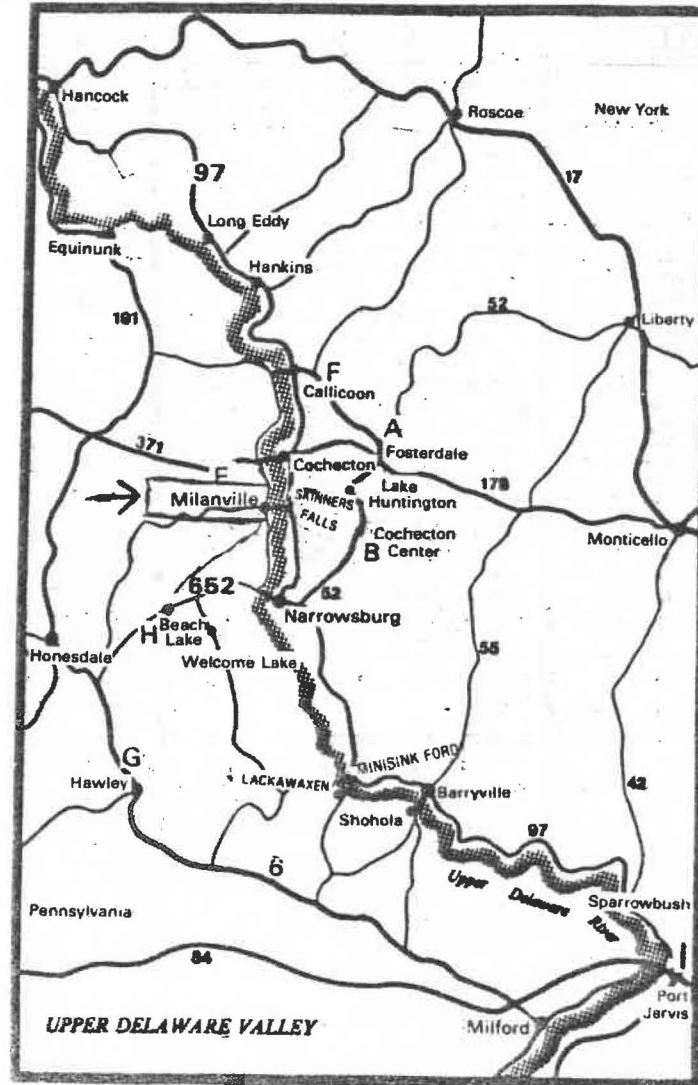
Come any Sunday
for good fellow-
ship, stimulat-
ing programs, and
provocative dis-
cussion.

WE CELEBRATE:
Freedom
Reason
Diversity

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T H E U P P E R D E L A W A R E V A L L E Y

U N I T A R I A N U N I V E R S A L I S T F E L L O W S H I P

EVERYONE IS INVITED AND WELCOME TO ATTEND
SUNDAY SERVICES OF THIS LIBERAL RELIGIOUS
GROUP

J O I N U S T H I S
S U N D A Y M O R N -
I N G A T 1 1 ' A . M .

T H E P L A C E - At Innisfree in Milansville, Pa.

Easy to get to! Cross the bridge at
Skinner's Falls -- take Skinner's
Falls road off of Route 97.

T H E S P E A K E R - The Rev. Raymond J. Pontier



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM IS A LIBERAL RELIGIOUS BODY,
ROOTED IN EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY AND DEDICATED TO AN OPEN
AND FREE SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND AUTHENTICITY. IT IS MORE IN-
TERESTED IN THE ISSUES OF LIVING THAN IN THEOLOGICAL ABSTRACT-
IONS.

IF YOU ARE TURNED OFF BY NARROWLY DOGMATIC RELIGIOUS VIEWS, IF YOU WANT THE FREEDOM TO
RAISE QUESTIONS AND AIR YOUR DOUBTS, THEN YOU MAY FIND THAT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM IS
WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR.

FOR INFORMATION: call 914-252-7553 (The Rev. Raymond Pontier)
or 717-729-7197 (Innisfree)

Unitarian Universalist Association Principles and Purposes

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The rights of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

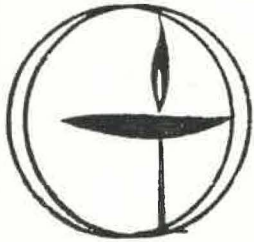
The living tradition we share draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

(The above was adopted by the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association in 1985)

AN INVITATION TO
THE UPPER DELAWARE VALLEY
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM is a liberal faith, rooted in early American history, dedicated to an open and free search for truth, and more concerned about the issues of living than in theological abstractions.

THE UPPER DELAWARE VALLEY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP seeks to fill a religious vacuum in this area. If you are turned off by narrow dogmatic religious views, if you want the freedom to ask questions and air your doubts, then look us up!

WE INVITE YOU TO ATTEND OUR SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE EACH WEEK AT 11:00 A. M.

THE PLACE: at Innisfree in Milanville, Pa. --- just across the bridge at Skinner's Falls.

EVERYONE WELCOME! Come and meet people who share your views.

FOR INFORMATION call the Rev. Raymond Pontier at 914-252-7553 or Innisfree at 717-729-7197

Unitarian Universalism has deep and old roots in America, but it is new to this area. As we become involved in the process of beginning and organizing, we invite and need your participation. Join with us in the adventure and excitement of forming this vital group here along the Delaware.

Third
Anniversary Brunch
August 12, 1990
(1987 - 1990)



THE
SETTLERS INN

Four Main Avenue, Hawley, PA

717-226-2993



August 12, 1990
3rd Anniversary Brunch
Settlers Inn,
Hawley, PA.

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TRR Photo by Barbara Yeaman

Unitarians established in Milanville

By BARBARA YEAMAN

MILANVILLE — Members of the Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship met November 18th to welcome a visitor from West Chester, PA. Don Stevenson, president of the Joseph Priestley District of the UU Association, traveled to Milanville to formally welcome the Milanville Fellowship into the national denomination.

After the Sunday service, officers of the Milanville fellowship accepted a certificate of affiliation and a small chalice from Stevenson. Pictured (from left) at Innisfree are: past president Deborah Lazarus, Joseph Priestley district president Don Stevenson, president Tom Rue, treasurer Carmen Rue, minister Raymond Pontier, and vice-president Ann Rue.

The fellowship was first organized in 1987 as a liberal religious community. In the past three years the fledgling group has grown and formalized its goals. Members share a

religious faith which celebrates individual freedom and reason in the search for truth and meaning.

This summer the group adopted its own formal statement of purpose. One of the seven principles states: "To work for the vision of a better world by standing for the cause of social justice and human rights, support efforts for world peace, and seek to protect the earth's environment through our respect for the interdependent web of all living things."

Members benefit from the services of part-time minister Raymond Pontier, who speaks once a month. On other weeks members volunteer to talk or invite a visiting speaker on programs which cover a wide range of social and religious interests.

The Upper Delaware fellowship meets at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday morning in the recreation hall at Innisfree, an inn and country retreat in Milanville. Visitors are always welcome. For more information call 717/729-7197.

THE UPPER DELAWARE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

INNISFREE -- MILANVILLE, PA

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

NOVEMBER 18, 1990

THE OPENING WORDS

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

A RESPONSIVE READING -- Purposes and Principles
(Opposite page)

THE CANDLELIGHTING

THE OFFERING -- We do not pass an offering plate or basket, but members and friends are invited to place their offerings in the tambourine. Your gifts go for the support of the Fellowship.

A READING

THE TALK: "How Do Unitarian Universalists Make Ethical Decisions?"

The Rev. Ray Pontier

DIALOGUE

CLOSING WORDS

* * * * *

Immediately following our service there will be a brief business meeting, led by our President, Tom Rue.

Following the business meeting, everyone is invited to stay for a pot-luck lunch

It is official! We are now full-fledged members of the Unitarian Universalist Association and part of the Joseph Priestley District. Here to welcome us is Donald Stevenson, President of the Joseph Priestley District. It is a pleasure to have him with us.

Guest At Your Table boxes are available. Please share in the work of the UU Service Committee! Boxes are to be returned the Sunday before Christmas.

PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote

THE INHERENT WORTH AND DIGNITY OF EVERY PERSON;

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

ACCEPTANCE OF ONE ANOTHER AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN OUR CONGREGATIONS;

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

THE RIGHT OF CONSCIENCE AND THE USE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WITHIN OUR CONGREGATIONS AND IN SOCIETY AT LARGE;

The goal of world peace with liberty and justice for all;

RESPECT FOR THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB OF ALL EXISTENCE OF WHICH WE ARE A PART;

The living tradition we share draws from many sources;

DIRECT EXPERIENCE OF THAT TRANSCENDING MYSTERY AND WONDER AFFIRMED IN ALL CULTURES, WHICH MOVES US TO A RENEWAL OF THE SPIRIT AND AN OPENNESS TO THE FORCES WHICH CREATE AND UPHOLD LIFE;

Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;

WISDOM FROM THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS WHICH INSPIRES US IN OUR ETHICAL AND SPIRITUAL LIFE;

Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;

HUMANIST TEACHINGS WHICH COUNSEL US TO HEED THE GUIDANCE OF REASON AND THE RESULTS OF SCIENCE, AND WARN US AGAINST IDOLATRIES OF THE MIND AND SPIRIT;

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

* * * * *

Coming to our Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday at 1:00 PM? Please sign up!!

THE RIVER REPORTER

35¢

Weekly

*Walking isn't a lost art — one must, by some means,
get to the garage.*

Evan Esar

NARROWSBURG, NEW YORK

JULY 23, 1987



letterslettersletters

To the Editor:

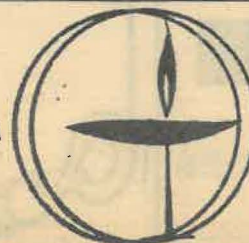
As an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister I am interested in exploring the possibility of organizing a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship or Society here in the area of the Upper Delaware Valley. Anyone who may be interested in a liberal and open approach to religion is invited to attend a meeting at our home on Sunday, July 26th at 7:00 p.m. We are located on Route 97, about 2½ miles north of Fort Delaware.

Unitarian Universalism is solidly rooted in American history. For many years it represented the liberal wing of New England Congregationalism, and in 1825 went its separate way as an independent body. Over the course of the years, Unitarian Universalism has stood for individual freedom of inquiry and belief, the unrestricted use of reason and the scientific method, and an acceptance of diversity regarding differing religious and philosophic views and practices. On the overall, Unitarian Universalism is more concerned with the ethical implications of religion and life than with theological or metaphysical abstractions.

Those attending the July 26th meeting are, of course, under no obligations. The purpose is only for an exploration of interest. For information and/or directions, call 914/252-7553.

Raymond J. Pontier,
Narrowsburg

*Tired of narrow dogmatism?
Interested in liberal religion? If so, attend a meeting
on Sunday, July 26th at 7 P.M. to discuss starting a
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in this area. At
home of the Rev. Raymond Pontier on Rt. 97, 2½
miles from Fort Delaware. Call 252-7553 for
information.*



*Pat Acl 17
The River Reporter
7/23/87*

Wayne Independent
Aug. 8-9, 1987

Unitarians organize on Upper Delaware

A new Unitarian Universalist group held its first meeting in the Upper Delaware Valley on July 26 at the home of minister Raymond J. Pontier near Narrowsburg, N.Y. With more than 25 people who have expressed interest in organizing more formally, the fledgling congregation has already outgrown its initial meeting quarters.

Hoping to draw from both sides of the Delaware River, the new group tentatively plans to alternate Sundays at the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance gallery on Narrowsburg's Main Street and at the Innisfree Youth Hostel on River Road in Milanville.

Pontier, a part-time Narrowsburg resident, is minister of a fellowship in Wayne, N.J., but has pledged to

meet with the Upper Delaware group once monthly. Sunday services are slated to be conducted by lay members, with speakers from the congregation and general community. Cooperative child-care during meetings is planned.

An avowedly liberal denomination, Unitarianism is outside the mainstream of modern religion, according to Pontier, as it does not subscribe to any formal creed or statement of beliefs. Members claim the freedom to believe and worship as they please, so meeting formats vary widely.

Members present at an August 2 meeting in Narrowsburg stressed their commitment to principles of diversity, tolerance, and dialogue in structure and meeting content. A national organization, the Unitarian Universalist Association, comprises people of all faiths, including Jews, Christians, agnostics, and others.

Unitarian Universalism traces its organizational roots to the 1960 merger of two older bodies. The Universalists, in the 1740s, denounced the idea that a loving God would damn certain children to hell, while affording eternal bliss to a few chosen "elect." America's first Unitarian churches were founded by the discoverer of oxygen, Dr. Joseph Priestley, who immigrated from Great Britain, fleeing religious intolerance.

Modern Unitarianism is described by some of its adherents as "a refuge for rebels, a haven for heretics, and a shelter for skeptics," according to a pamphlet published in Boston. It is an alternative to the authoritarian, paternalistic structure of

Wayne Independent - Honesdale, Pa

traditional organized religion. Interested residents or visitors in the Upper Delaware region are invited to join the new local group

Sundays at 11 a.m. for fellowship and discussion. For more information on meeting locations, call Pontier at (914) 252-7553.

TRI-STATES GAZETTE - Port Jervis, NY

Unitarian Universalist group forms

Gazette 8/6/87

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Unitarian Universalism traces its organizational roots to the 1960 merger of two older bodies. The Universalists, in the 1740s denounce the idea that a loving God would damn certain children to hell, while affording eternal bliss to a few chosen elect. And America's first Unitarian churches were founded by the discoverer of oxygen, Dr. Joseph Priestly, who immigrated from Great Britain fleeing religious intolerance.

Interested people may join the new group Sundays at 11 a.m. for fellowship and discussion. For more information on meeting locations, call (914) 252-7553.

Pike County Dispatch - PA

Unitarians to meet 8/6/87 Dispatch

NARROWSBURG — A discussion period and get-acquainted meeting will be held Sunday, August 2, 11 a.m. for Unitarian-Universalists in the Upper Delaware Valley at the home of the Rev. Raymond J. Pontier, Route 97 north of Narrowsburg. Those interested in attending may call 914/252-7553 for more information.

The Rev. Mr. Pontier is an ordained minister in the Unitarian-Universalist Church and serves a congregation in New Jersey. He has offered his services to those interested in forming a Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship or Society in this area. "Unitarianism-Universalism is concerned with the ethical implications of religion and life," said the Rev. Mr. Pontier.

AUGUST 13, 1987

Pike Co. Dispatch

Unitarians organize on Upper Delaware

NARROWSBURG — A new Unitarian Universalist group held its first meeting in the Upper Delaware valley July 26, at the home of minister Raymond J. Pontier, near Narrowsburg. With more than 25 people who have expressed interest in organizing more formally, the fledgling organization has already outgrown its initial meeting quarters.

Hoping to draw from both sides of the Delaware River, the new group tentatively plans to alternate meetings at the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance gallery on Narrowsburg's Main Street and at the Innisfree Youth Hostel, River Road, Milanville.

Pontier, a part-time Narrowsburg resident, is minister of a fellowship in Wayne, NJ but has pledged to meet with the Upper Delaware group once monthly. Sunday services are slated to be conducted by lay members, with speakers from the congregation and general community. Cooperative child-care during meetings is planned.

An avowedly liberal denomination, Unitarianism is outside the mainstream of modern religion, according to Pontier, as it does not subscribe to any formal creed

or statement of beliefs. Members claim the freedom to believe the worship as they please, so meeting formats vary widely.

Members present at an Aug. 2 meeting in Narrowsburg stressed their commitment to principles of diversity, tolerance, and dialogue in structure and meeting content. A national organization, the Unitarian Universalist Association, is comprised of people of all faiths, including Jews, Christians, agnostics and others.

Unitarian Universalism traces its organizational roots to the 1960 merger of two older bodies. The Universalists, in the 1740's, denounced the idea that a loving God would damn certain children to hell while affording eternal bliss to a few chosen "elect". America's first Unitarian churches were founded by the discoverer of oxygen, Dr. Joseph Priestley, who immigrated from Great Britain fleeing religious intolerance.

Modern Unitarianism is described by some of its

adherents as "a refuge for rebels, a haven for heretics, and a shelter for skeptics", according to a pamphlet published in Boston. It is an alternative to the authoritarian, paternalistic structure of traditional organized religion.

Interested residents or visitors in the Upper Delaware region are invited to join the new local group Sundays at 11 am for fellowship and discussion. For more information on meeting locations, call Pontier at (914) 252-7553.

NARROWSBURG, NY

THE RIVER REPORTER

Page 4 AUGUST 27, 1987

letterslettersletters

To the Editor:

There are several of us who believe that this region is ripe for a "non-traditional" congregation for worship, discussion, and fellowship. In our opinion, the nearest contemporary religious framework to Unitarian Universalism might be the Society of Friends. And while we understand there is a meeting in Grahamsville, there is no such organization in our area; nor is there a Unitarian fellowship known to us anywhere in the vicinity.

Meeting near the interstate Skinners Falls Bridge, the Upper Delaware Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship recently elected officers to serve for the remainder of 1987. We intend to hold new elections in January. Hopefully, by that time our ranks will have grown considerably. This past Sunday, we had 25 in attendance.

Rev. Raymond J. Pontier, a part-time Narrowsburg resident, is minister of the fellowship in Wayne, New Jersey, but has pledged to meet with our group once per month. Sunday services are presently being slated to be conducted by lay members with speakers from the community and congregation. Cooperative child-care during services is planned.

Modern Unitarian Universalism is described by some of its adherents as "a refuge for rebels, a haven for heretics, and a shelter for skeptics," according to a pamphlet published in Boston. It is an alternative to the authoritarian, paternalism structure of traditional organized religion.

Sunday services take place 11:00 a.m. each week at the Innisfree Recreational Hall in Milanville, Pennsylvania.

Readers of this newspaper who are interested in helping to build this new congregation are invited to call Rev. Pontier at 914/252-7553, or Innisfree at 717/729-7762.

Very truly yours
Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Thomas Perry, Monticello
Helen Sidwell, Eldred
Tom Rue, Milanville

The Times Herald

RECORD

Middletown, N.Y.

Volume 33 No. 31

Saturday, August 29, 1987



DIRECTORY
of Churches & Temples



THE UPPER DELAWARE
UNITARIAN-
UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP
SERVICE

NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA

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Service 11:00 A.M.

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For information call:

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Gun advocates rally support at Milanville fellowship program

By JIM LEE
Staff Writer

MILANVILLE — A crowd of about 125 people — most of whom oppose gun control — gathered at the Upper Delaware Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, in Milanville, and listened Sunday afternoon as the general manager and editor of *The Wayne Independent* informed them it was time to move from talk to action on gun control.

James A. Kalbaugh, of *The Wayne Independent*, said after the meeting he had expected to present his views to 10 or 15 people, and was surprised when he encountered the crowd. His message, however, remained the same.

"I think both sides, if you will, are wholly without courage on really doing anything," Kalbaugh said in a prepared speech. "We had better figure out what we can do beside engage in colorful mouth battles, or intensive study sessions. We need action."

According to Tom Rue, secretary for the fellowship, the weekly talks usually draw 10 or 15 people. The nucleus of regulars handled the crowd in different ways, but Rue said most thought the program was

informative.

"There was one woman — she had the most negative reaction," Rue said. "She left and went down to the river to pick up cans."

10 minute speech

During the 10 minute speech, Kalbaugh told those present that he grew up with guns. "It was a kind of rite of passage, when at 12, for Christmas, I got a rifle, a .22 Remington Scoremaster with open sights, bolt action, and a clip for six," he said.

Kalbaugh said he hunted through his youth, but that he prefers shooting cans, bottles, or targets. "It's hard for me to pass up a shooting gallery at a carnival," he said.

While in college, Kalbaugh said atrocities committed with guns affected his viewpoint. A 14-year-old boy who shot his entire family; teenagers toting guns in Guatemala; a next-door-neighbor who bought a shotgun and committed suicide; and a number of shootings he covered as a reporter all contributed to his present view on guns.

"Our idea of conquering gun crimes is to up the firepower, or the numbers," Kalbaugh told the audience. "I think that is wrong."

Kalbaugh also addressed the issue of alleged one-sided coverage of gun issues by *The Wayne Independent*. He said Mike Peters cartoons appearing in the newspaper have sparked a greater reaction in Wayne County, than in any other place in the country where the same cartoons have appeared.

Kalbaugh cited an anti-gun Peters cartoon which appeared in the February 17-19 edition of *The Wayne Independent*, and noted that an extensive pro-gun article by Dr. Alan Krug had appeared on the same page. "Most people missed [Krug's] piece on that same page as Peter's work," Kalbaugh said.

Mike Jones, owner of Northeast Firearms and instigator of a boycott against *The Wayne Independent* for "biased" coverage, was among those who listened to Kalbaugh's remarks.

Following the prepared speech by Kalbaugh, Jones and other pro-gun advocates aired their views in a 40-minute dialogue period.

A peaceful showing

Jones said most of the people attending the talk, many carrying hand-written signs bearing slogans to support their point, had heard

Gun advocates

(Continued from page one)

about the meeting through word-of-mouth.

Jones said, "There was no real organization behind it. People just got together and decided they would show up."

He added, "We wanted to show them in a peaceful manner what we think about people who want to take away our guns."

As he has stated in an extensive article on page one of *The Wayne Independent* last Thursday, Jones maintains that more regulation is not necessary. He says there are already enough laws on the books, and that lawmakers cannot enforce those.

"What we are trying to do is educate them," Jones said. "Generally it is good to get the issue out in the open, and I think we got our point across."

Jones said after the meeting that he felt the article which appeared in the paper "made a mockery" of his views on gun control. He stated that Kalbaugh should not have injected his views into the article, even though the boycott is directed at Kalbaugh's newspaper.

He added that he is now in the initial stages of setting up a "town meeting" to help get information to the public. Tentatively scheduled for later this month in White Mills, Jones said he hoped to be able to prompt county commissioners, the media, National Rifle Association representatives, and the state police to attend.

"I would rather have the room filled with anti-gun people," Jones said. "Those of the people we need to educate — to get the facts out to."

Record crowd

Rue, in a telephone conversation following the meeting, said he had never seen so many people at a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship program. "We hold these every week," Rue said, "but this was by far the largest group we ever had."

Rue said the topic of discussion varies weekly, and added upcoming guests include a chiropractor, and a talk by the Rev. Raymond Pontier, minister of the fellowship in Wayne. N.J. Pontier gives monthly talks at the Milanville fellowship, and will be moving to this area when he retires later this year.

Of the regulars in attendance Sunday, Rue said that most were

surprised by the crowd, but few were offended.

He added, "The feeling among the members of the program committee was that it was a positive experience." He said that while the fellowship does not actively seek controversial subjects, "we make a deliberate effort not to shy away from them either."

Rue said there were one or two times during the presentation when things got loud, but overall the crowd stayed reasonable.

Concerning the unexpected number of people present, Rue said, "They were all invited guests. The meeting is open to the public. There was some shouting, and as moderator I tried to keep that to a minimum. They were excited — emotionally wound up. I don't think they quite knew what to expect."

When all was said and done Sunday afternoon, Rue and the fellowship committee retired pleased with the meeting; Mike Jones said he felt the pro-gun contingent had gotten their point across; and the anti-gun contingent had remained silent, as Kalbaugh noted, it has throughout the affair.



Pictured, the Reverend Sidney Peterman of Wilmington, Delaware, district consultant for the Unitarian Universalist Association, presents Upper Delaware UU Fellowship president Thomas Rue, a symbolic check in anticipation of a \$4,500 grant from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism. To Rue's left is fellowship treasurer

Carmen Hernandez Rue. Also pictured (left to right) are: Ann Rue, David Koepke, Jill Koepke, Bud Rue, consulting minister Reverend Raymond J. Pontier (center), Jesse Ballew, Marjeana Howard, Colette Cohen Ballew, and Barbara E. Pontier.

Photo by Barbara Yeaman

River School receives grant

MILANVILLE — The River School, a parent-run Montessori elementary school sponsored by the Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, received a boost recently — in a promise of \$4,500 from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism, an arm of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA). Both the fellowship and The River School make their home at the former Innisfree Youth Hostel in Milanville.

According to UUA funding program administrator Katherine Kelly, the proposal on behalf of The River School was one of 31 received. Over \$368,000 was requested. In the end, the panel funded 15 projects for a total of \$104,550, Kelly stated.

The grant was earmarked for renovations to the school building which is housed at the former Milanville hostel, said local UU fellowship president Thomas Rue of Monticello. Modifications to the Innisfree dormitory building have been made by River School parents, to create a large open-space area for multi-age classes. Further structural renovations are planned for next year, under the direction of construction committee chairperson and River School parent Zeke Boyle of Callicoon.

This grant represents the largest single donation to The River School from any one source to date, although school representatives express hope this first grant will prime the pump for additional corporate and foundation support. The school opened its doors this past September. Classes range from age 6 to 9 and from 9 to age 12. With an enrollment of

15, organizers say they believe that figure will double by next year.

While The River School's curriculum does not and will not include formal religious education, school parents recently signed Articles of Agreement with the fellowship pledging to educate students in accordance with the local fellowship's Statement of purpose. That statement includes a commitment to the creation of a caring, open environment for learning and spiritual search, as well as the all-important freedom to share convictions and doubts. The Upper Delaware UU Fellowship and The River School are also united in their intent to: "...work for the vision of a better world by standing for the cause of social justice and human rights, support efforts for world peace, and seek to protect the earth's environment through our respect for the interdependent web of all living things."

Unitarian Universalism is a non-sectarian denomination which welcomes people of all faiths, including Christians, Jews, pagans, Buddhists, agnostics and others. The grant from UUA was made based on the promise that The River School will operate exclusively on non-sectarian and non-discriminatory principles.

The Upper Delaware fellowship meets Sundays at 11:00 a.m. in Milanville. The Reverend Raymond J. Pontier of Narrowsburg speaks once per month, with a variety of programs scheduled on remaining Sundays. For more information or directions, call 914/252-7553 or 717/729-7197.



TRR Photo by Barbara Yeaman

Unitarians established in Milanville

By BARBARA YEAMAN

MILANVILLE — Members of the Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship met November 18th to welcome a visitor from West Chester, PA. Don Stevenson, president of the Joseph Priestley District of the UU Association, traveled to Milanville to formally welcome the Milanville Fellowship into the national denomination.

After the Sunday service, officers of the Milanville fellowship accepted a certificate of affiliation and a small chalice from Stevenson. Pictured (from left) at Innisfree are: past president Deborah Lazarus, Joseph Priestley district president Don Stevenson, president Tom Rue, treasurer Carmen Rue, minister Raymond Pontier, and vice-president Ann Rue.

The fellowship was first organized in 1987 as a liberal religious community. In the past three years the fledgling group has grown and formalized its goals. Members share a

religious faith which celebrates individual freedom and reason in the search for truth and meaning.

This summer the group adopted its own formal statement of purpose. One of the seven principles states: "To work for the vision of a better world by standing for the cause of social justice and human rights, support efforts for world peace, and seek to protect the earth's environment through our respect for the interdependent web of all living things."

Members benefit from the services of part-time minister Raymond Pontier, who speaks once a month. On other weeks members volunteer to talk or invite a visiting speaker on programs which cover a wide range of social and religious interests.

The Upper Delaware fellowship meets at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday morning in the recreation hall at Innisfree, an inn and country retreat in Milanville. Visitors are always welcome. For more information call 717/729-7197.



A Celebration of the Life of

C L Y D E B . R U E

+++++
October 30, 1993, 2:00 P.M. Milanville, Pennsylvania
+++++

Harp prelude

Chalice lighting - Ann Rue

Presentation of flowers - Grandchildren

Opening hymn - "We Are a Gentle, Angry People" (No. 170)

Minister's readings and remarks - Rev. Raymond Pontier,
Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship,
which meets each Sunday, 11:00 A.M., at Innisfree.

Reflections and readings by selected family and friends

Minister's closing words

Closing hymn - "Down By the Riverside" (No. 162)

Harp postlude

* * *

Please join with us at Innisfree for refreshments and
fellowship after the service.

The Rue family expresses heartfelt thanks to all who
participated in and assisted with this celebration.

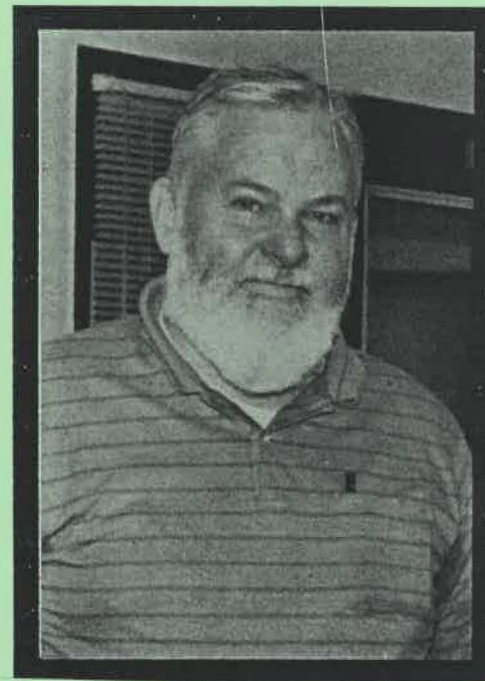
Musical accompaniment, guitarist Laurie Stuart.
Prelude and postlue, harpists Carl and Shannon Robbins.
Cover photo courtesy Hawley News Eagle, 11/25/89.

Special thanks to the Milanville Methodist Church for
the use of its sanctuary during this memorial service,
to the Rev. Mr. Pontier, and Rasmussen Funeral Home.

tsr



A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF CLYDE B. RUE



1934 - 1993

A FULL AND LOVING LIFE

Clyde B. ("Bud") Rue was the second of four sons born to the union of Arthur H. and Opal B. Rue. "I was born in Detroit, Michigan on August 2, 1934 in the heart of the depression to a family of lower class socio-economic status. My father was deaf since early manhood," Bud recalled in a statement written in 1967.

Growing up in what was then a rural area on the outskirts of Detroit, Bud took an early interest in nature and Scouting and reached the rank of Eagle. In his teens, Bud was waterfront director at a small summer camp operated by Fort Street Presbyterian Church, and was the camp's business manager. "The five summers I spent at Clear Lake Camp will always represent something special to me. I believe it was this experience which most affected my decision to devote my life to education," he reflected.

Working midnights on an automobile assembly line, Bud saved enough to enroll at Michigan State University where he majored in education. He received scholarships from the university and local PTA, and worked at various jobs throughout college. At an MSU dance, Bud met Ann Woldin, who was two years his junior and also studying to be a teacher. Bud served in the Navy's submarine service, as an electrician on the USS Trout, from November 1954 to September 1958, while continuing to write to and date Ann. They married in September 1956 in Ann's home-town of Bound Brook, New Jersey.

"Our first child, a son, Tom, was born in October 1958," Bud wrote. "I had been discharged early from the Navy to return to school. My wife stayed with her parents until the baby arrived. My new family joined me at MSU soon afterward. We spent the next two unusual years in a 30-foot mobile home... The arrival of our second son, David, in January 1960 made the situation a bit more difficult. However, I graduated soon after that, in December 1960, and we went East to accept my first teaching position."

Bud's career took him to several school districts, mostly in New Jersey. He taught mathematics, reading, and a few other subjects, but primarily secondary math. Even after completing a masters degree in educational administration at Rutgers University, throughout his career Bud advanced his professional training.

In December 1964, John was born while the family lived in Manville, New Jersey. This was followed by a move to Piscataway and the birth of a girl, Ella Marie, in April 1965.

Another move, in August 1969, found the Rues in Montclair. Out of discussions at Montclair High School between Bud and a few close colleagues and friends, Innisfree was conceived. Their goal was to create a utopian educational and living environment in which adolescents would be free to learn and self-actualize at their own pace and in their own style. This led to the purchase of a former summer boarding-house in Milanville, in February 1970. The original Innisfree program operated only two summers, but radically affected the lives of many of its participants. Many other programs have taken place there since then.

In September 1972, for financial reasons, the family relocated to Princeton, New Jersey; and later to nearby Lawrenceville. But they continued to visit Innisfree whenever possible. Finally, in 1988, Bud retired from professional employment.

He and Ann returned to Innisfree, expressing intent to devote their free time in volunteer efforts benefiting the local community. They traveled Europe and North America together, enjoying each others' company.

During the closing years of his life, Bud helped form several organizations dedicated to social justice and human services, and volunteered time to others. On October 24, 1993, during a charity walk-a-thon which he helped to organize, Bud's seemingly boundless energy found its limit.

He will be deeply missed by his family, friends and all who loved him.

*Contributions in memory of Bud Rue may be made, in lieu of flowers, to the **Social Justice Fund of the Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Milanville, Pennsylvania 18443-0123.** The fellowship will divide all such donations equally among the four local charities benefited by the event in which Bud lost his life. These include: (1) Habitat for Humanity of Wayne County, (2) the Wayne County Victim's Intervention Program, (3) Interfaith Outreach United of Callicoon, and (4) the U.U. United Nations Office.*

Walkathon organizer dies helping forgotten people

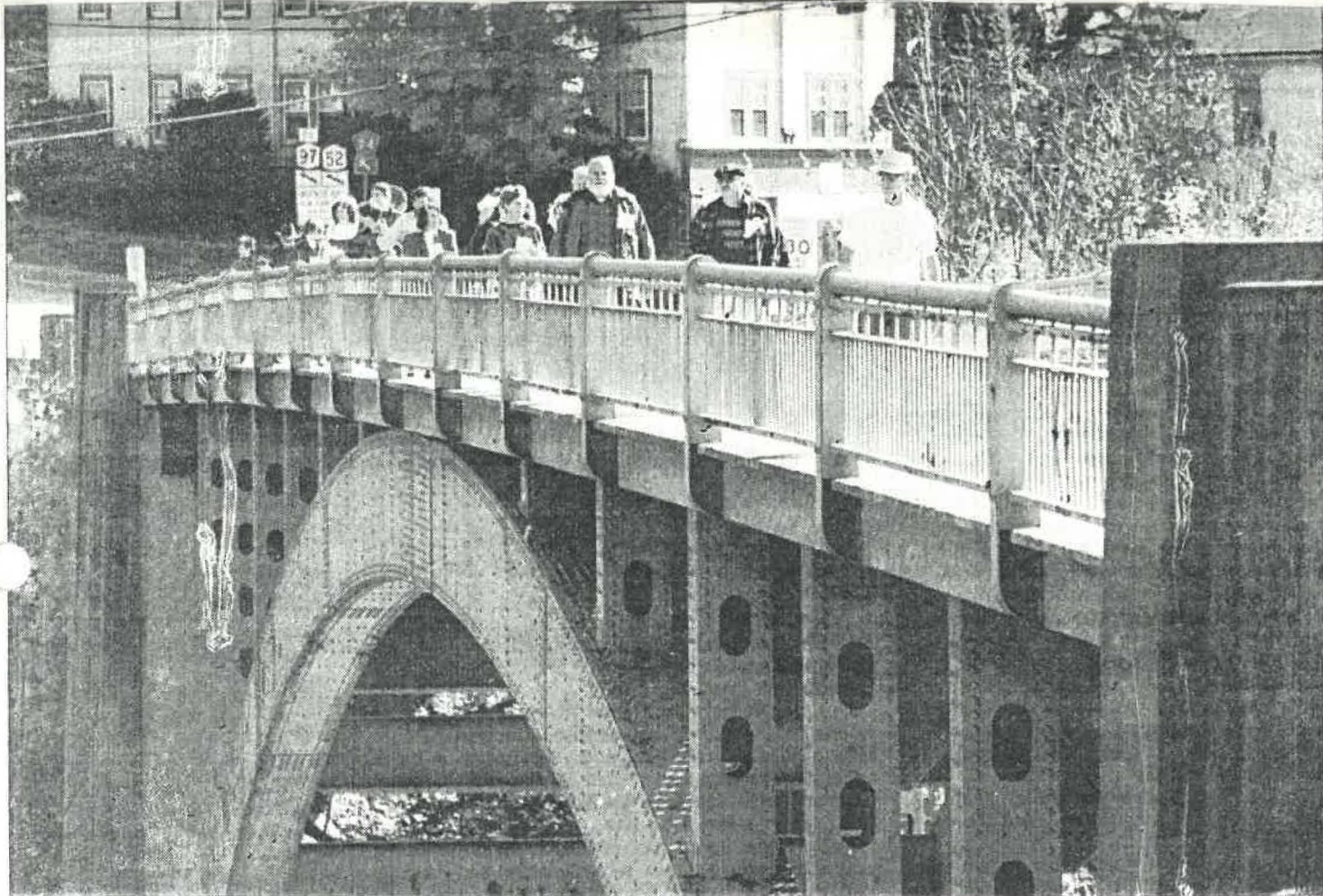
— page 3

The Times Herald

RECORD

Vol. 38 No. 87

Monday, October 25, 1993



FRANCIS SPECKER/The Record

Walkers cross the bridge from Narrowsburg to Milanville, Pa., during a 10-kilometer walkathon to raise funds for human service organizations in Sullivan County and Wayne County, Pa., yesterday.

Organizer dies on walkathon

By LISA JOHSON
Staff Writer

NARROWSBURG — Clyde "Bud" Rue walked his last steps in the name of society's forgotten people.

Rue, 59, died yesterday after marching briefly in the "Walk for Social Justice," a 10-kilometer walkathon he and other members of the Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship organized to raise funds for human service organizations in Sullivan County and Wayne County, Pa.



Clyde Rue

"He was the oil that keeps society operating," said longtime friend Glenn Pontier. "He filled in the cracks and smoothed the gears."

Pontier, who was one of the 28 people walking in the march with Rue, said Rue grew tired after the first mile or so. The "sweep car" following the walkers picked Rue up. He chatted with the drivers — Pontier's parents — for a few moments and then collapsed.

Pontier said Rue was driven to Innisfree in Milanville, Pa., Rue's home and the walkers' destination. Emergency medical

workers were called to the scene and Rue reportedly died on the way to Wayne Memorial Hospital.

"He was so anxious to do that walk," Ann Rue said. Mrs. Rue said she tried to talk her husband out of walking fearing it would be too strenuous. "But he would not be dissuaded."

The \$1,000 raised by the walk will benefit the Victims Intervention Program of Honesdale, an agency that helps battered and abused women; Habitat for Humanity of Wayne County; Interfaith Outreach United of Callicoon and the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office.

"The common denominator was my father," said Tom Rue of Monticello. Tom Rue described his father as a man, who, together with his wife, Ann, dedicated much of their time to charity. While others might lament societal problems, Tom Rue said, "My father asked, 'What can we do?' And then he did it."

Tom Rue said his parents generated the idea a local Habitat for Humanity chapter, a national program that helps poor families build homes on donated land, and formed the group with other religious organizations.

Tom Rue's wife Carmen echoed her husband's sentiments.

"He was like a father to me. He was always there for anybody who needed him,"

she said.

Yesterday's walkathon began with Rue leading the way from the Cocheton Library in Narrowsburg toward Innisfree. Innisfree, Tom Rue explained, was an educational summer camp for teens that his parents opened in 1970. The couple moved to Innisfree four years ago when Clyde Rue retired from teaching mathematics in New Jersey.

The cause of Rue's death could not be determined last night, though friends said Rue had asthma and had recently undergone two operations.

Rue was a founding member of Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship; a board member of The River School at Innisfree and a founding member of the Upper Delaware chapter of Amnesty International.

Rue and his wife have four adult children: Tom Rue; John Rue of New York City; David Rue of Newtown, Pa., and Ella Rue-Eyet of Rockland, Mass.

"He was simply a great spirit," Pontier said. "He died walking for social justice. If I could only have that on my epitaph."

Pontier said he hopes to make the walkathon annual as a memorial to Rue, and the family is asking that memorial contributions be made to the Fellowship, which will distribute the money to the four agencies for which Rue walked.



Pictured (from left) are Carolyn Hubers of IOU; Peg Rosenberg of Habitat for Humanity of Wayne County; treasurer Ann Rue and former treasurer Carmen Rue of

the Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship; and Linda Rose of VIP. Donations totaling \$4000 were presented.

TRR Photo by Tom Rue

Unitarian Universalists put feet where mouth is

By TOM RUE

MILANVILLE — Representatives from local human service organizations recently accepted \$4000 raised by a religious fellowship in Milanville.

The money was raised during a July square dance and an October walkathon sponsored by the Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Hundreds of local people contributed to these efforts.

Fellowship treasurer Ann Rue said the four beneficiaries share a commitment to the ideals of social responsibility and human freedom. The money was evenly divided among the following groups: Interfaith Outreach United (IOU), a Callicoon-based agency that provides emergency relief to western Sullivan County; Habitat for Humanity of Wayne County, a grassroots ministry dedicated to building decent, affordable housing for all; Victim's Intervention Program (VIP), a Wayne County agency providing services to victims of domestic violence; and the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office, which provides humanitarian advocacy worldwide.

The fellowship's support of humanitarian efforts was initiated by Bud Rue of Milanville who died participating in the 1993 walkathon. To honor his charitable works, the fellowship plans to continue sponsoring the Bud Rue Memorial Walk for Social Justice as an annual fall event, Ann Rue said.

Participants walk the stretch of River Rd. between Narrowsburg and Milanville. Most of the organizations benefit-

ting from the walk sent their own contingents to participate.

Peg and Dale Rosenberg of Honesdale appeared for Habitat for Humanity, which they said is now beginning construction of its second house. The Wayne County chapter was co-founded by the late Bud Rue and is now helping to create a new affiliate in Sullivan County.

Carolyn Hubers of IOU said the \$1000 came at a particularly good time because the organization is having a busy February. "The work of IOU goes on all year, not just at the holidays," she said.

Speaking of clients who have survived physically abusive relationships, VIP board member Linda Rose said, "Instead of being physically abused, it's nice to be helped by other people's physical exertion."

Fellowship member Gil Mende began the program by inviting anyone so inspired to light a candle in the name of a particular object or thought, or to do so silently. Rue lit one in memory of her late husband, who she said "focused our attentions on becoming more socially responsible to our fellow people."

A video entitled *Sharing a Vision of Justice* portrayed the work of the Unitarian Universalists' organizational work in aid of human freedom dating back to its response in 1939 to Nazi atrocities.

The fellowship meets at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday at Innisfree in Milanville. Its chief founders are the Rev. Raymond, consulting minister, and Barbara Pontier of Narrowsburg, who are expected to return to the area in early spring.

For more information call Ann Rue at 717/729-7197.

'Faith with feet': Rue memorial draws crowd

By TOM RUE

NARROWSBURG and MILANVILLE — About 40 people gathered to walk 10 kilometers in the third annual Walk for Social Justice, sponsored by the Upper Delaware Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

The walk along the Delaware River from Narrowsburg to Milanville on October 22 was dedicated to the memory of Clyde "Bud" Rue, organizer of the walkathon, who died during the 1993 walk.

In addition to fellowship members and supporters of the various charities, participants included Rue's children and grandchildren as well as his brother, Dr. Robert Rue of Niantic, CT. He said he made the trip from New England to honor his brother, who with him supported similar social agendas.

The youngest participant was 11-month-old David Rue Jr. of Newtown, PA, whose parents, David and Kathy Rue, took turns pushing his stroller up River Rd. The oldest was Jessie Fisher, 79, of White Mills, a longtime member of Habitat for Humanity.

The evening after the walk Ann Rue, Bud's widow, said \$2860 had been collected — with many pledges not yet in. Ella Rue-Eyet of Ringoes, NJ, said the total gave organizers hope that this year's revenues would exceed amounts collected in the past.

My wife, Carmen, and I also participated and collected pledges from generous donors. While the proposal to raise funds to benefit community organizations was Bud's, the suggestion in 1993 to hold a walkathon was

Carmen's. She said her idea was based on the success of similar events in Sullivan County.

In February 1995, a sum of \$1000 was presented to each of four charities. This year's proceeds will be distributed in February 1996.

The number of walkers was also up from last year, from 30-35 to 45, Ann Rue said.

Sweeping back and forth to pick up the tired were Fellowship president Joe Walker of North Branch and



Contributed Photos

Pictured above are the immediate family of the late Bud Rue (right to left), back row: David Rue, Tom Rue, Bob Woldin, Dr. Bob Rue, John Rue; front row: Kathleen Rue holding David Rue, Jr., Carmen Rue, Ella Rue-Eyet, Ann Rue holding dog "Farfel."

vice-president Jesse Ballew of Damascus.

Walker called the event "an appropriate tribute to Bud Rue."

Rue died October 24, 1993, at the age of 59

Afterward, the fellowship resolved to hold similar events named in his memory. "It was started by Bud to address the social inequities he saw in the river valley," said Ann Rue. "It's been continued as a tribute to his efforts and to keep alive the principles he held to be important."

This year the Fellowship designated a fifth beneficiary — Habitat for Humanity of Sullivan County. Other target groups include the Wayne County Habitat chapter, which Bud Rue founded in 1990; Interfaith Outreach United (IOU) of Callicoon; Victim's Intervention Program (VIP) of Honesdale; and the Unitarian Universalists' United Nations Office, a nongovernmental organization that fosters the Unitarian Universalists' social agenda globally.

Before the walk, at a regular Fellowship service in Milanville, representatives of the five groups explained their organizations' progress, including: Tom Hubers of IOU, Sandi Panchyshyn of the Sullivan Habitat, Pearl Hochstadt of the Wayne Habitat, Denise Gumble of VIP, and John Rue, who spoke about the UN office and described the walkathon as a demonstration of "faith with feet."

Donations to the Fund for Social Justice may be mailed to PO Box 123, Milanville, PA 18443.