

JUNE 2004 GLBT PRIDE MONTH

Allegheny ADVOCATE

monthly newsletter of allegheny unitarian universalist church

JUNE 6

A Spiritual Antidote

Dr. Jules Lobel

Allegheny friend Jules Lobel, Professor of Law at the University of Pittsburgh and Vice-President of the Center for Constitutional Rights, will speak about the topic of his recent book, *Success Without Victory*. Jules will present a spiritual antidote to the emphasis that our American culture places on winning. He will discuss his experience in litigating Guantanamo prisoner cases.

JUNE 13

Another Transition – Pilgrim’s Process

Rev. Dave Lutz

“In transition” – you could say that about our congregation, about the pastors, and about some of us within the congregation. “Trans-” (in “transition”) can mean “getting to the other side” or “being thoroughly changed.” What will change this time, the situation or the travelers? Join us for this shorter Service followed by our Annual Church Picnic.

Annual Church Picnic 12:30 PM

This annual event is guaranteed to be fun for everyone. Please join us in North Park.

JUNE 20

From Radical Politics To Unitarian Universalism 10:00 AM

Kathy Kozachenko

In 1974, Kathy Kozachenko became the first openly gay or lesbian person elected to public office in the United States. Today, she will share her experiences in that historic election, her work in the lesbian and gay movement in New York City, and finally how she came to Pittsburgh and Unitarian Universalism.

Friends and Family Pancake Brunch 11:30 AM

The Working Group on Religion/Spirituality of Voices for a New Tomorrow and Allegheny will host this pancake brunch as a family and friends event during GLBT Pride Weekend. Donations will be accepted at the door, and proceeds from this event benefit PrideFest. Indoor seating will be available in Founders Hall, and, if the weather is nice, bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy the brunch outdoors in the Commons across from church.

JUNE 27

Summer Solstice Celebration 10:00 AM

Linda Deafenbaugh

Today we will celebrate our earth-based spiritual tradition as we celebrate the Summer Solstice. Join us for story, song – and maybe dance!

Sunday Services
at Allegheny
Unitarian
Universalist
Church begin
at 11 o'clock.
10 o'clock Services
begin on 20 June.
All are welcome!

BOARD BUSINESS

Kathy Kozachenko, President

President's Thoughts: A Tribute

This month marks the end of the time that our interim minister, Dave Lutz, will be with us.

On June 13, at our Annual Picnic in North Park, we will thank Dave and wish him well.

What an incredible year we have had with Dave! Last year at this time we were heartbroken at the loss of our long-time minister, Art McDonald and his wife, Melanie. We weren't sure how we would fare as a congregation – would we lose members, would our spirit diminish? We had hired an interim minister who agreed with our principles but was from a different faith tradition. We didn't know what the future held.

Today, of course, we know that our year has a happy ending. We lost a few members (for reasons not related to Art's leaving), we gained a few new members, and our spirit is richer in ways than it wasn't a year ago.

The next church year will be another year of change and challenge. We will welcome our settled minister David McFarland, and we will

come face to face with the fact that our years with Art are over.

It will be both an exciting and a scary time. We will be feeling our way with David McFarland (and he with us!) and forging a new relationship. As I thought about this – feeling both apprehensive and really excited about the potential – I also thought of Dave Lutz.

Dave came into our midst agreeing with our principles and philosophy but without a Unitarian Universalist background. He jumped in with warmth and with humor. He gave of himself and was willing to both learn and to lead. His openness and honesty touched and steadied us, enabling us to grow and change.

As we prepare for another church year, let us hold onto the kindness, the openness and the willingness to learn that Dave brought with him to this ministry. Let us gratefully take with us the gifts of Dave Lutz, as we greet, welcome and embrace David McFarland.

... his openness and honesty touched and steadied us, enabling us to grow and change.

ADVOCACY AND MINISTRY

Rev. Dave Lutz

Preparing The Way

Well, my fond farewell came quickly. It's now time for me to go and, in a couple of months, for David McFarland to come. I celebrate his coming with you!

In Presbyterian churches, when interims come and go, they sometimes compare themselves with John the Baptist – the 'temporary' whose job was to prepare the way for Jesus – the main man. It's a nice image, maybe, but David won't be Jesus (and I sure don't want to wind up like JB). Nor will David be Superman: he won't leap tall obstacles in a single bound, etc.

At recent Church gatherings, some of you have said something to the effect that it will be important to not collapse into our easy chairs, now that a permanent pastor is in place.

Allegheny UU will continue to be something

dynamic and growing insofar as its people don't fold up and look to the pastor to be the Church. Many churches do that; they aren't very interesting or dynamic.

All our lives long, the challenge is before each of us to keep on being this person – the person I am. To think my thoughts, speak with my own voice, step up to act when I know I must, and not wait for somebody else to do it. That doesn't have to mean becoming overextended, but it does take energy.

I will miss you all. I did enjoy my year with you! I realize I am changed for having been with you (God help the Presbyterians who get me next). I will be following your story with interest!

Peace, Dave

Annual Picnic

Allegheny will host its Annual Picnic at North Park, Sunday, June 13. This fun event has something for everyone in the family, including good food, games and conversation in a lovely outdoor setting.

Lunch is potluck. Sign-up sheets and directions to North Park can be found in Founders Hall, downstairs at church.

Pastoral Care

From mid-June (when Dave Lutz will be taking some vacation and study time) until September when David McFarland begins, anyone with concerns and seeking pastoral care can contact Allegheny's Commissioned Lay Leader, Jane Dirks. Jane has agreed to be available for members and friends needing support. In addition, Renee Waun, the minister at East Suburban, has also agreed to be available to us until David begins. If someone has a concern and would like to talk to either Jane or Renee, please contact Jane. Jane will either speak with you, or you can let her know if you would like Renee to call you. As always, any conversations are strictly confidential. We are fortunate to have both Jane and Renee available to us this summer. Don't hesitate to call upon them if you need to!

New Member Sunday

The Membership Committee will hold a *What We're About* session, after Service on June 6, for people who are new to Allegheny. New friends will have the opportunity to ask several longtime members any questions they may have about the Church, and to hear about our community and activities.

A New Member Sunday will follow on June 13. New members will introduce themselves to the congregation, take part in a brief responsive reading and be welcomed into the Church.

If you are interested in becoming a member, ask someone to direct you to a Church Board member or a Membership Committee member who will get you signed up.

Welcoming Congregation

Allegheny is about to begin the process of becoming designated as a Welcoming Congregation by the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Welcoming Congregation is the term the UUA uses to identify UU churches that have taken certain steps to assure that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons can feel at home among their members.

Though Allegheny has a long history of serving Pittsburgh's GLBT population – both among and outside of its membership – many members, including our newly-called minister, Rev. David McFarland, believe that completing this process is crucial our social justice ministry.

There will be a meeting in the Emerson Room after Service on Sunday, June 27 for members and friends interested in assisting with this effort. Anyone unable to attend, but wishing to help in the future, can e-mail Jaime McLeod.

PrideFest Activities

Please join us at the annual PrideFest Parade which is set for Saturday, June 19 at 11:30 am, Downtown. Allegheny will have its usual walking contingent behind our parade banner. Parade assembly is at 10:30 tentatively set for Ross Street near 5th Avenue.

Also, volunteers are needed for the Friends and Family Pancake Brunch scheduled for Sunday afternoon, June 20 (see front page). Sign up sheets are available on the table in Founders Hall. Please join us for the parade, and consider helping out at the brunch.

New Board Members

At the Annual Meeting, the congregation voted to add Cheryl Napsha, Hazel Carr Leroy, and Lynn Glorieux to the Board of Trustees. They will replace out-going members Barbara Barnes, Linda LeFever, and Kathy Kozachenko. Our thanks to those who will serve, and those who have served!



Be part of the Allegheny Squad at the Pride Parade on June 19!

DOING JUSTICE

Beginning With Books

Beginning with Books needs volunteers who can spend one hour a week reading with a child at the Allegheny Regional Library, or at several other sites throughout the city. This is an opportunity to build a relationship with a child, as you help her or him learn to appreciate the joys of reading. Reading together on a

regular basis also provides an outlet for the child to discuss worries and concerns with a nonjudgemental adult. A child who has a special relationship with a caring adult is much less likely to become involved with drugs or crime. For more information, call Beginning with Books-Read Together at 412/361-8560, and ask for Debbie El.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Jill Brethauer, Treasurer

For the first 10 months of fiscal year 2004 (through April 30), the Church had a cumulative operating deficit of about \$4,600. That is, we spent about \$4,600 more than we received. Year-to-date offerings were about \$1,700 lower than the amount budgeted.

As June 30 approaches, the Finance Committee is eager to clear up all unfinished business related to FY2004:

All members and friends are encouraged to complete your payments toward your FY2004 offerings pledges. Contact Ed Kinley if you need to know the status of your FY2004 pledge. Checks must be dated on or before June 30, 2004 to be recorded as FY2004 income. Payments dated July 1, 2004 and later will be recorded as FY2005 income. If you haven't yet made your pledge for FY2005, pledge forms and envelopes are available next to the nametags in the Emerson Room.

Committee chairs and others who have made budgeted purchases for which you are to be reimbursed should submit your reimbursement requests to Jill Brethauer by June 30. Blank reimbursement forms are available in a folder beside the mail boxes in the study at the church.

Please make every effort to pick up and pay for all grocery gift certificates that Kathy Kozachenko and/or Betty Schwarz may be holding for you. Your participation in the certificate program makes a significant difference in the church's 'bottom line'; and it is important to reflect the income and costs of all certificates ordered through June in the FY2004 financial statements.

Thank you for helping to bring FY2004 to a smooth close!

SERVING THE CONGREGATION

Greeters

June 6

Anne Thompson and Kim Breneman

June 13

To be announced

June 20

To be announced

June 27

To be announced

Refreshments

June 6

Jane Dirks and Maryanne Sonik

June 13

Church Picnic

June 20

Betty Schwarz, Linda Lefever & Steve Wertheim

June 27

Ann Sitrin and Charlie Snowden

All members and friends are encouraged to complete your FY2004 offerings pledge by June 30

June 2004

		1	2 RE Comm. 7:30 pm	3	4	5
6 Giant Eagle certificate sign-up Choir 9:30 am District NA 1:30 pm	7 Board of Trustees 7:00 pm NA 7:00 pm	8	9	10	11	12
13 G.E. cert. delivery Choir 9:30 am Annual Church Picnic 12:30 pm	14 Program Comm. 7:30 pm NA 7:00 pm	15	16	17 Shelter Meal 9:00 pm	18 Newsletter Deadline!!	19 Pride Parade Form up at 10:30
20 Pride Sunday & Fathers Day Sunday Service 10:00 am Pancake Brunch 11:30 am Jim Scott Concert 7:30 pm	21 Summer Begins House 6:00 pm NA 7:00 pm	22	23	24 General Assembly begins in Long Beach California	25	26
27 Finance 11:30 am	28 NA 7:00 pm	29	30			

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Kris Thomas, DRE

Wrapping Up Another Year

It's hard to believe that we've completed our first year of workshop rotations already. The children in the WoRM program learned a lot about our Unitarian Universalist Principles, and I'd venture to guess that the workshop leaders and spirit guides learned a lot as well!

Thanks to all of those who acted as art, drama, or video workshop leaders in our RE program this year: Rebecca Davis, Linda Deafenbaugh, John Meikle, Steve Hirtle, John Engberg, Charlie Snowden, Melissa Farrington, Hazel Leroy, Jane Schwarz, Devon DeAngelo, Janice Anderson, Ann Sitrin, Jane Dirks, Dani Fosbrink, Dave Fosbrink and Kathy Kozachenko.

Thanks also to our Spirit Guides, who shared the workshop experience with the children throughout the year: Kim Winbush, Lynn

Yocum, Linda Voytko, Jane Dirks, Cindy Madamma and Benita Campbell.

Our OWL (Our Whole Lives) program leaders, Maryanne Sonick and Peter Adams had a great year with our youth. We are very grateful to them!

And finally, thanks to Joanna Obuzor, who worked in our toddler and preschooler class all year long. Now that the RE program is on summer break, Joanna will be providing childcare to our children who are under age twelve, in Founders Hall during the Sunday Service. Please look for the sign up sheet in Founders Hall, to assist Joanna with summer childcare.

Meanwhile, the RE committee is hard at work, making plans for September. RE classes will begin again the Sunday after the September Ingathering Service.

Summer childcare for children under age twelve will be provided in Founders Hall during Sunday Services

CONTACTS

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

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Allegheny Unitarian
Universalist Church
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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Allegheny Web Site

www.alleghenyuu.org



Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church
1110 Resaca Place
Pittsburgh PA 15212