

The CommUunicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro

Our FUN Fundraiser

By Sylvia Woodworth

One of the main reasons we look forward to the annual UUFW Service Auction is that it is fun, both on the day of and for months after!

Following the service on November 12th we will peruse high quality items and set-price offerings on the silent auction tables, enjoy a casual pot luck lunch, get in some socializing, and when Bill Harouff bangs his gavel, settle in for lively and generous bidding for social events, helpful services, and a few very special items. We can get up, stretch our legs, and check on our silent auction bids any time, and stealthily outbid our competitors. Meanwhile, the children will be having a good time over in Chalice House.

Are you wondering what you can do to make this a hugely successful auction, topping past totals? Mark the 12th on your calendar and come up with one or two things to offer for the auction. Next, go to the [Service Auction page](#) on the UUFW website to submit your item(s) on line and register to bid. If you prefer, you may fill out a Service Auction form at the Fellowship. Plan your budget so that you can bid often and high. Come and enjoy!

Our service auction has been going on for over 20 years because it is entertaining and so vital to the financial health of our congregation and ministry. The fun won't stop on November 12th! We will go home, find a place for our new treasures, arrange for the services we've bought, write on the calendar the events we have successfully bid on and look forward to a year of

social events with other fun loving people. We are eager to find out what YOU will offer for the auction!! Remember, the deadline for submitting offerings is November 8th by 5:00 pm.



A popular service auction offering is the Annual Hike and Gourmet Picnic.

Life Itself

By Sharon Van Name

"I would have died at 18. I had lost so much blood from an internal hemorrhage that I was past the point where most people die." This was the stark answer that UUFW member Laura Jane Larsen gave me when asked what effect blood donations had had on her life. She added that she wouldn't have been with her grandmother at her death, seen the West Coast or Mardi Gras, or returned to favorite spots such as caverns, Star Island and the ocean. She would have missed the last 19 years with her parents, Jonathan and Susan Larsen. She would never have met the man she loves or had his two beautiful children in her life.

Laura Jane was born with a complicated

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Life Itself (Cont)

medical status that continues to cause periodic crises. She has needed at least 12 transfusions of whole blood, plasma or platelets, requiring more than one unit each time. Through tears, she said that she has often wished that she could thank every single one of the dozens of people who donated the blood that has made her adult life possible. She is extremely grateful that they made the time, and overcame any fear or discomfort.

Laura Jane's story is only one of an untold number. If you can give blood, please consider doing so at UUFW on November 4, or anywhere else that is convenient for you. For someone, and their family, it is the most important gift you will ever give.

The [Red Cross Blood donation site](#) can tell you everything you need to know about blood donation including eligibility and where you can donate if you cannot come to UUFW on November 4th. But if you can come, contact me (Sharon Van Name) to sign up.

Supporting Our Community (Part 2)

By Kathleen de los Reyes

The First Presbyterian Food Bank operates on the second and fourth Thursday of every month from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. It is located at the church. The food is obtained from the Blue Ridge Food Bank and donations from UUFW and other churches. Our donations free up dollars so First Presbyterian can buy more food from the Blue Ridge Food Bank.

The First Presbyterian Food Bank serves an average of 100 clients a month. Many of these clients are picking up food for their families. The need is greatest in the summer and over school

breaks. About 70 percent of the clients are regulars at the food bank. The greatest needs are cereal, canned fruit, canned meat/fish, baked beans and canned pastas. Toiletries are also welcome.

Some volunteers go pick up orders at the Blue Ridge Food Bank and others serve the customers who come to the church location. If you wish to help out in one of the Thursday slots, please check with me.

New Member Spotlight



Michelle Whatley lives in Staunton, but she grew up in Greensboro, NC and lived in several places before settling in this area in 2008. Michelle loves animals, hiking and

reading, and she is very happy to have found UUFW. Like many of us, she is a self-described introvert, so be sure to reach out and introduce yourself when you see her.

Member News

After spending a few days at Augusta Health, **Roland Micklem** is now receiving rehab at the Kings Daughters Community Health and Rehabilitation Center (1410 N. Augusta Street, Staunton). He would welcome visitors and phone calls.

