

The CommUunicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Waynesboro

A Visit to Bloomaker

By Sylvia Woodworth

One of the first service auction events of the year was a December 6th St. Nicholas Day tour of [Bloomaker](#), the Dutch-owned hydroponic greenhouse in Stuarts Draft. A group of thirteen UUFW members and their friends were led on a tour by the young and enthusiastic Dutch “head grower,” Jelte Schaap.

The tall, white, expanding building along route 349 sets the curious mind to wondering. Why is this floral business in Stuarts Draft? What does it look like inside? How do they “nurture” the bulbs? We learned that because of its location near I-81 and I-64, Bloomaker products can be trucked to 70% of the U. S. population within 24 hours!

The other attraction is the amount of sun we enjoy each year. What does it look like inside? Think very high ceilings, lots of windows covered or not, an automated watering system, floors covered with low black crates containing paperwhite, amaryllis, or tulip bulbs set in treated water, the biggest refrigerator you will ever walk into, and a line of employees putting the bulbs in tall, clear glass vases and packing them to be ready for shipment. Look for them in grocery store floral departments. Jelte spent a long time educating us about the fascinating traits of these bulbs and was very patient answering our many, many questions. He gave each of us an amaryllis bulb that hadn't passed inspection to nurture on our own.



Off we went to the Woodworths' house for socializing and Dutch treats such as speculaas cookies, Dutch Apple Cake, Edam cheese, coffee, and hot bishopswijn. While we were away, St. Nicholas had taken the carrots we had put out for his horse and left gold coins in wooden shoes set out by the hearth.

This Sinterklass celebration will be offered again at next year's auction. Perhaps you would like to join in.

Newsletter Update

By Florence Ferguson, Editor

This is the seventeenth issue of the UUFW newsletter in its new, two-page weekly format. I'm taking this opportunity to thank all of the members who have contributed articles, opinion pieces, poetry and information of interest to the congregation.

The goal of the new newsletter format has been to provide a forum for members to share their knowledge and thoughts on topics consistent with UU principles and our mission and vision. The newsletter is also intended as a place to introduce new members and provide timely news about UUFW people and activities.

In 2018, my editorial board (Sylvia Woodworth and Theresa Curry) and I hope to give voice to more members and/or tell their stories. But we need your help.

If you have an idea, a concern or some expertise that complements our UU principles, mission and vision, write it and we'll publish it. Or if you know a member with an interesting personal story, please let us know and we'll follow up.

Articles submitted for publication should be limited to 300 words or less. Accompanying photos are always welcome. If you don't like to write but have an idea for an article, let us know and we can gather the information through interviews.

Member News

Best wishes to Nancy Sheridan who married Bo Trimble on December 28th. She is now Nancy Trimble.

You may submit articles, ideas for articles, news items and suggestions for the newsletter to me at fergusfx@comcast.net or call 540-828-7048.

Community News

Linda Fields, coordinator of Disciples Kitchen, wants us to know that a lady's engagement ring and wedding ring were found in an apron pocket in early October. She also reports that the WARM Thermal Shelter is in need of men's coats, size 42 and up, and women's coats XL and up. For more information, contact Pat Donovan at pdonova@gmail.com.



Annual New Year's Day Hike



Seven hearty souls welcomed 2018 with a frigid 2-mile hike around the Wildlife Center, then warmed up with Hoppin' John and champagne at the UUFW.

