



# The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship of Waynesboro

## A Bargain, not a Burden

By Florence Ferguson

I can't remember the amount of my first pledge to UUFW, but it was pretty low. I was new to church then, and I really had no idea what an appropriate pledge should be. Somewhere along the way I saw the [UUA Fair Share Contribution Guide](#), and it helped to give me a point of reference. But the most important factor for me was the idea of matching my pledge to the value I place on the UUFW. So over the years, I have periodically increased my pledge as this Fellowship grew in importance to me and my well-being. I am now a proud "sustainer" (per the fair-share guide).

Still I consider my financial support to be a great bargain. It is a small price for being part of a community of fellow seekers who respect and nurture each other and support each member's personal journey wherever it may lead. If I could put a monetary value on all of the things I have learned, all of the times I've been inspired and all of the opportunities I've been given to act on my values, I am sure it would add up to much more than the money I have contributed. And I'm not even including what UUFW has done for me socially! I consider my friendships and support system to be truly priceless.

As a former Board member, treasurer and current member of the pledge drive task force, I know there is no end to the things we could do to promote our values of justice, equality and freedom of belief if we had more money. But

instead of dwelling on what we can't do, I always go back to the idea of matching my pledge, within my resources, to the worth I place on this Fellowship. I believe if we all did this honestly, then we might be able to address many more of our unfunded aspirations.

This year I am increasing my pledge by 50 percent. I am able to do this thanks to some additional resources that came my way after my mother passed away last summer. I could surely spend this money on other things, but if I am true to my principle of paying according to value, this is the way for me to go. I believe Mom would approve.

## About OWL Training

By Sarah Skaar

In early February, I had the opportunity to attend an "Our Whole Lives" training outside of Boston, Mass. "Our Whole Lives" (commonly known as OWL) is a comprehensive sexual education training. It is frequently offered in both Unitarian Universalist churches and United Church of Christ churches.

The training is a very straight forward approach to teaching children and youth about sexual health, safety, their bodies and relationships. OWL starts in Kindergarten and goes all the way through adult. I was trained in grades 7-9 and grades 10-12. UUFW RE teachers—Ruth Parcells, Maggie Duncan, Elaine Goss and Kim Newton— are also certified to

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**About OWL Training (Cont.)**

teach OWL in grades 7-9. We offered OWL three years ago, and we will be offering it again to the 7th-9th graders beginning this September. Some churches have a parent’s OWL class that runs alongside the 7-9 OWL, so that parents know what is being taught each week and can have discussions about the material as a family. If you are interested in learning more or have questions please contact me at [dre@uufw.org](mailto:dre@uufw.org)

**Rousing the Rabble**

By Roland Micklem

The online dictionary describes the word “rabble” as a mob or a disorderly crowd of people, but that’s not necessarily a label I shy away from. And although I lack the moral stature of a Martin Luther King Jr., a Nelson Mandela, a Gandhi or a Sojourner Truth; the work of these people did activate the so-called “rabble” and resulted in many bloody confrontations.

We UU's have a great deal going for ourselves, but we've yet to wholeheartedly embrace our ethic of *love for all* and, most importantly, put it into practice. As an environmental and social activist, I have interfaced with angry people quite a few times and have seen the power that love and good will has on adversary and ally alike.

I'm one of a small anti-pipeline group that is planning to do civil disobedience at yet to be determined sites in the path of the pipelines. I normally shy away from the melodrama, but I'm being truthful when I say that with climate change and a know-nothing leadership in Washington, the fate of the planet is in our hands.



*This recently discovered Bill Berry drawing illustrates his vision for the 2008 addition to our Fellowship Hall.*

**History of Black History Month**

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, an African American historian, philosopher and scholar, was the first one to call for recognition of the contributions black people had made throughout our country’s history. He was disturbed by the way they were portrayed or not portrayed at all in American history books. In 1926, Dr. Woodson declared the second week in February as “Negro History Week.” He chose this week because it coincided with the birthdays of two individuals who had a significant impact on the lives of black Americans: Fredrick Douglass, the great abolitionist and civil rights leader and Abraham Lincoln, who freed the slaves during the Civil War. Dr. Woodson believed that national consciousness would evolve as we celebrated the lives of these two giants of history, and that eventually the week would no longer need to exist as black history would become more fairly represented in the story of America. It was not until 1976 that Negro History Week became Black History Month.

*For more perspective on Black History Month and additional resources, see the 2015 UU World article “[Why Black History Month Matters.](#)”*

