

## Ramblings from your Moderator —



Last Sunday, our community celebrated together. A former member and moderator, Marilyn D., greeted me on Tuesday with "Restoration sure throws a great party!" We do and did!

But it was more than just a party. I went home with the wet dish towels from the kitchen, tired and happy. My heart was full; full of love, appreciation, and enthusiasm for our community. We had the party as a complement to our Sunday Service entitled "200th Anniversary: Kickoff to Justice." I am excited about all the wonderful plans we have for the upcoming years as we celebrate our past and look to our future, but that was not what made my heart full. I found the experience Sunday reminded me of what a fine, open hearted, and giving group of individuals we have in our Restoration community! Folks arrived and went to work setting up tables and decorations, making coffee, warming delicious lunch items and arranging platters, bowls, and serving utensils. After the church service, we ate together, sang "Happy Birthday" to ourselves, and began the clean up process. There were plenty of hands to make the work go smoothly and even time to laugh and brainstorm ideas as we cleaned up. I loved watching an older member show a new member where the big broom is kept, and another showing us the smaller broom which has its own dustpan snapped on its handle. Animated conversations continued as we worked and finally collected our belongings to depart for homes.

Earlier this church year, we were forced to learn of all the many things that our Dot Feely did for our community when she became ill and passed away. Here too, many of us have stepped forward to pick up tasks that Dot did for so long. I want to create a comprehensive list of those jobs and the folks who became her replacements. I call us "Dot's Army." Please help me with this list. I think it will be a fine thing to share with her children and friends from outside our Restoration community at her Memorial Service in April.

Here is what I know about so far:

**Pew upkeep in the sanctuary:** Rev. Sims and Desi Lewis, our administrative assistant. Anne Arfaa also stepped in to refill the envelopes and connection cards after one Sunday when she noted that there were some gaps. Were there others sneaking in too?

**The Holiday Bazaar in December:** Rita Fitzgerald and Barbara McPherson got right to work in a very timely fashion! Who helped them with all the set up and packing up?

**The Mitten and Hats and Scarves tree:** our RE coordinator, Joanna Smith, got it set up. Who else was involved? Who took the warm accessories to the Stenton Family Manor?

**Bookreaders:** There was a brief hiatus but then Ellen Rosenberg and Elaine Fein-Calvin chaired a reorganization effort and they are up and running again! Who else is involved here?

**Coffee Hour! Setting up and making the coffee and hot water early in the morning:** Rakee Starwind has been our steadfast prep man for Sunday mornings!

**Kitchen cleaning:** We learned that Dot was giving the kitchen a thorough cleaning on a regular basis outside of the Sunday coffee hour times... we only figured it out after we noticed the decline in mid January... Brenda Ridley, Barbara Masemore, and Barbara Pauluch took it upon themselves to bring the kitchen back to its better self.

**Office and Coffee hour supplies:** Dot kept all the necessary goods and materials for our weekly gatherings from the reams of paper for the office to the selections of creamers, tea bags, and the premeasured bags of coffee, cups, and napkins. Peter Johnstone has researched companies and coordinated the deliveries for our coffee hour needs. He has also taken on recycling the used printer ink cartridges, etc back to Staples that added to our refund balance. Actually, we earn a substantial amount that almost always covers the cost of our paper purchases from Staples! We owe gratitude to all the folks giving the church's phone number as they check out with their personal purchases from any Staples store. Who do you know who is doing this at Staples? I consider them all part of Dot's Army!

Dot was ready to let go of the book sales, but I know that many of us volunteered time and muscles at those twice annual events. Similarly at the Flea Markets, many people participated in the events so ably led by Cynthia Bradley, Peter Johnstone and Dot.

Were you one of her helpers? I know I enjoyed participating in the book sales set up and clean ups for the camaraderie of spending time with my Restoration family. So I can start a list of names. But I really don't want to leave anyone out.

Please help me construct as complete a list as possible. You can leave names and tasks on paper in my box in the Duo room, or send me an email. Thanks in advance for that!

continued

Finally, have you considered attending one or more of these worthwhile denominational events?

- **General Assembly** this year is in June and will be convened in Providence, Rhode Island.
- The annual meeting of the **TPUC** is in early October and we can have up to 5 voting delegates and a ministerial delegate in attendance along with our two Trustees, me and Cynthia Bradley. This October, we are meeting at the Athens-Sheshenquin congregation's building in Athens, PA. October is a beautiful time of the year to visit northern PA! Speak to Fern or Cynthia to hear more about it.
- But before either of these events, there is the annual **Universalist Convocation** which is meeting in Outlaw's Bridge, North Carolina

in mid-May. I am eager to learn more about this historic Universalist community. Outlaw's Bridge is located southeast of Raleigh and east of Fayetteville, and north of Wilmington, North Carolina. Take a look at their web site: <http://www.outlawsbridgechurch.org/>

There are many other kinds of UU gatherings to consider... Check the bulletin boards in Fellowship Hall to learn more about them. Ask folks if they have attended any of the gatherings...Let me know if I can help you explore some ideas for short getaways and family vacations in a variety of settings with UU folks from around the area, nation, or continent!

*Sincerely,*  
— Fern