



Sundays at Albany UU

Please join us on any Sunday for:

Mindfulness Meditation, Religious Education for children and youth, the Service, Coffee Hour, or any combination thereof. Other programs on Sundays include Forum (social justice and environmental topics), Family Chapel, social events, and adult education.

All are welcome!

WINDOWS

Newsletter of the First Unitarian
Universalist Society of Albany

January 2016

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Sunday Schedule

9:00 AM

Mindfulness Meditation

9:45 AM

Nursery/Toddler rooms open

10:00 AM

Service

Family Chapel

(1st Sunday/mo. Oct.-May)

Religious Education

11:00 AM

Coffee Hour

11:45 AM

Forum *(as scheduled)*

Services

Jan. 3 "The Complaint Free Challenge," Rev. Sam Trumbore
Ever get tired of complaining? One way to resist and reduce complaining in the world is to resist and reduce your own complaining. And this service will give you the tools to make that change ... if you are up for taking the challenge.

Music: Matt Edwards plays classical arrangements of classic rock songs.

Jan. 10 "Huddled Masses," Rev. Dave Weissbard

Elections are always a time for stock-taking, but it seems as if few before have equaled the one this year. The choices are usually about different means toward common goals; the differences this year are more stark than any I can remember from the past. The debates thus far suggest that the American people will be making decisions about the nature of this republic, and touch strongly on UU Values such as: human worth and dignity; justice, equity, and compassion, and the search for truth and meaning.

Music: Chris Bystroff on his viola and his rare and beautiful tenor viol

Jan. 17 "I'm Here to Listen," Dave Munro

While other health care professionals have a multitude of skills and technologies to benefit patients, a chaplain's most effective tool is his or her humanity. Dave will reflect on his service as an interfaith chaplain at Albany Medical Center over the past two years.

Music: Percussionist Jay Sager on the vibraphone

Jan. 24 "Respecting Black Bodies," Rev. Sam Trumbore

In his book, *Between the World and Me* author Ta-Nehisi Coates identifies "Black bodies" as the target of American abuse and exploitation. How can those who are identified as white work to resist that systemic evil? (There will be a discussion about Coates book at 1pm)

Music: Local singer/songwriter Bob Warren with some new thoughtful and reflective original songs

Jan. 31 "Defiant Heretics," Rev. Sam Trumbore

Unitarian Universalism tolerates a great deal of religious diversity. However, many of us resist mightily the imposition of a religious belief. Freedom of belief and practice is central to our identity and purposes. At times that resistance and that freedom defined us as defiant heretics.

Music: The Albany UU choir

Guests in Our Pulpit: Read about them on page 15

Calendar

Events happening every Sunday at Albany UU

9:00 AM Mindfulness MeditationSanctuary
 10:00 AM ServiceEmerson
 Family Chapel (1st Sunday/mo. Oct.-May)Sanctuary
 Religious Education Classrooms
 11:00 AM Coffee HourChanning

Exceptions: Family Chapel: Nov. 8, Feb. 21, Apr. 10.
 Choir: No rehearsal Jan. 6, 13, 20

Regular events and meetings

CHECK the calendar below for changes to date, time and location

Sundays	5:30 PM	Walker Book Club (2nd)	Wednesdays	10:00 AM	Projects & Quilts (weekly)
	11:45 AM	Social Responsibilities Council (3rd)		12:00 PM	All Sides Considered (1st & 3rd)
Mondays	12:00 PM	Channing Circle (3rd)		5:30 PM	Green Sanctuary Committee (3rd)
	6:15 PM	Religious Education Council (1st)		7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal (weekly)
	7:00 PM	Earth Spirits (2nd)	Thursdays	7:00 PM	Program Coordinating Council (2nd)
Tuesdays	10:00 AM	Philosophy Group (weekly)		7:00 PM	Board of Trustees (3rd)
	1:00 PM	Bridge (weekly)			
	7:00 PM	UU Humanists (2nd)			

All other events happening in January

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| <p>2-Jan Saturday-
 5:00 PM Band Set up for Peace Project Talk.....Emerson
 7:00 PM Peace Project for Albany Emerson, Channing , 26</p> <p>3-Jan Sunday-
 11:15 AM Informational Meeting on Bylaws Changes.....Emerson</p> <p>4-Jan Monday-
 6:15 PM RE Council meetingChanning</p> <p>5-Jan Tuesday-
 6:30 PM Wellspring Sources B-3/B-4</p> <p>6-Jan Wednesday-
 12:00 PM All Sides Considered..... B-7</p> <p>7-Jan Thursday-
 6:30 PM OWL Orientation for K/1 families (tentative) B-8</p> <p>9-Jan Saturday-
 9:30 AM Women for a Better World BreakfastChanning
 3:00 PM OWL Orientation for K/1 families (tentative) B-8
 5:00 PM Ferguson and Beyond.....Emerson</p> <p>10-Jan Sunday-
 11:00 AM Congregational Meeting on Bylaws Changes...Emerson
 5:30 PM Walker Book ClubChanning</p> <p>11-Jan Monday-
 10:00 AM Small Group Ministry (Patrick/Odell) B-5
 1:00 PM Grannies for Peace B-7
 3:00 PM Overflow Shelter Meal Prep Kitchen
 7:00 PM Earth Spirits B-8</p> <p>12-Jan Tuesday-
 6:30 PM Finance Committee B-7</p> <p>15-Jan Friday-
 7:00 PM Martin Luther King Jr. ServiceOffsite</p> <p>17-Jan Sunday-
 11:30 AM Nominating Committee Meeting..... B-5
 11:45 AM OWL Orientation for K/1 families (tentative) B-8
 11:45 AM Social Responsibilities Council Meeting B-7</p> <p>18-Jan Monday-
 12:00 PM Channing Circle LunchChanning
 2:00 PM Meaning Matters Third Monday Afternoon..... B-8</p> <p>19-Jan Tuesday-
 6:30 PM Wellspring Sources B-3/B-4
 7:00 PM Meaning Matters (3rd Tuesday)..... B-8</p> | <p>20-Jan Wednesday-
 12:00 PM All Sides Considered B-7
 5:30 PM Green Sanctuary Committee Offsite
 6:30 PM SCRT Info Session B-8</p> <p>21-Jan Thursday-
 7:00 PM FUUSA Board Meeting Channing</p> <p>23-Jan Saturday-
 9:30 AM Women for a Better World Breakfast Channing
 2:00 PM SCRT Info Session Channing
 4:00 PM OWL Orientation for K/1 families (tentative) B-8</p> <p>24-Jan Sunday-
 11:45 AM OWL Orientation for K/1 families (tentative) B-8</p> <p>25-Jan Monday-
 10:00 AM Small Group Ministry (Patrick/Odell) B-5
 3:00 PM Overflow Shelter Meal PrepKitchen
 7:00 PM Meaning Matters (4th Monday) B-8</p> <p>27-Jan Wednesday-
 5:30 PM Endowment Trust Meeting Stott Lounge</p> <p>29-Jan Friday-
 3:00 PM Youth ConWhole Building</p> <p>30-Jan Saturday-
 12:00 AM Youth ConWhole Building</p> <p>31-Jan Sunday-
 12:00 AM Youth ConWhole Building
 11:30 AM Auction Committee Meeting Stott Lounge
 11:30 AM SCRT Info Session Emerson</p> |
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Sam's Outlook

Resistance to Exclusion

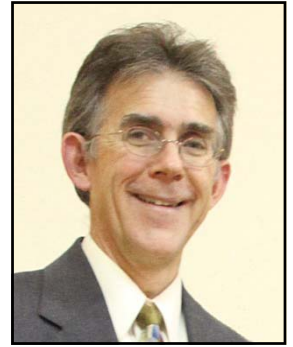
Rev. Sam Trumbore

The first line of our mission statement is: We welcome everyone. Central to our way of doing religion is not excluding people from our congregation because of their beliefs or unbelief. Our purpose is not to perpetuate and propagate one set of beliefs, striving to convert the whole world to our way of thinking. In fact, we celebrate having different beliefs while upholding a common set of Unitarian Universalist values. And even those values are not absolutely binding on the individual, only on the congregation and its positions and actions as a Unitarian Universalist congregation.

Unitarianism began because our ancestors dissented from Trinitarian theology; of understanding God as three persons. Universalism began because a different set of ancestors dissented from Calvinist theology that believed only a few individuals selected by God before birth, called the Elect, would go to heaven and the rest would go to hell without recourse through conversion or redemptive action. Both early Unitarians and Universalists came to these conclusions through a close reading of the Bible that drove them to conclusions that deviated from the orthodox view of those around them. In the nineteenth century, that dissent broadened to include the Transcendentalists, people who thought they didn't need to depend on the Bible alone. They thought they could commune with and worship God directly without an intermediary such as Jesus. Later doubters questioned whether Christianity was required to participate in our congregations. In the beginning of the twentieth century as science advanced, others questioned if belief in God was necessary to follow our way of being religious. In the 1950's and 1960's, our members began to question if being white was a limiting, exclusionary factor inhibiting participation in our congregations. In the 1970's patriarchal thinking and heterosexism began being questioned. Today "cis-gender" thinking is being challenged in our communities.

At each step, when beliefs and attitudes of the past were challenged, we decided to open our doors wider to welcome greater diversity within our congrega-

tion. Inclusion has a very high value for us because we have learned and grown a great deal through doing it. By being in community with people who are different from our current definition of us, we are challenged to think for ourselves, question



our assumptions and stereotypes, and to empathize with those who are marginalized by dominant social trends. As we make room for others who are different from us, we also make room for the non-conforming parts of ourselves, and we make room to live more authentically and creatively.

But we do not and will not welcome every single individual who wishes to show up in our congregation. Someone who shows up brandishing a weapon and using it in a threatening way will not be welcomed. Someone who is overly aggressive, disruptive, abusive or hostile to others will not be welcomed. Someone who makes inappropriate and unwanted sexual advances will not be welcomed. And we have zero tolerance for any sexual exploitation of our children. The safety and wellbeing of our members is our primary concern. We want our members to feel that the risks they take here to stimulate their growth and development are freely chosen rather than compelled by our policies.

This is all a necessary preamble to our current situation. A former member of our congregation who pled guilty to trying to buy a child and served over eight years in prison has asked to have limited access to participation in our congregation. This individual has been classified as a level two sex offender. This individual has been on parole for over a year, has carefully followed all the rules, and has the approval of their parole officer to participate in a limited way in our congregational life.

As a parent, I appreciate the concern of parents that we are introducing a potentially threatening person into our congregational life. I also appreciate that those who may have experienced sexual abuse may find this very difficult as well. Even though I personally think the risk this particular sex offender presents to members and children of our ***Sam's Outlook, cont. on page 4***

News

A new home for our Robert Blood sculpture

Our congregation's Robert Blood sculpture has found a new home, with Jean Poppei! Jean and her husband Bob assumed the responsibility of moving the sculpture, finishing it for outdoor display and installing it. They are also making a donation to our Society to help fund future art purchases.

The sculpture was commissioned by our congregation when the Religious Education wing was constructed in 1962. It was displayed in the front lobby.



Flyers in this issue

At the end of this newsletter you will find full page items on:

- ◆ Special Congregational Meeting
- ◆ Ferguson and Beyond
- ◆ Unirondack

When our lobby was redesigned as part of our building expansion, the display space for the sculpture disappeared. Last spring at our annual meeting, we discussed the dilemma of our congregation owning a large sculpture by Robert Blood without a proper place to display it. Given these circumstances, the majority at the meeting felt that Albany UU should seek a new home for the sculpture. The Board of Trustees agreed and authorized the search. After the Albany Institute of History and Art told us that they were not interested in acquiring the sculpture, we advertised its availability to members and friends of our congregation.

The sculpture is striking in its new location. You can enjoy other Robert Blood sculptures in outdoor settings, such as the grounds of Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Albany Law School and the Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady.-- Peggy Sherman

Sam's Outlook, cont. from page 3

congregation is extremely low, I acknowledge I cannot guarantee this individual is not a potential threat.

This is why our Safe Congregation Response Team has carefully crafted a limited access agreement that will protect individuals in our congregation from potential harm and, at the same time, honor our commitment to one of our core values, to keeping our doors open as wide as we can. The SCRT believes that it is possible to keep all the members of our congregation safe and be welcoming to a sex offender who will be off parole in April.

The goal of the limited access agreement is to work out a plan that is strong enough we don't need to know anything about the sex offender except their willingness to abide by the agreement. We don't need to know if they are guilty or innocent of a crime ten years ago. We only need to know they are com-

mitted today to being an upstanding member of our congregation.

So I encourage you to consider carefully if it is possible for us to craft an agreement that will keep us safe and permit a former member of our congregation who committed a crime, served their time, and wants a second chance back into our membership.

I think it is possible ... and I'm very open to hearing your concerns. Please share them with me, personally, with Leah, one of the Pastoral Care Associates, as well as with other members of our congregation at our three congregational conversations in January. If possible, we'd like to make improvements so the agreement can take care of everyone's concerns. We'll take the time to see if an acceptable agreement is possible before making any final decision.—Rev. Sam

Board notes

The commitments we make to each other

Peggy Sherman, President

Over the holidays, one of our visiting family members noticed the coffee mug with the UU seven principles printed on it. "Sometime I'd like to see a printed copy of those," he said. "Hold on a minute," I replied, as I dug in my wallet. I gave him my Principles and Purposes card, and he tucked it in his shirt pocket.

Do you carry one of these? You can pick one up from the brochure rack in the lobby at church, to keep for yourself and to share with friends and family members.

When I first read the seven principles years ago, they immediately made sense to me as a kind of moral guide and a vision of the way things should be. I didn't pay a lot of attention to the introductory phrase: "We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote." This concept seemed remote and, well, biblical. Today, I see the idea of "covenant" as essential to our congregation as well as our larger Unitarian Universalist movement, but I translate it as "the commitments we make to each other."

We are a community of individuals who have voluntarily joined together in common purpose. We define Albany UU through our commitments to each other. How do you see your commitment...

...to gather in community for Sunday services and to

grow in your understanding of Unitarian Universalism?

...to welcome others and help all to feel part of our Albany UU community?

...to support our congregation by volunteering your time and making a financial commitment?

...to participate in congregational decision-making, through congregational meetings and as a member of a committee, council or the Board of Trustees?

...to take our UU values into the larger community, through advocacy and service?

The beginning of a new year can be a time for reflection and contemplation, for thinking about what is important in the months to come. This month and every month, our newsletter offers opportunities

to deepen your commitment to Albany UU. What will your commitment look like for 2016?

For more discussion about the importance of covenant, check out the article by Al and Sue Berzinis and Dawn and Dick Dana in the August 2015 Windows. It was based on presentations

by Rev. Sue Phillips at the 2015 General Assembly. Covenant is the theme (and Rev. Sue Philips will speak) at the 2016 St. Lawrence District Assembly in Syracuse on April 1-2. Please contact me if you are interested in serving as a delegate for our congregation.



Special Congregational Meeting on bylaws changes on Sunday, January 10

The Board of Trustees of the First Unitarian Universalist Society has called a Special Meeting of the Society on Sunday, January 10 at 11 AM (immediately after the service).

The purpose of the meeting is to consider several amendments to the Society's bylaws relating to nominations for certain offices, meetings of the Society's Councils, and meetings and membership of the

Committee on the Professional Ministry. The resolutions to be voted upon can be found at the end of this newsletter.

An important date to save!

The Annual Evening of Wine and Cheese Tasting comes to Albany UU on Saturday, **February 27, 2016!** Save the date and join our resident winos led by The Cheese Traveler's premier cheese monger, Eric Paul, as we explore a careful selection of wonderful cheeses and wines.

Looking ahead to...May!

Did you know that May 17, 2016 is a VERY important day for FUUSA? It's the day we hold our Annual Meeting when we determine our budget for the coming year (July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017), discuss issues critical to our congregation and elect our new leadership. Members of our congregation are eligible and urged to become involved in this critical process. If you are not now a member, haven't "signed the book", then there is time before the election.

Our society is built on diversity - diversity of ages, backgrounds, and beliefs. We want our leadership to reflect this diversity and that is where you come in. We anticipate vacancies in the following:

Board of Trustees - the body invested by our Bylaws to determine matters of policy and management

Religious Education Council - the group that fosters and maintains a religious education program for the children and youth of FUUSA

Social Responsibilities Council - our guide and coordinator when it comes to social issues of moral and ethical significance

Nominating Committee - responsible for publicizing the nominating procedure and presenting a slate of candidates for open positions

Endowment Trust - manages gifts to the society including decisions regarding investment and use of designated portions of the money in the Trust.

New this year to the process, the Nominating Committee has proposed changing the by-laws to remove the requirement for contested positions (other than the Nominating Committee). In past years, the Nominating Committee has struggled to find candidates who would agree to stand for elections where they would be competing against other well-known members. This situation has limited the committee's

ability to recruit newer members to leadership positions.

We request your presence on **Sunday, January 10th at a special congregational meeting** following the service to vote on this proposal. We will be holding an informational session on Sunday, January 3rd at 11:30 AM. A copy of the revised by-laws is below.

The revised sections of the by-laws would read as follows:

Section 2, paragraph C. It shall at its discretion nominate candidates in addition to those nominated by nomination request and ensure that there is at least one nominee for each position of officer, trustee, endowment trustee, council chair, assistant treasurer, elected council member; and at least two nominees for each position of Nominating Committee member.

Section 3, Paragraph B. Until a deadline six weeks prior to the annual meeting, nominations of candidates for any position may be made by presenting the Nominating Committee with a request to seek office signed by the proposed candidate.

Section 3, Paragraph D. No distinction shall be made between those nominated by request and those nominated by the committee.

We are a society that celebrates the worth and dignity of all individuals and looks forward to all members stepping forward to identify how they can help us to better connect our interdependent web. If you have questions regarding the proposed by-laws changes or any of the vacancies, we hope you will seek out a member of the

Nominating Committee (or any board member) for a full discussion. We would love to talk to you. Please feel free to contact any of the members of the Nominating Committee: Laura Churchill, Molly Daniels, Sandy Stone, Mary Myers, Bob Franklin or Sue Berzinis.

ML King Interfaith Memorial Service 7:00 PM, Friday, Jan. 15, 2016

Join us at the Metropolitan NT Mission Baptist Church (105 Second St., Albany) for the 43rd annual celebration of the life of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., hosted by the Capital Area Council of Churches.

The service, with the theme "A Voice for Non-Violence in a Violent World," will have readings and prayers from several faith communities, and an Indian classical dance performance. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Charles J. Daniel, pastor of Mount Calvary Church. The offering received at the service is the primary fundraiser for the Martin Luther King Scholarship Fund.

Proposed Limited Access Agreement under our Toward a Safe Congregation Policy

The Board of Trustees and the Safe Congregation Response Team (SCRT) have scheduled three congregational conversations for information-sharing and discussion of a proposed limited access agreement:

- ◆ **Wednesday, January 20** at 6:30 PM in Room B-8
- ◆ **Saturday, January 23** at 2 PM in Channing Hall
- ◆ **Sunday, January 31** at 11:30 AM in Emerson Community Hall

Childcare will be available, but please let the Office know in advance if you need it.

Our Safe Congregation policy, adopted by the Board in 2011 and revised in 2012, established procedures to promote safety, respect and right relations in our religious community. It also established the SCRT, currently consisting of Meredith Andrews (representing the Religious Education Council), Owen Devine, Jean Poppei (representing the Board of Trustees and serving as convener of SCRT), Leah Purcell (Director of Religious Education) and Rev. Sam Trumbore (Minister).

When an individual with a past offense contacts our congregation and seeks to participate in our community, the SCRT is authorized to develop an appropriate limited access agreement. Currently, the SCRT has developed, and the Board of Trustees is considering, the first limited access agreement under our Safe Congregation policy. Members and parents received a letter dated December 29, 2015 with additional detail. All are invited to share opinions and questions with members of the SCRT and Board of Trustees and participate in one of the scheduled congregational conversations. The Board of Trustees will consider everyone's responses before making any decision on the proposed limited access agreement.

Coming Attractions....

Grab your popcorn and Junior Mints! Coming soon to a movie screen near you! A big-hearted and rag-tag group of unlikely heroes takes on a huge challenge. They work to share the secret of the force that draws them together to take on the forces of darkness. No, this isn't about "Star Wars: The Force

Awakens."

This blockbuster is the much anticipated "Growth Through Service" video. Soon, you'll be able to see your fellow Albany UU's share their stories on how service has touched their lives and helped to shape who they are today. Screenings will be coming soon, along with learning about service opportunities through Albany UU. Stay tuned...

To learn more or to get involved, contact the Growth Through Service Leadership Team: Dick Dana (446-0382, rdana@nycap.rr.com) or Jaye Holly (439-3187, jholly63@gmail.com).

Heads up to volunteers about building access Friday, Jan. 29 to Sunday, Jan. 31

Often volunteers come to the Albany UU building "off hours" to attend to business. Our youth are holding a District Youth Conference here from 5:00 pm on Friday, Jan. 29 to 9:00 am on Sunday, Jan. 31. We're working to provide an environment that is as safe and secure as possible for the youth from around Upstate New York and their advisors. **Please plan your work so that you don't need to come into the building** during the weekend at all, from 5:00 PM Fri Jan. 29 until 9:00 AM Sunday, Jan. 31. If you cannot avoid coming into the building during those time frames, please contact Leah Purcell dre@albanyuu.

Oriental carpet for sale

Albany UU currently owns a large and quite beautiful oriental carpet. It was donated this fall by Dr. Herbert Strauss, a retired physician who lives in the Wilton area. He is down-sizing and this is part of that process. He attended our congregation somewhat frequently when he lived in Menands early in his career. He remembers us fondly and so decided to donate the carpet to us. So far, so good.

The carpet measures 11' 6" wide and 21' long. It is in excellent condition, probably dates from the 1950's or so, and was recently professionally cleaned. The problem is that we do not have any space where it would be useful. It is far too big for Rev. Sam's office, not suitable for a classroom, and would severely impede the usefulness of either Channing or Emerson for our own use and for rentals.

In 1986 it was appraised for \$5,000. Unfortunately, the Oriental carpet market has collapsed in the intervening years, and careful research has indicated that we would be lucky to get \$1,500 for it. It will soon be put on the open market (Craig's List, etc.) with an asking price of \$1,500 or best reasonable offer. Members and friends of Albany UU have the first shot at this before it is advertised publicly. If you have an interest, want to see the carpet or photos of it, please contact the church office.—Dave Metz

Attention: Committee Chairs!

Budget requests are due Sunday, Jan. 10, 2016 for the fiscal year that starts on July 1, 2016 and ends on June 30, 2017.

The budget form for submission can be found on the Albany UU web site, in the left column, under the Church Office tab, in the File Cabinet. If you have questions please contact Steve Moskowitz at 518-439-6347 or smosk@earthlink.net.

Growing Together

White Privilege Study Group

Book Discussion: *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates

This month the White Privilege Study Group is reading and discussing Ta-Nehisi Coates' book *Between the World and Me*. There will be two opportunities to meet and discuss this book: Sunday, January 24, at 1pm and Tuesday, January 26, at 6:30pm. Both meetings will cover the same discussion points so all who are interested are invited to either one. The goal of the conversation is hearing the author's perspectives and experiences to help us grapple with how white privilege operates in society and our personal lives and our complicity with it.

Winter/Spring practice group for Nonviolent Communication starts up on February 3

It's not enough to only study a new language. To learn it means also practicing it by talking and listening to other people who are using it as well. Learning Nonviolent Communication (NVC) is no different. Anyone who has studied the basic model of NVC is invited to join this practice group which will meet twice a month on a drop-in basis. The foundation for the practice is built upon the lifelong work of Marshall Rosenberg. Here are just a few among

hundreds of quotes about NVC attributed to Marshall, who passed away in the winter of 2014.:

Your presence is the most precious gift you can give to another human being.

When we judge others we contribute to violence.

Empathy allows us to re-perceive our world in a new way and move forward.

When we hear the other person's feelings and needs, we recognize our common humanity.

What others do may be the stimulus of our feelings, but never the cause.

With empathy we don't direct, we follow. Don't just do something, be there.

When we understand the needs that motivate our own and others behavior, we have no enemies.

Criticism, analysis, and insults are tragic expressions of unmet needs.

NVC helps us connect with each other and ourselves in a way that allows our natural compassion to flourish.

As we learn to speak from the heart we are changing the habits of a lifetime.

Registration is required to join the practice group which will meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month at Albany UU. Once registered, you can attend on a drop-in basis without a commitment to coming each time. This group is open to people within and outside of our congregation. Stay tuned for registration information that will come by email in the January weekly previews. Meanwhile, for more information please contact Jan McCracken at jmcrack@nycap.rr.com or 518-275-8709. You may also want to contact Jan (or Philomena Moriarty or Sharon Babala) if you have little or no training in NVC, and are interested in taking an introductory workshop.

Three ways to sign up for a class or event:

—Send an email to Registration@AlbanyUU.org

—Sign up at the Sign Up Site in Channing Hall

—Call the church office, 463-7135

If childcare is offered, please let us know you need it when you register. (Include names and ages of children.)

Religious Exploration

What does it mean to be a people of resistance? (from Soul Matters)

Leah Purcell, Director of Religious Education

*...it starts when you care to act,
it starts when you do it again
after they said no,
it starts when you say We
and know who you mean, and each
day you mean one more.*
--Marge Piercy, from *The Low Road*

Yes, this month's theme is among the most complex of them all. But it also may be the most simple.

The complexity is clear:

Sometimes being a people of resistance involves struggle and requires us to disobey; other times it asks us to just be ourselves and not hide who we really are. Sometimes it involves defeating the enemy; other times it is a matter of noticing that treating them as the enemy defeats us all.

Sometimes being a person of resistance is about fighting all the way to the top; other times it's about picking yourself up off the floor and taking one tiny step. Sometimes it depends on the will to never let them win; other times it hinges on the wisdom to follow the path of least resistance.

It certainly takes the form of speaking our truth. But more often than not, it's about the harder task of speaking the truth in love.

We all know being a people of resistance involves refusing to comply and demanding change, which requires great courage. But sometimes the most courageous thing is to stop resisting and accepting that things just aren't going to work out the way we hoped.

Bottom line: being a people of resistance is tricky business and takes multiple forms.

But beyond this complexity lies the simplicity of Marge Piercy's words. In all cases, she reminds us,

being a people of resistance starts when we say *we*.

In Sunday school this month we'll start by looking at resistance within us and kick off the New Year with a challenge to go complaint-free! I'm using activities for children from *A Complaint Free World*. And I have purple reminder bracelets for everyone that I'll distribute starting Jan 3. During the month each age group will have stories and activities to consider how we can resist the pressures of a consumeristic culture and of close-mindedness that leads to unfairness and injustice. We'll explore how physical resistance (friction) is not dissimilar from emotional resistance.

In Parent Support Group Jan 3 (10:30 – 11:15 in room B-5) we'll discuss raising children that challenge authority and how, at the same time, to create homes that provide loving support to all family members.

Look for resources on resistance for you and your family in my blog and emails. Be sure to bring home a copy of *The Sunday Sparkler*, my weekly printed newsletter, (either from your child's teacher or the RE office) with tips on the topic including daily affirmations and evening follow ups. And encourage your child to check out the

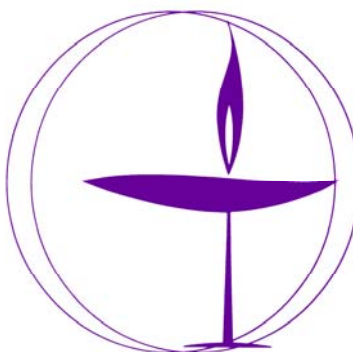
interactive bulletin boards in each of the RE hallways.

It is one thing to be told, "Resist!" It is quite another to be told, "Resist together!" But often what we need most is simply to be reminded that we don't have to resist alone.

May this be the gift we give each other this month. Let's help each other remember to start by saying we! It may be as simple as that.

In joyful service,

Leah





*Bethany Gonyea,
Albany Peace
Project*

Sustainable Happiness Series: From Self to Service The Science of Peace and Happiness

Saturday, Jan. 2, 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Emerson Community Hall

Learn what science has been discovering about happiness, and how biofeedback and mindfulness dramatically enhance happiness levels. The pursuit of happiness has the tragic propensity to bring great misery if we pursue the wrong things. Discern worthy happiness pursuits to dramatically increase peace and happiness.



*Joy Adler & The
Souls of Evolution*

February 5 Multigenerational Potluck and presentation

Join us at 6:00 PM for a potluck, stay for a 7:00 presentation--hosted by the Lifespan Learning Committee.

The presentation by Heidi Harding and Jan McCracken will be Compassion in Action: A Talk, Stories and Photos from a Medical Pilgrimage to Nepal.

The Humla region of Nepal is one of the most sacred places on earth. Located on the border of Tibet, Humla is in the midst of the Himalayan mountain range; secluded from modern life, it remains home to the ancient spiritual and pre-Buddhist culture of Bon. However, due in part to this isolation, the Humli people confront serious challenges in accessing health care. In September, a group of acupuncturists, doctors, nurses and volunteers from around

Three ways to sign up for a class or event:

—Send an email to Registration@AlbanyUU.org

—Sign up at the Sign Up Site in Channing Hall

—Call the church office, 463-7135

If childcare is offered, please let us know you need it when you register. (Include names and ages of children.)

the United States joined together to deliver free health care to hundreds of villagers in Humla. Learn more about this extraordinary journey of compassion in action from two of the pilgrimage volunteers.

Heidi Harding is the Co-founder and President of Humla Fund, a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the Bon culture and traditions in the Humla region of Nepal. She is a licensed and board-certified acupuncturist with a private practice in Columbia County. In 2002, she began passionately studying and practicing Bon.

Jan McCracken is a long time member of FUUSA who went on the trip to Humla this fall as a volunteer and is eager to share her experiences with her FUUSA community.

Please sign up (see box.) Childcare is available: please let us know you need it when you register.

Our Community

Cooks and kitchen help needed for the youth con Jan 29-31

We need a few more people to fill out the teams of volunteers to prepare simple meals, and to set up and clean up breakfast, lunch and dinner on Sat the 30 and breakfast on the 31. Sign up in Channing Hall or contact Jackson Eddy - the youth in charge of food for the con – at jacksonseddy@gmail.com

Channing Circle

Channing Circle will meet on **Monday, January 18** at noon and reconnect after the holidays. Come join us with your lunch--and dessert, coffee and tea will be available. After lunch Bonnie Edelstein of Death with Dignity-Albany will speak to us about steps needed to get a Death with Dignity Bill passed in NYS, and how we can participate. So come and hear what the local group is doing (some Albany UUs are already involved). All ages are welcome.

**Need to talk?
FUUSA Pastoral Care
Associates are here
to listen!**



Our Pastoral Care Associates have been trained in compassionate listening skills and are available to all members and friends of our congregation. To contact a Pastoral Care Associate, email listeners@albany-uu.org, contact Reverend Sam Trumbore, the FUUSA office at 518-463-7135, or one of them personally. They are: Dave Munro, Chuck Manning, Phil Rich, Jan Satin, Randy Rosette, Sandy Stone, and Lisa Barron.

Safety Reminder

Parents and caretakers supervise their children after Sunday school

Special reminder to parents of children and youth in 3rd grade and older: since your children are dismissed from Sunday school to their own recognition--please make it your family's procedure for your children to meet you directly after Sunday school and to stay in Channing Hall, or wherever you are, until you all leave. This is safer than when children hang out in the basement classrooms on their own after Sunday school. The building is open to the public on Sunday mornings, and there are exits from the basement to West Street that are remote from the rest of the building. On a separate note--roaming children have left classrooms messy which is inconvenient for staff. I know Channing is crowded and noisy, but I'm hoping that Coffee Hour can work for people of all ages. Would you like a stash of pads and colored pencils for your older kids in Channing? Other ideas? Thanks! Leah Purcell

UU Earth Spirits to journey

UU Earth Spirits will meet at Albany UU on Monday, January 11, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. We will do a shamanic journey to start off the new year. Everyone is welcome. Whether you are an experienced journeyer, or have never done one, or tried but felt unsuccessful, join us. "Ours is no caravan of despair. Come, yet again come." We will be using the classic technique of journeying to the drum taught by anthropologist Michael Harner and more recently by Sandra Ingerman. All will be explained. The technique is

simple and gentle. A short, communal journey into the dream time for the new year is a great way to start things off. Bring a drum or rattle if you have one. If you have questions, email robbsmith@nycap.rr.com or call Robb Smith at 518-441-3231.

Albany UU Humanists

UU Humanists regularly meet on the second Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016 at 7 PM in Room B-8 at Albany UU. We expect to consider variations of humanism in Unitarian Universalism. Also, an interesting post has come to my attention on the digital UU World: *Live better, help often, wonder more: The Sunday Assembly movement shares Unitarian Universalism's values, but has a lot more fun expressing them.* (Doug Muder, 11/25/2013. <http://www.uuworld.org/articles/live-better>. As the details are developed, they will be shared on the Albany UU Humanist egroup. Joining this group is easy. See details below.

For those interested in learning more about humanism in Unitarian Universalism, please go to the UU Humanists website at <http://huumanists.org>. There is also the American Humanist Association's website at <http://americanhumanist.org>.

If you wish to join the Albany UU Humanists conversations, please go to the Albany UU website (albanyuu.org) and go to Groups and join the Albany UU Humanists, or call the Albany UU office (463-7135), or contact Don Odell (odell.don@gmail.com, 482-4574) to be added to the egroup. And, I will see you on January 12, and around Albany UU on Sunday mornings. -Don Odell

Walker Book Club

Join the Walker Book Club for a potluck and discussion on **Sunday, January 10** at 5:30 pm in Channing Hall. Newcomers are always welcome and the book club is open to all Albany UU members and friends. We start with a welcoming shared supper which is followed by a lively discussion of the book of the month. Bring your favorite dish to share and a small contribution to cover beverages.

On January 10, we will discuss My Brilliant Friend: Neapolitan Novels Book One by Elena Ferrante. Elizabeth Strout, author of Olive Kitteridge, praised

this novel highly. She said, "Amazing! *My Brilliant Friend* took my breath away. If I were president of the world I would make everyone read this book. It is so honest and right and opens up heart to so much. Reading Ferrante reminded me of that child-like excitement when you can't look up from the page, when your eyes seem to be popping from your head, when you think: I didn't know books could do this!"

February's book is *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson. This non-fiction, hard-cover book is the 2015-16 UUA Common Read, which is described by the UUA book store as, "A powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice—from one of the most brilliant and influential lawyers of our time." The UUA book store offers various discounts, depending on the number of books purchased.

Contact Linda Hunt at <mailto:lshunt@nycap.rr.com> for further information or questions.

You can add your name to the Walker Book Club email list by going to the Albany UU homepage at <http://albanyuu.org>. Click on Answers to your questions about FUUSA online for detailed instructions to sign up for the Walker Book Club and other Church DB eGroups.

Joys and Caring Corner _____

Illness

Mary Applegate is grieving for a close friend who is in decline with Lou Gehrig's disease.

Karen DeWillers' daughter is suffering from a herniated disk while she is trying to complete her RN degree at Excelsior College.

Peter Meixner who was hospitalized for over 100 days is now recuperating at home

Al DeSalvo is happy to report that his wife **Susan Thompson** is stabilized and stronger. He thanks the congregation for their continued support.

Marjorie Nieh reports that her vascular surgery in her neck this fall was a success.

Mary Reich suffered a fall and as of Dec. 21 is at Daughter's of Sarah Nursing Home for rehab. She welcomes calls and visitors.

Rodger Fink is recovering from foot surgery and welcomes calls, cards and visits during his recovery.

Deaths

Ed Hancock's uncle died last month at the age of 94.

Former UU Albany member, **Dorothy Bellick** died in November. A memorial service will be held in the Spring. Her husband Jack may come up for this service. Sympathy cards may be sent to Jack Bellick, Century Village, 460 Grantham East, Deerfield Beach, FL 33442.

Robert Niles died Nov. 1 at the St. Peter's Hospice Inn.

Nancy Wagner's mother-in-law Mary Ellen Wagner died Dec. 9 in Sebring, OH.

Transitions

The community is saddened by The College of St. Roses's decision to eliminate 23 faculty positions and 28 academic programs.

Bob Blank has moved to the Daughter's of Sarah Nursing Home and welcomes visitors.

Ann Brandon reports she and **Dave** have moved to a larger apartment at Beverwyck Retirement Community and they are now happily settled.

Births

Paula and Steven Moskowitz are proud grandparents to Cooper Hoerz, born healthy on October 23, 2015!

Birthdays

Jan McCracken is thrilled that her mother, **Martha Schroeder**, turned 85 in November and continues in good health!

Bob Franklin's older brother turned 70 last Fall. Bob is happy to report that he is doing well after surviving heart surgery a year ago.

Jaye Holly turned 52 this fall.

Accomplishments

Martha Musser reports the congregation's generosity in a charity collection in October raised \$8,000 for the Sheridan Prep Playground.

Lois and Bob Thomson's special needs granddaughter graduated from Niskayuna High School

and is working at Price Chopper.

Paul Reese has celebrated 18 months of freedom. He thanks the congregation for helping him make it this far.

If you need the services of the Caring Network, please call the office during regular hours at 463-7135.
Items of personal joy or caring may be submitted during the service on the yellow cards provided, or directly to Mary Ann Randall (mabrandall@gmail.com.)

Social Justice

SRC news

The Social Responsibilities Council voted unanimously to sign onto two organization petitions sent out by members of CAAMI—Capital Area Against Mass Incarceration. One petition addressed **Raise the Age** (New York joins North Carolina as the *only* two states in the United States where 16 year olds are tried in adult court) and the other for the **SAFE Parole Act** which seeks to reform a broken parole system. We urge you to be alert to new developments in these areas, especially once the legislature comes into session. We have ordered more Black Lives Matter pins and bumper stickers; once they arrive, we'll have them available on the SRC table after Sunday service. The Walker Book Club will be reading the UU Common Read—Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy: The Story of Justice and Redemption* for its February potluck and discussion, **February 14, 2016**. If you are not a regular attendee of the Walker Book Club but plan to attend (and we really hope you do!), please let me know so that we can plan for the appropriate- sized room (poppej@sage.edu). A three session discussion is also planned for March through Lifespan Learning, offered by Jacqui Williams. There'll be more details as they emerge. Finally, please mark your calendars for **January 9, 2016** when Rev. Julie Taylor will be at FUUSA from 5 to 7pm (refreshments will be served), joined by representatives from CAAMI to talk about **Ferguson and Beyond**.

Undie Sundie January 31, 2016

It's back! We are having our 3rd annual collection of NEW (never before worn) underwear for the under served men, women and children of Albany. The recipient of our collection will be Grass Root Givers. They serve a broad community of the under served, here in Albany.

◆ For the men--boxers or briefs and undershirts

◆ For the women-- brassieres, underpants

◆ For the children--both boys' and girls'--underwear and undershirts.

But if you are apprehensive about buying underwear for people you will probably never meet, you can contribute money by either check (written out to FUUSA with the phrase 'undie sundie' on the memo line. Or if you see Patty Burch and want to give cash, I will make sure you know what was bought.

I hope I kept this message brief and I thank you for your support, in advance!--Patty Burch

Ferguson and Beyond: a conversation on race and justice and myths

Saturday, Jan. 9, 5:00 PM

The issues that energize the Black Lives Movement did not begin in Ferguson, Missouri nor in Staten Island, New York nor even with Trayvon Martin, but long before. Now however ubiquitous cell phone videos are putting us in the position of seeing with our own eyes what was previously hidden and not graphically reported. Still, much more detail has been seen by persons on the ground where these tragic incidents have occurred.

The Black Lives Matter movement has received push back since actively protesting and inconveniencing the general public. Some critics object to the emphasis on "Black" lives, "all" lives matter, others point out that blacks victimize other blacks so why get in faces of the police and the public? People blame the victims by saying if they had not talked back, had not resisted the physical encounter, had not run they would not get shot or tased or arrested. It is obvious to many people that a large proportion of the prison population is made up of people of color, so it seems criminality must be common. These points of view need to be addressed with facts.

On January 9 Albany UU Social Responsibility Council's Black Lives Task force and local activist group Capital Area Against Mass Incarceration (CAAMI) (<http://www.caami.org/>) are pleased to pre-

sent an opportunity to dialog with Rev. Julie Taylor, a UU community minister who has been on the ground in Ferguson since the day following the death of Michael Brown. She felt it pertinent to sit/organize/march/and be present with the young leaders, residents and out of town advocates including dealing with the tear gas and excessive use of force. While the issues surrounding Michael Brown's death remain unsettled, new injustices occur and she joined the people in Baltimore this summer after Freddie Gray was killed. Rev. Julie is a white, Lesbian, Unitarian Universalist, Community Minister, a mom, a spouse and serves as a Chaplain to a National Guard Unit in the Albany UU area.

Joining Rev. Taylor will be Colin J. Donnaruma and Ariela Perez-Wallach, spokespersons from Albany's CAAMI, who have been demanding reforms to criminal justice system and justice in particular for: **Eric Garner**, killed in Staten Island; **Donald "Dontay" Ivy** who was tasered to death in Albany; **Marquis Dixon**, a 17 year old sentenced to 9 years prison for theft of sneakers. Ivy and Garner lost their lives altogether and Dixon will lose 9 irreplaceable years and suffer the effects of this punishment for his lifetime. These three lives did not have to be sent down this path. This path is built and maintained by our representative government, these paths can be given new direction and new outcomes, but we can wait for a miracle, or we can work together to bring about the needed changes.

Please put **Saturday, January 9** from 5 pm to 7 pm on your calendar. I hope you will leave inspired to continue talking, to make calls and write letters to demand important changes in your name.--Ed Hancock

Finishing your Guest at Your Table effort

It is not too late to contribute to the FUUSA Guest at Your Table effort. Our program will conclude on Sunday, January 10. You may return your hopefully generously full Guest at Your Table boxes, and/or checks in envelopes available in the RE window on Sunday mornings, or to DRE Leah Purcell up to that time. If you prefer, you can make your contribution online at <http://www.uusc.org/welcome-to-guest-at-your-table> and the Donate link.

Please contribute to this Unitarian Universalist program of a potent combination of advocacy, educa-

tion, and partnerships with grassroots human rights leaders, UUSC promotes workers' rights, upholds the human right to water, and protects communities at risk. And remember, donations of \$150 or more are eligible for a match, dollar for dollar, thanks to a generous grant by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY.

Questions? Please contact incoming Albany UU UUSC local rep Elena Reynolds (765-2591, Sa-fireReynolds@nycap.rr.com), or outgoing Albany UU UUSC local rep Don Odell (482-4574, dredell31@yahoo.com).

Sheridan Playground Project

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of Albany UU members and friends, the donations to the playground project have grown to over \$11,000. The playground committee, staff and students at Sheridan deeply appreciate your generosity. We expect another \$1,000 from an employer's matching fund. The Albany Fund for Education Board has voted to give us a grant of at least \$600 and we are participating in Stewart's Holiday Match Program. We are pursuing grants from foundations and businesses. If you have ideas, let us know.

The needs of Sheridan's students go beyond a new playground. You can help by volunteering your services weekly or just occasionally for field trips and special events. There are a number of teachers who are asking for classroom volunteers. If you are interested, contact Lois Griffin (griffinocee@gmail.com) or Martha Musser (mussermartha@gmail.com). You can also help the school by collecting the Box Tops for Education that appear on packaging for Kleenex, Betty Crocker, Cheerios and many other products. The school can redeem these box tops for 10 cents each. Please leave your box tops in the box on the Social Responsibilities Council table in Channing Hall.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the playground project. By working together as a congregation, we can accomplish great things and make a meaningful contribution to the community!

Women for a Better World: Please join us for the upcoming breakfast!!!

The next potluck breakfast gathering of Women for a Better World is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 9 from 9:30 am to 11:00 am in Channing Hall.

Lex Bhagat, the development director from Grand Street Community Arts (GSCA) has agreed to join us to discuss GSCA's work and fundraising goals.

The mission of Grand Street Community Arts is to renovate and revitalize St. Anthony's Church as a hub for community, arts and culture. (<http://grandarts.org/>) We will hear a discussion on the organization's goals for the coming year. Each of us will also have the opportunity to donate to the organization...all while enjoying a delicious breakfast with our friends!

To date, fewer than expected people have signed up for the breakfast....we don't want to have to cancel it again so please consider joining us!!!

If you want to attend, sign up asap by sending an email to Elizabeth Berberian at elberberi-

an@nycap.rr.com or sign up on the sheets posted in Channing Hall. Please let me know what breakfast item you'll bring to share.

Overflow Shelter Meals

It is that time of year again when the Homeless Shelters are open and meals for the men are needed. We are responsible for making a full meal-entree, salad, dessert for up to 20 men on the second and fourth Mondays of the month.

The dates are: Jan. 11 and 25; Feb. 8 and 22; March 14 and 28.

Sign up sheets are posted on the volunteer bulletin board in Channing Hall. The meals are made in the Albany UU kitchen from 3:30pm-6:00pm with a delivery at the First Lutheran Church by 6:30p.m.

If you have any questions or thoughts, feel free to contact Patty Burch at patty.burch@gmail.com or her cell phone number: 650-303-1292.

Thank you in advance for your help,
Patty Burch

Two guests in our pulpit this month

Dave Weissbard (Jan. 10) was born into this church - on the recommendation of Dockie* Vosburgh. He was president of the youth group [LRY] during high school and did his first ever sermon on Youth Sunday 1958. He was Ordained into the UU ministry 50 years ago and served churches in Bedford MA; Fairfax, VA; and for 27 years, The UU Church in Rockford, IL. He retired from full time ministry in 2006 and now lives in Canton. Dave preaches monthly in Central Square and occasional-

ly in a variety of UU Churches, including serving as an annual guest in our pulpit.

Dave Munro (Jan. 17,) a long-time member and past president of this congregation, continues to volunteer as a chaplain at Albany Medical Center and is being trained as a hospice counselor. Dave, a mostly retired lawyer, is currently a student at One Spirit Interfaith Seminary in NYC.

*Doctor Frances Vosburgh (for the history buffs amongst our readers!)

Going to miss a Sunday?

You can listen to the entire FUUSA Sunday service at home or on your mobile device.

The two most recent services are available as MP3 files on the FUUSA website. Here is how to access:

Go to <http://albanyuu.org/wp/>. Select Member Login on the website menu. Select FUUSA Secure Site. Type user: fuusan. Type password: Emerson405.

Our sermon archive (select Services/Sermons on the website menu) has pdf files of sermon texts (when available) and audio files of sermons. You can also request the office put a service on CD for you.

Contact Us

Board of Trustees 2015-2016

email: board@albanyuu.org

Executive Committee

Peg Sherman, President
Dick Dana, Vice President
Kathy Harris, Treasurer
RoseAnne Fogarty, Secretary

Trustees

Al Berzinis
Michele Desrosiers
Ben English
Michael Hornsby
Jon Newell
Patti Jo Newell

Ex-officio Members

Sam Trumbore, Minister
Tracie Tilgner, Chair Religious Education Council
Jean Poppei, Chair Social Responsibilities Council

Elected Officer (not on Board of Trustees)

Reese Satin, Assistant Treasurer

Staff

Minister

Rev. Sam Trumbore, strumbore@uumin.org

Church Administrator

Amy Lent, alent@albanyuu.org

Director of Religious Education

Leah Purcell, dre@albanyuu.org

Music Director

Matt Edwards, mge01@yahoo.com

Administrative Assistant

Tammy Hathaway

Custodians

Hadiya Wilborn, Cameron Holloway

Regular meeting days

Check current calendar for time and location

Board of Trustees, 3rd Thursday
Program Coordinating Council, 2nd Thursday
Religious Education Council, 1st Monday
Social Responsibilities Council, 3rd Sunday

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

Phone: 518.463.7135

Address: 405 Washington Avenue, between Robin Street and Lake Avenue, Albany, New York 12206

Main entrance is on Washington Avenue. Rear entrance is on West St. Both have ramp access. The building is fully handicapped accessible.

Parking: Parking is available on the street. On Sundays (and for some special events) FUUSA has permission to use the University at Albany's Hawley Parking Lot on Robin Street at Washington Avenue.

Office hours

September-June: Monday-Friday, 9:00-3:00

July-August: Monday–Thursday 9:00-1:00

And by appointment

Website

www.AlbanyUU.org

Building use

To **reserve a room** for a FUUSA activity, contact Church Administrator Amy Lent (463-7135 or administrator@albanyuu.org).

To **rent hall or classroom space** for a personal or non-FUUSA activity, contact Church Administrator Amy Lent (463-7135 or administrator@albanyuu.org).

Windows is the newsletter of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany. It is published monthly, except July and August, in the offices of the Society at 405 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12206, and distributed to members and friends of the Society. Church office phone is 518-463-7135.

Editor: Amy Lent

Send submissions for all publications to:
Windows@AlbanyUU.org or to the church office.

Publication deadlines

FUUSA Preview email: 9:00 a.m. Wednesdays
Order of Service: 9:00 a.m. Thursdays
Windows: 9:00 a.m. 3rd Friday of the month

Special Meeting on Bylaws Changes on Sunday, Jan. 10, 2016

The Board of Trustees of the First Unitarian Universalist Society has called a Special Meeting of the Society on Sunday, January 10 at 11 AM (immediately after the service).

The purpose of the meeting is to consider several amendments to the Society's bylaws relating to nominations for certain offices, meetings of the Society's Councils, and meetings and membership of the Committee on the Professional Ministry. The resolutions to be voted upon are shown below.

Why is the Board proposing these changes?

The Board approved these changes to enable certain committees and councils to operate more efficiently and effectively. Now they need to be approved by a 2/3 vote of our congregation.

The proposed resolutions:

- Remove the requirement that the Program Coordinating Council, Religious Education Council and Social Responsibilities Council meet at least six times per year, allowing them to meet as often as they determine is needed (Resolution #1).
- Eliminate the requirement for contested elections for positions on the Board of Trustees and the Endowment Trust (Proposed Resolution #2).
- Make it easier for candidates for congregational office to self-declare (Proposed Resolution #3).
- Reduce the number of required members on the Committee on Professional Ministry (Proposed Resolution #4).
- Remove the requirement that the Committee on Professional Ministry meet at least quarterly, allowing them to meet as often as they determine is needed (Resolution #5).

Learn more about the proposed changes:

- Attend a congregational conversation on Sunday, January 3 in Emerson after the service.
- Participate in a Zoom videoconference on Thursday, January 7 at 8 PM. Go to <https://zoom.us/j/3710181454> or call +1 646 568 7788 (US Toll) or +1 415 762 9988 (US Toll), Meeting ID: 371 018 1454.

Resolutions to be considered at the Special Meeting on January 10, 2015

(Additions to the bylaws are underlined and deletions are marked with a strike-through)

Proposed Resolution #1

To amend Section 1 of Article VI (Councils) of the Bylaws as follows:

Section 1.

- A. Each council shall meet ~~at least six times a year~~ at a frequency, such time and place as it shall determine.

Proposed Resolution #2

To amend Section 2 of Article IX (Nominations and Elections) of the Bylaws as follows:

Section 2. Duties

- A. The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for supervising the nomination and election procedure for all elected positions including the Nominating Committee.
- B. It shall receive nominations by request ~~petition~~, ascertain that all nominees are qualified and willing to serve, and inform each nominee of the duties of the position.
- C. It shall at its discretion nominate candidates in addition to those nominated by request ~~petition~~ and ensure that there is at least one nominee for each position of officer, trustee, endowment trustee, council chair, assistant treasurer, elected council member; and at least two nominees for each position of Nominating Committee member, ~~trustee, and endowment trustee~~.

Proposed Resolution #3

To amend Section 3 of Article IX (Nominations and Elections) of the Bylaws as follows:

Section 3. Nominating Procedure

- A. By February 15 the Nominating Committee shall publicize the nominating procedure, the positions to be filled, and a call for nominations.
- B. Until a deadline six weeks prior to the annual meeting, nominations of candidates for any position may be made by presenting the Nominating Committee with a request to seek office ~~nominating petition signed by twenty five active members of the Society~~.
- C. The slate of candidates shall be included in official notices of the meeting and, along with statements by the nominees, shall be mailed to all members at least ten days prior to the annual meeting.
- D. No distinction shall be made between those nominated by request ~~petition~~ and those nominated by the committee.

Proposed Resolution #4

To amend Section 3 of Article X (Staff) of the Bylaws as follows:

Section 3. Ministerial Staff

F. Committee on the Professional Ministry

- 1. This committee shall consist of no fewer than three and no more than six active members of the Society appointed in June by the Board in consultation with the minister. They shall serve for overlapping three-year terms; no individual may serve more than four consecutive years.

Proposed Resolution #5

To amend Section 3 of Article X (Staff) of the Bylaws as follows:

Section 3. Ministerial Staff

F. Committee on the Professional Ministry

- 3. Meetings shall be held at ~~least quarterly~~ a frequency, time and place as the committee determines.

Ferguson and Beyond

Understanding the **Black Lives Matter** movement both nationally and locally with **Rev. Julie Taylor** and two representatives from **Capital Area Against Mass Incarceration**



Rev. Julie Taylor specializes in critical incident response, trauma and disaster spiritual care. A Unitarian Universalist minister living in St. Louis, Rev. Julie has been working on the ground alongside protesters and organizers in a number of capacities since the first week after Michael Brown was killed in Ferguson, MO in August 2014.

5:00 PM, Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016

At First Unitarian Universalist Society
of Albany

405 Washington Ave., Albany NY

Sponsored by First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany (Albany UU) and Capital Area Against Mass Incarceration (CAAMI)

Rev. Julie Taylor will speak about her experiences in Ferguson, and **Colin J. Donnaruma** and **Ariela Perez-Wallach** from CAAMI will speak about current issues in Albany. There will be an opportunity to ask questions, as well as a performance by **Taini Asili**.

A free-will offering will be collected, to be divided to support work in both Ferguson and Albany. The two groups are MORE (Missourians Organizing for Reform and Empowerment) <http://www.organizemo.org/> and Capital Area Against Mass Incarceration (CAAMI) (<http://www.caami.org/>).

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

405 Washington Ave, Albany, NY 12206 | www.AlbanyUU.org



IT'S TIME TO REGISTER for

This UU summer camp offers week-long overnight programming for children, youth and families to interact, create, and play together- making friends that last a lifetime.



SUMMER SCHEDULE

BARTON (ages 9-12)
June 26-July 2

CHANNING 1 & 2 (ages 12-14)
July 3-9 and July 10-16

PARKER 1 & 2 (ages 14-16)
July 17-23 and July 24-30

ADK CANOE ADVENTURE (ages 15-18)
July 24-30

BALLOU 1 & 2 (ages 16-18)
July 31-Aug 6 and Aug 7-13

FAMILY CAMP (All ages)
Aug 14-20

Registration and more info at unirondack.org
Let Leah know if you'd like to talk to a FUUSA Camper - dre@albanyuu.org

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