



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

Mid-Summer 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

Aug. 7 "Poetry as Spiritual Practice" Philomena Moriarty

For centuries we have used poetry to connect with our spiritual selves. Words matter. Words tug at our souls. Words from the Psalms to the poems of Mary Oliver resonate with something deep inside us. This service will be a celebration of poetry to help us rediscover the poetry within.

Music: Randy Rosette

Aug. 14 "Protest and Peace: A UU Minister Responds" Rev. Tom Chulak

In July, I decided to travel to Cleveland to attend the Republican National Convention. I went feeling a sense of urgency to protest the Republican nominee, but even more importantly to be a non-violent presence after the killings of black men in Louisiana and Minnesota and the killing of police in Dallas and Baton Rouge.. I thought, as a Unitarian Universalist Minister, how should I respond? What should I do? This service is a reflection on my response.

Music: Ann Brandon and Randy Rosette

Aug. 21 "My Life Flows on in Endless Song" Sigrin Newell

We describe our lives in many ways. Life is a messy closet, a neat row of scrapbooks, a road. We could compare our lives to a musical composition. As we quest for meaning in our lives, the metaphors we use shape our experience.

Music: Al DeSalvo and Kathy Harris

Aug. 28 "One Cell in the Body of Unitarian Universalism" Rev. Eve Stevens

As Unitarian Universalists, we spend a lot of time thinking about the individual search for truth and meaning. What does it mean to be on an individual journey in community? If it's all about finding our unique path on our own, why do we even need spiritual community? Join us as we explore these ideas.

Music: Al DeSalvo and Chris Bystroff

Sept. 4 "Moral Movements" Rev. Emily McNeill

Labor Day is more than just the end of summer. It's an important occasion to honor the labor movement's contributions to society and to re-commit to work for economic justice. This is work that must engage our deepest moral commitments.

Music: Ann Brandon

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 Hour.....Channing

Exceptions: Choir rehearsal ended for the summer.

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 August

8/3/2016 **Wednesday**
 7:00 PM Capital Campaign Task Force..... Room B-7
 8/4/2016 **Thursday**
 5:15 PM SRC meeting film and dinner with Muslim neighbors
 Channing
 8/10/2016 **Wednesday**
 7:00 PM Capital Campaign Task Force..... Room B-7
 8/15/2016 **Monday**
 1:00 PM Grannies for Peace Room B-7
 8/17/2016 **Wednesday**
 6:30 PM Finance Committee MeetingStott
 8/17/2016 **Wednesday**
 7:00 PM Capital Campaign Task Force..... Room B-7
 8/24/2016 **Wednesday**
 7:00 PM Capital Campaign Task Force..... Room B-7
 8/31/2016 **Wednesday**
 7:00 PM Capital Campaign Task Force..... Room B-7
 9/5/2016 **Monday**
 6:15 PM RE Council meetingChanning
 9/7/2016 **Wednesday**
 7:00 PM Capital Campaign Task Force..... Room B-7
 9/8/2016 **Thursday**
 7:00 PM Program Coordinating Council..... Room B-8
 9/10/2016 **Saturday**
 1:00 PM RE Volunteer Development.....Channing
 9/11/2016 **Sunday**
 - 10:00 AM Homecoming Service.....Emerson
 11:00 AM Coffee Hour and Homecoming Lunch..Channing
 12:00 PM Youth Group Meeting Room B-8

Summer Sundays at Albany UU!

The 9:00 a.m. **Meditation** continues.

We have a **Service** at 10:00 a.m. The summer services are coordinated by Vee Abbitt, with a delightful list of guests in the pulpit.

Children of all ages meet for activities (in an air conditioned classroom) and youth are invited to help or to attend services. Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided by our paid staff.

Coffee Hour becomes Iced Tea and Lemonade (served in the Emerson Alcove.)

The **people** you've enjoyed all year are still here, plus it's a time we often get visitors who are on their summer voyages from elsewhere.

Contributions of **flowers from your garden** to decorate the service are welcome!

If you can volunteer to help on a Sunday when you will be here, we'd love to hear from you. We have openings for Greeters and Ushers. Call the office at 518-463-7135 to volunteer, or sign up at members.albanyuu.org under Volunteer Opportunities.

News

Stewardship Update

“WE’RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER”

Congratulations to all of the members and friends who have contributed so far. We have exceeded our goal !!!!! Check out some details below on the results to date.

Before sharing the numbers, I would like to thank the Albany UU members who worked on the Stewardship Campaign this year. First, I would like to thank Lynne Lekakis, who was the co-chair. She was a big help and took some of the burden off me.

Twenty-five people participated in this year’s effort. I would like to start by thanking Jack Heinsohn for preparing a wonderful dinner for last year’s Visionaries and pillars of the congregation. Jack had help from Sharon and Mike Babala, Kathy Harris, and Barb Manning.

Others who helped on the campaign were Paula Brewer, Malcolm Bell, Tim Burch, Dick Dana, Fred Eames, Kathy Harris, Kathy Hodges, Barb Manning, Marshall Miller, Martha Musser, Don Odell, John Sherman, Peggy Sherman, Rev. Sam, Lucy Wrightington, and Linda Way. Amy Lent and Tammy Hathaway also provided a great deal of administrative

help. It was a great team that exemplified this year’s theme “We’re All In This Together”

Here are the promised highlights:

- ◆ Our goal for this year was \$445,000. To date we have raised \$447,886. A fantastic result and there are still a few more pledges to come in. If you have not pledged and would like to be part of this major achievement you can still go to the web site and make a pledge or contact me.
- ◆ The success of the campaign so far is demonstrated by the fact that nearly 2/3 of those pledging have increased their pledge. Even more impressive is that the average increase of those who have pledged is about 10%.
- ◆ In terms of donors by category – There were 4 Ten Percenters (a first for Albany UU); 55 Visionaries (an increase of 25%); 19 Sustainers; and 17 Supporters. This represents a great commitment to our community.

By reaching our goal we will be able to:

- ◆ Live up to our principles by providing at least a \$15 an hour wage to all of our employees.
- ◆ Support all of our employees by increasing our contribution to their retirement and providing them with a modest cost of living increase.
- ◆ Continue the programs and services that enhance our UU community in our on-going search for truth and deeper meaning.
- ◆ Take our UU values of justice and compassion out to the wider world.

Thank you all for your generosity!!—Chuck Manning

Neighborhood Outreach

Across the street from Albany UU, SUNY Albany is investing big bucks in their downtown campus, renovating the abandoned city school building, corner of Washington and Lake, into an engineering school. They are working with Mayor Kathy Sheehan on a study of the neighborhood and how best to integrate into and improve the various components of our neighborhood: parking, residential, retail, academic, religious, etc. SUNY is engaging with the neighborhood and we need to be at the table to represent our interests. But this is also an opportunity to engage with our neighbors and to help

Homecoming!

Sunday, September 11

- ☞ **Bring water** (real or virtual) gathered during your summer (at home or away) to symbolize the regathering of our community.
- ☞ **Send a couple photos** of your summer for inclusion in the slideshow to photos @albanyuu.org by Sept. 1.
- ☞ **Plan on lunch after the service!** Everyone is invited to a light lunch in Channing hall right after the service. Please bring a “finger food” (no utensils and no heating up needed!) to share: sandwiches (cut in half), raw veggies, fruit, cheese and crackers, deviled eggs, or other appetizers. Drop off your contribution that morning in the kitchen. This is a nice time to catch up with friends and meet some new people after the summer’s activities. See you then!

improve our neighborhood.

I have raised my hand and will be part of this group; but as president I haven't the time to coordinate this effort. We need several people interested in this project who would be willing to attend meetings and presentations by SUNY, representing Albany UU, and to report back to the group and to help strategize other possible approaches to engaging with the community. And we need one person willing to coordinate these efforts. Anyone interested in this project, please give me a call. —Dick Dana 518-813-1992.

Memorial Service for Mark Butt

A memorial service for Mark Butt will be held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, Sept. 17 in Emerson Community Hall, followed by a reception in Channing Hall.

Memorial Service for Bob Thomson

A memorial service for Bob Thomson will be held sometime in the fall.

Green lights from Building and Grounds

Virtually all of the overhead lights in the RE building were installed when the building was built in the '60s. They were T-12 fluorescent fixtures. T-12's are the fat fluorescent tubes and compared to new LED lights are very inefficient. In recent years the old fixtures have been a constant problem for Buildings & Grounds. Bulbs and ballasts die regularly and have to be replaced, the covers have yellowed and cracked with age, etc. When we remodeled room B3-B4 a couple of years ago we replaced the old fixtures with new LED lighting.

To encourage replacement of old technology with the much more efficient LED fixtures, an incentive program was established that is administered through National Grid. The manufacture of T-12 bulbs will soon be discontinued, so eventually replacing the all old fixtures will no longer be an option.

We remodeled room 26 last winter. In addition to replacing a very tired drop ceiling, removing the old green-board and painting the room, we used the incentive to convert the lighting from the T-12 fluorescent fixtures to LED fixtures. At that time we also changed Channing Hall from fluorescent and incandescent lights to LEDs. Over the past couple of

months we took advantage of the incentive program again. LED lights have replaced older technology in all remaining classrooms, the ceiling of the second floor hall, all stairways in the RE building and all exterior lights.

The cost of materials and labor for this conversion would have been \$18,500 without the incentive, but with the incentive was actually only \$7,350. Since we did not have any major disasters this year there was enough in the B&G budget line to pay for the change.

Replacement was inevitable eventually anyway. The new lights, with a life expectancy of 100,000 hours, will essentially eliminate a problem for B&G. Our National Grid bill will go down. And, in keeping with the Green Sanctuary Committee's goal of reducing our carbon footprint, we will be more 'green'!
—Dave Metz

Looking Forward – Promises We Keep

Introducing the campaign to raise funds to reduce the amount we need to borrow from the Endowment Trust, or from a bank, to refinance the loans taken to construct Emerson Community Hall.

The *Looking Forward* campaign is not just about a building and our remaining debt: It's about our values and our legacy. It's about sustained commitment to our mission and our capacity to carry it forward. Every generation has an obligation to the future. We have all benefitted from the vision and sacrifices of those who have gone before us.

The addition of the Emerson Community Hall building has proven to be a vital space for our members. It's also a valued resource for the wider community. It was built with generous donations by the membership in a capital campaign conducted in 2004, together with major loans from the Endowment Trust and from a commercial bank. The bank loan now must be renegotiated. Since the original development campaign, many people have joined our congregation. Now, the approaching debt restructuring provides an opportunity for newer members, who were not here to participate in the original capital campaign, to help assure the Society's future. It is also an opportunity for those who did support the 2004 campaign to further enhance the future prospects of Albany UU.

The Board of Trustees has established this cam-

paign in response to issues and ideas raised at the Annual Meeting in May. Members voiced concerns at that meeting about taking on debt rather than discharging it. In response Jon Newell and a supporting cast have developed this campaign.

We stand at the cusp of a new world – one in need of the moral and spiritual foundation which Unitarian Universalism offers. Our actions now will determine whether UUs in Albany prosper or begin to wane. Enrollments across all denominations are declining. Our congregation is challenged to be innovative, creative, and flexible to counter that trend. Now it's time to leave the next generation with less indebtedness and a larger endowment.

Watch for further details as the summer ends. We will begin the campaign in earnest in mid- September.

Transylvania comes to Albany

Four members of our partner church, the Unitarian Church of Szökefalva, Transylvania, Romania, will

visit Albany UU this fall! Tünde Szasz, their minister, and three others will arrive on September 29 and be with us until October 11. This should be an interesting and exciting time for us to learn about the Unitarian church in a very different context, explore our differences, and understand more about the history of Unitarianism in Romania. In turn, they will learn about us as one representative of the Unitarian Universalist movement in the US.

Our visitors will stay with families in our congregation, so the Partner Church Committee will be looking for members who would like to share their homes with one or more of our visitors for part of their stay here in Albany. In addition we may need assistance with transportation and other services as the plans for their visit are finalized.

If you are interested in assisting please contact me by cell phone (330-6389) or email at dave.metz@verizon.net. As stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.--Dave Metz

Growing Together

Getting to Know UU: orientation to UUism

Save the date: Saturday, Oct. 1, 8:45 AM-noon

We invite you to join us for "Getting to Know UU". We'll start with coffee and snacks and getting to know each other. You'll learn about Unitarian Universalism and about our congregation, and you'll get a chance to ask all the questions you've been collecting. We'll talk about how to get involved in the Albany UU community and about becoming a member. All in all, it's a fun morning of conversation and fellowship, and a pleasant first step on the path to membership!

Childcare is available: please let us know you need it when you register.

To sign up: Send an email to registration@albanyuu.org, call the office at 463-7135, or sign up in Channing Hall. Please indicate if you need childcare.

Let's stay connected this summer online!

When you post a picture of your summer adventures to Face Book, Twitter or Instagram, tag it #AlbanyUUSummerFun. Search the hashtag when-

ever you want to feel connected to your fellow Albany UU's. AND the office will use these photos (and others if folks want to email them to the office) for the slide show at our Ingathering Service, Sept 11. For extra fun, include your "Flat Sophia" in your photo. You can pick yours up at Albany UU or you can [print out on your own](#).

We need volunteers to guide the Sunday school groups this fall.

We're halfway there with sign ups, but we need volunteers in every group except OWL for 5th grade and 8th grade. Leah is putting out a special call for volunteers to guide our Green Group (3rd Graders) in [Moral Tales](#) or our Blue Group (4th graders) in [Faithful Journeys](#). And these are two of her favorite curricula. Moral Tales works to provide children with the spiritual and ethical tools they will need to make choices and take actions reflective of their Unitarian Universalist beliefs and values; and it has the best stories. Faithful Journeys focuses on historic or contemporary examples of Unitarian Universalist faith in action. Can you volunteer about 6 mornings in service of our children this fall term? You'll find more about our program including descriptions of each of the curricula, and the RE calen-

dar at [Leah's blog http://members.albanyuu.org/wp/dre-blog/religious-exploration-sunday-morning-for-children-and-youth-and-you/](http://members.albanyuu.org/wp/dre-blog/religious-exploration-sunday-morning-for-children-and-youth-and-you/) Contact her at dre@albanyuu.org or at her blog

Safety and Beyond: This fall the RE Guides (Teachers) Development Session will focus on safety and class management techniques AND making space to honor the “little” stories of the children and youth; and the “big” stories of our UU Principles and traditions. Mark your calendars for Sat, Sept 10 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Led by Leah Purcell - Childcare will be available if you contact Leah at dre@albanyuu.org by Sept 1.

RE Calendar

Sept. 11 Multigenerational Ingathering Service

Sept. 18 – First Day of Sunday school and Picnic in Washington Park afterwards

Full Fall RE Calendar at [Leah's blog http://members.albanyuu.org/wp/dre-blog/re-calendar-fall-2016-2/](http://members.albanyuu.org/wp/dre-blog/re-calendar-fall-2016-2/)

Notes from Joy Library

BEING MORTAL : medicine and what matters in the end by Atul Gawande. Henry Holt & Co. (2014) 362.17 GAW

I finally read **BEING MORTAL** and though I recommended it last year, now I enthusiastically recommend it. I love Gawande's contrasting old age in a traditional society, India, with the constraints and limitations of it in modern America. Most people would like to grow old at home surrounded by loving extended families, but today this is often impossible. Gawande looked at ways of enriching nursing home life, such as one nursing home medical director who believed that a good life is one of maximum independence and tackled the “Three Plagues of nursing home existence: boredom, loneliness and helplessness.” He invited children, allowed gardening and used a grant to acquire four cats, two dogs and one hundred parakeets! It worked! Never denying or trivializing death, Gawande writes about living to the last with autonomy, dignity and joy. Oliver Sacks said, about this book:

“We have come to medicalize aging, frailty, and death, treating them as if they were just one more clinical problem to overcome. However, it is not only

medicine that is needed in one's declining years but life – a life with meaning, a life as rich and full as possible under the circumstances. **BEING MORTAL** is not only wise and deeply moving, it is an essential and insightful book for our times, as one would expect from Atul Gawande, one of our finest physician writers.” – Oliver Sacks from backcover.

PIG TALES: AN OMNIVORE'S QUEST FOR SUSTAINABLE MEAT by Barry Estabrook. WW Norton (2015). 636.41 EST

“Barry Estabrook has written a beautiful and clear-eyed examination of the world of pigs and pig farming. With his engaging prose and soulful, riveting stories, he illuminates the complexities of the pig industry, and the desperate need for reform. And he gives us hope, too, by telling the stories of the people who care for these remarkable animals—and the land—for future generations.”—Alice Waters, *Chez Panisse*.

AMERICA'S ORIGINAL SIN: RACISM, WHITE PRIVILEGE, AND THE BRIDGE TO A NEW AMERICA by Jim Wallis. Brazos Press (2016). 305.8009 WAL

“It's time we right this unacceptable wrong,” says bestselling author and leading Christian activist Jim Wallis. Fifty years ago, Wallis was driven away from his faith by a white church that considered dealing with racism to be taboo. His participation in the civil rights movement brought him back when he discovered a faith that commands racial justice. Yet as recent tragedies confirm, we continue to suffer from the legacy of racism. The old patterns of white privilege are colliding with the changing demographics of a diverse nation. The church has been slow to respond, and Sunday morning is still the most segregated hour of the week.

“In **AMERICA'S ORIGINAL SIN**, Wallis offers a prophetic and deeply personal call to action in overcoming the racism so ingrained in American society. He speaks candidly to Christians—particularly white Christians—urging them to cross a new bridge toward racial justice and healing.”

Religious Exploration

Religious Exploration - Talking to Our Children and Youth about Racism and Violence

Leah Purcell, Director of Religious Education

Our new website promotes Sunday school as “Sunday morning is a time made special and unique from the rest of the week for children and youth to grow in Unitarian Universalism. Adult volunteers work to create communities where everyone can deepen their sense of being at home with the universe; where they can think about their own experiences and explore what meaning other stories have for them; and where they can practice compassion among themselves and become better able to carry their values to the wider world.”

I’ve been wondering how we can compassionately make Sunday school explicitly a place where children can talk about scary things and sad things and real things. As I write this, last week we adults were responding to the recent killings in Baton Rouge, LA; Falcon Heights, MN; and Dallas TX. With the help of my DRE colleagues on line, I hastily created a multigenerational Ritual of Remembrance and Renewal (<http://members.albanyuu.org/wp/dre-blog/2016/07/15/multi-generational-ritual-of-remembrance-and-renewal/>) and offered it as a choice for families after Sunday school. And I encouraged families who didn’t attend to use it at home. It’s at my blog. I didn’t have time to research a more kid-friendly poem for the beginning of it. If you have a good poem about broken things and fixing them, let me know. Sadly, we’ll continue to need these sorts of rituals for children, youth and families.

I’ve been wondering how Albany UU families have been talking about race and violence at home.

I’ve been wondering how we can bridge the conversations between home and Sunday school.

Of course, we adults, - parents and RE volunteer guides, leaders in the congregation and I need to be aware of the developmental stages in children so we can respond to them appropriately. Talking to Our Children About Racism & Diversity from the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund. (http://www.civilrights.org/publications/reports/talking_to_our_children/?referrer=https://www.google.com/) gives specifics like

Children ask questions as soon as they can talk. Even toddlers wonder about similarities and differences between people. Simple answers delivered without upset, shock, or anger will provide them with the information they need.

Five-to eight-year-olds begin to place value judgements

on similarities and differences.

They are also exposed to a wider range of people and ideas and experience more bigotry.

Adolescents and pre-teens may ask some of the same questions as younger children, but their ever evolving minds and their broadening experiences allow them to understand more complex answers.

A challenge for those of us who are white is acknowledging that innocence is a privilege for white kids: black children are not allowed to be innocent in America

Sachi Feris writes in her blog Raising Race Conscious Children: <http://www.raceconscious.org/> “The breaking of innocence should not only be black parents’ responsibility. It should be the responsibility of white parents as well.” You’ll find lots of valuable links for parents in Telling My White Four-Year-Old About Alton Sterling and Philando Castile. (<http://www.raceconscious.org/2016/07/telling-four-year-old-alton-sterling-philando-castile/>) I recommend that you subscribe to this blog.

I know parents of young children don’t share every shooting with their young children. And I know some parents are struggling about where to start a conversation about race. So to give our children opportunities to think about their own experiences and explore what meaning other stories have for them; and to practice compassion among themselves and become better able to carry their values to the wider world, let’s open a conversation among us adults.

Please go to my blog to share your thoughts about bridging home life and RE and discussions about race and violence. (<http://members.albanyuu.org/wp/dre-blog/2016/07/15/talking-to-our-children-and-youth-about-racism-and-violence/>)

As I write this I’m about to head out to Star Island for Lifespan Religious Education Week, where I’ll be leading a training for DREs on RE teacher development. And as part of that I’m inviting a conversation about talking about race and violence in Sunday school. So I hope the training will be a learning experience for me too. And my own reading for the week is Toward the “Other America” – Anti-racist Resources for White People Taking Action for Black Lives Matter. (<http://www.chriscrass.org/books.html>) Four hundred years of colonization and slavery left us the political ideology of white supremacy. Let’s make this journey of reflection, commitment and action together as a religious community to form our response to the legacy of that atrocity.

In faithful service, Leah



Our Community

We're all invited...

After the service on "Homecoming Sunday" (Sept. 11), please join us in Channing Hall for a light lunch. Everyone should bring a food item to contribute to the lunch that can be eaten with our hands--no utensils and no heating up. Last year we ran out of food, as we Albany UUs are a hungry bunch, so try to bring some contribution to the meal!

Some ideas for contributions: Sandwiches (cut in half), cheese and crackers, raw veggies, hummus, fresh fruit, deviled eggs, chips and salsa, pretzels, cookies. Drinks will be provided. Any questions, please contact Barb Manning (439-4226, barbarac-manning@hotmail.com) or Jan Satin (767-3509, janetsatin@verizon.net).

Channing Circle gathers again, Sept. 19

Channing Circle looks forward to another exciting year of their monthly luncheon gatherings to share life experiences and interesting discussions.

We hope you'll put Sept. 19th on **your** schedule to join with friends or come for the first time and make new friends. Thayer Heath will be leading the conversation of the day and Jean Bolgatz will be bringing delicious dessert. (Kathy Hodges will be in Florida celebrating her dad's 104th birthday.)

Topics on the list for this coming year include "Favorite Poetry" and "Share a Trip or Trek"! So, save September 19th on your calendar and join the group! Bring your own sandwich and come join see what's happening.--Kathy Hodges and Thayer Heath

Unirondack's Annual Dinner, Sept. 17

Tickets are now on sale for Camp Unirondack's first ever annual dinner. Join Unirondack in celebrating its 50th year of incorporation. Camp Unirondack has made an impact on thousands of children's lives over the past 65 years of the camp's existence. All proceeds from the dinner will go to the campership fund that provides scholarships for any campers who can't afford the full tuition for time at camp.

Come enjoy good music and delicious Italian food. There will be a silent auction with a variety of inter-

**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.

esting items to bid on. We will be honoring Tom Cutter, a long-time supporter and community member of Unirondack. He has an excellent ear for music and enjoyed practicing and playing the flute. Tom made an impact at Unirondack and in the world as a whole with significant contributions to wildlife conservation.

As many of you are aware, Albany UU just suffered a loss with the passing of Mark Butt. Mark made an impact at Unirondack as a board member and an avid supporter of the yearly men's weekend. In honor of Mark's impact, the Unirondack Board has voted to change the name of the Men's Week to "Mark's Gathering of Men." This will be made official at the dinner, where we will be honoring Mark and all he has contributed to Unirondack and to every person he's been in touch with.

Another weekend that has made a significant impact on Unirondack is the Queer-Straight Alliance weekend which was started 8 years ago in an effort to bring together two LGBTQA youth groups, one from Planned Parenthood and one from GLSEN. Unirondack will be honoring Wayne Bowmanchester, one of the founders of the weekend and GLSEN NYC. After two years Wayne and Darren Cosgrove decided to bring the weekend to Unirondack to expand the retreat and make the weekend more accessible to a wider group of participants. The weekend's mission is an important one to Unirondack and has impacted policies and procedures throughout our summer sessions. The goal of Unirondack is to create an open and accepting community for all.

The dinner will be held at Treviso by Mallozzi's, 57

Washington Avenue Extension, Albany, NY 12205 at 6pm on September 17th, 2016.

Buy tickets at <http://www.unirondack.org/donate/annual-dinner-2016/>

Any questions can be directed to Lauren.Hunt@unirondack.org.

Albany UU Humanists

The Albany UU Humanists starts our third year of activity at Albany UU this Fall. Our next meeting will be 7 PM on September 20 at Albany UU, the **third** Tuesday of the month (instead of the second Tuesday). Our conversation continues as to what constitutes Humanism in Unitarian Universalism and at Albany UU. We also anticipate discussing a Free-thought Congregation, a program of the UU Humanists that we might recommend at Albany UU.

But, don't let the summer pass without learning more about Humanism in Unitarian Universalism. Please go to the UU Humanists website at <http://humanists.org>. There you will find the UU Humanist blog, and some related Facebook groups. There is also the American Humanist Association's website at <http://americanhumanist.org>.



Also, please feel free to join the Albany UU Humanists conversations on the Albany UU website (member.albanyuu.org) by clicking Groups and add your name to the Albany UU Humanists. You may also call the Albany UU office (463-7135), or contact Don Odell (odell.don@gmail.com, 482-4574) to be added to the egroup.

Save the date - Oct. 1 Dance Party!

Put your dancing shoes on and join us for a fun dance. Great mix of music with GB5 playing. All are invited, bring your friends and family! Details to follow...

Walker Book Club

Join the Walker Book Club for a potluck and book discussion on Sunday, September 11, 2016 at 5:30 pm in Channing Hall. Newcomers are always welcome.

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.

In September, we will discuss The Master: A Novel by Colm Toibin. Based on letters between author Henry James and his brother, Toibin sheds light on the inner life and unsuccessful relationships of Henry James, who leaves America in the late 19th century to live among other intellectual and privileged writers and artists in Europe.

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

Joys and Caring Corner _____

Illness

Sally Bratspis fell in June and broke her right leg. She would appreciate visits!

Peter Gerdine's wife, **Thelma**, has COPD and in addition has gotten a lung biopsy.

Sharon Babala had surgery earlier this summer and is recovering well.

Sam Trumbore's step mother, Ginnie, has been ill.

Joys

Jacqui Williams' grandson is approaching one year being substance abuse free.

Jaye Holly is happy to report that her nephew, Travis, has been clean and sober from drug and alcohol abuse for one year.

Deaths

Iliana Semmler died June 17. A memorial was held for her at Albany UU on June 28th.

Sarah Belova's mom died in February. Before she passed she was able to see her new granddaughter, Anya Mary.

Mark Butt died June 21 as a result of injuries suffered in an accident during a charity bicycle ride. His wife Carol and her daughters are thankful for the gifts of food and outpouring of support. A memorial service is scheduled for Sept. 17 at 2 pm at Albany UU.

Bob Thomson died July 17. A memorial service is planned for the fall.

Birthdays

Bob Blank turned 100 on July 13th. He would love to

receive cards! His address at the Daughter's of Sarah Nursing Home is Rm 243, 180 Washington Avenue Extension, Albany, NY 12203

Kathy Hodges' father will turn 104 on August 2nd! He recently made his annual visit to Nebraska to visit the family homestead with his daughters and to go to his high school reunion.

Dean Howard is happy to announce that his mother will turn 94 next month. She is doing well living with Dean and his wife receiving VNA care to remain relatively independent.

Births

Andrea Ricard was in Minnesota to welcome her new grandson, Ian Joseph Isaac, born on July 7th.

Carol Young and Chris Chapple are thrilled to announce the arrival of their first grandchild, Freya Lilli-

an Chapple born to Charlie Chapple and Erin Metcalf of Franklin, NH on June 14.

Anniversary

Arden and Marilyn Dockter recently celebrated their 51st anniversary in Florida.

Milestones

Martha Musser is happy to announce that a \$15,000 grant was approved and will add to the \$45,000 total needed to build the Sheridan playground.

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

Social Responsibilities Council notes

SRC does not meet regularly in the summer, although we stay connected by email. The elected members will reconvene for an organizing potluck during the first week of September and will come up with a list of potential 2016-17 appointed members (who will have full voting status) at that time. If you would like to be considered, please contact Chair, Jean Poppei, at poppei@sage.edu.

Looking ahead, SRC and the Peace Team recommend that you check out: <http://www.paceebene.org/programs/campaign-nonviolence/> in preparation for the **Campaign Nonviolence (CNV) Week of Action 2016 September 18-25**, which includes the international day of peace, September 21. If interested in creating and participating in an action, get in touch with Jean Poppei (SRC) or Ed Hancock (Peace Team).

Finally, on a personal note, I (Jean Poppei) was a delegate to the UUA General Assembly held in Columbus Ohio in late June. As a delegate, I'm authorized by AlbanyUU to vote on matters that come before the Assembly, not all of which are known before the meeting. This placed me in a somewhat uncomfortable position as I could only represent my own feelings, with no sense of how our Congregation might vote. One such issue was a business resolution that asked that a practice of screening invest-

ments for human rights violations be continued, but became controversial because it specifically mentioned concerns about Palestine. It did not get a 2/3 vote, although it was also amended to include several affirming statements about Israel. I hope that AlbanyUU can have some discussions about this issue in the coming church year. Black Lives Matter was an important theme at GA and, as a white person, I tried hard to listen with intention—to “step up and step back,” a phrase used in one of the workshops I attended at Justice Works held in Albany July 23/24. Justice Works is a conference where “activists from every corner of NYS, com[e] together to strategize next steps in our collective fight for a more just world.” Other AlbanyUU attendees were Jacqui Williams and Elena Reynolds (also a member of SRC). I hope next year you'll be inspired to attend as well. And, GA will be in New Orleans next year where already opportunities for social action are being planned with local partners.

School Supplies collection!

We are again collecting school supplies for the children of the families of the Focus Food Pantry.

There are a few changes for this year's Backpack Project to ensure that all the needed items are available for the grades K-12th backpacks.

Albany UU is responsible for donating: College ruled 1-themed notebooks, College ruled composition books, College ruled binder paper, 1 1/2 " 3-ring binders.

The **drop off venue** is Emmanuel Baptist Church, 275 State Street, Albany. The **dates to drop off** the supplies are : August 8-11, 10a.m.-12:30p.m.

The **creation of the backpacks** is August 15-19. (8/15-10am-12noon; 8/16-10am-12noon; 8/17-9:30am-12:30pm AND 4:30pm-7:30pm; 8/18 10am-12noon; 8/19 10am-12noon) **If you would like to help load up the backpacks**, contact Becca Leet (beccal@focuschurches.net) to schedule your volunteer time.

OR to make it easier you can send a check to the Focus Churches of Albany, in the memo line please write: school supplies and mail it to Focus Churches of Albany, 275 State St. Albany, NY 12210.

Any questions or clarification, feel free to contact Patty Burch (patty.burch@gmail.com).

Sheridan Playground Project

I am happy to report that we have raised almost \$45,000 for the playground at Sheridan Preparatory Academy (SPA). Our goal of \$50,000 is within sight. In the last month, we received two significant grants. We received a \$15,000 Let's Play Construction Grant from Kaboom, a not-for-profit organization that collects money from corporations and makes grants for playgrounds for disadvantaged children. The Dr. Pepper Snapple Group is the sponsor of our grant. We also received a grant of \$5,000 from the Junior League of Albany and the promise of their participation in the project.

Albany UU members and friends have been extraordinarily generous, donating over \$11,000. The Endowment Trust donated an additional \$5,000. I am very proud that our religious education classes raised \$140 and SPA students raised \$200 selling lemonade. The playground committee, staff and students at Sheridan deeply appreciate your generosity. We have also received donations from the Albany Fund for Education, Stewart's Shops, Regeneron, and Price Chopper's Golub Foundation.

The Albany School District has agreed to assist us by helping to prepare the site for the new playground equipment and by donating the required safety surfacing material. Chuck Manning, who is overseeing planning for the site renovation, and I are meeting with school district officials, the principal, Zuleika Sanchez-Gayle, and the lead teacher to identify im-

provements to the playground site that comply with district and state regulations and fall within our budget. After that meeting, we will have a better idea of when we can schedule the Build Day for the playground. We are looking forward to your participation in this exciting event.

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 (griffinocce@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!—Martha Musser

Peace Team notes

August 4, plan to join in support of our Muslim neighbors in an anniversary walk commemorating the arrests of Yassin Aref & Mohammend Hossain. The walk begins at 5:30 PM at Masjid As-Salam (house of peace) Mosque, 278 Central Ave. and proceeds to AlbanyUU for light dinner and the film "(T)error". The film chronicles the targeted entrapment and prosecution of local Muslim Americans. This practice of entrapment has been used against citizens protesting the Vietnam War, Civil Rights abuses of people of color and now Muslims in general. Dinner at no cost at 6:15 and film to follow at 6:45.

18th Annual Kateri Tekakwitha Interfaith Peace Conference. Confronting the Politics of Fear, Aug. 19-20. Presenters include our own Rev. Chris Antal, Imam Djafer Sebkhauoui, Amani Olugbala who sang at our Beyond Ferguson program. Full scholarships are available:<http://kateripeaceconference.org/conference-year> --Ed Hancock

Contact Us

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email: board@albanyuu.org

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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

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