

Edited for the Web: Personal information and contacts removed, as well as children's last names. Web viewers needing more information are invited to contact the church office at administrator@fuusalbany.org.

WINDOWS

Newsletter of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

Mid-summer 2012

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Sunday Schedule

9:00 AM

Mindfulness Meditation

9:45 AM

Nursery/Toddler rooms open

10:00 AM

Service

Children's Chapel

(1st Sunday/mo.)

Religious Education

11:00 AM

Coffee Hour

11:45 AM

Forum (2nd & 4th Sundays/mo.)

Sundays at FUUSA

Please join us on any Sunday for:

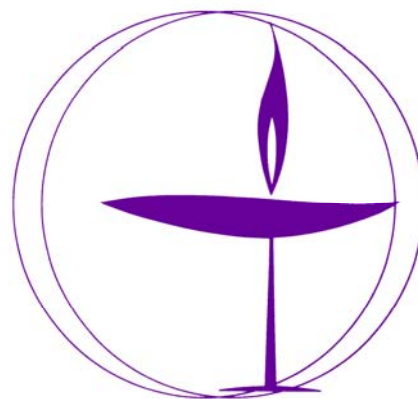
Mindfulness Meditation, Religious Education for children and youth, the Service, Coffee Hour, or any combination thereof. Other programs include Forum (social justice and environmental topics), Children's Chapel, social events, and adult education.

All are welcome!

Summer Services

Our presenters will be:

- July 29 Wellspring (Betsey Miller; Jan McCracken; Dick Dana)
- Aug. 5 What Animals Mean to Me (Sally Knapp and Linda Hunt)
- Aug. 12 Rev. Mark Kiyimba Brown
- Aug. 19 Sigrin Newell
- Aug. 26 Rev. Lynn Ashley
- Sept. 2 Diane Cameron Pascone



Homecoming Sunday—September 9

Bring water from your summer journeys!

Dates to remember!

The traditional year starts up again this fall with Services and Religious Education on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Sept. 9 Homecoming Service and Water Communion:

We gather as a community in Emerson Community Hall

The Nursery will be open for infants and toddlers.

All are invited to a potluck picnic lunch in Channing Hall after the service.

Sept. 16 Worship Service

First day of fall term of Sunday School for children and youth (toddlers through Senior High school).

The Nursery will be open.

Calendar

Events happening every Sunday at FUUSA _____

| | | | |
|----------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 9:00 AM | Mindfulness Meditation | Sanctuary | Exceptions: |
| 10:00 AM | Service | Emerson | |
| 10:00 AM | Religious Education | Classrooms | |
| 11:00 AM | Coffee Hour | Channing, Emerson | |

Events happening every week in the summer months _____

| | | | | |
|------------|----------|-------------------|-----|-------------|
| Tuesdays | 10:00 AM | Philosophy Group | B-8 | Exceptions: |
| | 1:00 PM | Bridge | B-8 | |
| Wednesdays | 10:00 AM | Projects & Quilts | B-8 | |
| Thursdays | 5:00 PM | Metta Meditation | 26 | |

All other events happening in the summer months _____

| | | | | | |
|----------|---|--------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1-Aug | | | 20-Sep | | |
| | Focus Food Pantry/School Backpack Project | | 7:00 PM | Board of Trustees | Room B-8 |
| 2-Aug | | | 21-Sep | | |
| | Focus Food Pantry/School Backpack Project | | 6:00 PM | Meditation Retreat (Whole Building) | |
| 3-Aug | | | 30-Sep | | |
| | Focus Food Pantry/School Backpack Project | | 12:00 PM | Everyone's Birthday Party (tentative) | Channing Hall |
| 12-Aug | | | | | |
| 11:30 AM | FUUSA Participants in GA | Room B-8 | | | |
| 16-Aug | | | | | |
| 1:00 PM | Rev. Peggy Clarke/ Social Justice Meeting | Room B-8 | | | |
| 16-Aug | | | | | |
| 2:00 PM | District Meeting | Room B-8 | | | |
| 19-Aug | | | | | |
| 0:00 AM | Service | | | | |
| 23-Aug | | | | | |
| 6:45 PM | Board Meeting | Room B-8 | | | |
| 25-Aug | | | | | |
| 11:00 AM | Charles Estey Memorial | Emerson, Sanctuary | | | |
| 26-Aug | | | | | |
| 10:00 AM | Service | | | | |
| 2-Sep | | | | | |
| 10:00 AM | Service | | | | |
| 7-Sep | | | | | |
| 4:00 PM | Board Retreat | Channing Hall | | | |
| 8-Sep | | | | | |
| 8:30 AM | Board Retreat | Channing Hall, Sanctuary | | | |
| 3:30 PM | Orientation for new RE volunteers | Channing | | | |
| 9-Sep | | | | | |
| 10:00 AM | Homecoming Sunday/Picnic Potluck | Channing | | | |
| 10:00 AM | Service | | | | |
| 11:45 AM | Forum | Emerson | | | |
| 10-Sep | | | | | |
| 6:00 PM | RE Council meeting | Channing Hall | | | |
| 13-Sep | | | | | |
| 7:00 PM | Program Coordinating Council (PCC) | Room B-8 | | | |
| 16-Sep | | | | | |
| 10:00 AM | Service | | | | |
| 11:30 AM | Auction Committee Meeting | Room B-8 | | | |

News

You're invited...

Please join us for a church-wide picnic lunch in Channing Hall after the Homecoming service on Sunday, **September 9!** Sandwiches, coffee, and other beverages will be served. If you'd like to contribute to the light lunch, please bring fruit, vegetables, cookies or other finger foods to share.

Send your summer photos for the slide show at our Homecoming Service

Be a part of the visual element of the service on Sept 9th by sending in a photo or two of your summer adventures. The slideshow of FUUSAns' summer adventures has become one of our ingathering traditions. Whether your adventures were half way around the world, or in your backyard; solo or with friends or family, if you have electronic photos you'd like to have included, send it to Leah by Aug 31 at dre@albanyuu.org with Summer Photo in the subject line.

Charles Estey memorial set

A memorial service for Charlie Estey will be held on Saturday, August 25 at 11:00am.

FUUSA Choir invites you...

Welcome to the 2012-2013 FUUSA year! The FUUSA Choir, directed by Matt Edwards, will have its first rehearsal on Wednesday, Sept. 5 at 7:00 pm in Emerson Hall, and plan on singing at the Homecoming service on Sept. 9. Rehearsals are most Wednesdays and we sing at the Sunday service about twice a month. The FUUSA choir will also be joining the Grinnell College Choir in concert in March 2013. Other concerts and events are planned, including a Pot-Luck Sing-a-Long in the spring. Come, make music and make friends! All voice levels are welcome as well as instrumentalists. For more information contact Matt at musicdirector@albanyuu.org, or Kathy Harris at xxx, xxx.

Plant Sale success!

The FUUSA Annual Plant Sale held on Saturday, June 2nd, 2012, raised \$2,335! We had over 800 plants and over 100 varieties (not including all of the varieties of hosta that we had!) that came from gardens of numerous FUUSAns. Many thanks go to all the members of the Plant Sale Committee

Flyers in this issue

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

- ◆ **Fall 2012 Religious Education Curricula for children and youth**
- ◆ **Picnic in the Park flyer**

(Donna Meixner, Sandy Stone, Jan Satin, Carol Young, Amy Lent, Sigrin Newell, Paula Moskowitz, Linda Munro, Eileen Hoffman, Barbara Warner, Becky Myer and Dorry Campano). Thanks also to Peter Meixner and Chuck Manning for providing "traffic control" and parking for the sale again. An extra thanks to Reese Satin, Steve Moskowitz, Ken Myer, and Dave Stone for helping to transport and/or set up all of the tables, boards and sawhorses that we used to display the plants. Lastly, thanks to all of you who bought and/or donated plants for the sale. Without the work of all, the plant sale would not be such a success.--Barb Manning

Fall Rummage Sale cancelled

After considerable discussion and reflection, the decision has been made to cancel the Fall Rummage Sale. The discussion began at the last Program Coordinating Council meeting in May. It continued at a meeting on July 24 where 15 Rummage workers gathered to discuss the function of the sale as it relates to FUUSA's mission and strategic plan, the level of effort required, and how it serves the community. During the discussion, the hard work of Rummage chairs and workers was acknowledged. A variety of ideas and options were presented. At the conclusion of the meeting it was agreed that:

- ◆ There would be no Fall Rummage Sale this year.
- ◆ A small working group will consider the points raised during the meeting, and propose a plan to continue activities that will address the functions of the Rummage Sale. These activities may include a spring event such as a rummage sale in cooperation with our neighbors.

Please stay tuned for further information.

Multi-purpose laptop!

The FUUSA office is pleased to announce that we now have a laptop computer at the guest desk located in Amy's office. The laptop is available during the day for use by FUUSA volunteers, and can

be reserved with 24 hour notice for your on-site presentations outside of office hours by contacting office administrator Stephanie Hayes during office hours.

General Assembly makes a difference for youth

As I look back on my experience at GA I am delighted to be filled with happiness. My experience at GA this year was nothing less than unforgettable, not only when fighting for immigration justice in Arizona but also seeing how much youth empowerment there is in Unitarian Universalism across the country, and at GA. I have come back with the feeling that I CAN make a difference, and we all can! Through this experience I have grown, and I want to bring that back to you. I have learned so much and have much to share with all of you, and with youth group. I cannot wait to be involved! Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend GA this year, to the congregation and Board for helping sponsor me, along with the Religious Education Council, Youth Group and Women for a Better World! I hope to attend GA in the future! Thanks again! -- Anna Brewer

General Assembly Plenary

Highlights of actions taken by Justice GA in Phoenix. (as reviewed by FUUSA Denominational Affairs Liaison Don Odell, xx, xx)

It is important to note that General Assembly (GA) 2012 was a gathering with multiple ways of engaging in justice work for people of all ages. Joining with the people of Arizona, delegates and attendees worshiped, witnessed, learned and worked together. The participants left General Assembly grounded in their/our faith, energized for justice and with resources to bring this work home to their congregations. On so much of what happened at this Justice GA, we will be hearing more from FUUSA's delegates in the coming weeks and months. And, as delegates, they participated in the following actions and other business of the GA.

New CSAI. The General Assembly passed a new four year Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) on *Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling*. It responded to the realization that reproductive rights and health services are seriously under attack nationally. Reproductive Justice represents a broader analysis of racial,

economic, cultural, and structural constraints on women's power. The right to have children, to not have children, and to parent children in safe and healthy environments is a human right. This will lead to the 2016 General Assembly voting on a Statement of Conscience. Read more at: <http://www.uua.org/statements/current/189638.shtml>.

The UUA is halfway through another four-year CSAI, "[Immigration as a Moral Issue](http://www.uua.org/immigration/re/moral/index.shtml)." Read more at <http://www.uua.org/immigration/re/moral/index.shtml>.

What is a congregational study/action issue? It is a four year process in which the UUA General Assembly (composed of delegates from the member congregations of the UUA) choose a particular issue with the expectation that it will be studied and acted upon at all levels, particularly at the congregational level, and will culminate in a Statement of Conscience which will serve as a guide for actions at all levels beginning with the Association down to the congregation.

Repudiating the "Doctrine of Discovery". The delegates voted to repudiate the "Doctrine of Discovery," the centuries-old legal doctrine that declared indigenous peoples subject to the Christian explorers who "discovered" them. The resolution called the doctrine "a relic of colonialism, feudalism, and of religious, cultural, and racial biases having no place in the modern day treatment of indigenous peoples globally and indigenous nations of North American and the Hawaiian kingdom." The resolution can be found at: http://www.uua.org/statements/statements/209123.shtml?utm_source=UUA.org+Updates+RSS&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+uua-updates+%28UUA.org+Updates%29.

Heard the announcement of the establishment of a College of Social Justice. This is a formal collaboration of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). Its mission is to increase the capacity of Unitarian Universalists to catalyze justice. Building on several years of successful UUA-UUSC partnership, especially in the area of disaster response, the College will combine the resources of both organizations to offer current leaders and future activists of any age a broader and

more effective portfolio of service learning and justice education experiences. Initially, the program will be developed under the leadership of the Rev. Kathleen McTigue as its inaugural Director. Further information can be found at: <http://www.uua.org/news/pressroom/pressreleases/198953.shtml>, and at <http://www.uua.org/news/pressroom/pressreleases/199054.shtml>.

NYSUCU Annual Meeting

Lifespan Learning

Wellspring

Consider joining Wellspring, a 10-month program of spiritual deepening and connection, beginning in late September. Applications are available in the church office, and completed applications must be received by Aug. 7. Feel free to contact Betsey Miller or Jan McCracken for more information. Betsy can be reached at xx and Jan at xx.

RE Summer Session

Our Religious Education program is in Summer Session every Sunday through September 2nd. This is a wonderful time of the year when we offer multi-age activities geared for children in preschool through about 5th grade. The older children and youth come and join us in the activities. Or they can join their families in the service. This is our chance to do things we don't normally get to during the traditional year. We get out lots of arts and crafts materials, play indoor group games and read picture books that are a bit longer than those that are used for Sunday school, but that have wonderful Unitarian Universalist themes. And unlike the rest of the year, it's multi-age! For some of the older children and youth, this is a rare opportunity to get messy and play games. The nursery will be open for infants and toddlers so the caretakers can make sure they are happy and their needs are taken care of.

I need a few adults—parents and RE volunteers—to help me each week. You can sign up online at <http://tinyurl.com/bsqypmt> or call me at the office 463-7135

We meet upstairs in the air-conditioned classrooms. Parents and caretakers can drop off their

The New York State Convention of Universalists will hold the 2012 annual meeting on October 12-13, 2012 at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs. Theme: Caring for Ourselves, One Another, and the World — Many Forms. Keynote speaker: The Rev. Dr. Lee Barker, President, Meadville Lombard Theological School. More details when made available. -Don Odell

children starting at 9:45. Then, parents and caretakers pick the children up right after the service and may return to Emerson Hall for the multigenerational "Lemonade Hour". As always, visitors are most welcome! Parents and caretakers may stay for some or all of our time together if they would like to. Come to Summer Session as often as you like; each week is "stand alone". —Leah Purcell

Interested in working in our Sunday morning program for children and youth?

Two of our fall programs need special attention.

Are you particularly interested creating a Sunday school environment intentionally devoted to religious questioning? Then consider teaching one of the Pre-school/Kindergarten groups. Their program – UU Play – creates a space that gives the children opportunities to explore the big questions in life and to experience wonder and awe at the mysteries around us.

Do you have an interest in fostering the imperative of social justice in children? You might want to join the fourth grade team this fall. The focus of the fourth grade curriculum is service and leadership development. Faith in Action projects are planned, developed, and executed by participants.

The other elementary groups are also using other Tapestry of Faith programs. Tapestry of Faith is a fairly new series of programs that nurture Unitarian Universalist identity, spiritual growth, a transforming faith, and vital communities of justice and love. Check out the descriptions of the curricula in the flyer at the end of this newsletter or on line at <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children>.

Now is the time that I recruit teaching teams. Each team needs 4 teachers. Teachers can expect to

volunteer twice a month – once to lead the session and another time to assist someone else. Assistants are welcome additions to the teams too. I hold an orientation for first time RE volunteers on Saturday, Sept 8 at from 3:30 to 4:30pm. In the month of September I meet with each team individually, to see how things are going for the group and to coach, support, cheer and thank the volunteers. You can sign up in Channing Hall or contact me at dre@albanyuu.org or 463-7135.—Leah Purcell

Fall RE curricula set

See details in flyer at the end of this issue.

Pre-School and Kindergarten

UU Play (Fall and Spring)

First Grade

Creating Home – A Tapestry of Faith Curriculum
<http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/>

[creatinghome/index.shtml](http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/creatinghome/index.shtml)

Second and Third Grades

Love Will Guide Us – a Tapestry of Faith curriculum
<http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide/index.shtml>

Fourth Grade

Sing to the Power – a new Tapestry of Faith curriculum
<http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/index.shtml>.

Fifth and Sixth Grades

Windows and Mirrors, a Tapestry of Faith curriculum
<http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/windows/index.shtml>

Seventh and Eighth Grades

Junior High level of *Our Whole Lives* (Fall and Spring)

The Senior High Group

Our Community

Picnic in the Park

sponsored by the Religious Education Council

Who: Everyone is invited

What: Bring your own picnic lunch, including drinks

When: After Sunday school on Sept 16 (starting around 11:30 until around 2:00)

Where: The playground at Washington Park

Why: for fun and fellowship among families, youth and adults

No sign ups required. Hope to see you there!

About Us

Charles Semowich will present a free carillon concert at Albany City Hall at noon on August 3, His concert will include the Rachmaninoff Prelude in C# Minor and the Vivaldi Summer Concerto. It can be heard at various locations near Albany City Hall. Printed programs will be available in front of City Hall.

Walker Book Club

Join the Walker Book Club for the first book discussion of the 2012-2013 church year on Sunday,

September 9. We meet the second Sunday of each month in FUUSA's Channing Hall at 5:30 PM.

The Walker Book Club has existed for over 20 years and is named in memory of a much respected and admired deceased FUUSAn. This informal group offers participants the opportunity to search for UU truth and meaning by reading and discussing a wide-range of fiction and nonfiction books, one each month, from September to June. Participants frequently say that they develop deeper connections to other FUUSAns and greatly expand their reading horizons. The only rules are that the book must be available in paperback, either through libraries or at low cost, and the person who suggests the book must have read it recently. Newcomers are always welcome and the book club is open to all FUUSA members and friends.

The discussion is preceded by a welcoming potluck supper, followed by a lively discussion of the book of the month chosen by participants. Bring your favorite dish to share and a small contribution to cover beverages for the potluck supper. Use dishes etc. at FUUSA and help with the dishwasher or be green and bring your own.

On September 9, we will discuss the longer non-fiction book we chose to read over our summer hiatus – “The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story

of America's Great Migration," by Isabel Wilkerson. This book chronicles the untold story of the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities, in search of a better life. This exodus of almost six million people greatly changed America from 1915 to 1970.

Contact Linda Hunt at xx with any questions about the group or if you want to have your name added to the Walker Book Club mailing list to find out what other books we are considering reading over the next several months.

Gathering of UU Humanists

Is there interest? This was tried a couple of years ago, and there was some interest. Should it be tried again in the 2012-2013 year? It will not be possible to have this meeting after services on Sunday morning. There are simply too many things happening at that time. But, I would like to see if there is interest for something on a week night on a weekly, monthly, quarterly basis, etc. Please let me know. If there appears to be some interest, I will attempt a meeting in September for us to discuss this. In that case there can be a follow up in the September Windows.

-Don Odell, xx.

Looking ahead!

♦A **Multigenerational Pasta Pot Luck Dinner**, sponsored by the RE Council, will be held on **Friday, Oct. 5**. Dinner for all; program for those who would like: Welcome to the RE program – an overview and tour of classrooms.

♦The **2013 Wine and Cheese** tasting is scheduled for **Saturday, March 2, 2013**. Please put it on your calendar now! It will feature Spanish wines and cheeses. Olá.

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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@albanyuu.org, contact Reverend Sam Trumbore, the FUUSA office at 518-463-7135, or one of them personally. They are: Jon Newell, Phil Rich, Sharon Babala, Jan Satin, Jean Bolgatz, Randy Rosette, Mark Yolles and Robin Miller.



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 May Ann Randall (mabrandall@gmail.com.)

Social Justice

Social Responsibilities Council

As we start the new fiscal year, SRC extends a heartfelt "Thank You!" to our fabulous departing chair Lois Griffin, and we look forward to involvement in many exciting upcoming opportunities for promoting social justice in our community and beyond.

Hopefully we can now draw from the transformative experience that was Justice GA 2012 – not only to share the pure inspiration of those of us who actually participated in the massive witnessing for justice, but also to avail ourselves of the boundless and rich resources of UUA and our remarkable advocate allies.

In conjunction with Justice GA and consistent with its theme, congregations were encouraged to undertake a local Day of Service on June 23. A number of FUUSAns joined CRUUNY in partnering with the Backstretch Employees Service Team ("BEST") for a day of service to backstretch workers at Saratoga Race Course. These employees, many of whom are immigrants, work six months a year at the track under challenging circumstances. At the Day of Service, workers were provided the opportunity to "shop" at a free flea market of donated items, volunteers worked on "sprucing up" the living areas, and at lunch they got to know each other, which is always the most important accomplish-

ment! Julie Roberts, BEST Coordinator, sent a personal note of appreciation to SRC. Thanks to Donna Doran, Kathy Harris, Becky Myer and the Hornsby family for their participation, as well as the other FUUSAns who contributed to this memorable event.

Also in June, FUUSA again stood up in support at the annual Pride parade and festival at Washington Park. Lois Griffin and Robb Smith tabled and provided info to the attending hordes, and provided voter registration as well!

SRC will resume meeting in September, date to be determined but we will ensure it is well publicized. We are a formidable group but it is my hope that still more of our congregation will join us for some exciting projects this fall!

Standing on the Side of Love,

Karen Kaufmann

FOCUS on Schools, supplies collection

There is still time to bring in donations of school supplies. The collection bin is in the FUUSA coat room. Needed are #2 pencils (sharpened), pencil sharpeners, pens (blue or black,) pink erasers, pencil pouches, pencil boxes, crayons (box of 24,) colored markers, colored pencils, yellow highlighters, glue sticks, glue bottles, school scissors, spiral notebooks-both wide ruled and college ruled, 3 ring binders-HARD -sides 1 1/2" and 2", Notebook paper (wide-ruled and college-ruled,) marble composition books, pocket folders, 3-holed punched pocket folders.

Columns

Chuck's Chat

The hand slap

Normally I do not pay much attention to professional basketball but this year I got sucked into the NBA playoffs. They began in April and were not done until June. The athleticism and skill of the players was amazing. The excitement of some of the close games was palpable, even though I was not in the arena. As the teams left the floor one of the rituals was for fans to reach out their hands for a "hand slap" with the players.

Once we got to Phoenix for Justice General Assembly (GA), I forgot about the playoffs. With 15 fellow FUUSAns and over 3,800 other UUs, there was an electric energy. We were there to focus on Justice and to live out our beliefs with action. The opening for Saturday's worship service began:

"We are here to Witness for Justice for the People of Arizona.

We are here to Witness for Justice for the People of every State in these United States.

We are here to shine a light on the Inhumanity of Tent City."

During GA, information was shared about immigration issues at numerous workshops, backpacks for immigrant children were packed, immigration forms were completed for over 500 people, many immigration rights groups were supported with donations and purchases from their booths in the exhibit hall. All of these activities culminated with a witness event outside the Maricopa County "tent city" detention center. This notorious center, built by County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, is where 2,000 men and women are held in tents throughout the 115 degree summer heat and 40 degree winter cold. Our witness event was held to support the immigrants inside by letting them know that they are not forgotten and to draw attention to the inhumane conditions of their detention.

By Saturday afternoon we were pumped up and ready to go witness that evening. Then we heard some of the details. There would be counter demonstrators. They would be carrying guns. That is legal in Arizona. The Sheriff had cancelled all family visits to the jail and detention center for the

day. Extra sheriff personnel would be on duty. Even though we were going at 9:00 PM, it would still be close to 100 degrees. Bring water and keep drinking. Ignore the counter demonstrators. Do not argue with them no matter what they say. Stay together and remain respectful. Wear your Standing on the "Side of Love" T-shirts. There would not be enough room on the buses for all of us. There would be a gathering within the convention center at the same time in solidarity with those demonstrating. The Phoenix Police Department would provide security.

After some discussion, most of us decided to go to the witness. We boarded the school buses outside the convention center. We were all afraid. No one was sure what would happen. On each bus there were two chaplains. They reviewed the behavior rules. Then we sang songs. Before arriving at the jail, they shared a meditation with us.

We unloaded from the buses and walked to the street in front of tent city. There were UU monitors who guided us past the counter demonstrators. (Dave Munro and the other monitors did a great job.) We clearly outnumbered the counter demonstrators. There was a stage set up in the street. We got there on one of the first buses so we were near the stage. The Sheriff had set up yellow police tape between the sidewalk and the open area in front of the jail. We were told to stay off the sidewalk. On the other side of the tape were armed sheriff officers. Four horse patrol officers were there.

As the buses kept coming, the sea of yellow shirts grew. Eventually, there were about 2,500 of us there. Each of us was given an electric candle to hold. Standing on the Side of Love Signs were passed out. We waved our candles and sang. We listened to short speeches on why we were there. They told us that the people inside tent city could hear us and knew they were not forgotten. We drank our water. One speaker said, "At the animal shelter down the street they have air conditioning for the animals. Why does Arpaio treat his detainees worse?" Then we chanted, "Tear tent city down".

As we left, we were given a card telling us what we could do next to change the system. I took the card. We walked by two Phoenix police officers as

we headed back to the bus. They said, “Thank you for coming.” We walked by a number of local people and children of color holding handmade signs -- “Close Tent City” and “Justice for All”. Some of the children held out their hands. I knew what to do. I started giving hand slaps. They smiled and more hands were held out. We connected for a moment. They said, “Thank you.” I said, “Gracias”. It meant more than being a basketball fan.--Chuck

Religious Exploration

Service events for families—this summer and beyond

I recently sent this email to FUUSA families about an upcoming event a FUUSA with service opportunities and about service work as part of religious education.

I returned from Justice General Assembly, excited about the possibilities and imperatives of service work in our religious education program.

As I have learned at GA and other places, service work becomes religious education when we educate ourselves before the work, and engage in reflection afterwards. I have found a project for you to engage in service work, if you like, at FUUSA through FOCUS food pantry this summer. And I'd like to help you not only engage in volunteerism as a family, but also help you as you work to be the primary religious educators of your children.

Here are the details of the service opportunity:

Perhaps you've heard that this year FUUSA is the collection and distribution site for the FOCUS on Schools project, which is run by the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry. Now through August, FOCUS will be working to get school supplies to the children who use the Food Pantry. That way, those families' food money can continue to buy them food.

There are three ways to participate in the service project.

1. Donate school supplies for children (see school supplies list on page 8.)
2. Volunteer during one of more Packing Days to assemble packages for the grade levels

Monday, Aug 27 - 10:00 am - noon

Tues, Aug 28 - 10:00 am to noon

Wed, Aug 29 - 10:00 to noon

3. Volunteer on one or more of the Distribution Days to hand out the packed materials

Wed, Aug 29 - 10:00am to 1:00pm

Thurs Aug 30 - 10:00am - 1:00 pm

Friday, Aug 31- 10:00am to 1:00 pm

VOLUNTEERS MUST SIGN UP AHEAD OF TIME THROUGH THE FOCUS VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, BECCA LEET. Contact Becca at beccal@focuschurches.net or at 518.443.0460. She can also answer any questions you might have about what's specifically involved in the packing and distribution.

I have information available for you to educate yourselves about the project - brochures from FOCUS on their Breakfast Program and Food Pantry. Becca also recommends that you visit the Hunger Action Network website, www.hungeractionnys.org, for more information on hunger and poverty in NY. I suggest that you read through this material and present the topics that are appropriate for your aged children.

I also have a set of open-ended questions for you to use with your children to reflect on your experiences. (These are adapted from the new Tapestry of Faith curriculum we'll be using with the 4th grade class this fall - Sing to the Power.) These questions are appropriate for any age child or youth. Let me know if you'd like this document or the brochures from FOCUS.

I hope that this project will be meaningful for your family. Let me know if you'd like the informational and reflection materials. I welcome your questions about the learning/service/reflection model for religious education and I'd also very much like to hear what the experience was like for your family afterwards.

In joy and service,

Leah

Contact Us

Board of Trustees 2012-2013

email: board@albanyuu.org

Executive Committee

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Sue Berzinis, Treasurer
Donna Meixner, Secretary

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Karen Kaufmann, Chair Social Responsibilities Council

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Staff

Minister

Rev. Sam Trumbore, strumbore@uumin.org

Director of Member Services and Communications

Amy Lent, membership@albanyuu.org

Director of Religious Education

Leah Purcell, dre@albanyuu.org

Music Director

Matt Edwards, mge01@yahoo.com

Office Administrator

Stephanie Hayes, administrator@albanyuu.org

Rental Agent

Lynne Lekakis, kaneandlekakis@gmail.com

Custodian

Hadiya Wilborn

Regular meeting days

Check current calendar for time and location

Board of Trustees, 3rd Thursday

Program Coordinating Council, 2nd Thursday

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 downtown campus parking lots: the Hawley Lot on Robin Street at Washington Avenue and the Thurlow Terrace Lot on Western Avenue.

Office hours

September-June: Monday-Friday, 9:00-3:30

July-August: Monday–Thursday 9:00-12:00

Website

www.albanyuu.org

Building use

To **reserve a room** for a FUUSA activity, contact Office Administrator Stephanie Hayes (463-7135 or administrator@albanyuu.org).

To **rent classroom space** for a personal or non-FUUSA activity, contact Office Administrator Stephanie Hayes (463-7135 or administrator@albanyuu.org).

To **rent one of the large halls** or plan for an event that will use both halls and classrooms for a personal or non-FUUSA activity, contact Rental Agent Lynne Lekakis (427-7386 or kaneandlekakis@gmail.com)

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.

Editors: Amy Lent, Jaye Holly

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

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

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Albany, NY 12206

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