



## 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!**

# WINDOWS

Newsletter of the First Unitarian  
Universalist Society of Albany

May 2013

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bios**

### 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 and 4th Sundays)*

### Services

**May 5 "An Evolving Faith," The Rev. Sam Trumbore**

Unitarians and Universalists were among the first religious traditions to accept Darwin's theories of evolution. Before that, we aligned ourselves with heretics that questioned doctrinal assertions that Jesus didn't have a human father, was co-eternal with God, performed miracles that violated natural law, and returned from the dead. Come hear how our faith continues to evolve today. *Music:* Choir, Matt, and special guest

**May 12 Rite of Passage Service**

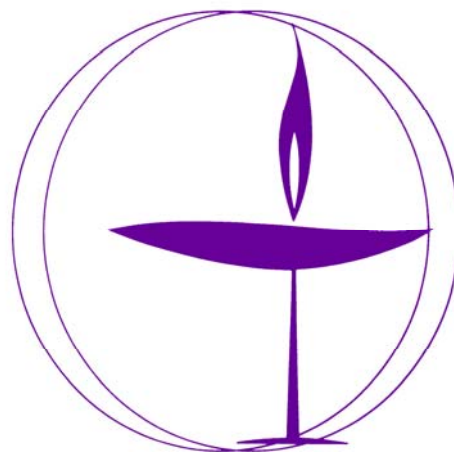
Our Rite of Passage youth present their credos – the distillation of their work this year. *Music:* Matt and Rite of Passage Youth

**May 19 "Loyal Heretics," The Rev. Sam Trumbore**

As a religious tradition that values individual discernment rather than conformity to revealed truth, we sometimes disagree with each other. But disagreement need not be disagreeable. Done well, conflict can stimulate our mutual growth and development as individuals and as a congregation. *Music:* Choir sings spirituals

**May 26 "In Memory," Kimberley Debus, UU seminarian**

Hardly a week goes by these days without hearing about senseless deaths, whether caused by wars, natural disasters, accidents, or acts of violence. On this Memorial Day weekend, we will remember those who have lost their lives and explore memory as a way to honor and heal. *Music:* TBA



# Calendar

## Events happening every Sunday at FUUSA

9:00 AM	Mindfulness Meditation	Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Service	Emerson
10:00 AM	Children's Chapel (1st Sunday/mo.)	Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Religious Education	Classrooms
11:00 AM	Coffee Hour	Channing, Emerson
11:45 AM	Forum (some Sundays)	Emerson

Exceptions:

## Events happening every week in May

Tuesdays	10:00 AM	Philosophy Group	B-8
	1:00 PM	Bridge	B-8
Wednesdays	10:00 AM	Projects & Quilts	B-8
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Emerson

Exceptions:

## All other events happening in May

<b>2-May</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	
6:00 PM	Stewardship Committee Dinner	Channing
7:00 PM	Sherman Small Group Ministry	B-7
<b>4-May</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	
6:00 PM	Circle Dinner	Offsite
<b>5-May</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
8:00 AM	Rite of Passage Meeting	B-8
11:45 AM	Forum	Emerson
12:00 PM	CROP Walk lunch	Channing
<b>6-May</b>	<b>Monday</b>	
10:00 AM	SGM Patrick	B-5
6:15 PM	RE Council	Channing
6:30 PM	SGM- English	Stott Lounge
<b>7-May</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	
7:00 PM	Wellspring Meeting	B-8
<b>9-May</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	
6:30 PM	Rite Of Passage Worship Service Rehearsal	Emerson
<b>10-May</b>	<b>Friday</b>	
6:00 PM	Parenthood Potluck	Channing 24/25, 26
<b>12-May</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
5:30 PM	Walker Book Club	Channing
<b>13-May</b>	<b>Monday</b>	
5:15 PM	Membership Meeting	B-8
7:00 PM	Monday Men	B-8
<b>14-May</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	
7:00 PM	Congregational Conversation: Budget	B-8
7:00 PM	UU Christians	B-7
<b>15-May</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	
2:00 PM	SGM Patka/Manning	B-8
<b>16-May</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	
6:00 PM	Green Sanctuary	TBD
7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting	B-8
7:00 PM	Sherman Small Group Ministry	B-7
<b>17-May</b>	<b>Friday</b>	
5:00 PM	Potluck Multigen Event	Channing
6:30 PM	Potluck Discussion and Childcare	24/25, 26
<b>18-May</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	
10:00 AM	Senior High Overnight	Whole Building
<b>19-May</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	
11:30 AM	Annual Meeting	Emerson

<b>20-May</b>	<b>Monday</b>	
10:00 AM	SGM Patrick	B-5
6:00 PM	Orientation for New REC members	Channing
6:30 PM	SGM- English	Stott Lounge
<b>21-May</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	
6:00 PM	Wellspring Meeting	B-8
<b>28-May</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	
7:00 PM	CRUUNY Worship Planning	B-7
7:00 PM	Evensong Service	Emerson
<b>29-May</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	
2:00 PM	SGM Patka/Manning	B-8
<b>31-May</b>	<b>Friday</b>	
6:00 PM	RE Council Retreat	Kitchen, B-8

### Looking Ahead

- Jun 2 CRUUNY joint service at Round Lake
- Jun 8 New Member Potluck
- Jun 19-24 General Assembly, Louisville, KY

## News

### Annual Meeting, Sunday, May 19

The Annual Meeting of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany will be held in Emerson Community Hall on May 19 at 11:45 a.m. Items of business will include: report of the nominating committee and election, presentation and adoption of the 2013-2014 budget, proposal of bylaws changes, and other business.

This will be an opportunity on Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 pm. for members and friends to review the draft budget. There have been multiple opportunities to review the proposed bylaws changes.

At the end of this newsletter you will find Annual Meeting details, information on absentee ballots, a list of candidates for the election, and the candidates' bios. The proposed budget and the proposed changes to the bylaws are available on the FUUSA website ([www.albanyuu.org](http://www.albanyuu.org)). And all these documents are available on paper in the FUUSA lobby.

### Governance Task Force proposes bylaws amendments

FUUSA's bylaws are the framework for our congregation's governance. They spell out how we elect a board, call a minister, organize committees, and manage our finances. At the May 19 annual meeting, members will be asked to approve revisions to these bylaws. The proposed changes are intended to make the bylaws clearer and easier to understand. Some changes are updates that reflect the way our congregation is currently operating (for example, we no longer employ a sexton). Other changes will clarify the purpose of committees and their relationship to the Board of Trustees.

The amendments to the bylaws have been approved by the Board of Trustees. Last year, the Board appointed a Governance Task Force to review the bylaws and provide recommended changes. Chaired by Kevin Purcell, the Task Force includes Bob Franklin, Karen Kaufmann and Peggy Sherman. The Task Force has discussed its proposals at several Board meetings; met with Program Coordinating Council twice for their input; and held two congregational conversations in early April. Another congregational conversation will be

### Flyers in this issue

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

- ◆ **Annual Meeting** schedule, absentee ballot information, and candidates' bios

held on Sunday, April 28 at 11:45. The proposed bylaws may be found on the FUUSA website ([www.albanyuu.org](http://www.albanyuu.org)) and will be distributed with other Annual Meeting materials.

### Some special Sundays

#### ◆ **May 12, Rite of Passage Service**

Our Rite of Passage youth have been learning about Unitarian Universalist history and polity, the work of our congregation, and how we act on our values. With their mentors, the youth have explored and articulated their own values and worldviews. They will present their credos – the distillation of their work this year. Each Rite of Passage group presents their service in a unique way. We invite you to come experience what those youth have to share.

#### ◆ **June 2, Capital Region UU's of NY worship service at the Round Lake Auditorium**

This is our annual joint worship service with the other UU congregations in our area – Schenectady, Glens Falls and Saratoga Springs. The guest minister is Rev. Thandeka, who has preached recently here at FUUSA. This promises to be a lively, moving, and song-filled service that is designed for individuals and families. Childcare for infants and toddlers will be provided at a building nearby. Lunch will be available afterwards. Watch for more details about the lunch. There will not be services or programming at FUUSA on this morning.

#### ◆ **June 9, Religious Education Sunday**

Come to celebrate in word and song our program for children and youth and all the adult volunteers who serve in it. We'll also hold our bridging ceremony for our high school seniors – so here's a special invitation to all the other senior high youth and to all young adults to stand at each side of the bridge. After the service you're invited to the Sundaes making in Channing Hall. Alternative, quiet seating will be available at the back of Emerson Community Hall. This is a day for everyone in

our congregation to celebrate our community, so please mark this as a "red letter" Sunday on your calendar. Afterwards, you might want to head to the Pride Parade in Washington Park.

### FUUSA fiscal year wrap-up

Thank you to all members and friends who are making contributions in order to meet their pledges for the 2012-13 fiscal year, which began on July 1 and ends on June 30. If you are paying in monthly or smaller installments, hopefully you are 5/6 of the way through your contributions. The goal is to have all 2012-13 pledges paid in full by June 30. If you have any questions about your pledge or your contributions, you can call Stephanie Hayes at the FUUSA office (463-7135) or myself (at 477-2376.) Thank you, Mike Babala, Assistant Treasurer.

### Vote with your feet for a better world

Lots of your fellow FUUSAns are voting for a better world by signing up to walk in the CROP Hunger Walk on May 5. We need more walkers, as well as congregational pledges to support those walkers. Please look for the CROP Walk table in Channing during coffee hour. Families are especially encouraged to participate. Funds raised go to local and international hunger relief, including our Capital District food pantries. There's a FREE LUNCH for walkers on Walk Day! (Who said there's no such thing??) Contact Dawn Dana for more information.

### Evensong services almost over (for now)!

Tuesday, May 28 at 7:00 p.m. will be the last event in this first series of music-based evening services. Our May theme is courage and we are honored to have Adirondack folk musician Dan Berggren providing music for this service. Bring your body, mind and spirit into this time of song and reflection. Many thanks go out to the very dedicated team of volunteers along with Matt, our fantastic music director, who have orchestrated the planning and performing of five lively services since January.

Will Evensong continue? It will if you show up and say "yes!"

Join EVENSONG on Facebook via the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany page, [www.facebook.com/AlbanyUU](http://www.facebook.com/AlbanyUU), and find out more about Dan Berggren at, <http://www.berggrenfolk.com/home.cfm>.

### Garden Maintenance

If you enjoy seeing the changing variety of flowers and plants in our FUUSA gardens, please sign up to help keep them looking their best this summer! You can sign up by clicking on *Volunteer Opportunities* on our FUUSA home web page ([www.albanyuu.org](http://www.albanyuu.org)). Just sign in using your email address and choose Gardening from the "drop down" box. You only have to pick the week(s) you would like to garden, the actual day and time is up to you, we are very flexible!!!! Supplies are located in the shed on West Street and the padlock combination along with general instructions are available from Paula Moskowitz. If you would like to be paired with an experienced gardener your first visit, you can let her know that also. Basically summer chores consist of weeding, dead heading, watering, etc. Now that we have four gardens to maintain, we are asking for two people to sign up for each week. If you have any questions, please contact Paula Moskowitz at 439-6347 or [pgmosk@earthlink.net](mailto:pgmosk@earthlink.net) Many hands make it easy to keep the outside of our building looking beautiful!

### Musicians!

We love to include our talented musical people in the Summer Services at FUUSA. If you, or a small group of you, would be interested in playing anything from one piece to several, for a Sunday from June 16 through September 1 (except June 23, GA simulcast), please contact Sue Stierer at 518-590-4448 or [sstierermendrin@yahoo.com](mailto:ss-tierer@yaho.com). Thank you.

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## Lifespan Learning

### Joy Library notes

**The Future: Six Drivers of Global Change** by Al Gore. Random House. 2013. [303.4 GOR] Look

for it in the NEW book section.

*"The consequential age we are living in will be remembered as one of the great turning points in civilization. Once we turn, though, where will we be? That is the compelling question Al Gore sets out to*

answer by examining the drivers of global change, connecting the dots among the social, economic, and political forces shaping our present and future. A rising global consciousness is forcing people around the world, but especially Americans, to rethink their basic assumptions about how the world works, and, even more fundamentally, how it should and can work. Borders matter less than ever. Technology is constantly reordering the way we live, think, work, learn, love, pray, and play"—... (summary from ISBN 0812992946)

"From the former vice president and #1 New York Times bestselling author comes *An Inconvenient Truth* for everything—a frank and clear-eyed assessment of six critical drivers of global change in the decades to come....

"Ours is a time of revolutionary change that has no precedent in history. With the same passion he brought to the challenge of climate change, and with his decades of experience on the front lines of global policy, Al Gore surveys our planet's beclouded horizon and offers a sober, learned, and ultimately hopeful forecast in the visionary tradition of Alvin Toffler's *Future Shock* and John Naisbitt's *Megatrends*. In *The Future*, Gore identifies the emerging forces that are reshaping our world:

- Ever-increasing economic globalization ...
- The worldwide digital communications, Internet, and computer revolutions ...
- The balance of global political, economic, and military power is shifting more profoundly....
- A deeply flawed economic compass is leading us to unsustainable growth in consumption, pollution flows, and depletion of the planet's strategic re-

sources ...

- Genomic, biotechnology, neuroscience, and life sciences revolutions are radically transforming the fields of medicine, agriculture, and molecular science—and are putting control of evolution in human hands.
- There has been a radical disruption of the relationship between human beings and the earth's ecosystems, along with the beginning of a revolutionary transformation of energy systems, agriculture, transportation, and construction worldwide.

From his earliest days in public life, Al Gore has been warning us of the promise and peril of emergent truths—no matter how "inconvenient" they may seem to be. As absorbing as it is visionary, *The Future* is a map of the world to come, from a man who has looked ahead before and been proven all too right." (Amazon 4/19/2013)

#### **In the works for RE volunteers:**

#### **Workshop for RE Volunteers on Teaching as a Spiritual Practice**

*Creative ways for you to make volunteering meaningful and to connect to others in our vital and nurturing religious community.*

Cate Bohn and I are preparing and presenting a two-hour workshop for past, present and potential future volunteers in the Sunday Morning Religious Education Program. We both attended the 2-session spirituality workshop presented by Rev. Thandeka. We are using what we learned there to offer you practices that you can continue with your fellow volunteers and also use on your own to develop the teaching-spirit connection.

Watch Face Book, flyers at FUUSA, and emails for the date. Let me know if you are interested. —Leah Purcell dre@albanyuu.org

## **Our Community**

Welcome, new members

**Amy and Todd Weismann** Amy has a Bachelor's degree from Skidmore College, a Master's degree from Hofstra University, and a Duck-torate Degree from the Walt Disney World College Program. After dabbling in both publishing and education, she currently works at the College of Saint Rose, and is the social media manager for her husband Todd's web design business.

Todd is a self-taught web programmer who has an Associ-



ates Degree in Computer Science. His name is actually Henry C. Weismann IV, but was nicknamed Todd after his grandmother's nickname, Toddy. He owns and operates his own web development business, Weismann Web.

Having been raised in different religious backgrounds, Amy and Todd had difficulty finding a place of worship that suited them both. After being welcomed into the FUUSA community, they have spent a year attending services and circle dinners, and are excited to become new members. In their spare time, they enjoy movies, music, cooking and exercising.

**Tom Chulak** Tom was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma and lived most of his childhood in the Chicago area. When he was two, his parents helped to start a Unitarian Fellowship in Park Forest, Illinois. Since then, Tom has been gratefully intertwined with Unitarian Universalism, including 31 years as a UU minister, the last nine as St Lawrence District Executive. In 2010, Tom retired from full-time ministry, got married to Nicole Furnee (FurNay), and built a house in Ghent, NY. Currently Tom and Nicole are owners of the Chatham Bookstore and are starting the Art School of Columbia County. Together they have 4 children and three grandchildren. With joy, Tom joins the congregation this morning.



ing the Art School of Columbia County. Together they have 4 children and three grandchildren. With joy, Tom joins the congregation this morning.

**Dee Van Riper** Many FUUSAns are familiar with Dee but are unaware that until now, he has not been a member. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> UU congregation that Dee has been associated with, and he and his wife Barbara were married in the UU church of Charlottesville VA by Wayne Arneson, who may be familiar to some of us. Dee has been an active contributor to FUUSA, having taught RE for several years. He has also



helped organize the Monday Mens group, served as a service leader, and briefly coordinated the parents group. He works is at Albany Medical College where he is an assistant professor in the department of Cardiovascular Sciences. He lives with his wife and their daughter Nina in Delmar, and enjoys gardening, kayaking, and golf. He is on the ballot this year for the RE council and would appreciate your support.

**Gina Patrino and Michael Hernandez** Gina Patrino and Michael Hernandez moved to Athens from New York City in June 2012. Gina is an Emergency Physician at Kingston Hospital and Michael is an attorney at the New York State Assembly. They are engaged to be married, with FUUSA minister Samuel Trumbore officiating, in September 2013.

Gina was raised in Pacifica, CA, just outside of San Francisco. She graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara with a B.S. in Biopsychology and received her medical degree from American University of the Caribbean. She completed her residency training at Columbia/Cornell University Hospitals. Gina is an avid outdoors-woman, she enjoys wilderness medicine, hiking, climbing, camping, skiing and snowshoeing. Gina enjoys listening to audiobooks as she travels, crochets in the winter, gardens in the summer, and loves to cook.

Michael grew up in Brooklyn, Las Vegas and New Jersey,



but he considers Park Slope, Brooklyn his hometown. Michael graduated with a B.A. in Media/Political Science from Hunter College, City University of New York and received his law degree from University of Buffalo School of Law, State University of New York. Michael enjoys reading books, board games, New York Times crosswords and playing/watching sports. Michael is a freelance journalist and currently writes for the New York State Bar Association and the Daily Mail.

Photos and bios of four other new members are not available at this time—but please make them welcome: **Laura Paris and Rodger Fink, and Glen and Julie Reynolds.**

### Parent group

Parent group meets on Friday May 10. We start with a potluck dinner from 6 to 7PM, please bring a dish to pass and a beverage. Our parent discussion is from 7 to 8:30PM, childcare is provided. We will discuss emotional intelligence.

With all of the emphasis on learning facts, developing emotions may be getting overlooked. Emotional intelligence is the ability to monitor our and other's feelings and emotions, to discriminate among them and use this information to guide our thinking and actions. Benefits of emotional intelligence include increased ability to cope with stress, impulse control, the ability to manage moods, higher motivation, better social skills and a high degree of empathy. Join us in discussing how we can raise emotionally intelligent children.

For more information contact Paula Brewer at 237-9091.

### Calling all new members!

On Saturday, June 8, 2013, the Membership Ministry will host a New Member potluck at FUUSA. All people who joined the congregation between June, 2012 and June, 2013 are invited to attend. Also invited are New Member Guides and Board members. This is a chance to get together and meet everyone who joined this year. Children are welcome! There will be a signup in Channing where you can say what you would like to bring or you can email Barb Manning at [barbaracmanning@hotmail.com](mailto:barbaracmanning@hotmail.com) or call her at 439-4226.

### Unirondack

Unirondack will be opening for their Spring season in a few short weeks. If you have never been there, the camp is located in the forever-wild Adirondacks on Beaver Lake, near Lowville, NY. It is a place of incredible natural beauty where UU's gather for fun, fellowship, and contemplation. There are two work weekends, May 10-12 and May 31-June 2, that all are welcome to attend. The only cost is a little labor and \$15 for food. It's a great way to have an inexpensive getaway and to make new friends. And any

## Multigenerational



## POTLUCK DINNER

Friday, May 17

**Dinner 5:30 – 7:00** in Channing Hall

**Discussion and activities 7:00 – 8:00** upstairs in room 24/25

Enjoy a good meal and company. And for those interested, the after dinner program is The CROP Walk and UU Faith and Philosophical Development.

This is a potluck OR pay event- sign up to bring food or sign up to just come (and pay at the door – the cost is \$3 per adult, \$2 per child under 12, \$10 max per family). Sign-up sheets are in Channing Hall. Contact Leah Purcell [dre@albanyuu.org](mailto:dre@albanyuu.org) if you would like to help host this event or have any questions.

Leah Purcell and Dawn Dana are working to make the CROP walk an opportunity for UU faith and philosophical development following the “Learn/Do/Reflect” model.

Families and individuals are invited to gather after the dinner for activities and discussion led by Leah to reflect on their CROP Walk experiences.

special skills you have go a long way.

Unirondack also has several programmed weekends in the Spring. May 17-19 is the Gay-Straight Alliance & Advocacy Retreat. May 24-27 is a three-day Family and Friends Weekend, where you can get a taste of some of what camp is all about in the summer. And June 7-9 is the annual Men's Gathering, a weekend of fellowship for men of all ages. Registration is required for all weekends, including the Work Weekends.

To register for the Work Weekend or any of the program weekends visit Unirondack's website at <http://www.unirondack.org/>.

In addition, there are still a select few remaining openings in Unirondack's Summer Camp weeks, primarily for middle-school aged boys. If you are interested register as soon as possible, as most sessions are full.

### About Us

The Helderberg Madrigal Singers present "A Rose by any Other Name..." in the Tuesdays at Noon concert series on Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, at St. Paul's Episcopal, 58 Third St, Troy. The free 50-minute concert begins at noon, and the church is accessible. You can bring your lunch. See **Dawn or Dick Dana or Dave Metz** for further info.

### Sign up for UU Weekend at Silver Bay!

Stop by the table in Channing Hall before or after the service to sign up for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual UU Weekend at the Silver Bay Resort on Lake George, Oct 18 – 20. Registration forms will be available and committee members will be present to answer any questions. The weekend will be filled with outdoor activities, workshops, music, a talent show, children's programs and much, much more. Have you sat in a stone chapel? Well, here's your chance, Rev. David Weissbard will be giving the Sunday Service in the Chapel at Silver Bay. The chapel was built of granite taken from the nearby hillsides. For our Friday night entertainment we have booked Towne Meeting for Friday night music get -together after check-in and optional dinner with fellow guests. Listen to their musical styling at [www.townemeeting.com](http://www.townemeeting.com). You could start off Saturday morning with a hike that rewards you with stunning views of Lake George's clear blue water amid the gorgeous fall colors of the Adirondacks. Saturday and Sunday children's programming includes a scavenger hunt, superhero cape making and spy training for our younger set and frisbee golf, archery, and human battleship among other activities for the older set. On Sunday, our speaker for the Jeanne Blank Memorial Address is Sheldon Solomon.



**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](mailto: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, Randy Rosette, Jerry Deighan, Bruce Rodgers and Sandy Stone.

His topic will be *Grave Matters: On the Role of Death in Life*. Come experience amazing fall foliage views while making new friends and deepening your connection with our and other UU communities. "Like" us on Facebook at UU Weekend at Silver Bay to keep up with programming notes, ask questions or post your photos from years past. The registration form is also available on the FUUSA web site, under Upcoming Events on the home page, <http://albanyuu.org>.

### Walker Book Club

Join the Walker Book Club for the next book discussion on Sunday, May 12, 2013. We gather in Channing Hall at 5:30 PM. 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. Use dishes etc. at FUUSA and help with the dishwasher or be green and bring your own.

On May 12, 2013, we will discuss *Cry, the Beloved Country*, by South African author Alan Paton. This classic, written in 1948, is a social protest against the structures of the society that passed and institutionalized apartheid later the same year the book was published.

On June 9, 2013, we will discuss three short stories, *The Bear Came Over the Mountain*, *Dear Life*,



and Corrie by Alice Munro.

Contact Linda Hunt at [Lshunt@nycap.rr.com](mailto:Lshunt@nycap.rr.com) if you didn't get print copies of the short stories at the April meeting, with any questions about the group or if you want to have your name added to the Walker Book Club email list.

## Joys and Caring Corner \_\_\_\_\_

### *Illness*

**Chris Bystroff** is thankful for the support from FUUSA while his daughter continues to battle depression.

**Trish** has asked that we keep her 16 year old son in our thoughts as he struggles with depression.

**Arden Dockter** is home recovering from a collapsed lung. This was due to a complication from a procedure he had at the hospital.

**Fred Eames'** brother, Tom, who has been receiving treatment for stomach cancer since December, had his stomach removed last week. He is recovering from his surgery at Fred's house.

### *Anniversaries*

Our new member **Amy Weismann** recalls that 5 years ago on April 7, 2008 her then boyfriend, Todd Weismann, proposed to her!

### *Travels*

**Fred Eames** and his wife have returned from Haiti where they visited Glenn Durban's son.

**Stephen Anderson** returned from Tanzania after working to install three solar powered water wells. As a result 1,000 students and 7,000 villagers now have clean water.

## Social Justice

Green Sanctuary Forum

**Sunday, May 5, 11:45 AM, Emerson**

Tracy Manning (daughter of Chuck and Barb) and her husband Justin Behan will present the story of how they built a **house of straw!** No big bad wolf in this story, just low-impact, eco-friendly engineering and construction.

### *Remembrances*

**Lisa Penpraze** remembers that her mother died 12 years ago March 25<sup>th</sup>.

### *Birthdays*

**Sue Wright's** family celebrated three birthdays last month; her twin daughters turned 41, her oldest grandson turned 12, and her husband Ted turned 87!

**Ramona Weissbard** turned 97 last month!

### *Accomplishments*

**Lucas Phayre-Gonzalez** played Tony in Albany High School's production of West Side Story.

**Kathy Harris** was recognized in New York City for her work with Sickle Cell Anemia.

### *Milestones*

**Lisa Penpraze** just registered her son, Bryce, for kindergarten!

**Priscilla Crago's** grandson, Forrest Hughes, is about to complete his freshman year of college. Last month the court system had a prior incident sealed which is now permanently erased from his record!

### *Thanks*

Eva Gemmill gives heartfelt thanks to many, many UUs who helped make Hughes Gemmill's April 13 memorial service memorable.

***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](mailto:mabrandall@gmail.com).)*

Green Sanctuary

**Wednesday, May 16, 6 PM**

Following our new pattern of meeting every other month in the evening, the Green Sanctuary will hold its final meeting of the fiscal year on Wed., May 16 from 6 - 7PM. Location within FUUSA - TBD. At this time we will evaluate the 2012 -2013 year in Green activities and begin planning for 2013-2014. **This is a good time for people who signed up at the Get Connected! Sunday to come see what we're about.** Please join us to celebrate our accomplishments and plan for the future.

## Columns

### Sam's Outlook

#### Reflecting on Terrorism in Boston

What a week that began with the explosion of two improvised explosive devices at the Boston Marathon killing three people and injuring over 200 and ended with the shutting down of an entire city for a day to capture a wounded 19 year-old hiding in a boat. We may know much more about him and his 26 year old brother who was killed earlier in the near future. We may know much more soon about why these two young men committed this heinous crime. I expect they will claim their action was motivated by enormous pain and suffering. But whatever reason they came up with, it will be wrong. There can be no explanation that can justify their actions. No action can justify the killing of an eight year old boy or blowing the legs off how many others.

The crude bombs they made constructed using pressure cookers are well known IEDs that are very simple to make and create devastating injuries elsewhere in the world on a regular basis. We, here, are not used to seeing first hand the kind of mayhem that others know well and fear on a daily basis. Any trip to the marketplace in many parts of the world brings with it the risk of such an attack.

As many have commented, we are very fortunate in this country to have suffered so few of these kinds of casualties compared to the rest of the world. The long gap in large scale terrorism attacks from 9-11 till April 2013 has lulled us into a false sense of security. 100's of billions of dollars have been spent to catch or repel any person who might be a threat. We've been so lucky that so many plots have been thwarted, many that are invisible to us. And those efforts are not without human cost. So many innocent people have been caught in the dragnet and their lives disrupted.

Now, any illusion of creating a bubble of safety to insulate us from the violence outside our borders has been dashed ... at least for now.

Right now, there is increasing criticism of President Obama's use of drones as a way to address terrorist threats. Yet none of us sits in his chair as he gets his daily threat briefing. None of us know about the

kind of foreign and domestic terrorism threats that he monitors. None of us must make the decisions about whose lives will be at risk if he acts or if he doesn't act. He carries the weight of the enormous responsibility no matter what happens every day. It isn't my custom to pray for the President. But reflecting on what he must deal with on a daily basis, to my mind, President Obama is worthy of any and all prayers for wise guidance as he makes those calls.

And as a peace loving person, I know in my bones that there are effective alternatives to the use of violence. No mother forgets who killed her son. No child forgets who killed his father. Violence cultivates hatred not peace. Hatred can become dormant but rekindling ancient fires of resentment and revenge takes very little kindling as we've seen in the Balkans. Even mild distrust of strangers can be fanned into lethal animosity as we saw with attacks on people wearing turbans after 9/11. The work of peacemaking is very, very fragile work that takes decades.

This is why being a peacemaker and being a congregation of peacemakers is so very important. Building those healthy networks of mutual appreciation and understanding is so critical when we are at peace. Whether those connections are with Muslims, or Jews, or Christians, or people of Middle Eastern descent, Asian descent, Central and South American and African descent or whomever else, those positive connections cultivated over many years can serve as the first line of defense against bigotry, racism, and intolerance.

Our congregation, as a border crossing congregation, can help be a bridge between communities that help prevent violence from happening in the first place. This is why I believe the work of intercultural dialogue is so important for our congregation. The better we are at learning how to build respectful bridges between cultures, the less likely Albany will be the site of future violence.

There are no guarantees of course. Hatred springs up with just a few drops of emotion. But the cooling balm of intercultural understanding and appreciation can go a long way to prevent hatred escalating into violence.—Rev. Sam

## Chuck's Chat

### Penultimate Column – Why we need a congregational covenant

Two more columns to go. I already know my last one will be about gratitude for all of the support and assistance I have received from the members of our beloved community. So this one is about what we can do better.

We have been talking at various levels about having a FUUSA covenant. There is confusion about what this means and doesn't mean. A good reference on covenants is Behavioral Covenants in Congregations by Gilbert Rendle. Fortunately, I got it from Dick Dana who had underlined all the important parts. It was like having the cliff notes version. Rendle states that:

“The domain of obedience to the unenforceable is that area of our lives where we act not because we are forced to (the domain of law) and because we have the freedom to (the domain of free choice), but because **we understand that it is right to do.**” (Underline and bold mine).

A covenant can help us as a congregation to operate in the domain of the unenforceable. The Board has a simple covenant that we occasionally repeat, especially before meetings where we expect there to be some disagreement. Our covenant is:

*“We, the members of the FUUSA Board of Trustees affirm and will strive to:*

*Create a safe and supportive environment where*

*Responsible participation of all is encouraged,*

*Freedom of expression is anticipated, and*

*Thoughtful listening is practiced.*

*Honor and champion the diversity of individuals and their ideas.*

*Make ethical decisions using the UU Principles as our moral foundation.”*

A covenant defines how we relate to each other. It would be part of the glue, along with the seven principles and our mission statement, that holds us together as a beloved community. It would help us all recognize what is right to do and then to act based on our better natures.

Here are a few simple examples of how a covenant could help us (please note these are mostly hypothetical examples and any connection to actual events is purely coincidental) :

Complaints about minor issues would be handled directly with the staff or volunteer in charge with no rancor (e.g. no one would leave the congregation over who is going to wash the table cloths).

We would always cooperate in re-setting Emerson (like it always works after the Auction).

For serious concerns the parties involved would meet and discuss it rationally guided by the covenant. Resolutions might not be possible; the goal would be to work out a co-existence agreement.

Members and friends receiving calls and emails from other members would not ignore them, especially if it was about volunteering or the Stewardship Campaign.

Civil dialogue on theological and political questions would be the norm with no comments such as, “that is totally wacko”. This would apply to both conversations, meetings, emails, and all other yet to be invented methods of communication.

I could go on. I hope you understand why I believe writing and following a covenant could lead us to a unique place as a beloved community. Writing a covenant that we can all agree on will not be easy. Because it is not easy is not an excuse for not doing it. Together we have the opportunity to make this exceptional place better. Where what we say is matched with what we do. A place where we “Love beyond belief,” to quote Thandeka. —Chuck

## Religious Exploration

### Religious Exploration—Who and what is it good for?

This is the time of year when I write my annual report. I start by honoring the volunteers in our Sunday morning program for children and youth – that's about 50 names! I have lots of opportunities to talk about the value of Religious Education, so I've asked the current volunteers to share why *they* do what they do. Here are a few illustrative replies.

◆ For anyone with a demanding job who feels they cannot take the time to teach RE, I can share that

the experience of teaching RE and being with these wonderful kids each week actually infuses me with energy and lightness that carries me through my busy work week. It's an essential part of my spiritual practice.

- ◆ The children depend upon us to help them find truth and meaning among the barrage of inputs that they experience every day. I find it personally gratifying to help them to embark on this, their most important journey.
- ◆ It's fun. The kids are super kids, and I've enjoyed teaching more than I thought I would.
- ◆ My one thing to say to parents about RE teaching is that you don't necessarily have to be afraid because you're not a school teacher. The support Leah and the other parent teachers provide is enough for a parent to do a reasonable job. You don't have to teach every week, and when you do teach, you rotate being the leader versus the assistant. I've learned a lot from working with other parent teachers, who weren't teachers in public schools either. You just need to be open to learning as much as teaching, and to be flexible about trying new things until you find something that works well with your class.
- ◆ What I would say to encourage someone to teach?...The kids are awesome and so much fun to be with. For all that we do trying to make the world a better place, there is nothing more important than being a positive influence in a child's life.

If you are inspired by these comments and are interested in volunteering in the RE program this fall, let me know. Yes, it's early, but once May is over, the first day of Sunday school, Sept. 15, comes up quickly. Perhaps you have a particular age group that you would like to work with, or a curriculum that appeals to you, or perhaps you enjoy working with a particular person. I can give you more information about all these aspects. I offer teacher workshops and orientations at the beginning of each semester and other kinds of support throughout. I create teams of 4 for each group and I make sure that each "first timer" has experienced volunteers on their team.

Look for the list of groups and curricula for the fall to be posted in Channing Hall soon. We'll continue to use UU Play for the preschool and Kindergarten children. UU Play is a year's set of story-based sessions that encourage reflection and cooperative play. We'll make selections for the elementary children from the Tapestry of Faith Program. The threads of Tapestry of Faith are faith development, moral development, ethical development and formation of Unitarian Universalist identity. Our 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders will be learning about different faiths by creating a religious community among themselves and then visiting other houses of workshop. Plans for our 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade and our senior high group are still in the works.

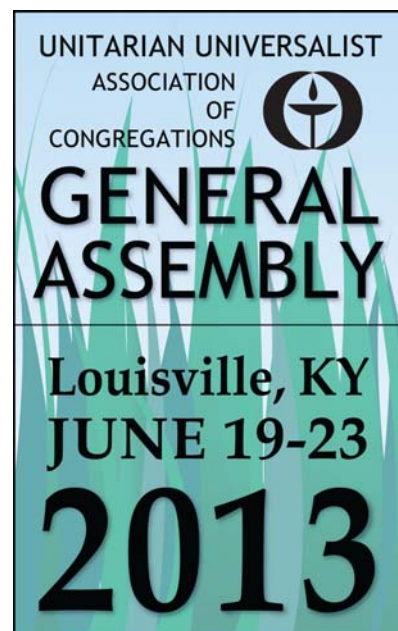
In joyful service,

Leah

**BREAKING NEWS!**

**Save the Date!!**

Calling all painters!! Mike Babala, Dave Metz and I are planning a painting party!! We need your help to paint Channing Hall and 2-3 classrooms. So hold open the week of June 17-21. Lots of fun will be had and who knows what surprises may occur. —Stephanie Hayes, Office Administrator



## Contact Us

Board of Trustees 2012-2013

email: [board@albanyuu.org](mailto:board@albanyuu.org)

### Executive Committee

Chuck Manning, President  
Peg Sherman, Vice President  
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Donna Meixner, Secretary

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Dick Dana  
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Katharine Harris  
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Sam Trumbore, Minister  
Paula Brewer, Chair Religious Education Council  
Karen Kaufmann, Chair Social Responsibilities

Council

### Elected Officer (not on Board of Trustees)

Mike Babala, Assistant Treasurer

### Staff

#### Minister

Rev. Sam Trumbore, [strumbore@uumin.org](mailto:strumbore@uumin.org)

#### Director of Member Services and Communications

Amy Lent, [membership@albanyuu.org](mailto:membership@albanyuu.org)

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Stephanie Hayes, [administrator@albanyuu.org](mailto:administrator@albanyuu.org)

#### Rental Agent

Lynne Lekakis, [kaneandlekakis@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.albanyuu.org)

### Building use

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

# FUUSA Annual Meeting

## Annual Meeting Sunday, May 19, 2013

- 10:00-11:00 **Service**
- 11:00-11:45 **Coffee Hour PLUS**
- 11:30-11:45 Parents take children to assigned rooms for **childcare** and sign them in with caregivers
- 11:45 **Annual Meeting** starts in Emerson Community Hall

Families needing child care should reserve space by calling the office at 463-7135 so that we will be prepared with sufficient caregivers and snacks.

Copies of the proposed budget and bylaw changes, and any resolutions to be presented at the meeting, may be picked up in the lobby starting April 28. These will also be available at [www.albanyuu.org](http://www.albanyuu.org). A Congregational Conversation on the proposed budget will be held on Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 pm., Room B-7. Members of the Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee will present the 2013-2014 budget and answer any questions.

Absentee ballots are available for those who cannot attend the Annual Meeting; see information on this page.

Read about the candidates here—meet them at coffee hour, May 5 & 12.

### Absentee Ballots

FUUSA's bylaws provide for the use of absentee ballots for elections. They are to be used by members who are unable to attend the annual meeting on May 19, 2013. Request a ballot from the church office. Ballots will be available from Sunday, May 5 to Friday, May 17.

**Completed ballots, sealed in an envelope, must be received in the church office on or before 11:00 AM on Friday, May 17.**

### Offices to be elected

- |                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| President                      | Peggy Sherman    |
| Vice-President                 | Dick Dana        |
| Secretary                      | RoseAnne Fogarty |
| Treasurer                      | Sue Berzinis     |
| Ass't. Treasurer               | Reese Satin      |
| Religious Education Chair*     | Tracie Tilgner   |
| Social Responsibilities Chair* | Karen Kaufmann   |

### Contested Elections\*\*

#### Board of Trustees

*(3-year terms, 2 to be elected)*

Michele Desrosiers, Erik Eddy, Linda Hunt, Rebecca Myer  
*(Continuing Board Trustees: Al DeSalvo, Bob Franklin, Kathy Harris, Mark Yolles)*

#### Endowment Trust

*(5-year term, 1 to be elected)*

Sharon Babala, David Musser  
*(Continuing Endowment Trustees: Chris Jensen, Betsey Miller, Lee Newberg, Todd Thomas)*

### Nominating Committee

*(3-year terms, 2 to be elected)*

Laura Churchill, Donna Meixner, Patti Jo Newell, Britany Orlebeke  
*(Continuing Nominating Committee members: Debbie Brown, Dave Metz, Paula Moskowitz, Linda Way)*

### Uncontested Elections

#### Religious Education Council

*(3-year terms, 4 to be elected)*

Cari Abatemarco, Brian Frank, John Scaringe, Dee Van Riper

*(1-year term, 1 to be elected)*

Sandy Stone  
*(Continuing REC Members: Owen Devine, Sarah Martin, Mary Myers, Annika Pfluger, Jennifer Quail, David Quist, Jan Satin)*

#### Social Responsibilities Council

*(3-year terms, 2 to be elected)*

Ed Hancock, Jaye Holly  
*(Continuing SRC Members: Patty Burch, Fred Eames, Martha Musser, Renee Panetta)*

\*Ex-officio member of Board of Trustees

\*\*The bylaws call for the Board of Trustees, Endowment Trust, and Nominating Committee to be contested.

## FUUSA Annual Meeting: Candidates

### Meet the Candidates

#### Officers

##### **President: Peggy Sherman**

John and I knew that we had found our religious community when we came here with our 2-year old son Nate in 1984. Our son Will was born the next year, and I remember how grateful I was for the Sunday service as a weekly hour of reflection. As we became more involved, this community helped our sons grow into independent adults and became a source of inspiration, support and challenge in our lives.



In our strategic plan, our congregation has identified ways to make even more of a difference in the lives of our members and in the larger community. As president, I intend to work with FUUSA's professional and volunteer leaders to implement those goals - - the hopes and dreams expressed in so many Dream Catchers conversations.

My FUUSA experience includes serving as Vice President, Treasurer, Board member, RE teacher, and member of the Nominating committee, Endowment Trust, Readiness Leadership Team and Dream Catchers. My professional career has been in state government financial management. I look forward to serving FUUSA in this new role.

##### **Vice President: Dick Dana**



Since joining FUUSA more than 30 years ago, the FUUSA community has been instrumental in guiding me to and mentoring me in positions of leadership and responsibility, for which I will always be grateful. I have had the opportunity and pleasure to serve in many leadership roles, from chair of the Music Committee and the Personnel Committee, to co-chair of the Book Sale

Committee, and a member of the Board of Trustees for several years, including two years as vice president in the early 2000s. Most recently, I have served as chair of FUUSA's ARISE Core Team, the Refugee Resettlement Project and the Stewardship Committee.

Other committees I have served on include the Religious Education Council, Dream Catchers (preparing our latest 5-year plan), the Nominating Committee, and several incarnations of the New Building Committee. At the end of this church year I will be handing over the reins of the Stewardship Committee to Chuck Manning, and was very pleased to be asked to run again for vice president.

##### **Secretary: RoseAnne Fogarty**

I began attending FUUSA in the 1970s, and signed the book around 1985. My husband Perry Smith and I were married in the Sanctuary in 1988. He attends Saint Paul's Episcopal Church on Hackett Blvd.



Over the years I've done a little bit of everything at FUUSA: Taught RE, covered coffee hour, ushered, worked in the summer program for neighborhood kids, helped with rummage sales, taught crafts at the holiday craft event.

I have helped to write and design a number of the FUUSA flyers, and have done cover illustrations for event programs. I've had poetry and illustrations in *Oriel*. I've volunteered four or five times on the annual canvass. Recently I've joined the choir, and I like to attend Rev. Sam's mindfulness meditation (when choir rehearsal permits).

In other words, I'm a jack of all trades and master of none, but I think I have a fairly broad perspective on what FUUSA does, which will be useful in a secretary for the Board of Trustees.

##### **Treasurer: Sue Berzinis**

I have been pleased to serve as your Treasurer for the past year. I have received a lot of help and support from former treasurers, finance committee

members and staff. There is a steep learning curve for the position and I now have a better understanding of all that goes on at FUUSA. It's amazing to see all the different ways that FUUSA is involved in the larger community.

After moving back to the Northeast in 2007, my husband Al and I checked out FUUSA one Sunday and joined shortly after. We had been seeking something beyond our life in the Lutheran tradition and quickly recognized that FUUSA felt like home. I was soon was involved in resettling the Iraqi refugee family supported by our congregation and we were both involved with the Green Sanctuary Committee.

In our previous community I took over the duties of bookkeeper for a church of 300 members when the secretary/bookkeeper quit. Finding handwritten ledgers, I computerized all the bookkeeping and financial accounting procedures. In the 1990s I owned and operated a retail made-from-scratch bakery in Lenox, MA, baking and running the business. In the 1980s I was a franchise manager and management trainer for a major fast food corporation. Over the years I have served as treasurer for many organizations, including a local Chamber of Commerce and several tandem cycling groups.

I look forward to continuing to serve FUUSA as treasurer for the coming year.

**Assistant Treasurer: Reese Satin**

I've been at FUUSA since 1989. I've served in a number of leadership roles, as a major event chair, done fundraising, long-range planning as well as building maintenance. My financial work at FUUSA has been as Treasurer, chair of the Finance Committee and the Endowment Trust, and playing a leading role in arranging and developing the financing of the building expansion.

husband Al and I checked out FUUSA one Sunday and joined shortly after. We had been seeking something beyond our life in the Lutheran tradition and quickly recognized that FUUSA felt like home. I was soon was involved in resettling the Iraqi refugee



I believe an organization's real values are expressed in how it uses its financial resources. If elected Assistant Treasurer, I will work to conserve and use FUUSA's resources more effectively consistent with the office of Assistant Treasurer and the Society's mission.

**Board Trustees**

**Board Trustee: Michele Desrosiers**

I've been a member of FUUSA for 12 years and have 3 children (young adults now!) who have all participated in the RE Program. Over the years I have served in a number of roles at FUUSA including 7 years on the RE Council (1 year as Chair), 2 years on the Personnel Committee and 2 years working on the Annual Canvass.



Professionally my experience includes leadership, marketing and operations roles at high tech companies and at a non-profit

professional theatre.

I am seeking a role on the board in order to help chart our future growth - both here at FUUSA and as a denomination in our region. I believe I can bring value to the board through a combination of my professional and volunteer experience at FUUSA and through the relationships I have built here over the years. Most importantly I would like to "give back" to the FUUSA community that has been so supportive of me and my family during our time here.

**Board Trustee: Erik Eddy**

I became a member of FUUSA in 2004 along with my wife, Margie, and son, Jackson. Over the years, I have served on the Stewardship Committee, chaired the canvass portion of the stewardship campaign, acted as a service leader, and been involved in the RE program.

I have experience serving as a Trustee for various organizations. I have served on boards for the Second Chance Scholarship Founda-





tion (as Executive Director and Board Member), The Robert C. Parker School (as Enrollment Chair, Treasurer, Vice President and President), and the Colonial Acres Homeowners Association. My full-time job is Associate Professor of Management in the Business School of Siena College.

FUUSA has an important history in the Capital District Region. If elected a member of the Board of Trustees, I view my role as a steward of that history. My focus would be on ensuring the long-term success of our organization.

**Board Trustee: Linda Hunt**

I visited FUUSA in 1991, along with my husband and two young daughters. We have enjoyed being active members of FUUSA for 22 years, and I look forward to assuming greater responsibility if elected to the Board.



I served two terms on the RE Council and taught the Our Whole Lives sexuality course and other classes as my daughters moved through the RE Program. I also served as a mentor for the Rite of Passage Program. These activities have increased my knowledge and understanding of the chal-

lenges and rewards in providing religious education to UU youth, parents and other adults.

I was privileged to serve on FUUSA's Threshold Committee and to participate in the 2012 Threshold Service, as the congregation contemplates opening a new door to expand the growth of Unitarian Universalism in the Capital Region. I also benefited personally from participating in FUUSA's Healthy Congregations weekend and the Building the World We Dream Of curriculum. If elected, I will encourage development of other FUUSA activities to promote equality, inclusion, and fairness.

I have come to know many FUUSAns and widened my community circle by hosting circle dinners, Stewardship and Dream Catcher gatherings, serving on the Auction Committee and working on the George Kleinberger Memorial Breakfast. Singing in FUUSA's choir and regularly attending the Walker Book Club also enhance my well-being and growth.

Following my recent retirement from the State, I now have additional time, energy and enthusiasm to undertake a more active leadership role for FUUSA. I have unique skills due to my legal education and experience to think logically and critically and to resolve difficult problems. I have the ability to listen to different views of members of the congregation, to work collaboratively to analyze and address complex issues, to think creatively under pressure and to make difficult decisions when necessary. I support systems and activities that welcome, empower and enhance the greater participation of all members of FUUSA's congregation. If elected, I will encourage the Board to adopt policies and plans to achieve greater diversity and inclusiveness within FUUSA to benefit the congregation and the community.

**Board Trustee: Rebecca Myer**

Thank you for electing me to your board in 2012. I was elected to serve out the remaining year for a member whose attention had turned west. It has been a wonderful learning year and I hope you give me the opportunity to use what I've learned to dive deeper into the good work for our congregation via a full 3-year board term.

I have been a member of FUUSA for 6 years (since moving to Albany) and have been a UU for over 20. I am a mother of 2 grown children that went through a UU RE program, an Oriel poet and a total fan of our Small Group Ministry program. I am also currently participating in the "Beloved Conversations" meditations on race and ethnicity. This program is allowing me to work with others from surrounding congregations while taking us on a life-changing, spiritual journey that we hope will be expanded and offered to others in our congregation next year.



In my opinion, we have very strong lay leadership in this church. I would be honored to continue giving my time and energy to the work needed to fulfill our mission and our strategic goals. We are the current stewards of this wonderful church and it is our obligation to leave a strong FUUSA for those

who follow us. As a board member, I look forward to being part of that key work.

## Endowment Trustees

### Endowment Trustee: Sharon Babala

I am excited to be running for a position on the Endowment Trust committee. Mike and I have been members for about 16 years and feel that FUUSA is our home. For the past 4 years I've been involved



in the Caring Network (as Chairperson) and the Pastoral Care Associate program. Prior to that I taught RE, and continue to lend a helping hand with receptions, meditation programs, small group ministry and Sunday volunteering. I feel fortunate to be

involved in a community where my values are honored and there are many opportunities to be of service. What you probably don't know about me is that I have a B.S. in business and an MBA from SUNY Albany and that I've been managing various types of businesses for the past 35 years. My experience as being responsible for the profitable operation of small businesses (from printing plants, distribution centers, customer service centers and corporate paralegal services) gives me a good perspective on finances and investment. My commitment to balance compassion and service with fiscal responsibility would enable me to be a productive member of the Endowment Trust.

### Endowment Trustee: David Musser

I retired from RPI in 2007 but still keep a hand in teaching (I'm writing a textbook) and research in computer science. Since becoming a member of FUUSA in 2010, I've participated in a couple of major activities of the Green Sanctuary Committee of the Social Responsibilities Council. I have tried to understand hydraulic fracturing thoroughly enough to take an informed stand on the issue within FUUSA and more widely, including a letter to the editor and comments submitted to the Department of Environmental



Conservation. I have also served on the Solar subcommittee, which required analyzing several proposed contracts to install solar panels for how they could not only benefit the environment but also save money. On a personal level, over the past five and a half years since I retired---in a time of financial crisis, slow recovery, and uncertain prospects for future growth---I've developed a keen interest in the questions of risk and reward from investments. Serving as a Trustee of the Endowment Trust would provide an opportunity to understand and help improve the long-term financial picture for FUUSA, and I look forward to being involved in this important work if elected.

## Nominating Committee

### Nominating Cmte.: Laura Churchill

I am married to Jim Hutchins and have three children, Alex (20), Zoe(17) and Charlotte (13), all of whom have gone through or are going through the RE program at FUUSA. I am a Nurse Practitioner



and the Program Administrator at Greene County Family Planning in Catskill NY. I have been attending FUUSA for 14 years and have been a member for 12. I have been a past member of the Committee on Professional Ministry, and the Religious Education Council. I have been teaching RE for many years and especially appreciate getting to know the youth and families of our congregation.

The reason I joined FUUSA and keep coming is the chance to belong to a Church that supports my liberal beliefs and allows the free expression of them. FUUSA has been an important place for my children to learn those same values and see them in action through the work of the congregation. If elected, I hope to assist in the recruiting of a diverse and qualified set of candidates.

### Nominating Cmte.: Donna Meixner

When Peter and I first came to FUUSA twenty-five years ago, we knew from the beginning we had found a special community. FUUSA quickly became an important part of our lives and it remains so today. Over the years, I've been privileged to be in-

volved in a variety of ways within the Congregation. I have served on a number of committees including Membership, DRE Search, Nominating, Personnel, Dream Catchers Strategic Planning and Plant Sale. I am currently a member of the Stewardship Campaign Committee and the Bazaar Committee, and I am completing my third year as Secretary to the Board of Trustees.



I would welcome the opportunity to serve on the Nominating Committee. One of FUUSA's strengths has always been its talented and highly committed lay leadership. The Nominating Committee plays a vital role in identifying and developing individuals throughout our congregation to run for elected leadership positions. It is important that we provide opportunities for newer and younger members to share in the leadership of FUUSA.

**Nominating Cmte.: Patti Jo Newell**

I am honored to be considered to serve on the Nominating Committee. FUUSA has been central to our family for nearly two decades. I have learned and benefited most while active in the community, and have had the privilege of doing so in a variety of contexts. From co-chair of the erstwhile Social Events Committee to trustee and vice-president of the FUUSA Board and ad hoc committee work such as Welcoming Congregation, Habitat for Humanity, Safe Congregation Policy to regular stints in Religious Education, I've been impressed by the strength and vitality of our community. I am currently enjoying the challenges and rewards of teaching OWL to our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and of participating in the Beloved Conversations sessions.



As someone passionate about diversity of voices, if elected to the Nominating Committee, I would endeavor to ensure our many leadership posts reflect

the breadth of experience at FUUSA, with a special emphasis on promoting leadership among our younger members and parents of young children. The health and well-being of our community rests not only with the talent and passion of FUUSA's tried-and-true, but also with the energy and perspective of fresh and new voices.

**Nominating Cmte.: Britany Orlebeke**

I joined FUUSA with my husband, Dave, and our two children, Bethany and Benjamin, in 2012 after attending regularly for a few years. Since becoming a part of FUUSA, I have enjoyed volunteering in the Toddler Room and teaching for the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade



"Green Frogs" in RE. Lately, I've been joining FUUSA's musical offerings. We enjoy coming to church each Sunday and have gotten to know many folks who participate in FUUSA in various roles and capacities. I would be happy

to lend a hand as a member of the Nominating Committee to help get others involved in serving the FUUSA community and beyond.

**Religious Education Council (REC)**

**REC Chair: Tracie Tilgner**

Thank you for considering me for the post of RE Council Chairperson. I have worked with children for much of my adult life. I hold a BA in Education from Russell Sage College and have completed many hours of graduate work in Educational Theory and Practice at SUNY Albany. After graduating, I was a lead daycare teacher in a pre-k classroom for several years, and then taught high school foreign language until the birth of my first daughter, Samantha. I now home school both Samantha and my younger daughter, Chloe, in our home in Delmar. My husband Mark and I first came to FUUSA about six years ago. After a year of attending services, I enrolled my children in RE and began volunteering as a teacher. I loved it so much that I have been doing so ever since! I have served



as a member of the RE Council for the past three years, and have recently been certified as an OWL facilitator for both the K-1 and 4-6 grade curricula. I look forward to continuing to work with Leah and the RE Council to ensure that all our children are able to explore what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist in a warm and nurturing environment.

**REC Member: Cari Abatemarco**

As a member of FUUSA since March 2009, I have grown to appreciate all that is special and unique about our congregation. Respecting other’s beliefs, sharing and questioning ideas and actually doing something for the betterment of society are all ideals I hope to instill in my daughter. For the past 3 years, I have been given the opportunity to not just share these ideals with my own daughter, but to model them and live them with the children of FUUSA as a

teacher for the RE Program. Working with our pre-k/kindergarteners, I have thoroughly enjoyed watching them grow as a group -- opening up to new friends, learning about the world around them and wondering why things are the way they are. Besides my involvement with FUUSA, I also bring to the Council over a decade of experience in the non-profit and public sectors, working with LGBTQ youth as well as the New York State Senate. I am excited at the possibility of working with the RE Council to further the development of the RE Program. I have always admired the way the RE Council continues to examine the curriculum and policies to ensure they meet the needs of our families. As a member of the RE Council, it is my intention to be a voice for the youth and to provide support for the teachers, volunteers and families of the RE Program.

**REC Member: Brian Frank**

My partner Steven and I first attended FUUSA with our son Darius on the day that the inaugural service was held in Emerson Hall. We had known about FUUSA for many years by its reputation in the commu-



nity, but had never attended a service. Darius now attends RE as one of the Indigo Butterflies, and I am running for my second term on the RE Council. I served a three-year term previously, and have been assisting the Council in a volunteer capacity for the past year. I’m looking forward to helping support the RE program, not only for the benefit of our children but for the benefit of our congregation as a whole.

**REC Member: John Scaringe**

My wife, Brigid Mack, and I joined the UU Church of Amherst, outside of Buffalo, NY, in 2002. While there, I was one of the Youth Group Advisors and an OWL Instructor for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. When we moved back to Albany in 2009, we started going to FUUSA off and on for a couple of years. In the fall of 2011, we decided to join FUUSA to belong to a religious community, and to provide religious education to our daughters Isabella and Abigail, ages 6 and 3 respectively. This year, I am a Rite of Passage Mentor and OWL Instructor for 4<sup>th</sup> graders. I am a full-time Dad, staying home to care for my wife and children, as to say I am quite active in my children’s lives. I would like to join the Religious Education Council to ensure that our children and the children of FUUSA are provided an enriching and fun religious curriculum.



**REC Member: Sandy Stone**

I have been an active member of FUUSA for approximately 30 years. Dave and I joined at that time in hopes of finding a religious community for our two children, and Sunday School was the primary reason for us becoming members. Our children attended for several years but never really got involved in what FUUSA had to offer. FUUSA, however, has remained an integral part of our lives.



About 20 years ago I was on the RE Council and since then have been a regular in the Toddler room

on Sunday mornings, where I get to see the children blossom from week to week. One of my favorite services of the year is the one that the High School group gives, where I enjoy the variety of their expressions of beliefs. From tot to teen, the RE program has a great impact on our youth and I enjoy being a part of that growth. For that reason, I would like to be a member of the RE Council.

**REC Member: Dee Van Riper**

Although I have only recently become a member, I have taught RE for several years covering grades 3-



8. My daughter Nina has participated in FUUSA's RE classes and is currently in the High School youth group as well as going through the Rite of Passage program. I am employed at Albany Medical College where I am mostly a research scientist but also teach both undergraduate and post-graduate

level classes. I am well acquainted with many of the curricula available for our RE programs and recognize that a strong and engaging RE program is vital to the health of our congregation - both now and for the future.

**Social Responsibilities Council (SRC)**

**SRC Chair: Karen Kaufmann**

I am honored to have the support of the Nominating Committee and the SRC membership to seek a second term as chair. I am very

proud of the many worthwhile projects that have been supported by the members and friends of this dynamic and dedicated group, from direct service projects to the homeless, local elementary students, FO-CUS food programs, and storm victims, to sponsorship of



presentations and discussions that raise awareness of racism and poverty issues among our congregation and community, and advocacy of social justice issues to governmental policymakers, among others!

Assuming a leadership role after only four years at FUUSA has had its challenges, but it is extremely

gratifying for me to be involved in the essential work of "responding morally and ethically to a troubled world." This was one of my primary intentions when I came to FUUSA, and having since retired after many years as a state government lawyer, I fortunately have more time to dedicate to that goal. I see many more good things ahead for SRC and look forward to continuing to facilitate its valuable work.

**SRC Member: Edward Hancock**

I have been a UU since 1970 and a member of FUUSA since 1972. I was raised Roman Catholic but walked away when Catholic practice and custom seemed too at odds with its teaching. While I regularly entered 405 Washington Ave for daily SUNYA Russian classes in 1964, it was not until 1969 that I first attended a FUUSA service at the



suggestion of a mutual friend. I was very impressed by the involved and socially concerned congregation, so when the Navy sent me to Norfolk VA, I looked up the local UU church and found the UUs there also socially concerned and outspoken. The

minister was also the chapter president of the ACLU. The church was welcoming to gays, hippies, gray haired people, and officers and sailors in uniform. The UU minister was not cloaked in self importance of a priest and discussed issues with congregants. The Spring rebirth of the earth was celebrated outside on a river bank with a flower communion. Totally cool. So upon my return to Albany I attended, was welcomed by and joined FUUSA. I have been an RE teacher for many semesters, an RE council member for 9 years, a board of trustees member for 3 and father of Tom for 16. I have been involved with the SRC as an attendee and as an appointed member for a year and I am seeking election to the SRC to continue my participation there and with the Peace Team. I am reminded by Dr. Seuss and Horton that every voice in Whoville counts and one more voice may just make all the difference.

**SRC Member: Jaye Holly**

After living in Maryland for about 12 years, I returned to the Albany area about 4 years ago. Having been away for so long, it was both foreign and familiar. It was an opportunity to look at old things in new ways, including my spiritual life. Having grown up in the African Methodist Episcopal church, I had been a member of Israel AME when I lived here before, but had drifted away from the church while in Maryland. I had been missing having a spiritual home and decided that part of re-settling in the Capital District would be to do some exploring of different churches. My first stop was FUUSA, and it was also my last stop. The thing that captured me was the commitment to social justice. I have spent a lifetime working for social justice in both paid and unpaid positions. From fundraising to political advocacy to serving on non-profit boards, fighting the good fight has been my passion. Serving on the SRC would be another way of me giving back, while continuing to learn about emerging social justice issues, so I'm looking forward to the opportunity.





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