

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 on Sundays include Forum (social justice and environmental topics), Family Chapel, social events, and adult education.

All are welcome!

Services

Feb. 2 "This I Believe"

As Unitarian Universalists, we honor the voices of members of our congregation in their individual search for truth and meaning. This service provides an opportunity to hear the personal reflections on life from FUUSAns Michael Hornsby, Dawn Dana, and Frank Woods.

Music: Choir

Feb. 9 "Three Things We All Need," Rev. Douglas Taylor

From the perspective of a faith community, there are things we offer that all people need. If you were making a list, what do you think would be included? What do you need from your congregation? I will share with you my list of three things we all need from a faith community.

Music: Matt Edwards

Feb. 16 "Report from Sri Lanka," Rev. Sam Trumbore

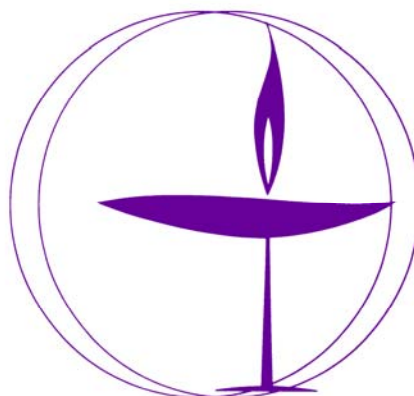
Having returned from traveling for three weeks in Sri Lanka February 5, Rev. Trumbore will share a little of what he has learned and brought back in words, pictures, sound and maybe even food!

Music: Choir

Feb. 23 "Jesus ... A Zealot?" Rev. Sam Trumbore

Reza Aslan in his book on Jesus makes a claim that Jesus was a Zealot. This book has stirred a lot of controversy. Rev. Trumbore will look at his arguments and what we can learn about the difficult times in which Jesus lived. Rev. Trumbore will work with this book in a series of classes in March to open up the social and historical context of Jesus' life and death.

Music: Special Guests TBA



WINDOWS

Newsletter of the First Unitarian
Universalist Society of Albany

February 2014

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Sunday Schedule

9:00 AM

Mindfulness Meditation

9:45 AM

Nursery/Toddler rooms open

10:00 AM

Service

Family Chapel

(1st Sunday/mo.)

Religious Education

11:00 AM

Coffee Hour

11:45 AM

Forum (as scheduled)

Calendar

Events happening every Sunday at FUUSA

9:00 AM	Mindfulness Meditation	Sanctuary	Exceptions:
10:00 AM	Service	Emerson	
10:00 AM	Family Chapel (1st Sunday/mo.)	Sanctuary	
10:00 AM	Religious Education	Classrooms	
11:00 AM	Coffee Hour	Channing	
11:00 AM	Quiet Conversation Corner	Emerson	

Events happening every week in February

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

All other events happening in February

- 1-Feb Saturday**
 - 8:45 AM Getting To Know UU B-7, B-8
 - 5:00 PM Circle Dinner Offsite
- 2-Feb Sunday**
 - 10:00 AM Family Chapel Sanctuary
 - 10:30 AM UU Parent Support Sanctuary
 - 11:45 AM Childcare for K/1 OWL Orientation 22, 24/25, B-1,
 - 11:45 AM OWL Orientation for K.1 children and parents.. 26
 - 11:45 AM Social Responsibilities Council B-7
 - 12:00 PM Annual Dinner Skit Rehearsal Emerson
- 3-Feb Monday**
 - 1:00 PM Grannies for Peace B-8
 - 6:15 PM RE Council Meeting Channing Hall
 - 6:30 PM Small Group Ministry--English B5
 - 7:30 PM Stewardship Committee B-8
- 4-Feb Tuesday**
 - 7:00 PM Mission Task Force B-2
- 5-Feb Wednesday**
 - 10:00 AM Griffin-Wellspring Stott Lounge
 - 2:00 PM Patka-Manning SGM B-8
 - 6:45 PM Wellspring I B-8
- 7-Feb Friday**
 - 6:00 PM Potluck Dinner Channing
 - 6:30 PM Childcare for SRC Movie 23, 24/25, 26
- 8-Feb Saturday**
 - 8:00 AM Building Our Shared Theologies Channing
 - 5:00 PM Senior High Sleepover & HUUGS Whole Building
- 9-Feb Sunday**
 - 11:45 AM Green Sanctuary Forum Emerson
 - 2:00 PM Art Show Reception: Fred Moody Channing
 - 5:30 PM Walker Book Club Channing
- 10-Feb Monday**
 - 10:00 AM Patrick/Odell SGM B-5
 - 1:00 PM Interfaith Impact Meeting B-8
 - 3:00 PM Overflow Shelter Meals Kitchen
 - 5:15 PM Membership Ministry Meeting B-8
 - 7:00 PM Monday Men Library
- 11-Feb Tuesday**
 - 5:15 PM Religious Services Committee Stott Lounge
 - 7:00 PM Mission Task Force B-2
 - 7:00 PM PR Committee B-8
 - 7:00 PM UU Christians B-5
 - 7:00 PM Wellspring II Stott Lounge
- 13-Feb Thursday**
 - 7:00 PM CRUUNY June Service Planning Channing
 - 7:00 PM Program Coord. Council Meeting B-8
- 14-Feb Friday**
 - 5:45 PM CommUnity Dinner (aka Parent Group) Channing Hall, 23, 24/25, 26
- 16-Feb Sunday**
 - 11:45 AM Cong. Conversation/Fracking Resolution Emerson
 - 11:45 AM Green Sanctuary Mtg B-8
- 17-Feb Monday**
 - 12:00 PM Channing Circle Channing
 - 6:30 PM Small Group Ministry--English B5
- 18-Feb Tuesday**
 - 9:00 AM West Hill Minister's Breakfast Channing
 - 7:00 PM Mission Task Force B-2
- 19-Feb Wednesday**
 - 2:00 PM Patka-Manning SGM B-8
 - 6:45 PM Wellspring I B-8
- 20-Feb Thursday**
 - 6:30 PM Board of Trustees Meeting Channing
- 21-Feb Friday**
 - 5:00 PM Guilderland Potluck Channing
- 22-Feb Saturday**
 - 8:00 AM Mission Breakfast Cafe Channing
 - 7:00 PM Wine & Cheese Channing
- 23-Feb Sunday**
 - 11:45 AM Congregational Meeting/Fracking Res... Emerson
 - 11:45 AM Nominating Committee Stott Lounge
- 24-Feb Monday**
 - 10:00 AM Patrick/Odell SGM B-5
 - 3:00 PM Overflow Shelter Meals Kitchen
 - 7:00 PM Meaning Matters B-8
 - 7:00 PM Monday Men Stott Lounge
 - 7:30 PM Stewardship Committee B-7
- 25-Feb Tuesday**
 - 5:00 PM Evensong - Time 7pm Emerson
 - 7:00 PM Meaning Matters B-8
 - 7:00 PM Mission Task Force B-2
 - 7:00 PM Wellspring II Stott Lounge
- 26-Feb Wednesday**
 - 7:00 PM Beloved Conversations Course B-7
- 27-Feb Thursday**
 - 6:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting B-8

Sam's Outlook

Identity Matters

Rev. Sam Trumbore

What if we just borrowed another UU congregation's mission statement? There are some really good ones out there. Each congregation worked hard to develop it. After all, they are likely very similar to us. What would we lose? What would we gain?



The mission of First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon, is to create a welcoming community of diverse individuals; to promote love, reason and freedom in religion; to foster lifelong spiritual growth; and to act for social justice.

The Schawnee Mission Unitarian Universalist Church in Johnson County, Kansas expressed their purpose in these words: "INVITE everyone into a caring community. INSPIRE the search for spiritual growth. INVOLVE all in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world."

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, Virginia expresses their purpose as to: "transform ourselves, our community and the world through acts of love and justice." Our vision is Grow. Connect. Serve.

First Unitarian Church of Rochester, New York expresses their purpose as: "creating connection by listening to our deepest selves, opening to life's gifts and serving needs greater than our own - every day!"

And here is OUR mission statement:

We welcome all men, women and children who seek a religion based on the inherent sanctity of every person's free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

In keeping with our distinctive, non-creedal religion, we strive to excite the human spirit and inspire its development; to respond to moral and ethical issues in our local, national and world communities; and to sustain a vital and nurturing congregational life.

I enjoy reading other congregation's mission statements because they have much in common with each other yet also have uniqueness that expresses each congregation's heritage and identity. All our congregations strive to create community, encourage growth and transformation, and action to make the world a better place. Portland has a special commitment to welcoming diverse people. Schawnee Mission names spiritual growth as a purpose. Fairfax emphasizes transformation and action. Rochester is the most inwardly oriented as it focuses on listening and opening. I find our focus on the inherent sanctity of our non-creedal free and responsible search for truth and meaning

expresses our historical identity.

A compelling articulation of a congregation's purpose in a mission statement can effectively express the identity of a congregation. This is extremely important because it then can shape the structure of Sunday services, affect the content and structure of sermons, the kind of adult programming offered, the children's religious education curriculum design, the kind of social responsibility projects a congregation develops and in which it chooses to participate, and prioritize the allocation of resources and revenue. Ideally, everything that happens in a congregation expresses its identity and reflects its unifying purpose.

Our congregation's Board of Trustees has reviewed our mission statement and believes it does not express our identity adequately. A very simple example came from a comment by Anna Brewer, the Senior High representative. She pointed out that "men, women and children" is exclusive of people whose gender identity is queer. An easy fix for that would be to say "people." This would better express our identity as a Welcoming Congregation.

I would go further, to say that our identity has evolved and the world has changed since our mission was passed in 1993. We have a growing commitment to inclusion and widening our theological, racial, gender, class, age and cultural diversity. With the development of lifespan religious education, there is a growing commitment people want to make to lifelong learning, growth and development. Our statement of "responding to moral and ethical issues" is passive and weak. I sense in our identity a desire to make a more deliberate commitment to peace and justice, to freedom and responsibility. We have a growing commitment to care for the planet and sustaining our future viability as a species.

The current language doesn't capture that passion, that energy or that vision of who we are and who we wish to be. And there may be other emerging visions that I haven't sensed or captured above.

Each Unitarian Universalist congregation governs itself and creates its own mission. We don't take orders from the larger Unitarian Universalist Association. We are autonomous and free to chart our own institutional and religious course. The better we can articulate that individual identity using mission and vision statements and implement them in actions that reflect them, the easier it is for us to attract people to us and decide how to allocate our resources and revenue. It makes a huge positive difference in our congregation's health and vitality to do this well.

This is why I URGE EVERYONE to participate in the mission activities that are happening in February, March and April. FUUSA needs your help and support to articulate in words who we are, who we aspire to become, and what kind of a world we dream about creating.--Rev. Sam

News

Special Congregational Meeting called, Feb. 23

The Board of Trustees has called a special meeting of the Society for Sunday, February 23 at 11:45 AM to take action on a proposed resolution to oppose the current practice of hydraulic fracturing and support the widespread adoption of renewable energy. Child care will be available. The text of the proposed resolution is printed at the end of this newsletter.

Since early fall, the Fracking Resolution Working Group has encouraged congregational participation in developing this resolution through newsletter postings, forums, congregational conversations and a pot-luck discussion. By taking a position on this important issue, our congregation seeks to influence elected officials, citizens, and environmental and religious organizations. Your participation at the congregational meeting is essential to sending this message.

Our rules of procedure for congregational meetings call for a 10 minute opening statement by the proposers of the resolution and by a spokesperson for a dissenting opinion. This is followed by a discussion period in which individual statements are limited to 3 minutes each. After 15 minutes of discussion, those in attendance may choose to extend the discussion period or close debate and bring the question to a vote.

To allow for more sharing of information and opinions before the congregational vote, the Board of Trustees will sponsor the final congregational conversation on the proposed fracking resolution on Sunday, February 16 at 11:45 AM in Emerson. We encourage all to take this opportunity to participate,

Flyers in this issue

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

- ◆ Fracking Resolution draft
- ◆ HUUGs for our recently graduated young adults
- ◆ “Affordable France” Wine and cheese tasting

raise questions and share their opinions.

Guest in our pulpit, Feb. 9

Rev. Douglas Taylor has been serving the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton for over 10 years. He is the most recent Gould Discoursant and a past presenter of the Jeanne Blank Memorial Address. He is a fourth generation Universalist and will have an essay published in the forthcoming collection "Not for Ourselves Alone" from Skinner House Books.

“Put Your Money Where Your Heart Is”

Our Stewardship Campaign has begun. The Stewardship Committee and the Finance Committee have already made their financial pledges for the 2014-15 year. Among them are a number of “visionaries”, “sustainers” and “supporters”.

You should have already received an email with an overview of this year’s effort. In the coming weeks, watch your email, the weekly “Preview”, and FUUSA’s Facebook page for continuing messages explaining how you can participate. Our goal is to have the Annual Dinner on April 11th be a celebration of our success. Please help us reach that goal by completing your pledge forms promptly.

If you have any questions or comments let us know. Stewardship Committee: Chuck Manning, Chair; Tim Burch, Dick Dana, Erik Eddy, Linda Hunt, Melissa Ramirez, Bruce Rogers, and John Sherman.

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” Winston Churchill

“Black Style”, photographs by Fred Moody Channing Hall art show

The exhibition Black Style presents images from Albany, New York City and other localities. The exhibition shows subjects as they choose to present themselves and as they are displayed in various advertisements. All of the photos were taken, digitally processed, printed, matted and framed by the photogra-

evensong
A Celebration of Faith through Music

February 25
Tuesday, 7pm



Please join us for EVENSONG and bring a friend.

pher. "Photography has given me entry into places that I would not ordinarily be able to go and to meet people whom I would not ordinarily be able to meet. I use photography to catch moments that would otherwise be lost to memory, and to share my photographic journey."

Mr. Moody was always interested in photography, but began photography education at the Barrett House Arts Center in Poughkeepsie, New York. He has studied photography at Hudson Valley Community College, and has attended workshops with Judith Farber, Mindy Weised, Lindsey Adler and Lou Reed. His work has been exhibited in solo shows at the Hamilton Hill Arts Center in Schenectady, at the Albany Airport Gallery, and at various group-member shows at the Troy Photo Center. He is an active member of the Troy Photo Center and the Schenectady Photo Society. Mr. Moody is self-employed as an event photographer.

All are invited to meet the artist at a reception on

Sunday, Feb. 9 from 2:00-4:00 PM in Channing Hall.

Mission Task Force starts work

Did you know that the words we recite at each worship service for the Chalice Lighting are a synopsis of our Mission Statement (which appears on the back of each Order of Service)? Neither did many others. But the FUUSA Board feels that it's time to re-visit that 20-year-old Statement to determine if it still provides us with a "magnetic north" for guiding our activities. The Board has formed a Task Force of eight members to lead this effort. To begin the review, the entire congregation is invited to a "World Café" meeting on Saturday morning, Feb. 22 in Channing Hall. Starting at 9:00, we'll serve a light breakfast and some provocative questions about what you think FUUSA ought to be for small group discussions. This will begin a process of reflection, writing of drafts and further reviews and meetings, with the goal of having a new Mission Statement for consideration at the Annual Meeting in May. So

Board notes

What is it like to be the youth representative to the FUUSA Board of Trustees?"

Anna Brewer

While most other high school seniors are going to sports practices and doing homework on the 3rd Thursday night of each month, I am sitting in Channing Hall. I began serving on the FUUSA Board of Trustees my sophomore year of high school as a way to get more involved. Though I am not sure that this position was filled before me, I am elated that it exists and that I fill it. I think it is integral to the success of our church that we include youth in major decisions. After all, they are the future.

My main role at meetings is to include a youth perspective. As someone who attended RE through all of her childhood and is a member of youth group, I also provide information about RE programming as a recent participant. Most of all I work to ensure that the involvement of youth is a top priority for the Board.

I think both the Board and myself have grown since I took this position. There has been greater focus on youth since I joined the board, in terms of how to better engage them in the church and work to make them lifelong UUs. Through my involvement with the Board, greater connections have been made between the leaders of the church and the youth group. I have also made connections with an amazing group of dedicated adults I would not have otherwise known. Additionally, I have learned of the complicated workings that make FUUSA run smoothly.

For the rest of the year I plan to work on showing adults who did not grow up UU what it is like to be a UU youth and how amazing our programming is. If you would like to know more about my involvement with the Board, or about youth programming, please stop me in church (dirty blonde hair, blue eyes, 5'5", always going somewhere or doing something) or email me at anna.brewer.96@gmail.com. We always need help with youth events!



mark your calendar, and start thinking about what you'd consider to be FUUSA's mission.

Wine & Cheese Tasting

The 9th Annual Guided Wine & Cheese Tasting will be held at FUUSA on Saturday, Feb. 22, and will feature "Affordable France". This year we pair six French wines with six French cheeses recommended by Eric Paul, proprietor of The Cheese Traveler. We suggest having a light supper before attending the tasting which begins at 7:00 pm. Admission to this fundraiser for FUUSA is \$30 per person for FUUSA members and friends and \$40 per person for the general public. Seating is limited to 80 so reserve your place early by signing up during coffee hour at the table in Channing Hall; you may pay in advance or at the door on the evening of the event. Childcare will be available if requested in advance.

Call for Nominations

The Nominating Committee has issued a call for nominations for the following positions to be elected at the Annual Meeting on May 18, 2014:

Position	Term
President	1 year
Vice President	1 year
Secretary	1 year
Treasurer	1 year
Assistant Treasurer	1 year
Board of Trustees (2)	3 years
Religious Education Council Chair	1 year
Religious Education Council (4)	3 years
Religious Education Council (1).....	1 year
Social Responsibilities Council Chair	1 year
Social Responsibilities Council (2)	3 years
Nominating Committee (2)	3 years
Endowment Trust (1)	5 years

Requirements for Elected Positions

Any person holding an elected position must be an active member of FUUSA for at least 30 days prior to being elected and must not have a pledge in arrears (2012-13 pledge year or previous). Candidates for the Endowment Trust must be FUUSA members

for at least 3 years.

Nomination Procedure

Society members may contact anyone on the committee to let them know of their interest in the above positions or to suggest someone else you feel would be qualified. If you have questions please contact any of the Nominating Committee members: Debbie Brown, Laura Churchill, Donna Meixner, Dave Metz, Paula Moskowitz, and Linda Way.

Nominations of candidates for any elected position may be made by presenting the Nominating Committee with a nominating petition signed by 25 active members of the Society. Petition forms can be found in the church office or in the "File Cabinet" on the FUUSA website. The deadline for such petitions is April 4. Petitions may be placed in the Nominating Committee's mailbox in the office.

Bidding with the Stars

FUUSA's annual auction

6:30 PM, Saturday, Mar. 15

Don't miss FUUSA's biggest fun(d)raiser of the year! Not only does our annual auction support our congregation's work, but it will afford you opportunities for fellowship and community available in no other way. Meet interesting people you might not have met and create cherished memories you might never have had.

There are lots of enjoyable ways to participate (and you're not limited to only one):

For a fun evening, attend the auction, with fabulous snacks and free babysitting. Sign up to attend starting Feb. 23 in Channing Hall. (\$3 if you reserve ahead, or \$5 at the door. Childcare will be available the night of the auction!)

If you can't attend or are auction-adverse, you can still bid on a bunch of neat stuff in the fixed-price item envelopes that will go up in Channing Hall Feb. 16.

Donate Auction items — any activity that you enjoy can be a big hit. For example, you could provide a weekly bouquet of wildflowers during the month of July or tickets for a car wash at your house or offer a picnic at a local park playground for a specified number of families or a nature experience with snacks at Five Rivers, etc. The opportunities are limited only by your imagination.

Auction participants can enjoy exquisite meals and high quality goods and services for less cost than they might otherwise pay. However, donations don't have to be pricey or complicated.

To donate, go to the FUUSA website at <http://www.fuusalbany.org/> and you will be able to either submit your donation directly using an online form; OR print out a form for manual completion. You can also drop your donation form off in the Donation box in the FUUSA lobby after getting your hardcopy form in the FUUSA lobby or Auction table on Sundays in Channing Hall.

The Auction Committee looks forward to **your** participation in this annual opportunity for FUUSA to do well by doing good and help achieve its mission to "sustain a vital and nurturing congregational life." Bring your calendars and join the fun!

Will you be there?

Please let FUUSA President Peggy Sherman or Denominational Affairs Chair Don Odell (482-4574, drodell31@yahoo.com) know if you plan to attend General Assembly. Registration and housing reservations open on March 1. The theme for this GA is *Love Reaches Out*. We believe that our faith provides a path for each of us to unlock our transformational capacity to serve the world with love. We will gather in 2014 to help our association live into a future where Love Reaches Out – to share our faith both within and beyond our congregations' walls.

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend. But we need to know that **you** are interested in attending.

General Assembly will offer nearly 200 programming choices over the 5 days of GA. The 2014 Ware lecturer will be Sister Simone Campbell, a religious leader, attorney and poet with extensive experience in public policy and advocacy for systemic change. In 2012, she was instrumental in organizing the "Nuns on the Bus" tour.

This is a multigenerational and inclusive gathering.

There is an active youth and young adult contingent at GA. Scholarship and Volunteer Opportunities, Childcare, and Accessibility Services are available.

CRUUNY (Capital Region Unitarian Universalists New York) is considering transportation options at this time. And FUUSA would like to be well represented, and will seek ways to enable adults and youth to attend. **But we need to know if you are interested! Please let us know!**

"The Spirited Life"

St. Lawrence and Ohio-Meadville Joint District Assembly 2014: Mar. 28-29, in Erie, PA

FUUSA has five delegates for this assembly. Will you be one of them? Let FUUSA President Peggy Sherman or Denominational Affairs Chair Don Odell (482-4574, drodell31@yahoo.com) know.

District Assembly is a chance for congregational leaders and ministers to meet, network, ask questions, provide input on the direction of the district and gather resources and information on a variety of topics and programs through workshops, the keynote address, the Gould Lecture and the Marketplace. It is an opportunity for education, leadership development and networking in a stimulating UU setting. Please go and represent FUUSA to have your voice heard, gain knowledge, and collect new resources. Let's make this a multi-generational congregational team to collect information from many workshops as well as to represent FUUSA as delegates.

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Meg Barnhouse Rev. Barnhouse's keynote address is titled "Seeds of a Spirited Life." We worry over the word "spiritual" sometimes. Maybe we could talk about a "spirited" life instead, conveying the lively authenticity of a life well-lived without having to dig through layers of off-putting stereotypes.

Gould Lecturer: Rev. Priscilla Richter Addressing "Ours Is No Caravan Of Despair", Rev. Richter will present the challenges to our Unitarian Universalist faith in the perceived declines of religious institutions in the country. She will illustrate how we can use our free faith to meet the challenges and demands of our times.



Please see the St. Lawrence District Assembly Pages online at <http://www.sld.uua.org/conggrowth/districtassembly.html> for the full brochure, schedule, workshop descriptions, DA youth caucus information, all required forms, online registration and DA exhibit forms. See this information on the UU bulletin board in Channing Hall. Questions? See above opening paragraph.

Save the date!

The 2014 **CROP Hunger Walk** will be held on Sunday, May 4. Save the date to walk with FUUSA's Team UU. Join us as we work together to stop hunger, one step at a time! See Dawn Dana for more information.

Growing Together

Heartfelt thanks to Workshop Rotation presenters

Would the world look a little brighter if we each carefully watered one more flower? This was the question asked in the story "One Flower in a Field" – our theme for Workshop Rotation this year. One could easily answer, "Yes, of course!" The story also asked, "What are the dangers in taking on something you're compelled to do but not 'supposed' to do?"; "What



happens to our souls when we assume others to act instead of acting ourselves?"; and "How can we persevere with our actions?" As Unitarian Universalist we strive to wrestle with these types of

questions to fully understand how our values can help us in our quest for meaning and to make the world a better place. In our religious education program we encourage children to wrestle with questions, too. And how they do that looks a little different. It could be through music, movement, art, hands on science, doing a project as well as learning information and discussions.

Many thanks go to the adults in the congregation who volunteered in January to lead workshops for our pre-school and elementary-aged children in this investigation. These volunteers brought their expertise to plan and present a workshop with our theme in mind. The fun was evident. The learning and exploring was certainly there, too; ask any of these

workshop presenters:

- Carol Young:** Creative Movement - Upstairs
- Jessica Semon** – Music – Upstairs
- Megan Vrooman** – Explorations in Science – Upstairs
- Terry Way and Christine Carrera**– Water Color Art – Upstairs
- Green Sanctuary Committee Members** – **Cora Stackelberg, Chris Bystroff, Carol and Mark Butt, Cindy Dean** – Making the Rain Barrel for FOCUS Community Gardens - Downstairs
- Chris Bateman** – Music – Downstairs
- Scott Knox** – Water Color Art – Downstairs
- Tracie Tilgner** – Explorations in the Web of Life - Downstairs



Beloved Conversations

7:00 PM, Wednesdays, begins Feb. 26

The Beloved Conversations series seeks to facilitate honest conversations about race and ethnicity as a vehicle for faith formation and spiritual awakening. The discussions about race and ethnicity are held within the sanctuary of a “learning community,” a group of people who will not judge their colleagues, who are transparent and open about their views, hopes, dreams and experiences, and are committed to life-long learning. Get more information at the Sign Up Site in Channing Hall or speak with facilitators Melissa Ramirez and Michael Hornsby.

Building Our Shared Theologies

Saturday, Feb. 8, 8:30am – 3:00pm

The Rev. Douglas Taylor, UU minister in Binghamton, New York, asks: Are you interested in deepening your spirituality and learning about Unitarian Universalist theology?

Join Rev. Taylor in this interactive workshop for discussion and exploration of Human Anthropology, Epistemology, and Cosmology. He will link them with our shared UU values and principles. Lunch included: freewill donation. Sign up by email to registration@albanyuu.org or by calling the FUUSA office at 463-7135.

Religious Exploration

Thirty Days of Love: A Spiritual Journey for Social Justice

Leah Purcell, Director of Religious Education

“Standing on the Side of Love is an interfaith public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love’s power to stop oppression. It is sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association and all are welcome to join.” – From the Thirty Days of Love website.

I’m participating in this spiritual journey by journaling most days on the topic of the day listed at the sites blog. You can find the daily topic, an essay on the topic and links to resources for families at <http://standingonthesideoflove.org/blog/>

Below is my entry for Day 4- *“Think about issues of race in your own family and community.”*

In my own family and most of my work community and my social circles I swim in my own race and culture. So a “growing edge” for me is becoming aware of the wider world and making the effort to attend events and go to places where I am sometimes conscious of my race.

I sometimes feel uncomfortable in environments where white is not the dominate culture - the little markets near FUUSA, the mall near SUNY Purchase where my daughter goes to college. I feel conspicuous and for some reason, unsure of what the norms of behavior are. And then I feel silly about feeling my feelings. And that doesn’t get me anywhere.

But what if I could invite the spirit of curiosity in these situations? After all, it's not all about me. I really doubt that people are looking to scrutinize my behavior or appearance - especially in businesses. I could just as easily greet people, ask questions, and look about in the stores on Central Ave or the Westchester Mall as I do the at Price Chopper or Crossgates Mall. I’m pretty good at being nice to strangers. I could remember the positive interactions I have had with people in many different environments. Yeah, let me keep going in that direction!

It’s not too late for you to start a journal if you haven’t already. The program is meant to inspire us to think in different ways and get creative. (There won’t be a written test at the end) Families with children at home can join in too. Here’s the link to a calendar of family events <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/30-Days-Family-Planning-Calendar.pdf>. I like the activity suggested for Feb 3rd. It reminds me of what my journal entry from Day 4 is encouraging me to do: “Challenge your child to do something nice for every person you meet today, whether it’s smiling at them and saying hello, telling them something you like about them, or giving out cookies or love notes.”



Exploring World Religions as a Multigenerational Group

Series of 6 workshops for people of all ages

We'll hear stories like "Mullah Nasruddin Feeds His Coat," an Islamic folk tale, and Creation from the Dreamtime adapted from an Aboriginal creation story from Australia to explore how their wisdom might guide our ethical and spiritual lives. Potluck starts at 6:00. Program from 6:45 to 7:45. Tuesdays, Mar. 4, 11, and 18 and Apr. 1, 8 and 15. Sign up in Channing Hall or by email to registration@albanyuu.org.

Lifespan Learning Committee: up and running

After a brief dormancy, the Lifespan Learning Committee has been reactivated to facilitate and coordinate adult and multi-generational learning events at FUUSA. The committee organizes and supports learning opportunities that offer deepened commitment and involvement of FUUSA friends and members. Events take place in formats such as serial classes, workshops, and facilitated discussions that focus on the following program areas:

- ◆ UU history and heritage
- ◆ Faith development
- ◆ Leadership development
- ◆ Right relations and compassionate community
- ◆ Inclusiveness training
- ◆ Topical/current event

Friends and members are encouraged to participate as learners, or as teachers and facilitators. The LL committee invites proposals for learning events whose content falls within the intended program areas and the committee members are ready to support and assist in carrying out such activities. Watch for programs sponsored by Lifespan Learning on the bulletin board in Channing Hall, in Order of Services, weekly emails, and on our Facebook pages.

The committee members include Jan McCracken (Chair), Paula Brewer, Toni Daniel, Karen Greene, Don Odell, and Rev. Sam and Leah Purcell.

Joy Library notes

We enjoyed hearing Rev. Richard Gilbert on January 12 so much that we bought three of his books for the Library. We already had another: **In the Holy**

Quiet of This Hour: A Meditation Manual [242.09 GIL]

The following new books are shelved with the **NEW BOOKS** in the Joy Library.

In the Middle of a Journey: Readings in Unitarian Universalist Faith Development... by Richard S. Gilbert

The role of religious education/faith development among Unitarian Universalists marks the uniqueness of this religious movement. Without dependence on dogma or creed, it is essential that a religious community be free to develop its own distinctive identity. The centrality of religious education was evident in the very beginnings of this liberal denomination. Rev. Richard Gilbert collects many of the most influential statements of religious education philosophy in the anthology *In the Middle of a Journey*. [200 GIL]

Thanks Be for These: Meditations on Life and Death by Richard S Gilbert

There is an almost desperate quest for spirituality in our time. The "nonés" claim to be spiritual, but not religious. Gurus abound; "quick fixes" are everywhere. In *Thanks Be for These* the Rev. Richard Gilbert provides a spiritual starting point for both the "spiritual" and the "religious" seeker. Here is a collection of meditations written from the perspective of a mystical religious humanist. [242 GIL]

How Much Do We Deserve?: An Inquiry into Distributive Justice by Richard S. Gilbert

Sheds new light on the injustice arising from the widening gap between rich and poor in the United States. Economics and theology are about as far apart as two disciplines can get, but Richard Gilbert has mastered them both. Focusing on the ever-widening gap between rich and poor in the United States, *HOW MUCH DO WE DESERVE?* translates the esoteric languages of both the economists and the theologians into a practical guideline for citizen debate and action in a free society. As Robert Kuttner writes, "economic distribution is far too important to leave to economists." [174 GIL]

Voices from the Margins: An Anthology of Meditations by Jacqui James and Mark D. Morrison-Reed

In *Voices from the Margins*, Jacqui James and Mark D. Morrison-Reed have compiled a multicultural collection of reflections and meditations from Unitarian Universalist ministers. These writings remind us of both what we miss when we don't listen to marginalized voices and the amazing insights we stand to gain when we do. [242 JAM]

Our Community

Chili Cook-Off

6:00 PM, Friday, Feb. 7

The Farmer's Almanac is predicting Feb. 7, 2014 to be in the low 20's. What perfect weather for the SRC sponsored Chili Cook-Off! The dinner is a "potluck OR pay" and you can still sign up for it by calling the church office at 463-7135.

After dinner, we will be watching the movie "30 days on Minimum Wage" by Morgan Spurlock (who brought us the movie "Supersize Me") and then have a discussion on minimum wage issues with Joy Perkett from the Labor-Religion Coalition. Child-care will be available during the movie and the discussion.

6 to 9 at 6:09: Circle Dinners

Circle Dinners on Friday AND Saturday, Mar. 21-22

To give more FUUSAns the opportunity to participate, we are providing the opportunity to attend a Friday or Saturday dinner in March. The dinners will be held on Friday, March 21 and Saturday, March 22. Circle dinners provide FUUSAns and visitors the opportunity to socialize over a delicious potluck dinner in a private home and get better acquainted with fellow FUUSAns. Everyone is welcome, singles and couples, regardless of dietary restrictions. We encourage families with young children to attend or host a multi-generational dinner.

To sign up for the March dinner, you may email Martha Musser at mussermartha@gmail.com or complete the form on the sign-up board in Channing. The deadline for signing up is Sunday, March 9. If you have questions, please contact Martha at mussermartha@gmail.com or 518-339-2750.

Save these dates for future dinners: Friday and Saturday, May 16-17.

About Us

Jacqui Williams was nominated for a Human Rights Recognition Award and The City of Albany Commission on Human Rights thought she was "a perfect recipient for the award. Jacqui exemplifies the Commission's objective of fostering a climate of mutual respect, tolerance and understanding among all groups living and working in the City." The event

**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, Randy Rosette, Jerry Deighan, Bruce Rodgers and Sandy Stone.

is at City Hall, Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 6:00pm.

Channing Circle

Join us on Monday, Feb 17 at noon with your sandwich/ salad. Dessert, tea and coffee will be provided. We will then be starting a new program interviewing one of our own members on different aspects of their lives which we hope to tape for FUUSA's archives. On this Monday, Peg Slocum will be interviewed by Mary Freeman on her life in China and Japan so come join us for a fascinating time.

Joys and Caring Corner

Births

Emily Gallagher is thrilled to announce the birth of her first grandson, Jasper Simon Gallagher-Goose. Mother and son are doing well.

Zack and Annie Meztger had a baby girl, Willa Kathleen Metzger. Mom and baby are doing very well!

Carol and Mark Butt announce the arrival of their new grandson, Orion Joshua Holtz, born at home as planned on Jan 13th.

Illnesses

Sara and Bill Whalen's 4 year old son, Jacob, had successful surgery in January at Albany Medical Center.

Molly Daniels had surgery to remove her gall bladder last month.

Dave Stone's school friend Bruce Johnson suffered a stroke around Christmas. He is making great progress in rehab as he is now singing the Star Spangled Banner to the staff!

Travel

Mike DeVolder is excited to be visiting his brother and sister-in-law in Laos for three weeks.

Deaths

Brian Francis' 86 yr old mother died recently. He was grateful they had reconciled after a long period of estrangement.

If you need the services of the Caring Network, please call the office during regular hours at 463-7135.

Items of personal joy or caring may be submitted during the service on the yellow cards provided, or directly to Mary Ann Randall (mabrandall@gmail.com.)

Social Justice

Green Sanctuary

This is a special month for FUUSA. It has been a number of years since the congregation has come together to vote on a resolution of social significance. On Sunday, Feb. 23, we have the opportunity to do just that with the resolution to **'Oppose the Current Practice of Hydraulic Fracturing and Support the Widespread Adoption of Renewable Energy'**. The draft resolution is included in this newsletter.

The Green Sanctuary and the Fracking Resolution Working Group will be providing lunch before the vote. Child care will also be provided.

The national UU Ministry for Earth and UU World are watching us. They are not aware of any other UU congregation in the nation that has passed a resolution like this one. Please consider doing whatever is necessary so you may vote on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 23. If we pass this resolution, it will enable the GSC and the FRWG to leverage FUUSA's will with other UU's, other faith based organizations, and eventually the Governor. The Board will also be sponsoring a Congregational Conversation on the resolution the previous Sunday, Feb. 16. Feel free to call or write Sandy or Chris with questions. Sandy is at 489-0149 or ssteub@gmail.com. Chris is at 272-1248 or bystrc@rpi.edu.

RRR + R =

Reduce Reuse Recycle and Rethink

Please check out the SRC table for recycling of "beauty" products (including men's deodorant and

after shave products that cannot be otherwise recycled in single stream recycling) and Brita filters. Note that the blanket box is also to be used for Items for refugees, including twin sheets and pillowcases, towels, blankets, warm weather items. Don't forget to list your neat RRR+R ideas for the FUUSA compendium.

Thank you from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Thank you to all who purchased the 38 packs of UUSC Holiday Cards during November and December 2013. And, especially thank you to the FUUSAs who contributed \$686 in the 2013 Guest at Your Table campaign. The latter all contributed at levels to be members of the UUSC, and six of the contributions will be matched by the Veatch Fund to enable the UUSC to continue its social justice work worldwide and in the US. Thank you to all from your UUSC Local Rep, Don Odell.

Forum: A Geologist's Perspective on Fracking 11:45AM, Feb 9, Emerson Community Hall

Robert Fakundiny, previously the State Geologist of New York, will present facts about fracking discussing both the advantages and disadvantages of fracking.

Green Sanctuary recommends video

Green Sanctuary Committee describes this as a "must see" documentary video from Link TV on hydrofracking impacts. They recommend it as additional preparation for voters at the upcoming (Feb. 23) special congregational meeting on the fracking resolution. https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=dEB_Wwe-uBM

Contact Us

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email: board@albanyuu.org

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Regular meeting days

Check current calendar for time and location

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

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

Phone: 518.463.7135

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

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

Parking: Parking is available on the street. On Sundays (and for some special events) FUUSA has permission to use the University at Albany's 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, 9:00-4:00
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 Alyssa Yeager (463-7135 or admin@albanyuu.org).

To **rent hall or classroom space** for a personal or non-FUUSA activity, contact Office Administrator Alyssa Yeager (463-7135 or admin@albanyuu.org).

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

Editor: Amy Lent

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

Publication deadlines

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

A Resolution of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany to Oppose the Current Practice of Hydraulic Fracturing and Support the Widespread Adoption of Renewable Energy

- I. Whereas horizontal high-volume hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) is a **recently-developed technology for extracting methane gas from shale** by injecting large quantities of water, toxic chemicals, and sand under high pressure;
- II. Whereas the members of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, New York have **studied and discussed** health, environmental, economic, and policy aspects of fracking in light of Unitarian Universalist principles;
- III. Whereas, based on our belief in the **inherent worth and dignity of every person**, we are concerned that fracking endangers human health because it uses, without proper safeguards, toxic chemicals that are known to cause cancer, birth defects, and other illnesses;
- IV. Whereas, respecting the **interdependent web of all existence** of which we are a part, we are concerned that fracking endangers the environment, posing risks of methane and toxic chemicals seeping into ground water supplies; of methane and radon emissions into the air; of induced seismic activity; and of inadequately stored waste fracking fluid contaminating the soil, streams, and rivers;
- V. Whereas, believing in **justice, equity and compassion in human relations**, we are concerned that communities and rural residents subjected to fracking disproportionately suffer environmental and health consequences without equitably sharing in the financial benefits enjoyed by the industry;
- VI. Whereas, believing in the **right of conscience and the use of the democratic process**, we are concerned that State law is inherently unfair and unjust because (under Compulsory Integration) it can compel landowners who oppose fracking to submit to horizontal drilling beneath their property;
- VII. Whereas, notwithstanding industry claims that best available technology can effectively eliminate any health and environmental adverse impacts of fracking, there is **neither sufficient incentive to industry nor sufficient governmental enforcement resources** to ensure that such technology is actually used and maintained;
- VIII. Whereas, from a long-term perspective, the **methane that has existed within shale formations since early geologic time will reside there** until alternative technologies are developed for its safe extraction and may not need to be exploited at all if renewable energy sources are pursued with urgency;

continue on reverse side

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, New York is opposed to hydraulic fracturing in our community, state, nation, and around the world **until the following conditions are met** that would make the practice consistent with Unitarian Universalist Principles:

1. **The rights of all affected parties**—including, but not limited to, land owners, proximate land owners, well-owners, drillers, and their employees, community residents and those at risk of being adversely affected by drilling operations' impact on the air, land and water—**are fully protected** by enforced legislation and regulation and are truly indemnified by well owners against any harm resulting from these operations now and in the future.
2. **Sufficient fees and taxes are imposed** on hydraulic fracturing operations to support close oversight and regulation of such operations and to pay for local expenses, such as road repair, environmental clean up, and evacuations.
3. All **exemptions** of hydraulic fracturing operations from environmental laws and regulations **are eliminated**, including, in the U.S., exemptions from the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Safe Drinking Water Acts and from employee-safety regulations. One consequence of removing exemptions would be the requirement to identify all chemicals used in the process and to eliminate those that are hazardous.

Be it further RESOLVED that the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, New York calls for **legislation requiring substantial energy conservation** and accelerating the **development of renewable energy resources**, to reduce dependence on fossil fuels (and the need for fracking) and **avoid** the disastrous effects of **global warming**.



Sending Out HUUGs

(Hearty UU Greetings)



to our recently graduated
young adults.

Whether they are now working or volunteering, serving in the military or in college, our grads so appreciate a package with notes and goodies from us at FUUSA!

We need donations!

Look for the bin in the Work Room (where the copier is).

Please donate items such as

- packets of soup, noodles,
- dried fruit,
- tea, coffee, hot chocolate,
- candy, gum
- popcorn
- granola bars
- local newspapers like *Metroland*
- lip balm
- a note with your good wishes

The Religious Education Council encourages you to look for some items that are healthy, grown locally, or come from sustainable sources.

You can purchase items at the Social Responsibilities Table during Coffee Hour.

Donations are needed by Saturday, Feb 8

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

9th Annual Guided Wine & Cheese Tasting



Saturday, February 22, 2014

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

\$30 per person, members & guests

\$40.00 non-members

Cash or Check only

Childcare available by reservation

Reservations:

Sunday mornings in Channing Hall
or email

wineandcheese@albanyuu.org

Featuring affordable French wines
paired with French cheeses
supplied by Eric Paul, proprietor
of The Cheese Traveler



Fundraiser for First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

405 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

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Albany, NY 12206

518-463-7135

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