

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

WINDOWS

Newsletter of the First Unitarian
Universalist Society of Albany

May 2014

In this issue:

- 1 **Services**
- 2 **Calendar**
- 3 **Sam's Outlook**
- 4 **News**
- 6 **Growing Together**
- 8 **Our Community**
- 10 **Social Justice**
- 11 **Contact Us**
- 12 **Flyers**

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)

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

May 4 Choir Sunday

We all know that performing and listening to music can be very enjoyable. This Sunday, Matt and members of the choir share readings and songs that put forth the idea that music is crucial to humanity and may even save lives.

Music: Choir, Chris Jensen and Matt Edwards conducting

May 11 "Living the Challenge of the First Mother's Day," Grannies for Peace

Grannies for Peace will be joining us to celebrate Mother's Day with words and music. They will be honoring Julia Ward Howe, poet, activist, and Unitarian who founded the first Mother's Day of Peace. The Grannies will rekindle her message for the present through the voices of four life-sized Guardian puppets.

Music: Grannies for Peace Singers with Ann Brandon on piano

May 18 "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 thoughts and reflections on life from three FUUSAns—Ann Lapinski, Mike DeVolder, and Diana Shear.

Music: Choir and Chris Bystroff (viola)

May 25 "Never Leave Your Dead: A Tribute to Veterans and a Family Story of Redemption," Diane Cameron

Freelance writer and public speaker Diane Cameron will speak to us about her family's story of war and her research on trauma across all wars.

Music: Matt Edwards on piano



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 May

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 May

4-May Sunday

10:00 AM	Family Chapel	Sanctuary
10:30 AM	UU Parent Support	Sanctuary
11:45 AM	Social Responsibilities Council	B-7
12:00 PM	CROP Walk Lunch	Channing
4:00 PM	OM Dinner with Sharon	Kitchen
7:00 PM	Sharon Salzberg Public Talk	Emerson

5-May Monday

6:15 PM	RE Council Meeting	Channing
6:30 PM	Small Group Ministry-English	B-5

6-May Tuesday

7:00 PM	Mission Task Force	B-2
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7-May Wednesday

10:00 AM	Griffin-Wellspring	Stott Lounge
6:45 PM	Wellspring I	B-8

8-May Thursday

7:00 PM	Grannies rehearsal	Emerson
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9-May Friday

1:00 PM	Reservation Cathy Perkins	Stott Lounge
6:00 PM	CommUnity Dinner	Channing

10-May Saturday

10:00 AM	Refugee Mentors Group	B-8
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11-May Sunday

11:45 AM	Green Sanctuary Forum	Emerson
5:30 PM	Walker Book Club	Channing

12-May Monday

10:00 AM	Patrick/Odell SGM	B-5
1:00 PM	Interfaith Impact Meeting	B-8
5:15 PM	Membership Ministry Meeting	B-8
7:00 PM	Monday Men	B-5

13-May Tuesday

5:15 PM	Religious Services Committee	Stott Lounge
7:00 PM	Mission Task Force	B-2
7:00 PM	UU Christians	B-5
7:00 PM	Wellspring II	Stott Lounge

15-May Thursday

6:30 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting	Channing
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16-May Friday

6:00 PM	Circle Dinner	Offsite
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17-May Saturday

6:00 PM	Circle Dinner	Offsite
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18-May Sunday

10:00 AM	Service to Service RE Project	Kitchen
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11:30 AM	Annual Meeting	Emerson
11:45 AM	Green Sanctuary Mtg	B-8

19-May Monday

12:00 PM	Channing Circle	Channing Hall
1:00 PM	Grannies for Peace	B-8
6:30 PM	Small Group Ministry-English	B-5
7:00 PM	Meaning Matters	B-8

20-May Tuesday

5:00 PM	CRUUNY Planning	B-8
7:00 PM	Meaning Matters	B-8
7:00 PM	Mission Task Force	B-2

21-May Wednesday

6:45 PM	Wellspring I	B-8
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22-May Thursday

6:30 PM	Finance Committee Meeting	B8
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26-May Monday

7:00 PM	Monday Men	B-5
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27-May Tuesday

7:00 PM	Mission Task Force	B-2
7:00 PM	Wellspring II	Stott Lounge

31-May Saturday

9:00 AM	RE Council Retreat	B-8
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1-Jun Sunday

9:00 AM	CRUUNY Service	Offsite
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Share the Vision

The majority of the world's people must walk every day to meet their basic survival needs for water, food

and fuel. The CROP Hunger Walk joins us in solidarity with people around the world. Come with us as we walk on Sunday, May 4 (3-mile route, or shorter if you choose), or support FUUSA walkers by pledging or helping with Walk registration. See Dawn Dana at coffee hour. Share the vision of a less hungry and more humane world.



Sam's Outlook

Envisioning a multi-site future

Rev. Sam Trumbore

Changing demographics in America stimulate both excitement and dread among religious leaders. More and more young people today don't care about the differences between Methodism, Lutheranism and Presbyterianism. One reason may be because more and more young people are growing up without any religious participation at all. This is having a devastating impact on liberal and conservative Christian and Reform and Conservative Jewish religious organizations who have relied on their members having children who then have children and return with them when their children start asking questions about God. Whether they grew up in a religious tradition or not, many two career parents who lead busy lives taking their children to lessons and sports games in the evenings and weekends are finding going to church something they don't feel compelled to do the way their parents or their grandparents did. And with young people delaying marriage and child bearing, there are fewer and fewer families to be considering going to church at all. And of the ones that do decide to go to church, they don't want to travel more than half an hour to get there.



Unitarian Universalists can be very grateful we have an appealing approach to religion that many young families are seeking. Our affirmation of inherent human goodness and our inwardly guided approach to making individual decisions about belief or unbelief that balances head and heart feels right to them. Our focus on living well in this world and protecting it rather than using it as a staging area to escape it to get to a heaven realm after death aligns with their commitment to sustainability and compassion for all life. Our tolerance of differences presents an ethic they understand is crucial to living in a multicultural world. Many young people find our approach to religion offers a contemporary way to find religious fulfillment.

What may be different, however, is the way young families want to participate in religious community. Fewer and fewer only want to participate on Sunday morning. They are less likely to want to drive long distances to attend on a weekly basis. But if that congregation were to meet just five minutes away, say Saturday or Sunday afternoon or evening for example, that could make it more attractive. Whether on Sunday morning or not however some things do remain the same. Once people get involved and start forming relationships and sharing their questions and journeys together, they will find new meaning with us. What is true for both old and new UUs is the satisfaction they find in community.

One vision that has come to my attention for reaching out to people in areas without UU congregations nearby is having multiple sites for an existing congregation. Right now, we have very few people from Clifton Park who attend any UU congregations. Imagine if we had a weekly meeting there, that used some of the materials and presentations from our Sunday service here. What if that meeting had support from members of our congregation to help it get started. What if we offered support with religious education programming, organizing small group ministry groups, circle dinners, social justice projects, all the things our congregation does but centered in Clifton Park rather than in Albany on 405 Washington Avenue. We would be one congregation ... with more than one location for the delivery of our services. I imagine we'd easily have 20-30 people interested in meeting together as a "branch" of FUUSA in Clifton Park.

The experience of the Albuquerque UU congregation to do just this has been electrifying for them. They now have three branch locations out of town. Rather than draining members from their congregation to serve these branch sites, their work has stimulated the growth of the Albuquerque congregation too. Having the outer focus on growing Unitarian Universalism in their region has helped them grow their programs and services to their own members as well.

There are many details about this approach I have yet to investigate. Right now, I have enthusiasm for it as a way for us to fulfill our strategic planning

Sam's Outlook, continued on page 4

News

Annual Meeting, Sunday, May 18

The Annual Meeting of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany will be held in Emerson Community Hall on May 18 at 11:45 a.m. Items of business will include the report of the nominating committee and election of officers, presentation and adoption of the 2014-2015 budget, approval of the revised mission statement, and other business. The proposed budget as approved by the Board of Trustees can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Proposed Mission Statement

At its April 17 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the proposed FUUSA mission statement submitted by the Mission Statement Task Force. The congregation will consider this statement for adoption at the May 18 annual meeting:

We welcome everyone. Our Unitarian Universalist community seeks truth and deeper meaning, pursues justice through inspired action, and cultivates compassion and love for all connected by the web of life.

Service to Service Sunday

May 18 in Channing Hall--during Annual Meeting

On May 18th, while the Annual Meeting is taking place after the service, the Religious Education Council is sponsoring this event for children, youth, and adults who are not members. This is a great opportunity for member parents to attend the Annual Meeting while their children are nearby, engaged in meaningful activities.

Under the supervision of our volunteers, we will be cooking a meal for 30-35 people at the Interfaith Center. Besides cooking, we will have several different stations set up including packing soup bags, making placemats, and packing jars or bags with cookie ingredients.

If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Leah Purcell at dre@albanyuu.org.

“Living the Challenge of the First Mother’s Day”

Grannies for Peace has created a service to celebrate Mother’s Day on Sunday, May 11 at FUUSA, with spoken words and music. We will be honoring

Flyers in this issue

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

- ◆ **Annual Meeting** schedule, absentee ballot information, candidates’ bios, and proposed 2014-15 budget

Julia Ward Howe, poet, activist, and Unitarian who founded the first Mother’s Day of Peace.



Grannies will rekindle her message for all of us in the present through the voices of four life-sized Guardian puppets, starting with readings about Julia Ward Howe’s life, and the passionate text of her Mother’s Day Proclamation.

Julia-Ward-Howe

Music performed by Ann Brandon, pianist, and Grannie singers, Barb Cooley, Dinah Farrington, Dot Richards, Maureen Aumand, Mickie Lynn and Nancy Smith. Puppets created by Mabel Leon.

All mothers, children of any age, grandmothers, and grandchildren are invited to attend this service that sends a strong anti-war message and calls on us to

Sam’s Outlook, continued from page 3

goal of being a beacon of liberal religion to our Capital Region. There is likely to be support funding that may be available from the UUA for this idea. My hope is we might appoint a team to explore this idea in the coming year with potential implementation in 2015-2016.

We are ready to restart the development of a Unitarian Universalist presence in Clifton Park ... and use the multi-site model to reach out to other underserved areas that might support a branch of our congregation, say Hudson or Chatham. The goal is to diversify the ways we offer our faith that grow our ability to reach more people with our life saving approach to religion.

I believe we can expand our services in a way that has benefits for our Albany congregation and can serve the growth of Unitarian Universalism in the Capital Region.—Rev. Sam

take action, now in our present time, as Julia Ward Howe called on her contemporaries right after the civil war in 1870.

Rev. Trumbore away for short sabbatical

Rev. Trumbore will be taking some time away for rest, research and restoration during May and the beginning of June. May 1 he will fly with Philomena to Ireland for four days to visit Philomena's family there. On May 6 they will fly to Germany to spend some time with Rev. Sam's sister Dr. Susan Trumbore in Jena. They will visit the south and west of Germany for a week then Philomena will fly back home. Rev. Sam will continue his travels in Germany then fly to Romania to visit our partner church there in Szokefalva. On June 8, he will lead a UU service in Basel, Switzerland then begin traveling back home, arriving June 11. Watch for messages from him on Facebook, on his blogs (trumbore.org and blog.timesunion.com/trumbore).

For pastoral concerns while he is away, please contact the office (518-463-7135) or a Pastoral Care Associate.

Garden season is upon us!

Now that the growing season is upon us, volunteers are needed to help ensure a continuation of blooms in our FUUSA gardens. By the time you read this we hope to have completed an initial clean up. Additional general work days will be announced in an Order of Service. Besides the "clean up" chores though, our goal is for two volunteers a week to come in to tidy the gardens, deadhead flowers, weed, etc. You only need to spend an hour or two and you can choose the week, the day and the time you would like to volunteer!

If you are interested in helping out, you can sign up on the FUUSA web site home page (www.albanyuu.org). Under *Volunteer Opportunities* you will find "Gardening at FUUSA sign up here to volunteer". After signing in you will be able to see when gardeners are needed and can sign up for your week(s). No volunteer commitment is too small! If you would like a copy of the gardening instructions, just let me know and I'll send them to you.

If you are new to gardening at FUUSA and would like to be paired with a "veteran" you can let me

Board notes

Peggy Sherman

We welcome everyone. Our Unitarian Universalist community seeks truth and deeper meaning, pursues justice through inspired action, and cultivates compassion and love for all connected by the web of life.

This is our proposed FUUSA mission statement, which has been endorsed by the Board of Trustees and will be on the agenda for our May 18 annual meeting. I was pleased to be part of the task force led by Jon Newell that developed this statement. After much input from the congregation and many meetings agonizing over phrasing, the resulting words resonate with me. I especially like the way that this mission statement begins with a "welcome" and ends with "compassion and love." Isn't that the way our human relationships work?

I think this statement reflects both who we are, and who we aspire to be as a congregation. Our FUUSA identity and purpose is part of everything we do. I saw it in our joyful Easter Sunday/Earth Day service. We gathered in community to share joys and sorrows, welcome newcomers and be together in love and fellowship. We experienced the wonderful story of the Green Man with its message of respect for the web of life and personal growth and transformation. We supported action in the Capital Region by giving away the collection plate to Community Gardens.

I hope that you too see yourself and FUUSA in the words of this statement! Come to the annual meeting to support it. Thank you to Jon Newell and task force members Al Berzinis, Kathy Harris, Jaye Holly, Mike Myers, Reese Satin, and Rev. Sam, and thanks to the many FUUSAs who shared their ideas about our purpose along with their keen-eyed editing.



know that as well. Basic gardening supplies are located in the shed on West Street and the padlock combination is included along with basic instructions on the sign up page. If you have any questions, please contact Paula Moskowitz at 439-6347 or pgmosk@earthlink.net Many hands make it easy to keep the outside of our building looking beautiful!

Save these dates: Sundays in June

June 1, Capital Region UU's of NY worship service at Shenendehowa HS, Clifton Park.

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. Tom Chulak, who is also a member at FUUSA and has preached here. This promises to be an engaging service for people of all ages, filled

with story and song. Childcare for infants and toddlers will be provided in a room nearby. There will be no service or programming at FUUSA on this morning.

June 8, 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 Sundae 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.

Growing Together

"Lovingkindness in the Face of Adversity"

Sunday, May 4, 7:00 PM

Emerson Community Hall

All are welcome to attend this Dharma Talk with Sharon Salzberg – whether an experienced practitioner or a curious beginner – to share and learn from this gifted and caring instructor.

We will explore the power of lovingkindness when we face our own physical challenge or illness, emotional upheaval, negativity from others, or unfairness in how we are being treated. We will look at lovingkindness and compassion as strengths rather than as submissive states, and talk about joining them with discerning action, wisdom, and our often untapped capacity for resilience. The evening will consist of guided meditations, talks and time for questions and answers.

For information and questions – (518)339--9443 or solidgroundNY@gmail.com This event is offered free to the public – donations welcome

Joy Library notes

Celebrating diversity of belief--look for these in the new book section of Joy Library:

Jewish Voices in Unitarian Universalism edited by Leah Hart-Landsberg and Marti Keller. Skinner, 2014 [289.132 LAN] *"In a fresh collection of thought-*

ful essays, 20 writers explore the blessings and challenges of Jewish Unitarian Universalist identity and community. While there has been a long and consistent presence of Jewish culture and people in Unitarian Universalism, this poignant anthology is the first to give voice to this community's struggles, wisdom, and contributions. Essayists include born Jews who came to Unitarian Universalism, Unitarian Universalists who adopted Judaism as a spiritual path, and Unitarian Universalists who have encountered Judaism in diverse ways."

Christian Voices in Unitarian Universalism: Contemporary Essays, edited by Kathleen Rolenz.

Skinner, 2006 [289.132 ROL] *"Fifteen personal stories from laity and clergy alike show what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist Christian today. These men and women arrive at their faith by many paths--influenced by the Bible, Jesus Christ Superstar and even the Bernstein Mass. Here is a fresh and much-needed look at UU Christians, who, for decades, have kept the work and spirit of Christianity alive in our liberal religion. Rolenz is parish co-minister of West Shore UU Church with her husband, Wayne Arnason. Foreword by Carl Scovel". UUA Bookstore.*

Buddhist Voices in Unitarian Universalism

(edition 2013) edited by Wayne B. Arnason and Sam Trumbore. Skinner, 2013 [289.1 ARN] (Reviewed in *Windows*, Sept., 2013.) *"When two distinctive and rich spiritual traditions become intimately interwoven, the unfolding dance deserves documentation. Bud-*

Religious Exploration

The next big thing?

Leah Purcell, Director of Religious Education



We know that families are busier than ever – it's been said for many years. But now parents face longer work weeks or they often work several jobs; some help their own elderly parents; they all balance the amount of structured activities for their children as they try to carve out family time. When I talk to parents about how often they can reasonably commit to coming to Sunday school, they often say they want to come more and that they are trying work out their schedules to come more often in the future. When I ask them what their hopes and dreams are for their children, they answer that they want their children to appreciate Unitarian Universalist values, to be kind and do good; they want their children to be part of our community and connect with other children and people of all ages; they want to grow as a family, as Unitarian Universalists. Perhaps the next big thing in spiritual and philosophical development is helping families and people of all ages in our congregation to practice Unitarian Universalism every day.

Enter “Full Week Faith” - a concept and growing set of tools developed by the Fahs Collaborative at Meadville Lombard Theological School. As described on the website, Full Week Faith is a proposal that “asks us to carry forward the best of our current Religious Education programming and to let go of those pieces that are unsustainable or no longer serving our families well. It invites religious professionals to reimagine roles and responsibilities and shared ministries. It dares our congregants to put the *Living* into the Living Tradition by supporting one another to *live* as Unitarian Universalists seven days a week, intentionally and interactively, and not just on Sunday mornings.”

These can be simple things like giving congregants a table blessing to say each month that is focused on the theme of the services and Family Chapel; discussion topics for home and on online venues like email groups, Face Book and blogs; and suggestions for daily spiritual practices. We already do multigenerational pot lucks well, could also have some innovative things like posting soccer schedules so that adults without children at home could attend games of some children at FUUSA. We could invite everyone to come to FUUSA to honor the start of the school year by having a blessing of school back packs and give families suggestions of messages that promote Unitarian Universalism as they to send their children off to school each morning. We could have informal meet ups at local coffee shops or parks during the week.

Full Week Faith could also help us connect with and support a satellite congregation.

You can learn more at the website - <http://fullweekfaith.weebly.com/> and by watching this video <http://www.meadville.edu/Fahs-fellows>. And of course, I'm happy to talk to you about this topic.

In joyful service,

Leah

dhist Voices in Unitarian Universalism offers us an engaging mix of history, personal stories, reflections, and wisdom teachings. In reading this book, we can sense our evolutionary potential to embrace the sacred in its myriad creative expressions.” -Tara Brach, PhD, author of Radical Acceptance and True Refuge.

Coming Out in Faith: Voices of LGBTQ Unitarian Universalists, edited by Susan A. Gore and Keith Kron . Skinner, 2011 [289.132 GOR] “*This collection*

of poignant testimonials illuminates the lived experience of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Unitarian Universalists. Coming Out in Faith also helps to raise awareness of Unitarian Universalism's active role in promoting a vision of humanity that not only embraces LGBTQ people but actively seeks to learn from the unique strengths they bring to questions of personal faith and organizational vitality.” Amazon.

Faithest: How an Atheist Found Common Ground with the Religious by Chris Stedman. Beacon, 2012 [201.5 STE]. "...Chris Stedman makes a passionate argument that atheists should engage religious diversity respectfully. Becoming aware of injustice, and craving community, Stedman became a "born-again" Christian only to encounter staunch homophobia at a time when he was slowly coming to realize that he was gay. The great suffering he experienced might have turned Stedman into a life-long "New Atheist." But over time he came to know more

open-minded Christians, and found that his disdain and hostility toward religion was holding him back from engaging in meaningful work with people of faith. And it was keeping him from full relationships with them—the kinds of relationships that break down intolerance and improve the world. As someone who has stood on both sides of the divide, Stedman is uniquely positioned to present a way for atheists and the religious to find common ground and work together to make this world—the one world we can all agree on—a better place...."

Our Community

Seeking paid building hosts

Looking to pick up a few hours of work and help FUUSA? Building hosts are trained to assist rental groups during events at the church. Please contact Alyssa (admin@albanyuu.org, 518-463-7135) if you are interested in learning more.

Circle Dinners on Friday, May 16 and Saturday, May 17

Last chance to sign up for a May circle dinner! Sign up by May 4 to join us for the last circle dinners of the church year on Friday, May 16 and Saturday, May 17. 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 May 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, May 4.* Assignments will be announced after that date. If you have questions, please contact Martha at
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We have planned circle dinners for seven weeks in 2014-15. Please save these dates: Saturday, Oct. 11; Saturday, Nov. 8; Saturday, Dec. 6; Friday, Jan. 23 and Saturday, Jan. 24; Friday, Mar. 20 and Saturday, March 21; Saturday, Apr. 25; Saturday, May 23.

UU Christians

Tuesday, May 13, 7:00 PM

When UU Christians meet on May 13 in Room B-5 we will continue our discussion of The Beatitudes, in Matthew 5, part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Agreement is not a pre-requisite!

About Us

Richard Maturro's sixth novel, *Medea*, based on the classic myth of the woman who kills her children, will be coming out in May from Livingston Press. It contains 24 original drawings by Mary Trevor Thomas. There will be an author and artist talk at Bethlehem Public Library on Sunday, June 8, at 2 pm, reception to follow. All are invited. For more information, see : www.richardmaturro.com.

Channing Circle

Monday, May 19, noon

Dr. Mary Applegate, Associate Dean for Public Health at Albany School of Public Health, will join us and will focus on things we can all do to maximize our chances of having a long and healthy old age. She will review the demographic shifts often referred to as the "graying of America" and discuss primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention strategies for aging well. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion. Bring your lunch at noon, with the program to follow.

The 21st UU Weekend at Silver Bay October 17-19, 2014

Come experience amazing fall foliage views while making new friends and deepening connections with fellow UUs.

The weekend will be filled with activities (indoor and outdoor), workshops, music, a talent show, chil-

dren’s programs and much, much more. You could start off Saturday morning with a hike which 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 Saturday, our speaker for the Jeanne Blank Memorial Address is Dr. Sheldon Solomon. Learn more about Sheldon here, <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=fear-death-and-politics>. Rev. Becky Gunn will be giving the Sunday Service in the Chapel at Silver Bay. Additional activities include a waterfront (kayaks, canoes, rowboats), 2 gyms, climbing wall, dance/aerobics studio, fitness center, 3-minute Talent Show, silent auction (bring an item that you would like to re-gift).

Curious about Silver Bay? Silver Bay is the Silver Bay Association YMCA Family and Conference Center, located near the northern end of Lake George in Silver Bay, NY. The 600 acre classic Adirondack resort has an historical inn with comfortable rooms at various prices with varying amenities. Visit Silver Bay’s website at <http://www.silverbay.org>.

Contact Information: General registration and housing questions: Linda WayxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxPrograms: Andrea Ricardxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx. “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.

UU Weekend brings together fellowship, fun, foliage and friendship. We hope to see you there!

Walker Book Club Sunday, May 11, 5:30 PM

Join the Walker Book Club for a potluck and discussion on Sunday, May 11, at 5:30 in Channing Hall. This informal group offers participants the opportunity to search for UU truth and meaning by reading and discussing a wide-range of fiction and nonfiction books chosen by group consensus. Members greatly expand their reading horizons and develop a deeper sense of community and connections with other FUUSAns. Newcomers are always welcome and the book club is open to all FUUSA members

**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.

and friends.

We start with a welcoming shared supper which is followed by cleanup and a lively discussion of the book of the month. Bring your favorite dish to share and a small contribution to cover beverages. Be green and bring your own dishes etc., or use dishware at FUUSA and help with the dishwasher.

Our May classic will be *Howard’s End* by E.M. Forster, published in 1910. The fate of a beloved country Hertfordshire estate called Howards End symbolizes the future of England itself in E. M. Forster’s exploration of social, economic, and philosophical trends at the beginning of the 20th century, as exemplified by three families from different backgrounds.

On June 8, 2014, we will read short stories by Tobias Wolf. Stories will be announced in May and available at FUUSA.

Contact Linda Hunt at lhunt@nycap.rr.com 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 _____

Transitions

*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

Thank you!

Barb Cooley and Patty Burch thank all FUUSAns who helped prepare Overflow Shelter Meals during the cold months. The shelter closes for the season late in April so your services will not be needed again until November. Look for the sign-up sheets in Channing after Silver Bay. THANKS!



Contact Us

Board of Trustees 2013-2014

email: board@albanyuu.org

Executive Committee

Peg Sherman, President
Dick Dana, Vice President
Sue Berzinis, Treasurer
RoseAnne Fogarty, Secretary

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Sam Trumbore, Minister
Tracie Tilgner, Chair Religious Education Council
Karen Kaufmann, Chair Social Responsibilities Council

Elected Officer (not on Board of Trustees)

Reese Satin, Assistant Treasurer

Staff

Minister

Rev. Sam Trumbore, strumbore@uumin.org

Church Administrator

Amy Lent, alent@albanyuu.org

Director of Religious Education

Leah Purcell, dre@albanyuu.org

Music Director

Matt Edwards, mge01@yahoo.com

Office Administrator

Alyssa Yeager, admin@albanyuu.org

Custodians

Hadiya Wilborn, Cameron Holloway

Regular meeting days

Check current calendar for time and location

Board of Trustees, 3rd Thursday
Program Coordinating Council, 2nd Thursday
Religious Education Council, 1st Monday
Social Responsibilities Council, 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, 9:00-3:00

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

And by appointment

Website

www.AlbanyUU.org

Building use

To **reserve a room** for a FUUSA activity, contact 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

FUUSA Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting Sunday, May 18, 2014

- 10:00-11:00 **Service**
- 11:00-11:45 **Coffee Hour**
- 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.

Light snacks (for the adults) will be served in Emerson during the meeting.

Copies of the proposed budget, and any resolutions to be presented at the meeting, may be picked up in the lobby starting April 27. These will also be available at www.albanyuu.org.

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 4 & 11.

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 18, 2014. Request a ballot from the church office. Ballots will be available from Sunday, May 4 to Friday, May 16.

Completed ballots, sealed in an envelope, must be received in the church office on or before 11:00 AM on Friday, May 16.

Officers 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*	Jean Poppei

Contested Elections**

Board of Trustees

(3-year terms, 2 to be elected)

Ben English, Sheila Gray, Michael Hornsby, Patti Jo Newell
(Continuing Board Trustees: Al DeSalvo, Michele Desrosiers, Erik Eddy, Bob Franklin)

Endowment Trust

(5-year term, 1 to be elected)

Marjorie Eddy, Jan McCracken
(Continuing Endowment Trustees: Sharon Babala, Chris Jensen, Betsey Miller, Todd Thomas)

Nominating Committee

(3-year terms, 2 to be elected)

Paula Brewer, Molly Daniels, Felice Devine, Sandy Stone
(Continuing Nominating Committee members: Laura Churchill, Donna Meixner, Dave Metz, Paula Moskowitz)

Uncontested Elections

Religious Education Council

(3-year terms, 4 to be elected)

Meredith Andrews, Mark Butt, Pam Clements, Neil Rice

(1-year term, 1 to be elected)

Annika Pfluger
(Continuing REC Members: Cari Abatemarco, Brian Frank, Mary Myers, David Quist, Jan Satin, John Scaringe, Dee Van Riper)

Social Responsibilities Council

(3-year terms, 2 to be elected)

Karen Kaufmann, Jessica Semon
(Continuing SRC Members: Patty Burch, Ed Hancock, Jaye Holly, Martha Musser)

*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

I've appreciated the opportunity to serve as President of the congregation that means so much to me. I look forward to another year of working with a dedicated Board of Trustees, and with Rev. Sam and with our professional staff. Together I hope we will continue to focus on the important ways that FUUSA helps us build community, find deeper meaning in our lives, and work towards a more just world.



My FUUSA experiences over nearly three decades include teaching religious education, hosting coffee hour, serving as Treasurer, canvassing, chairing the Nominating Committee, leading strategic planning, organizing potlucks and serving on the Endowment Trust. More recently John and I have participated in two General Assemblies, coming home energized and inspired. My professional career has been in state government finances; currently I am Director of the staff that supports the state's financial information system.

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, my first leadership role in the 1980s, 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.

More recently, I have served as chair of, in chronological order, the Personnel Committee, FUUSA's ARISE Core Team, and the Refugee Resettlement Project. Most recently, I was chair of the Stewardship Committee for two years before being elected vice president last year. 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 (Emerson Hall). If re-elected, I look forward to continuing to work on a number of initiatives that the Program Coordinating Council has on its plate.

Secretary: RoseAnne Fogarty

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

Over the years, I've done a little bit of everything at FUUSA: taught RE, covered coffee hour, ushered, worked in the summer programs for neighborhood kids, helped with rummage sales, and 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 have had poetry and illustrations in *Oriel*; volunteered for the annual canvass, and enjoy singing in the choir. In other words, I'm a jack of all trades and master of none, but I have a broad perspective on what FUUSA does, which is useful as secretary for the Board of Trustees. I would be happy to serve another term.



Treasurer: Sue Berzinis

Having served as your Treasurer for the past two years, I have a better understanding of all that goes on at FUUSA from day to day activities to the yearly budget process. Last year I set up the program for online giving to make it easy and convenient to make financial contributions to FUUSA. Through the link on our website you can set-up recurring donations for your pledge or make a one-time contribution for RE registration or CRUUNY. Many members have found it easier than writing checks regularly.



Before moving to Albany, I served as bookkeeper for a church of 300 members when the secretary/bookkeeper quit. 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. Since joining FUUSA six years ago, my husband Al and I have valued being involved in this community. 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.

I believe an organization's real values are expressed in how it uses its financial resources. If reelected 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: Ben English

I began my association with FUUSA in 1956 at the age of 12, receiving a fine introduction to liberal religious thought in our RE program. As a young man I was far from Albany and any religious affiliation;



but when I returned to the Capital District in 1982, I revived my connection to FUUSA. I have served on the Partner Church Committee, the Canvas, Sam Trumbore's Worship Cabinet, the Committee on the Professional Ministry, and today I lead a Small Group Ministry. I am

committed to the role FUUSA plays in making our region a better place to live, work and encounter life in the fullest dimension.

Board Trustee: Sheila Gray

I am the youngest of four children, raised in Michigan by parents who grew up on farms during the Depression, who recycled, reused and preserved everything long before they were common household practices. Following their lead, I strive to conserve and reduce my carbon footprint as I live a simple life in awe of the natural world. It is my curiosity and concern for nature that immediately connected me to the web of life principle when in-



roduced to the UU religion in the 1990's. I quickly realized I was a UU all my life, happy to learn I shared thoughts with a larger community.

My UU journey is shared with my husband, Todd, a molecular biologist, and our two children, Seneca and Bryce, both of whom went through our RE program. Some of my favorite things include coffee, dark chocolate, staying connected with friends (old and new), beaches, quilts, and family photos.

I currently work for SEFCU and have a legal background as a paralegal and court clerk. At FUUSA, I have volunteered in the Religious Education program for various age groups including the Rite of Passage program. Currently, I assist in the toddler room and am part of the Caring Network. It would be my pleasure to serve on the Board to learn about our governing process so that I can give back to FUUSA, which is a central part of my life.

Board Trustee: Michael Hornsby

My wife, daughter and I moved to Albany from Brooklyn in 2006 in search of a more affordable, family-friendly community. FUUSA has a reputation for having a great religious education program, which is what originally attracted us here. We became members in 2011 after finding that FUUSA met the spiritual needs of the entire family. Since that time I briefly served on the Stewardship Committee, actively participated in the Welcome Ministry, spoke at this year's This I Believe service, and helped out at some of the congregation's social activities. I enjoy attending the Meaning Matters small group ministry, and currently co-facilitate, with my wife Melissa, the Beloved Conversations workshop.

I moved to New York City from my hometown of St Louis, MO in 1987. A former Peace Corps volunteer,

I taught English for two years in Burkina Faso, West Africa. I worked in international education for several years before earning my master's degree in social work from Columbia University. Currently, I am a licensed clinical social worker on the inpatient mental health units at Samaritan Hospital.

FUUSA is my house of worship. It is where I go for spiritual renewal and social support. Our UU principles of respect for others, compassion, and justice call me to the alleviation of suffering as spiritual practice. A transcendent experience can be something as simple as extending a helping hand to another human being. I am seeking a position on the Board of Trustees to help FUUSA become a social justice leader in the Capital District, guided by our core UU principles. I would like to serve to help FUUSA remain a place where the human spirit is invigorated and good works are performed.

Board Trustee: Patti Jo Newell

I am honored to be considered to serve on the Board of Trustees. 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 various Religious Education classes, I've been impressed by the strength and vitality of our community. I am currently enjoying the challenges and rewards of chairing the Public Relations Committee, and working with that fine group of people.

As someone passionate about the vitality of a congregational polity, if elected to the Board of Trus-



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tees, I would work to promote policy and program that would best reflect and serve the breadth of experience and need at FUUSA. These are exciting times for us as we continue to expand and grow, and I'd be honored to be a part of the leadership that helps us move in the direction we want to go.

Endowment Trustees

Endowment Trustee: Margie Eddy

I have been a member of FUUSA, with my husband, Eric, and my son, Jackson, since 2004. I am an attorney at the NY Court of Appeals in Albany. Previously I have served the FUUSA community as a member of the Religious Education Council and the Committee on Professional Ministry, among other activities. If elected I look forward to the opportunity to serve in this new capacity.



Endowment Trustee: Jan McCracken

I appreciate being considered as a candidate for Endowment Trust and would look forward to supporting the financial health of FUUSA through the work of the Trust. As a life long UU in this congregation, and an adult member for 20 years, I have a broad view of seeing our mission and values being put into practice. If elected, I will take the responsibility seriously of protecting our future financial health and making decisions on appropriate uses of the trust funds in alignment with our core values. I



served for six years as a member and then chair of the Religious Education Council and was Secretary to the Board of Trustees for three years. I served on the Board when we developed the Strategic Plan, which was an exciting project that reinforced my appreciation of who we are, what we do, and how we do it. I have also taught several RE classes and was a youth advisor. More recently, I facilitated the Wellspring Program and I am now working on bringing Nonviolent Communication training to our congregation and the larger community. I have served on various other committees and performed many volunteer tasks along the way. Currently, I am Chair of Lifespan Learning.

Nominating Committee

Nominating Cmte.: Paula Brewer

I came to FUUSA when I first moved to Albany in 1992. My attendance and activity in the congregation increased after the birth of my daughter, Anna, in 1996. Since that time I have been active in the Religious Education program as a teacher and I have served on the RE Council as a member and then as Chair. My daughter is a participant in the youth group. I am the child-care coordinator for FUUSA events requiring child-care and I assist in coordinating the monthly CommUnity Dinner. I look forward to working with the Nominating Committee to continue to identify FUUSAns to lead our congregation if I am elected.



Nominating Cmte.: Molly Daniels

I have been a member of FUUSA since 2001. I am a life long UU, and grew up in our RE programming: I was an active Youth Group Member at River Road Unitarian Church in Bethesda, MD, and attended

Unirondack for 10 years. As a young adult I was a Youth Advisor and on the RE Council at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleboro. Since becoming a member of FUUSA I have volunteered in the RE classrooms (where my two children attend) and served on and chaired the RE Council. I have also served on the Personnel Committee and am currently a youth advisor for the Senior High Class.



Nominating Cmte.: Felice Devine

I greatly appreciate being considered for a position on the Nominating Committee. My husband, Owen,

and I have been members of FUUSA since 2010 and have enjoyed the wonderful sense of community that this congregation provides. We have two children, xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx who both attend the RE program.



Outside of FUUSA, I have been involved in the community through several local organizations, including the Junior League of Albany (of which I was President in 2008-2009) and the Northeast Parent & Child Society Board of Directors. I would enthusiastically welcome the opportunity to become more involved with FUUSA by serving on the Nominating Committee.

Nominating Cmte.: 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.

During my involvement with FUUSA I have been on the RE Council, Finance Committee, and Nominating Committee. I was Chair of the Flower Committee for many years as well as the Cancer Support Group. I have also been active with the Holiday Bazaar, the Garden Group, and receptions.

One of my favorite parts of the Nominating Committee was getting to meet new members and finding out how they would like to get involved in this wonderful community. We certainly have something to offer everyone.

Religious Education Council (REC)

REC Chair: Tracie Tilgner

Thank you for considering me once again 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 xxxxxx and my younger daughter, xxxx, in our home in Delmar. My husband, Mark, and I first came to FUUSA about seven 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 am certified as an OWL facilitator for both the K-1 and 4-6 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: Meredith Andrews

I have been a member of FUUSA for 12 years, but I have been a UU all of my life. My family moved to Albany in 2001, and I joined FUUSA soon thereafter. Since then I have taught Sunday School and have been a member of several committees. I helped with the seder for several years, and have been a member of the Committee of Professional Ministry, UU Week-end committee, the Worship Cabinet, the Canvass Committee and the Nominating Committee. I look forward to serving on the Religious Education Council. I bring to the Council my perspective as a mother with children in RE, as a teacher for many years, as someone who has attended other UU churches, and with the experience of being a lifelong Unitarian Universalist.



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REC Member: Mark Butt

FUUSA has been my religious home for many years. I have made many friends over the years and have watched my two daughters grow up here in a wonderful RE environment.



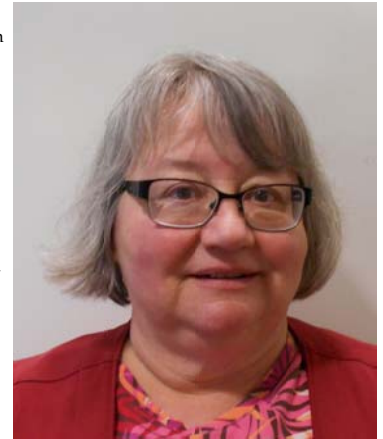
My wife, Carol, and I have been very active in different areas of our community. A few of the areas I have been most active in include: member of the Board of Trustees, member of the Personnel Committee (and Chairperson on 2 occasions), member of the RE Council (and Chairperson), mentor for 4 wonderful teenagers, and RE instructor

mentor for 4 wonderful teenagers, and RE instructor

many times – all age levels.

REC Member: Pam Clements

I have been teaching RE off and on for at least 10 years, spanning groups from the Pre-Ks to the 7th and 8th grades. I work at Siena College, where I have taught English for 26 years. After a career teaching medieval literature, fantasy and science fiction, I am focusing on doing more personal writing, mainly poetry and essays. I also enjoy cooking, gardening, knitting, and travel whenever possible!



REC Member: Annika Pfluger

I have been a member of FUUSA for 3 years and have served on the RE Council for the last 2 years. I am excited to continue working with RE Council for another year. I grew up in Syracuse attending the



First Unitarian Universalist Church. After college, Boston became home base and I spent many years there. Life just wasn't complete though, and in 2003 I travelled to Guatemala to adopt my son, xxxxx. After he came

home, the pull of family connections became much stronger. When xxxxx was three I decided to move back to NY State in order to be closer to family. We currently live in Delmar and xxxxx is now in 5th grade and an enthusiastic participant in the RE program's indigo group.

REC Member: Neil Rice

My family joined FUUSA last year after attending for several years. We appreciate the open, accepting traditions and practices of this active and involved

community. My wife of almost 25 years (as of May 13!), Astrid Pettersen, and I appreciate the OWL and senior high youth programming. Our 16 year old daughter, xxxxx, has always felt at home and included at FUUSA. Our family loves nature and outdoor activities as well as words, word games, music and dancing.



I am a 3rd grade teacher, and have a quilt-like history of work. I am happy to return my energy to the RE Council and the RE program which has so warmly received and nurtured my daughter's formative experiences in living a peaceful and tolerant lifestyle.

Social Responsibilities Council (SRC)

SRC Chair: Jean Poppei

I am a second-generation Unitarian. As a child, I attended a Unitarian Church in Staten Island NY and later, one in Harrisburg PA. My husband, Bob, and I were married by a Unitarian minister in Port

Washington, NY but for the next 18 years, I practiced UUism on my own, not feeling the need for a congregation, as my husband wasn't into "organized religion." When our daughter turned 9, she asked to go to church with a schoolmate – it turned out to



be FUUSA. When it became necessary some years later to relocate my parents to live near us, I started to bring my mother to FUUSA and officially joined the congregation back in the late 90s. For a few years I was mostly known as "Amanda's mother," as my daughter began her journey through the first Rite of Passage and eventually became an ordained UU minister (now serving the Washington Ethical Society in Washington, DC).

At FUUSA I served as Convener for the Safe Congregation Task Force, helped to organize the congregational World Cafe to encourage dialogue about the issues, and currently serve on the Safe Congregation Response Team. I volunteered with the rummage sale, which provided opportunity for connection with our local FUUSA neighbors. I very much enjoy ushering on Sundays at FUUSA. I was honored to attend Justice GA as a FUUSA delegate – that experience in Phoenix was transformative in so many ways and deepened my commitment to social justice and responsibility which has also been expressed in my work and my voluntary involvement with the Capital Region Child Care Council and Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood as a Board Member and now an escort/witness. I am a Professor Emerita in Psychology and also a part-time therapist, licensed in both psychology and social work. I am looking forward to this opportunity to serve FUUSA, and the wider community, as Chair of the Social Responsibility Council, building on the dedicated and thoughtful work of its members.

SRC Member: Karen Kaufmann

After joining FUUSA in 2009, I quickly gravitated toward SRC as a means of taking action to "give back." I found an amazingly dynamic and dedicated group and became an elected member and thereafter was elected chair. During my tenure, members and friends of SRC have undertaken many worthwhile projects, from direct service projects to the homeless, local elementary students, FOCUS 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! Advocacy has been a particular interest of mine after a career as a state



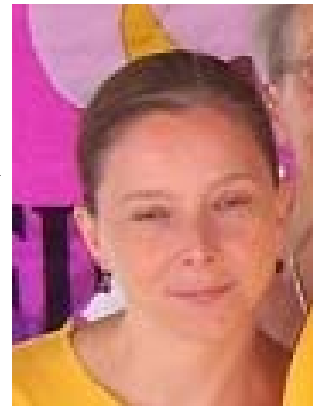
government lawyer.

After serving two terms as chair, I declined to run again for that position to enable me to concentrate on other personal growth activities. I have greatly enjoyed participating in FUUSA programs such as Small Group Ministry, Wellspring and Beloved Conversations, as well as workshops and other lifespan learning opportunities. And I hope to continue close involvement with SRC activities as an elected member.

SRC Member: Jessica Semon

I joined FUUSA in 2010. A year earlier I had become involved with both the Green Sanctuary Committee

and the Social Responsibilities Council as well as a number of other activities we offer. I am passionate about advocating for environmental and social justice, and overall health for myself and the world by developing a sustainable and nurturing lifestyle. I also pursue writing for personal growth as well as to reach the hearts and minds of others.



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