

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 2015

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Sunday Schedule

9:00 AM

Mindfulness Meditation

9:45 AM

Nursery/Toddler rooms open

10:00 AM

Service

Family Chapel

(1st Sunday/mo. Oct.-May)

Religious Education

11:00 AM

Coffee Hour

11:45 AM

Forum (as scheduled)

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 3 "Appleseeds: The Words of Pete Seeger," Dan Berggren

This service features the songs and ideas of the late folksinger Pete Seeger (1919-2014) who was known the world over as a humanitarian, peace activist, environmentalist, and Unitarian Universalist. Pete inspired countless others along the paths of freedom, community, and self-expression with his songs of peace and justice.

Music: Dan Berggren

Also today: Family Chapel for families with children in Pre-K-5th grade

May 10 "Each of Us Holds a Piece of the Truth," the Rite of Passage participants.

These 9th and 10th graders have completed a year of study with trusted adult mentors from our congregation to explore their own beliefs and values.

Music: Matt Edwards on piano

May 17 "Making Sure Black Lives Matter," Rev. Sam Trumbore

The continuing death of men and boys of African descent on a daily basis is the smoking gun of racism in our society. We need to be on the front lines of doing something about it. The first step is putting up a banner that says, "Black Lives Matter"

Music: Choir

May 24 "Healing Moral Injury," Rev. Sam Trumbore

One very difficult part of fighting a war is intentionally or unintentionally violating one's conscience. This sacrifice of moral integrity wounds the soul in ways that only may be apparent once the soldier returns home. We can't repair the wound for the soldier but we can offer healing support.

Music: FUUSA youth playing solos

May 31 "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: Bruce Rodgers, Paula Brewer, Jaye Holly

Music: The choir shares their favorite songs



Calendar

Events happening every Sunday at FUUSA

9:00 AM Mindfulness MeditationSanctuary
 10:00 AM ServiceEmerson
 Family Chapel (1st Sunday/mo.).....Sanctuary
 Religious Education Classrooms
 11:00 AM Coffee Hour.....Channing

Exceptions:

Family Chapel will be on

Events happening every week in May

Tuesdays 10:00 AM Philosophy GroupB-8
 1:00 PM Bridge.....B-8
 Wednesdays 10:00 AM Projects & QuiltsB-8
 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal..... Emerson

Exceptions:

All other events happening in May

2-May Saturday

10:00 AM Lifespan Learning-Beloved Conversations B-8
 6:00 PM Sam's German Dinner-- Auction EventChanning

3-May Sunday

11:00 AM New Member ReceptionEmerson
 11:45 AM Social Responsibilities Council Meeting..... B-7
 12:00 PM CROP Walk LunchChanning

4-May Monday

10:00 AM Small Group Ministry Manning/Rohrbaugh B-5
 6:15 PM RE Council meetingChanning
 7:00 PM PR Committee..... B-7

5-May Tuesday

6:00 PM Wellspring Foundation B-8

6-May Wednesday

10:30 AM Chair Yoga (Auction Event)..... B-3/B-4

7-May Thursday

5:30 PM Lifespan Learning Team Meeting..... Kitchen
 7:00 PM PCA Training / Meeting B-8

8-May Friday

10:00 AM Wellspring meeting--Cathy Perkins.....Stott Lounge
 6:00 PM Rite of Passage service rehearsalEmerson

9-May Saturday

10:00 AM Lifespan Learning-Beloved Conversations B-8

10-May Sunday

11:30 AM Saturday Men's Group B-5
 11:45 AM Forum (Social Responsibilities Council).....Emerson
 11:45 AM Monday Men B-6
 11:45 AM Partner Church Meeting B-7
 5:30 PM Walker Book ClubChanning

11-May Monday

10:00 AM Small Group Ministry - Patrick/Odell B-8
 12:00 PM St. Lawrence Board Meeting..... B-7
 1:00 PM Interfaith Impact B-8
 6:30 PM Small Group Ministry - English.....Stott Lounge

12-May Tuesday

8:00 AM St. Lawrence Board Meeting..... B-7
 7:00 PM FUUSA Humanists B-8
 7:00 PM UU Christians..... B-5
 7:00 PM Wellspring: Faithful Action.....Stott Lounge

14-May Thursday

12:00 PM All Sides Considered - Current Events Group..... B-8
 5:00 PM Wellspring advisor meeting Ann Lapinski B-5
 7:00 PM Program Coordinating Council.....B8

15-May Friday

9:00 AM June Windows deadline

17-May Sunday

11:30 AM Annual Meeting Emerson
 11:30 AM Nominating B-5
 11:45 AM Green Sanctuary Meeting B-8

18-May Monday

12:00 PM Channing Circle Lunch Channing

19-May Tuesday

1:30 PM Memorial Society Meeting Stott Lounge
 6:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting B7
 7:00 PM Meaning Matters Tuesday..... Stott Lounge
 7:00 PM Wellspring Foundation..... B-8

21-May Thursday

7:00 PM FUUSA Board Meeting..... Channing

23-May Saturday

6:00 PM Circle Dinner Offsite

24-May Sunday

11:45 AM Saturday Men's Group..... B-5
 11:45 AM Monday Men..... B-6
 12:30 PM Art Show Reception..... Channing

25-May Monday

10:00 AM Small Group Ministry - Patrick/Odell B-8
 6:30 PM Small Group Ministry - English Stott Lounge
 7:00 PM Meaning Matters Monday..... B-8

26-May Tuesday

7:00 PM Wellspring: Faithful Action..... Stott Lounge

27-May Wednesday

5:30 PM Endowment Trust Meeting Stott Lounge

28-May Thursday

12:00 PM All Sides Considered - Current Events Group..... B-8

30-May Saturday

10:30 AM This I Believe rehearsal..... Emerson

31-May Sunday

11:45 AM Auction Committee Stott Lounge
 11:45 AM Presentation on Transgender Identity Emerson

Sam's Outlook

Black Lives Matter...Less *Rev. Sam Trumbore*



Our Social Responsibilities Council has ordered a banner that says “Black Lives Matter” to put up on the side of our building. As I’ve talked about this with some individuals in our congregation, I’ve heard a little negative response.

They tell me we should be putting up a banner that says, “All Lives Matter.”

Of course that is what our First Principle says: the inherent worth and dignity of every person. And I certainly agree that all lives do matter. What this misses however, which is the purpose of the banner, is that in this country, Black lives matter *less* than white lives. And Indigenous Americans’ lives matter less, too. Latino/a lives also matter less, but black lives matter still less.

Mattering significantly less than other categories of discrimination is very important. Beginning to address racism and oppression of a wide range of groups and categories can miss the special problem of discrimination against people of African descent. They are special because only they were enslaved by law and officially marginalized in the United States Constitution.

Even though the U.S. Constitution has been amended several times, the legacy of that oppression lives on in our government. And even where the laws have been mostly corrected, it lives on in the policies and procedures of government agencies—particularly in police departments.

There is a very instructive Facebook page titled, “UU’s Resisting New Jim Crow & Mass Incarceration.” Acts of violence and discrimination that may not show up in our newspapers do get posted here. I’ve read some outrageous stories that never made it to the front page (but should have).

One video posted there was created by an African American male holding the camera from inside his coat. He had been sitting on a bench on one of those skyways that connect buildings and stores in Minneapolis. A police-woman had approached him and asked him for identification which he refused to offer because he claimed she had no cause to stop him. The reason he states to be there was to pick up his children, I’m guessing from an activity or event nearby. But because he hadn’t cooperated with giving personal information, which he has a constitutional right to refuse to do, a backup officer soon ar-

rived and arrested him. A very simple situation escalated to the point he became very distressed. Watching the video was heart-wrenching as he pleaded that he was only waiting to pick up his kids while the police were forcing him down on the ground to handcuff and arrest him.

Had the person been a white father waiting for his children, it is VERY unlikely something like this would have happened. Even if the officer approached a white father, I doubt the officer would have taken the aggressive stance and demanded identification. What we saw on the video was but one example of the regular harassment men and boys of African descent regularly endure that is for the most part invisible to the white community. And this kind of repeated harassment sets up those unstable situations when black males get hurt and killed.

My guess is a store employee, or shopper near the skyway felt uncomfortable seeing the father waiting for his children and called the police. When this happens, and it happens a lot, the police become complicit in supporting and enforcing the racism that lives inside white people. This is just how systemic institutionalized racism works.

What could have happened is the officer might have spoken to the complainer and questioned whether their emotion of concern and fear was coming from something real or was a creation of their unexamined attitudes toward men of African descent. The officer might have looked at the man minding his own business and turned back to the complainer recommending she or he attend a Beloved Conversations class at a local UU congregation to examine their unearned privilege and racial prejudices --and left the poor fellow alone to pick up his kids.

We Unitarian Universalists have a leadership position to take here. We can work to identify and dismantle the institutionalized racism pervasive in our society. Until we do this, black lives will matter less than everyone else’s lives. Since white people have the power and created this system of oppression, it is our obligation to do something to fix it. And we can do a great deal to stop it because white people are in power in this country.

Putting up a banner that says “Black Lives Matter” is a way for us to make a commitment to stop this system of racism and oppression. At the least, I hope we understand this kind of banner as a congregational commitment to end the deaths of unarmed black men and boys everywhere.—Rev. Sam

News

Annual Meeting, Sunday, May 17

The Annual Meeting of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany will be held in Emerson Community Hall on May 17 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 2015-2016 budget, and other business. The proposed budget as approved by the Board of Trustees can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Reflections: Sunday Celebration of Generosity

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Celebration of Generosity on March 29. It was very moving to have so many of you fill out the little blue form, come forward, and say “What makes your light shine at FUUSA?” (in five words or less). The responses were varied :

- ◆ R.E. builds a moral compass
- ◆ Smiling kids in R.E. (2 responses)
- ◆ Freedom of thought and love for fellow man
- ◆ Community/the people – (30 responses)
- ◆ The synergy of beloved community
- ◆ Money keeps the lights on
- ◆ Children Learning/Adults yearning
- ◆ Music/Singing/Choir – (7 responses)
- ◆ Religious home
- ◆ Enjoy many of the sermons
- ◆ Spirituality (3 responses)
- ◆ The peace I find
- ◆ Thoughtful, loving caring people
- ◆ Social Justice/Action – (7 responses)
- ◆ UU Christians
- ◆ Conversation, discussion, debate, measured disagreement
- ◆ My extended family, proud of what we do in the community
- ◆ Celebration, love and food; shared vision
- ◆ People glad to see me
- ◆ Search for truth and meaning
- ◆ I feel at home
- ◆ Open minds, caring hearts
- ◆ Helping others
- ◆ Comfort of like-minded friends
- ◆ Teaching RE
- ◆ Volunteering

Flyers in this issue

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

- ◆ Annual Meeting schedule, candidate bios, proposed 2015-16 budget

- ◆ Acceptance
- ◆ Being in the moment
- ◆ Hope for the future

Wonderful words showing why we all love FUUSA. Clearly we are a beloved community. Thanks to all of you who have supported our vision and mission with a pledge for next year. Beautiful as all of this is, we still need everyone’s support if we are going to shine our light on the world. If you have not made a pledge yet, we need you, so that we can continue on our positive and joyful journey.--Chuck Manning, Stewardship Chair

Guest in the Pulpit

Our guest speaker on May 3 is Dan Berggren, a SUNY professor emeritus, folk musician, and founding member of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Northern Chautauqua in Fredonia. Currently, Dan and his wife Nancy are active members of the UU Congregation of Saratoga Springs.

Together building a world where there’s enough for all

Will YOU help build a better world? Join with fellow FUUSAns and our Capital District neighbors in the CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, May 3. Walk with Team UU, or pledge to support our FUUSA walkers. Families are especially encouraged to participate. Visit the CROP Walk table at coffee hour, or contact Dawn Dana for information.

New task force established

The Social Responsibilities Council announces the formation of the Black Lives Matter Task Force. Founding members are Ed Hancock, Jessica Rae, and Jacqui Williams with others—Jerry Deighan, Jean Poppei, Leah Purcell, Susan Richardson, and Sam Trumbore—joining in.

Mission Statement Recognizing the effects of systemic and long-lasting racism on people of color and striving to build on anti-oppression, justice-seeking work in our community, the Black Lives Matter Task

Board notes

Growth Through Service

Dick Dana, Vice President

Right now, having read the title of this article, some of you (group A) are asking yourself “what’s Growth Through Service?” Others (group B) are thinking “that sounds vaguely familiar, but I can’t recall.” Still others of you (group C) are asking “so why has it taken this long for an article devoted to Growth Through Service to be in Windows?” Let me rectify the situation.

Where did Growth Through Service originate?

Growth Through Service (GTS) is a concept that was developed by two women at the UU Church in Media, PA, Jody Malloy and Laurie Cooke. A small number of us found out about GTS at General Assembly last June. Many of you found out from me and Peggy Sherman, since we hosted a number of information sessions last fall. Back in January, Jody Malloy came to FUUSA and ran a GTS workshop attended by 30 FUUSAns, starting us on a journey of self-discovery. And last night (April 16) FUUSA’s Board of Trustees approved moving forward with our own version of GTS here at FUUSA.

What is the purpose of Growth Through Service?

Our vision is for all FUUSA members to be fully engaged and empowered partners in the Society’s ministry. The Growth Through Service program is a process to help members discover service opportunities that best match their interests, strengths and personal goals. This will result in empowered, inspired volunteers who take on all levels of responsibility.

The objectives of the program include:

- ◆ Foster members’ personal growth and development;
- ◆ Make service opportunities more meaningful;
- ◆ Get people involved and keep them connected;
- ◆ Match volunteer opportunities with the interests, passions and talents of individuals;
- ◆ Build a culture of service and inclusion within the Society.

What does service look like now at FUUSA?

Our congregation benefits from many active volunteers teaching in the Religious Education program, ushering on Sunday morning, advocating for social justice, leading in appointed and elected positions, and serving in many other ways. Our annual report is a 68-page compilation describing the activities and membership of two boards, three councils, two task forces, 14 committees and 11 programs and activities.



And yet...

- ◆ Newcomers to our congregation can find the array of possibilities overwhelming, with no clear path to getting involved.
- ◆ Longtime volunteers can find themselves overbooked or burnt out, with no successor standing ready to take over a job.
- ◆ Nominating Committee finds people are often reluctant to run for our competitive offices.
- ◆ Volunteers with new ideas may feel as if our congregation does not have room for them.

Why “Growth Through Service?”

Service is one of the best ways for members to become involved and to find commitment to FUUSA and its mission. We are fortunate that our congregation has a significant number of members who devote time to service opportunities and volunteer work. There are, however, many more members who could volunteer and who would benefit personally from it. With more FUUSAns engaged in service opportunities, our congregation would be more successful in fulfilling our mission:

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.

“Growth Through Service” is a way to help all members to live out their UU values more fully, and to

Board notes, continued on page 6

Force was created by FUUSA’s Social Responsibilities Council to identify specific areas of action, along with plans for education and implementation, to engage the congregation in counteractions to racial terrorism and oppression. Our Unitarian Universalist principles call us to this work in witness of practices such as racial profiling, targeted police violence, mass incarceration, economic and educational inequities, and judicial and environmental injustice.

Proposed Actions

- ◆ Launch a campaign to enact legislation in NYS to require the appointment of an independent prosecutor in the case of the death of any individuals by a police officer. (Wisconsin has the first state law to call for independent investigations for police-custody deaths.)
- ◆ Support the Albany Citizens’ Police Review Board’s quest to have subpoena power.
- ◆ Organize an educational event at FUUSA to help congregants learn about unearned privilege.

See also Rev. Sam’s column and another letter in the Social Justice section.

Sculpture, what sculpture?

One of the items suggested for discussion at FUUSA’s Annual Meeting on May 17 is “What to do with the Robert Blood sculpture?”

The piece has, for some time, been located in the hallway across from the library on a pedestal shared with panels of children’s artwork and a bit of scrap lumber. It seems, lacking an alternative to its original location in our front lobby, the sculpture, years ago, was consigned more or less to the attic.

Amy Lent has maintained a file on the piece. It was commissioned in 1962 when the RE wing was constructed, at a cost to the congregation of \$500.00. It’s not hard to imagine that the cost of materials and labor at the time exceeded the price tag. The piece is made of welded mild steel, painted flat black, and requires an indoor setting. Blood named the piece “Two Shapes Related”.

It had been decided that something was needed to block the view of the coat racks that could be seen through the big window in the lobby (maybe not the best reason to commission a work of art). In any case two artists were interviewed and the FUUSA committee selected Robert Blood. The fact that the Schenectady Unitarians also had a sculpture by him

Board notes, continued from page 5

draw closer in community to other FUUSAns. It is a process designed both to draw in those members who are not yet volunteering, and to nurture and grow those who are already volunteering. We hear from many members that they have joined FUUSA for the community and services we offer. Once members begin to be involved in service opportunities they will become stakeholders. As their active engagement increases their sense of ownership in our community rises and FUUSA is no longer a “they” but a “we”.

Active FUUSA volunteers understand how service is both personally rewarding, and often a transforming experience. By continuing to volunteer members may decide to seek opportunities or be recruited to become leaders at FUUSA; the “Growth through Service” program will assure that many more FUUSAns will have this opportunity. We will become a stronger community, a wiser and more inclusive community, and a more activist community. As we become a better community in so many ways we

will also attract more visitors, and more of those who come through our doors will want to stay and join.

How will we move forward?

The positive response to Growth Through Service has been, for me, nothing short of overwhelming. In my 30-plus years in leadership here at FUUSA I have never seen a project engender so much immediate and enthusiastic support, except, perhaps for our first Habitat for Humanity house building project. So far, we have a team of more than 20 people who have volunteered to work on GTS. A three-member GTS Project Leadership Team will be organizing and coordinating these volunteers to plan, develop, pilot, and implement the major components of the program. These components are too many to describe here. Stay tuned for more details in a future Windows article. In the meantime, feel free to corner me in coffee hour. I’d be more than pleased to talk about GTS and its potential to transform FUUSA in so many positive ways

may have also entered the picture.

Blood is well regarded in the area and his work can be seen in the Rose Garden in Schenectady's Central Park, at the Jewish Community Center in Schenectady, on the grounds of the First Unitarian Society there, on the Albany Law School campus, at the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception and at the Albany Jewish Community Center.

Amy's notes don't indicate whether a maquette had been provided for approval prior to the time that Blood fabricated the piece, and the sculpture aroused a bit of controversy when it was finally installed. Years later Blood, who is now in his nineties, noted the piece might have been a bit too large for the space.

In any case, when the accessible ramp was constructed along the front of Emerson the configuration of the entranceway was altered, leaving no room for the sculpture.

In late March this year George Shear approached Embarek Mesbahi, owner of the Promenade Gallery in Schenectady who represents Blood. Mesbahi was disappointed the piece had been relegated "to the attic" and expressed willingness to work with our congregation to find it a better home.

The following options, and there may be many others, are up for discussion:

- ◆ Find a more appropriate space for the piece at FUUSA;
- ◆ Trade it for a smaller Blood sculpture;
- ◆ Although the market is limited, consign it to the gallery for sale;
- ◆ Gift it back to Robert Blood;
- ◆ Donate the piece to a local school, library or museum where there would be appropriate space for it.

The sculpture will be moved to the Emerson Alcove for the month of May to stimulate discussion! Your comments will be welcome for discussion at the Annual Meeting on May 17. Or, if you don't plan to attend the meeting, you can send comments to Amy Lent (alent@albanyuu.org) and they will be brought to the meeting.

It's almost time to garden!

We will soon be entering the active growing season and our FUUSA gardens will really need your help!!!! If only two volunteers come in each week, the gardens can be kept at their "blooming best". If you are

interested in gardening over the summer, 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 to help". Pick your week(s) and come any time that week to help us keep the gardens tidy. No volunteer commitment is too small! I will be happy to send you more detailed gardening instructions and add your name to our email list if you are not already on it. Basically our tasks involve deadheading, weed pulling, and, watering if really dry. We even have a garden shed on West Street with many gardening supplies--just contact me and I'll provide you with the combination to the padlock on the shed. If you are new to FUUSA gardening I can also pair you with a more experienced gardener. Contact me for more details or to volunteer-- Paula Moskowitz (439-6347 or pgmosk@earthlink.net)

Waste not! (Recycle and Compost first!)

As an accredited Green Sanctuary, we are making deliberate and focused choices about managing the recyclables, compostables, reusables and landfill items we generate.

Over the next few weeks at AlbanyUU, you'll notice new containers in the places you're used to throwing things away. We're going to reduce the waste we send to the landfill by putting more things in composting. For instance, all the used paper towels we generate in the restrooms will go to compost! So also will go pizza boxes and used paper plates. This is possible because we have contracted with Empire Zero to collect FUUSA's compostable waste. (If you are interested, they also collect residential compost, and give you finished compost in return!)

At food events in the future, you will be asked to scrape your plate into a compost bucket. And if your napkin is paper, it goes in the bucket, too. For hygiene reasons, the containers for collecting paper towels in the bathrooms will be ONLY for towels, and we will keep food refuse collection in the kitchen as we always have.

We will continue to collect single stream recycling—clean/dry paper and cardboard, glass, metal, plastic—anything with the recycling logo on it.

And last, and we hope least, we will collect waste that can only go in the landfill. The cans for Landfill will generally be smaller. And all containers will have signage indicating 'what goes where'.

Endowment Trust Annual Report for the Year 2014

The Endowment Trust bylaws require the Trust to publish a status report in WINDOWS. We are pleased to share with you the report for 2014.

Trust Purpose

The purpose of the Endowment Trust is to invest and manage gifts and bequests made to the Society by its members and other individuals or entities. We work to assure potential donors that their bequests will be honored and administered so that income from gifts will always be available to assist the Society in furthering its purposes through special projects.

Trust Status

At the beginning of 2014, the Trust had a value of \$864,725. During 2014, gifts to the Trust were made in the amount of \$350 and the Trust distributed \$1,750 in grants. Investment gains were \$13,420. At the end of 2014, the Trust had a value of 876,745.

The largest part of the Endowment investment is in FUUSA. The Endowment lent the congregation \$575,000 interest free in order to turn the dream of Emerson Hall into a reality. The remainder of the endowment is invested in mutual funds, and in bonds with the Community Loan Fund and the Honest Weight Food Coop.

Disbursements

During 2014, the Trust funded FUUSA members to build Little Free libraries and also purchased the

new projector for Emerson.

Gifts Received

During 2014, a total of \$350 in gifts were added to the Trust. These gifts honored Matt Odell, Hallie Schroeder, Roland Hummel and Joe Norton.

The Trust Board takes this opportunity to publicly thank this year's contributors: Don Odell, Eva Gemmill, Philip Rickey and Donald Brister. Your contributions to the Trust will be invested carefully to support the mission of FUUSA.

Our Impact

The Endowment Trust has an impact on our community in several ways. The trustees hold the sacred trust of those who contributed by learning about and applying investment practices that honor gifts. Members of FUUSA use the Trust to create a legacy, whereby their values can continue on into the future through their gifts to the Trust. And members of FUUSA who have an idea for supporting the mission of our society can look to the Trust for financial support – to help nourish the seed that they may plant.

As Trustees, we look forward to continuing to growing the Trust so that we can nourish more and larger seeds.

Thank you for your continued support,

Todd Thomas (Endowment Trust Chair), Chris Jensen (Secretary), Betsey Miller, Jan McCracken, Sharon Babala, Sue Berzinis (FUUSA Treasurer, Ex officio)

Growing Together

Circle of Trees Nature Walks

The May walks are on the Sunday, May 10 and Saturday, May 30. All the walks are at 2:00 PM at Five Rivers. All are welcome.

More info, links to each story to read ahead of time and the rest of the dates are at Leah's blog: <http://albanyuu.org/wp/dre-blog>.



Special Sundays: mark your calendars

May 10: Rite of Passage Service-- the children and youth in 4th-8th grade will attend the service with their families.

June 7: RE Celebration Sunday Service--Bridging Ceremony for high school seniors and honoring RE volunteers; Sundae Sunday during Coffee Hour

Joy Library

New Books: find them in New Book Section

THE MOST GOOD YOU CAN DO: HOW EFFECTIVE ALTRUISM IS CHANGING IDEAS ABOUT LIVING ETHICALLY by Peter Singer. Yale University Press (2015) [171.8 SIN] "*Peter Singer's books*

and ideas have been disturbing our complacency ever since the appearance of Animal Liberation. Now he directs our attention to a new movement in which his own ideas have played a crucial role: effective altruism. Effective altruism is built upon the simple but profound idea that living a fully ethical life involves doing the "most good you can do." Such a life requires an unsentimental view of charitable giving: to be a worthy recipient of our support, an organization must be able to demonstrate that it will do more good with our money or our time than other options open to us. Singer introduces us to an array

of remarkable people who are restructuring their lives in accordance with these ideas, and shows how living altruistically often leads to greater personal fulfillment than living for oneself." Yale University Press. (4/19/15)

HERETIC: WHY ISLAM NEEDS A REFORMATION NOW by Ayaan Hirsi Ali. Harper (2015) [297 ALI]
"Continuing her journey from a deeply religious Islamic upbringing to a post at Harvard, the brilliant, charismatic and controversial New York Times and Globe and Mail #1 bestselling author of Infidel and

Religious Exploration

Boldly creating a place for each person to belong

Leah Purcell, Director of Religious Education

Our Religious Education program strives to create safe and sacred space for each child and youth to grow in Unitarian Universalism and also to know they have a place to belong, just the way they are now.

Safe – (offering protection) for each person to bring their whole selves, and be invited into a group where compassion and equity is fostered by trusted adults

Sacred - (dedicated to our UU Principles) – so everyone can deepen their sense of being at home with the universe; where they can think about their own experiences and explore what meaning other stories have for them; where they can express joy; and learn skills to carry their values to the wider world.

As we continue to build on what we do well in creating this unique environment, the RE Council and I are asking:

- ◆What would it look like to have meaningful worship (UU religious services, practices and rituals) for children and youth each Sunday?
- ◆How can we foster connections between home and Sunday school to support families?
- ◆How can Sunday school connect children and youth with the rest of the congregation?
- ◆What can we do to support the volunteer teachers and structure the program so we have enough volunteers?

We are entering a time of "experi-learning" in which we will be wrestling with challenges, coming up with creative solutions, trying new things out, learning from them and trying again. The Religious Education Council and I will be considering our first steps at our retreat in early June.

This month, I'll be reaching out to families and volunteers to talk about our strengths and struggles. What connects you to Albany UU? As parents, what are your hopes and dreams for your children and their religious development? What are you willing to commit to? What do you need from your congregation? As volunteers, what brings you hope and satisfaction? I hope you'll consider these questions because I'm looking forward to some valuable conversations with you. Please feel free to call or email me if I don't contact you first.

In faithful service,

Leah



Nomad makes a powerful plea for a Muslim Reformation as the only way to end the horrors of terrorism, sectarian warfare and the repression of women and minorities. Today, she argues, the world's 1.6 billion Muslims can be divided into a minority of extremists, a majority of observant but peaceable Muslims and a few dissidents who risk their lives by questioning their own religion. But there is only one Islam and, as Hirsi Ali shows, there is no denying that some of its key teachings—not least the duty to wage holy war—are incompatible with the values of a free society. For centuries it has seemed as if Islam is immune to change. But Hirsi Ali has come to believe that a Muslim Reformation—a revision of Islamic doctrine aimed at reconciling the religion with modernity—is now at hand, and may even have begun. The Arab Spring may now seem like a political failure. But its challenge to traditional authority revealed a new readiness—not least by Mus-

lim women—to think freely and to speak out. Courageously challenging the jihadists, she identifies five key amendments to Islamic doctrine that Muslims have to make to bring their religion out of the seventh century and into the twenty-first. And she calls on the Western world to end its appeasement of the Islamists. "Islam is not a religion of peace," she writes. It is the Muslim reformers who need our backing, not the opponents of free speech. Interweaving her own experiences, historical analogies and powerful examples from contemporary Muslim societies and cultures, Heretic is not a call to arms, but a passionate plea for peaceful change and a new era of global toleration. In the wake of the Charlie Hebdo murders, with jihadists killing thousands from Nigeria to Syria to Pakistan, this book offers an answer to what is fast becoming the world's number one problem." Jacket Copy (4/19/15)

Our Community

UU Christians

Tuesday, May 12, 7:00 PM

We will discuss the gathering of Jesus and his disciples for celebration of the Passover, often called The Last Supper. We are focusing on this as a "digging deeper" follow-up to a thought-provoking discussion of Easter in April.

6 to 9 at 6:09: Circle Dinner

Saturday, May 23

Don't miss the last Circle Dinner of the church year. Circle Dinners provide FUUSAns and visitors the opportunity to socialize over a delicious potluck dinner in a private home and become better acquainted with fellow FUUSAns. Everyone is welcome, singles and couples, regardless of dietary restrictions. We can also provide rides, as needed. Please join us for the dinner on Saturday, May 23.

To sign up for the May dinner, you may email Martha Musser at xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx or complete the form on the sign-up board in Channing. The deadline for signing up is Sunday, May 10. Assignments will be announced after that date. If you have questions, please contact Martha at xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx or xxxxxxxx. The next circle dinner will be September 26, 2015.

FUUSA Humanists

FUUSA Humanists meet on the second Tuesday of the month. Eleven of us attended the April meeting. The lively discussion continues about what is meant by "humanism" at FUUSA and in the denomination.

We will meet next on Tuesday, May 12 at 7 PM in Room B-8 at FUUSA. We will continue discussing what each of us means by the word "humanism." And we will discuss how we relate to the FUUSA community as a whole.



Those interested in learning more about humanism in Unitarian Universalism are encouraged to go to the UU Humanists website at <http://humanists.org>. Some of the more recent posts on the UU Humanist blog include: A Humanist Take on Meaning and Purpose, and The Thinking Atheist's Take on Unitarian Universalism. There is also the American Humanist Association's website at <http://americanhumanist.org>.

If you wish to join the FUUSA Humanists conversations, please go to the FUUSA website and go to Groups and join, or call the FUUSA office, or contact Don Odell (xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx, xxxxxxxx) to be added to the eGroup. And, see you on May 12. -Don Odell

Sign up for UU Weekend at Silver Bay!

The UU Weekend planning Committee invites you to the 21st annual UU Weekend at the Silver Bay Resort on Lake George, Oct 16–18, 2015. The weekend will be filled with outdoor activities, workshops, music, a talent show, children’s programs and much, much more. Have you sat in a stone chapel? Well, here’s your chance, Sunday Service is in the Chapel at Silver Bay, which was built of granite taken from the nearby hillsides. There is Friday night entertainment after check-in and optional dinner with fellow guests. You could start off Saturday morning with a hike that rewards you with stunning views of Lake George’s clear blue water amid the gorgeous fall colors of the Adirondacks. Saturday and Sunday children’s programming includes games, arts & crafts among other activities for both the older & younger sets. The Jeanne Blank Memorial Address is Saturday afternoon, often thought provoking and satisfying for the variety of UU sensibilities. Come experience amazing fall foliage views while making new friends and deepening your connection with our and other UU communities.

We’ll be at a table in Channing with the UU Weekend video & registration forms, ready to answer questions and hand out. The registration form is also available on the UU Weekend web page, <http://albanyuu.org/wp/pdf/uuwregistration2015.pdf> and "like" us on Facebook at UU Weekend at Silver Bay.

A non-refundable deposit of \$50 for each adult and

child (ages 6- 17) is due with your reservations. Reservations received by **May 24** qualify for the same regular adult rate as last year, those received May 25-Sept. 20 pay the 2015 regular rates and reservations after Sept. 20, pay an additional late fee.

We hope to see you there!

Do you feel at home at FUUSA?

You’ve been attending church services for a few months, tried some events or classes, maybe even taken the orientation we call “Getting to Know UU”. And you’ve begun to think you feel at home in this church community. You feel like it’s time to really make it yours. Are you ready to become a member of FUUSA? You can find out more about membership by calling Barb Manning, chair of the Welcome Team (xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.)

Walker Book Club

5:30 pm, Sunday, May 10

Join us for a potluck and book discussion in Channing Hall. Newcomers are always welcome! We start with a welcoming shared supper which is followed by a lively discussion of the book of the month. Bring your favorite dish to share and a small contribution to cover beverages.

On May 10, we will discuss the classic novel, To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee. The book explores civil rights and racism in the segregated Southern United States of the 1930s through the author’s use of memorable characters.

On June 14, we will discuss three short stories: What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank by Nathan Englander, and two stories by Raymond Carver: Cathedral, and What We Talk About When We Talk About Love.

Contact Linda Hunt at xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx for further information or questions.

Joys and Caring Corner_____

**Need to talk?
FUUSA Pastoral Care
Associates are here
to listen!**

Our Pastoral Care Associates have been trained in compassionate listening skills and are available to all members and friends of our congregation. To contact a Pastoral Care Associate, email listeners@albany-uu.org, contact Reverend Sam Trumbore, the FUUSA office at 518-463-7135, or one of them personally. They are: Dave Munro, Chuck Manning, Phil Rich, Sharon Babala, Jan Satin, Randy Rosette, Bruce Rodgers and Sandy Stone.



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 (xxxxxxxxxxxx.)

Social Justice

“On being asked to change Black Lives Matter to All Lives Matter”

We thought this letter worth sharing. This post originally appeared on The Song and the Sigh.-- Jean Poppei, Chair, Social Responsibilities Council

Background: Rev. Schatz received this in his mailbox:

Good Evening:

I am very upset at the signage that is outside of your church stating that "Black Lives Matter." Since when has God chosen to see us by the color of our skin. The sign should be taken down and replaced with ALL LIVES MATTER. How will this nation of ours ever join together if we are constantly looking at everyone by their race. Unless you were actually there

in Ferguson or in New York or Cleveland, you do not have all the facts. --A Bucks County Resident

Here is what Rev. Schatz wrote:

It's a sentiment I'd heard before, and I gave a great deal of thought before sending the following response:

"Dear [name],

Thank you for writing with your concern. Of course all lives matter. Central to Unitarian Universalism is the affirmation of the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Sadly, our society has a long history of treating some people as less valuable than others. Study after study has confirmed that in equivalent situations, African Americans and Latinos are treated with deadly force far more often than White people, and authorities held less accountable. Unfortunately, racial bias continues to exist even when it

is no longer conscious -- this too is confirmed by multiple studies. A lack of accountability in the use of force combined with unconscious bias is too often a deadly combination -- and one that could place police officers, as well as the public, in great danger.

To say that Black lives matter is not to say that other lives do not; indeed, it is quite the reverse -- it is to recognize that all lives do matter, and to acknowledge that African Americans are often targeted unfairly (witness the number of African Americans accosted daily for no reason other than walking through a White neighborhood -- including some, like young Trayvon Martin, who lost their lives) and that our society is not yet so advanced as to have become truly color blind. This means that many people of goodwill face the hard task of recognizing that these societal ills continue to exist, and that White privilege continues to exist, even though we wish it didn't and would not have asked for it. I certainly agree that no loving God would judge anyone by skin color.

As a White man, I have never been followed by security in a department store, or been stopped by police for driving through a neighborhood in which I didn't live. My African American friends have, almost to a person, had these experiences. Some have been through incidents that were far worse. I owe it to the ideal that we share, the ideal that all lives matter, to take their experiences seriously and listen to what they are saying. To deny the truth of these experiences because they make me uncomfortable would be to place my comfort above the safety of others, and I cannot do that.

I very much appreciate you writing to me, and am glad that we share the goal of coming to a day when people will not be judged, consciously or unconsciously, on the basis of their race. I believe that day is possible, too, but that it will take a great deal of work to get there. That work begins by listening to one another, and listening especially to the voices of those who have the least power in society. If nothing else is clear from the past few weeks, it is painfully evident that a great many people do not believe that they are treated fairly. Healing begins by listening to those voices and stories.

Thank you again for writing me.

In faith,
Rev. Dan Schatz, Minister
BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Fellowship"

Forum, May 10, 11:45 AM

A garden and plant forum

Come to the Forum and hear Donna Meixner and Tim Burch (both are volunteers with Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener program) talk about plants and gardening in Upstate New York!

Successful, informative potluck

The Green Sanctuary potluck on Apr. 3 was a grand success--38 people attended. We were privileged to have Scott Kellogg, an RPI grad student who told us about the amazing Albany Ecological sustainability RADIX center. At solar-supported RADIX they are building an ecosystem within the city to build community-based sustainable solutions by composting, repurposing materials, raising all kinds of useful plants and animals, and minimizing landfill burden. We proudly showed him our worm bin from a FUUSA classroom.

Scott was very inspiring and provided the participants with much food for thought. We hope you will check out the RADIX center on the web to find out more.

Solarize Albany

7:00 PM, Friday, May 1--Emerson Community Hall

Join the Solarize Albany volunteers at this SRC-supported event to hear more about this great chance for you. Don't miss your opportunity to hear about using collective buying, thereby reducing your price to purchase or lease solar panels to generate energy from the sun.

Childcare and refreshments will be available. Please, contact Carol Butt (caroleebutt@gmail.com) if you think you will need childcare. For more information, find us on Facebook under SolarizeAlbanyNY, on our website solarizealbany.org or contact us at solarizealbany@gmail.com or call us at (609) 948-4668. Glad to have you join us when we meet every Thursday from 6 to 8 PM at the Honest Weight Food Co-op.

Contact Us

Board of Trustees 2014-2015

email: board@albanyuu.org

Executive Committee

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

Trustees

Michele Desrosiers
Eric Eddy
Ben English
Bob Franklin
Michael Hornsby
Patti Jo Newell

Ex-officio Members

Sam Trumbore, Minister
Tracie Tilgner, Chair Religious Education Council
Jean Poppei, 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 17, 2015

- 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 26. 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 3 & 10.

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 17, 2015. Request a ballot from the church office. Ballots will be available from Sunday, May 3 to Friday, May 15.

Completed ballots, sealed in an envelope, must be received in the church office on or before 11:00 AM on Friday, May 15.

Officers to be elected

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| President | Peggy Sherman |
| Vice-President | Dick Dana |
| Secretary | RoseAnne Fogarty |
| Treasurer | Kathy Harris |
| 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)

Al Berzinis, Ben English, Lee Newberg, Jon Newell
(Continuing Board Trustees: Michele Desrosiers, Michael Hornsby, Erik Eddy, Patti Jo Newell)

Endowment Trust
(5-year term, 1 to be elected)

Tim Burch, Jeff English
(Continuing Endowment Trustees: Sharon Babala, Chris Jensen, Jan McCracken, Todd Thomas)

Nominating Committee
(3-year terms, 2 to be elected)

Sue Berzinis, Bob Franklin, Mary Myers, Bruce Rodgers
(Continuing Nominating Committee members: Laura Churchill, Molly Daniels, Donna Meixner, Sandy Stone)

Uncontested Elections

Religious Education Council
(3-year terms, 4 to be elected)

Melissa Ramirez, Larry Schell, Sarah Stanwicks, Tulin Ture
(1-year term, 1 to be elected)

Mary Fellows
(Continuing REC Members: Cari Abatemarco, Meredith Andrews, Mark Butt, Pam Clements, Neil Rice, John Scaringe, Dee Van Ripper)

Social Responsibilities Council
(3-year terms, 2 to be elected)

Matt Lesniak, Laura Paris
(1-year term, 1 to be elected)
Carol Butt
(Continuing SRC Members: Ed Hancock, Jaye Holly, Karen Kaufmann)

*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

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president for a third year. Our congregation is an active, caring and welcoming community supported by dedicated professional and volunteer leaders.

We've adopted an ambitious mission statement: to welcome everyone, to seek truth and deeper meaning, to pursue justice, to cultivate compassion. Your Board of Trustees is working to chart a path that will help us continue to grow, evolve and truly live out our mission. I look forward to working with all of you to keep this beacon of liberal religion shining brightly in Albany!



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, facilitating small group ministry and serving on the endowment trust. John and I raised our two grown sons in this community and now enjoy the freedom to travel, including trips to our inspiring General Assemblies. On the professional side, my career has been in state government, where I now direct the Statewide Financial 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 early 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, the Refugee Resettlement Project, and the Stewardship Committee, before being elected vice president two years ago. 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 Community Hall).

Most recently, I was asked last fall by the Board of Trustees to explore the possible introduction of the "Growth Through Service" program here at FUUSA. "Growth Through Service" is a unique approach to volunteering that has the potential to greatly aid us in achieving our mission, and to make FUUSA an even more exciting and rewarding community to be a part of.

If re-elected, I look forward to continuing to work with the Board on "Growth Through Service" and the many other exciting leadership issues that the FUUSA leadership is currently exploring.

Secretary: RoseAnne Fogarty

I've gone through many stages at FUUSA: first a young single person; then signing the book; getting married in the Sanctuary; bringing up my daughter with help from Unirondack, OWL, and Rite of Passage; and finally beginning my aging years. In each phase I was drawn to different activities: the old singles group (now defunct), writing and doing illustrations for FUUSA publications, teaching RE, helping with the Kids Crafts Workshop in December, doing the coffee and bagels on Sunday, working on the Annual Canvass, helping with the Rummage Sale, and now serving as secretary to the Board.



I don't consider myself a leader in the FUUSA context, but rather a trusted servant. I have always found that there was something for me to do that fit each phase of my life, and I did it, and enjoyed it.

Treasurer: Kathy Harris

Kathy found FUUSA in 1999 and joined a year later. She was immediately active in the Choir, which still proves to be a high point of each week. She served as Sunday vol-

unteer coordinator from 2000-2003; assistant treasurer from 2004-2007 and has been on the Finance Committee since that time. She recently completed a 3-year term on the Board of Trustees. She currently serves as the chair of the Finance Committee. Understanding how vital finances are to the life of FUUSA, she has and will continue to, if elected, work with the Finance Committee and the Board to ensure that FUUSA remains a strong and vital community.



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: Al Berzinis

I have been a member of FUUSA for the past seven years after moving to Delmar with my wife Sue. Born and raised in Connecticut, my employment in chemical research has occasioned us to move around a bit: from graduate studies in San Diego to industrial research labs outside Philadelphia; Pittsfield, MA; Selkirk, NY (twice now) and Parkersburg, WV. I was employed at several of those stops by GE Plastics and am currently employed by Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corp (SABIC). I lead a global team of researchers in de-



veloping new materials for use in healthcare applications such as artificial kidneys, and I enjoy the opportunities this provides to travel to Europe, Saudi Arabia and India. I enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking, X-C skiing and kayaking; indoors I enjoy cooking and music appreciation.

The details of my life-long journey to Unitarian Universalism from my roots in Christian traditions can be found in my "This I Believe" address from this past February. In seeking election to the Board I offer a decade of experience in leadership positions in congregations in Massachusetts and Ohio, including launching new congregations and experimentation with alternative worship experiences. My recent service at FUUSA includes the Mission Statement Task Force and Growth Through Service concept team. An experimentalist at heart, I tend to be a catalyst for change wherever I make my home.

Board Trustee: Ben English

Ben is now on the board, serving the last year of a term left open when another member was unable to complete the full three years. The experience has impressed on him the responsibility to maintain FUUSA as a beacon and resource to all who share our values, and he would very much like to carry on.



Ben began his association with FUUSA in 1956 at the age of 12, receiving a fine introduction to liberal religious thought in RE.

As young man he was far from Albany and any religious activity, but when he returned to the Capital District in 1982, he revived his connection here. He has served on the Partner Church Committee, the Canvas, Sam Trumbore's Worship Cabinet, the Committee on the Professional Ministry, and today leads a Small Group Ministry. He is 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: Jon Newell

I have been a member of FUUSA since the middle years of John Corrado's ministry. I have served on the



Personnel Committee, the Canvass Committee, the Nominating Committee, the Endowment Trust, the Capital Campaign, the Mission Statement Task Force and the Board of Trustees. I co-chaired the Conflict Management Committee in 1995, and was President from 1996 through 1999. I'm acquainted with a fairly broad spectrum of the congregation, and with many of the tasks expected of board members. I'll try to bring these pieces of information together as a member of the Board. I have a goal of trying to involve newer members of the congregation in meaningful roles sooner than might have happened in the past.

Board Trustee: Lee Newberg

Heidi and I arrived at FUUSA in 1999 with two children, but we liked the religious education program so much that we added two more children to our family. I have served on our Finance Committee, our Social Responsibilities Council, our Religious Education Council, and most recently on our Endowment Trust Board, including several years as chairperson. I have enjoyed this spiritual journey, which has introduced me to good people, provided me with good cheer, taught me valuable life lessons, and which has increased my appreciation of scheduling software for meetings.



I have taught Sunday school almost every year, including several years as a facilitator of the middle-school Our Whole Lives program. Between Sunday school and raising four children, I have learned much wisdom and much foolishness. Why do sea gulls fly over the sea? Because if they flew over the bay they would be bagels!

I hope to take my wisdom and my foolishness to the monthly board meetings for these next few years. I hope to help our congregation thrive, by being foolish enough to trust in the good will of others and by being wise enough to know that this is the surest route to success.

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Endowment Trustees

Endowment Trustee: Tim Burch

I have been a member of FUUSA since 2011 when my wife Patty and I moved to Alba-



ny. We have previously been members of UU congregations in Cincinnati, OH, Cherry Hill, NJ, Bridgeport, CT, and Palo Alto CA as we relocated during my career as an HR executive. I was primarily involved in the RE programs in these congregations including serving on the RE staff at Star Island for several years. Since joining FUUSA I have participated in the Threshold effort and served for 3 years on the Stewardship committee. I am currently a member of the Personnel committee and help out in the gardens and coffee hour. If you decide to elect me to the Endowment Trust, I will enthusiastically serve. If you don't, I'm just fine with that too.



Endowment Trustee: Jeff English

Jeff English (not to be confused with brother Ben English, who is a member of the Board of Trustees) – My association with FUUSA began in 1956 when I was a preschooler, and while I drifted away in my young-adulthood, I came back around and signed the membership book over 25 years ago. Lorraine and I

were married in the sanctuary in 1992. As an engineer by training and an objective thinker by nature, I am well suited to play a role working for the Endowment Trust. The endowment is a foundational financial tool to support FUUSA's long-term mission and is therefore essential to be managed with a rational approach and a view deep into the future. I will bring a steady hand to the responsibility to build the endowment's asset value, balanced with maintaining ethical standards in alignment with UU principles.

Nominating Committee

Nominating Cmte.: Sue Berzinis

Born and raised in Connecticut, working with food has always been a part of my life. After managing and training managers for fast food restaurants in NJ and MA, I later owned my own bakery while living in Lenox, MA. When relocated to southeastern OH, I baked desserts for a local fine dining restaurant. I still enjoy baking (even gluten-



free!)

After moving back to the Northeast in 2007, my husband Al and I checked out FUUSA one Sunday and joined shortly after. We had been seeking a community connection and quickly recognized that FUUSA felt like home. I was soon involved in resettling the Iraqi refugee family and with the Green Sanctuary Committee for a time. I have helped organize the Wine & Cheese fundraisers the past few years and the Beer Tasting Dinner last fall.

After serving as your Treasurer for the past three years, I feel that I now have a good knowledge of how FUUSA works and the number of volunteers that are required to support our community. I look forward to working with the Nominating Committee to identify and develop volunteers to strengthen our community for the future.

Nominating Cmte.: Bob Franklin



Our Society is expanding our horizons. We are undertaking some new and exciting challenges for growth and have set a number of ambitious goals in the next few years which could have an exciting effect on our presence in Albany and the Capital District.

One way of growing is to expand our volunteer and leadership opportunities, especially for those who have not previously had leadership responsibilities. As a member

of the Nominating Committee, I would welcome the opportunity to offer leadership roles to some of our newer members, as well as utilizing the talents of our more long-term FUUSAns, to help guide our Society as we approach each new challenge.

I have been a member of FUUSA since 1988, and would be pleased to serve as a member of the Nominating Committee, if elected. I previously served on this committee, have served two terms on the Board of Trustees, served on and was chair of the Membership Committee and was a member of the RE Council. My wife Carolyn and I taught in the pre-K class for a number of years. Currently, I am a member of The Board of Trustees, the Annual Dinner, and the Silver Bay Weekend Committees, and am involved with the design and function of the FUUSA website.

Nominating Cmte.: Mary Myers

I'm running for Nominating Committee because I still remember my reaction the first time I was asked to serve

on RE Council. Although I had taught a class for RE, I was surprised that someone felt I had something to contribute to the Council. Me?



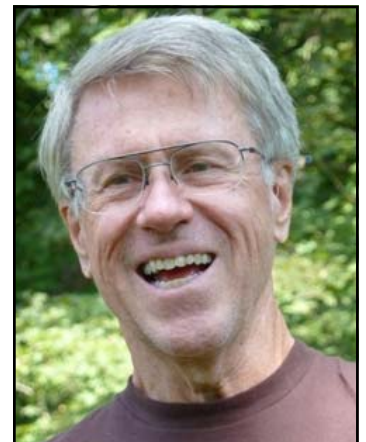
Really? I hadn't been a member for very long, and I didn't know very many people. But someone noticed me and thought I had something to offer. It was a wonderful experience getting to know so many people, learning how much work goes into RE, and having a say in it. Since then, I've

served on COPM (the Committee on Professional Ministry) and Personnel Committee, and have just completed my second term on RE Council. My connection to and understanding of the congregation has grown so much as a result of my participation in each of these committees. As a member of the Nominating Committee, I hope to reach out to other people who have not yet had the opportunity to get involved. It's been my experience that the more involved I've been, the deeper my connection to the congregation has grown. I want to share that experience with others by encouraging their participation.

I have two young adult children (Alison and Tom Baxter), and I am a nurse at Samaritan Hospital helping people with serious illnesses decide how much and what kind of care is most important to them at the end of their lives.

Nominating Cmte.: Bruce Rodgers

I am honored to be asked to serve as a member of the Nominating Committee for the next 3 years. This committee plays a critical role in the governance of our congregation, and if I'm elected, I will do my utmost to find the best candidates for our elected leadership.



FUUSA has been a significant and treasured part of my life and the life of my family for the past 20 years. I have served the community in various ways throughout those two decades, most

recently as a member of the Personnel and Stewardship committees, RE teacher and Pastoral Care Associate. My service to the congregation has always been a source of personal growth and satisfaction, at the core of which is

the privilege of getting to know many of the astonishingly diverse and gifted children, youth and adults who gather here.

If elected, I look forward to serving the congregation in a new and different way; if not, I'm sure I'll continue to find other ways to serve, learn and grow as part of this extraordinary and beloved community.

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, xxxxxx. I now home school xxxxxxxxxxxx in our home in Delmar. My husband, Mark, and I first came to FUUSA about eight 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 five 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: Mary Fellows

I'm concluding my first year of teaching RE (the Yellow Ducks – our delightful second graders!) and approaching my second anniversary of becoming a member of FUUSA. I'm a librarian, and my work is to help the staff in Upper Hudson Library System's 29 area public libraries provide excellent services to kids, teens, and families. Motivating and teaching adults are large parts of my job. I also train library boards on the duties and responsibilities of being a library



trustee. I bring this year's RE teaching experience as well as my knowledge and experience in various board/director roles to the job of REC member, and look forward to the opportunity to serve FUUSA.

REC Member: Sarah Stanwicks

Sarah has been a member of FUUSA since 2009. Originally from Wisconsin, Sarah moved to Albany in 2008; she lives with her husband, son, and senior pug. She is one of the RE teachers in the Red Room Pre-K class here at FUUSA. Sarah is a Youth Services Librarian at the Washington Avenue Branch of the Albany Public Library. She sees the value and importance of RE in children's lives, having been raised a UU and brought up going to RE classes as a child in Madison, WI, and wants to help connect FUUSA families and the rest of the congregation to our rich RE program. She is honored to have been nominated to become a member of the Religious Education Council.



REC Member: Melissa Ramirez

I live in Albany with my xxxxxxxxx x. As a mental health advocate, I work to increase mental health literacy and fight stigma. I have worked for the Mental Health Association in New York State, Inc. for the past nine years and serve as its Deputy Director.



FUUSA has provided me and my loved ones a supportive and nurturing environment that has held us up as we journey through life. Thank you.

I do what I can to give back to FUUSA. I have worked on the Stewardship Committee, helped in Randy's Café, facilitated Beloved Conversations, and coordinated potlucks for the Religious Education Council. Now I look forward to serving on the Religious Education Council, helping to create a fun, welcoming learning environment.

REC Member: Tulin Ture

I have been attending FUUSA for the past 2 years, have recently joined, and have enjoyed teaching in the RE program. My partner, Maria, and I have xxxxxxxxxxxxxx who have greatly enjoyed their RE experiences in this church, as well. I began attending a UU church in Michigan in my 20's and since then have attended a UU church in

each of the cities that we have lived. We've been in the Albany area for about 2 years and have found FUUSA to be our spiritual home. Professionally, I am an Occupational Therapist and have worked in pediatrics and rehab. Our family enjoys camping, canoeing, hiking, cross-country skiing and just about anything that involves being outdoors.



back in the mid 90s, after attending services for a while. 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. As part of my service to FUUSA, I very much enjoy my frequent role as Sunday usher, which provides not only a team opportunity but also a chance to personally greet people as they enter Emerson or the Sanctuary.

I attended Justice GA— that experience in Phoenix was transformative in so many ways, deepening and enriching my commitment to social justice. An added pleasure was being able to see our daughter Amanda receive Final Fellowship as an ordained UU minister (she currently serves Washington Ethical Society as Senior Leader). Last year, I was a delegate to GA in Providence, where I was able to take advantage of inspiring workshops and lectures on social justice as I prepared to move into my new role as Chair of SRC. It has been a busy year as Chair and I am most grateful to my Council members for their helpfulness and forbearance as I struggled to learn the requirements and responsibilities of the position. I am honored to have the opportunity to put what I've learned into practice for a second term.

On a personal note, I am a Professor Emerita in Psychology from The Sage Colleges and also a part-time therapist, licensed in both psychology and social work.

REC Member: Larry Schell

I am looking forward to the serving on the Religious Education Council. I have been a member of FUUSA since 2006. The community has been a real source of support for me and my family. My youngest son started RE at FUUSA when he was 5 and we have been very happy with the program. I have been an educator all my professional life, starting as a high school



teacher after college and then, after graduate school, becoming a professor at SUNY Albany where I have been teaching for over 30 years. Serving on the Council would give me an opportunity to contribute to a very worthwhile program. I hope that my experience can be a resource for the Council and our community. This will be my first service on a FUUSA committee and I am looking forward to contributing in the best way possible.

Social Responsibilities Council (SRC)

SRC Chair: Jean Poppei

I grew up as a second-generation U-U, attending churches in Staten Island (NY) and Harrisburg (PA). According to friends, I was an active proselytizer for Unitarianism (and for various liberal causes in a pretty conservative part of the country!) 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. When our daughter turned 9, she asked to go to church with a schoolmate – it turned out to be FUUSA. I officially joined the congregation



SRC Member: Carol Butt

I have been a friend or member of FUUSA for over 40 years, previously served on the Social Responsibilities Council, RE Council, taught RE, had 2 children grow through FUUSA from nursery to senior high school, managed the blanket box for many years, tried to get our left-overs to the shelters and attempted to connect things we no longer need to those



who need them. I have more recently been an active member of the Green Sanctuary committee and engaged with all ages, including RE classes on green issues. I look forward to participating with all the members of the SRC to further correct some of the injustices to some of the world's people, particularly those in our area and attempt to influence climate action to protect those who are most negatively affected by its consequences. I hope you will give me the opportunity to serve on the Social Responsibility Council.

SRC Member: Matt Lesniak

I am a long-time Albany resident and a relatively new member of FUUSA, having joined last year with my partner Vanessa Cayford. I served on the board of the Homeless Action Committee (HAC), an advocacy and service organization focusing on harm reduction for people in Albany. Vanessa and I met while working with HAC in an overflow shelter and on the outreach van. We would like to instill in our daughter, Julia, the privilege and dignity of helping others.



The Albany UU community is incredibly gifted and the SRC has an important role to play in helping it in make positive change in the world. I hope to forward that spirit and that work by serving on the SRC.

SRC Member: Laura Paris

I was raised in the Methodist church in my childhood home in Ohio. My first service experience was an American Friends Service Committee summer work project in a state mental hospital in Louisville, Kentucky. I took a year off from college in 1966 to become a VISTA (domestic peace corps) volunteer and worked in Pitts-

burgh, Pennsylvania with community organizations. My mother saved a clipping from our Rocky River, Ohio newspaper, titled “River Girl Off to Fight War on Poverty”! If only we had won...

I joined the First Unitarian Society of Schenectady in 1993 and served as a member of the Social Action Council. The most rewarding aspect of my council membership was helping to expand the congregation’s giving away of Sunday offerings. We developed a process for selecting and proposing recipients to the board of trustees for approval, and “giving away the plate” was increased to once per month. Congregational favorites included Girls Incorporated, Community Loan Fund, Roots and Wisdom and many others.



I retired in 2012 from teaching special education and administering professional development programs for the State Education Department. Always an avid gardener, I am enjoying planting the yard around the home I share with my partner, Rodger Fink. We recently joined FUUSA and I look forward to becoming more active and serving to implement the mission of the SRC.

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