

Windows Update



Edited for the Web:
Personal information
and contacts re-
moved, as well as
children's last names.
Web viewers needing
more information are
invited to contact the
church office at [ad-
ministrator@fuusalba
ny.org](mailto:administrator@fuusalbany.org).

Mid-February 2010

Minister

Rev. Sam Trumbore

President

Linda Way

Intern Minister

Chris Antal

Church Administrator, interim

Membership Coordinator

Amy Lent

Director of Religious Education

Leah Purcell

Religious Education

Director Emerita

Ann D'Attilio

Music Director

Matt Edwards

Administrative Assistant/Sexton

David Stone

Rental Agent

Lynne Lekakis

Custodian

Olga Oja

Publication deadlines

Mar. *Windows*: Feb. 16

Mar. *Update*: Mar. 2

Newsletter of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

Haiti relief

Our special collection on January 24th raised \$3,043 for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's relief effort in Haiti. Contributions can still be made through the UUA website.

Board Notes

The January meeting of the Board of Trustees was packed full of information exchanges, careful deliberations, and thoughtful decision making. Sam, Amy, and Leah kept the group's attention with interesting highlights from their monthly reports. They are certainly a busy staff, engaged in substantive work that serves our congregation well.

The concern was raised that we need more hymnals, and it was agreed that we would like to purchase thirty more of each of our two hymnals. We will offer members of the congregation another opportunity to buy and dedicate a name plate for the purchase price of a hymnal; the name plates will be placed in the new books.

On FUUSA's financial front, Dave Metz reported that things are under control, in spite of interest rates being down. He is researching the possibility of moving all our accounts to Berkshire Bank, our mortgage holder, to "get a better deal."

The Board also addressed three topics directly related to our new Strategic Plan, adopted by the congregation in December:

- Request for input from the Task Force reviewing staffing
- Creation of a new Community and Connections Committee
- A Green Sanctuary proposal that FUUSA

Board Notes , continued on pg. 2

We got connected alright!

The "Get Connected!" activity fair held on Sunday, January 31 was a great success. Thanks to all of the people who sat at tables and shared their passions and interests for each group or committee that they represented. Everyone did a great job of making their table inviting and interesting. Thanks also to all of the people who helped set up the tables and chairs. In particular, I want to thank Paula Moskowitz who helped make all of the signs, Amy Lent who made the raffle tickets look great and make sense, and Chuck Manning who proofread everything I wrote, made suggestions, and helped me with whatever I asked. Without all of these people, this event would not have been a success.

Congratulations to the winners of the adult raffle: Jean Poppei and Deborah Vogel each won a dinner at the home of Chuck and Barb Manning, with Linda Way (President), Rev. Sam Trumbore, and Chris Antal (Ministerial Intern). "Volunteers are Sweet" baskets were won by Emily Steinbach and Jennifer Dorsey. The UU T-shirt was won by Terry Way.

Congratulations to the winners of the kids' raffle: S. A. won the UU T-shirt. Grab bags were won by B. D., J. D. and V. P.

And lastly, thanks to all who visited various tables and learned a little about what FUUSA has to offer you. We hope this helps you "Get Connected!"--Barb Manning (Ed.: Next time you see Ms. Manning, thank her for motivating this fine event into existence!)

WINE AND CHEESE TASTING

Celebrating the



Art of Simplicity

February 27, 2010

Channing Hall, 7-9 pm

\$25

*Sign up in Channing Hall
or contact Ali Skebe*

UU B&Bs, camps, and conference centers

The catalog providing information about summer conferences on **Star Island** has just been published and will be available on the UU B&B bulletin board in Channing Hall. The island, originally a 19th century resort community, was purchased early in the 20th century by the Star Island Corporation, an independent affiliate organization of the UUA, and has been operated ever since for religious and educational purposes. It is reached by a 1/2 hour ferry boat ride out of Rye, New Hampshire. If interested, you may wish to speak to some members of FUUSA who have been regular Star Island conferees (Mike & Ann D'Attilio, Don & Ann Eberle, Don Odell, or Dan Sekellick). You can also look them up on the web, www.starisland.org or call Dan Sekellick for information.

Board Notes , cont. from pg. 1 become Carbon Neutral in its activities to reduce our impact on global warming

The Task Force on Staffing, chaired by Chuck Manning, is charged with reviewing current staffing and identifying needs for additional staff leadership and support. Appointed to carry out this charge are Dave Street, Scott Murray, Dawn Dana, Ben English, Peter Brown, and Mark Butt. Feel free to approach any of these individuals if you have ideas or issues related to our staff functions and needs.

The development of a new Community and Connections Committee holds a special key to implementing the Strategic Plan. The Board agreed on a charge for this committee which includes assessing the goals and objectives enumerated in the plan, identifying existing councils and committees already working in these areas and assessing their interest and ability to further promote the community and connection goals, and ultimately to establish means to accomplish

Racial equity conference

Join the UU white Allies for Racial Equity at their annual conference. This year's theme is Accountability: keynote presentation and discussions led by Shelley Tochluk, PhD, author of *Witnessing Whiteness, First Steps Toward an Antiracist Practice and Culture*.

The annual conference provides opportunities for UUs to come together in a multigenerational learning environment to develop skills so that we might participate in dismantling white privilege and undoing racism. For more information check out the Allies for Racial Equity web site: <http://www.uuallies.org/2010areconference.html>

those goals which are not being addressed by any of our existing structures. Todd Gray and Pam Collins have agreed to do the initial leg work and research to get this committee off the ground.

Becoming a carbon neutral Society is a goal that the Social Responsibilities Council (SRC) has asked the Board to adopt, and it received full Board support. The plan is to participate in programs that reduce the carbon in the atmosphere in order to offset the processes in which we, at FUUSA, emit carbon. The Green Sanctuary committee planted this seed and is actively looking at the various ways to meet this goal. We will be putting our money where our footprint is!

For those change agents in the crowd, your input or participation is welcome in any of these areas; just contact a member of the Board for how to get involved.

Minutes of Board meetings are posted in Channing Hall or can be obtained from the main office.

Remembering Cassie Stevens

A remembrance gathering will be held to honor Cassie Stevens on February 28 at 11:30 am after the service. We will gather in Emerson Community Hall and be led by Rev. Sam, but all are welcome to share stories and memories of a dear, sweet brave friend.

Parents of Teens Group

The Parents of Teens Group will meet at FUUSA on Sunday, February 21 from 12:30 to 2:30 PM, the same time the Junior Youth Group meets. Our topic this month will be peer pressure. All parents of teens are welcome. For more information contact Dick Brewer.

To lift every voice... more hymnals needed

As we grow we need more hymnals. Ushers have run out at a number of Sunday services. After a careful count of hymnals we have decided that we would like to purchase 20 - 25 more of both Singing the Living Tradition (Gray) and Singing the Journey (Teal).

We hope you will help! The next time you have a hymnal in your hand look inside – many of our hymnals have a bookplate which indicates that it was a gift from a member or friend of the congregation, and/or that it was given in memory of a loved one or perhaps in celebration of a special event.

We are again planning to raise funds to buy additional hymnals through dedicated bookplates. Perhaps you want to memorialize a family member or friend, honor a birth or a grandchild, or simply give FUUSA a gift to celebrate the joy of singing together. The cost for bookplates with your inscription will be \$30 for Singing the Living Tradition, \$15 for Singing the Journey; and only \$44.95 for both!

Look for Barb Cooley, Cathy DeMille, or other members of the choir/music committee who will have donation forms and sample bookplates available after church on Sunday beginning later this month. You may also call the office to get a form and send it in with your payment.

P.S. If you have a borrowed hymnal at home, please return it... thanks!

Seder update

We will not be celebrating seder here at FUUSA this year, but we hope someone will step forward next year to organize it!

Upcoming programs

Further information on these programs can be found in the February issue of *Windows*. You can sign up for any of them at the Sign Up Site in Channing Hall or by calling the church office at 463-7135.

The Spirituality of Children

A Workshop for Parents and Caretakers

Facilitated by Leah Purcell

Two Saturdays, Feb. 13 and Feb. 27,
from 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Childcare provided

Lenten Dharma Study

led by Rev. Sam Trumbore

Six Tuesdays, **Feb. 23 to Mar. 30**,
7:00-8:30 pm

Sally Patton's Involve Training

*Radical Hospitality: Creating Beloved
Community for All Children*

Saturday, **March 6**

9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Childcare provided

Open to parents and caretakers and
to all those interested in or currently
teaching Religious Education

Contact Leah Purcell for more info
and to register.

Channing Circle

Save the date, Monday, February 15, at noon. Bring your sandwich or salad and coffee, tea plus a delicious desert from Abby Sugarman. Ann Brandon will be speaking about her Eldehostel trip to Americus, GA where she visited the headquarters of Habitat for Humanity, Koinonia Farm, Andersonville POW Cemetery, and Plains with lunch with Jimmy Carter. Looking forward to seeing you. --
Thayer Heath

Findlay Cockrell concert

A recital of Chopin's music

2:00 PM

Sunday, February 28

Emerson Community Hall

\$15/\$10 students

a benefit for the Choir Trip.

Newcomer orientation

Learning about Unitarian
Universalism and FUUSA

We invite you to meet with others who are new to the congregation at our next "**Getting to Know UU**" session, scheduled for Saturday, **March 20** from 8:45 a.m. to noon.

We'll start with coffee and snacks and getting to know each other: new folks, Membership Committee, and Rev. Sam Trumbore. You'll learn about Unitarian Universalism and about our congregation, and you'll get a chance to ask all the questions you've been collecting. We'll talk about how to get involved in the FUUSA community and about becoming a member. All in all, it's a fun morning of conversation and fellowship, and a pleasant first step on the path to membership!

There is a sign up sheet in Channing Hall (at the Sign Up Site), or you can call Amy Lent interim Membership Coordinator (and Church Administrator) at the church office, 463-7135.



Labyrinth

Walking meditation

Channing Hall, Saturday, Feb. 20, 10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

Social Responsibilities Council

SRC Quiz

What are the questions that we who are trying to be socially responsible asking? How do we bring peace to the Middle East? Are we going to get meaningful health care reform? What is going to happen to the public schools in Albany? Is the downtown YMCA going to survive? If not, how can the many students in its after school programs be served? Will the city of Albany be able to hire a police chief who can make its residents feel safer? What other questions should we be asking? And what can we do at FUUSA to make a positive re-

sponse? Please join us in asking the right questions and in seeking answers.

Standing on the side of love,
Lois Griffin

SRC Table

The pecans have arrived from the African American-owned pecan shelling facility in the US run by women. We have Pecan Clusters, Double Dipped Chocolate along with your favorite coffee, chocolate bars and cocoa. We will continue to have Guatemalan items until April.

Green Sanctuary Committee

At the activity fair on Sunday, January 31st, 13 members signed up at the Green Sanctuary Comm. table which is great. Our next Committee meeting is Sunday, Feb. 14 after coffee hour. Our committee is coming up with several interesting actions to discuss and prioritize so we hope to see you there.

Two shipments of ink cartridges have been sent to be recycled and we have earned \$85.50 so far this year, so thanks to all who bring them to FUUSA to be recycled.

Focus Food Pantry update

Our generosity is once again overwhelming! The clients, staff and volunteers are deeply appreciative. Our January 31 contributions totaled \$768.00! Many thanks.

As a point of information, FUUSA's contributions to the 2009 food pantry budget totaled \$6,536.28, exceeding the contributions of all of the other churches donating to the Focus Food Pantry. Our next donations will be taken on Feb. 28. Once again, thank you. --Lois Thomson and Jane

Refresh, Restore, Retreat for women

Women of FUUSA - save the date!!! On Saturday, April 24, we are planning a special day for the women of FUUSA - a day to refresh mind, body and soul. Mark your calendars now for an all day retreat at FUUSA that will leave you with new "spring" in your step, friends at your side, and joy in your heart. More soon - but be sure to save the date! Registration will begin in late March.

Annual Fellowship Dinner

Saturday, April 17, 2010

Century House

Price - Below \$30.00

Free child care at Century House

Simultaneous pre-teen event at FUUSA

CROP Walk

Save the date!

The 2010 CROP Hunger Walk is coming up on Sunday, **May 2**. Save the date to walk with the FUUSA Team or support the walkers with your pledge. See Dawn Dana for more info.

Pot o' Gold Auction

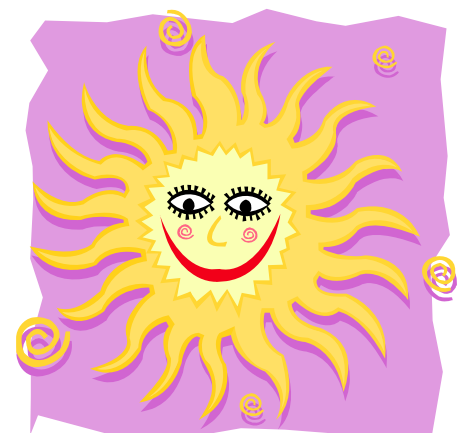
Plan to join the fun on Mar. 20. Sign up early and remember to come to this fun-filled evening. We will be "table-sitting" on Feb. 21 and 28, Mar. 7 and 14. Look for us in Channing Hall. Sign up early for only \$3.00. You will be more than welcome as a "walk-in" on the 20th, but it will cost \$5.00 at the door! Bid on luscious meals, as usual, and many other less costly and desirable items. Don't want to bid? Come anyway, and join the fun. Door prizes and a 50/50 raffle add to the festivities.

A musical Monday

The Bethlehem Senior Chorus will be singing for Channing Circle at 1:00 PM on Monday, March 15. Our selections include music from a Broadway musical, some lively Israeli folk songs, and of course, songs celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Several members of FUUSA sing in this chorus, we guarantee a delightful interlude, and it's free! Y'all come. --Lois Thomson

Cancer Support Group

The FUUSA Cancer Support Group (CSG) will meet at 5 PM, Sunday, February 21 at FUUSA. The meeting will be followed by a pot luck supper at 6 PM. For further information contact the coordinators of this meeting, Dee and Frank Wind.





From Joy Library: books by Forrest Church

The Rev. Forrest Church, a long-time pastor at the Unitarian Church of All Souls on the Upper East Side died last September. During his lifetime, he wrote nearly two dozen books, many of which applied his theology to everyday life. They included *God and Other Famous Liberals* (1991), *Life Lines: Holding On (and Letting Go)* (1996) and *Lifecraft: The Art of Meaning in the Everyday* (2000). His illnesses motivated him to write *Love and Death: My Journey Through the Valley of the Shadow* (2008) and a final book summing up his religious philosophy, *The Cathedral of the World: A Universalist Theology* (2009). While battling cancer, he also completed *So Help Me God* (2007), a study of the religious views of the first five presidents. The Joy Library owns 16 books by Forrest Church. Some of them are shelved under their call numbers. Others may be

in the NEW BOOKS section.

- ◆ **Born Again Unitarian Universalism** (1984) [288.32 CHU]
- ◆ **The Cathedral of the World: A Universalist Theology** (2009) [230.9132 CHU]
- ◆ **The Devil & Dr. Church** : a guide to hell for atheists and true believers (1986) [235.47 CHU]
- ◆ **The Essential Tillich** : an anthology of the writings of Paul Tillich (1987) Edited by F. Forrester Church. [230 TIL]
- ◆ **Everyday miracles** : stories from life (1988) [242 CHU]
- ◆ **Father and Son: A Personal Biography of Senator Frank Church of Idaho by His Son** (1987) [328.7309 CHU]
- ◆ **Freedom from Fear: Finding the Courage to Act, Love, and Be** (2005) [158 CHU]
- ◆ **God and Other Famous Liberals: Reclaiming the Politics of America** (1991) [230.046 CHU]

- ◆ **The Jefferson Bible.** Introduction by Forrest Church. (2001) [226.1 JEF]
- ◆ **Life lines** : holding on (and letting go) (1996)[248.8 CHU]
- ◆ **Lifecraft: The Art of Meaning in the Everyday** (2001)[210 CHU]
- ◆ **Love & death** : my journey through the valley of the shadow (2008) [289.1092 CHU]
- ◆ **Our chosen faith** : an introduction to Unitarian Universalism (1989) co-author with John A. Buehrens [230.9132 BUE]
- ◆ **The Separation of Church and State: Writings on a Fundamental Freedom by America's Founders** (2004) [323.4420 CHU]
- ◆ **The Seven deadly virtues** : a guide to purgatory for atheists and true believers (1988) [236.5 CHU]
- ◆ **So help me God** : the founding fathers and the first great battle over church and state (2007) [322.109 CHU]

Pot O' Gold Auction

Saturday, March 20, 2010

**Mop a floor,,,,paint a door!
Cook a feast....walk a beast!
Have a party on your boat
Sew rainbows on a coat!
Repair a crack....massage a back!
Shop for cars.....chart the stars!
Wash a window till it shines.....
share your cottage in the pines!**

Donation forms available in Channing Hall: please complete and return before March 1.

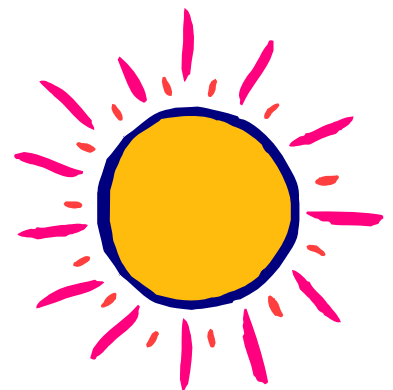
Sunday morning meetings

Please remember when scheduling meetings on Sundays that the primary use of our Religious Education classrooms is...on Sundays. And our volunteer Religious Education teachers need time to set up before class, and time for departures and clean up after class. So, your "window of opportunity" for scheduling a meeting in a classroom is to have it end before 9:40 a.m., or start after 11:40 a.m. Your friends in the R.E. program thank you for your consideration in making their jobs easier!

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

Sunday Volunteers Sign up in Channing Hall

	Lead Usher (1)	Ushers (3)	Coffee Hosts (2)	Greeters (2)	Chalice Lighter (1)
Feb. 14	D. Dana	A. Patti T. Way	R. Blanchard D. Goodyear	L. Gambino	A. D.
Feb. 21		A. Patashnick	R.E. Council		S. T.
Feb. 28	K. Harris		E. Chernoff T. Way	B. Smith	L. Purcell



Events Happening Every Sunday at FUUSA

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

Exceptions:

Events Happening Every Week in the Month of February

Mondays	10:30 AM	Pre-School Playgroup	Wash. Pk. or 23
Tuesdays	10:00 AM	Philosophy Group	B-8
	1:00 PM	Bridge	B-8
Wednesdays	10:00 AM	Projects & Quilts	B-8
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Emerson

Exceptions:

All Other Events Happening in the Month of February

9-Feb	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Green Sanctuary/350	B-7	20-Feb	Saturday	3:00 PM	Soul Matters-Yoshida	B-8
		7:00 PM	Staffing Task Force	B-8			6:00 PM	Circle Dinners	offsite locations
10-Feb	Wednesday	5:00 PM	Religious Services Committee	B-8			7:00 PM	Dances of Universal Peace	Channing
		7:00 PM	Beauty of Needs Group	B-7	21-Feb	Sunday	11:30 AM	Oriel Meeting	B-7
11-Feb	Thursday	6:00 PM	Coalition Against Violence/SRC	B-7			11:45 AM	Forum: Connie Houde	Emerson
		7:00 PM	PCC	B-8			12:30 PM	Junior Youth Group	B-8
13-Feb	Saturday	9:30 AM	Community Gardens/Green Sanctuary	Channing			12:30 PM	Parents of Teens Support Group	Channing
		12:30 PM	AdEd: Spirituality of Children	B-8			5:00 PM	Cancer Support Group	B-8
		6:30 PM	Guilderland Plus Potluck	L Griffin's	22-Feb	Monday	7:00 PM	Men's Group	B-6
14-Feb	Sunday	11:45 AM	Auction Committee	B-7			7:00 PM	AdEd: Building the World	26
		11:45 AM	Green Sanctuary	B-3/4			7:30 PM	Monday Men	B-8
		5:30 PM	Walker Book Club	L Walker's	23-Feb	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Lenten Dharma Study	B-8
15-Feb	Monday	12:00 PM	Channing Circle	Channing	24-Feb	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Beauty of Needs Group	B-7
16-Feb	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Soul Matters-Sherman/Way	Stott/Joy Library	25-Feb	Thursday	7:00 PM	Finance Committee	B-8
		7:00 PM	Beauty of Needs Group	B-7	27-Feb	Saturday	12:30 PM	AdEd: Spirituality of Children	B-8
17-Feb	Wednesday	3:00 PM	Soul Matters-Johnson	B-8			7:00 PM	Wine and Cheese Tasting	Ch., Kit.
18-Feb	Thursday	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees	B-8	28-Feb	Sunday	11:30 AM	Cassie Stevens Remembrance	Emerson
		7:00 PM	Soul Matters-Patka	B-7			2:00 PM	Findlay Cockrell Choir Benefit	Emerson, Ch.
19-Feb	Friday	6:00 PM	Connie Houde Art Reception	Ch., Kit.					

Walker Book Club, Feb. 14, 5:30

The meeting commences with a potluck supper at 5:30 PM at Lisa Walker's, Delmar. Bring your favorite dish to share, and a small contribution to cover beverages. If you need directions, call Lisa. Newcomers are always welcome. We meet monthly from September through June.

Dates and books currently scheduled: Feb.14: DesCartes Bones by Russell Shorto. March 14: A Conspiracy of Paper David Liss.

Spirituality Book Club, Feb. 14, noon

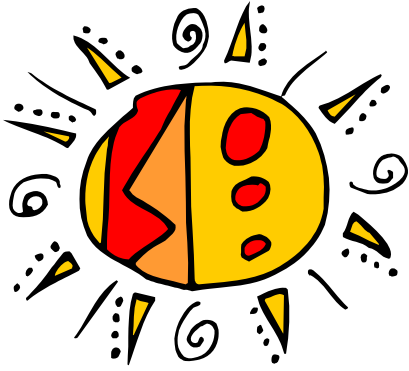
Sharing his own insights from years of experience in spiritual psychology, Robert Sardello takes us on an inner journey beyond the chaotic noise of the ego to a place of inner communion and self-healing. Silence: The Mystery of Wholeness opens our eyes to the importance of cultivating the nurturing aspects of silence in our personal relationships and enables us to awaken the inner currents of spirituality that ultimately lead to a path of universal compassion, service, and healing. Contact Philomena Moriarty if you have questions.

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

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www.albanyuu.org

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Sunday Services

Mindfulness Meditation, 9:00 a.m., Sanctuary

SERVICE is at 10:00 a.m., Emerson Community Hall except as noted

Religious education classes are held from 10:00-11:20 a.m.. The nursery opens at 9:45 a.m.

Feb. 14 "The Path to Love," The Rev. Sam Trumbore

The problem with relationships today is the burden of salvation has been put on them. People want to be fulfilled through their partner. Relationships have become a secular stand-in for what religion does best. In reality, another person cannot love us perfectly. The love we develop with our partner is not an end point but rather a jumping off point to a greater, more expansive kind of love.

Feb. 21 "Lenten Dharma," The Rev. Sam Trumbore

What if the Buddha and Jesus met. Would they recognize each other and honor each other? Would they agree or disagree discussing the major ideas and practices of the traditions created to propagate their insights and ideas? Could the dialogue between Buddhism and Christianity be fruitful for us to better appreciate, learn from and follow these great teachers?

Feb. 28 Senior High service

The youth in our Senior High class present their annual service.

