

## Sundays at FUUSA

*Please join us on any Sunday for:*

*Mindfulness Meditation, Religious Education for children and youth, the Service, Coffee Hour, or any combination thereof. Other programs include Forum (social justice topics), Children's Chapel, Green Sanctuary Discussion (environmental topics,) War Healing Circle; social events, and adult education.*

**All are welcome!**

# WINDOWS

Newsletter of the First Unitarian  
Universalist Society of Albany

February, 2011

### In this issue:

- 1 ..... Services
- 2 ..... Calendar
- 3 ..... News
- 6 ..... Lifespan Learning
- 7 ..... Our Community
- 9 ..... Social Justice
- 11 ..... Columns
- 14 ..... Sunday Volunteers
- 15 ..... Contact Us
- 16 ..... Flyers

### Sunday Schedule

- 9:00 AM  
Mindfulness Meditation
- 9:45 AM  
Nursery/Toddler rooms open
- 10:00 AM  
Service  
Children's Chapel  
(1st Sunday/mo.)  
Religious Education
- 11:00 AM  
Coffee Hour
- 11:45 AM  
Forum (2nd & 4th Sundays/mo.)  
Green Sanctuary Discussion  
(3rd Sunday/mo.)
- 6:00 PM  
War Healing Circle  
(2nd & 4th Sunday/mo.)

## Services

Feb. 6 "Eating for Peace and Justice", Rev. Sam Trumbore  
Enormous amounts of resources and billions of people are involved with putting food on the table for us to enjoy. How each one of us selects those foods is a vote for which ones to grow, by whom and how, and for what purpose. Grain can be grown for people or cows or beer or fuel. Agricultural workers who produce that food may or may not be fairly compensated. What are you voting for with your dollars? What food policy should our elected officials advocate? Music: Choir

Feb. 13 "War Healing as Peace Making", Chris Antal  
Drawing from our shared history as Unitarian Universalists, personal narrative, and encounters with broken souls inside and outside our congregations, Chris will consider ways we can implement the new Creating Peace Statement of Conscience and "Bless All Who Serve." Music: Choir

Feb. 20 "Service is Our Prayer", Rev. Dr. Elizabeth M. Strong  
Our traditions of Unitarianism and Universalism have always called us to service. But is service a prayer – something that deepens our commitment, or is it a law – something required of us to live our faith? Are we called give to service to the poor or to the poor in spirit? And what are the limits of our responsibility? Rev. Dr. Elizabeth (Liz) M. Strong is a fourth generation Universalist, and a scholar and teacher as well as a minister. She is the 2010 recipient of the Angus H. MacLean award, for her outstanding contributions to religious education. Music: Matt Edwards (piano)



Feb. 27 The Heart of Christianity, Rev. Sam Trumbore  
There are two predominant approaches to Christianity today. There is the pre-Enlightenment, pre-Darwin, fundamentalist approach to Christianity that is more comfortable forgetting the last two thousand years of human discovery, growth and development. And there is the hundred year old approach that integrates and responds to those changes. This new Christianity "with heart," articulated by Jesus Seminar scholar Marcus Borg, is one that many Unitarian Universalists will appreciate and find more compatible with our religious approach. Music: Silvie Briber (voice,) Nancy Benz (flute.)

# Calendar

## Events happening every Sunday at FUUSA

9:00 AM	Mindfulness Meditation	Sanctuary	Exceptions:
10:00 AM	Service	Emerson	
10:00 AM	Children's Chapel (1st Sunday/mo.)	Sanctuary	
10:00 AM	Religious Education	Classrooms	
11:00 AM	Coffee Hour	Channing, Emerson	
11:45 AM	Forum (2nd & 4th Sundays/mo)	Emerson	
11:45 AM	Green Sanctuary Discussion (3rd Sun./mo)	B-8	
6:00 PM	War Healing Circle (2nd & 4th Sundays/mo.)	Emerson	

## Events happening every week in the month of February

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

## All other events happening in the month of February

### 1-Feb Tuesday

2:00 PM	Staff Meeting	Study
6:30 PM	Lifespan: When Faiths Collide	B-7
7:00 PM	Christian UUs	B-8

### 3-Feb Thursday

7:00 PM	Nominating Committee	Stott/Joy Library
---------	----------------------	-------------------

### 5-Feb Saturday

3:00 PM	Dinner Setup	Channing, Kitchen
6:00 PM	RoP Elegant Italian Dinner	Channing, Kitchen
7:00 PM	Karaoke for All	Emerson, Kitchen, Lobby

### 6-Feb Sunday

11:30 AM	FUUSA Web Site Discussion	Emerson alcove
12:30 PM	Rite of Passage	B-7, B-8
2:00 PM	Spirituality Book Club	M. Baker's

### 7-Feb Monday

5:30 PM	Lifespan: "The Crash Course"	B-8
6:15 PM	Religious Education Council	Channing

### 8-Feb Tuesday

5:30 PM	Lifespan Committee	Emerson alcove
6:30 PM	Lifespan: When Faiths Collide	B-7
7:00 PM	Christian U Us	B-8

### 10-Feb Thursday

5:30 PM	Endowment Trust Committee	Stott/Joy Library
7:00 PM	PCC Meeting	B-8
7:00 PM	SGM Sherman	B-5

### 11-Feb Friday

6:00 PM	Parent Group	Channing, Kit, 24/25, 26
7:00 PM	Lifespan: Film "13 Grandmothers"	Emerson

### 13-Feb Sunday

11:45 AM	Forum	B-8
6:00 PM	War Healing Circle	B-8

### 14-Feb Monday

3:00 PM	Shelter Meal Prep	Kitchen
5:30 PM	Lifespan: "The Crash Course"	B-7
7:30 PM	Monday Men	B-8

### 17-Feb Thursday

7:00 PM	Board of Trustees	B-8
---------	-------------------	-----

### 18-Feb Friday

6:30 PM	Guilderland Plus Potluck	L. Griffin's
7:00 PM	Parenting Workshop	Channing, Kitchen

### 19-Feb Saturday

6:09 PM	Circle Dinners	Various homes
---------	----------------	---------------

### 20-Feb Sunday

11:45 AM	Rev. Liz Strong Discussion	Emerson
----------	----------------------------	---------

### 21-Feb Monday

8:00 AM	Holiday - Office Closed	
12:00 PM	Channing Circle	Channing, Kitchen
5:30 PM	Lifespan: "The Crash Course"	B-8

### 22-Feb Tuesday

2:00 PM	Staff Meeting	Study
---------	---------------	-------

### 24-Feb Thursday

7:00 PM	SGM Sherman	B-5
---------	-------------	-----

### 26-Feb Saturday

6:00 PM	Wine & Cheese 2011	Channing, Kitchen
---------	--------------------	-------------------

### 27-Feb Sunday

11:45 AM	Forum	B-8
6:00 PM	War Healing Circle	B-8

### 28-Feb Monday

3:00 PM	Shelter Meal Prep	Kitchen
5:30 PM	Lifespan: "The Crash Course"	B-8
7:00 PM	Wellspring	B-8
7:30 PM	Monday Men	B-7

### Forum

Sunday, Feb. 13, 11:45

"Hospice 101," Donald Stake, Susan Thompson

Sunday, Feb. 27, 11:45

"Boxing as Metaphor," Michael Rivest

### Looking Ahead

Mar. 19 Goods and Services Auction

Mar. 26 Refresh Restore Retreat for Women

Apr. 8 Annual Fellowship Dinner

## News

### UU people of color conference

“So Glad We’re Here: Being Renewed in Community.” This gathering is sponsored by DRUUMM (Diverse and Religious Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries) and the Thomas Jefferson District, and is hosted by the UU Fellowship of Beaufort, SC. It will be held from February 25-27, 2011.

This is an opportunity for every UU, aged 13 and over, who identifies as a \*Person of Color along the east coast to feel a sense a belonging, experience a homecoming and some reconciliation in claiming space as UUs of color in our regions and within the UUA.

\* Person of Color refers to people who self identity on an everyday basis as being African, Hispanic/Latino/Latina, Asian, Pacific Island, Native American, middle eastern/Arab and/or of African descent.

Join us in worship, community building activities, historical overviews, updates, cultural expression and work on internalized racism. If you are interested in learning more about the conference speak with Jacqui Williams.

For a registration form go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CNWKKS>. Subsidies can be requested on the registration form but are limited.

### Lunch with the Minister

Noon, Sunday, February 27, at Kitsu 218 Central (between Robin and Lake)

Are you new to our congregation and would like to get to know our minister? Rev. Trumbore will be available on February 27 after the Sunday service for lunch and conversation about Unitarian Universalism, our congregation, religion, spirituality, philosophy, ethics, ideas ... and whatever else comes up! For January, we will meet at Kitsu Japanese Restaurant 218 Central (between Robin and Lake) on the south side of the street. **Please RSVP** by 11:30 a.m. that Sunday to Rev. Trumbore (in person; via email: [lunch@uumin.org](mailto:lunch@uumin.org); or call: 463-7135) so he'll know how many seats to reserve. NOTE! Space is limited for this to be effective so call early!

### Flyers in this issue

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

- ◆ Wine and Cheese 2011
- ◆ Commission on Appraisal
- ◆ Circle Dinner sign up form

### Major event planning before the auction

Major event planning for the 2011-2012 year will be done at the February meeting of the Program Coordinating Council. Beside our usual goal of getting our most important events onto the church calendar before rentals sign the spaces, this year we will provide the Auction committee with the Major Events calendar before the March 19 auction. This will enable auction donors of events with specific dates to avoid picking dates for which FUUSA events are already planned.

Committee chairs planning events for next year should plan on attending the February 10 PCC meeting. Be prepared with several dates for your proposed event(s), and know which rooms you will want and approximately what times you need them as room request forms will be completed on the spot! This is not to say you can't make changes closer to the time, but it will help us collect better information than we have previously.

### Who's in charge here?

#### **The complex relationship between ministry and authority**

The UUA Commission on Appraisal will be meeting in Albany and wants to hear from you Saturday, March 5th. (More information at the end of this newsletter.) They have arranged for special hotel rates Friday night if you'd like to come, stay over night, then attend their public event on Saturday (The discounted room rate they negotiated at the Hilton Garden Inn by Albany Med is available for meeting participants Friday night - \$89.38 with \$10 parking). If you are interested in attending the Commission on Appraisal event speak with Chuck Manning or Rev. Sam.

### War Healing Circle

The War Healing Circle meets at FUUSA on second and fourth Sundays at 6:00 p.m. Come listen to the stories of our Warriors and their families.

Share your own. Bear witness as we read the names of those who have fallen in Iraq and Afghanistan. Everyone is welcome: Veterans, those still in Active Duty, their spouses and families, concerned citizens having no direct family ties to our Warriors. For more information: <http://www.fuusalbany.org/warhealing.pdf>

### Chili Cook-Off award winners!!

**Best Vegetarian:** Patsy Patrick for Blue Mountain Jerk Vegan Chili

**Best Looking:** Winston Hagborg & Deborah Dewey for Chili with Sweet Potato

**Most Kid Friendly:** Meredith Andrews for Chicken and Bean Chili

### Most Unlikely Combination that Tastes

**Great:** Jerry & Janet Jones for Low Fat Turkey Chili

**Meatiest:** Tracie Tilgner for Chili with Pork and Bacon

**Spiciest:** Ken Myer for Gluten Free, Wheat Free, Lactose Free, Dairy Free Chili

### UU Buddhist convocation

The UU Buddhist Fellowship will be having their semi-annual convocation **April 8-10**. Rev. James Ford and David Rynick will be theme speakers. The event will be at the Garrison Institute in Garrison New York. For more information and how to sign up go to our web site <http://www25.uua.org/uubf/UUBFConvocation-Flyer-2011.pdf> There is an early registration deadline of Feb 14th for a discounted registration price.

### Joy Library

#### Ethical Eating Part One 2011

**Gristle: From Factory Farms to Food Safety** (*Thinking Twice About the Meat We Eat*) by Moby (Richard Melville Hall) 2010. (Moby641.36 MOB) ‘..... meat is making headlines. Contamination cases are on the rise, obesity has become pandemic, and industrial livestock farming is the cause of 20 percent of all greenhouse emissions. ... vegetarianism has moved from the fringes to the mainstream as evidence accumulates in favor of the many benefits of meatlessness. “...Moby, one of the world's most famous vegans, brings together

### New Member Sunday

On Sunday, February 6, we will welcome new members into our congregation. Newcomers who have recently signed our membership book, and others who want to join, are encouraged to come and be recognized.

Membership is open to all. To become a member of FUUSA you will start by signing an Intent to Join. There is no test of faith or belief requirement to join our community, only general agreement with the purpose of our organization. The expectations of membership are: participation on Sunday morning; involvement in and helping with our activities; and financial support of the congregation. Each expectation is flexible depending on each person's ability to participate.

One officially becomes a member by signing the membership book in the minister's office. And then we will welcome you to the congregation during the Sunday service on New Member Sunday! Please call either Kathy Hodges, Chair of the Membership Committee, or Amy Lent, Interim Membership Coordinator (at the church office, 463-7135) if you are interested in becoming a member.

ten ... leading foodies, doctors, policy makers, business leaders, and activists to create a smart, concise guide to what you should know before you eat meat. Combining hard-hitting facts with a light touch, each chapter is studded with quotes from famous vegetarians, fun facts, and other irresistible food for thought.” (*Amazon* 28 Aug 2010 )

### **Why We Love Dogs, Eat Pigs, and Wear Cows:**

**An Introduction to Carnism** by Melanie Joy, 2009 Joy, Melanie (641.36 JOY) “... Joy ...offers an absorbing examination of why humans feel affection and compassion for certain animals but are callous to the suffering of others—especially those slaughtered for our consumption. She ... investigates factory farming, exposing how cruelly the animals are treated, the hazards that meatpacking workers face, and the environmental impact of raising 10 billion animals for food each year. She uses her factory farm-to-table narrative to buttress her real thesis: meat-eating or carnism, is an oppressive ideology as noxious as racism. ... there is great value in her contention that all systems of op-

pression depend on our ability to dissociate or find elaborate rationalizations to keep from recognizing the suffering of a socially sanctioned inferior. (*Publisher's Weekly Jan.2009*),

***The CAFO Reader: The Tragedy of Industrial Animal Factories*** by Daniel Imhoff. 2010 (630 IMH ) "...essays by over 30 of today's leading thinkers on one of the most important environmental and ethical issues of our time: the rise of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, or CAFOs, where increasing amounts of the world's meat, dairy, eggs, fish, and seafood are produced. ... These essays analyze and vividly depict the devastating impacts and current conditions in and around factory farms. The collection also provides a compelling vision of "putting the CAFO out to pasture," in which food systems become more healthy, humane, and sustainable. ..." (*Amazon Tue, 14 Sep 2010*)

***In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto*** by **Michael Pollan (2008)** (613.2 POL) In ... The Omnivore's Dilemma, Pollan traced a direct line between the industrialization of our food supply and the degradation of the environment. His new book takes up ... the question of what to eat from the perspective of health, this powerfully argued, thoroughly researched and elegant manifesto cuts straight to the chase with a maxim ...: 'Eat food, not too much, mostly plants.' ... The first section ....pointing up the confluence of interests among manufacturers of processed foods, marketers and nutritional scientists - a cabal whose nutritional advice has given rise to 'a notably unhealthy preoccupation with nutrition and diet and the idea of eating healthily.' The second portion vivisects the Western diet, questioning, among other sacred cows, the idea that dietary fat leads to chronic illness. ... Pollan doesn't preach to the choir; in fact, rarely does he preach at all, preferring to let the facts speak for themselves." *Publishers Weekly*

***The Face on Your Plate: The Truth About Food*** by **Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson** 2009 (641.306 MOU ) In this revelatory work, Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson shows how food affects our moral selves, our health, and our planet. Masson investigates how denial keeps us from recognizing the animal at the end of our fork and urges readers to con-

sciously make decisions about food. (*Amazon, 24 Aug 2010*)

### **Get Connected Activity Fair Sunday, Jan. 30**

FUUSA is full of activity – lots of them are posted on boards in Channing Hall. But there are many other things that go on at FUUSA that you may not know about. Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> is your chance to "Get Connected" and find out what opportunities are available at FUUSA!

Emerson Community Hall will be set up with tables and representatives from the various groups at FUUSA – from Religious Services Committee, garden group, book groups, Oriel, and Small Group Ministry to Earth Spirits, Meditation Group, Life-span Learning, social and justice activities, Caring Network, Finance, and Religious Education Council. There is something for everyone. Come to Emerson Hall after the service on January 30<sup>th</sup> and explore the many opportunities available at FUUSA.

### **Your opinion matters!**

FUUSA's Committee on Professional Ministry (COPM) would like to hear from you. One of our responsibilities is to ensure that the professional minister—Reverend Sam Trumbore—receives feedback from the congregation on how well he's doing his job, both positive and negative.

We prefer not to receive anonymous comments, because there is no way for us to follow up to get additional information, or to put the comments in context. But, if you are uncomfortable about expressing your opinion, we will respect requests for confidentiality. We look forward to hearing from you, anytime. Committee members are:

**Mary Applegate**

**Al DeSalvo**

**Margie Eddy**

**Ben English**

**Jonathan Newell**

## Lifespan Learning

### Adult Education

Sign up for classes at the Sign Up Site in Channing Hall or call the office at 463-7135. Courses are held at FUUSA.

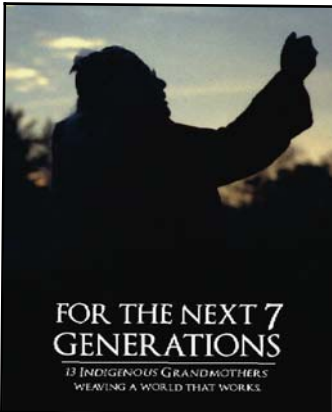
#### “Crash Course”

Mondays, Feb. 7- Mar. 28 , 5:30 – 7:00 PM

Sandy Steubing will present the “Crash Course” by Chris Martenson. This is an eight week modular course which means you can take one session or take them all. The course title is actually a misnomer in that it will help us prepare for resource depletion and financial chaos instead of crashing as a result of their occurrence. Bring your supper.

#### “For The Next 7 Generations”

Friday, Feb. 11, 7:00 PM  
Emerson Community Hall



Tom Mercer will be hosting an evening to view and discuss "For The Next 7 Generations", an inspiring film that reveals the importance of indigenous knowledge for our time.

In 2004 thirteen wise elder women shamans

from all four corners of the world, moved by their concern for our planet, came together at a historic gathering, where they decided to form an alliance: The International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers. This film is their story.

Facing a world in crisis, they share with us their visions of healing and a call for change now, before it's too late. Discussion and a free will offering in support of the work of The Grandmothers will follow the screening.

#### Childcare for viewing the film "For the Next 7 Generations"

In need of childcare to attend this film? Parent Group childcare providers will be available to watch over your child/children from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Please e-mail Paula Brewer if you plan to use the childcare provided by the Parent Group.

### Living and Teaching Ethics in Your Family

#### Parenting Workshop

Friday, Feb. 18

Desserts at 6:30 PM, program from 7:00—8:30 PM

Channing Hall, Childcare available upon request

Facilitated by Leah Purcell

Whether we like it or not, everything we do teaches values.

Using the work of Dale McGowen, author of Raising Freethinkers, we'll each look at

our own core values and parenting styles, and learn ways to help children develop their internal moral compasses. We'll practice activities you can use right away at home to set up and sustain a framework to practice ethics with reason and compassion.

#### UU Identity for parents and children and youth

Multigenerational discussion with Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Strong

Sunday, Feb. 20, after the service

How well we articulate our faith for ourselves and for our children and youth is a major factor in how well we support our congregations, develop our own sustaining faith, and how well we can help our children choose to stay within our faith communities as Unitarian Universalists. There will be practice time and all ages will be welcome. There will be time for different age groups to work together and then a time when everyone will share what they have experienced.

A light lunch of vegan soup and bread will be served in the Emerson Alcove after the service and before Rev. Strong's multigenerational discussion, which starts at 12:00

#### Living simply with children

On Friday, February 11 the Parent Group will meet to eat and discuss this topic. Potluck dinner occurs from 6 to 7 p.m., please bring a dish to pass and a beverage. The Living Simply with Children discussion follows at 7 to 8:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided. Please e-mail Paula Brewer if you plan to attend the dinner and or discussion group.

*"It likely comes as no surprise that the morality of adults reflects their moral education as children. What may surprise some, given traditional beliefs about moral education, is which kind of moral education leads to which result"*  
Molleen Matsumura, from Raising Freethinkers

## Our Community

6 to 9 at 6:09

### Join us for a Circle Dinner!

Our next circle dinner will be Saturday, **February 19**. Circle dinners are potluck meals for six to nine people held at various houses throughout the Capital District. You can sign up to be either a host or a guest. Dinner host/guest assignments will be made by Feb. 12 and hosts will be given their list of dinner guests. Then each host will contact each of their guests with food to bring assignment and directions to their home.

If you sign up to be a host, please put the date on your calendar to remind yourself that you have made this commitment! If you are willing to be either host or guest, sign up for both!

Sign up forms are available in Channing Hall and are due by February 5. If you have questions contact Amy Lent at the church office (463-7135.)

### Know your FUUSA neighbors!

We are expanding the Google map started by Sandy Steubing to include other uses beside carpooling.

*Think of this*—one Sunday you're sick, but your child wants to go to R.E. Who lives near you that might be able to give your child a ride? Check the FUUSA Neighbors map.

*Or this*—you're inspired to start a neighborhood potluck, but don't know who lives nearby. Check the FUUSA Neighbors map.

*Or this*—You need to find prospective babysitters that live in your neighborhood. Check the FUUSA Neighbors map.

*Or this*—You would indeed like to save some gas, and want to carpool occasionally. Check the FUUSA Neighbors map.

Whether it's giving or getting help in an emergency, sharing tools, or having a cup of coffee together, it's nice to know who's nearby.

The map is only accessible to members and friends of FUUSA who have agreed to be listed on

## Saturday, February 5 DOUBLEHEADER

### Elegant Italian Dinner

6:00 pm

Channing Hall

Tickets:

\$25.00 per person



Menu:

- Tuscan bean soup
- Gourmet ravioli with homemade sauce
- Bread
- Salad
- Dessert
- Wine and other beverages

*To benefit the Rite of Passage trip to Boston*

### Karaoke and Open Mike Night

7:00 - 9:30 pm

Emerson Community Hall



Admission:

\$10/person

\$4/children under 10  
(Family max \$20)

Beverages and light snacks included  
in admission  
with pizza available for a small fee.

*Sponsored by the Music Committee*

it. Sandy Steubing will manage the list, and add names as you give them to her, and send you a link so you can access the map. She will confirm with the office that each person is indeed a member or friend of FUUSA. AND, if you decide at any time that you do not wish to be listed on the map any longer, she will remove your name.

You can ask Sandy about it at coffee hour, or at the Get Connected Activity Fair on January 30, or call her. You can sign up anytime at the Sign Up Site in Channing Hall.

### Channing Circle

#### Feb. 21

Our next Channing Circle will be on Monday, February 21 at noon. Abby Sugarman will again lead our annual Poetry Reading. Bring your own poem, or a favorite one to share with others. Peg Slocum and Marion Tischler will bring the desserts to go along with your own sandwiches or salads. Save the date.

### Spirituality Book Club

#### Feb. 6

The Spirituality Book Club is discussing Anam Cara by John O'Donohue at Mary Baker's house in Delmar on February 6 at 2 p.m.

"It is strange to be here. The mystery never leaves you alone. Behind your image, below your words, above your thoughts, the silence of another world waits." from Anam Cara

Please come even if you haven't read the book. It is about Celtic Spirituality. Contact Philomena Moriarty for more details.

### Walker Book Club

#### Feb. 13

The next meeting of the Walker book club is Sunday, February 13, at FUUSA at 5:30 p.m. in Channing Hall.

Each meeting begins with a potluck supper, followed by a lively discussion of the book of the month chosen by participants. Newcomers are always welcome. Bring your favorite dish to share, and a small contribution to cover beverages. Winston Hagborg will bring wine. Larry Gambino will make coffee and tea and will close up after the

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



Our Pastoral Care Associates have been trained in compassionate listening skills and are available to all members and friends of our congregation. To contact a Pastoral Care Associate, email [listeners@albanyuu.org](mailto:listeners@albanyuu.org), contact Reverend Sam Trumbore, the FUUSA office at 518-463-7135, or one of them personally. They are: Jon Newell, Phil Rich, Sharon Babala, Jan Satin, Jean Bolgatz, Randy Rosette, Mark Yolles and Robin Miller.

meeting. Participants may choose between two alternatives: either bring their own dishes, drinking vessels and eating utensils or use FUUSA's dishes and help with the dishwasher.

Dates and books currently scheduled:

- ◆ Feb. 13, 2011 – Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foer.
- ◆ Mar. 13, 2011 - People of the Whale by Linda Hogan.
- ◆ Apr. 10, 2011 – The Imperfectionists by Tom Rachman.

Contact Linda Hunt with any questions or for a list of books suggested by participants for future months.

### CommUUnity Potlucks

*FUUSAns meet occasionally in members' homes in various neighborhoods for a potluck dinner. Newcomers are always welcome! Call the church office if you would like to host a potluck.*

### “Guilderland Plus” will meet in Voorheesville

The Guilderland Plus pot luck group will meet on Friday, **Feb. 18**, at 6:30, at the home of Lois Griffin in Voorheesville. Please, call her for directions and to discuss what dish to share.



## Joys and Caring Corner

**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@fuusalba.ny.org).

***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 Ann Lapinski or Mary Ann Randall.*

### Social Justice

As I think about honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., my thoughts turn to what we, as ordinary citizens, can do to make life more fair. We were reminded by Rev. Weissbard in his sermon on January 9 about the importance of being fair and the responsibility to make things fair. One of the earliest protests that we hear from our children is "That's not fair!" As we grow older, we recognize that life, indeed, is not fair. But do we stop protesting and just accept that condition?

I believe we at FUUSA try to make things fair. If you stop by the many tables under the umbrella of SRC on January 30 at "Get Connected Sunday," you can get an idea of the many ways we attempt this. There are direct aids to those needing help, and there are the opportunities for advocacy. We can provide some food for the hungry, but we also need to address those conditions that lead to people not being able to buy food. We urge you to sign those letters and petitions and take the actions to support our ideals. Be sure to visit our many tables. I will be looking for you January 30.

Standing on the Side of Love, Lois Griffin

#### Forum

**Feb. 13, 11:45 a.m. Hospice "101,"** an introduction to the philosophy and services of The Community Hospice. Donald Stake, Public Relations Specialist for Hospice, will give an overview of the or-

ganization, a brief history of hospice care, and how they serve individuals and families. Susan Thompson, Hospice volunteer and FUUSA member, will discuss hospice care from her perspective, what she does as a volunteer, and the variety of volunteer services.

**Feb. 27 11:45 a.m. "Boxing as Metaphor"** with Michael Rivest, a Times-Union sportswriter and former UCC minister who writes about and promotes training inner city youth in boxing for character building and facing life's challenges in a constructive way.

**Future Forums:** If you have suggestions for topics and presenters for future Forums, please contact Karen Kaufman.

#### **Save the date – walk with the world!**

The CROP Hunger Walk is coming up on Sunday, May 1. Save the date, and help make this our biggest, best Walk team ever. Watch for sign-ups and pledges at coffee hours starting in April. Join us in voting with our feet for a better world. See Dawn Dana with any questions.

#### **Focus Food Pantry**

Our January 2 contributions totaled \$345.00 . Many families will benefit from FUUSA's generosity. In other news, Jane Allen and Lois Thomson will be retiring from many years on the Focus Food Pantry Board of Directors. Renee Panetta, long-

time member of FUUSA, faithful volunteer at the food pantry and the Focus breakfast program and a very capable woman, will serve on the Board. We need to have another FUUSA member to serve on the Board with Renee. The job is interesting and not very time-consuming. The members of the Board are very pleasant and dedicated people representing several of our neighborhood churches. If you are interested, please contact Lois Thomson or Jane Allen. Many thanks and Happy New Year. Jane Allen & Lois Thomson

### Green Sanctuary news

The Green Sanctuary Committee will meet on Sunday, February 20 at 11:45 a.m in Room B-7. Come join us.

Sandy Steubing will be leading an eight week course titled "Crash Course" starting on Monday night, February 14 at 5:30 to 7 p.m. in Room B-8.

We continue to recycle ink cartridges, cell phones, corks and sneakers. Long lasting LED night lights with sensors are now available at the SRC table for sale along with information on water use, energy efficient ideas etc.

### Partner Church update

For many years FUUSA has had a partner church in Szőkefalva, a small village in Transylvania. (Szőke means "blond" and falva means "village".) Formerly part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Transylvania was ceded to Romania at the end of WW I. The culture is still mostly Hungarian. It became part of the "East Bloc" after WW II. After "the Wall" came down, members of the UUA went to Transylvania to determine how the Unitarian Church had fared under the vicious regime of Ceaucescu. The Partner Church program was established shortly thereafter.

FUUSA has had quite a few programs in conjunction with the Szőkefalva church. Perhaps the most notable was when Peggy Slocum taught English there for several months even before she was a member of FUUSA! Since then we have sent Bob and Bethyl Mayer there. Bob taught English there and helped start a computer program in the nearby village of Galfalva, where the Szőkefalva kids went to school. We have sent other visitors there and brought several members of their con-

gregation to visit FUUSA. Recently Rev. Sam visited Romania, including our partner church.

One highlight of the FUUSA Choir's trip last summer was a day spent in Szőkefalva. Several members of the choir spent Saturday night with host families from the congregation, including the new minister Sándor Kiss and his wife Zsuzsa. The choir arrived Sunday morning, sang during the church service and performed a short concert in the village's community hall. They were then treated to an incredible festival given by the congregation in their honor. It was truly a day to be remembered forever.

One result of the visit was that a number of the choir members have joined the Partner Church Committee. We heard from Rev. Kiss that FUUSA's financial assistance helped renovate the parsonage and an adjoining meeting hall during the past year or so. This past summer the congregation replaced the roofing on the church largely with volunteer labor using materials purchased with a grant from the Bishop's office. Future plans include renovating the exterior and interior of the church, replacing the windows, replacing the fences around the parsonage and at the cemetery. All of these repairs, and more yet to come, are badly needed. Given the size of the village and the congregation, the difficulty of being a religious and ethnic minority in their country, and these tough economic times, they need all the help they can find.

The Partner Church committee will have a table at the Get Connected activity fair on Sunday, Jan. 30. Stop by and talk to some of the members. Maybe you'd even like to join the committee!

### Overflow Shelter Meals

Please consider volunteering to help cook a meal for the Overflow Homeless Shelter in February, March or April. We cook on the second and fourth Mondays of those months in FUUSA's kitchen from 3:45 till 6:30 p.m. We need one person to help the coordinator each time with the cooking and delivering. If you are unable to volunteer at that time but would like to help, please consider contributing salad or dessert (for 25) and delivering it to FUUSA (well-labeled) on Sunday or Monday before 5:30.

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Chan-

ning. You will be reminded a few days before that Monday.

Thanks to those who have already volunteered this season! Questions? Call or e-mail Barb Cooley

. Thanks! Barb

**News from Interfaith Impact of New York State**  
The January 2011 issue of the IINYS Newsletter is now available online (<http://www.interfaithimpactnys.org/>), and copies are available on the SRC bulletin board in Channing Hall. It addresses a number of issues of importance

to all who want to have a progressive religious voice in the halls of New York State government.

**Save the date:** Interfaith Impact/Reform Jewish Voice Advocacy Day is May 16, 2011. Your presence and your voice does count. The Legislature needs to see you and hear from you. Please put this on your calendar now.

Please join Interfaith Impact of New York State today! Show your support for this progressive religious advocacy community today. Go to <http://www.interfaithimpactnys.org/> to join online.

Questions? Please contact Don Odell FUUSA's IINYS liaison

## Columns

### Sam's Outlook

#### Eating Matters

What I eat matters a lot to me. At the most basic level, I have dietary sensitivities. Foods with milk sugar (lactose) irritate the lining of my intestine and can make me very ill. Another group of foods just don't digest well and cause intestinal discomfort. Even small amounts of some food additives can cause me digestive distress. So I'm very careful when I eat anything that I don't prepare myself, striving to maintain excellent digestive health.

But this attention to food has also sensitized me to food issues on another level. I've become interested in where my food comes from, how the food is grown and harvested, how it is transported to my local market, how it is prepared for me, and how any waste in the whole process is dealt with. I'm curious to know the effect on nutrition at each stage of the process from seed to my mouth.

I don't just think about what goes into my mouth, but in the other almost seven billion human mouths on this planet. What goes into my mouth may affect the lives and livelihoods of people half-way around the world. I think of every food purchase as a vote for the way this whole process works. If I choose to buy ethically and sustainably raised vegetables, grains and meats, in my small way, I'm having an impact on the whole food system. If I eat fast food without inquiring how that food was produced, I'm having a different impact.

The Unitarian Universalist Association has been thinking about this for the last two years, and its Commission on Social Witness has assembled a "Statement of Conscience" that will be considered at our yearly General Assembly June meeting. You can read it by following this link:

<http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/ethicaleating>

I'll be speaking about two aspects of ethical eating the last Sunday in January and the first Sunday of February. I'm reproducing some of the UUA statement here to get us thinking about what it would mean to each of us if it passed in June. Here are the personal commitments the statement advocates for adoption:

We covenant to buy or raise food for ourselves and our families that:

- ◆ minimizes the pain and suffering of food animals by purchasing meat produced under humane conditions, such as free-range grass-fed beef, free-range chickens and turkeys, free-range produced chicken eggs, pigs not restrained in gestation or farrowing crates, fish and crustaceans responsibly farmed or sustainably caught;
- ◆ minimizes the negative environmental effects of raising animal or plant food organisms by purchasing organically-produced food, and fish and crustaceans certified responsibly farmed;
- ◆ requires a minimum of transport to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, unless purchase of organic products at a distance offers better treatment of animals or social benefits;

- ◆ supports a fair trade organization that meets Social Accountability Standard 8000, and its successors;
- ◆ includes food products certified as organic by a federal or state agency, as personal finances allow;
- ◆ is healthy and in quantities that do not lead to obesity; and
- ◆ increases our consumption of organisms lower on food chains.

We covenant to advocate for the benefit of food organisms, food workers, the environment and humanity by:

- ◆ asking food sellers where their products come from, what the treatment of food animals is, how the workers are treated, and how the surrounding environment is protected;
- ◆ telling food sellers that we will buy and pay more for food that treats food animals humanely, treats workers fairly, and protects the environment;
- ◆ helping to prevent hunger in our communities;
- ◆ continuing to press food stores to require suppliers to certify humane food animal treatment; and
- ◆ contacting federal and state representatives to support the distribution of adequate ethical food supplies to those needing it in the United States and worldwide.

What do you think?

Rev. Sam

## **Chuck's Chat**

My original plan for this column was to write about New Year's resolutions. Then as I was flying to San Diego for a vacation, the shootings in Tucson occurred. It was one of those classic disconnect situations that I have felt from both sides. When a close friend dies, why doesn't the world stop and mourn? When there is news of a tragic event, why don't I stop and mourn? I was arriving in warm and balmy San Diego without a care in the world and six people were dead and many were wounded in Tucson. A very troubled only child had become his parents' worst nightmare. What should I do? This was further complicated because Barb and I were travelling with another cou-

ple. The husband has early on-set Alzheimer's and is easily agitated by unsettling events. We made the decision to continue our vacation as planned and proceeded to have a wonderful time (but at times I still felt guilty for not feeling more.)

We did follow the news. We were encouraged by the news of Representative Gifford's survival and continuing improvement. We were deeply touched by the eulogies for the other victims, especially nine year old Christina Green. But our abstract observation of events seemed a little hollow.

When we returned, I began to think more about the Tucson tragedy. What did my UU faith have to offer? I read Rev. Sam's first blogs on the topic and was deeply touched. He shared his feelings of mourning for the victims first and then he re-visited the issue during his remarks at the Capital Area Council of Churches' Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 38th Annual Interfaith Memorial Service. If you have not read these, I suggest you do. (<http://blog.timesunion.com/trumbore/>). On January 9, the day of the shooting, he wrote:

"Right now, I'm focused on grieving the loss of life and the injuries that Loughner caused. I'm grieving we live in a world that has weapons that can create this kind of destruction. I grieve whatever happened or didn't happen as Loughner was growing up to shape him into the kind of person who would commit an act like this. I grieve for Loughner's family because their lives have just been completely destroyed by his actions. I grieve any amplification of anger of one side against another that this violence may create."

At the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Service he said:

"We gather to honor a man of non-violence in the shadow of violence. One week ago, six people lost their lives and 14 were injured by a crazed man with a gun. We wouldn't be here this evening if a crazed man with a gun hadn't taken Dr. King's life. How many times must we gather and count our dead before we start taking guns away from crazy men? How many times must we point out that violent talk and imagery lead to violent actions? How long will it be before our nation really hears Dr. King's message of non-violence?"

Reading these two blogs written from the depth of

a UU/Buddhist perspective helped me frame the events in my own mind.

Then I read the long article in today's New York Times about Jared Loughner. Here is a troubled soul who tried many times to reach out to people in his pain and was rebuffed. It is so easy now to "connect the dots" and ask, why didn't someone see this coming? The problem, I expect, is that Jared's behavior was always viewed as "his" problem. On January 9, it became "our" problem in a terrible way.

Sam's words and other reflections that I read at the UUA website have helped me deal with my personal response to this tragedy. So I come back to my original idea of a New Year's Resolution and offer the words of Rev. Peter Morales, "First, we must respond with acts of tenderness. Then we must join hands to create a culture where violence has no place." As a beloved community of caring people, I would hope that we could use these words as our resolution for the coming year.

Standing on the Side of Love,

Chuck

## Religious Exploration

### Goals and projects for youth in service

The CRUUNY DRE's are hatching some very exciting ideas around youth and service. One idea is organizing and supporting a service trip for senior youth and adults to the Justice General Assembly in Arizona in June of 2012. The other is starting a CRUUNY Junior Youth group for grades six, seven and eight.

CRUUNY (Capital Region UU's of New York) is the four local congregations – Albany, Schenectady, Saratoga Springs and Glens Falls and the newly forming congregation in Clifton Park, which now has the name Congregation of Two Rivers. The DRE's of Schenectady, Saratoga and Glens Falls and I have been meeting for over two years. We hope to involve people from Two Rivers interested in RE soon, as well. We share ideas and give each other support. Recently, Melissa MacKinnon, DRE of Schenectady, proposed a CRUUNY service trip. She is part of the group of local UU's planning a second service trip to New Orleans this year. Her enthusiasm and knowledge inspired the rest of us

to start working with each of our congregations to plan to take our youth and some adults to "Justice GA" as a CRUUNY group.

In a letter released June 10, Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA, said, "I dream of a GA where we reflect theologically upon what it means to be a faith that can cross the borders of race, class, and culture." You can read about how the decision was made *not* to boycott the UU General Assembly in Arizona, and instead to create a "Justice GA" in the Winter Edition of UU World. <http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/167428.shtml>. Each year, regardless of the focus of the GA, there are planned, structured activities for high school youth. Now, with the focus of the 2012 GA on justice-making, and with the help of our local UU's it looks like this will be a good opportunity for us at FUUSA to make a youth/adult social justice trip happen. I'll publicize our plans as things start rolling. If you think you might be

interested in supporting our youth by coming on the trip, let me know. There will also be opportunities for people who are not going on the trip to support those who are.

You may recall that Rev. Sam and I hosted a Junior Youth group at FUUSA last year for our then eighth and ninth graders. Our goal was to keep these young people connected with each other, with the congregation and with UU-ism. I think that having the Junior Youth group is one reason why so many of those youth are now part

### Bringing It Home

Parents, don't wait until your children are older to teach them compassion and justice work. The focus of the Winter 2010 Edition of UU World section for Families gives strategies on empowering even very young children to care and act. Here's a summary of "How to Empower a Giving Child."

LOOK for service opportunities every family member can decide in.

DECIDE together.

TURN "teachable moments" in to "actionable opportunities".

LOOK beneath a problem's surface.

READ "The Power of Half" by Kevin Salwen and Hannah Salwen (a father and daughter)

More at [http://www.uua.org/documents/uuworld/families/10\\_winter.pdf](http://www.uua.org/documents/uuworld/families/10_winter.pdf)

of our Senior High group. My CRUUNY colleagues also see the value of working to keep our Jr. High Youth connected and in helping them get involved in social justice projects. So we'd like to start a CRUUNY Junior Youth group. This group will be for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. Our first event will be overnight to be held at FUUSA on Thursday, April 21 and Friday, the 22, which is week of April break. We'd like to do a local service project on Thursday afternoon and then come to FUUSA. We'll have supper, and then pre-planned activities, learning experiences and worship that night. Then we'll have breakfast and clean up. Let me know if you're interested in helping with the service project or the meals or the overnight. One of our goals for the Junior Youth Group is to foster within our young UU's an interested in participating in a service trip when they enter the Senior High groups of their congregations. We'd like the Justice GA next year to be the first of many service trips.

Of course I will need your help and support! Next year Rev. Sam and I plan to lead another Rite of Passage program (for all those youth who were eighth graders in the Junior Youth group last year.) That means that we'll have Rite of Passage youth and mentors raising money to go to Boston in May, and Senior High youth and adults raising money to go to Justice GA in June. It means that we'll need some adult volunteers to serve as Rite of Passage mentors and some to serve as participants in the trip to Justice GA and some more to serve as volunteers to work with the Junior Youth group. If we undertake this, it will be huge – a huge commitment and investment, but also the possibility for a huge impact in the social justice work of our congregation, in making multigenerational connections, and in the ethical and faith development of our youth and of adults as well.

In joy and service,  
Leah

**Deadline Extension!**

Please note that the deadline for submissions to the **Oriel**—FUUSA's literary magazine—has been extended to February 6.

Submissions for art, poetry and prose can be sent to [oriel@albanyuu.org](mailto:oriel@albanyuu.org). E-mail questions to Irene Saulsbery.

**February Sunday Volunteer Opportunities**—*Sign up in Channing Hall at the Sign Up Site.*

	Lead Usher (1)	Ushers (3)	Coffee Hosts (2)	Greeters (2)	Chalice Lighter (1)
Feb. 6					
Feb. 13	A. D'Attilio			B. Manning	
Feb. 20					
Feb. 27					

## Contact Us

Board of Trustees 2010-2011

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

### Executive Committee

Chuck Manning, President  
Peg Sherman, Vice President  
Dave Metz, Treasurer  
Donna Meixner, Secretary

### Trustees

Debbie Brown  
Dick Dana  
Donna Doran  
Todd Gray  
Randy Rosette  
Dave Street

### Ex-officio Members

Sam Trumbore, Minister  
Molly Daniels, Chair Religious Education Council  
Lois Griffin, Chair Social Responsibilities Council

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

Mike Babala, Assistant Treasurer

### Staff

#### Minister

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

#### Church Administrator, interim Membership

#### Coordinator

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

#### Director of Religious Education

Leah Purcell      [dre@albanyuu.org](mailto:dre@albanyuu.org)

#### Music Director

Matt Edwards

#### Administrative Assistant/Sexton

David Stone      [sexton@albanyuu.org](mailto:sexton@albanyuu.org)

#### Rental Agent

Lynne Lekakis      [kaneandlekakis@gmail.com](mailto:kaneandlekakis@gmail.com)

#### Custodian

Olga Oja

### Regular meeting days

Check current calendar for time and location

Board of Trustees, 3rd Thursday

Program Coordinating Council, 2nd Thursday

### First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

**Phone:** 518.463.7135

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

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

**Parking:** Parking is available on the street. On Sundays (and for some special events) FUUSA has permission to use the University at Albany's downtown campus parking lots: the Hawley Lot on Robin Street at Washington Avenue and the Thurlow Terrace Lot on Western Avenue.

### Office hours

September-June: Monday-Friday, 9:00-4:00

July-August: Monday-Thursday 9:00-12:00

### Building use

To **reserve a room** for a FUUSA activity, contact Administrative Assistant Dave Stone (463-7135 or [dstone@albanyuu.org](mailto:dstone@albanyuu.org)).

To **rent classroom space** for a personal or non-FUUSA activity, contact Administrative Assistant Dave Stone (463-7135 or [dstone@albanyuu.org](mailto:dstone@albanyuu.org)).

To **rent one of the large halls** or plan for an event that will use both halls and classrooms for a personal or non-FUUSA activity, contact Rental Agent Lynne Lekakis (427-7386 or [kaneandlekakis@gmail.com](mailto:kaneandlekakis@gmail.com)).

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

*Editors:* Amy Lent, Irene Saulsbery

*Photos:* Chris Strebel

*Send all submissions to:*

[Windows@albanyuu.org](mailto:Windows@albanyuu.org) or to the church office.

### Next publication deadlines

February *Update:* Feb. 7

March *Windows:* Feb. 21

# 6 to 9 at 6:09

## Circle Dinner

6:09 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 19

### YES, I would like to attend

Name(s) attending \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you: \_\_\_\_\_ need a ride \_\_\_\_\_ can't drive too far

If so, please tell us which town/city do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_

If a vegetarian dinner is offered at one of the homes, would you choose that? \_\_\_\_\_

### YES, I would like to be a host

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Maximum # GUESTS you can accommodate \_\_\_\_\_

Location: which town/city do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_

Can you accept children at your dinner? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want the meal at your home to be vegetarian? \_\_\_\_\_

**Last day to sign up: Feb. 5**

**Please put this completed form** in the Circle Dinner pocket on the Sign Up Site board in Channing Hall.

**You can also sign up by email:** contact Martha Musser at [mmusser@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mmusser@nycap.rr.com). Questions: Amy Lent at the church office (463-7135)

You will be contacted by email (preferred) or phone to let you know which host's dinner you will be attending. This is a potluck meal. Your host will contact you with food to bring assignment and directions.

# 6 to 9 at 6:09

## Circle Dinner

6:09 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 19

### YES, I would like to attend

Name(s) attending \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you: \_\_\_\_\_ need a ride \_\_\_\_\_ can't drive too far

If so, please tell us which town/city do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_

If a vegetarian dinner is offered at one of the homes, would you choose that? \_\_\_\_\_

### YES, I would like to be a host

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Maximum # GUESTS you can accommodate \_\_\_\_\_

Location: which town/city do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_

Can you accept children at your dinner? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want the meal at your home to be vegetarian? \_\_\_\_\_

**Last day to sign up: Feb. 5**

**Please put this completed form** in the Circle Dinner pocket on the Sign Up Site board in Channing Hall.

**You can also sign up by email:** contact Martha Musser at [mmusser@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mmusser@nycap.rr.com). Questions: Amy Lent at the church office (463-7135)

You will be contacted by email (preferred) or phone to let you know which host's dinner you will be attending. This is a potluck meal. Your host will contact you with food to bring assignment and directions.



# Who's In Charge Here?

## The Complex Relationship between Ministry and Authority

A Study by the Unitarian Universalist Association Commission on Appraisal

### Background

There are lots of groups in our Association looking at different kinds of ministry right now. The Commission on Appraisal, in our role as an independent body charged with deep discernment, is taking up the questions that go a layer deeper. What is ministry, anyway? Where do any of us - lay or ordained - get the authority to do ministry?

### This study will address questions such as:

Given the unique religious heritage of Unitarian Universalism, our congregational polity, and our diverse present, where does ministerial authority within Unitarian Universalist congregations come from?

- What does ministry mean? Why do we call work done by clergy or laity "ministry"?
- From where do lay and ordained ministers draw the authority to minister? What makes someone a minister?
- How is authority exercised in our congregations, and how does it relate to the meaning of ministry?
- Is a lack of understanding of authority partly responsible for keeping congregations and our Association small?
- How can we comprehend a source of authority which is grounded in our covenantal faith and that leads us towards health and growth?

As with all Commission on Appraisal reports, this one is designed to take time. We will be working for the next three years on this project, so that when we are ready to give our report, it will be a work of depth and conviction.

We will start by using a focus group model to gather information about ministry and authority from a variety of people and groups within Unitarian Universalism. We want to hear from ministers, music ministers, religious educators, and lay leaders. We want to hear from Unitarian Universalists whose different relationships to social privilege impact their relationships to authority. We want to hear from those doing the work of ministry, lay and ordained, within our Association. We want to hear from you.

Then, we'll be looking for a few case-studies to consider in depth. We'll be listening for those stories and situations which highlight the ways authority and ministry are related in our Association. We will be listening for the stories that will allow us to go deeper.

And then, we'll let you know what we've found!

We are deeply excited about this study, and we hope you join us along the way!

***The UUA Commission on Appraisal will be meeting in Albany Saturday, March 5th and wants to hear from you.***

*They have arranged for special hotel rates Friday night if you'd like to come, stay over night, then attend their public event on Saturday (The discounted room rate they negotiated at the Hilton Garden Inn by Albany Med is available for meeting participants Friday night - \$89.38 with \$10 parking).*



# Wine and Cheese 2011

Saturday, February 26, 2011

7:00 pm, Channing Hall

## **Celebrate the profound, rich simplicity of cheese, wine and bread**

This year, FUUSA's fifth annual Wine and Cheese tasting will turn to featuring artisan cheeses from a single country – Switzerland. Eric Paul will share with us new artisan cheeses, made high in the Alps, and discuss the cheese-making traditions of the region. Many of these cheeses have only become available in the United States in the last few years. Swiss cheese is now more than Emmentaler and Gruyere. There will be five artisan cheeses carefully paired with delectable wines.

**Cost: \$25.** Extra cheese and wine will be sold at end of the event, and all proceeds will go to the FUUSA General Fund.

**Sign up** on Sundays in Channing Hall, or call 453-1307 to make your reservations.