

Windows Update

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

Mid-January, 2009

Minister

Rev. Sam Trumbore

President

Linda Way

Church Administrator

Amy Lent

Director of Religious Education

Leah Purcell

Religious Education

Director Emerita

Ann D'Attilio

Music Director

Matt Edwards

Membership Coordinator

Lynne Lekakis

Administrative Assistant/Sexton

David Stone

Custodian

Olga Oja

Publication deadlines

Feb. *Windows*: Jan. 20

Feb. *Update*: Feb. 2

Newsletter of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

Lunch with President Obama

January 20

Can't go to the inaugural in Washington? Then come watch it here with your friends at FUUSA! We'll be projecting the event on a big screen in Channing Hall starting at 11:30 am Tuesday, Jan. 20, with Call to Order and Welcoming Remarks by Senator Dianne Feinstein, with the swearing in at noon followed by Barack Obama's first address to the nation as President. Bring your lunch and watch history in the making!

**Dream Catcher Circles
report on page 2**

Conversation with the District

Futures Team

February 1

Please come to a conversation after the service on February 1 to meet with Jeanne Crane, the St. Lawrence District's Planning Consultant. Jeanne will be facilitating a discussion as part of the work of the District's Futures Team. Many of you know Jeanne from leadership school and as a trainer of Small Group Ministry facilitators.

FUUSA is a member of the St. Lawrence District, which is a group of 34 UU congregations in upstate New York and northern Pennsylvania. The District's mission is to serve its member congregations, develop connections between those congregations, and grow Unitarian Universalism. The District has created a Futures Team and charged it to develop a five-year plan for the District to meet the present and emerging needs of our congregations.

Futures, continued on pg. 4

Board notes

In keeping with the tradition of a December joint Board/PCC* meeting, the Board of Trustees and the Program Coordinating Council enjoyed dinner (thank you Lynne Lekakis for all the arrangements!), held a brief meeting, and participated in a program together on December 18.

At the business meeting the Board and PCC agreed to place in nomination for UUA President the names of both declared candidates, Peter Morales and Laurel Hallman. The UUA has a specific nominating process to enable candidates to be on the ballot at General Assembly in June 2009; and formally placing these names in nomination was our way of participating in this required process. Many boards and congregations submit nominations for both candidates, as the nomination is not in itself an endorsement of candidacy. To find out more about each candidate you can visit the website of the UUA (www.uua.org/aboutus/governance/elections/president) or the websites of the two candidates (www.moralesforuupresident.org and www.LaurelHallman.com).

The program portion of the evening focused on white privilege and racism, an issue that the Board has begun to examine for its own consciousness raising. A springboard for discussion was a segment of the DVD *Now is the Time* produced by the UUA. Thoughtful questions and comments, including personal reflections and experiences, followed. The Board's goal for this program was to engage more of the leadership in an exploration of what it means to have unearned white privilege in our society today; a difficult and yet important issue. The group agreed that building this awareness is

Board notes, continued on pg. 4

Dream Catcher Circles report

By Allison Lattin and Pam Collins

As our Strategic Planning initiative moves into the New Year, FUUSAs may be wondering what the “Dream Catchers” committee has accomplished. While there are many aspects of FUUSA that we want to consider before we’re finished, for now we’d like to report on the results of the Dream Catcher Circles that many of you participated in during the month of October.

Approximately 90 people participated in these circles, gathering mostly in people’s homes, sharing desserts and discussing the questions the committee hoped would help people think deeply about their experience with FUUSA and their dreams for the future. While the committee had hoped to hear from more of our friends and members than we did, many of those who participated left the circles feeling reconnected and recommitted to FUUSA.

As to the results of the discussions, we found that, on the one hand, many of us shared similar experiences and perspectives, while on the other hand, there were some exciting new insights about the future potential for our congregation.

So...what were the results?

To the question of ***What is most satisfying to FUUSAs***, we heard the following (with the estimated number of responses in parenthesis):

- Sense of community (37)
- Congregation has interesting and talented people who serve as role models (20)
- Connection with core beliefs with the congregation (16)
- Sense of belonging (12)
- Orientation to social justice work and service to the community (10)
- Religious education (both adult and children) (8)

To question #2, ***What do you long for in a religious community***, we heard:

- Connections with others in the congregation (44)
- Greater opportunities for spiritual engagement; in Sunday service and at other times (21)
- To have other people participate more (16)
- More music (15)
- Diversity in worship: other traditions and new practices (14)

For questions #3, ***What are we, as members of the FUUSA community, called by our UU values to do in this time and place***, the responses included:

- Spread our message; “being the beacon” (45)
- Social Justice and service to others (37)
- Involvement in our neighborhood (22)
- Support each other in our congregation (14)

Finally, in response to question #4, ***Where might we be willing to direct our energies to further our dreams***, we heard:

- Build connection in the congregation (15)
- Serve on already present committees (10)
- Religious education across the life-span (7)
- Make the congregation stronger (6)
- Engage others “to-do” (6)
- Social, environmental, political action (5)

We recognize that not everything everyone said (or thought) is captured here, nor are our numbers definitive, but serve as indicators of the distribution of the congregation’s thoughts and feelings. (If there are glaring omissions, we need to hear from folks so we can get as representative a picture as is humanly possible). What we’ve gathered so far is a starting place for our committee and seems to collect into four major themes: community, spirituality, so-

cial justice, and spreading the UU word.

Now that we’ve shared what we’ve heard from you, we’d like to share with you some of our thinking and the questions that have been raised in our minds as we’ve pored over this information.

Our next step then, is to come back to the congregation for deeper, more focused discussions on what we’ve learned. We started by casting the net wide, now we need to analyze what it is we’ve gathered and we need the help of the congregation to do that. We’ll be planning events in the coming months that we hope will invite a large participation and provide us with more specifics on those dream catcher circle responses. We also hope to do this with different formats to keep the process dynamic. MOST IMPORTANTLY, we want to hear from as many people as possible. People do NOT need to have participated in the Dream Catcher Circles to participate in the next round of input. The four major themes that emerged are pretty general. How we will come together to envision them as a congregation is what we’ve yet to discover.

The committee is also working on interviews with community stakeholders, collecting demographics of the congregation, visiting other churches and considering FUUSA’s history -- on all of which you will hear reports in the near future.

Any comments you would like to share with us can be sent to our e-mail address:
dreamcatchers@albanyuu.org.

Focus Food Pantry

Our December donations to the Focus Food Pantry totaled \$604! What a great, generous group we are! With the winter upon us, our help is most welcomed. Many thanks. Our next donations will be taken on Sunday, January 25.

Social Responsibilities Council

Work continues on SRC's Inner City and Community Outreach, Green Sanctuary (our environmental committee), Criminal Justice and Prison Reform, Emergency Shelter Meals (with thanks to those who have helped to prepare and deliver these meals) and Forum. In addition:

- We are exploring the congregation's interest in 'adopting' or co-adopting a refugee family (January 25 Forum presentation and discussion).
- We'll be helping to gather congregational feedback on the UUA's proposed Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking (copies of the proposed statement and a questionnaire will be at the SRC table during coffee hour).
- We're planning some letter writing in support of single payer universal healthcare in keeping with the June 2008 Action of Immediate Witness on this issue.
- We continue to explore and support, with enthusiasm, the possibility of hosting a summer youth program here at FUUSA.

If you have questions, would like more information about SRC, or are

interested in becoming more involved in these activities, please stop by 'The Table' during coffee hour or come to one of our meetings. The next meeting will be held on Sunday, February 1 at 11:40 in classroom B7. All are welcome to attend.

Blanket and Jacket Drive: If you have extra blankets or warm jackets at home, please bring them to FUUSA for distribution to the homeless. Carol Butt is organizing this effort – and a collection box for the blankets will be 'strategically placed' in the coatroom.

Green Sanctuary: Reminder to pick up information at the SRC table about completing an Energy Audit for your home. We are going to provide free CFL bulbs at the Food Pantry on an ongoing basis along with information on the pros and cons of their use.

Thanks so much to all of you for your ongoing support of our SRC activities, and warm wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Doctors treating HIV/AIDS facing trial in Iran – call for immediate action

Dr. Kamiar Alaei, a student of Dr. Mary Applegate, and his brother, Dr. Arash Alaei have been held in Iranian prisons for six months. Recently, they were were indicted and tried on secret charges, as well as charges that they attempted to overthrow the (Iranian) government through their participation in international health conferences. The charges and the evidence were not disclosed to the brothers and their attorney.

Physicians for Human Rights is continuing to gather signatures on a petition to the Iranian Mission to the UN calling for the release of the doctors. Add your voice for the release of these two men by signing the petition at http://actnow-phr.org/campaign/drop_the_charges/x8nni8u22eti6n3? Or by calling the Iranian Mission at 1-212-867-7086. The verdict is pending at the time of this publication.

"The Visitors"

See the latest version of "The Visitors", a documentary following the lives and loves of family members traveling to visit their loved ones in upstate prisons. This event, co-sponsored by Dennis Mosley and the Albany Independent Film Forum in collaboration with the Justice Committee at FUUSA and Prison Action Network, will be held at the main branch of the Albany Public Library, Jan. 15, 6 - 9 PM.

FORUM

Jan. 25, **Refugee Resettlement Project** Are you interested in helping the many refugees that are being settled in Albany? Sr. Marianne Comfort will be speaking on Catholic Charities' new refugee resettlement project and how our congregation can get involved. She anticipates the arrival of 60 refugees in 2009, most of them from Iraq and Burma. Catholic Charities is inviting faith groups to "sponsor" a refugee family or group of single refugees. This involves a team of members helping find an apartment, furnishing the apartment, welcoming the refugees when they arrive, driving them to appointments, helping them learn or improve their English, helping them find employment and generally offering social support in their first few months in the country. Sr. Marianne will provide more details of the program, including Catholic Charities' professional support, and the experiences of other groups already participating. (The Schenectady Unitarian Society will be welcoming the first group in January.)

Forums are in Room B-8 at 11:30 a.m.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 10 Coalition for Fair Criminal Justice Policies. FUUSA. For details, contact Judith Brink.

Jan. 11. Second organizational meeting of Single Payer New York. Albany Medical College 10:00-4:00. For details, contact Mark Dunlea at dunleamark@aol.com or Andy Coates at pnhpcapitaldistrict@gmail.com.

Jan. 15 A documentary, "Waiting For Mercy" produced by Ellie Bernstein about the operation that imprisoned two Albany Muslims will open on Jan 15 at the Madison Theater.

Bazaar Bonanza!

The Holiday Bazaar & Craft Fair ended up making almost \$5,500 for FUUSA. Thanks to all who helped to make this possible! Thanks to the crafters who donated their finished projects for us to sell, the artists who donated a portion of their art sales (and those who donated their art work), those who baked for the bake sale or made soups (or both!) for the café, those who washed dishes, served food, and helped in the kitchen. Thanks to FUUSA vendors who added to the variety of quality crafts we could offer to customers. Thanks to all who put fliers up around the Capitol Region or handed out fliers to everyone they could. Thanks also to the many people who helped set up, sell crafts

Oriel

Submission deadline January 23

January 23 is the deadline for submission of original poetry, prose and artwork for consideration for inclusion in the Oriel, is fast approaching. The editorial staff of FUUSA's literary and arts magazine encourages all community members and friends to share their artistic talents and literary voice in this year's publication.

New to this year's Oriel, we plan to include a "chapter" that highlights a theme that we, as a community, continue to explore. Inspired by the Peace Pole, Rev. Sam's series of Peace sermons, and the UUA draft Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking, the Oriel committee has chosen the topic of "Peace" for thematic chapter. We hope that you will share your reflections on "Peace"

and give vendors a break at their own tables, as well as those who helped take down all of the tables and displays.

Lastly, thanks to those of you who came and bought what we had for sale – without you, we couldn't have a bazaar! In particular, we want to thank Randi Rosette for organizing and running the café. She does a great job and provided us with wonderful food at a reasonable price. Thanks also to Mary Reich, our mentor and advisor in how to "market" our wares. Mary decorated tables for the café, and during the bazaar she walked the floors and manned tables. Watch for workshops for next year's bazaar!-- Jan Satin and Barb Manning, Co-Chairs

through literary and artistic renderings.

Artists and writers are asked to comply with the submission guidelines. Guidelines may be picked up at the Programs bulletin board in Channing Hall or on the Web at albanyuu.org (click Church Office, File Cabinet).

The Oriel planning committee invites new and old members to participate in planning, editing, layout and design of the 28th Edition of the literary and arts magazine of FUUSA. Mark your calendars to be sure that you don't miss the planning committee meetings!

Sunday, Feb. 8, 11:30 am, Rm. B 3-4

Tuesday, Mar. 3, 5:30 pm, Rm. B-7

Sunday, Mar. 22, 11:30 am, Rm. B 3-4

Futures, cont. from pg. 1

The Team's beginning vision is to create beloved communities that are sustainable, theologically inclusive, multigenerational, multicultural, justice oriented and engaged in right relations.

The Futures Team is starting its work by visiting congregations across the District over the next few months to discuss where each congregation is today, its vision for itself and UUism, how the District can better connect with it, as well as new opportunities and specific topics of interest. Given many FUUSAns' longstanding involvement in District and wider UU activities, I am confident that Jeanne will lead us in a conversation that is both informative and transformative. -- Dave Munro, Chair of the Futures Team

Board notes, cont. from pg. 1 a worthwhile pursuit; hopefully, it can be woven into the congregation's strategic plan that the Dream Catchers are working to develop.

**For those not familiar with PCC, it is the council (composed of committee chairpersons) that coordinates the lay ministry of FUUSA. Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month; are chaired by the Board's vice president (Chuck Manning); and are open to anyone who would like to participate. Board of Trustees meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month.*

Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009

Wine and Dine for U.U. Weekend 2009

Wine and Dine for U.U. Weekend 2009

Enjoy a fabulous gourmet meal!

6:00 Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres, 6:30 Dinner

The entree is a choice of tournedos of beef with herbs of Provence, OR Fruits de mer (seafood in a wine and cream sauce).

Lifelong Learning

Sign up in Channing Hall or call the office (463-7135) to register.

Articulating Your UU Faith

9:00 am-3:00 pm, Saturday, Jan. 31

Ever have trouble sharing your enthusiasm for our congregation and Unitarian Universalism when someone asks you about us? Do you have your own questions about what Unitarian Universalism is all about and is trying to accomplish? At this one-day workshop, Rev. Sam and Leah Purcell will equip you with resources to bring to the task and give you a chance to practice articulating your faith in small groups. We'll begin at 9:00 am with coffee & conversation and run till 3:00 pm (lunch and childcare included). Cost \$10.

Owning Your Religious Past

5:30 to 7:00 pm, Tuesdays, Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24

Are elements of the faith or faiths that you grew up with or participated in before you became a UU tripping you up on your path to search for truth and meaning? Would you like help to deciding which things to leave behind and also be certain of what you want to bring along with you? Consider taking a four-part adult ed. offering, "Owning Your Religious Past", co-facilitated by Leah Purcell and Larry Gambino. This course is for anyone who wants to explore who they hope to become as Unitarian Universalists, long-timers as well as newcomers.

This class can accommodate up to 15 people.

Peacemaking statement of conscience

We are receiving comments from members of the congregation during this month in order to prepare our Congregational response to the UUA Peacemaking Statement of Conscience (SOC). Stop by the SRC table on Sundays for both a copy of the SOC and the questionnaire that you may fill out in Channing or take home and return. Please leave completed questionnaires at the SRC table not later than Sunday, January 25. Don Odell, Denominational Affairs Liaison

will also be available at FUUSA on Monday, January 26 at 3 PM for day-time folks, and at 7 PM for working folks to hear any comments that you may have.

Also, please check the albanyuu.org web page for information on this SOC. Questions? Contact Don, who can also provide you with a workable copy of the questionnaire if you want to submit an electronic copy to him. There were additional details in the January Windows.

East of the Hudson neighborhood potluck

Some of us are missing our gatherings and wonder about re-creating them or having a reunion?

If you are interested, please meet us after church on January 18 in the FUUSA library. Potential members welcome! Comments? Call Barbara Sekellick or Malcolm Bell.

Guest at Your Table

Thanks for "feeding" your Guest at Your Table Boxes (and envelopes). Please return them to the RE Office Window this month. Before bringing back your Guest at Your Table box, be sure to complete the form on the box. And please convert your cash and coins to a check.

We'll announce the results of our Guest at Your Table program as soon as we are able. On behalf of UUSC, I thank and commend every person who has chosen to share their blessings with the Guest at Your Table. -- Leah Purcell

The keys to our kingdom!

We are running low on key fobs—those lovely little gray plastic thingamies that open doors to our building. We could buy more, but we'd rather get back any that aren't really getting used. Key fobs are issued on a long term basis to board members, committee chairs, SGM facilitators, and others who are responsible for activities in the building. If you have a fob in your possession from a time when you were responsible for some activity, but now are no longer doing that, we would greatly appreciate the return of the key fob. Key fobs are always available for short term use should you need one again! Please return any un-needed fobs to Amy Lent at the church office. Thank you!

Wine and Dine for U.U. Weekend 2009

Cost: \$37.00 per person:
Additional contributions
are also appreciated.

Money raised will help underwrite the cost of programming and provide financial aid to those who would otherwise not be able to attend the U.U. Weekend Retreat in October.

Joys and Caring Corner

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 Irene Saulsbery or Ann Lapinski.

2010 Census jobs: info and tests at FUUSA

FUUSAns know Alison Coleman as president of Washington Square Neighborhood Assn. As Recruiting Assistant for the US Census, she is responsible for setting up sites and administering thirty minute qualifying exams for potential census workers. Alison will answer questions about census jobs and offer tests at FUUSA, on two Sundays, Jan. 18 and

Feb. 1, at noon in Room B3/B4. Other dates and times will be added if interest is expressed. She recommends that anyone interested in taking the test read the census job announcement and take the practice test available through the link below. She also can provide hard-copy practice tests to those who are interested. Some materials are available on the Programs bulletin board in Channing Hall.

Working for the Census is gener-

ally part-time and offers decent pay, paid training, local work and the opportunity to assist in an important endeavor. This work may be helpful to you, your families, neighbors, co-workers, those who have lost their jobs and anyone who needs more work during this difficult times.

If you have questions please call Alison Coleman.

For further information:

<http://www.census.gov/2010census>

http://www.census.gov/2010censusjobs/documents/Practice_Test.pdf

http://www.census.gov/2010censusjobs/documents/Practice_Test.pdf

documents/Practice_Test.pdf.

CALL 866-861-2010 toll free, or 518 362-2170, to apply

Sunday Volunteers

Sign up in Channing Hall or call Eileen Hoffman or for Greeters Lynne Lekakis.

	Lead Usher (1)	Ushers (3)	Coffee Hosts (2)	Greeters (2)	Chalice Lighter (1)
Jan. 18	D. Odell	M. Joyner G. Kleinberger	L. Griffin	R. Rosette C. Jensen	C. Bartlett
Jan. 25			J&R Satin		L. Stix

Events Happening Every Sunday at FUUSA

9:00 AM	Mindfulness Meditation	Sanctuary	Exceptions:
10:00 AM	Service	Emerson	
10:00 AM	Religious Education	Classrooms	
11:00 AM	Coffee Hour	Channing, Emerson	

Events Happening Every Week in the Month of January

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

All Other Events Happening in the Month of January

12-Jan	5:30 PM	Membership Committee	B-7	22-Jan	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees	26
	1:00 PM	Windows Update mailing	Channing		7:00 PM	SGM Street/Boreali	Stott/Joy Library
	3:30 PM	Shelter Meal Prep	Kitchen	23-Jan	10:00 AM	Library Committee	Stott/Joy Library
	5:00 PM	Nominating Committee	Stott/Joy Library	24-Jan	10:00 AM	Labyrinth	Channing
	7:30 PM	Monday Men	Stott/Joy Library		5:00 PM	Spuds and Suds Dinner	Channing
13-Jan	7:00 PM	Dream Catchers	B-8		6:30 PM	Auction	Emerson, Kitchen, Lobby
	7:00 PM	SGM Sherman	Stott/Joy Library		6:30 PM	Whirling Rainbow Lodge	B-8
14-Jan	3:30 PM	Staff Meeting	Study	25-Jan	11:30 AM	Forum: Sr. Marianne Comfort	B-8
	5:30 PM	ARISE Core Team	B-7	26-Jan	1:00 PM	Windows mailing	Channing
	7:00 PM	Wash. Sq. Nbhd. Assoc.	Channing		3:00 PM	Statement of Conscience Meeting	B-8
15-Jan	5:45 PM	Endowment Trust Meeting	Stott/Joy Library		3:30 PM	Shelter Meal Prep	Kitchen
18-Jan	11:30 AM	Green Sanctuary Committee	B-7		7:00 PM	Statement of Conscience Meeting	B-8
	12:00 PM	Census test/A Coleman	B 3-4		7:30 PM	Monday Men	Stott/Joy Library
	12:00 PM	Spirituality Book Club	B-8	27-Jan	7:00 PM	SGM Sherman	Stott/Joy Library
19-Jan	9:00 AM	Holiday - Office Closed	Study	28-Jan	5:00 PM	ARISE Core Team Fund Devel.	B-8
	10:00 AM	SGM Perkins	B-8	29-Jan	7:00 PM	Finance Committee	B-8
	12:00 PM	Channing Circle	Channing				
20-Jan	9:00 AM	Windows deadline					
21-Jan	1:30 PM	SGM Patka	B-8				
	5:30 PM	SGM Murray	B-8				
	6:30 PM	Earth Spirits	26				

Can Can with the Choir!



Please bring your (clean) returnable beverage containers—or receipts for those you've already returned—to support the FUUSA Choir's tour of Eastern Europe.

There is a container in the coatroom for bottles and cans, and an envelope for receipts.

Found and Lost

Retrieve your belongings, please! The shelves of the Lost and Found are overflowing. Examples: prescription glasses, two water bottles, miscellaneous clothing, keys, a pillow case full of ?, and a cooler. The Lost and Found is located in the coatroom. Take a look and see if something you're missing is waiting to go home with you.

Small Group Ministry

Small Groups are open groups, welcoming new members throughout the year. So if you were thinking of joining, but just didn't get to it, you may still do so by calling Pam Collins.

Labyrinth

Walking
meditation



Channing Hall
Saturday, Jan. 24
10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany
405 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12206
518-463-7135
www.albanyuu.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**DOUBLEHEADER
Saturday, Jan. 24**

5:00-6:30

Spuds and Suds

Multi-generational dinner

6:30 doors open
7:00 bidding starts
Auction

Child care available by
reservation, call the office

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 for children are at 10:00: the Nursery opens at 9:45.

Jan. 18 "Acting "As If""--The Rev. Sam Trumbore (Emerson)

When formulating one's beliefs, knowing whether a proposition is true or false can be quite difficult if not impossible. Our Unitarian Universalist Purposes and Principles are better characterized as useful guidelines than eternal truths. What questions might we ask that can guide us toward realizing the dreams of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that so many of us embrace as useful, even true?

Jan. 25 "About Mary"— Rev. Dr. Lynn Ashley (Emerson)

Based on research in comparative religions, we might come to see Mary, the mother of Jesus, as a composite of the feminine divine. One name for Mary's mother, Anne, is Jana, or Juno, for which the month January is named. It seems right then, as we come out of the holidays and begin this new year to follow some of the ancient stories in search of threads of continuity.

