

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

Windows

Newsletter of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

Vol. '08-'09, Issue 10
 June 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

FUUSA as a beacon – How will we shine our light?

Community, spirituality and social justices have been strong and familiar themes of the conversations sponsored by the Dream Catchers this past year, as we talked with each other about our hopes and aspirations for FUUSA's future. The Dream Catchers presented draft congregational goals at our May 17 annual meeting that reflect these themes.

We also asked for help with a fourth theme that emerged in our conversations: a shared vision of our congregation serving as a beacon of liberal religion to the larger community. Participants in the annual meeting jotted down their answers to this question: What one thing do you imagine we could do to further FUUSA as a beacon

of Unitarian Universalism in the Capital District? Here is a brief review of the answers we received.

A number called for increasing our visibility through marketing. "Participate fully in CRUUNY media campaign" and "Become an underwriter on WAMC" were two ideas. Others suggested events and outreach, with ideas such as "Publicly sponsor a community event that is tied to one of our draft goals" and "Reach out through concerts, lectures, debates, editorials."

Social action was identified as another way to shine our light in the Capital District. One member called for us to "... take more stands on issues affecting the lives

Beacon , continued on pg. 5

Late Breaking News - Iraqi refugee family

We have received word from Catholic Charities that our Iraqi family is arriving Monday, June 1st. They are a mother, Alea Jawad Kadu; two sons, Dargham, 29, and Thualfekar, 20; and two daughters, Israa, 26, and Hawraa, 16. They are from Baghdad and have been living in Amman, Jordan. If you want to become involved in helping with their settlement, contact Dick Dana.

Sam's Outlook

Grappling with human nature

I recently listened to a stimulating podcast on Speaking of Faith, the NPR show we don't get here on WAMC but can be listened to on via web site: <http://speakingoffaith.publicradio.org/>

The show was an edited version of a public program presented at George Washington University in January. David Brooks and E.J. Dionne dialogued with each other about Barack Obama's identification with theologian Reinhold Niebuhr. Obama has cited Reinhold Niebuhr's teachings as significant in shaping his ideas about politics and

governance. Brooks and Dionne discussed the great public theologian's legacy and ideas and what influence they may play in the future of American politics. If you'd like to listen for yourself, visit: <http://speakingoffaith.publicradio.org/programs/2009/obamas-theologian/>

Reinhold Niebuhr was one of the greatest theologians of the 20th century who died in 1971. Born in 1892 in Missouri, he followed in his father's footsteps into the ministry of the German Evangelical Church in 1913. Beginning in the First World War, he

Sam's Outlook, continued on pg. 3

Publication deadlines

Mid-Summer Update: July 16
 Sept. Windows: Aug. 17

From the President

“Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June.”

I am used to June being “the end of the year” and a time of mixed emotions. As a teacher it was the stress of exams, the tension of correcting Regents, the nostalgia of goodbyes, and the great reward of summer vacation at the end of the month.

At FUUSA, June is still the end of the church year – but not in the same way it used to be. For many years June not only marked the election of new officers and the end of our fiscal year, but a hiatus of regular Sunday services. Indeed, we often traded amusing one-liners about why UU churches “closed for the summer.” Now, however, in terms of worship services, June marks a transition rather than an ending. We are committed to offering year round Sunday services, and the calendar of these services is listed in this newsletter. While the pace is decidedly slower, RE trimmed, and fewer folks attend regularly, the program of summer services is rich and varied. We hope to see you whenever you are in town on a summer Sunday or as often as the spirit calls.

Many of you, I know, will be traveling to a wide variety of vacation spots this summer – and perhaps you will visit other UU churches or attend a UU gathering on the shores of a lake or at the foot of a mountain (Terry and I have done both.) I know that when I am far from home and see someone carrying a chalice tote bag or sporting a UU tee shirt, I can't help but smile and perhaps say hello; and when I visit a UU church somewhere afar I am uplifted by the recognition and kinship I feel. Try it - be on the lookout for fellow UUs and let us know the places you go and the churches and congregations you visit!

Pilgrimage to Barneveld – June 21

One visit less than two hours from

Albany and well worth the trip is the Pilgrimage to the Unitarian Church of Barneveld, NY. The Barneveld church, established in 1803 by a group of Dutch refugees, is the oldest Unitarian church in NY and is rightly proud of its heritage. It will celebrate its 206th year on June 21 with what promises to be a marvelous service and very special music.

(Afterwards don't miss the old fashioned home cooked luncheon served in Unity Hall.)

Admittedly, my first visit to Barneveld was last year. I was drawn by all I had heard, as well as my admiration and affection for their minister, the Reverend Lynn Ashley. I was not disappointed – it is a beautiful church and what a joy it was to share in their celebration of our liberal religious heritage and to experience the fellowship they extend on this special Sunday!

I especially loved the story told about the founding of Barneveld, originally called Oldenbarneveld by Garret Boone, who in 1793 blazed through the forest to build his cabin next to two small streams. (The picturesque spot is an easy walk from the church.) Boone was a sugar-refiner by trade; and he represented a group of anti-slavery Dutchmen who believed they could strike a fatal blow to slavery, at least within the sugar cane industry, by replacing cane sugar with maple sugar. The Dutch company bought thousands of acres of land just north of Utica, tapped the abundant maple trees for sap, and looked forward to what they believed was a divinely appointed opportunity to run cane-sugar out of the market and thereby eliminate the need for slave labor. Needless to say, their experiment was a failure – they had not even realized that Northeastern

winters stem the flow of sap. While their goal of impacting the slave trade was totally unrealistic and naïve, I love that it was such humanitarian idealism that became the foundation for a successful early outpost of Unitarian ideas and values over 200 years ago. I hope you will put the Pilgrimage to Barneveld on your calendar – if not this year, perhaps in the not too distant future. You will be glad you did!

Closing Notes

And so we come to the end of the church year. I hope if you were not at the Annual Meeting on May 17 you will pick up the Annual Report and read it! If you want to know what Sam, the rest of our dedicated staff, the Board of Trustees, and all those councils and committees you hear about each Sunday have accomplished this year, you will find it detailed in the Annual Report. What you won't find, however, unless you have been or are involved in these activities yourself, is the joy of service to our beloved community. At FUUSA each and every person is important to the life of our congregation. I thank all of you who do so much and hope that you, too, find that your service here deepens and enriches your life. Thank you all.

Have a wonderful summer!



Has your pledge been counted?

It's clean up time. You can help us in our final sweep by returning your pledge form--today! If you've misplaced it and need another you can get one at the church office. Do it now!

Your Canvass Committee thanks you!

Sam's Outlook, cont. from pg. 1
 spoke and wrote on public issues and gained much notoriety for the clarity of his arguments. He lived through the much of the major upheavals of that century, adding his theological and moral insights. He spoke out against the inhumanities of the automobile assembly lines of Henry Ford in Detroit, the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan during the 1920's. A pacifist before the Second World War, he became a staunch supporter of the war effort and a Cold Warrior against Communism. Yet he opposed the Vietnam War.

Sin, paradox, tragedy and irony were all important components of Niebuhr's theology. He criticized orthodox Christianity for its attachment to doctrines and the degrading of myth through attempts to reconcile them with science. For Niebuhr, myth is meaningful in the sense that it involves the paradox between the Infinite and the finite, and it should be considered seriously, not literally. Liberal Christianity didn't satisfy him either. They were insufficiently committed to the ethics of Jesus as they made relative His call to morality and submitted to secular society. Jesus was the exemplar of God's pure form of love that humans could never attain. Thus Jesus could never be only human. The tragedy and the irony of humanity and human history is our

inability to subdue the ego in the service of love. Justice is but an approximation to Jesus' call for the Kingdom of God.

In the Speaking of Faith web site resources section for the show, there is a link to an old television interview of Niebuhr by Mike Wallace. It is a great way to get a quick introduction to his thought as he discusses the Cold War and Communism as well as religion and atheism. He spoke about nuclear weapons as an example of the irony of radical human freedom; that it is both creative and destructive at the same time. Science, trumpeted in the Nineteenth Century as the savior of humanity, as clearly we see today, can also lead to our annihilation as a species. Only from the ultimate perspective of religious faith, Niebuhr argued, can we have a perspective of the relative merits of science, technology, and public policy.

Brooks and Dionne both argued that Obama's policies have strong resonance with the thought and writings of Niebuhr which makes Niebuhr's thought all the more contemporary. They spoke of Obama, like Niebuhr, as a Christian realist. Obama, can charm those of us on the left with liberal rhetoric, but now we are seeing a steely pragmatism in his policies, particularly in his policy in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

So as I'm thinking forward to next

September when we will have a resurgence of activity in our congregation, I'm planning to reflect on Niebuhr's critique of our way of doing religion. Are we realistic enough about the frailties of humanity as we embrace the greatness of our human potential? Do we recognize sufficiently the danger of idolatry in fundamentalist voices? And if we do, what are we prepared to do about it?

I'll leave you with some fascinating quotes from the Wallace interview with Niebuhr. When he was asked about atheists, he said he judged them same way he judged a Christian, by their fruits; "a sense of charity, a sense of proportion, a sense of justice." Man has "a curious kind of dignity and a curious kind of misery." Pascal said about the Enlightenment Rationalists of his day, "They talk to you about the dignity of man and tempt you to pride, and then talk to you about the misery of man, and they tempt you to despair." Pascal speaks for Niebuhr saying "Where but in the simplicity of the Gospel, can you hear about both the dignity of man and the misery of man?" Niebuhr concludes his answer to the question with words I can give a hearty assent: "It is as difficult to get charity out of piety as it is reasonableness out of rationalism."

Rev. Sam

Congratulations!

Elected at the Annual Meeting on May 17, 2009:

Officers

President	Linda Way
Vice-President	Chuck Manning
Secretary	Jan McCracken
Treasurer	Dave Metz
Ass't. Treasurer	Kathy Harris
Religious Education Chair	Molly Daniels

Social Responsibilities Chair

Lois Griffin

Board of Trustees

Todd Gray
 Randy Rosette
 Dave Street
 Bruce Smith

Endowment Trust

Lee Newberg

Nominating Committee

Donna Doran
 Dave Munro

Religious Education Council

Leah Gaetano	Amy Souza
Brian Frank	Cate Bohn

Social Responsibilities Council

Ann Brandon
 Joan Butcher
 Rudy Johnson

Religious Exploration

Summertime and Spirituality

Though our program runs 52 weeks a year now, the seasons have a natural ebb and flow of level of activities. For many of us spring has a climatic, celebratory feel with all the proms, weddings, anniversaries, graduations, and end of the school year concerts, awards ceremonies and other events. There is the push to get the garden planted and the lawn mower ready for action. As I write this, I am looking at a calendar full of activities at FUUSA from mid May through June. Yet summer, with its more relaxed pace is not far away. How can we take advantage of all that summer has to offer?

I recently listened to a Speaking of Faith podcast on "The Spirituality of Parenting" in which rabbi, author and teacher, Sandy Sasso was interviewed. How that interview resonated with my thoughts of summertime and spirituality! The conversation focused on the struggles parents have in raising children to be compassionate and courageous and full of joy and enthusiasm for life. When parents foster a sense of values and outlook on life in their children that determines an internal compass to guide their identity formation and how they interact in the world, parents are tending to their children's spiritual lives. But how do you do that? Where are *those* books on the parenting shelf of the library or bookstore? Rabbi Sasso urges parents to find ways to spending time with children to allow children to ask the big questions – Is God real? What happens after you die? Why isn't life fair? I would add that youth continue to ask big questions that can be even more challenging – Is there something more to life than competition and consumerism? What is my life's purpose? Rabbi Sasso and I agree on how to go about answering those questions. It is ok to say, "That's a tough question. Let's think about this together."

Rabbi Sasso's thoughts about re-

ligion as a spiritual journey sounded so UU to me. She says that religion is not about the answers, but about wrestling with the questions. In the interview she elaborates, "If you don't ask those questions, you really haven't made the religion your own; you're just accepting what someone told you. We need to ask those questions and life forces us to look at those questions if we're really honest with ourselves. ..That's the most important part of the spiritual journey." And so I think it's important for us to model for our children that this kind of questioning is part of living a purposeful, meaningful life, and that we cherish these opportunities for growth.

The relaxed pace of summer gives all of us the opportunity to engage with and practice the unconstrained qualities that are typical of children. Children are curious, free-spirited, and spontaneous. They are naturally empathetic and are comfortable with silence. Who wouldn't want more of that? This summer you might just stop with a child (or a fellow seeker of any age) to look at the shapes of puffy clouds, hear the slow approach and recession of a thunderstorm, or observe the frenzied activity of ants in the crack of the sidewalk. You could read a descriptive, repetitive children's story aloud without skipping one detail. You could reflect on your journey and tell someone some of your story. Pause in your fast paced rhythm and routine. Listen. You might hear a question or two.

In the podcast, the interviewer, Krista Tippitt and Rabbi Sasso are sympathetic to parents who do not have a religious home in which to gain insight and receive support for raising their children in this intentional, spiritual way. They note that many of today's parents have rejected the religious tradition they grew up with, or they each come from different faith traditions or they have never established any kind of faith. Thank the heavens, earth and humanity for

Unitarian Universalism and for our congregation! I wished it were a call-in show and not a recording. I wanted to proclaim that here we can celebrate our questionings and share our faith journeys of parenting and other spiritual challenges in a nurturing community.

I hope you'll take advantage of the summer season, whether it is to join us for services and the Summer Session of RE or to take time to be out in nature, travel, visit friends and family, relax on vacation, or all of the above. Whatever your plans, whether you have a child living with you or not, you can rest and quest in the spirit of a child with all its wondering and questioning; silence and insights. In joy and service,

Leah



Bringing It Home

You can learn more of Rabbi Sandy Sasso's thoughts on The Spirituality of Parenting at the Speaking of Faith website at www.speakingoffaith.org. At the page with this episode you can also find resources written by Rabbi Sasso on parenting. However, even Rabbi Sasso cautions against relying on the "experts" when it comes to answering your children's big, theological questions. The children and youth don't really want to hear what the experts have to say about God, heaven, the nature of good or evil or meaning of life. They want to hear *your* thoughts, even if you are struggling.

Want help with your struggles? Go to the Spirituality of Parenting Discussion Guide at the SoF website. Would you like to participate in a discussion group at FUUSA?

Let me know; maybe we could start one!—Leah

Beacon , cont. from pg. 1

of the citizens of Albany County, especially our neighborhood in the city of Albany, while we continue to offer a venue for community dialogue on those issues.

Several suggestions related to Sunday services and spirituality, such as the advice to "Build a reputation for having glorious, stimulating, spiritual Sunday services."

Finally, members called on us not to hide our light! "We should lead by example and sign our actions." "As we participate in social action outside of FUUSA umbrella, our UU identity should be visible ... We won't be hidden."

How do you think we should let our light shine? Tell the Dream Catchers at dreamcatchers@albanyuu.org.

CROP Walk success

Forty-four fantastic FUUSAns and friends walked with the world on Sunday, May 3 in the annual CROP Hunger Walk. We raised over \$3,600, and the Albany Walk is on track to hit the \$100K mark, making it likely that we'll once again be among the top ten Walks in the US. Some "Team UU" facts:

- ◆ We covered the age spectrum yet again, from little ones in strollers right up through energetic retirees.
- ◆ Nine family groups participated – now THAT'S family values!
- ◆ Sixteen children and youth from our RE program walked, including nine kids under the age of 10. (Adults take note – we're being shown up here!)
- ◆ Another FUUSA volunteer provided invaluable assistance with Walk Day registration.

Special kudos to all of our FUUSA walkers, who voted with their feet for a better world. And a big Thank You to all of the FUUSAns who generously supported this effort with their pledges. Well done, all!

Save the Date

Working on the Dream!

Thursday, June 18 from 7 to 9 PM at FUUSA

The Dream Catchers invite PCC members and incoming and outgoing Board members to a workshop to help develop our strategic plan.

Social Responsibilities Council

The next meeting of the **Social Responsibilities Council** will be held on Sunday, June 7 at 11:40 in room B7. This will be the last meeting of the formal church year. All are welcome to attend.

Thanks to all who have committed their time and resources to social justice issues and actions this year. If you are looking for activities to participate in over the summer months, please consider helping with the Refugee Resettlement Project, volunteering to help with the summer camp program to be held at FUUSA in July and August, and working on FUUSA's Habitat for Humanity house.

Enjoy your summer!

SRC needs summer volunteers

FUUSA will be the hosting a summer arts and literacy program from July 6-Aug. 14. The program will be run by the Frank Chapman Institute for young children from local neighborhoods. The program will run 8 a.m.-5 p.m., five days a week and will culminate in a performance on the evening of August 14.

We at FUUSA will need a group of volunteers to open front door, monitor the halls, rooms, etc. This is an opportunity for us to give local children a good experience. A sign up sheet is up in Channing Hall so start check your calendar to volunteer a couple of hours a week towards this worthy effort.

Afghanistan: Understanding the issues... What can we do?

**Channing Hall
Saturday, June 13 at 6:30 pm**

Madelyn Hoffman, Executive Director of New Jersey Peace Action, who traveled to Afghanistan in 2005 as a member of a Global Exchange delegation, will show slides and speak on: "Afghanistan: Ending a Failed Military Policy"

Connie Frisbee Houde, Global Village Photographer, a photojournalist and speaker on Afghanistan who traveled there in 2003, 2004, and 2005, will give an audio-visual presentation: "Afghan Women: Listen to Their Voices"

Moderator: Sybil Stock, FUUSAn and Women Against War Afghanistan Project member

Admission Free

Presented by Women Against War and
Co-Sponsored by FUUSA Social Responsibilities Council

6:30 pm Tea and Afghan Desserts 7:00 pm Speakers

Information: info@womenagainstwar.org

FUUSA ARISE Core Team

So...what has ARISE been up to lately? Answer...lots!

As is supposed to be the case, our Action Meeting last October was merely the starting point for some very exciting work over the subsequent seven months.

Participation - We held a New Opportunities Forum April 14 at the Albany Crowne Plaza, a follow up to our 2003 forum. The topic was "creating pipelines of opportunity from poor neighborhoods to entry level jobs and micro-business opportunities in Tech Valley." One hundred and fifty leaders in industry, government, education, and labor attended, along with all four then-declared candidates for Albany mayor.

We heard complimentary words about ARISE from Mayor Jennings, a call to action on jobs from Congressman Paul Tonko, and from Steve Groseclose of Global Foundries, Inc. -- they are about to build a \$4.6 billion chip fab plant in Malta -- some initial opening words in the just-gone-public negotiations between Global Foundries and local trade unions.

There were breakout groups addressing the areas of "green" jobs, mass transit, re-entry jobs in a post-Rockefeller drug laws New York, and grass-roots organizing around community benefits in all three of the tri cities. ARISE is now actively working in all four of these areas.

Celebration - Two hundred attended the Annual ARISE Banquet that evening and listened to a dynamic keynote address by Gladys Carrion, Commissioner of the State Office of Children & Family Services. With the long sought after roll back of the destructive Rockefeller drug laws, her agency is anticipating tremendous new opportunities to help poor families whose lives and communities have been so adversely affected over the past 30 years by these draconian

Annual Picnic postponed

The Religious Education Council has decided to work with the Program Coordinating Council to sponsor the Annual Picnic. Rather than compete with the Gay Pride Day in Washington Park, as we have the past few years, the RE Council suggests that FUUSAns join in the Gay Pride celebrations. Look for the picnic to be scheduled at a different day in the next congregational year, perhaps at the end of the summer or early fall.

statutes.

Growth - Behind the Scenes, our own Sam Trumbore has been working closely with Rev. Victor Collier to attract new member congregations to ARISE. New members bring new money in the form of dues, crucial to ARISE's financial health in the coming year. But more importantly, they bring new energy and creativity in the form of new leaders. May 2 there was a New Leader training attended by 94 potential new ARISE leader, many from congregations considering joining ARISE. Two potential new leaders are FUUSAns who have committed to attending Gamaliel Weeklong Leadership Training in July.

Change - This month, Andreas Kriefall, ARISE's organizer since its inception in 2000, is leaving to become co-organizer for the statewide Gamaliel-NY, of which ARISE is a member. We will miss Andreas, but look forward to working with him in his new statewide role, and to hiring a new organizer this summer.

Want to know more? Questions? Talk with Dick Dana or any member of the Core Team.

**General Assembly
June 24-28
Salt Lake City**

Pride Parade, June 14

Join other Unitarian Universalist paraders at Capital Pride 2009, noon, June 14, Washington Park, Albany. Have fun, help support equal rights, and, promote our congregation's commitment to inclusion by marching under the FUUSA banner. UUs from the UU Congregation of Saratoga Springs will be there, too, with their banner. Capital Pride is a yearly event open to all, sponsored by the Capital District Gay and Lesbian Community Council.

The parade route is a short mile and a quarter. Paraders should meet in the Washington Park parade staging area (northeast side of the park, behind the main performance stage, near State Street) by 11:30 am. For more information, please contact Lisa Pleban (of UUCSS) at lapleban@yahoo.com. (FUUSAns wishing to carry our banner may request it from the church office.)

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

Editor: Amy Lent, Irene Saulsbery
Production: Dave Stone
Contributors: D. Odell, S. Trumbore, D. Doran, L. Way, U. Poland, L. Purcell, B. Miller, K. Harris, F. Boreali, P. Moskowitz, P. Sherman, S. Stock, D. Dana, D. Dana, B. Rodgers, et al.
Newsletter Crew: Many hands!

Send all submissions to: Windows@albanyuu.org or to the church office.

RE Summer Session

Our RE program runs throughout the year, but from June 21 through Aug 30, the program looks a bit more like summer itself – more relaxed and free flowing.

This will be the second summer that we offer the Summer Session. Last year we had between 6 and 20 children attend each Sunday. I plan the activities and lead most of the Sunday's with help from adult volunteers. In Summer Session, we offer a place for children of many ages to be together to play, hear stories, sing songs and engage in art and other activities while the adults attend the service. Unlike the sequential lessons during the fall and spring terms, each week of Summer Session is "stand alone" so you can bring your child whenever you like. And visitors are always welcome.

This programming is geared for children in Pre-k through fifth grade. Middle school and high school youth are invited to join in the program for children and help out, or attend the service. Our nursery care workers will provide childcare for infants and toddlers. Youth are invited to help in the nursery too. Programming for children runs from 10:00 to 11:00. There is no Children's Time in the service

and the children and youth join the adults for the multigenerational "Lemonade Hour" after the service. We'll meet in room 26, which is nice and big and air-conditioned.

This summer I plan to celebrate Unitarian Universalism with the children by using some stories that the curricula don't include and with activities that build connections between different ages. Who knows how many children and youth will attend this year? Perhaps if enough youth attend, we can create a supervised space with activities geared for them. I'm looking for volunteers to help out with Summer Session now. I plan to attend some trainings; be on retreat and go on a family vacation this summer, so I'll be away some Sundays. Please consider volunteering a Sunday or two with our children this summer, especially if you plan on bringing your children occasionally. And some Sundays we'll need adult volunteers to sub for our nursery care workers so they can have time off too. The signup sheet is in Channing Hall.

As always, call me at the office or e-mail me with any questions: 463-7135 or dre@albanyuu.org.-- Leah

Sundae Sunday, June 7, is multigenerational!

The first part of the service on June 7 will be devoted to honoring our Religious Exploration volunteers. Then the children will leave Emerson Hall and attend a special program: magician Captain Jack again will perform in the Sanctuary. After the performance, the RE Council have ice



cream sundaes, sherbet and fruit in Channing Hall. When the service is over, the adults may join in the celebration in Channing and

make sundaes for themselves too. For adults who would like a quieter place to congregate after the service, coffee will be served in the back of Emerson Hall, as usual.

Upcoming dates for Religious Education for children and youth

May 31	Last session of the Spring Term
June 7	RE Volunteer Appreciation and Sundae Sunday
June 14	Multigenerational Service – The Flower Communion
June 21	First week of Summer Session

Pilgrimage to Barneveld

On Sunday, June 21 the Unitarian Church in Barneveld, oldest Unitarian church in NYS, will hold its 86th Annual Pilgrimage. Every year a few Albany UUs attend. When we tell others what a nice experience it was, they wonder why they didn't know about it. It makes a lovely day, especially if the weather is good. There are refreshments on the lawn at ten o'clock, the service at eleven, followed by a wonderful old-fashioned church luncheon. A stroll around the tiny hamlet of Barneveld is pure delight. Find information and travel directions at www.uuchurchbarneveld.org. (Further information in the President's column.)

Summer

Ushers

Greeters

Flower donors

Sign up

in Channing Hall
or contact Lynne Lekakis
mc@albanyuu.org

Joys and Caring Corner

The Joys and Caring Corner will return shortly!

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.

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

Dirty fingernails?

The **"Dirt Under the Fingernail Award"** goes to all those who made FUUSA's newest garden possible (in front of the sanctuary), tidied up the three previously existing gardens, and added summer blooming plants to the Heron Garden. Thank you to Mike Babala, John Cooley, Priscilla Crago, Eva Gemmill, Allison Lattin, Amy Lent, Linda Munro, Leah Purcell, Donna and Peter Meixner, Dave Metz, Paula and Steve Moskowitz, Sigrin Newell, Jan and Reese Satin, Ryan Schielke, Sandy Stone, and Linda Way for donating plants, installing benches, shoveling pea gravel, weeding, dividing plants, and more on May 13 and 16. A special thank you to Eva Gemmill who lovingly tended plants that came from the gardens of members who are no longer with us, and then donated these special plants to the new garden (we will hear more about this from Eva.) In addition, generous donations from the family of Paul and Abby Jones, and others who made contributions to the garden fund in their memories, made this garden possible. The person who brought all the disparate parts of our FUUSA garden quilts together is Sandy Zwink; more than a professional garden designer, someone who has become a friend to many FUUSAns – thank you! We truly have woven more strands into the fabric that makes FUUSA a community, not just a society!—Paula Moskowitz

FUUSA Web site: next generation

Do you like our FUUSA web site (www.albanyuu.org)? Would you like to see enhancements? Perhaps pictures, audio and video streaming capability, an actual calendar that can be updated easily as new events are added, a members only password protected section, the ability to fill out and submit forms electronically instead of downloading them and filling them out only to have to put them in the mail? If you would like to see any of these enhancements become reality and have web skills, are you interested in working on a project to plan and implement changes? If you would like to be a part of this project, email pr@albanyuu.org and let us know of your area of knowledge/interest. If you have questions, you can e-mail pr@albanyuu.org or talk directly to Paula or Steve Moskowitz, Bob Frank-

Channing Circle

Almost forty people attended the May program when we enjoyed Steve Rider's fabulous presentation of a nostalgia trip along Rte 66. We will meet for our usual lunch at noon on Mon. June 15. Those who have signed up to take the Aqua Duck tour that afternoon will leave from FUUSA after lunch. There will not be a formal program that day, but everyone is encouraged to stay for conviviality and conversation and possibly sharing thoughts for next year's programs. We look forward to seeing you—Thayer Heath and Ursula Poland

Annual staff review

The Personnel Committee is beginning their annual review and evaluation of the work performance of all church staff. The Personnel Committee asks members and friends of FUUSA to give us their comments regarding each of our church staff and how well each is working in their respective roles at FUUSA. Below are the names of the Personnel Committee liaison for each church staff person. You may speak, write or email to the corresponding liaison or you may contact the Chair, Todd Thomas, with your comments by the end of May. Thank you in advance for taking the time to provide feedback for our hardworking staff.

- ◆ Leah Purcell, Religious Education Director – Todd Thomas, Liaison
- ◆ Matt Edwards, Music Director – John Sherman, Liaison
- ◆ Amy Lent, Church Administrator – Mary Baxter, Liaison
- ◆ Dave Stone, Administrative Assistant & Sexton – Todd Gray, Liaison
- ◆ Lynne Lekakis, Membership Coordinator – Dawn Dana, Liaison
- ◆ Olga Oja, Custodian – Dawn Dana, Liaison

Garden maintenance

It's not too late to help keep our four FUUSA gardens looking spectacular this summer! See the sign up sheet in Channing Hall for weeks where weeders, deadheaders, etc. are needed. Now that we have four gardens to maintain, we can use two people a week. All you have to do is sign up for the week when you can come in (please include your email address). You only have to come in one day that week, and the day is of your choosing! Bring your garden gloves, tools and kneeling pad. Instructions will be posted in Channing Hall. Any questions, contact Paula Moskowitz.

The Fall curriculum for children and youth

Next fall we will include mostly "tried and true" programs for our children and youth and we also try something new. Highlights of the program include exploring the nature of God or a sense of what is wonder with *Stories of God* for the first graders; learning about super heroes of the Bible with the second graders; exploring other faith traditions by visiting many house of worship with the fifth and sixth graders; and building individual theology with a collection of curricula for the eighth and ninth graders. The main theme is for children and youth to explore what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist, feel at home at FUUSA and explore new ideas. The fourth and fifth graders will be using new curricula from

the Tapestry of Faith program. Developed by the UUA, Tapestry of Faith is an on-line, downloadable program for all ages that is designed to be adaptable to the needs and interests of individual classes. It is designed to nurture faith development, ethical development, spiritual growth and UU identity.

If you are interested in volunteering in the Religious Education program for children or youth next year - whether it is to join a teaching team, help our occasionally, lend an extra hand or share your experiences or area of expertise - check out the sign-up sheets in Channing Hall or contact Leah Purcell at the office 463-7135 or e-mail her at dre@albanyuu.org.

Help Build Habitat house

All volunteers are welcome; no experience necessary. You must be 16 or older.

Work shifts are 9 am to 12 noon and 1 pm to 4 pm. You can work both shifts if you want, but plan to bring or buy lunch since FUUSA is no longer providing lunches.

What to bring: Water bottle, hard shoes, gloves. Optional: safety glasses, tool belt or nail apron, hammer, utility knife, square, tape measure and pencil.

You can sign up in Channing Hall after services or contact Bruce Rodgers: brodgers@habitat.org

Annual UU Men's Gathering at Unirondack

June 5 - 7

Fees: \$75 per person

This is an opportunity, men of all ages to share our experiences as men and explore what it means to be a man. Call Mark Butt or Fred Boreali for more information.

David Roth to be guest in our pulpit June 28

The June 28th service is one not to be missed: Unitarian Universalist singer/songwriter David Roth will be our guest in the pulpit and will lead a service that will be thoughtful, warm, rollicking, and definitely memorable.

Well known to Capital Region "folkies" and music lovers, David has performed here in past years. A life long UU (His sister is a UU minister) David's writing, style and musicianship fit well with UU worship. Check him out at his web site: www.davidrothmusic.com. Spread the word. Tell your friends and neighbors. This will be a highlight of the summer season.---Al De Salvo

Walker Book Club

The Walker Book Club will next meet on Sunday, June 14, commencing with a potluck supper at 5:30 p. m. at Lisa Walker's home, Delmar. Bring your favorite dish to share, and a small contribution to cover beverages. If you need directions, call Lisa. Newcomers are always welcome.

Dates and books currently scheduled:

- June 14. Short stories: John Updike retrospective: *How Was it, Really?; Scenes from the Fifties; and The Cats*. Please read all three. We will focus on two of them at the meeting. Copies are available at the FUUSA office. Or contact Don Odell. We will resume our monthly book reviews on Sunday, September 14 reviewing Geraldine Brooks, [People of the Book](#).

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 coat-room for bottles and cans, and an envelope for receipts.

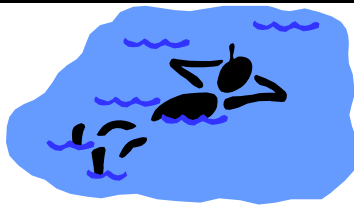
Entertainment books

Our 2009-2010 order needs to be placed in May. Cost is \$35 payable when the books are delivered. To reserve your book or books, contact John Walko.

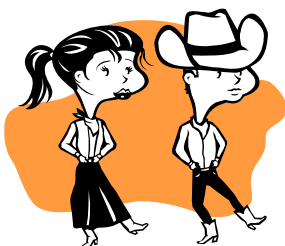
SAVE THE DATE

A Fun-Filled Sunday

July 19, 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM



The choir is hosting a family afternoon picnic with games and swimming and an evening of contra dancing on the patio and other delights. Bring friends and family for a great day. This is a fund-raiser for the choir trip to Eastern Europe next summer. More information to follow. Once full details are available reservations will be appreciated!



The fun is at Martha Debbie and Peter Brown's wonderful home at 18 Clove Rd, Castleton. For information or directions e-mail brownpcmd@att.net or call Peter or Kathy Harris.

Summer Solstice

Join Earthspirits in celebrating the **Summer Solstice** on Friday June 19th at 5:30 pm. Meet us at the Normanskill Farm: Going on Delaware Ave from Albany toward Bethlehem, take a left on Mill Road which just before the bridge over the Normanskill on the way to Delmar. There is a sign for a Vet. The road takes you under Delaware Ave and we will meet at the parking lot on the left.

We will begin at 5:30 pm by cleaning up the earth by picking up trash, then we will have a short ritual followed by a potluck picnic ending by 8:00. Children and leashed dogs are welcome. If you have questions please call Betsey Miller or Jen Illenberg.

Have a joyous and soulful Solstice!

Sunday Volunteers

Sign up in Channing Hall or call Eileen Hoffman (439-8869) or for Greeters Lynne Lekakis (427-7386).

	Lead Usher (1)	Ushers (3)	Coffee Hosts (2)	Greeters (2)	Chalice Lighter (1)
June 7	K. Harris	J. Butcher D&D Dana	T & L Henderson	B. Smith	
June 14					A. Illenberg
June 21					(None needed)
June 28					(None needed)

Events Happening Every Sunday at FUUSA

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

Exceptions: No RE classes on
 June 7 for RE Volunteer Appreciation and Sundae Sunday
 June 14 for Multigenerational Service – The Flower Communion

Events Happening Every Week in the Months of June and July

Mondays	Pre-School Playgroup	Wash. Pk. Or 23	Exceptions:
Tuesdays	10:00 AM Philosophy Group	B-8	
	1:00 PM Bridge	B-8	
Wednesdays	10:00 AM Projects & Quilts	B-8	

All Other Events Happening in the Months of June and July

1-Jun	10:00 AM	SGM Perkins	B-8	15-Jun	10:00 AM	SGM Perkins	B-8
2-Jun	1:00 PM	Bridge	B-8	17-Jun	1:30 PM	SGM Patka	B-8
3-Jun	1:30 PM	SGM Patka	B-8		5:30 PM	SGM Murray	B-8
	5:30 PM	SGM Murray	B-8	18-Jun	7:00 PM	Dream Catchers	Emerson alcove
	7:00 PM	Choir rehearsal	tba	19-Jun	5:30 PM	Earth Spirits Summer Solstice	offsite
	11:45 AM	SRC Meeting	B-7	20-Jun	10:00 AM	Parole Reform Group	B-8
9-Jun	10:00 AM	Philosophy Group	B-8		7:00 PM	Dances of Universal Peace	Channing
	7:00 PM	Dream Catchers	B-8	25-Jun	6:30 PM	Finance Committee	B-8
10-Jun	5:30 PM	ARISE Core Team	B-7				
	7:00 PM	Wash. Sq. Nbhd. Assoc.	Channing	7-Jul	7:00 PM	Dream Catchers	B-8
	7:00 PM	Choir rehearsal & Potluck	Emerson, Channing	6-Jul	5:45 PM	Madrigals	Channing
11-Jun	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees	B-8	19-Jul	3:00	Choir fundraiser picnic	Browns'
12-Jun	1:30 PM	Grannies for Peace	B-7				
	6:30 PM	SGM Potluck	Channing, Kitchen				
13-Jun	11:30 AM	RE Council Retreat	Channing, Kitchen				
	6:00 PM	Women Against War/Afghanistan	Channing				

Think...Fall?

**UU Weekend at
 Silver Bay
 Oct. 16-18, 2009**

*Sign up on Sundays
 in Channing Hall.*

School supplies collection

Collection box: Lobby

When: mid-May to Aug. 1

What do we need? #2



pencils, pens, boxes of 24 crayons, colored markers, colored pencils, yellow highlighters, glue bottles and glue sticks, composition books, spiral notebooks, pocket folders, 3-hole pocket folders, 3-ring binders, pink erasers, pencil boxes and pouches, sticky notes, combination locks.



First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

405 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12206
518-463-7135
www.albanyuu.org

Non-Profit
Organization
**U.S. Postage
PAID**
Albany, NY
Permit No. 301

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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.

June 7 **“Learning as a Spiritual Practice”** --The Rev. Sam Trumbore

Unitarian Universalists love life long learning. They enjoy satisfying the urge to understand the world and themselves. Yet, can it also serve a deeper spiritual purpose through practicing a disciplined approach to learning? Can the process of learning itself have within it its own truth?

June 14 **“Let Yourself Bloom”**--The Rev. Sam Trumbore

Our yearly multi-generational Flower Communion service serves as a transition to our summer services. Everyone is invited to bring a flower to give away. The flowers will be gathered in a bouquet. At the end of the service, everyone will be encouraged to bring home a different one to enjoy. This year we'll be reflecting on what is coming to bud in us that we hope will bloom over the summer.

June 21 **“A Reflection on Fatherhood”** --

Three FUUSA fathers, Chuck Manning, Michael DeVolder and Brian Frank will speak on their experience as fathers and how that role impacts on their lives. "Fathers, like mothers, are not born. Men grow into fathers - and fathering is a very important stage in their development." (David M. Gottesman)

June 28 **Guest in Our Pulpit**--David Roth

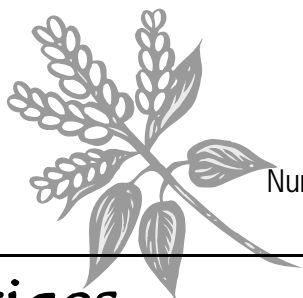
Unitarian Universalist singer/songwriter David Roth will be our guest in the pulpit and will lead a service that will be thoughtful, warm, rollicking, and definitely memorable.

Summer Sundays at FUUSA

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany
June-July-August 2009

405 Washington Avenue, Albany NY 12206
518-463-7135
www.albanyuu.org

Service 10:00 —11:00 a.m.,
followed by refreshments
Nursery open for infants and toddlers
One multi-age class for children



Services

This page will be updated as information becomes available. Please check Channing Hall and albanyuu.org for updates!

June 21

"A Reflection on Fatherhood"

Musician: tba

Three FUUSA fathers, Chuck Manning, Michael DeVolder and Brian Frank will speak on their experience as fathers and how that role impacts on their lives. "Fathers, like mothers, are not born. Men grow into fathers - and fathering is a very important stage in their development." David M. Gottesman

June 28

Guest in Our Pulpit, David Roth

Musician: David Roth

Unitarian Universalist singer/songwriter David Roth will be our guest in the pulpit and will lead a service that will be all of thoughtful, warm, rollicking, and definitely memorable. Well known to Capital Region "folkies" and music lovers, David has performed here in past years. A life long UU (His sister is a UU minister) David's writing, style and musicianship fit well with UU worship. Check him out at his web site: www.davidrothmusic.com.

Summer Flowers

If you'd like to share some flowers from your garden to brighten Emerson Community Hall during summer services, sign up in Channing Hall for a Sunday or two... No need for anything formal—just bring a vaseful with you to the service and take it home again afterwards! If you don't want to bring the flowers home with you could bring them to a FUUSA member who might need a little extra boost.



July 5

A Druidic Ritual Celebrating Independence Day,
Gretchen Persbacker & Robert Lewis

Musician: tba

Tear of the Cloud Grove affiliate of Ár nDraíocht Féin (ADF) will join our congregation for a special Independence Day celebration. The service will be structured as a traditional ADF-style Druidic Ritual, but will also incorporate key elements of FUUSA's standard service. We will honor the founders of our nation as the patrons of the rite, calling upon the spirits of the brave men and women who shaped this country and continue to inspire us today. ADF is a national neopagan religious organization that is building a new faith tradition based on the beliefs and practices of the ancient Indo-Europeans. For more information visit www.adf.org and www.tearofthecloud.org.

July 12

"Report from Salt Lake City", Rev. Sam Trumbore
Musician: tba

General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association will be in Salt Lake City this year. Rev. Trumbore will be there with his video camera catching the sights and sounds of the event to bring back for your enjoyment. His video presentation last summer was exclaimed by many as an excellent way to get a glimpse of our larger association and the issues raised that are worthy of our local attention.

July 19

"A Symbol of Heaven on Earth", Rev. Donald Paine

Musician: Dorothy Haverly

In heaven there is only love and peace. So why on earth such hatred and unrest, such anger and violence? The secret is right here on earth before our eyes. What is it? Rev. Paine is a UCC minister, sympathetic to UUism, who has a counseling and consultation ministry residing in the Berkshires. You can learn more about him on his web site: www.parakalein.org

Summer Sundays

at First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

June-July-August 2009

Service at 10:00 a.m.



of what he draws from Buddhism to help enlighten our members and Unitarian Universalism. Come early for meditation at 9:00 am!

August 23

Rev. Amanda Poppei

Musician: tba

August 30

War Baby, Soul Man, Chris Antal

Musician: Dorothy Haverly

Chris Antal, FUUSA Intern Minister for 2009-2010, will tell part of his life story. He will focus on the impact of the Vietnam War on his family of origin, and his subsequent spiritual journey which led him to Unitarian Universalism and the military chaplaincy.

September 6

Labor and Religion, Larry Gambino

Musician: Dorothy Haverly

Larry Gambino will address the Question: What is your reality about Labor Unions?

Services, continued

July 26

Rev. David Weissbard

Musician: tba

August 2

Practicing Radical Hospitality, Rev. Margaret Hart

Musician: tba

What is Radical Hospitality? What is Structural Violence? And what do they mean for the practice of Unitarian Universalism in our corner of the world, anyway?

August 9

Amish Grace, Rev. Lynn Ashley

Musician: Dorothy Haverly

A belated acknowledgement of Knoxville UU shooting.

August 16

"Enlightening Unitarian Universalism", Rev. Sam

Trumbore

Musician: tba

Rev. Trumbore lives the synthesis of the Buddhist teachings and practice and Unitarian Universalism. He has a vision of bringing them together through his ministry to support the growth and development of both the members of our congregation and the evolution of Unitarian Universalism. This service will be an exploration

Summer Sundays for Kids

Religious Exploration: Summer Session

June 21 through August 30—as many Sundays as your family would like to attend

Infants and toddlers will be cared for by staff in the Nursery.

Pre-K through 5th grade will meet in Room 26:

- The program is designed for a multi-age group.
- The sessions are "stand alone" in content.
- There is no "Kids' Time" in the service. Take your child upstairs before the service starts.

The Nursery and Room 26 are now air-conditioned.

Programming will be led by Leah Purcell, or by experienced RE volunteers when she is away.

Middle and High School Students may help with the younger children or attend the service.

No registration or fees required.

Children will join the adults in Emerson for cookies and lemonade after the service.

If you'd like to volunteer to help with RE Summer Session, contact Leah at 463-7135 or dre@albanyuu.org

