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# Windows

Newsletter of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

Vol. '09-'10, Issue 7  
March 2010

**Minister**

Rev. Sam Trumbore

**President**

Linda Way

**Intern Minister**

Chris Antal

**Church Administrator, interim  
Membership Coordinator**

Amy Lent

**Director of Religious Education**

Leah Purcell

**Religious Education**

**Director Emerita**

Ann D'Attilio

**Music Director**

Matt Edwards

**Administrative Assistant/Sexton**

David Stone

**Rental Agent**

Lynne Lekakis

**Custodian**

Olga Oja

**Publication deadlines**

Mar. Update: Mar. 1

Apr. Windows: Mar. 15

**Pot o' Gold auction**

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



**AED & CPR training**

By now most of us have noticed the Automatic External Defibrillating device mounted in the lobby between the handicap door and the office door. FUUSA, in conjunction with the American Heart Association, is offering a training course on the use of the AED and adult CPR training at 3 pm on Sunday, March 7. The course will last about 3 hours and is FREE unless you need certification from the AHA, in which case there is a \$25 charge. Our regular staff will be taking the course, as well as our Stewards. The course is also open to members of the congregation, although the class size is limited. There is a sign-up sheet in Channing. If there is more interest in the course than can be accommodated in the March 7 class, we will try to set up an additional session at a later date.

**Sam's Outlook**

**Volunteers ... or Staff?**

One of the questions being considered by the Personnel Task Force, a group set up by the Board of Trustees to review our staffing resources and allocation in light of our new strategic plan, is, "What jobs should be done by people we employ and what should be done by volunteers?" It is the same question any non-profit organization with a volunteer base must consider. In our case, we are very fortunate to have a strong base of volunteers without whom we couldn't provide the rich variety of services we offer our membership. One of the great joys of serving as your minister is the high commitment level found in this congregation.

Even with our strong volunteer base,

we do hire people to work here. All congregations our membership size call a minister to lead services on Sunday morning, perform child dedications, weddings and memorial services, offer learning and growth opportunities, bring and advocate for our values into the larger community and offer pastoral care to the membership. In our congregation, I also supervise our staff and support the Board, councils, task forces and committees with guidance on organizational development. Few congregations, if any, will find all these professional services in one person, who then is willing to offer them without compensation.

Our religious education program is lar-  
**Sam's Outlook, continued on pg. 3**

## From the President

### Update - From Refugees to

**Friends:** Last year FUUSA committed to partnering with Catholic Charities to host a refugee family – and nine months ago our family of five arrived. As Dick Dana, chair of our refugee resettlement effort has said, “They were refugees when they came, but today we have five new Iraqi friends.”

Most of you know that the family is doing well – and moving steadily toward independence. Dargham was finally able to buy a car; Dode and Israa are working at Albany Medical Center; Hawraa is doing fine at Albany High School; and mother, Alea, is adjusting to our very different culture...and icy weather.

Although my work with the resettlement team has been peripheral, I have been privileged to be included in a number of outings and activities and have had the opportunity to get to know our extraordinary family. Recently I was asked to reflect on the purpose, meaning and benefits of hosting a family – and there are many.

Perhaps the most compelling reason and obvious benefit of hosting a refugee family has been that we are walking our talk and living our values. As a religious people we are called upon not only to love our neighbors as ourselves, but always to be expanding our understanding of who our neighbor is. We've all seen the bumper stickers: Think Globally, Act Locally – and the slogan makes sense. While our family is only one of thousands of families in need, they are within our direct sphere of influence and we have made a difference.

When our family arrived, each wore a name tag with a blue and white UN logo denoting refugee status. Seeing this logo reminded me of the origins of our flaming chalice, which, as most of you know, was created in the early days of WWII as a symbol for the Unitarian Service Com-

mittee that was working to help refugees flee from the Nazis. Refugee resettlement has a long and notable history in our UU tradition. I know that not everyone in our congregation is against the Iraq war, but I do believe, and our generosity has demonstrated, that we all embrace helping its victims.

In addition, hosting our family has been a rich multi-cultural and multi-faith experience. We have celebrated birthdays and holidays together, singing in both Arabic and English; we have heard greetings, prayers and dreams for the future in three languages at a local mosque; and we have experienced first hand the remarkable Middle Eastern culture of hospitality. Everyone who visits the family is offered something to eat and drink (including the cable installer). Even if you are there only to pick someone up, juice appears and you are warmly invited to sit at the table. In a recent Sunday service, we were reminded of the words of Francis David, the 16th century founder of the Unitarian Church of Transylvania, who said, “We don't have to think alike to love alike.” I believe that our experience of hosting a family has powerfully reinforced the truth of this statement at FUUSA; we have been reminded that neither theological nor cultural unity is a precondition for kindness, compassion or heartfelt human connection.

Finally, there are benefits to partnering with Catholic Charities and participating in a broad interfaith effort. We have been noted in area news articles and local media as part of the capital district refugee resettlement effort – and, as we become more visible and widely known in the community, we certainly have a broader platform and become a more effective voice and presence. In addition, working, worshiping and singing with other faith groups reminds us that we don't have the corner on good works,

peace efforts or social action. We can and do learn from each other and are again reminded “it takes a village.”

Relevant to how our neighboring community knows us is a personal experience I had last fall when we were moving the family from Second Street to Madison Avenue. As I was loading a chair into my car, a man, wearing far too many clothes for the weather and pushing a cart of empty bottles, asked me, “Are you from the Diocese?”

I smiled, nodded and said good morning. He stopped pushing his cart, pointed to the open door of the refugees' apartment and the furniture being loaded into a truck, and said again that we must be from the Catholic Diocese – adding, “They're the only ones who help like that. They do good things.”

I saw an opening and took it. “Well,” I said, “See those three cars in a row? See the bumper stickers? Actually we're from the Unitarian Church which ...”

“Oh,” he interrupted. “I know that church....I been to my meetings there. They good folks too. I should have said Unitarians AND the Catholics do good things. Bless you...bless you.” And he smiled and walked on.

I stood there feeling, paradoxically, both humbled and proud. But most of all I am continually grateful - grateful to be part of a congregation - and a denomination - widely known as “good folks, too.”

With apologies to anyone overlooked, and recognizing that many others have also contributed, special thanks and kudos to the following core members of the resettlement team: Dick Dana, Sue Berzini, Ann Brandon, Jean Bolgatz, Jerry Deighan, Sandy Smith, Lois Griffin, Donna Doran, Thayer Heath, Peg Slocum, Barb Cooley.

*Linda*

Annual  
**FELLOWSHIP DINNER**

**Saturday, April 17, 2010**  
**Century House**

- ◆ Price - Below \$30.00
- ◆ Free child care at Century House
- ◆ Simultaneous pre-teen event at FUUSA

**Newcomer orientation**  
**Learning about Unitarian**  
**Universalism and FUUSA**

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

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

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

**What are you doing this year?**

Now would be a good time for Committee Chairs to take a look at what your group is doing this year, and think about what you will say in your Annual Report. Yes! Think now; write later. Deadline for reports is April 19. If you would like me to send you copy submitted last year by your committee, contact Amy Lent at [administrator@albanyuu.org](mailto:administrator@albanyuu.org).

**Sam's Outlook, cont. from pg. 1**

ger than can be administered by a committee. No one volunteer can offer the level of professionalism we want to organize the high quality of programming we desire. Our RE program couldn't run as well as it does with over twenty five volunteers each Sunday without a staff person.

To have an excellent music program, we need to bring in excellent musical professionals as well. Most of us can't play the piano or conduct a choir. And those who do have that skill may not wish to offer it without some form of compensation, except as an occasional performer. And even then, the congregation has an obligation to offer a fee for professional services.

Another important reason to have staff is to do administration. Because of the complexity of the tasks and the size of our membership, we need staff to handle recording and depositing donations, pay our expenses, answer the phones and email and provide information, maintain our membership data and facilitate print and electronic communication. We're right now evaluating whether we want to have a part-time staff person who handles and administers our building rental contracts.

And someone needs to clean up. Most of us are unwilling to come in every couple of days to clean the toilets, wash the floors, rearrange the furniture for rentals and Sunday morning, shovel the snow, empty the trash, and all the many other duties our sexton and custodian do.

We are very fortunate to have excellent staff providing all these professional and administrative functions. As I hope you can see, it takes a lot of energy to keep this congregation going and providing all the services we enjoy. Any one of the tasks above could be done by a volunteer. But how many volunteers would be willing to do that task every week, some-

times, every day. And if we did, we would need volunteers to organize all the volunteers – and then more volunteers to organize those volunteers!

As our congregation grows, as we did significantly last year and the year before, the question arises, "What benefit might the congregation receive from additional staff support." Our experience this year with Chris Antal as a 15 hour a week intern gave us an opportunity to find out. His excellent work with us has stimulated conversation about the value of modestly increasing our ministerial staff. I've heard about people's enjoyment of having another regular ministerial presence both in the pulpit and on Sunday morning. I've heard appreciation of Chris' pastoral presence to supplement mine. I've heard praise of the classes Chris has offered.

So this year, the Board will be presenting a vision budget to you that includes funding for 10 to 15 hours a week of additional ministerial coverage to allow us to continue to offer some of the services Chris has offered us this year. As I already work six days a week, regularly working twelve hour days, I'm above the maximum in the services I can provide to the congregation. When I shift my priorities, that usually means something else doesn't get done.

The ministerial services we are looking for are ones that volunteers just can't provide to the congregation consistently and professionally. These additional services will prevent me from being overwhelmed by the additional people coming to us who want to join our congregation. They will also supplement the programming I'm able to provide.

And the only way this vision will be come real is through our combined generosity during our canvass drive that begins at the end of March!

Rev. 

# Religious Exploration

## Multigenerational services—a beautiful challenge

Why do we come to Sunday morning services? From what I've learned through reading and trainings, and in talking to FUUSAns, there is a long list of what UUs seek when they gather together - to greet one another, to learn, to sing, to hear stories, to express ourselves; to engage in rituals that make meaning of the significant events of our lives, to sit quietly with others; to be transformed; to be inspired to take action. What a list! Maybe I haven't mentioned the aspect of the Sunday morning services that you appreciate most. We all have our preferences.

As Rev. Sam will tell you, it would be quite a feat to provide all that in one Sunday service! When you include the children and youth in a service, there are even *more* needs and preferences to be considered. The wider the age range you include, the wider range of interests and attention spans will be.

So why on earth would we want to gather *all* together? We all know that children learn by doing. Having multigenerational services is one effective way to pass our religion and traditions down through the generations. They give children and youth the opportunity to *do* religion—to sing, speak, learn and ponder just like the adults do in a service. Children also learn the decorum of worship from what they observe and intuit of the behaviors and attitudes of the adults around them. In fact, multigenerational services are a wise investment in the future of our denomination. The young people who have been a recognized and valued part of their congregation's religious services community are much more apt to continue that relationship and affiliation as they become young adults.

A multigenerational service af-

firms community. It celebrates the things we have in common. We are certainly more alike than different! We all want to feel valued. We all want to feel part of a larger group.

In large and small ways, multigenerational services can also *create* community. Each time we turn to greet our neighbors, each time an adult helps a child handle a hymnal, or when we listen with appreciation and compassion to each others' joys and sorrows, we are creating community. I have heard any congregants speak fondly of the time when small multigenerational groups shared their "Flower Power" stories with each other in the Flower Communion Service that Rev Sam and I created last spring. Services can be a time to celebrate the close fellowship of our FUUSA community as we gather for the pure joy of being together—when younger and older people can exchange smiles of recognition among the rows of Emerson Hall or the pews of the Sanctuary.

Having children and youth in the service certainly makes a holiday or special Sunday like the Flower Communion more meaningful, but, always looking for challenges, I wondered what a multigenerational service that was not centered around a holiday might look like. When I brought this challenge to Chris Antal for him to consider for his service on March 14, he jumped at the opportunity. We met to brainstorm ideas about how to get every generation involved and connected in the service.

I am grateful that Chris can bring a fresh look at what we do and for all his experience and his dedication. He has helped me identify our many multigenerational activities at FUUSA-- among them the multigenerational dinners, the Halloween party and Karaoke night, the Rite of Passage program and the new Mystery Bud-

dies program, and certainly teaching Sunday school and working with our youth groups. I have confidence he and I can create a service that addresses the multigenerational challenge, that will celebrate and create community, and will offer a message for all ages to ponder at their own level of understanding. Chris and I hope you'll come on March 14<sup>th</sup> with anticipation of a joyful celebration, and with an open heart and mind.

*Leah*



## Bringing It Home

### Rejoice Together: Prayers, Meditations and Other Readings for Family, Individual and Small-Group Worship, Second Edition

*Edited by Helen Pickett*

Opening words, chalice lightings, prayers, table graces, devotions, meditations and more, culled from traditional and modern sources. Expanded and updated, this new edition includes more than 50 added selections, primarily from contemporary sources. Designed to help laypersons plan and conduct simple worship services or special ceremonies in families and small-group settings. Available from the UUA Bookstore. If you're interested, I'll order it for our collection at FUUSA

## Still time to subscribe

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

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

Look for Barb Cooley, Cathy DeMille, or other members of the choir/music committee who will have donation forms and sample bookplates available during coffee hour

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

*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.

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*Newsletter Crew:* Many hands!

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

## Young Adults Potluck

7:00 pm, Tuesday, March 2

Here at FUUSA

Sign up in Channing Hall or let the organizers know if you plan to attend by emailing the YA group.

Bring a dish to share. Children are welcome, too!

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## Note from the Assistant Treasurer

If you haven't so far you will soon get a February pledge statement in the mail. It shows FUUSA's records of your pledge and payments for church years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. Most of the letters show that 08-09 pledges are paid in full and considerable progress made on payment of 09-10 pledges. The current church year is 8/12 over, so if you budget such expenses you should have paid 2/3 of your pledge. Of course many people pay in full in the beginning of the church year, others wait to use stock proceeds or tax refunds or other sources of funds to pay this obligation. Remember that FUUSA uses your pledge payments to pay our wonderful ministerial and administrative staff as well as to support programs and the good work of committees. If pledges are not paid, the budget doesn't balance and programs may have to be cut. So please review your letters. If you did not make a pledge for this year, it's not too late. If you haven't finished your 08-09 pledge commitment, do so as soon as possible. And please pay your 09-10 pledge by June 30, 2010. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call me. Thank you so much for your support of FUUSA's good work!--Kathy Harris, FUUSA Assistant Treasurer

## Upcoming programs

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

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## Sally Patton's Involve Training

*Radical Hospitality: Creating Beloved Community for All Children*

Saturday, March 6

9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Childcare provided

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

Contact Leah Purcell for more info and to register.

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## Refresh, Restore, Retreat for women

Planning proceeds apace for this women's retreat to be held at FUUSA on Saturday, April 24. Workshops tentatively scheduled include meditative poetry, yoga, collage, Nia, and creative writing. The group as a whole will participate in activities designed to Retreat (with guided meditation), Restore (sing or listen) and Refresh (drum or dance). Registration will begin in late March; note this special day for the women of FUUSA on your calendar!

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## Save the date!

On Sunday, June 13, the **second annual joint service** of the four congregations making up Capital Region Unitarian Universalists of New York (CRUUNY) will be held in Saratoga. Our featured speaker will be the Reverend Peter Morales, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association. You won't want to miss this very special event - mark your calendars now!

## Social Responsibilities Council

Harris Oberlander, CEO of Trinity Institute, spoke to the Social Responsibilities Council (SRC) at its February meeting. (See article below by Rudy Johnson.) Trinity Institute offers a variety of services and there are opportunities for us to get involved. At our upcoming March 7, 11:45 am meeting in Emerson Hall, City Council member Barbara Smith will be speaking with us and telling us about some

**Green Sanctuary** Please check the SRC table for information on environmental issues. Let us know what you are doing to reduce your energy consumption that might encourage others to do the same. We will start the Exchange Program again to help recycle items you no longer need. Spring is around the corner so consider composting coffee grounds from Sunday's Coffee Hour. Dave Metz is writing a grant so that FUUSA will have a bicycle rack so that you can reduce your fuel consumption. See you at the SRC table.

**SRC Table** Beside the items for sale, there is information on Health Care, Prison and Justice Information, upcoming Peace events and Green Sanctuary material. Don't forget that Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) will be starting soon and one needs to sign up to get wonderful fresh vegetables. Sign up sheets for the exchange of items you no longer need and items you are looking for will be at the table along with a sign up sheet to sign out the meter that checks how much energy your freezer, TV, refrigerator etc is using. Please check the SRC bulletin board on the wall for other information.

**Trinity Institution** Harris Oberlander, chief executive officer of Trinity Institution, spoke briefly on February 7 to the council. He said the 88-year-old settlement house, headquartered at 15 Trinity Place, was created to aid early 20th century immigrants

of the exciting developments in the city of Albany that she has been involved in as a Council member and as a concerned citizen. These include educational opportunities in the city school district, a state grant to reduce violence, plus developing guidelines in hiring a chief of police. All interested persons are invited to the SRC meeting and to hear Barbara Smith.

and now serves inner city residents in the South End and Arbor Hill. He described the agency as one that provides "wrap-around family services."

Addressing work programs, he noted that a chief aim of LEAP, the Life Employment and Advancement Program, is, in conjunction with a national program, to encourage participants to turn around criminal thinking patterns. The national program is called "Thinking for a Change."

"More positive habits are required to succeed in the work place," Harris said. Among Trinity's widely varied services, he added, are classes on parenting, anger management and financial literacy, the latter in collaboration with the SEFCU credit union.

Harris concluded that a main way UU members can help would be to establish relationships with Trinity

In introducing the speaker, Rudy Johnson said he believed that lack of work was at the crux of inner city problems. Rud said that noted author Jeremy Rifkin, in his book, *The End of Work*, asserts: "Technological Unemployment has fundamentally altered the sociology of America's black community. Permanent joblessness has led to an escalating crime wave in the streets of America's cities and the wholesale disintegration of black family

## FORUM

**Mar. 14, Immigration Reform**  
**Melanie Trimble**, Director, Capital Region NYCLU, will discuss current immigration policy, pending proposals, and the position of the American Civil Liberties Union. This issue has not gone away. Come to learn how we can move it forward.

*11:45 a.m. Emerson Community Hall*  
If child care is wanted, please call the church office at 463-7135 by noon Friday before the Forum.

life." -- Rudy Johnson

**Housing and volunteers needed** The SRC is calling for help with overnight accommodations and/or help on the day of the NYS Prisoner Justice Conference, which we are co-sponsoring here at FUUSA on Saturday, March 27. This ambitious gathering of representatives from advocacy and service organizations from all over NY state is starting at 8:30 am and lasting until 5:30 pm, a long day for people traveling long distances; people are coming from Buffalo, Elmira, Plattsburgh, and NYC for instance. Many of those attending are from organizations that operate on a shoestring, and thus can't afford to stay in a hotel, but will be too exhausted to get back on the road. If you have room on your floor for sleeping bag guests or a spare bed that's available on Friday, March 26 or Saturday, March 27 please sign up at the SRC table. We also can use help at the conference itself with assorted tasks. There will be literature at the SRC table with more details about the conference, or you can visit [www.nysprisonerjustice.org](http://www.nysprisonerjustice.org).

## Channing Circle

**Come one come all** to enjoy a concert performed by the Bethlehem Senior Chorus on Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. There will be between 40 to 60 singers and some members are from FUUSA. It should be a great event and all are welcome.

Our lunch will be as usual at 12 pm so bring a sandwich, salad etc and Ann Eberle and Peg Slocum will present us with delicious desserts. Coffee and tea will be provided.

On Monday, the 15<sup>th</sup>, over 30 members heard Ann Brandon speak about her trip with Dave to Americus, GE. Thank you Ann for your presentation.

During our April meeting, Roland Hummel will give a presentation on the noted sculptor George Rickey while Mary Applegate will address health issues during our gathering in May. Our summer outings to various cultural events will begin in June.

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## Spuds and Suds

The Spuds and Suds dinner on February 5 was a great success. About 60 people attended. We made Valentines and packed "CARE" packages for 18 of our recently graduated youth as an after-dinner activity. We have already received several "thank you" notes. The recipients were pleased, surprised and touched. This activity was part of the Religious Education Council efforts to "mind the gap" that often occurs between high school and young adulthood.

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## CROP Hunger Walk

### Walk With the World!

The CROP Hunger Walk is coming up on Sunday, May 2. "Team UU" has been registered for the Walk and our goal is to make this our biggest, best Walk team ever. Watch for signs and pledges at coffee hours starting in late March. Join us in voting with our feet for a better world. See Dawn Dana with any questions.

## Denominational Affairs news

See the *Denomination News* bulletin board for latest news on the St. Lawrence District or Unitarian Universalist Association, or contact Don Odell, *Denominational Affairs liaison*.

Friday, April 23 and Saturday, April 24, 2010: Unitarian Universalist St. Lawrence District Annual Assembly, *Visions of Hope and Promise* at the May Memorial UU Society and the Renaissance Syracuse Hotel in Syracuse, NY. Meet UUs from around the district, and participate in interesting workshops. Information is also available at the St. Lawrence District web site (<http://www.sld.uua.org/>). When available, brochures will be available in brochures board in lobby.

May 14-16, 2010 Universalist Convocation 2010 at First Universalist Society of Rochester, NY. Keynote: The Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed, "Dragged Kicking and Screaming to Heaven" For more information please go to [nmuc.org/Convo](http://nmuc.org/Convo)

June 23-27, 2010: Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly: a meeting of congregations in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Registration and housing reservations open March 1. See additional information below.

July 25-28, 2010 -- UULTI (Unitarian Universalist Leadership Team Institute) at Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua, NY. Details to follow.

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## General Assembly, a meeting of congregations.

The Unitarian Universalist General Assembly meets this year in Minneapolis, Minnesota June 23-27. Registration and housing opens on March 1. The most reasonable housing rates go quickly. So, if you are interested, please go to <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/> for information.

This is an opportunity to join thousands of Unitarian Universalists from across the United States in celebrating through wonderful worship services, illuminating workshops with terrific speakers, and lively business meetings (plenary sessions) in which the business of the denomination is conducted. Actions of social witness, statements of conscience are debated, and become the way that the Unitarian Universalist Association witnesses our faith through social action.

The 2010 registration rates for early registration March 1-April 30) are \$310 adults full-time, \$125 adult one-day, \$185 youth (Grades 9-12) full-time, \$75 youth one-day. The rates for late registration (May 1-June 27) are, respectively, \$355, \$140, \$210, and \$85. Financial assistance for registrations is expected to be available from FUUSA.

Questions? Ask your Denominational Affairs liaison, Don Odell.



## From Joy Library

### Race in America

Unitarians have always been active in combating racial injustice. Unitarians promoted abolition in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the 1960s members of our congregation provided personal, public and financial support to "The Brothers," a local African American group striving for political and social justice. Racial equality is one of many concerns of UUs who emphasize the worth and value of every person and the interconnectedness of all things. As a postscript to Black History Month, we suggest the following from Joy Library:

- ◆305.89607 FEA, Joe R. Feagin, **Living With Racism: The Black Middle-Class Experience**, Beacon Pr (1994).
- ◆261.83 KEL, George D. Kelsey, **Racism and the Christian Understanding of man**, Scribner (1965)
- ◆ON ORDER 02/13/10, Martin Luther King Jr., **Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story**, Beacon Press (2010).
- ◆261 Kin, Martin Luther King, Jr., **Where Do We Go from here: Chaos or Community?**, Beacon Press (1968)
- ◆572 MON, Ashley Montagu, **Man's**

**Most Dangerous Myth: the Falacy of Race**, Oxford University Press (1974).

- ◆289.1320 MOR, Mark D. Morrison-Reed, **Black Pioneers in a White Denomination**, Skinner House Books (1994).
- ◆301.45 ROS, Peter Isaac Rose, **The Subject is Race: Traditional Ideologies and the Teaching of Race Relations**, Oxford University Press (1968).
- ◆301.32 SCH, Leo Francis Schnore, **Class and Race in Cities and Suburbs**, Markham Pub.Co. (1972).
- ◆301.451 SIL, Charles E. Silberman, **Crisis in Black and White**, Random House (1964).
- ◆305.8 THA, Thandeka, **Learning to be White: Money, Race, and God in America**, Continuum. (1999).
- ◆277.3 WAS, Joseph R. Washington, **Black Religion; the Negro and Christianity in the United States.**, Beacon Press (1964).
- ◆305.8009 WES, Cornel West, **Race Matters**, Beacon Press (1993).
- ◆305.800973 ZES, Leonard Zeskind, **Blood and Politics: The History of the White Nationalist Movement from the Margins to the Mainstream**, Farrar, Straus and Giroux (2009).

## Walker Book Club

The next meeting of the Walker book club is Sunday, March 14, 2010. The meeting commences with a potluck supper at 5:30 PM at Lisa Walker's, Delmar. Bring your favorite dish to share, and a small contribution to cover beverages. If you need directions, call Lisa. Newcomers are always welcome. Dates and books currently scheduled:

- March 14: *A Conspiracy of Paper* by David Liss.
- April 11: *World Made by Hand* by James Howard Kunstler.



## Our Mission

We welcome all men, women and children who seek a religion based on the inherent sanctity of every person's free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

In keeping with our distinctive, non-creedal religion, we strive to excite the human spirit and inspire its development; to respond to moral and ethical issues in our local, national and world communities; and to sustain a vital and nurturing congregational life.--Adopted November 7, 1993

On April 22, 1998 the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany voted to become a Welcoming Congregation. As we welcome into our society people of all ages, races, colors, national origins, genders, gender identities, affectional or sexual orientations, disabilities, political and religious beliefs we will grow in vision and inclusiveness.

To all people of goodwill -- Welcome!



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## Save the dates: Junior Youth Group and Rite of Passage

**Jr. Youth Group Sleep-Over** at FUUSA--Friday April 30, 6:00 pm through 9:00 am Sat. May 1.

### Rite of Passage information meetings:

**Meeting for youth entering ninth and tenth grade** in the fall of 2010 who are interested in the Rite of Passage program next year-- Friday, April 30 at 7:00 pm (attendance at the sleep over is not required)

**Meeting for adults interested in serving as mentors** in the Rite of Passage Program next year--Saturday, May 1, at 11:00 am

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## What is Rite of Passage?

The Rite of Passage helps our youth in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade better appreciate Unitarian Universalism and explore their own beliefs and values. The year-long program pairs each youth with an adult mentor in the congregation. The youth and mentors meet regularly through the year and attend monthly meetings with Leah Purcell and Rev. Sam. At the end of the year, the youth present a Sunday morning service to share their current beliefs with the congregation. During the year they also have an overnight at FUUSA and take a weekend trip to Boston in May, supported by fundraising they have done during the year. Due to the large enrolment this year in grades 8 and 9, there is a record number of potential youth for the program next year – 25!

Our Rite of Passage program requires talented and hardworking adults. What are we looking for in Rite of Passage mentors?

- ◆ Strong understanding of Unitarian Universalism and solid identity as a UU
  - ◆ Nonjudgmental listening skills
  - ◆ Solid ties to the congregation as members in good standing
  - ◆ Good personal support system
  - ◆ Ability to work collaboratively
  - ◆ Willing to ask for help when it is needed
  - ◆ Proactive communication skills
  - ◆ Organizational and general competence
  - ◆ Confidence and capability with speaking in front of a group
  - ◆ Good rapport with youth
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## Advocacy Day

Monday, **April 12**, from 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM, will be the date for the annual **Interfaith Impact** of NYS Advocacy and Education Day. This year, we will once again be joined by Reform Jewish Voice of NYS. Come and join us. Numbers do matter. Legislators need to hear the progressive voice of liberal religions. This is always an exciting event. The networking alone makes it worthwhile, but with so much at stake, this year may be more important than ever. Plan now to join folks from across the state to make your values count. Questions? Please contact Don Odell or Robb Smith (robb@interfaithimpactnys.org, 441-3231.)

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## A gathering of humanists.

We will meet at FUUSA at 11:45 AM, Sunday, March 21. The topic: **Can religion and science be partners?** This comes from the Winter 2009 issue of UUWorld, and is adapted with permission from An Atheist Defends Religion: Why Humanity Is Better Off with Religion than Without It, © 2009 by Bruce Sheiman, published by Alpha (Penguin Group USA). The article is available on line at <http://www.uuworld.org/ideas/articles/151704.shtml>. Please read the article, and come and join the discussion. Child-care will be arranged if we are notified not later than Thursday, March 18.

A gathering of humanists is an effort for secular and religious humanists at FUUSA to discuss issues of interest, and is intended to complement the programs and mission of FUUSA. If you are interested in joining the gathering of humanists e-list, please contact Don Odell.

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## Parents of Teens Group

Parents of Teens will meet on Sunday, March 14 at 12:30 pm at the same time the Junior Youth Group meets. Our topic this month will be peer pressure. For more information contact Dick Brewer.

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## Neighborhood potluck

Ann Lapinski will host the Guilderland Plus potluck on March 13, Saturday, at 6:30. Please contact her for directions and what you plan to bring.

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## Office Notes

•Address changes cost us money! (each time a newsletter is returned.) Please inform us of your address change *before* you move, or stop your mail for vacation, or make a seasonal move to the warmer climes.

•Announcements for either Windows, Windows Update or the order of service should all be sent to the same address: windows@albanyuu.org. If you have something you want printed on a specific date, put the issue name and date in the subject line. Other wise we'll run it whenever it seems appropriate! Newsletter contributors wishing to receive email reminders about the Windows deadline should contact Amy Lent.

◆ To **reserve a room** for a FUUSA activity, you can email or call administrative assistant Dave Stone

◆ To **rent classroom space** for a personal or non-FUUSA activity, contact call administrative assistant Dave Stone.

◆ To **rent halls or Sanctuary** for a personal or non-FUUSA activity, contact call rental agent Lynne Lekakis (umber available from the church office).

Church office phone 518-463-7135

Dave Stone dstone@albanyuu.org

Amy Lent alent@albanyuu.org

Lynne Lekakis

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

### Sunday Volunteers Sign up in Channing Hall

	Lead Usher (1)	Ushers (3)	Coffee Hosts (2)	Greeters (2)	Chalice Lighter (1)
Mar. 7	K. Harris	A. Brandon	B. T. Henderson, F. Barker		
Mar. 14	D. Odell	B. Zima	J. Bolgatz		
Mar. 21	D. Dana		R. Fogarty J. McCracken		
Mar. 28					

**Spinnet piano** available, needs some work. See Dave Metz if you think you might be interested. (It's here in the building, so you can easily view it!)

## Events Happening Every Sunday at FUUSA

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

Exceptions:

## Events Happening Every Week in the Month of March

Mondays	10:30 AM	Pre-School Playgroup Wash. Pk. or 23
Tuesdays	10:00 AM	Philosophy Group B-8
	1:00 PM	Bridge B-8
Wednesdays	10:00 AM	Projects & Quilts B-8
	10:30 AM	Playgroup 24/25
	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal Emerson

Exceptions:

Choir rehearsal will be on Tuesday, Mar. 16 instead of Wed. this week

## All Other Events Happening in the Month of March

<b>1-Mar Monday</b>	7:00 PM	AdEd: Building the World	26	<b>16-Mar Tuesday</b>	7:00 PM	Soul Matters-Sherman/Way	Stott/Joy Library
<b>2-Mar Tuesday</b>	6:15 PM	RE Council	B-3/4		7:00 PM	Lenten Dharma Study	B-8
	7:00 PM	Lenten Dharma Study	B-8		7:00 PM	Beauty of Needs Group	B-7
	7:00 PM	Beauty of Needs Group	B-7		7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal (note special date)	Emerson
	7:00 PM	Young Adults Potluck	B-6	<b>18-Mar Thursday</b>	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees	B-8
<b>4-Mar Thursday</b>	7:00 PM	Nominating Committee	B-7		7:00 PM	Soul Matters-Patka	B-7
<b>6-Mar Saturday</b>	9:00 AM	SLD Religious Education Training	B-8, Kit., Ch. (lunch)	<b>20-Mar Saturday</b>	8:45 AM	New UU Orientation	B-8, Kit.
<b>7-Mar Sunday</b>	11:45 AM	Auction Committee	B-8		6:30 PM	Annual Auction	Emerson, Kit.
	11:45 AM	SRC Meeting	Emerson	<b>21-Mar Sunday</b>	11:45 AM	Gathering of Humanists	B-8
	7:00 PM	Men's Group	B-6		11:45 AM	Green Sanctuary	B-7
<b>8-Mar Monday</b>	1:00 PM	Shelter Meal Prep	Kitchen		4:00 PM	Iraqi Refugee Project/SRC	Emerson, Kit.
	5:00 PM	Membership Committee	B-7		5:00 PM	Cancer Support Group	B-8
	7:00 PM	AdEd: Building the World	26	<b>22-Mar Monday</b>	1:00 PM	Shelter Meal Prep	Kitchen
	7:30 PM	Monday Men	B-8		7:00 PM	AdEd: Building the World	26
<b>9-Mar Tuesday</b>	5:15 PM	Public Relations Committee	Stott/Joy Library		7:30 PM	Monday Men	B-8
	7:00 PM	Lenten Dharma Study	B-8	<b>23-Mar Tuesday</b>	7:00 PM	Lenten Dharma Study	B-8
<b>10-Mar Wednesday</b>	7:00 PM	Beauty of Needs Group	B-7	<b>24-Mar Wednesday</b>	5:30 PM	Caring Network	B-8
<b>11-Mar Thursday</b>	6:00 PM	Coalition to Prevent Violence/SRC	26		7:00 PM	Beauty of Needs Group	B-7
	7:00 PM	PCC Meeting	B-8		10:30 AM	Playgroup	24/25
<b>13-Mar Saturday</b>	6:30 PM	Guilderland Plus Potluck	Ann Lapinski's		7:00 PM	Finance Committee	B-8
<b>14-Mar Sunday</b>	11:45 AM	Forum: Melanie Trimble, NYCLU	Emerson	<b>27-Mar Saturday</b>	7:00 PM	Dances of Universal Peace	Channing
	12:00 PM	Junior Youth Group lunch	Channing	<b>28-Mar Sunday</b>	11:45 AM	Forum	Emerson
	1:00 PM	Parents of Teens Support Group	Channing	<b>29-Mar Monday</b>	1:00 PM	Shelter Meal Prep	Kitchen
	1:00 PM	Junior Youth Group	B-8		1:00 PM	AdEd: Building the World	26
<b>15-Mar Monday</b>	12:00 PM	Channing Circle	Channing, Kit.	<b>30-Mar Tuesday</b>	7:00 PM	Lenten Dharma Study	
	1:00 PM	Channing Circle	Emerson				
	7:00 PM	AdEd: Building the World	26				

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**First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany**

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www.albanyuu.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## ***Young Adults Potluck***

***March 2***

*See page 4*

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## ***Sunday Services***

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

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

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

**Mar. 7 "John Calvin – Another Look,"** The Rev. Sam Trumbore

Both Unitarianism and Universalism owe their existence to the negative reaction to the Puritans who followed the theology articulated by John Calvin. But did the Puritans fully appreciate and embrace all of John Calvin's thinking? The celebration of Calvin's 500<sup>th</sup> birthday this year provides an opportunity to look again at this influential shaper of the Protestant Christian faith. Was he really as bad as we've made him out to be? Music: Helderberg Madrigal Singers

**Mar. 14 "From You I Receive: To You I Give,"** Chris Antal and Leah Purcell

A multigenerational service, not centered on a holiday, but a celebration of our community and how we receive from and give to each other, especially between generations. Filled with music, stories, and opportunities for sharing--and with a message for all ages to ponder. Music: Choir

**Mar. 21 "Without a Vision ... The People Perish,"** The Rev. Sam Trumbore

The Dream Catchers worked hard to listen deeply all last year. They distilled our collective dreams and wishes in four pages of text. The practically unanimous vote in December by the congregation confirmed they felt heard. We have *the beginnings* of a vision for our congregation in our brand new Strategic Plan. The question now is, will we make this vision real? Will we put our energy, ingenuity and resources behind it to bring our dreams to life? A lot is riding on our commitment to this vision ... since without one, the people perish! Music: Choir

**Mar. 28 "Jesus is for Losers,"** The Rev. Sam Trumbore

Some may miss the double entendre here so let me be clear. Too often contemporary Unitarian Universalists may take this statement one way that casts aspersions on Christians. For the purposes of this service, the title will point to Jesus' ministry to the poor and the dispossessed. I doubt Jesus would have been very comfortable in a beautiful cathedral or associating with rich and powerful Christians. Jesus' message sounds quite different in the ears and on the tongues of society's losers.

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