

## Sundays at FUUSA

*Please join us on any Sunday for:*

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

**All are welcome!**

# WINDOWS update

Newsletter of the First Unitarian  
Universalist Society of Albany

Mid-March, 2011

### In this issue:

- 1 ..... Services
- 2 ..... Calendar
- 3 ..... News
- 7 ..... Lifespan Learning
- 7 ..... Our Community
- 11 ..... Social Justice
- 13 ..... Contact Us
- 14 ..... Flyers

### Sunday Schedule

9:00 AM

Mindfulness Meditation

9:45 AM

Nursery/Toddler rooms open

10:00 AM

Service

Children's Chapel

*(1st Sunday/mo.)*

Religious Education

11:00 AM

Coffee Hour

11:45 AM

Forum *(2nd & 4th Sundays/mo.)*

Green Sanctuary Discussion

*(3rd Sunday/mo.)*

6:00 PM

War Healing Circle

*(2nd & 4th Sunday/mo.)*

## Services

**Mar. 20 "On Being Good Without a Higher Authority," Rev. Sam Trumbore**

Historically, the Universalists claimed Jesus' death and resurrection meant every last one of us would be saved. The Calvinists strongly objected to this view. "Without the threat of hell, why would people be good?" they asked. In one form or another, many believe that the only reason people will be good is because of a threat of punishment, with God as the ultimate judge. Is that the case? Will some people be good without a threat? Without God? What is your answer?

**Mar. 27 "The Authority of Personal Experience," Rev. Sam Trumbore**

Unitarian Universalists look to reality for guidance in our religious lives. We rely heavily on our personal experiences and those we trust to orient our moral, ethical and spiritual lives. While many of us are aware of the strengths of this approach, we may be less aware of the weaknesses and pitfalls. Primary among those weaknesses are the limitations of our experiences beyond our own culture, our own class, our own abilities and disabilities, our own religion, our own ethnic or racial background. How can we feel confident in the authority of the guidance of personal experience when comes from a very limited source? Are the universals really universal?



# Calendar

## Events happening every Sunday at FUUSA

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

## Events happening every week in the month of March

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

## All other events happening in the month of March

<b>14-Mar</b>	<b>Monday</b>			<b>27-Mar</b>	<b>Sunday</b>		
3:00 PM	Shelter Meal Prep		Kitchen	11:45 AM	Peace Team		Room 26
5:30 PM	Lifespan: "The Crash Course"		Channing Hall	12:00 PM	Rite of Passage Shelter Meal Prep		Kitchen
7:00 PM	Lifespan: "Heart of Christianity"		Room B-8	12:00 PM	Skit Rehearsal		Sanctuary
7:00 PM	Monday Men		B-7	6:00 PM	War Healing Circle		Room B-8
<b>16-Mar</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>			6:30 PM	Women Against War/SRC Event		Emerson Hall
2:00 PM	SGM Patka		Room B-5	<b>28-Mar</b>	<b>Monday</b>		
6:00 PM	Personnel Committee		Study	3:00 PM	Shelter Meal Prep		Kitchen
<b>17-Mar</b>	<b>Thursday</b>			5:30 PM	Lifespan: "The Crash Course"		Channing Hall
7:00 PM	Board of Trustees		Room B-8	7:00 PM	Wellspring Meeting		Room B-8
<b>18-Mar</b>	<b>Friday</b>			7:30 PM	Monday Men		Room B-7
6:00 PM	Parent Potluck	Channing , Kitchen, Rm 24/25, Rm 26		<b>30-Mar</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>		
<b>19-Mar</b>	<b>Saturday</b>			2:00 PM	SGM Patka		Room B-5
8:45 AM	Getting to Know UU		Room B-8	<b>1-Apr</b>	<b>Friday</b>		
11:00 AM	FUUSA Neighborhood Connections		Room B-7	5:00 PM	First Friday		Channing Hall
6:00 PM	March Madness" Annual Auction"		Emerson Community Hall, Kitchen	6:30 PM	HUUGGs Packing Group		Emerson Community Hall
<b>20-Mar</b>	<b>Sunday</b>			<b>2-Apr</b>	<b>Saturday</b>		
12:00 PM	Skit Rehearsal		Sanctuary	6:00 PM	Auction snow date		Emerson Community Hall
4:00 PM	Chris Antal Ordination		Sanctuary, Kitchen	<b>3-Apr</b>	<b>Sunday</b>		
<b>21-Mar</b>	<b>Monday</b>			12:00 PM	Skit Rehearsal		Sanctuary
12:00 PM	Channing Circle		Channing Hall, Kitchen	1:00 PM	Rite of Passage		Room B-7
5:30 PM	Lifespan: "The Crash Course"		Emerson Community Hall	<b>4-Apr</b>	<b>Monday</b>		
6:30 PM	SGM Collins		Room B-5	6:15 PM	Religious Education Council		Emerson Alcove
7:00 PM	Lifespan: "Heart of Christianity"		Room B-8	6:30 PM	SGM Collins		Room B-5
<b>22-Mar</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>			7:00 PM	Lifespan: "Heart of Christianity"		Room B-8
1:00 PM	Staff Meeting		Study	<b>5-Apr</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>		
6:45 PM	Pastoral Care Associates		Room B-7	7:00 PM	Christian UUs		B-7
<b>23-Mar</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>			<b>6-Apr</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>		
2:00 PM	SGM Patka		Room B-5	2:00 PM	SGM Patka		Room B-5
<b>24-Mar</b>	<b>Thursday</b>						
6:30 PM	Finance Committee		Room B-8				
7:00 PM	SGM Sherman		Room B-5				
<b>25-Mar</b>	<b>Friday</b>						
3:00 PM	Refresh Restore Retreat setup day	Channing , Kitchen					
<b>26-Mar</b>	<b>Saturday</b>						
8:00 AM	Refresh Restore Retreat		All spaces				

### Looking Ahead

- Apr. 8      Annual Fellowship Dinner
- Apr. 22-23    Meditation Retreat
- Apr. 23      Circle Dinner
- Apr. 29      St. Lawrence District Assembly, Ithaca

## News

### Show your support and be mad! Annual auction of goods and services

Saturday, March 19

Doors open at 6:30 pm,  
bidding starts at 7 pm

\$5 at the door

Come join the fun!



### Please join us!

FUUSA will be ordaining Chris Antal, our recent intern minister, at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 20, 2011 (with reception to follow). Please plan to attend this special occasion!

### FUUSA chosen as Threshold Congregation

There are 200 Unitarian/Universalist congregations in the Central East Region including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Ohio, West Virginia, Delaware, Maryland, Northern Virginia, and the District of Columbia. They all had an opportunity to apply to be a Threshold Congregation. Out of these 200 congregations, FUUSA has been selected as one of nine Threshold Congregations. This means that we will be getting special assistance over the next three years from regional UU



*"Always ready and willing to help..." Sandy Stone is honored as an Unsung Hero.*

### Flyers in this issue

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

- ◆ Annual Fellowship Dinner flyer

staff and consultants as we implement our Strategic Plan.

Before describing what being a Threshold Congregation means I would like to thank the members of the Task Force who prepared our great application -- Peggy Sherman, Dawn Dana, and Dave Street. Also, the Board, Rev. Sam, Linda Way, Dave Munro, and Jacqui Williams provided great input as well. But back to what it means.

Being a Threshold Congregation means that we are ready to break through to the next level of activity and effectiveness. We have a plan and want to move from being good to great.

In our answers to the first two questions on the application to become a Threshold Congregation we said:

#### **Why does your congregation desire to grow?**

*Many people of varied backgrounds in our region would be attracted to Unitarian Universalism if they knew who we are and what we value. The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany aspires to reach out to these individuals and to become a religious home for all in our diverse metropolitan area. A larger membership will advance the mission of our congregation as well as our denominational visibility in the Capital Region.*

*We recognize that maturational growth within our congregation is just as important as numeric growth in members. Our congregation seeks to achieve stronger connections, deeper meaning and greater impact, serving as a beacon of Unitarian Universalism in the Capital Region. We affirmed goals for growth in community, spirituality and justice work in our strategic plan, adopted one year ago. We long for more community and a deepening of the experience of community. We want to support our members in their personal search for meaning. And we feel called to significant and meaningful social justice work in our larger community.*

#### **What would success look like?**

*We envision deeper commitment and broader en-*

agement among our members, with that growth reflected in indicators such as attendance on Sunday mornings, participation in adult education, volunteer service, and involvement in social justice programs. We hope to better integrate new members and develop future leaders.

We envision embracing multiculturalism by providing programming that is accessible and attractive to diverse members and visitors and by expanding our congregation's anti-racism, anti-oppression and multi-cultural work.

We envision the implementation of a new social justice process, building on the seminar that Rev. Dick Gilbert led for us in November, with increased congregational engagement and greater effectiveness for our efforts.

We envision growth in our organizational capacity, establishing the framework to manage a larger congregation. New governance structures and revised bylaws may be needed. We identified the need for a Governance Task Force as a Next Step in our strategic plan, but have not yet taken that step. We need to strengthen stewardship in our congregation, not just to pay the mortgage, but to support our mission and expanding program. Although our mission statement was reviewed as part of our recent strategic planning process, it could be a more concise expression of who we are and why we exist. Our strategic plan also called for a Covenant of Right Relations to articulate how we strive to relate to each other within our religious community.

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

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



## Annual Fellowship Dinner

6:00 p.m., Friday, April 8

at the Century House  
997 New Loudon Rd., Latham

See flyer in this newsletter for details.

FREE FUUSA-provided childcare at the Century House

Send in those RSVPs!! (If you did not receive an invitation in the mail, you can pick one up at the office.)

We aspire to significant membership growth, with a net increase of 20 or more per year. We expect to certify a membership of 389 as of January, 2011, a net increase of 10 in the past year and 46 in the past three years.

I look forward to working with all of you as we move into this exciting time in the life of our beloved community. —Chuck

### Get started in song...

Let's help the new Congregation of the Two Rivers get started in song! Please, donate toward the purchase of 25 new gray hymnals for the new UU Congregation of the Two Rivers in Clifton Park. You can donate any dollar amount or you can donate the \$28 for a hymnal and have a dedication or memorial label placed inside the hymnal.

See Dave Street or come by the donation table in Channing Hall on Sundays in March. Any help for their music ministry would be appreciated. Please make checks out to "Congregation of the Two Rivers." If you would like to include a short dedication message for a hymnal label, please write that on a separate piece of paper and paper clip it to your check.

### Conversation on Safe Congregation policy New date: Sunday, April 10

The congregational conversation on the draft Safe Congregation Policy will be on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like to receive a personal notification when the Policy is available in the office and on the web site, please let me know. Updates on the availability of the Policy will be posted in the Week-end Preview and in the Order of Service. --Chuck Manning

**St. Lawrence District Assembly April 29-30  
THE WIDER THE CIRCLE..... THE DEEPER  
THE WAY: Becoming Whole as a Faith  
Community**



**Registration** forms are available at FUUSA . You can mail your registration to the District or you can register online using a credit card. See: <http://www.sld.uua.org/calendar1.html>. Early registration fee of \$75.00 is available to April 15, \$85 after that. Lodging is available at the Holiday Inn Downtown, Ithaca, with the \$109.00/per night guaranteed through March 29. Reservations can be made directly at the hotel at 607-272-1000, through 1-800-HOLIDAY or on the web at [www.holidayinn.com/ithacany](http://www.holidayinn.com/ithacany) using the group code: UUC. Home hospitality can be requested when registering. Indicate so on the registration form. Also, youth are encouraged to attend. Please note the Youth Caucus registration form and rules can be found at the YAC website at <http://sld-yruu.org/Forms.htm>.

**District Assembly events**

**Friday, April 29, 6-9 PM.** At the First Unitarian Society of Ithaca, Corner of Aurora and Buffalo Streets, Ithaca, NY. Dinner. The Rev. Deane Perkins delivering the Josephine Gould Discourse, "Becoming a Religion for Our Time" Coffeehouse and Worship

**Saturday, April 30 8:00 AM - 4:45 PM** at the Holiday Inn Ithaca Downtown

**Opening Worship:** Mr. Barb Greve delivering the Keynote address, *"Mmm...good!" Creating a multi-generational, multicultural community.*

- **Many workshops including:** Our Faith 20 Years From Today - Multi-Multi-Multi; What Are Our Youth Up To? ; Faithful Stewardship: A Pathway to Community ; Resources Along the Deeper Way; Discerning Your Calling: Lay and Ordained Ministries; Taking It to the Next Level: Commissioned Lay Leaders

- St. Lawrence District **Annual Meeting**
- **Closing worship**, including a Bridging Ceremony for our senior youth

**We encourage as many FUUSAns as possible, including youth to attend and participate.**

**FUUSA can send five delegates with registration fee paid by FUUSA.** If you are interested in being a delegate and have not done so already, please contact FUUSA President Chuck Manning or Denominational Affairs liaison Don Odell. This is also a great way to meet UUs outside of FUUSA and participate in interesting workshops, and much more reasonably than other UU gatherings. Questions? Contact Don Odell.

**"Shakespeare and Love" concert at FUUSA  
Helderberg Madrigal Singers, with the Blecker  
Consort**

The Helderberg Madrigal Singers, with the Blecker Consort, will present "Shakespeare and Love" in Emerson Community Hall on Friday, April 15, at 7:30 PM. The concert is sponsored by the FUUSA Music Committee/Choir. Celebrate the Bard of Avon's birthday with music connected to his plays, with a focus on love pursued, gained – and lost. Much more fun than finishing your taxes! Tickets will be available in late March -- \$15 adult/ \$10 senior/student.

**Victor R. Grant art show**

The Art and Aesthetics Committee is pleased to announce our new exhibit in Channing Hall featuring the works of Victor R Grant. Victor discovered the joy of photography before his tenth birthday and has worked as a commercial photographer as well as a gifted artist since then. A retired instrumental music teacher, his works have been recently exhibited at several libraries including Schenectady County Library, and the East Greenbush Library. He also exhibited at the Lenox Artisans Gallery in Lenox, Massachusetts and the Southern Vermont Arts Center in Manchester, Vermont. He has had a photograph selected for sale each year for the Annual WMHT Art Auction from 2003 through 2010.

He is a previous member of the Southern Vermont Arts Center and the Saratoga County Arts Association. Currently, Victor has a photograph entitled "the Egg" in the lobby of the CDPHP office headquarters in Albany, NY, and a photograph entitled "Train Station" at the Rensselaer Train Station, along with a display of 12 others in the Mezzanine Balcony. The various locations of his photographs in this exhibit Favorite Places, a thirty year retrospective, include the Capital District, Rensselaerville, The Adirondacks, Saratoga, 1980 Olympics in Lake Placid, Vermont, Bahamas, St. Croix, Puerto Rico, and The Berkshires in Massachusetts. His website is <http://www.vrgrantphotography.com/>



Jerry Jones meets artist Victor Grant at coffee hour.

*state of mind and especially the uncanny feeling of human smallness that came with it. There seemed to be something overwhelmingly true about it—and its starkness reminded him of certain themes and motifs he had encountered in his years of studying ancient religions. “This, I remember thinking, was something I should really look into further—if ever I*

*got the chance.”*

*“In the Valley of the Shadow is the result of that search. In this wide-ranging exploration of different aspects of religion—interspersed with his personal reflections on the course of his own illness—Kugel seeks to uncover what he calls ‘the starting point of religious consciousness,’....*

*“Kugel’s look at the whole phenomenon of religious beliefs is a rigorously honest, sometimes skeptical, but ultimately deeply moving affirmation of faith in God. One of our generation’s leading biblical scholars has created a powerful meditation on humanity’s place in the world and all that matters most in our lives. Believers and doubters alike will be struck by its combination of objective scholarship and poetic insight, which makes for a single, beautifully crafted consideration of life’s greatest mystery. “ From Amazon.*

## Cancellation notices

In the rare event we cancel activities at FUUSA due to inclement weather, we will put notice of the cancellation on the website’s homepage: <http://www.albanyuu.org/>. So, if you’re coming in for an evening meeting and the office is already closed, check the website if you’re concerned there might have been a cancellation.

## Notes from Joy Library

Two new items which may be of interest.

**In the Valley of the Shadow: On the Foundations of Religious Belief** by James L. Kugel, 2011,. [200.92 KUG]

*“TEN YEARS AGO, Harvard professor James Kugel was diagnosed with an aggressive, likely fatal, form of cancer. “I was, of course, disturbed and worried. But the main change in my state of mind was that the background music had suddenly stopped—the music of daily life that’s constantly going, the music of infinite time and possibilities. Now suddenly it was gone, replaced by nothing, just silence. There you are, one little person, sitting in the late summer sun, with only a few things left to do.”*

*“Despite his illness, Kugel was intrigued by this new*

**Aftershock: The Next Economy and America's Future** by Robert B. Reich, 2010, [330.973 REI]

*“Reich (Supercapitalism), secretary of labor under Bill Clinton and former economic adviser to President Obama, argues that Obama’s stimulus package will not catalyze real recovery because it fails to address 40 years of increasing income inequality. The lessons are in the roots of and responses to the Great Depression, according to Reich, who compares the speculation frenzies of the 1920s–1930s with present-day ones, while showing how Keynesian forerunners like FDR’s Federal Reserve Board chair, Marriner Eccles, diagnosed wealth disparity as the leading stress leading up to the Depression. By contrast, sharing the gains of an expanding economy with the middle class brought unprecedented pros-*

perity in the postwar decades, as the majority of workers earned enough to buy what they produced. Despite occasional muddled analyses (of the offshoring of industrial production in the 1990s, for example), Reich's thesis is well argued and frighteningly plausible: without a return to the "basic bargain" (that work-

ers are also consumers), the "aftershock" of the Great Recession includes long-term high unemployment and a political backlash--a crisis, he notes with a sort of grim optimism, that just might be painful enough to encourage necessary structural reforms." From Publishers Weekly.

## Lifespan Learning

### Adult Education

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

#### "The Heart of Christianity

March 14, 21 and April 4, 11, 18  
Mondays, 7:00 – 8:30 PM  
led by Rev. Sam Trumbore

Lent provides an excellent time to explore the Christian part of our Unitarian and Universalist heritage, deepen our appreciation of it and, for some of us, faith in it. Marcus Borg, in his book, *The Heart of Christianity*, and Rev. Trumbore's February 27 sermon with the same name, both outline two different approaches to Christianity. One of those non-exclusive approaches has much compatibility with our Unitarian Universalist approach to religion. The purpose of this class will be to use Borg's book to better understand the two different approaches and find out if the liberal, contemporary understanding has value for our individual growth and development and our congregation.

## Our Community

### Yes, Virginia, you can ask to be seated with someone you know!

You may have noticed on the RSVP card for the Annual Fellowship Dinner the phrase "Please try to seat me/us with:..." Feel free to put in a name or two!

It might be a longtime friend, or it might be someone you'd like to get to know better.

Another more risqué choice we've heard of—you can opt to NOT sit with your partner. One couple we know routinely sits separately in order to meet more people. (After all, they already spend a lot of time with their partner....)

Please sign up at the Sign Up Site.

### "Crash Course"

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

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

### Good news from Lifelong Learning and the Green Sanctuary

Congressman Paul Tonko will be visiting FUUSA on Monday, March 21st from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. to discuss peak oil. He will be attending the 7th session of the "Crash Course" facilitated by Sandy Steubing.

The Crash Course is a DVD put out by Dr. Chris Martenson on the impact of peak oil and climate change on our economy. Anyone is welcome to join us for any Monday session.

Whether you make a request or not, please be reassured you will not be wandering alone looking for a place to sit. The seating committee assigns places to everyone who attends the Fellowship Dinner, and fellowship is what you get!

Invitations/RSVP cards are available in the office if you need one.

### Restore, Refresh, Retreat for women March 26

The workshop topics include poetry, yoga, meditative movement, creative card making and more. Childcare will be provided at FUUSA during the retreat. See flyer/registration form in the March Windows or at the Sign Up Site in Channing Hall.

## Caring Network: help needed

The Caring Network is looking for someone to take notes during Joys and Sorrows for two Sundays a month and write the column for the newsletter.

Ann Lapinski has been doing this job for several years and is looking for a replacement. Mary Ann Randall will continue her role on the other Sundays. This job is so important to help our community know when we are in need and when we can join in the celebration...please consider. Thanks, Sharon Babala, Caring Network Chair

## FUUSA Parent Group

FUUSA Parent Group meets on Friday, March 18 for a follow-up discussion on Living and Teaching Ethics in Your Family. Leah Purcell, Director of Religious Education, will provide us with materials to 'jump-start' our discussion. Please join us for a **potluck dinner at 6 PM**, bring a dish to pass and a beverage. Our parent discussion at occurs at 7 to 8:30 PM. Childcare is provided. Please e-mail Paula Brewer if you plan on attending.

## ChurchDB update

Online NOW—the **FUUSA calendar**. Available to everyone at [www.albanyuu.org](http://www.albanyuu.org), on the home page. Or members can access it directly thru ChurchDB once you're logged on.

Last issue I told you about the privacy settings in ChurchDB. Let me tell you one more thing...If you open your Privacy settings and uncheck ALL the boxes, not even your name will show up in the FUUSA directory, both paper and online versions. One process affects both publications, which several of you found out when we handed out paper copies of the directory last Sunday and you weren't in it!

The data is password protected, so your contact info is accessible online only to FUUSA members. We suggest you consider how your fellow FUUSAns are going to find your phone number before you start unchecking little boxes!

FUUSA members can make these changes themselves in their family's record. If you are a member and did not get the email with log in instructions, please send me an email from your correct email address. (Send to [administrator@albanyuu.org](mailto:administrator@albanyuu.org)) This will speed the process of getting your email

address correct in the database, and sending you a link for access. Non-members can ask me to make changes in their records. —Amy Lent

## Channing Circle

### Monday, March 21

This is a reminder that the program at the Channing Circle meeting, Monday, March 21, will be devoted to sharing favorite poems. Veteran members are assured that the weather will be most amenable. If you haven't been to a meeting, you are cordially invited to join older FUUSAns for a brown bag lunch at noon, with the program starting at one. (Dessert is provided.) Our leader and co-leader for many years, Thayer Heath, will officially be passing on the office baton. We thank her now -and will thank her then - for all the interest and dedication she has put into Channing Circle. We will now need to get more people involved in the nuts and bolts of the Circle! Are you ready?

## Circle Dinner reminder

The next circle dinner will be **Saturday, April 23**. Sign-ups begin in Channing Hall on Sunday, March 20. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to get to know your fellow FUUSAns.

## Walker Book Club

The next meeting of the Walker book club is **Sunday, April 10**, at FUUSA at 5:30 PM in Channing Hall. Newcomers are always welcome.

Each meeting begins with a potluck supper, followed by a lively discussion of the book of the month chosen by participants. Bring your favorite dish to share, and a small contribution to cover beverages. Participants may choose to either: bring their own dishes, drinking vessels and eating utensils; or use dishes etc. at FUUSA and help with the dishwasher.

Dates and books currently scheduled:

◆April 10 The Imperfectionists by Tom Rachman

Contact Linda Hunt at with any questions or for a list of books suggested by participants for future months. Join the Walker E-List and participate in suggesting and choosing books to discuss.



## Newcomer orientation

### Learn 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 19** 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. Let us know if you need childcare for that morning.

## New Member Sunday

On **Sunday, April 3**, we will welcome new members into our congregation. Newcomers who have recently signed our membership book, and others who want to join, are encouraged to come and be recognized.

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

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

## Know your FUUSA neighbors!

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

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

You can ask Sandy about it at coffee hour, or call her. You can sign up anytime at the Sign Up Site in Channing Hall.

**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](mailto:administrator@fuusalbany.org).

## Joys and Caring Corner \_\_\_\_\_

## Sending out HUUGs (Hearty UU Greetings) to our recently graduated young adults

### Sending out HUUGs

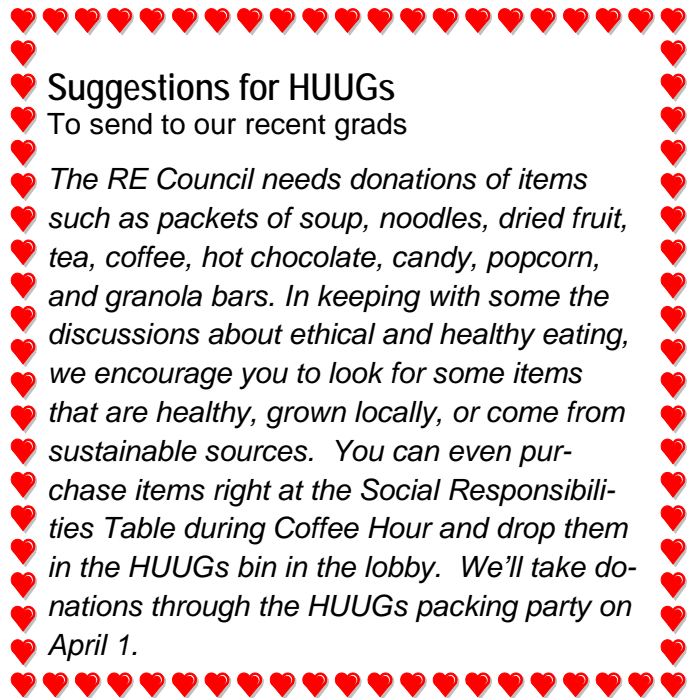
**Friday, April 1**, 6:30 to 8:00 PM, Emerson Community Hall

No, this is not an April Fools joke! But the Religious Education Council invites you to tap into your humorous side and your generosity. For the second year, the REC is sending out packages of goodies and good wishes to young adults who have recently graduated from our RE program. Whether they are away at college, serving in the military, volunteering, or working their first jobs, these young adults very much appreciate a package with notes and goodies from their home congregation.

The theme this year is humor, so start thinking now of your favorite knock-knock jokes, UU jokes or other puns. At our HUUGs packing party on April 1, we'll write up our notes and make greeting cards and also pack about 20 boxes, one for each young adult who graduated from our program recently. We also ask people to bring snacks and desserts (with encouragement to make them healthy) for us to enjoy while we're busy.

This is a multigenerational event. And we need donations for the packages! So you can support HUUGs even if you can't come on April 1. Look for the HUUGs collection bin in the lobby on Sundays. See sidebar for suggested donations.

Whether you can come to the event, bring in a goody, or just send in a card or joke, all your efforts will help us to let these young adults know that they are cared about by the people in the congregation they grew up in. Look for sign up sheets in Emerson to attend on April 1<sup>st</sup> or just come as a "walk in".—For the REC, Leah Purcell



**Suggestions for HUUGs**  
 To send to our recent grads  
*The RE Council needs donations of items such as packets of soup, noodles, dried fruit, tea, coffee, hot chocolate, candy, popcorn, and granola bars. In keeping with some the discussions about ethical and healthy eating, we encourage you to look for some items that are healthy, grown locally, or come from sustainable sources. You can even purchase items right at the Social Responsibilities Table during Coffee Hour and drop them in the HUUGs bin in the lobby. We'll take donations through the HUUGs packing party on April 1.*

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

*Items of personal joy or caring may be submitted during the service on the yellow cards provided, or directly to Ann Lapinski (alapinski@nycap.rr.com). or Mary Ann Randall (mabrandall@gmail.com.).*

## Social Justice

The Social Responsibilities Council welcomes all interested persons at its meeting the first Sunday of the month at 11:45 AM. March 6 was an especially interesting meeting as we discussed the future direction of SRC. The goal is to inform and to involve as many FUUSans of all ages as possible in social justice work. How would you like to be involved? We will be seeking answers from you.

If you went to the Rev. Dick Gilbert workshop in November, you heard Rev. Gilbert relate the allegory of the babies in the water. The villagers kept trying to save the babies by pulling them out of the water, but they could not save them all. Then one of the villagers suggested they go upstream to find out why the babies were in the water. We have many babies in the water and we do many things to help, cook for the homeless shelter, donate to the food pantry and to other worthy causes. Here in Albany we do not have to go far to look for the cause. The State is looking to cut the budget in services for the most vulnerable population. We need to continue to volunteer, but we also need to do more to reduce the causes of the problem by advocating for programs that would reduce the problem. One way you can help is by supporting Interfaith Impact of New York State, a coalition of liberal religious organizations working on reproductive choice, marriage equality, redistricting and other issues. (Its Executive Director is FUUSA's own Robb Smith.) You will be hearing more of what you can do in the next issue of Windows; meanwhile look for letter writing and petition signing opportunities at the SRC table.

Standing on the Side of Love,  
Lois Griffin

### Peace Team news

Peace Team is working on a number of exciting projects! We are taking part in a **petition campaign** sponsored by Peace Action and directed toward those who voted for Barack Obama in 2008, to send a clear message to President Obama that we and a super majority of Democrats and others want an end to the war that we believe is not worth fighting, is resulting in the death of thousands of civilians and our own service people, is having a significant ill effect on global climate change, and is

draining the national budget. Please come by the SRC table during coffee hour if you'd like to sign it, as a number of FUUSA folks have already done!

We're also working on having our congregation certified as a **Peace Advocacy Congregation**. It turns out that FUUSA has already accomplished way beyond what is required by the UU Peace Ministry Network to receive this certification of working for peace at multiple levels (international, domestic & congregational, lobbying & activism, and military support.) SRC has given us the go ahead, and we'll be presenting this proposal at the next Board meeting, with hopes to bring it to the annual congregational meeting in May.

Upcoming Peace Team projects include **Film & Discussion Gatherings**, a **First Annual Walk for Peace**, and a **Congregational Peacemaking Pledge**. Our meetings take place on the fourth Sunday of the month at 11:45 AM. The next meeting is March 27. Please join us if you'd like -- all are welcome! If you can't make the meeting, you can join the Peace Team e-mail list serve by contacting Dave Stone.

### CROP Walk Award for FUUSA!

It's official – FUUSA will receive the “Bronze Sneaker” award for Team UU's performance in the 2010 CROP Hunger Walk where we raised over \$5500. We'll have a plaque engraved with our name to hang at FUUSA for the next year. Bravo for our Walk team and all of our loyal FUUSA supporters! Now let's KEEP that plaque – or perhaps we could upgrade to the Silver or Gold Sneaker awards...? Plan to participate in the 2011 CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, May 1. More information and sign-ups coming soon.

### SRC Table

Come to the SRC Table on Sunday during coffee hour with your coffee and bagel. We will have a place for you to sign petitions, write letters to your legislatures on the cuts made on Reproductive Rights, The War in Afghanistan, cuts in Health Care. and more.

Our goal is to get at least 25 letters mailed, more would be great and SRC will take care of the mailing. Look forward to seeing you on Sunday.

### Green Sanctuary update

Earth Day events are falling into place – plan on having some fun.

FUUSA will be participating in a Washington Square Neighborhood Clean-up party on Saturday, April 23 from 10 AM – 2 PM. Even if you only have an hour to spare, come on down and make a difference.

On Earth Day Easter many of us will be riding our bikes or car pooling to FUUSA. Do you have a buddy for the trip in? Do you know the members who live between you and FUUSA? Nooooo???? All the more reason to sign up for the (very pretty) FUUSA Neighbors map by e-mailing Sandy Steubing. Stay tuned - more activities to come! FUUSAns who walk, bike, bus or carpool to FUUSA on Earth Day Easter, and those that participate in the Saturday cleanup and the Friday bike flotilla will be recognized during the service.

### Food Pantry donations

Our February donations totaled \$611.50. Our generosity is unreachable! Many thanks. Our numbers continue to grow as this hard winter continues on and on. Will it ever stop? Our clients are most grateful. Our next contributions will be taken on March 27. —Lois Thomson

### FOCUS Food Pantry news

**Feinstein Foundation Challenge** 2011 marks the fourteenth year Alan Feinstein’s foundation will be giving away \$1,000,000 to be divided amongst all participating hunger-fighting agencies. Let’s mobilize FUUSA to make this an even more amazing year for FOCUS!!!

Here’s how it works: between March 1 and April 30, any cash, check and food donations made to FO-

CUS Food Pantry as part of our regular FOCUS collection (and earmarked as **Feinstein Challenge donations** in the memo field) will be included in the total reported to The Feinstein Foundation. Each donation will increase the amount of funding Feinstein will provide directly back to FOCUS! Please help FOCUS obtain the maximum funding possible and make a contribution. For more information, please visit the Feinstein Foundation website at: [www.feinsteinfoundation.org](http://www.feinsteinfoundation.org) or call the FOCUS Food Pantry at 518-443-0460.

Check donations may be put in Sunday collection envelopes or sent directly to the pantry. Cash donations may be put into regular donation envelopes at Sunday Services, and will be earmarked by the pantry directly: FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry, 275 State Street, Albany, NY 12210 (\*please remember to write “Feinstein Challenge” on memo line.)

Food donations may be coordinated with Renee Panetta OR brought directly to the pantry.

**Extra Helpings** As we finish the first quarter of a fiscally challenging year, FOCUS Food Pantry continues to grow their **Extra Helpings Program**. This program has no maximum income limits and allows purchasers to stretch their grocery dollars further with a variety of options offered. Currently, Extra Helping orders may be picked up at first Presbyterian Church, but in the future...we may also have a satellite pickup location. If you or anyone you know would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please see the SRC bulletin board for the monthly packages available.

### March Sunday Volunteer Opportunities—Sign up in Channing Hall at the Sign Up Site.

	Lead Usher (1)	Ushers (3)	Coffee Hosts (2)	Greeters (2)	Chalice Lighter
Mar. 20	K. Harris	P. Gerdine	T. Henderson	L. Webb	J. Dorsey
Mar. 27	A. D’Attilio	F. Eames	E. Hoffman	A. Coleman	

## Contact Us

### Board of Trustees 2010-2011

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

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Lois Griffin, Chair Social Responsibilities Council

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

Mike Babala, Assistant Treasurer

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

#### Church Administrator, interim Membership

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

#### Director of Religious Education

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

#### Music Director

Matt Edwards      [mge01@yahoo.com](mailto:mge01@yahoo.com)

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#### Rental Agent

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

#### Custodian

Olga Oja

### Regular meeting days

Check current calendar for time and location  
Board of Trustees, 3rd Thursday  
Program Coordinating Council, 2nd Thursday

### First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

**Phone:** 518.463.7135

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

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

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

#### Office hours

September-June: Monday-Friday, 9:00-4:00  
July-August: Monday-Thursday 9:00-12:00

#### Building use

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

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

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

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

*Editors:* Amy Lent, Irene Saulsbery  
*Photos:* Chris Strebel

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

#### Next publication deadlines

April *Windows*: Mar. 21  
April *Update*: Apr. 7

You're invited

to FUUSA's Annual

# Fellowship Dinner

Friday, April 8, 2011

at the Century House

997 New Loudon Rd. (Rte. 9), Latham NY



6:00 p.m. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres (cash bar)

7:00 p.m. Dinner

And then... Entertainment as can be provided only by the FUUSA Players

Followed by ... Dancing to the smooth rhythms of Matt Edwards and Buck2Fifty

**Choice of Entree:**

- ⊗ Leg of Lamb
- ⊗ Applewood Grilled Chicken
- ⊗ Grilled Fillet of Salmon
- ⊗ Eggplant Parmesan

\$29.50 per person

RSVP with payment by April 3, 2011

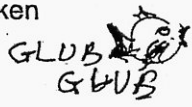
Persons needing transportation may call the church office at 463-7135.



BAA



CHUCK



GLUB

GLUB

OUCH



If you haven't already—send your RSVP to the FUUSA office today!  
(Call the office at 463-7135 if you didn't get the invitation in the mail.)

FREE childcare at the Century House, coordinated by FUUSA parent Cathi Wiltsey. This will enable parents of young children to enjoy the fellowship and the dinner, while knowing that their children are nearby. RSVP for childcare on the reverse of your dinner RSVP.

The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany  
Lenten Bible Study: Heart of Christianity  
March 7, 14, 21 and April 4, 11, 18 2011  
7:00 – 8:30pm

Led by Rev. Samuel A. Trumbore

Part I: Seeing the Christian Tradition Again

March 7: The Two Christianities (Introductions and Chapter 1)

March 14: The Way of Faith and The Guidance of the Bible (Chapters 2 & 3)

March 21: God, Jesus and Reality ... with Heart (Chapters 4 & 5)

Part II: Seeing the Christian Life Again

April 4: The Wisdom Way, The Realm of God, The Heart of Justice (Chapters 6 & 7)

April 11: Opening the Heart, Sin and Salvation, Transforming the Heart (Chapters 8 & 9)

April 18: Christian Heart Practice and a Pluralistic Approach to Christianity (Chapters 10 & 11)

Notes:

- Each class will begin and end with a short period of worship.
- As this class spans Lent, participants are encouraged to use it as a time to deepen their personal spiritual practice and reflection on the meaning and direction of their lives.
- Each class will stand on its own - so feel free to come to each and any class.
- The classes will follow the material in the book, *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus Borg supplemented by material from Borg's study guide for the book and other material. I'll have books for sale this Sunday and at the class.
- Each class will conclude reflecting on the relevance of the material for Unitarian Universalism as well as for our own growth and development.