

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).

# Windows

Newsletter of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

## Help build FUUSA's Habitat for Humanity house

Work resumed in mid-March on FUUSA's Habitat house on Emmet Street in North Albany. Since then, the outside walls have been framed and the roof completed. As work goes forward, FUUSAns, along with other volunteers, will complete all interior and exterior construction.

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

Work shifts are 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. You can work both shifts if you want, but plan to bring or buy lunch since FUUSA is no longer providing lunches. What to bring: Water bottle, hard shoes, gloves. Optional: safety glasses, tool belt or nail apron, hammer, utility knife, square, tape measure and pencil.

Dates currently available: Thur. 4/30; Fri. 5/1; Tues. 5/5 daily through Sat. 5/9; Fri. 6/12; Sat. 6/13; Tues. 6/16; Wed. 6/17;

## Sam's Outlook

### Introducing Chris Antal, ministerial intern

As we come up on our Annual Meeting that announces the closing of one fiscal year and prepares us to usher in the next one in July, we're already planning for next fall. This planning starts in January as we begin to put together a budget. Chuck Manning and the Program Coordinating Council sketched the first plan for our calendar of events for September '09 to June '10 at their April meeting. The Religious Education Council is planning some new classes and approaches based on trainings Leah, our Director of Religious Education, has received on the latest UU curriculum and teaching methods.

## Annual Meeting Sunday, May 17

*See page 8 for meeting details  
and candidates' bios!*

**Meet the Candidates during coffee  
hour, Sundays, May 3 and 10**

Sat. 7/11; Sat. 7/25; Sat. 8/8; and Sat. 8/22.  
(Work will probably continue through early fall).

Friday, May 8 is a HFH Women Build Day – women only that day!

You can sign up in Channing Hall after services or contact Bruce Rodgers: 435-1042; [brodgers@habitat.org](mailto:brodgers@habitat.org)

Directions: From State Street in downtown Albany travel north approximately 1.4 miles on either North Pearl or Broadway. From North Pearl, make a right turn onto Emmet. From Broadway, make a left onto Emmet. 16 Emmet is between N. Pearl and Broadway.

Vol. '08-'09, Issue 9  
May 2009

### Minister

Rev. Sam Trumbore

### President

Linda Way

### Church Administrator

Amy Lent

### Director of Religious Education

Leah Purcell

### Religious Education

#### Director Emerita

Ann D'Attilio

### Music Director

Matt Edwards

### Membership Coordinator

Lynne Lekakis

### Administrative Assistant/Sexton

David Stone

### Custodian

Olga Oja

### Publication deadlines

May Update: May 4

June Windows: May 26

**Sam's Outlook, continued on pg. 3**

## ***From the President***

### **Growing denominational identity**

For some folks it takes time to deepen the feeling of UU connection and kinship beyond our own congregation. Newcomers may be inspired by the minister and our principles, attracted to our social action and sense of purpose, and captivated by the warmth and community they discover here. Only after these relationships develop and take hold do they look toward denominational structure and become interested in its workings. For all of us, however, this is a particularly exciting time to grow and deepen our UU denominational identity. Regionally, the St. Lawrence District Assembly held at FUUSA and the wonderful four-congregation celebration in Saratoga on April 26th strengthened and broadened our denominational identity; nationally, there is the significant issue of who is going to be elected as the next President of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

Our current UUA President, the Reverend Bill Sinkford, was first elected in 2001 and reelected in 2005; his term ends next month. (UUA bylaws limit the President to two terms.) The President of the UUA is the chief executive officer of the denomination and our primary spokesperson both nationally and internationally. He or she sets a tone, prioritizes our denominational agenda, and energizes Unitarian Universalism not only within our own structures but around the nation and the globe. Delegates from more than 1000 UU congregations will elect the new president at General Assembly in Salt Lake City in June.

My own interest in the election of the UUA President bloomed full force the first time I attended General Assembly in 1993 in Charlotte, NC. (Even before arriving at our hotel I smiled at the irony of 3000 UUs traveling down the Billy Graham Highway to the convention center to celebrate

our liberal faith!) That year the Rev. John Buehrens was elected UUA President by just 99 votes – and what a memorable GA it was! At the time the struggle for racial justice was a primary focus within the denomination; and having GA in the heart of the Thomas Jefferson UU District created a great deal of controversy. A Saturday evening gala was titled “The Thomas Jefferson Birthday Ball” and members and friends of the African American UU Ministries protested the celebration of Jefferson as “our most famous Unitarian” and called on the denomination to repudiate him as an “unrepentant slave-owner.” What incongruity! Some UUs sang freedom songs *outside* the ballroom while other UUs walked past them *into* the gala. Our complacency was shaken, our collective consciousness raised, and the Rev. John Buehrens, after his election, listened to and spoke to demonstrators till dawn. I admired him and held onto the promise of reconciliation within the denomination – and today the work of the UUA toward racial justice, anti-oppression and multiculturalism continues.

Back to the present...the two candidates running to succeed the Rev. Sinkford and become the eighth president of the UUA are the Rev. Peter Morales, senior minister of Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, Colorado, and the Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman, senior minister of the First Unitarian Church in Dallas, Texas. The UUA web site, the candidates’ web sites, and the web sites of their congregations have numerous and informative articles and videos: you can find candidate bios, endorsements from their supporters, and read or listen to their sermons, speeches, and responses to important and probing questions. To quote from the spring issue of the *UU World*:

[At a recent forum]...“Both candidates largely agreed on basic goals: the

*need to grow Unitarian Universalism, to engage youth in congregational life, to develop a diverse professional ministry, and to continue the UUA’s international engagement. They differed, however, in their approaches to issues. Hallman emphasized the importance of spiritual depth, while Morales stressed the need for broad cultural change in the denomination.”* Our congregation is entitled to nine votes at General Assembly. We are given eight voting delegates by the size of our membership (our last certified membership was 352 and congregations are assigned one delegate per 50 members or part thereof) and, in addition, ministers are voting delegates.

Voting for UUA President may be done by credentialed delegates either absentee (before GA) or at GA. If we do not have nine delegates going to Salt Lake City we can appoint “absentee delegates” for the sole purpose of voting absentee in the election. No delegate can vote more than once and security for delegate authorization is well controlled. The results of the election will be announced the last evening of GA, Saturday, June 27.

#### **Your voice can be heard!**

Grow your denominational identity and read about Peter Morales and Laurel Hallman. Listen to and watch them on line – and see what you think. Also, come to the annual meeting on May 17 and hear from a supporter of each candidate. We plan to take an informal opinion poll at the meeting so that the preference of the congregation can inform our delegates. We want to hear from you!

Finally, there is still time to let me know if you want to attend GA and/or serve as a delegate. GA is a guaranteed way to stretch your mind, meet new friends, and deepen your connection to our faith – AND it’s a rollicking good time!

*Luide*

**Sam's Outlook, cont. from pg. 1**  
needs and his needs. Chris met with the Board and impressed them. So we decided to go ahead with a nine and a half month part-time ministerial internship that will begin in September 2009.

You'll hear much more about him in September and can hear him give a summer service August 30th. On May 17th, at our Annual Meeting, he'll be present to introduce himself to you in person.

I've asked Chris to write a brief introduction that I've included below. I'm looking forward to having him serve our congregation and offer us his special skills and expertise as we offer him a chance to grow into our Unitarian Universalist ministry.

*Hi! I am Chris Antal, and I am excited about serving as an intern at FUUSA starting in September. I am the husband of Mitsuko Antal and the father of five. We live in Dutchess County, New York. I am currently an Aspirant in the process of becoming a Unitarian Universalist Minister in fellowship with the UUA. I also have ecclesiastical approval from the UUA to serve as a military chaplain candidate, and received my commission as a reserve officer in the Army Chaplain Corps last December. I currently serve with the 104<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion based in Kingston. Rev. Trumbore asked me to share something about my involvement in Unitari-*

*anism and plans to be an Army Chaplain, so here it is!*

*First, my involvement in Unitarian Universalism: I have been a member of the UU Fellowship of Poughkeepsie for the past two years. Over that period have become good friends with the Reverend Kay Greenleaf. When I discovered Unitarian Universalism, I had already graduated seminary, I was searching for a spiritual home and discerning a call to serve as a military chaplain. Since I got involved with UU, I have taught in the RE program, offered an adult RE course, preached on half a dozen occasions, and together with another UU, Offie Wortham, organized a travel course on the Civil Rights Movement. We chartered a bus and brought thirty people to Atlanta, Montgomery, Birmingham and Selma. I have also experienced the larger UU Movement, by attending a course at Meadville Lombard Seminary in congregational polity, with James Hobart, and participating as a delegate in the 2008 General Assembly. This has allowed me to connect with the small but growing community of UU military chaplains. What I love about Unitarian Universalism is the opportunity to keep a standpoint of exploration in matters of belief and spiritual practice while at the same time sharing a covenant with a community committed to social justice and compassion in human relations.*

*Second, my plans to be an Army Chaplain: As a Unitarian Universalist*

*Military Chaplain, my vision is to provide religious support through a ministry of presence and empathic listening to soldiers of all persuasions and their families, serve as moral and ethical advisor to the command, and equip the military chaplain corps with greater pastoral competency for ministry in a pluralistic setting. This is a matter of urgent concern to me.*

*The men and women of the Armed Forces represent an estimated 700 different religions and beliefs. In my own battalion now I have atheists, Pagans, Buddhists, Jews and Muslims in addition to dozens of varieties of Christians. Yet the majority of military chaplains are evangelical Christian. Some of these evangelicals have become holy crusaders, turning the U.S. led war on "terror" into a cosmic holy war between Christianity and Islam, validating the claims of terrorists, undermining national security, and endangering military personnel. The need is great for a liberal religious presence in the military. As a military chaplain, I will continue the U.S. tradition of championing religious liberty and ensure that the Armed Forces continue to demonstrate leadership in fostering religious tolerance at home and abroad.*

*Rev. Sam*

...May 30....May 30...May 30....May 30...May 30....May 30...May 30....May 30...May 30....May 30...May 30....May 30...May 30....May 30...May 30....May 30...May 30....

## **"6 to 9 at 6:09"**

We are bringing back **circle dinners** to FUUSA. For those of you who are unfamiliar with circle dinners, they are small gatherings of FUUSA members and friends to give participants a chance to enjoy a shared meal and socialize. We will start with one circle dinner this year on **May 30** so please hold the date. The catch phrase for the dinners is "6 to 9 at 6:09". In other words, we will place 6 to 9 folks together for a meal at 6:09. We'll need lots of hosts and want lots of participants. You simply submit a name(s) and we'll match you with a host for a meal. Sign ups start in May. -Ann Lapinski

## **PLANT SALE**

**Saturday, May 30**  
**9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

at the Mannings' house ,  
18 Salisbury Road, Delmar

*Reasonable prices and sturdy  
homegrown perennial plants!*

# Religious Exploration

## Who can be a spiritual guide?

Teaching Religious Education is a ministry and a spiritual practice. Perhaps "guiding Religious Exploration" would be a better term for what happens here on Sunday mornings between children and youth and adults. With Religious Exploration, you never know who will be the guide and who will be the novice, who will be fulfilled and who will do the fulfilling. The roles can be filled by adults, youth and children, if the adults are open to the possibility and the younger ones are given the opportunity. Soon I will be putting out the call for adult volunteers in our RE program for the fall. Perhaps you have considered taking advantage of this opportunity. I could go on about what the experience could hold for you, but perhaps it's best to hear it from the real experts. Please read the testimonials from two of this year's RE volunteers. Then I hope you might consider joining a team and serving our children and youth 2 Sunday mornings each month in the fall or in the spring. Watch for the signup sheets in Channing Hall or contact me to find out more. In joy and service,



### Thoughts on my experiences in RE this year

#### —Sterling Post

This year the 1st and 2nd graders and their teachers (including me) have been exploring the calendars of Jewish and Christian holy days, with periodic stop-offs for some kid friendly, science based cosmology. We've staged an in-class play based on the story of Esther, searched for lodging with Mary and Joseph, danced to Hava Nageela with flags and "Torahs" in hand, enjoyed an Easter egg hunt (fun!), listened to many stories, and talked about some very important issues.

Amid classroom management challenges, the work of organization, etc, really wonderful moments routinely appear. Communicating with children about fundamental life issues can clear out the rhetorical cobwebs, help you cut through to what's alive and real, using the language people actually live with. What a privilege to share in the "firstness" of children's experience!

### Experience of a new kindergarten teacher

#### —Andrea Smith

Last summer I thought about helping out in RE – perhaps be a teacher for a year. But what do I have to offer? What age group would I be comfortable with?

I have had no experience teaching a group of kids, so I would need a group of kids that wouldn't be able to sense my lack of confidence. I want the kids to hang on my every word. (I'll settle for a group that can't outsmart me.) I also want kids that are verbal. I don't want to guess if I am making any sense and I want the kids to tell me what is on their mind. Lastly I'm a bit concerned about discipline, so a group of short kids that can be distracted easily would be good.

I decided that young school age kids would be a good fit. Leah placed me with some experienced kindergarten teachers and my husband. I was pleased to learn that there is a detailed curriculum for Kindergarten. Plus you don't have to teach to a test. Just pick and chose and do what is comfortable.

How has this experience been for me? It has been wonderful! Every child in the kindergarten room is unique, cute and bright. If you are short on cute in your life, you have to meet these kids. And they are verbal, they will tell you what is on their minds and you will find their minds work differently than yours. This is a good thing too – and a blast to see.

We have learned together about ideas of God, re-birth and mystery of life, UU principles, fairness, people with different abilities, friends, importance of learning and laughter, and much more. Would I do this again? Yes – without a doubt.

## Social Responsibilities Council

The next meeting of the Social Responsibilities Council will be held on Sunday, May 3 at 11:40 a.m. in room B-7. All are welcome to attend!

**At the Table:** To celebrate Mother's Day there will be select items from Guatemala for sale on Sunday, May 3rd. This will be the last day that crafts will be available for sale this year. A new variety of chocolate bars is now available.

Thanks to all who have given so generously to the collection during our Give Away the Plate Sundays. Over \$1,000 was donated to the Inner

City Youth and Family Coalition (through the Trinity Institution), and \$628 was raised for Community Gardens.

In May, our Give Away the Plate Sunday will be donated to the Frank Chapman Institute to help support literature and music camps for inner-city youth.

**Green Sanctuary News:** Thanks to all who participated in the Earth Day Fair. The exhibitors were great and the lunch delicious. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped, as well.

## IINYS Education and Advocacy Day – May 11

Interfaith Impact of New York State Education and Advocacy Day is May 11. Will you be there? It is a chance to network and work with members of a statewide coalition of congregations and individuals from mainline Protestant, Reform Jewish, Unitarian Universalist and other faith traditions on issues of importance to liberal religion, including marriage equality, Dignity for All Students, Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA), and Farmworker Rights.

Please join us by registering now. There is a registration fee of \$25 per adult (\$15 each for students). This includes breakfast, lunch, and all materials for Advocacy Day. Registration forms are available online at [www.interfaithimpactnys.org](http://www.interfaithimpactnys.org) or on the Programs and Events bulletin board in Channing Hall at FUUSA.

For additional information and if you are interested in being a participant, please feel free to contact Don Odell or Robb Smith. **We need all of us to make our liberal religious voice heard in the Capitol.**

## Refugee Resettlement

### Project

A reminder to all who pledged to pay in four installments that the first pledge is due in May. You will be getting calls or emails in the beginning of May. Thanks again for your contribution to resettle the Iraqi family.


## Focus Food Pantry

Our April donations to the Focus Food Pantry totaled \$330, displaying once again our generosity and empathy to those in need. Many thanks. Our next Food Pantry Sunday will be May 24. It will be our last Sunday until September for food pantry donations. -Lois Thomson and Jane Allen, co-chairs



## Walk with the world on May 3


All signs point to strong participation by FUUSA walkers (**Team UU!**) in the CROP Hunger Walk coming up on Sunday, May 3. Pledges are being collected during coffee hour and will be distributed among FUUSA walkers. Please sign up to walk, or pledge to support other walkers. Funds raised go to local and international hunger relief, including our Capital District food pantries. Contact Dawn Dana for more information.



### Dance for Habitat

On Saturday May 9 the Del-Martini's, a Delmar based band with FUUSA familiars Greg Jackson, Betty and Dave Wall, will be performing at the American Legion Post on 16 W Poplar Drive in Delmar from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Money raised at the door (\$5 donation requested) will go to the FUUSA Habitat House. The funds are intended to help with the "extra costs associated with making the house handicapped accessible." Put on your dancing shoes and enjoy the great music for a good cause!



## Join us!

Come and Enjoy an  
Evening of Poetry and Music

# Oriel Coffeehouse

Friday, May 15

7 pm

Emerson Hall

Participate by

Sharing your musical or  
poetic talents

OR

Sign up in Channing for set-  
up or take-down crew

OR

Donate a Dessert

Call Irene Saulsbery if you have  
questions or want to volunteer.

## Guilderland Plus Potluck

Sue and John Walko will host the Guilderland Plus Potluck on Friday, May 8, at 6:30 p.m. Please let them know that you are coming and what you will bring to share.

*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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*Contributors:* D. Odell, S. Trumbore, D. Doran, T. Heath, L. Purcell, D. Dana, L. Way, I. Saulsbery, C. Antal, A. Lapinski, P. Moskowitz, et al.

*Newsletter Crew:* Many hands!

Send all submissions to:

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

## Memorial services for Dot Fischer and Abby Jones

A memorial service for Dot Fischer will be held Friday, May 29 at 11:00 a.m in the Sanctuary.

On Sunday, May 31 there will be a memorial service for Abby Jones in the new garden in front of the Sanctuary, near the tree that was planted in Paul's memory by Abby. In addition, two benches will be dedicated in the memory of Abby and Paul Jones. The service will take place immediately following the Sunday service with a reception in Channing Hall to follow. All are welcome.

## Lick 'em, stick 'em

Well, it rhymes, but what we actually need is "fold 'em, label 'em". This would be what the Newsletter Crew does twice a month. It is a simple activity accompanied by pleasant conversation, and we could use a few more folk to get the job done.

The Crew gathers at 1:00 pm on the second and fourth Mondays from September to May, with only one issue in June and one in late July. Depending on how many show up on any given day the task is done within an hour to an hour and a half. If you'd like to come help, please call Dave Stone at the office (463-7135) and let him know you're interested.

## Entertainment Books

The FUUSA order for our 2009 - 2010 Entertainment Books needs to be placed in May. The charge for the book is \$35 which is payable when the books are delivered. To reserve your book or books, contact John Walko at 765-3756 or at [docwasue@aol.com](mailto:docwasue@aol.com).

## Beautifying FUUSA

On Saturday, May 16 at 10 a.m. we will be adding a new garden to our outdoor beautification efforts – in the area bounded by Western Ave, West and Robin Streets (what some call the "front" or "triangle".) Two benches, ground cover and plantings will provide a restful area for quiet conversation or contemplation. In addition, we will be adding annuals to the Heron Garden and cleaning up all of the garden areas. Of course, this can only be accomplished if enough volunteers are willing to help with this project. A list of plants that will be needed will be available soon.

Please let Paula Moskowitz know if you can help. Bring your garden tools and gloves!!!

Garden Maintenance: In addition, there is a sign up sheet in Channing for summer garden maintenance. All you have to do is sign up for one week over the summer when you can spend a couple of hours weeding, deadheading, etc. Bring your gloves, tools and kneeling pad and come in any day that week. I will e-mail volunteers information about what needs to be done and what to do with any weeds, etc. -- Paula Moskowitz

## About Us

The Capital Pride Singers, including FUUSAn **Joan Butcher**, will be presenting their Spring Concert in Emerson Hall on Sunday, May 31 at 5PM. "Timeline: A Night of History, Music and Humor" will present our favorite LGBTQ decades through song. Singers' outfits will represent fashions from the 1920's through 1990's. Feel free to wear the attire of your favorite decade and join the fun! All tickets are \$10. For more information contact Joan Butcher.

## Building Bridges artist – Dan Sekellick

A highlight of the four congregation Building Bridges celebration on April 26th was Dan Sekellick's wonderful art piece. When each of the four congregations brought its own panel together with the others, both the reality and the symbolism were striking--by joining together to promote Unitarian Universalism we can do so much more than any of us can do alone!

How well do you know Dan Sekellick? Dan and his wife, Barb, joined the congregation in the early 60s and brought their two daughters to RE for many years. Before their marriage Dan served in the navy for ten years as a helicopter pilot--but when he asked Barb to marry him she said, "Not if you stay in the Navy!" He made his decision and it proved to be a good one – they will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this December!

Dan is both an artist and an architect. While his "day job" was with the NYS Department of Social Services, he has always enjoyed and been active in volunteer activities as well. He

chaired our Art Committee for ten years and still helps with lining up artists and hanging shows in Channing Hall. Since his retirement Dan has continued to travel, both in this country and in Europe; and he has increased his work as a volunteer in the community. Dan did the architectural work of transforming an old church building in Averill Park into the much heralded Sand Lake Center for the Arts.

While Dan has "dodged a few bullets" as he puts it with his health, he still enjoys an active life. I can testify to his being a beautiful and accomplished skier, and great company on the slopes! We skied together just a few months ago. At one point I was waiting for Dan at a lift and began to fret when he didn't show immediately--could he have fallen or hurt himself I worried--but he soon glided toward me as gracefully as ever and explained that a child had fallen and he had stopped to help...that's our Dan Sekellick!!—Linda Way

## School Days, School Days

Dear old golden rule days! It does seem early to be thinking of the opening of school in September; however, the Focus Churches will again be collecting school supplies for the children of Focus Food Pantry clients. Imagine how nice it is to start school with a brand new supply of pencils, notebooks, crayons, etc. What an incentive for a good school year!

What do we need?

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

Lots of stuff- K through 12. There will be a box in the FUUSA lobby for our donations of supplies beginning mid-May, and pickup by August 1. Many thanks and happy shopping! - Lois Thomson and Jane Allen, co-chairs, Focus Food Pantry

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## Thank you from the Clapper Family

We want to thank all of you who came together and supported our family in so many ways. The Bow-lathon (to raise funds during Laura's breast cancer treatment) was a huge success and we are thankful and overwhelmed to see how many people really do love us! Your support is priceless through this uncertain journey but it is so much more comforting to know we have people like you in our lives.

Laura and Jeff Clapper and family

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# Beltaine Maypole!

Celebrate the traditions of Spring with  
the time honored tradition of a Maypole dance!

**12:45 pm, Saturday, May 2  
at Six Mile Waterworks Park**

Join **Earth Spirits** for their annual Beltaine celebration. We will gather at 6 Mile Waterworks at 12:45 on May 2. The Maypole will begin at 1:00. Afterwards, there will be a potluck lunch. In order to leave only our footprints on the earth, we will ask you to bring your own table setting and beverage. Also bring drums, rattles and other noisemakers. Let's have fun and raise a lot of noise and energy!

Directions are as follows: Go west from FUUSA on Washington Ave, take a right onto Fuller Road and a left into the park. There is a sign for the park.

## **Annual Meeting** Sunday, May 17, 2009

- 10:00-11:00 **Service**
- 11:00-11:45 **Coffee Hour PLUS**
- 11:30-11:45 Parents take children to assigned rooms for **childcare** and sign them in with caregivers
- 11:45 **Annual Meeting** starts in Emerson Community Hall

Families needing child care should reserve space by calling the office at 463-7135 so that we will be prepared with sufficient caregivers and snacks.

Copies of the proposed budget and any resolutions to be presented at the meeting may be picked up in Channing Hall starting May 3.

Limited absentee ballots available: see information below.

Read about the candidates here—meet them at coffee hour, May 3 & 10.

### **Offices to be elected**

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

### **Contested Elections\***

#### **Board of Trustees**

(3 year term—2 to be elected;  
2 year term—1 to be elected;  
1 year term—1 to be elected)

- Todd Gray
- Virginia Hammer
- Scott Murray
- Dave MacLeod
- Randy Rosette
- Bruce Smith
- Dave Street
- Nancy Wagner

#### **Endowment Trust**

(3-year terms, 1 to be elected)  
Jay Gallagher  
Lee Newberg

### **Nominating Committee** (3-year terms, 2 to be elected)

- Mark Butt
- Donna Doran
- Bob Franklin
- Dave Munro

### **Uncontested**

#### **Religious Education Council** (3-year terms, 4 to be elected)

- Cate Bohn
- Brian Frank
- Leah Gaetano
- Amy Souzis

#### **Social Responsibilities Council** (3-year terms, 2 to be elected)

- Ann Brandon
- Rudy Johnson

\*The bylaws call for the Board of Trustees, Endowment Trust, and Nominating Committee to be contested.

\*\*Ex-officio member of Board of Trustees

### **Absentee Ballots**

FUUSA's bylaws provide for the use of absentee ballots for elections. They are to be used by members who are home-bound or who will be out of town on the day of the annual meeting, May 17, 2009. Request a ballot from the church office. Ballots will be available from Sunday, May 3 to Friday, May 15. **Completed ballots, sealed in an envelope, must be received in the church office on or before 11:00 AM on Friday, May 15.**

### **OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED**

(1 year terms)

#### **PRESIDENT**

##### **Linda Way**

Last year I wrote that being President of FUUSA would, for me, be a stretch and a challenge. It has been – but it has also been a real opportunity to learn and to grow; and, most of all, it has been a privilege to serve the congregation and the community that has so enriched my life for over 35 years.

This year, we have been increasingly able to look beyond settling into our new space to focus on our dreams and vision for the future – for ways to strengthen our own congregation and support our members, and for ways to serve the wider Albany community. The work of the Dream Catchers, the organization of help for those in economic distress, the Iraqi Resettlement Effort, and the plan to donate our space for a six week summer program for inner city youth are just a few of our new initiatives that testify to these efforts.

In addition next fall we will be partnering with the UUA and three other UU congregations in the Capital District in an exciting new marketing campaign. We seek to grow our denomination not for the sake of growth itself but because of what we have to offer. I truly believe that Unitarian Universalism offers a religious community that not only deepens the life of its members, but in so doing ultimately becomes a greater force for understanding, compassion and justice in the world.

I welcome the opportunity to serve another year.

#### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

##### **Chuck Manning**

I am honored to be asked to serve a second year as the Vice-President for FUUSA. I have been an active member of FUUSA for over 35 years. During that time I have served in many capacities including Board of Trustees, Canvass Committee and Canvass Chair, Finance Committee, RE Teacher, Endowment Trust Chair, Architect Committee Chair, Green Sanctuary Committee, and RE Council. My goals for the year will be to continue "Reaching Out" and prioritize our activities through the Dream Catcher Process.

#### **SECRETARY**

##### **Jan McCracken**

I am pleased to be asked to continue serving the congregation as Secretary to the Board. These past several months have been a rich learning experience and I've enjoyed contributing to



FUUSA in this way. I feel inspired and grateful to work with such brilliant and caring leadership. We are heading into exciting waters and I want to get it on record!

## TREASURER

### Dave Metz

Dave is currently a member of the Board of Trustees and chair of the Building and Grounds Committee. He became a Unitarian in 1973 in Ft. Collins, CO, and has been a member of FUUSA since 1979. He has served on the Nominating Committee, Canvass Committee, as Chair of the \$1.4 Million Capital Campaign in 2004 and Chair of the Endowment Trust. Dave is retired from a career as a telecommunications consultant to higher education and medical centers. Dave and his wife Barb, whom he met at FUUSA, live on their farm in East Greenbush.

## ASSISTANT TREASURER

### Katharine Harris

I first came to FUUSA in the spring of 1999, just as Davidson Loehr was telling his stories. I immediately joined the choir and was asked to be the chair of the Music Committee soon thereafter. In that capacity the Music Committee/Choir has arranged many concerts including in the 2008-2009 season: Jazz Night with Alan Thomson and Al De-Salvo, a recital by Findley Cockrell and Buck2Fifty.

I signed the membership book in 2000 and have participated in the Annual Dinner skit for most of my years with FUUSA. I served as the Sunday Volunteer Coordinator from 2003-7. In 2007 I was elected to the Assistant Treasurer position and look forward to serving my third year 2009-2010. I also serve on the Green Sanctuary Committee and work on the Rummage Sales and the Auction.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(3 year term—2 to be elected;

2 year term—1 to be elected;

1 year term—1 to be elected)

### Todd Gray

Greetings, fellow FUUSAns. I discovered Unitarian Universalism quite serendipitously over 10 years ago. My wife Sheila and I decided that our kids, Bryce and Seneca, were getting old enough to start exploring religion. Our selection of the First Unitarian Church in Shaker Heights, Ohio as the first place to begin this journey was based entirely on convenience and exposure; it was across the street

from Seneca's soccer field! We quickly found that we had always been UUs, but didn't know it. We found the people to be as welcoming as the UU principles. Let's not forget about the impetus for our short search. Our children were happy with the RE program there, and Sheila and I both taught as well. I think we learned as much as the kids!

Upon moving to the Albany area in 2000, we found a home at FUUSA. Here, I continued teaching in the RE program and participated in other ways, including attending youth Cons, serving on the RE Council, the Personnel Committee, and the Social Events Committee. For a couple of years Sheila and I also organized a UU book table that offered titles from the UUA bookstore to satiate the intellectual appetites at FUUSA. My future aspirations as a UU include attending a GA someday and visiting Star Island. But for now, I'll resist charting a specific course for these destinations or my roles at FUUSA. Serendipity has served me well in the past, and will likely present opportunities in the future.

### Virginia Hammer

Like many others, I admire our beautiful new building. However, I am pleased to see that the church's physical expansion is being matched by a planning process to address the congregation's less concrete but perhaps more important desires—for increased focus on community and connections, spirituality and theological diversity, and social justice. Although I am especially drawn to FUUSA's commitment to social justice, I am interested in all three areas of growth. Having been a part-time volunteer community organizer for over 20 years, I know that while it is important to begin with a vision, it takes energy, focus, and organization to turn a vision into reality. If I am elected to the board, I will work as part of a team to plan, organize and manage resources to make a positive difference both to individuals within the congregation and to those in the larger community.

### Dave MacLeod

I have a long and checkered past - from self-declared atheist at the age of 8, to spiritual seeker into my 50's. I have studied art and philosophy, and land use and environmental planning. I am a logician and a steadfast bottom-liner. I am currently a planner with the New York State Department of State, in a program to assist communities in revitalizing neighborhoods affected by contaminated property.

I first heard of Unitarian-Universalism through my aunt in Rochester. In 1985, I joined the Unitarian Fellowship in Macon, Georgia, where I identified myself as a Social

Utilitarian and Daoist Sympathizer. When I moved to Watertown in 1986, I attended the All Souls Universalist Church, where I religiously worshipped the coffee-maker. In 1988, I moved to Rochester, and began attending services there. When I finally arrived in Albany, in 1991, I began attending FUUSA, off and on, and was married in the Sanctuary. Recently, I joined the church, and have been bringing my son here since Kindergarten. I feel that I have found a home of sorts, and thoroughly enjoy doing skits at the Annual Fellowship Dinner, dramatic readings in the services, and, if I ever get Wednesdays free, I might join the choir.

### Scott Murray

I have been asked to write a note as to why I would like to be a board member and what I feel I can offer in that role.

As to the latter, I have many years of experience focusing on achieving organizational excellence. My last position was one in which I was responsible for an approximately 48 million dollar budget and 540 staff covering all of NY State except the NY metropolitan area. In that role, I led a team that was identified as a national best practice within the largest health-care agency in the country -- the Veterans Administration. For 9 years, we led the country in almost every performance measure of quality and cost and patient satisfaction. Our network was the first federal agency to be selected as a finalist in the President's Baldrige Award for organizational excellence. This was a first for any federal agency, ever. The staff to which I was responsible also had the highest employee-satisfaction rating in the country. Because of our success, I was asked to provide training and mentoring to other healthcare leaders across the country. We also began the first network-wide integrated continuum of care for homeless veterans and the first network-wide prison outreach and transition program. In summary, I believe I have skills that would be useful for our congregation and the community we serve.

As to the more important question of why I want to serve. I have retired recently and feel a strong need to continue to be of service in ways that are meaningful to me and for many of those about whom I care. I have become a member here to connect with and reach out to a community that is invested in making a difference in the world -- in ways that are both spiritual and tangible. Although new to this congregation, I believe it to be doing both of these things. I am presently working with Literacy Volunteers and have been a facilitator with Small Group Ministry this year.

I believe the opportunity offered to  
**Candidates, continued next page**

## **Candidates, continued**

submit my name for the board was fortuitous and hope that if I am selected, it would provide a further way to make a helpful contribution to this wonderful and unique congregation.

### **Randy Rosette**

When I arrived on FUUSA's doorstep in 1992, I was pleased to see a few familiar faces from my work environment at a local pharmacy clinic; little did I realize that my husband and I, as well as three adopted teens, would make FUUSA our "community" and spiritual home. During these years, I have been honored to serve as past Secretary and Board member, as well as on the Personnel, Nominating, and Finance Committees. My continuing involvement as RE teacher, Rite of Passage mentor, and AYS/OWL and youth group leader has been rewarding and allowed me to keep in touch with our younger participants. I also enjoy working with the Auction committee and UU Weekend/Silver Bay team and you will often see me in the kitchen as well as singing my heart out in the choir.

In the upcoming election, I would ask you to consider me for a position on the Board of Trustees. I am ready to extend my commitment to FUUSA, by listening, considering the goals and future of FUUSA, its members and friends, and sharing ideas and solutions. Thank you.

### **Bruce Smith**

A former VP of a non-profit board, in his professional life Bruce has reported to a board of directors, attended and presented at board meetings, and helped to orient new board members. He earns a living serving on the leadership teams of colleges.

Mostly a marketing and public relations director by profession, Bruce actively works to help FUUSA and UU grow. Bruce is currently active in FUUSA in various ways: PR committee member, RE teacher, greeter and canvasser (fundraiser). He also attended the 2008 annual NY Universalists meeting.

He has been a member of several UU congregations. Bruce would bring the perspective of a new FUUSA member, having been coming to FUUSA for more than a year.

Bruce has a bachelor's degree in writing and a master's in administration, both from Johns Hopkins University.

### **David Street**

I originally came to FUUSA to find a religious education program that would give my son Brian a broad background in world religions. FUUSA seemed to fit that bill. Since becoming a member at FUUSA in 2001, I have primarily worked with the Small Group

Ministry program, but also participate in one of the men's groups, offered an adult education class on Peak Oil, helped out with the Oriel, and have given two lay-sermons which have seemed to center on the theme of the opportunities for leadership - one from the Native American perspective and one on the politics of hope. This year I have been learning from the process of serving as a mentor in the Rights of Passage program. At the moment, I am keenly interested in finding meaningful ways to deepen shared spiritual experiences in our community.

In my professional life, I have been a behavioral scientist with the Air Force, obtained a Master's degree in Public Administration with a concentration in urban planning and economic development, and for the last 19 years have been working for the labor union, CSEA, Inc. where I am the program evaluator for the NYS & CSEA Partnership which does statewide training programs for CSEA represented state employees. In my spare time, I am working on my first novel and also like to dabble in the craft of bookbinding and other art forms.

### **Nancy Wagner**

I am married with an adult son who grew up in our RE program. I am an avid reader, a cat lover, a garden and nature enthusiast. Our recycling bin is fuller than our garbage can. My husband Dave and I are charter members of the Guilderland YMCA, supporters of the UU Service Committee, Habitat for Humanity, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and Albany Pro Musica. We have also supported FUUSA's building expansion since it was first suggested. Recently I have become involved with the League of Women Voters and participated in my first protest rally since college with the Grannies for Peace group.

Professionally, I specialize as a support worker for not-for-profits. Most of my jobs have had some financial component. Currently I work for Rehabilitation Support Services, a private mental health agency.

A member of for twenty years, I have participated in many ways in the life of our congregation. My longest standing commitment has been to the choir, with which I have been singing continuously since joining. I served seven years as Church Administrator (which included attending all Board meetings). I have been a member of the Membership and Religious Services Committees, served as a delegate to GA, attended numerous denominational district meetings, participated in several Small Group Ministry groups, and performed in many Annual Dinner shows. With my experience and knowledge of FUUSA's history, I believe I can contribute much to help guide our future in these difficult times.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL**

--Chair (1 year term)

### **Molly Daniels**

I have been a member of FUUSA for 7 years. I am a lifelong UU - attending different congregations in the different states I have lived. I was an RE Youth Representative at River Road Unitarian Church as a teen. Then as an adult, I was the Youth Group Advisor at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Middleboro, then on the RE Committee there. I am a parent of two youngsters (Cameron who is 3, and Iris who is 6) who attend RE here at FUUSA and have taught in the 2 year old room, first grade, second grade, and served on the RE Council for two years. I have taken a one year break from the council to be able to serve on the Dream Catchers Committee. I am honored to be nominated to Chair the RE Council this upcoming year. I am excited by the direction Leah has taken the RE program in and would love to be involved in helping the Council continue the initiatives they have already done so much work on (e.g. providing intergenerational activities like the Spaghetti dinner and Suds and Spuds, providing training for teacher volunteers so they can feel equipped and invested in) and continuing to look at what new initiatives may be needed to provide a safe and enriching environment to for our children and adults to work on their spiritual/theological journey.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL**

(3 year term unless specified)

### **Cate Bohn**

Cate Teuten Bohn is a candidate for the RE Council. She has two boys who are in RE classes and enjoy learning about spirituality and different religious viewpoints. Cate has been a FUUSA member since December 2007 and hopes for a long future with the FUUSA community. She is also on the 2009 Canvasser Committee and a member of the Spirituality Book Group.

### **Brian Frank**

My name is Brian Frank and I am running for member of the RE Council. I have been attending FUUSA since September 2007 with my partner Steven and our son Darius. I'm currently coordinating snacks for all of the RE classes, but look forward to making a more substantial contribution through membership in the RE Council. RE was a major factor in my family's decision to join FUUSA, and I be-

***Candidates, continued next page***

## ***Candidates, continued***

lieve the RE program can be a key element in growing our congregation. My family advocacy outside FUUSA includes serving as event coordinator for Lambda Family Circle, board member for the 2009 Pride and Joy Family Conference, and writing for the website bookdads.com

### **Leah Gaetano**

My name is Leah Gaetano and I am running for a position on the Religious Education Council. My wife and I have been members of FUUSA for almost two years. We have a two year old daughter who enjoys attending church with us on Sundays. I have been a teacher with the Albany City School District for the past twelve years.

This past October my wife and I had the pleasure of joining fellow Unitarians at Silver Bay. I made many connections with people that weekend, sparking a desire to become more involved with the church. Recently I assisted Leah Purcell with the hiring of two new nursery staff here at FUUSA. My wife and I have been greeters on Sunday mornings and look forward to expanding our involvement in future church activities and functions.

When I am not chasing a two-year old around the house, I like to exercise, ride my bike, and bake cookies. I enjoy reading, photography, and spending time with extended family.

Thank you for your time and support

### **Amy Souzis Post**

My name is Amy Souzis Post. My husband Sterling and I have attended FUUSA since 2001. Our son is currently enrolled in the RE program, as a second grader.

Sterling and I were long term residents of Albany before moving to East Greenbush, where our family now resides. I have been self-employed as a Massage Therapist for nearly 20 years, and also have a Master's Degree in Dance/Movement Therapy and Counseling Psychology.

I have been teaching in the RE program for five years, and have really loved working with the kids. I hope to bring a valuable perspective to my position on the RE Board.

Thank you for your consideration.

## **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL—Chair (1 year term)**

### **Lois Griffin**

Sometimes I have to remind myself that I

have not always lived in NY and been a FUUSAn. But my first urban center was Louisville, Ky. (Phil Rich can detect vestiges of that accent which I tried to get rid of when I moved north to Indianapolis in middle school.) I finished school including college there, got married and moved to Denver where I began my career as an English teacher in a middle school outside Denver. After my husband completed his Ph.D., he got a job with IBM and we moved to Broome County, NY, where my two daughters were born.

When my daughters were in school, I got my masters in English Literature at SUNY Binghamton, became involved in the League of Women Voters and served as its president, was the first woman elected to the Vestal School Board and a year later, its president, and then went back to teaching English.

When I had an absolutely empty nest, I joined Vista which took me to Albany where I served as a youth advocate. I decided to stay in the Albany area, went back to teaching until I retired when my parents moved to my home for me to take care of them. After my parents died, my husband became ill. I have been widowed for 3 years and have become increasingly involved in FUUSA, especially in SRC.

## **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **COUNCIL (3 year term unless specified)**

### **Ann Brandon**

Over the many years I have been a member of FUUSA, my main interests have been social action and music. I joined the Social Responsibilities Council about a year ago and since September have coordinated the Forums. Currently I am on the Iraqi Refugee committee, coordinating furnishings for their apartment. I served as president of FUUSA from 1999 to 2002. Prior to that, in the 1970's and '80's I served as music director. I welcome the opportunity to continue to participate in the social action of our congregational life, working for a better life for all of our brothers and sisters.

### **Rudy Johnson**

Rudy Johnson is a former journalist who continues to write as a retirement activity. Born in Manhattan, he has seen first-hand the ravages of the young poor as a youth growing up on the streets of Harlem. Over the years, he has sought to use his journalistic skill toward abating the entrenched problem. He is looking forward to continuing that effort as an elected member of the Social Responsibility

Council.

## **ENDOWMENT TRUST**

### **Jay Gallagher**

Emily and I have been FUUSANs for almost 25 years. Both of our daughters, now adults, went through the RE program and are now active UUs. I served two stints on the board, and was VP for two years during the Jon Newell regime (in the late '90s.)

Professionally, I've been a reporter covering the Capitol for 25 years, so I have learned many lessons about how not to handle money.

I am by nature fiscally prudent and I think I would be a careful steward of the endowment funds.

### **Lee Newberg**

Heidi and I arrived at FUUSA in 1999 with two children, but we liked the RE program so much that we added two more children to our family. I have been a teacher in the RE program; I have served on the finance committee, SRC, and RE council -- and this is my third or fourth time serving as an Endowment Trust nominee. Professionally, I am a research scientist analyzing genomes with mathematical algorithms. Previously, I analyzed financial arbitrage situations for a hedge fund; but over the last few months I have learned not to say that in polite company.

I hope we will discuss amending the declaration that governs our Endowment Trust. Currently, the Endowment Trustees are charged with responsibly allocating the trust income. Unfortunately, yearly income varies from high to negative and the trust has a somewhat random capacity to provide resources. To start the discussion, I suggest that the resource capacity be something like 3% of trust assets, regardless of actual income. This would give us the capacity of a typical year's income in excess of inflation, but without the boom and bust of stock market fluctuations. This would force us to save when times are good and would allow us to help out when times are tough.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

3 year term—2 to be elected)

### **Mark Butt**

I have been a member of FUUSA for many years and have been on numerous councils and committees. I was on the Board of Trustees- 6 years and the RE Council- 8 years (serving as RE Chair for 3 years). I get along well with people and feel I would be an ***Candidates, continued next page***  
***Candidates, continued***

asset in finding FUUSANS who would become great leaders in our community.

### Donna Russell Doran

I am currently completing my 3<sup>rd</sup> (and last) year as Chair of the Social Responsibilities Council, and would be very pleased to serve on the Nominating Committee. I know the task will be challenging, but I would certainly look forward to getting to know more of our members and to matching the vast pool of skills at FUUSA with the many interesting roles to be filled.

I have been a member of FUUSA since the mid-1980s. In addition to SRC, I have been a member of the Board of Trustees, I am a member of the St Lawrence District Social Justice Council, have served on the Canvass Committee and I am a mentor in the Rites of Passage Program. Other activities at FUUSA have included working on Rummage Sales, hosting visitors from our Partner Church, and working on the Habitat for Humanities House. I also had the privilege of attending the UU Leadership Institute in 2007. Through these activities, I have learned a lot about the organizational structure of FUUSA – and, more importantly, I have come to appreciate the kindness, compassion and abilities of our members.

On a personal note, my husband Bill and I live in the town of Schodack. We are each 'semi-retired.' We enjoy traveling, puttering and having time to spend together with our friends and family.

I certainly look forward to continuing to participate in activities at FUUSA. Thank you for considering me for election to the Nominating Committee.

### Walker Book Club

The next meeting is Sunday, May 10, 5:30 PM at Lisa Walker's, The upcoming schedule is as follows:

**May 10:** The Reluctant Tuscan by Phil Doran. Suggested by Don Odell.

**June 14:** Short stories were selected at the April meeting, and will be available for distribution at the May meeting. John Updike retrospective: How Was it, Really?; Scenes from the Fifties; and The Cats. We will narrow the three short stories to two selections at the May meeting.

**Summer Book,** People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks.

Fall meeting is September 13.

### Bob Franklin

I have been a member of FUUSA since 1988. During that time I have served on the Board of Trustees, the Religious Education Council, as the chair of the Nominating and the Membership Committees and as a member of the Art and Aesthetics, Annual Dinner, Silver Bay Weekend and Interior Decorating Committees.

### Dave Munro

I would be delighted to be given the opportunity to serve on the Nominating Committee.

I am married to Eileen Hoffman, and our children were both dedicated in this congregation and participated in our Religious Ed. Program from birth until they left for college. My past activities have included serving as president of the congregation and chairing several committees. I am currently a member of the Dream Catchers, which is leading the congregation in the development of a long range plan.

Many congregations have transformed their Nominating Committee into a Leadership Development Committee. Such a committee meets year round, and: provides clear and accurate information about the mission of various committees and what a commitment to participation would entail; helps to provide resources, training and other information to committee members; and in general, works with members to help them identify and grow in roles which serve their needs and those of the congregation. I believe that we should make this transition, working closely with the Board of Trustees and the Program Coordinating Council.

### Spirituality Book Club

The Spirituality Book Club meets at noon on Sundays to discuss books on spiritual subjects. Upcoming books are:

♦April 19: Art of Power by Tich Nhat Hahn

If you have questions call Philomena Moriarty Trumbore.

### Channing Circle

We will meet on Monday, May 18 at noon. Bring your lunch and enjoy dessert provided by two of our group. The program will be of great interest to all of us, as well as to younger FUUSANS who do not know how we traveled before the super highway system became a way of life!

So, let's go cruising on America's Highway - Route 66 - as Steve Rider (Mim's son) leads us on a journey to yesteryear. There's nostalgia around every corner as we meet some of the people, places, and events that continue to make Route 66 a popular destination, from Chicago to LA!

The program will start at 1 pm and all are welcome to enjoy it.--Thayer Heath and Ursula Poland

### Dig 'em!

As you are cleaning out your gardens this spring, take those extra perennial plants and small bushes--the plants that don't like your soil, the ones that have gotten too big, the ones you no longer like, any that just need to be separated and given more space--and pot them up for the FUUSA Plant Sale. The plant sale will

be Saturday, May 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Once you have plants potted, or if you need pots, call Barb Manning (439-4226).



## Spring Rummage Sale reminders

**Set up and donations received** starting Sunday, May 3, after church and continuing 9:00-9:00 Monday-Wednesday, May 6 and 9:00 to NOON, Thursday, May 7.

**Sale starts** Friday May 8 at 9:00 and ends Saturday May 9 at 3:00  
Clean up starts May 9 at 3:00 until we are done.

Please **sign up in Channing Hall to work** as many times as you can and plan to stay after the service on Sunday May 3rd to set up.

**We can sell:** undamaged household goods including linens. "If it will fit in the back seat of a car we'll take it!"

**We can't sell:** books, children's toys, sporting equipment or baby gear, TVs or computers

## FUUSAns building house for Habitat:



# Joys and Caring Corner

## General Assembly June 24-28 Salt Lake City

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. GAs make overall policy for the Association. And there are also many workshops, presentations, activities and opportunities for worship. If you are interested in being a FUUSA delegate to GA, please contact Linda Way, or Don Odell.

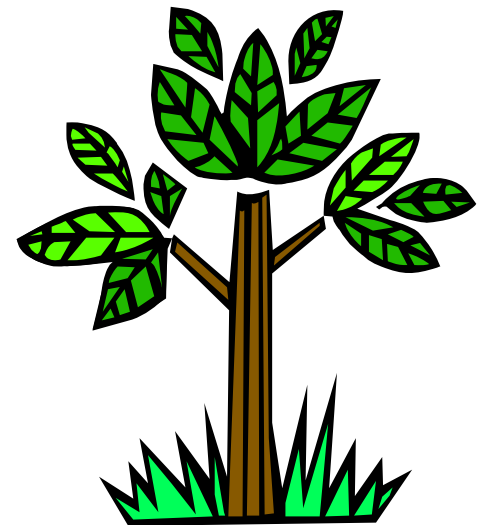
*If you need the services of the Caring Network, please call the office during regular hours at 463-7135.*

Items of personal joy or caring may be submitted during the service on the yellow cards provided, or directly to Irene Saulsbery or Ann Lapinski.

### Think...Fall?

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

*Sign up on Sundays in Channing Hall.*

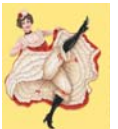


### Sunday Volunteers

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

	Lead Usher (1)	Ushers (3)	Coffee Hosts (2)	Greeters (2)	Chalice Lighter (1)
May 3	A. D'Attilio	T. Archer A. Patti	E. Kane	Quinn Family	
May 10	C. Manning	B. Manning U. Poland A. D'Attilio	D&D Dana	J Bolgatz	
May 17		J. Butcher	A Lattin		C. Quinn
May 24					A. Newberg
May 31			R&J Satin		

### Can Can with the Choir!



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

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

## Events Happening Every Sunday at FUUSA

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

**Exceptions:**  
May 3 Children's Chapel will be in the Sanctuary

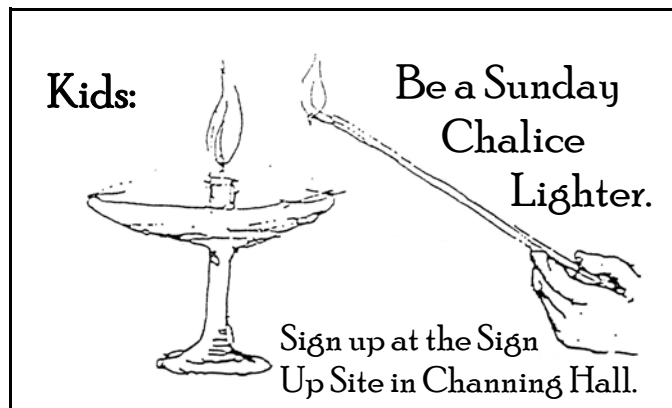
## Events Happening Every Week in the Month of May

Mondays	Pre-School Playgroup	23
Tuesdays	10:00 AM Philosophy Group	B-8
	1:00 PM Bridge	B-8
Wednesdays	10:00 AM Projects & Quilts	B-8
	7:00 PM Choir rehearsal	Emerson

**Exceptions:**  
Choir—No rehearsal Wednesday May 20; No choir on Sunday, May 10

## All Other Events Happening in the Month of May

1-May	9:00 AM	ROP Boston Trip	offsite	7:30 PM	Monday Men	Stott/Joy Library	
2-May	8:00 AM	ROP Boston Trip	offsite	12-May	7:00 PM	SGM Sherman	Stott/Joy Library
3-May	8:00 AM	ROP Boston Trip	offsite	13-May	5:30 PM	ARISE Core Team	B-7
	10:00 AM	Children's Chapel	Sanctuary	14-May	9:00 AM	Oriel Coffeehouse Setup	Emerson
	10:20 AM	Religious Education	Classrooms		5:30 PM	Public Relations Committee	Channing
	11:45 AM	SRC Meeting	B-7		7:00 PM	PCC Meeting	B-8
	11:50 AM	CROP Walk Luncheon	Channing	15-May	9:00 AM	Oriel Coffeehouse Prep	Emerson
	12:00 PM	Rummage Sale Setup	Emerson		7:00 PM	Oriel Coffeehouse	Emerson
4-May	9:00 AM	Windows Update deadline		16-May	10:00 AM	Gardening	FUUSA gardens
	9:00 AM	Rummage Sale Setup	Emerson		7:00 PM	Dances of Universal Peace	Channing
	10:00 AM	SGM Perkins	B-8	17-May	11:45 AM	Annual Meeting	Emerson
	6:15 PM	Religious Education Council	Channing	18-May	9:00 AM	Windows deadline	
5-May	9:00 AM	Rummage Sale Sorting	Emerson		10:00 AM	SGM Perkins	B-8
	7:00 PM	SGM Sherman	Stott/Joy Library		12:00 PM	Channing Circle	Channing
6-May	9:00 AM	Rummage Sale Sorting	Emerson	19-May	7:00 PM	SGM Sherman	Stott/Joy Library
	1:30 PM	SGM Patka	B-8	20-May	1:30 PM	SGM Patka	B-8
	5:30 PM	SGM Murray	B-8		5:30 PM	SGM Murray	B-8
7-May	9:00 AM	Rummage Sale Sorting	Emerson	21-May	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees	B-8
	7:00 PM	SGM Street/Boreali	Stott/Joy Library		7:00 PM	SGM Street/Boreali	Stott/Joy Library
8-May	9:00 AM	Rummage Sale	Emerson	25-May	7:30 PM	Monday Men	Stott/Joy Library
	6:30 PM	Guilderland Plus Potluck	Walkos', Voorheesville	26-May	1:00 PM	Windows mailing	Channing
9-May	9:00 AM	Rummage Sale	Emerson		7:00 PM	SGM Sherman	Stott/Joy Library
	9:00 AM	New Member Orientation	Channing	28-May	6:30 PM	Finance Committee	B-8
10-May	5:00 PM	Cancer Support Group	Applegate's	29-May	11:00 AM	Dot Fischer Memorial Service	Sanctuary
	5:30 PM	Walker Book Club	L. Walker's	30-May	9:00 AM	Plant Sale to 2:00 pm	Mannings', Delmar
	6:30 PM	Whirling Rainbow Lodge	B-8		6:00 PM	Circle Dinner date	off-site homes
11-May	10:30 AM	Preschool Playgroup	23	31-May	11:30 AM	Abby Jones Memorial	Garden, Channing
	1:00 PM	Windows Update mailing	Channing				



**First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany**

405 Washington Avenue  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**May 3 is Rummage Kick Off!**

Starting AFTER the service on Sunday, May 3 you may start bringing in donations. And then stay to help clear out Emerson Hall...Free coffee and bagels for those who help!

## ***Sunday Services***

***SERVICE is at 10:00 a.m.***

Religious education classes for children are held from 10:00-11:20: the Nursery opens at 9:45.

**May 3 "This I Believe"**

Representatives from three generations present their particular faith journeys: Ursula Poland, a war survivor; Philomena Moriarty, a baby boomer; and Erik Eddy, a Gen X member.

**May 10 "In the Service of Life," Rev. Sam Trumbore**

Mothers are frequently honored for being willing servants of life's longing for new birth. And sometimes accidents, sexual violence, and arm-twisting hormones can coerce women into motherhood. However they become pregnant, let us honor women who consciously choose to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of motherhood in the service of life.

**May 17 "A Common Fire," Rev. Sam Trumbore**

Expanding global awareness and shrinking public engagement can create in us strong discomfort. A greater awareness of human suffering stimulates our moral sensibility without perceiving a viable moral way to respond. How do we develop, in Jim Wallis' words, "a sense of the common good, an emphasis on community and compassion in everyday life, and a values-based politics in the public sphere" and then make it real?

**May 24 "War and the Soul" Ed Tick**

Ed Tick, known for his work with soldiers returning from Vietnam and elsewhere, will reflect on the silent costs of war that are paid by the souls of the individuals we send to fight them. Ed specializes in the treatment of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, frequently by leading return visits to Vietnam for groups of Vietnam vets.

**May 31 "Unitarian Pride" Brian Frank**

Finding a religious practice has long been a difficult area for openly Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender people, even more so now that increasing numbers of them are raising families. Many of our religious and ideological institutions claim high ideals yet are in denial about their rejection of the rights of GLBT people. Come and learn how Unitarian Universalism's solidarity with GLBT people and defense of the First Principle can be a source of pride for FUUSA. Brian Frank and his partner Steven Bush are members of FUUSA, and they have a son.