



# WINDOWS

Newsletter of the First Unitarian  
Universalist Society of Albany

May 2011

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## 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.)

7:00 PM

War Healing Circle

(2nd & 4th Sunday/mo.)

## 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!**

## Services

**May 1 "Going Deeper," Rev. Sam Trumbore**

Our congregational purpose talks about exciting the human spirit and inspiring its growth and development. How are we doing with that? The Sunday service is one way for that to happen but what about the other six days of the week? How can our congregation support our individual search for truth and meaning, as mentioned in the UU Purposes and Principles? What would help our congregation as well as each one of us go deeper in our growth and development process? Music: Randy Rosette and Matt Edwards (flute and piano duets)

**May 8 "Mothering and Mentoring," Dr. Susan C. Scrimshaw**

All of us are mentors and mentored at some point in our lives. The difficulty in mentoring, and in mothering, lies in how we teach and support, yet allow independence, growth, and even, mistakes. Our speaker will be Dr. Susan C. Scrimshaw, President of The Sage Colleges in Troy and Albany. Her background is in anthropology and public health. She is a sixth generation Unitarian Universalist. Music: Choir

**May 15 "Rite of Passage Sunday," Rev. Sam Trumbore**

The Rite of Passage is our year long program for ninth and tenth grade high school students. They work with an older Mentor who meets with them monthly to help them develop their individual beliefs. This service will be an expression of their development during their year together shaping and defining their Unitarian Universalist faith.

**May 22 This I Believe**

As Unitarian Universalists, we honor the voices of members of our congregation in their individual search for truth and meaning. This service provides an opportunity to hear the personal reflections on life from FUUSAns Sue Stierer, Russ Myer and Cathy DeMille. Music: Mary Edwards (piano)

**May 29 "The War Isn't Over, Even Now," Rev. Sam Trumbore**

For the last nine years a steady stream of our young men and women have gone off to war in Iraq and Afghanistan. They serve, they kill, they witness and participate in brutality, they suffer physical and psychological harm, then they come home. And the war comes home with them, a war they continue to fight in their dreams and in their subconscious. Whether the 9/11 wars or the Gulf War, or Vietnam or Korea or World War Two, if we send them to fight for us, we have an unending responsibility for them when they return. Music:Choir

# 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 May

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 May

### 1-May Sunday

11:45 AM	Congregational Conversation: Prop. Budget	Rm 26
12:00 PM	Rummage Sale Setup	Emerson Community Hall
12:30 PM	Rite of Passage	Room B-8

### 2-May Monday

9:00 AM	Rummage Sale Setup/Sorting	Emerson Hall
5:30 PM	SGM Collins	Room B-5
6:15 PM	Religious Education Council	Channing Hall
7:30 PM	Monday Men	Room B-8

### 3-May Tuesday

9:00 AM	Rummage Sale Setup/Sorting	Emerson Hall
7:00 PM	Christian UUs	Room B-8

### 4-May Wednesday

9:00 AM	Rummage Sale Setup/Sorting	Emerson Hall
2:00 PM	SGM Patka	Room B-5

### 5-May Thursday

9:00 AM	Rummage Sale Setup/Sorting	Emerson Hall
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### 6-May Friday

9:00 AM	Rummage Sale	Emerson Community Hall
5:00 PM	First Friday	Channing Hall

### 7-May Saturday

9:00 AM	Rummage Sale	Emerson Community Hall
3:00 PM	Rummage Sale Cleanup	Emerson Community Hall

### 8-May Sunday

11:45 AM	Forum	Room B-8
5:30 PM	Walker Book Club	Channing Hall, Kitchen
7:00 PM	War Healing Circle	Room B-8

### 10-May Tuesday

5:30 PM	Lifespan Group	Room B-7
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### 11-May Wednesday

2:00 PM	SGM Patka	Room B-5
5:30 PM	Religious Services Committee	Room B-8

### 12-May Thursday

6:00 PM	Board/PCC Dinner Meeting	Channing Hall, Kitchen
7:00 PM	SGM Sherman	Room B-5

### 13-May Friday

12:00 PM	Oriel Coffeehouse setup	Emerson Community Hall
6:00 PM	Oriel Coffeehouse	Emerson Community Hall, Kitchen

### 14-May Saturday

8:45 AM	Getting to Know UU	Channing Hall, Kitchen
7:00 PM	Dances of Universal Peace	Channing Hall

### 15-May Sunday

11:45 AM	Annual Meeting	Emerson Community Hall
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### 16-May Monday

12:00 PM	Channing Circle	Channing Hall, Kitchen
6:30 PM	SGM Collins (final meeting)	Room B-5

### 18-May Wednesday

2:00 PM	SGM Patka	Room B-5
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### 19-May Thursday

7:00 PM	Board of Trustees	Room B-8
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### 20-May Friday

7:00 PM	Peace Team Movie Event	Channing Hall, Kit
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### 21-May Saturday

6:00 PM	Circle Dinners	Offsite
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### 22-May Sunday

11:45 AM	Forum	Room B-8
12:00 PM	Rite of Passage	Channing Hall, Kitchen
7:00 PM	War Healing Circle	Room B-8

### 23-May Monday

5:30 PM	Lifespan: Crash Course Follow up	Room 26
7:00 PM	Wellspring Meeting	Room B-8
7:30 PM	Monday Men	Room B-7

### 24-May Tuesday

6:45 PM	Pastoral Care Associates	Room B-7
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### 26-May Thursday

6:30 PM	Finance Committee	Room B-8
7:00 PM	SGM Sherman	Room B-5

### 31-May Tuesday

7:00 PM	Introduction to Wellspring	Room B-8
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### Looking Ahead

June 4 Plant Sale

June 5 CRUUNY service, picnic at Round Lake

June 12 Sundae Sunday

## News

### Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 15

The Annual Meeting of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany will be held in Emerson Community Hall on May 15 at 11:45 a.m. Items of business will include: report of the nominating committee and election, presentation and adoption of the 2011-2012 budget, and other business.

### Budget Conversation

On May 1 at 11:45 a.m. there will be a congregational conversation about the draft budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year. This will be an opportunity for members and friends to review the budget and discuss the assumptions used to prepare it. The budget will be voted on at the annual meeting on May 15. The draft budget is available on in the lobby. If you would like to have it emailed to you, please contact Steve Moskowitz. The meeting will be in Room 26.

### Plant Sale—"You dig 'em, we sell 'em"

Saturday, June 4

Our annual plant sale will be held Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 18 Salisbury Road, Delmar (Chuck and Barb Manning's house). If you have perennials that need thinning or that you have decided are no longer the perfect choice for your garden, dig them up, put them in pots and donate them to the plant sale. If you need pots, contact Barb Manning at 439-4226. Any donated plants must be potted no later than May 22<sup>nd</sup> so that the plants have time to revive from being dug up. Once you have them ready, call Donna Meixner, Jan Satin or Barb Manning to arrange pick up or drop off. We can store them until the plant sale. Thanks!--Barb Manning

### Share the vision

The majority of the world's people must walk every day to meet their basic survival needs for water, food and fuel. The CROP Hunger Walk joins us in solidarity with people around the world. Come with us as we walk on Sunday, May 1 (4.4 miles, or less if you choose), or support FUUSA walkers by pledging or helping with Walk registration. See Dawn Dana at coffee hour. Share the vision of a less hungry and more humane world.

### Flyers in this issue

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

- ◆ Social Responsibilities commitment form
- ◆ Circle Dinner sign up

### Spring Rummage Sale

The rummage sale is **Friday, May 6 and Saturday, May 7**. We will start to accept donations on Sunday, May 1, after the service. Sort carefully and think practical household goods. Please no televisions or audio equipment because we have to pay to dispose of these. If you haven't signed up to work a shift or three it's not too late. Thanks for your continuing support.

Please do plan to help us pull out the chairs and bring in the shelves at 11:30 (after the service) in Emerson.

### Youth service on the Web

Did you miss out on the youth service on April 10?

Or perhaps you attended, but would like to re-read the words of the youth. The call to celebration and "sermon" are on the FUUSA website at <http://www.albanyuu.org/sermons.html> under "sermons by others."

### 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

### Save the Date

#### UU Revival Meeting—Sunday, June 5

You'all come!! When you desire to see UU principles glorified - you are desiring revival. When you seek to motivate yourself and your congregation - you are seeking revival. When you are seeking inspiration within your beloved community - you are

ready for revival. When you seek a service to fan the flame within your own heart - you are asking for revival.

Here is your chance to experience a UU revival in an historic setting. The Capital Region Unitarian Universalist of New York (CRUUNY) joint service this year on June 5 will bring together members and friends from five congregations. The multi-generational service will be in the Round Lake Auditorium in Round Lake off Exit 11 of the Northway. CRUUNY is planning an exciting service led by the Rev. Scott Alexander, renowned for his uplifting message attesting to the power of our faith to change individual lives and create positive change in the world. There will be a picnic after the service.

Details on carpooling, driving directions, and parking will be provided in the May Windows Update and at FUUSA. We are hoping to minimize our carbon footprint by driving up with full loads in our hybrids and electric car (talk to Arden Dockter about his Volt!)

NOTE! There will be no activities at FUUSA on Sunday, June 5—so plan to join the fun at Round Lake!

**Comfy corner for parents....**

The Art and Aesthetics Committee has created a sitting area on the second floor that overlooks Emerson Community Hall. This area is designed to enable parents of little ones to hear the Sunday service (on the speaker) and see it thru the window while you nurse babies, comfort toddlers, and transition to Nursery care. Let us know if something additional is needed to give you a place to go when you and your child need a place outside the service or the Nursery! Comments or questions to: Carolyn Stetson, Art and Aesthetics chair, or Amy Lent, Church Administrator.

**Young adults invited to participate in Bridging Ceremony June 12**

Calling everyone who recently graduated from our RE program and other young adults near and far to come to the worship service on June 12. We need you for our bridging ceremony so that our graduating seniors can cross over from the high school youth group to young adulthood. Who is considered to be a “young adult”? I think you know who

Enjoy an evening of poetry and music!  
Return performance by:

**REVISIONS**

**Mark your calendars!**

**The Oriel  
Coffeehouse**

Friday, May 13, 6:45 p.m.  
Emerson Community Hall



The full agenda will be posted soon!  
Soups, desserts and beverages  
will be available for sale.

you are. Contact me, Leah Purcell at [dre@albanyuu.org](mailto:dre@albanyuu.org) or 518.463.7125 if you'd like to participate in the ceremony.

**Introducing FUUSA wiki**

FUUSA wiki (<http://fuusa.wikispot.org>) is an online forum for discussion among FUUSAns of common issues, interests, and plans. It's mainly intended to be an alternative to email communications among members of church groups like the Social Responsibilities Council, Peace Group, Green Sanctuary, Philosophy Group, etc. In fact the Green Sanctuary Committee has already started using it, as Sandy Steubing notes elsewhere in this Windows.

A wiki is just like an ordinary web site in presenting information in a set of linked pages, so moving around in it with a web browser and reading the information in this form should be quite familiar. What's different is that wiki users can also contrib-



ute to the content by starting, adding to, or editing discussions; announcing or updating events as appropriate; or even holding votes on policy decisions or other matters.

On the wiki, the information can be properly organized, and not constantly repeated the way it often is in a long string of emails. For more about such issues as access policies (currently somewhat public but moving toward more restricted access for some sections) and how the wiki relates to other wikis (it's not part of Wikipedia nor of WikiLeaks!) or to the church's other online communication mechanisms (the main web site, its new Facebook page, or ChurchDB), follow the "wiki concerns" link on the front page. Questions? Just add them in Comments boxes or by editing pages on the wiki! (But if you're still hesitant about the editing part, send email to David Musser.

### Ruth Pelham to perform on Sundae Sunday June 12

Singer, songwriter, peace activist and creator of the Music Mobile, Ruth Pelham is coming to FUUSA to help us celebrate our RE Sunday, June 12. After the RE volunteer recognition and bridging ceremony in service, the children and youth will go the Sanctuary for a performance and sing along with Ruth. Our youth



grew up listening to Ruth's CD's and her timeless music and her work continues to engage people of all ages. More about Ruth is at her website: <http://www.musicmobile.org/about/director.htm>

### Sovrana's

Despite rumors to the contrary, reportedly started at our Annual Fellowship Dinner, Sovrana's Pizzas does NOT have plans to close or move to Miami

Beach! They will continue to be available for FUUSAns. To quote a much earlier skit song, to the tune of *That's Amore*: 'When the meeting runs late, and your tummy won't wait, there's Sovrana's.'

### UUA General Assembly, Charlotte, NC, June 22-26

There is still time to register for the upcoming GA. Please go to <http://www.uua.org/> and seek out the GA link. And, please consider being a FUUSA delegate: contact Chuck Manning or Don Odell. Early registration rates end on May 1, so if you want to register at that rate, do it immediately. If the Board selects you as a delegate, FUUSA will pay for your registration at the early registration rate. More details were available in the March Windows.

### Notes from Joy Library

**Never Say Die: The Myth and Marketing of the New Old Age** by Susan Jacoby 2011. [305.260 JAC] *"I am about to present a portrait of advanced old age," Jacoby ... warns, "that some will find too pessimistic and negative." Her portrait of the emotional, physical, fiscal, and mental problems debunks popular myths about life in our 80s and 90s, "the worst years of lives." Jacoby locates American youth culture from colonial days, when, in 1790, "only about 2 percent were over sixty-five." By 2000, those over 65 were 12.4%, thanks to modern medicine and the benefits to well-being coincident to the economic prosperity of the 1950s and '60s. Jacoby cautions that marketing has deceived the public by suggesting that "cures for mankind's most serious and frightening diseases are imminent and that medical reversal or significant retardation of aging itself may not be far behind." As she attends to the "genuine battles of growing old," Jacoby is both moving and informative about Alzheimer's costs to the psyche and the purse of sufferer and caretaker, and eye-opening as she reframes impoverished old women as "a women's issue." She raises timely and "uncomfortable questions about old age poverty, the likelihood of dementia, end-of-life care, living wills, and assisted suicide." (Jan.) (Publisher's Weekly. Amazon 4/16/2011)*

**The Age of American Unreason** by Susan Jacoby 2008. [973.91 JAC] "Identifying herself as a "cultural conservationist" (but by no means a cultural conservative), Jacoby laments the decline of middlebrow American culture and presents a cogent defense of intellectualism. America, she believes, faces a "crisis of memory and knowledge," in which anti-intellectualism is not only tolerated but celebrated by those in politics and the media to whom we are all "just folks." The Internet, for all its promise, is too often "a highway to the far-flung regions of junk thought." Meanwhile, twenty-five per cent of high-school biology teachers believe that human beings and dinosaurs shared the earth, and more than a third of Americans can't name a single First Amendment right. In such an environment, Jacoby argues, the secular left and the religious right can have no fruitful dialogue on issues like the separation of church and state. She offers little hope that the situation will improve, opining that, despite increasing levels of education, 'Americans seem to know less and less.' (The New Yorker, Amazon 4/16/11)

**Freethinkers: A History of American Secularism** by Susan Jacoby 2005. [211.409 JAC] "Is America really one nation under God? Not according to Pulitzer Prize-finalist Jacoby (Wild Justice, etc.), who argues that it is America's secularist "freethinkers" who formed the bedrock upon which

our nation was built. Jacoby contends that it's one of "the great unresolved paradoxes" that religion occupies such an important place in a nation founded on separation of church and state. She traces the role of "freethinkers," a term first coined in the 17th century, in the formation of America from the writing of the Constitution to some of our greatest social revolutions, including abolition, feminism, labor, civil rights and the dawning of Darwin's theory of evolution. Jacoby has clearly spent much time in the library, and the result is an impressive literary achievement filled with an array of both major and minor figures from American history, like revolutionary propagandist Thomas Paine, presidents Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Robert Green Ingersoll. Her historical work is further flanked by current examples—the Bush White House in an introduction and the views of conservative Supreme Court justice Antonin Scalia in a final chapter—that crystallize her concern over secularism's waning influence. ... Jacoby has done yeoman's work in crafting her message that the values of America's freethinkers belong "at the center, not in the margins" of American life." (Publisher's Weekly . Amazon 4/16/2011)

## Lifespan Learning

### Introducing Wellspring

A program of growth and development  
Tuesday, May 31, 7:00 pm

Come find out about the year long spiritual deepening program first developed by the Rev. Jen Crow, minister at First Unitarian in Rochester and now being used in other UU congregations. This year four FUUSAns, Dave Munro, Dawn Dana, Tom Mercer and Linda Way, participated with three members from Schenectady in a pilot Wellspring program led by the Reverends Trumbore and Richter. This introduction will go over the Wellspring program then you can hear directly from the participants what they experienced. Next fall we will have a Wellspring class for our congregation led by Tom and Linda

Sunday School: end of the year schedule

**May 15 Rite of Passage Service** – fifth through twelfth grade will attend the service; other children will have a regular session of Sunday school

**May 22 Regular session** of Sunday school

**May 29 Last day of Sunday school**—Memorial Day Weekend Some classes will combine and have special celebrations

**June 5 Multigenerational CRUUNY service** in Round Lake

**June 12 RE Sunday** - with RE volunteer recognition, a Bridging Ceremony for our graduating seniors, performance by Ruth Pelham, and Sundae Sunday

**June 19 First Sunday of multi-age summer session**

## 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.*

### **Owning Your Religious Past - Plus**

A two-session workshop co-facilitated by Leah Purcell and Brian Carr

Thursdays, May 10 and May 17

6:30 – 8:30 pm

Room B-8

Through reflection, discussions and journal writing we'll explore what our past religious perspectives and experiences have been and who we hope to become as UUs, both as individuals, and within our families.

This two part workshop is geared for all FUUSA adults - new comers and longtime UU's, parents and others. Sign up in Channing Hall or contact Leah Purcell [dre@albanyuu.org](mailto:dre@albanyuu.org) or 463-7165.

### **Summer session for children and youth**

The summer session which runs from June 19 to Sept 5 is different from what we offer the rest of the year. It's much more informal. We don't use curricula. Instead, each week, I design activities geared for children ages 3 through about 11 around a theme. Infants and toddlers are cared for by our paid staff. Older children and youth are welcome to help the younger children or to attend the service. We all gather for the "Lemonade Hour" at the back of Emerson Community Hall after the adult service ends.

We'll use both of the large (air conditioned) upstairs classrooms. We'll all gather in one of the rooms. Then those who would like are invited to come to the second room for a child-oriented worship, with the lighting of the chalice, circle time sharing, songs and stories followed by some activities based on the theme of the worship. The first room will be for free play.

Summer session is a wonderful opportunity for children of different ages to interact. It offers families the ability to continue their usual Sunday morning schedule. It gives new families a chance to visit and learn about Unitarian Universalism and about our congregation. It's all good...

...but I can't do it alone. And I'll want to take some Sundays off. I need some adults to help. Parents and those without children at home are invited to volunteer and join the fun. If you plan to attend a few services at FUUSA this summer, please consider helping with the children program one of those Sundays. Signup sheets are posted in Channing Hall. Or see me if you have more questions.

Thanks, and here's to a glorious and revitalizing summer! Leah Purcell (email: [dre@albanyuu.org](mailto:dre@albanyuu.org); office phone: 463-7135)

### **Rite of Passage 2011-2012**

This year we had ten youth/mentor pairs participating in Rite of Passage. This number allowed us to build community and work in small groups. Most of the youth were tenth graders. The group would have been too large to include ninth graders this year so Rev. Sam and I are offering Rite of Passage for them next year. (And we'll be offering it again in 2012-13 for the next group of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders.) A new component to the program was an overnight wilderness experience at Hawk Circle in Cherry Valley which was a great success. Together we did things that showed us how to work as a team and individually we are able to do things that surprised us. I'd like to consider going again in 2011-2012. You can read about the program at <http://www.albanyuu.org/April2010WindowsP.pdf>.

I am in the process of contacting next year's tenth graders and their families. And I'm looking for adult volunteers to serve as mentors. What are the requirements and benefits of being a Rite of Passage mentor? That information is on the web too, at <http://www.albanyuu.org/mentordescrip.pdf>. Rev. Sam and I will meet with potential mentors and youth on May 22nd to start the match-making process. We'll gather for lunch and then activities to get to know one another. I'd like to have all the matches done before the end of the school year so that the youth and their mentors can start to meet over the summer.

If you would like to volunteer as a mentor, or you have questions about the program (as a youth, potential mentor or parent) please contact me at [dre@albanyuu.org](mailto:dre@albanyuu.org) or 463.7135. Leah Purcell

## Our Community

### Channing Circle Monday, May 16

Channing Circle meets next on Monday, May 16. The program will be announced. Members and other FUUSAns are invited to join us in attending the NYC Ballet at the matinee at SPAC on Thursday, July 7. -- Contact Mark Yolles by April 30 for reservations.

### 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, May 14** 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!

### New Member Sunday

On **Sunday, May 22**, we will welcome new members into our congregation.

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, which can be done privately or with a group on New Member Sunday. New members are encouraged to come and be recognized during the Sunday service on New Member Sunday, as it serves as an

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.

excellent introduction to your new community, but it is not a requirement! 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.

### 6 to 9 at 6:09

#### Circle Dinner on Saturday, May 21

Would you like to get to know your fellow FUUSAns better? Circle dinners offer small groups a chance to socialize over a delicious potluck dinner in a private home. This is an extraordinary opportunity for newcomers to learn about FUUSA. While past participants have been adults, we hope to include some family-oriented dinners and encourage families with young children to sign-up.

Sign-up forms for the May 21 dinner will be available in Channing Hall beginning April 24 or you can contact Martha Musser by email. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to strengthen your connections with FUUSA, have an enjoyable evening, and contribute to a vital, nurturing religious community.

#### “Eat-and-Greet” Potluck Saturday, June 11

Please join in for Community, Camaraderie and Conversation at “The Eat-and-Greet” Potluck Dinner on Saturday, June 11, from 6-8 p.m. This is a potluck OR pay event, meaning you can sign up to bring food, or sign up to just come (and pay at the



door). A great chance for good food and intergenerational connections new and old! Contact Renee Panetta if you would like to help host this event.

### It's time to sign up for Silver Bay!

You may think it's early to sign up for a "Soft Place for Unitarian Universalists to Fall," our UU Weekend at Silver Bay and wonderful community building event. In fact, the weekend—held at the Silver Bay resort on beautiful Lake George—isn't until October 14-16. But did you realize that by signing up early you help insure that the weekend will be the best it is capable of being - early registrations provide the foundation upon which the UU Weekend Committee can build the activities that you have come to expect and love!

For those that have never attended a UU Weekend, seriously consider attending as you will find that we offer beautiful fall hikes, a first class children's pavilion with fun kid activities, a talent show, sock hop, movement classes (maybe yoga or something similar), stimulating humanist and/or political discussions, music, a Sunday service and much, much more!

This year, our 18th, also provides countless community building opportunities from sharing a table at a meal with someone you do not already know, to informal porch and comfy Inn couch chats. Whether you join in every possible workshop, or take the time to just wind down and enjoy the beautiful fall nature, you will return home refreshed and renewed.

As this is a cooperative weekend (that means we all pitch in and volunteer for a job be it large or small), this is also the best time to reserve your spot to present that program/workshop you've always wanted to lead, or to get your "choice" volunteer assignment.

It is here that you may well meet new friends and deepen your connection to our beloved community. You can sign up in Channing Hall on Sunday's starting soon, before or after the service. The registration form will also shortly be available on the FUUSA web site ([www.albanyuu.org](http://www.albanyuu.org)). So get ready to sign up to attend, and hopefully to volunteer, to help make our 18th Annual UU Weekend an outstanding success!

"UU Weekend is a gift we give ourselves to reconnect with each other, with nature, with our own selves." - UU Weekend Committee

## Joys and Caring Corner

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**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).

***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 or Mary Ann Randall*

## Social Justice

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!** What a wonderful response on our Social Responsibility Sunday, April 18. One hundred and twenty of you said you would commit to a social action project and many of you committed to more than one. We will be in touch.

Besides that, you contributed \$1384 to Lydia's House. If you weren't at the service, and do not want to be left out of the action, the Social Responsibility commitment form is included in this issue of Windows and you can fill it out and return it to the SRC box in the office. You can also make a contribution to Lydia's House, Inc., a 501- c-3 organization that houses and supports formerly incarcerated women.

Our next SRC meeting will be May 1, at 11:45 a.m. in room 26. Come join us.

Standing on the Side of Love  
Lois Griffin

**Advocacy Day: Will you be there?**  
**Monday, May 16, 10:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**  
**Legislative Office Building**

Will you be with Interfaith Impact of New York State (IINYS) making our progressive religious voice heard in the halls of State government? Our values are under attack, and your presence does make a difference. Joining with Reform Jewish Voice of NYS (RJV), we will be advocating for marriage equality for same-sex couples, reproductive health and an independent legislative redistricting commission. Special speaker: Steven Cohen, Secretary of the Executive Chamber.

Look for sign up forms on the SRC bulletin board, or go to [www.interfaithimpactnys.org](http://www.interfaithimpactnys.org). You can also email [info@interfaithimpactnys.org](mailto:info@interfaithimpactnys.org) with your name, address, and congregation. Cost is \$25\* for the day, including breakfast and all materials. (\*If cost is a problem, donate whatever is comfortable. Students register free of charge.)

If you are looking for further information on issues, there are opportunities. One is Free IINYS/RJB conference call briefings:

◆ **Marriage Equality:** Join Kate McDonough, Coordinator for Pride in the Pulpit of Empire State

Pride Agenda, who will update us on legislative efforts to achieve marriage equality for same-sex couples. *Tuesday, April 26t from 7:00 - 7:45pm.* *Dial: 1-213-289-0500; Participant Access Code: 820086#*

◆ **Reproductive Choice** Join M. Tracey Brooks, President and CEO of Family Planning Advocates of New York State, and Rabbi Dennis Ross, Director of Concerned Clergy for Choice, who will address legislative efforts to protect reproductive choice. *Thursday, May 5th from 7:00 - 7:45pm.* *Dial: 1-213-289-0500; Participant Access Code: 820086#*

**Questions?** Ask Robb Smith (441-3231, [robb@interfaithimpactnys.org](mailto:robb@interfaithimpactnys.org)) or Don Odell (482-4574, [drodell31@yahoo.com](mailto:drodell31@yahoo.com)).

### Forum

On **May 8** our Forum speaker will be **Lisa Good** of Trinity Institute, director of the successful and widely praised SNUG program to reduce gun violence on Albany streets. SNUG puts Outreach Workers and Violence Interrupters on the streets to help people respond to conflicts without violence. During the brief existence of this program, shooting incidents have been substantially reduced, according to Albany police.

On **May 22**, our Forum speaker will be **Richard Smith**, an expert on re-entry programs for formerly incarcerated individuals who until recently was Director of Re-entry at the Center for Law and Justice. Richard will discuss existing programs to assist re-entry and how we can contribute to community strategies that assist the successful transition of the formerly incarcerated.

### Peace Team News

Peace Team is eagerly anticipating finding out the results of the commitment forms that people handed in at the Sunday service on April 17th. We were thrilled by the wonderful response to "Social Responsibility Sunday", and that Matt was able to arrange for Greg Artzner & Terry Leonino ("Magpie") to perform their wonderful music for this service. On future Sundays, Magpie CD's will be available for sale at the SRC or Peace table during coffee hour, for \$15 each. Terry and Greg have graciously offered to donate \$5 of each CD sale to the Peace Team.

For those who were not at the service, or who did not decide at that time on what they'd like to do, we plan to make the commitment forms available on the FUUSA website. The areas that we are asking interested FUUSAs to indicate their desire and commitment to participate in are:

- 1) attend one or more peace-related **Film/Discussion Evening**
- 2) take part in developing a **Congregational Peace Pledge** for presentation for vote at the 2012 Annual Meeting
- 3) participate in planning for and/or attending a FUUSA/local community **First Annual Walk for Peace**
- 4) come to **music jams/sing-a-longs** focused on songs related to peace.

The first in our series of **Film/Discussion Evenings** is scheduled to take place in Channing Hall on Friday, May 20th at 7 PM, with "**The Singing Revolution**", an acclaimed film that tells the amaz-

ing story of how hundreds of thousands of Estonians triumphed over Soviet occupation through public gatherings at which they sang the revolutionary songs that they had created. A moving film, lively discussion and tasty refreshments await you!

### Green Sanctuary

We at the Green Sanctuary hoped everyone enjoyed Earth Day Easter. Now is the time to plan ahead. Building upon Sam's sermon, we have plans for two new projects in the autumn. The first is monthly pot lucks for the purpose of discussing all aspects of energy transition off of fossil fuels. It is our hope that many in the congregation would have the interest to join us for at least one pot luck. The second project will entail collecting and sharing information on CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture.). Please go to Wiki: [fuusa.wikipot.org](http://fuusa.wikipot.org) or write Sandy Steubing to find out more. Now that we've had our April showers, let us enjoy the all the May flowers.

## Columns

### Sam's Outlook

The challenge of crossing the threshold  
The Unitarian Universalist Association, our parent organization, is experimenting with innovative ways to deliver services to our UU congregations. The UU District staff noticed they often put a lot of energy into languishing congregations that don't grow, even shrink. Their new idea is to work with motivated ones, designate them "Threshold Congregations," assign a consultant, and then help them move toward significant growth and development. The Threshold Congregation would then, after three years, mentor another motivated congregation. The thinking is, put our limited resources into healthy congregations and help them go from good to great. Our UUA President, Peter Morales notes that that is where we have the best potential to grow the movement, with strong leadership congregations.

Our President, Chuck Manning, thought this would be a great idea for us to help us implement our strategic plan. He brought it to the Board and Peggy Sherman, Dave Street and Dawn Dana took responsibility for putting an application together.

Our congregation along with the UU Congregation in Binghamton got the designation for our District.

Up until this weekend, I thought this would be easy for us. But now I realize being a "Threshold Congregation" promises to be a challenge for me and for our congregation ... and I mean that in a very good way.

The Rev. Renee Zimelis Ruchotzke visited us Sunday, April 17. Though she doesn't begin working with us as our UUA Central East Regional Group Threshold Consultant until May 1, I'm already beginning to see the potential working with her will have for us.

Renee, Mark Bernstein, and Karen Lobracco presented the "Running with the Big Dogs" St. Lawrence District Saturday workshop on April 16<sup>th</sup> in Syracuse. John and Peggy Sherman, Leah Purcell and I attended this event targeted at helping congregations make the transition from "pastoral" to "program." While all the congregations that attended were program size congregations, all of us have elements of the way we do things from the pastoral model that hold us back from realizing our potential for advancing and spreading Unitarian Universalism.

Renee rode back to Albany with the four of us from

FUUSA in the Shermans' van. She stayed with the Mannings, then spent Sunday at FUUSA, leaving to catch her train in the evening. A few FUUSA leaders had lunch with her and Peggy, Chuck and I had a chance to talk more informally with her after Jack Hotchkiss' memorial service.

During the drive home from Syracuse, our lunch together and in our informal conversations I saw what a powerful catalyzing effect having an outside consultant can have on all of us. Renee sometimes made suggestions or observations that were new to me I'd never thought of before. She also asked questions that I felt uncomfortable answering. Sometimes the focus was on the leadership of the congregation but sometimes I recognized I would need to change to respond to what we were discussing. I sometimes encountered my own inertia and resistance – a good sign that our work with Renee would stimulate my growth and development too.

All this has me feeling very good about our decision to become a Threshold Congregation. I believe having an outside person challenging and encouraging us will help us change in ways that couldn't happen through just my initiative or just the Board's initiative. Someone "outside the system" can nudge us to confront the barriers that hold us back we may not even know are there. Not that Renee will have all the answers for us. She may suggest things we don't want to do or don't fit our culture. But as we rub up against each other, in dialogue, we'll stretch far further than we might by ourselves.

So, even though we haven't officially started, we're off to a great start!—Rev. Sam

## **Chuck's Chat**

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### **Reflections on being a Threshold Congregation**

I have spoken often in different forums about my excitement that FUUSA has been selected to be a Threshold Congregation. (Copies of our application are available in the lobby and on the FUUSA web site in the File Cabinet under Miscellaneous). I believe the actions we describe in our application are the next steps in implementing our Strategic Plan. But being a Threshold Congregation will be a challenge. Now that we have been selected, can we measure up to the goals we set in our applica-

tion where we said, "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." Over the next three years we will be measured against these goals. This was confirmed in our meetings with Renee Ruchotzke, our Threshold consultant. Our challenge is to match our words with our actions.

I believe we are up to the challenge because we have three qualities listed by Mark Bernstein, Growth Development Consultant for the Central East Regional Group (CERG,) in a recent article -- confidence, vision and faith.

Bernstein says that "Confidence comes from the ability of ministerial and lay leaders to act with reason and enthusiasm; with the capacity to remain calm and steadfast in their commitment to the change associated with the risk." We have a strong Board and an enthusiastic mix of long time and new members. The vitality that is evident every Sunday morning as we come together builds our confidence. We joyfully greet each other and welcome newcomers. Renee came into the lobby alone to see how she would be greeted. Her experience was excellent and she even filled out a blue newcomer card before her "cover was blown." We have a strong Religious Education Program that gives me confidence in our longterm future. As Nora Purcell said during the Youth Service, "Religion can be a positive force for people personally. It can inspire them to do social justice work, try and be a better person, join a community, and more." We know we can be a transformative force in people's lives.

Regarding vision, Bernstein says, "No congregation will take a risk [or meet a challenge] unless its endpoint is consistent with the vision and mission of the congregation and results in an outcome that deepens its faith or enhances the congregation's ability to live out its principles." I see our vision as making a positive difference in people's lives and leading us to work together to make the world better. This is why we are here. Delaney Weber made this point during the Youth Service, "Traditionally, the Unitarian Universalist church has been a place of welcoming and acceptance for



people of all different beliefs. Our desire to provide a supportive community where people can establish and pursue their own ideas is instilled within our very principles.” Moving toward our vision was demonstrated during the Social Justice Service. Over 100 members of the congregation came forward to commit to specific projects. These projects will make a difference in the world.

Finally, on faith, Bernstein says, “The faith I refer to grows out of our Unitarian Universalist beliefs and principles. It is a way of living that enables us to gain strength through conflict and adversity; to take extraordinary risks and to never lose confidence in who we are as a congregation and in what we can become.” For me, faith comes from observing the members of our congregation and listening to them as they work together in community. It comes from reflecting on our long heritage in Albany. It comes from re-reading our application to become a Threshold Congregation and my desire to work with all of you to make our vision a reality. Finally, it comes from my own faith in the strength of our message of love, respect, and mutual understanding.

“Confidence”, “vision”, and “faith”- our congregation has all three and we now we have the opportunity to rely on them as we rise to the challenge of becoming a Threshold Congregation. —Chuck

## Religious Exploration

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### Looking at “unbuilding” structures

The CERG (Central Eastern Regional Group) workshop I recently attended started with a story.

The king of a prosperous land invited a carpenter in a small village to visit him at his palace. Since the trip was more than a day’s journey, the carpenter stopped in a clearing at sunset after his first day of travel and built himself a shelter for the night. The next morning, as the carpenter prepared to continue on his journey, he looked at the shelter and decided that it needed few touches. He made one improvement and then a few more and a few more until days turned into a week and weeks turned into a month. The king sent out one of his servants to search for his guest, the carpenter. When the servant found the carpenter, he admired the beautiful house there in the clearing. But, as you might guess, the servant taught the carpenter

that sometimes we have to “unbuild” a wonderful structure in order to continue on our journey.

As we finish up our traditional year, I’m reflecting on conversations and meetings I have had with parents, teachers, the Religious Education Council, children and youth and others in the congregation about how we are doing in our journey of Religious Education. Our stated mission is to foster in children and youth an understanding of UU values and the Principles, to instill a deep appreciation and stewardship of our congregation and our denomination and of the world we live in, and give children and youth opportunities for reflection and guidance in answering the “big” questions in life and for them to connect with others in compassionate ways. Our unstated goals are to make the work of the volunteers manageable and meaningful. I’ve heard deep appreciation of the program, especially for the quality of the environments in the classroom and the work of the volunteers. I’m wondering if there is anything we need to “unbuild” as we move forward on our journey.

I wonder how often, in our devotion and commitment to our work at FUUSA, we get stuck in the routine tasks and forget our mission which inspires the work. I have heard from some RE volunteers that there are so many activities in a lesson and they feel pressure to rush through the lesson in order to get everything done. Or that they worry that discussions get “off topic”. Having “too much” to do and lively discussions seem like wonderful blessings to me! But then I have to remember that not all the RE volunteers feel as comfortable working in the classrooms as I do. Maybe one of the structures we have to “unbuild” in our religious education programs is the idea that the content of the curriculum is more important than how people relate to one another in the classrooms. Look back at the mission of the RE program. How much is focused on the content of Sunday school and how much is supporting the interactions in the classroom?

This is not to say that learning our UU Principles and using our six Sources is not important. But how many of you really know them? And yet, despite that, you make FUUSA a vital and nurturing religious community that responds morally and ethically to a troubled world. And this is not to say

that teachers have to go it alone in creating sessions each week. The curriculum is the springboard for the sessions and the fallback if needed. The teachers can learn best practices from one another and get support and feedback from me.

Let us remember that children and youth learn best from people that they love, not elegant teaching methods or lesson plans. Going forward on our journey, I'd like to look for new ways to support teachers in feeling comfortable in making personal connections to the children and youth. Sunday school should be fun and rewarding for everyone in the classroom. While little league, or scouting is fun, valuable and rewarding too, volunteering in RE gives adults the unique opportunity to make connections between generations and to change lives in meaningful, life-sustaining ways.

In faith,  
Leah

**Bringing It Home**

It may be difficult to think of our RE program being process-based, not content-based. But this idea is in line with UU Religious Educator, Sophia Lyon Fahs' work to make Religious Education child-based, not teacher-based. The Tapestry of Faith program from the UUA also reflects this philosophy and also gives families opportunities to take the message of each Sunday school session home with specific suggestions for further discussion, practices and rituals and social justice projects. We used several ToF curricula this year: Love Surrounds Us, Amazing Grace, Creating Home and Riddle and a Mystery. You can learn more about the Tapestry of Faith program at <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/index.shtml>

**May 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 (1)
May 1			T. Henderson	C. Bohn and family	
May 8	K. Harris				R. Belluso
May 15	A. D'Attilio	A. Patti		C&C Wiltsey	C. Wiltsey
May 22					
May 29					

## Annual Meeting Sunday, May 15, 2011

- 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 the lobby starting April 24, and a Budget Conversation will be held on Sunday, May 1 at 11:45 am. Members of the Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee will present the 2011-2012 budget and answer any questions.

Limited absentee ballots available: see information below.

Read about the candidates here—meet them at coffee hour, May 1 & 8.

### OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED (1 year terms)

#### PRESIDENT

Chuck Manning I am honored to be asked to serve for a second year as the President of FUUSA. I have been an active member for over 35 years. During that time I have served in many capacities including Vice-President, Board of Trustees, Canvass Committee and Canvass Chair, Finance Committee, RE Teacher, Endowment Trust Chair, Architect Committee Chair, Green Sanctuary Committee, and RE Council. This is an exciting and vital time for our congregation as we move forward. FUUSA has been selected as a Threshold Congregation because we are poised to grow--in numbers, in spiritual depth, in commitment within, and in outreach. We will be receiving consulting assistance this year as a Threshold Congregation and this will serve as a catalyst as we continue implementing the recommendations of the Strategic Plan. My goal for the year will be to work with the Board, the congregation and the St. Lawrence District to embrace this new program. I will be reaching out to many of you for assistance and I look forward to your continued support. May we continue the journey to fulfill our Dreams.

#### Offices to be elected

- President Chuck Manning
- Vice-President Peggy Sherman
- Secretary Donna Meixner
- Treasurer Dave Metz
- Ass't. Treasurer Mike Babala
- Religious Education Chair\*  
Paula Brewer
- Social Responsibilities Chair\*  
Lois Griffin

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

- Debbie Brown
- Thomas Mercer
- Dave Street
- Linda Way

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

- Frederick Eames
- Renee Panetta
- Robb Smith

#### Contested Elections\*\*

##### Board of Trustees (3 year terms--2 to be elected;

- Meredith Andrews
- Bob Franklin
- Katharine Harris
- Mark Yolles

##### Endowment Trust (3-year terms, 2 to be elected)

- Chris Jensen
- Peter Meixner
- Betsey Miller
- Todd Thomas

#### Uncontested

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

- Owen Devine
- Melissa Ramirez
- Peg Sutton
- tbd

\*Ex-officio member of Board of Trustees

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

#### 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 15, 2011. Request a ballot from the church office. Ballots will be available from Sunday, May 1 to Friday, May 13. Completed ballots, sealed in an envelope, must be received in the church office on or before 11:00 AM on Friday, May 13.

## VICE-PRESIDENT

**Peggy Sherman** I'm excited about the steps that our congregation is taking to strengthen our connections with each other, to engage more members in social justice, and to grow as a religious community. Over the past year, I've come to appreciate even more our congregation's strong staff and volunteer leadership. Since John and I first came to FUUSA in 1984, this community has become a source of inspiration, support and challenge in our lives and helped our sons grow into independent adults. I have served as treasurer, board member, RE teacher, and member of the nominating committee, endowment trust, Readiness Leadership Team and Dream Catchers. My professional career has been in state government financial management. I welcome the opportunity to serve another year as vice president.

## SECRETARY

**Donna Meixner** When Peter and I first came to FUUSA almost twenty five years ago, we knew from the beginning we'd found a special community. FUUSA quickly became an important part of our lives and it remains so today. I have served on a number of committees including Membership, Nominating, Dream Catchers Strategic Planning, Personnel and the Bazaar Committees. I was a member of the search committees for the Religious Education Director and the Membership Coordinator. And, one of my favorite involvements has been my time spent with my fellow gardeners tending the FUUSA grounds and organizing and participating in the annual Plant Sale. I am completing my first year as Secretary to the Board of Trustees and am pleased to be asked to continue in that role for the coming year. I look forward to the ongoing work to implement our Strategic Plan and the exciting new opportunities open to FUUSA as a Threshold Congregation.

## TREASURER

**Dave Metz** I currently serve as FUUSA's Treasurer. This also makes me an ex officio member of the Finance Committee and the Endowment Trust. I am also a member of the Choir, the Building Use Committee, and the Buildings and Grounds Committee. I was Project Manager for the construction of Emerson Hall as well as remodeling of the RE Building and Channing Hall. Raised an Episcopalian, I became a Unitarian in 1973 in Ft. Collins, Colorado, and have been a member of FUUSA since 1979. I have served on the Nominating Committee, Canvass Committee, as Chair of the \$1.4 Million Capital Campaign in 2004 and as Chair of the Endowment Trust. I am retired from a career as a telecommunications consultant to higher education and medical centers. I live on a farm in East Greenbush with my wife Barb, who I met at FUUSA.

## ASSISTANT TREASURER

**Mike Babala** I welcome the opportunity to continue my job as Assistant Treasurer. I have been involved with FUUSA for the last 16 years. Two and half years ago, I retired from the NYS Dept. of Health. In my 26 years there, I held a variety of administrative functions. I also served as a PEF Shop Stewart. Previously, I worked at the VA Medical Center and at another private hospital. My educational background is a MS in Public Health Administration and a BA in Psychology from SUNY @ Oswego.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*(3 year terms—2 to be elected)*

**Meredith Andrews** I have been a member of FUUSA for 10 years, but I have been a UU all of my life. My family moved to Albany in 2001, and I joined FUUSA soon thereafter. Since then I have taught Sunday School and have been a member of several committees. I have helped with the seder for several years, have been a member of the Committee of Professional Ministry, UU Weekend committee, the Worship Cabinet, and I am currently assisting with the canvass for a second year. I hope you will consider me to serve on the Board of Trustees. If I am elected to the board, I hope to gain a better understanding of the workings of the church. I believe I can serve the board by bringing my perspective as a mother with children in RE, someone who has attended other UU churches, and my experience as a lifelong Unitarian Universalist. Thank you.

**Bob Franklin** I have been a member of FUUSA since 1988, and would be pleased to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees. I previously served one term on the Board, served on and was chair of the Membership Committee and was a member of the RE Council. My wife Carolyn and I taught in the pre-K class for a number of years. Currently, I am a member of Arts and Aesthetics, the Annual Dinner and the Silver Bay Weekend Committees and am involved with the design and function of the FUUSA website. Our Society is undertaking some new and exciting challenges for growth, both numerically and programmatically. We are setting a number of ambitious goals in the next few years which could have an exciting effect on our presence in Albany and the Capital District. I would welcome the opportunity to share this responsibility to help guide this Society as we approach each new challenge.

**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 2009-2010 season: GB5, John and Barb Metz, Karaoke Night, Vocalis, Findley Cockrell and Buck2Fifty.

I signed the membership book in 2000. I have been in the Annual Dinner skit for most of my years with FUUSA. I was asked to be the Sunday Volunteer Coordinator in 2003 and served in that capacity for four years. In 2007 I was elected to the Assistant Treasurer position and have served the allowable 3 terms. I also serve on the Green Sanctuary Committee, work on the Rummage Sales and the Auction, often serve as head usher when the choir is not singing, work in the kitchen for receptions, the Bazaar and the Auction, and, with many others, am one of the last to leave the building after events.

**Mark P. Yolles** I have been a FUUSA member for about 40 years, not counting six years spent in Rome, Italy. Among my committee involvements have been: publicity committee; committee on professional ministry; rummage committee (co-chair for several years); and currently I am on the religious services committee; our new "connections committee" (in the process of getting a name), designed to coordinate congregational efforts to reach out to our immediate neighbors; Pastoral Care Associates; the Canvass Committee and the Channing Circle. As my circumstances in life have changed I am finding myself more involved in our life together. I have lived in downtown Albany for the last 30 plus years and have been very active in the Mansion Neighborhood (Albany's premier neighborhood). There is a small city park there dedicated to my wife Pola and me to honor our work for the neighborhood.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL CHAIR** *(1 year term)*

**Paula Brewer** I came to FUUSA when I first moved to Albany in 1992. My attendance and activity in the church increased after the birth of my daughter in 1996. Since that time I have been active in the religious education program as a teacher and serving on the RE Council. I recently became the child-care coordinator for FUUSA events requiring childcare; and coordinate the FUUSA Parent Group. Currently, I am an advisor for the senior high youth group, but will be relinquishing that role as my daughter Anna, will be joining the group in the fall. I look forward to working with Leah Purcell and the Religious Education Council to ensure that a quality religious education program is provided to our children.

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

**Owen Devine** I am honored to be considered for a position on the RE council. My wife, Felice, and I have been attending FUUSA for a year and a half with our children. Our son is enrolled in the RE program, attending Chalice Children. Each week, my wife and I appreciate hearing what he has learned from the team of kind teachers who help him to develop his moral compass.

As a family, we have enjoyed participating in many of the RE events, and I hope that by serving on the RE council I will be able to continue to support the fellowship-developing events as well as the education program. I look forward to working with the council to support our volunteers who provide a religious education program that helps our youth gain an understanding of the world around them and guides them toward ethical and responsible lives.

**Melissa Ramirez** My husband and I decided to bring our daughter to FUUSA for its religious education program as we felt it met our desire for her to have the information she needed to make her own religious choice when she comes of age. We started attending this past Fall and have all benefited from FUUSA's enriching environment. In addition to the broad perspectives and knowledge shared that lead to interesting Sunday discussions in our home, this welcoming community has very easily become the spiritual home for our family. As a mental health advocate, I work to increase mental health literacy. I have worked for the Mental Health Association in New York State for the past five years and currently serve as its Deputy Director. I look forward to becoming involved and contributing to FUUSA. Serving on the Religious Education Council would be a pleasure.

**Peg Sutton** Bio not available at press time.

### **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL CHAIR** *(1 year term)*

**Lois Griffin** I have been chair of SRC for two years and have found it interesting and challenging. There are so many opportunities to do positive work. My interest in good government led me to the Unitarian Church. When I was a member of the League of Women Voters in Broome County, I was searching for a spiritual home, and so I asked those intelligent, dynamic Leaguers where they went. And Lo and Behold many of them attended the Unitarian church in Binghamton. So after my divorce and my 2 daughters went off to college, I moved to Albany as a VISTA volunteer and started attending FUUSA. But it wasn't until after my retirement as a high school English

teacher that I really became active serving on the SRC committee, Green Sanctuary, and in other volunteer capacities.

## **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL** *(3 year terms unless specified)*

**Frederick Eames** My wife Barbara and I have lived in Delmar since 1981, raising four children who are now out of the nest. I am a radiologist at Albany Medical Center, which has been my whole career for the past 30 years. I attended Delmar Presbyterian Church for over 20 years and was active on the Outreach Committee there, but a period of intense self-evaluation led to my departure from that traditional faith. I happily joined FUUSA three years ago, and have always been impressed by the work SRC does. I have been an unelected participant in the SRC meetings, and I'm interested in expanding my commitment to SRC. I sit with Rev. Sam's Sunday morning meditation group regularly, and I've also done a bit of ushering, greeting, and coffee-hour hosting. In my off-duty time I have enjoyed running, hiking, stair-climbing, and bicycling (both for recreation and alternative transportation) and singing with the Albany Mendelssohn Club.

**Renee Panetta** About three or four months ago, I "inadvertently" attended an SRC meeting (when an Oriel meeting was cancelled). I considered this to be divine intervention... (or at the very least a really cool coincidence). Although I'd seen much of the work done by SRC, I hadn't experienced what went on "behind the scenes." I immediately saw that the intentions of the council closely mirrored my personal values and dedication to service. My husband DJ and I were married in the Schenectady Unitarian "Whisper Dome." Shortly thereafter, we discovered FUUSA. The interdenominational aspect as well as the principles represented by the society made FUUSA seem like the "right place" to be. I've participated on many committees over the years, taught R.E. and recently joined the FOCUS Advisory Board as FUUSA's representative for the food pantry. I felt like it was time to connect my "spiritual self" with the community service "core" of FUUSA, so I was thrilled when the Nominating Committee asked me if I'd be willing to run on the slate.

**Robb Smith** I am in my seventh year as Executive Director of Interfaith Impact of NYS, which acts as the New York UU legislative ministry. I have served two three-year terms on the St. Lawrence District (SLD) board of Trustees, including one term as Vice President, and have served on numerous committees at FUUSA, including Publicity, Professional Ministry, Adult Education, Rite of Passage, and High School RE. I am currently an appointed member of the FUUSA Social Responsi-

bilities Council, a member of the St. Lawrence District Social Justice Council and chair of the SLD Nominating/Leadership Development Committee. My wife Julie Lomoe and I have been members of FUUSA for 12 years.

## **ENDOWMENT TRUST** *(3-year terms, 2 to be elected)*

**Chris Jensen** I've been a friend and member of FUUSA for about 18 years. My wife, Randy Rosette, and I started coming to FUUSA to give our three boys exposure to religious education, moral and ethical thinking, and About Your Sexuality/Our Whole Lives classes. I've been involved with the Parenthood Potluck dinners, attended and co-hosted neighborhood potluck dinners, and participated in numerous Social Events Committee events. More recently, I've participated in Small Group Ministry, helped on the Auction Committee and with UU Weekend activities, have volunteered as Service Leader, and have performed in the Oriel Coffeehouse. My most recent elected position at FUUSA was Nominating Committee (member and chair). I've also enjoyed "hamming it up" as an Annual Dinner skit performer for several years. Outside FUUSA, I am employed at Albany Medical Center as a systems analyst. My interests include singing (barbershop and church choir), traveling with Randy, and keeping up with technology.

**Peter Meixner** I've been a member since the early 1990's and am glad to be a candidate this year for a second term on The Endowment Trust Committee. I think that my several years of FUUSA Long Range Planning experience and my past term on the Endowment Trust have given me a perspective that would enhance my judgment for managing FUUSA's funds. Additionally, my two past terms on the Board of Trustees have also given me a feel for the internal workings of FUUSA that should be very helpful in evaluating the various requests for funds that come to the Endowment Trust Committee.

**Betsey Miller** I am honored to be asked to run for the Endowment Trust Committee. I have been a member of FUUSA for over 20 years. During that time I have served in a number of financial roles in the congregation. I previously served on the Endowment Trust for 3 years. More recently I have been on the finance committee for seven or eight years, and I served as treasurer for three years.

**Todd Thomas** I have been an active member of FUUSA since 1993. Most recently, I have served on the Finance Committee, the Readiness Leadership Team and as the chair of the Personnel Committee. Over the past three years, I served my first term on the Endowment Trust. Particularly relevant to the

Endowment Trust is my job at Excelsior College. There, I am the Executive Director of Budgets and Financial Analysis. To some, that job might sound as exciting as watching paint dry. For me, it provides a great opportunity to use both my quantitative and interpersonal skills to help a not-for-profit college achieve its mission. My job focuses on the careful stewardship of finite resources, a close parallel to the work on the FUUSA Endowment Trust. I believe that my personal style and range of experiences prepare me well for the work of the Endowment Trust and I hope to have the opportunity to continue to serve FUUSA in this role.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE** *(3 year terms—2 to be elected)*

**Debbie Brown** I consider myself nearly a lifelong UU, having joined the church in the early '60s when I "became of age." Peter and I were married in the sanctuary in 1964. We served as youth group advisors, and then raised our children in this church. I taught Sunday school, was an RE Council member and Chair of the Council during our children's growing up years. I am completing my term as a Trustee on the Board and have enjoyed being part of the deliberations on the issues facing our congregation during my tenure. I am honored to be asked to run for a position on the Nominating Committee. I believe we are poised to begin some very exciting planning and implementation as a result of both our Strategic plan and our status as a Threshold Congregation. It will be important to bring newer members into these conversations and develop the next generation of leaders. They are the ones who will continue to make FUUSA a vital community, both internally and as a positive contributor to our neighborhood and larger community.

**Thomas Mercer** I would be delighted to be given the opportunity to serve on the Nominating Committee. I have been a member of FUUSA for about 30 years and over that time have gotten to know quite a few of our fellow congregants. I have served on various committees and in leadership roles, including: the Board of Trustees, the Ministerial Search Committee, the Adult Ed committee, Committee on Professional Ministry,

RE teacher, Mentor in the Rite of Passage program, various strategic planning initiatives, the Capital Campaign, and the Architectural Design Committee.

**Dave Street** After working on the Board of Trustees the last three years, I have been thinking of what would be my next opportunity to serve FUUSA. As we begin our three year process as a Threshold Congregation, the Nominating Committee has started to look at taking a role in leadership development at FUUSA. Every time I have been asked to give a sermon at FUUSA, I seem to come up with something relating to leadership. Because leadership is a recurring theme with me, I suspect that it would be a good area for me to explore in helping both myself and others find a deeper understanding of "stewardship," which is a term I'm beginning to prefer over "leadership." My roles on the Peace Team and the Adult Education Committee have deepened my understanding of social action and religious education at FUUSA. For lack of a better term, "personal, daily faith development" is also an area I would like to find a good way to encourage at FUUSA because I see it as the nurturing "root source" for our denomination to truly bear fruit both within our beloved community and to become truly socially relevant in the world.

**Linda Way** When I walked into this church almost forty years ago, I knew right away it was a vibrant, active and engaging congregation – but I did not know that I had found both a community and a religion that would so significantly enrich, inspire and guide my life. I believe our congregation and our denomination can truly deepen the lives of its members and be a positive force for understanding, compassion and justice in the world. Over the years I have served on numerous councils and committees, co-chaired the canvass, and served on the search committees for both Sam and Leah. Most recently (after retiring from teaching) I was vice president and then president of the congregation, positions I found to be both challenging and rewarding. The Nominating Committee has a significant role to play - not only in recruiting persons to run for offices - but also in helping to identify, develop and sustain congregational leadership. I would welcome the opportunity to serve in this way.



## Contact Us

### Board of Trustees 2010-2011

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

#### Executive Committee

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Peg Sherman, Vice President  
Dave Metz, Treasurer  
Donna Meixner, Secretary

#### Trustees

Debbie Brown  
Dick Dana  
Donna Doran  
Todd Gray  
Randy Rosette  
Dave Street

#### Ex-officio Members

Sam Trumbore, Minister  
Molly Daniels, Chair Religious Education Council  
Lois Griffin, Chair Social Responsibilities Council

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

Mike Babala, Assistant Treasurer

### Staff

#### Minister

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

#### Church Administrator, interim Membership

#### Coordinator

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)

#### Administrative Assistant/Sexton

David Stone      [sexton@albanyuu.org](mailto:sexton@albanyuu.org)

#### 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

May Update: May 2

June Windows: May 16



**First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany  
Social Responsibilities Council - Commitment Options Outline, 2011**

I commit my time, talent and/or treasure in support of the following: *(Mark items below)*

**Advocacy efforts** (Robb Smith):

- I will attend the Interfaith Impact (IINYS) Advocacy Day on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011
- I will attend other IINYS Advocacy Days/initiatives as supported by FUUSA
- I will participate in “Stand on the Side of Love” in demonstrations in support of historically marginalized groups (for example: LGBTQ, Muslims, Racial Minorities)

**Peace Team** (Sybil Allyson Stock):

- I will attend one or more film/discussion evenings on peace-related issues
- I will take part in the development of a FUUSA "Congregational Peace Pledge"
- I will participate in a FUUSA/community "First Annual Walk for Peace"
- I will come to music jams/sing-alongs focused on songs related to peace.

**Green Sanctuary** (Chris Bystroff/Sandy Steubing):

- I will commit to eating locally by purchasing a Community Supported Agriculture share
- I will commit to eating locally by becoming a member/owner of a local co-op
- I will hold or participate in a peak oil/energy descent outreach engagement/event

**Humanitarian Programs** (Barb Cooley):

- I will volunteer for an overnight shift at the homeless overflow shelter (winter ‘11/’12)
- I will volunteer regularly with FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry
- I will read *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander. (and consider participating in a discussion of this book in the fall)
- I will attend the “Women’s Dining Out Brunch” (4/30/11)

**Additional Options:**

- I would like the Social Responsibilities Council to consider other areas of activity *I would be willing to be actively involved in*, such as: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone number(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please visit the tables for these initiatives in Channing Hall after today’s service  
with any questions or to obtain further information.**

# 6 to 9 at 6:09

## Circle Dinner

6:09 p.m., Saturday, May 21

**YES, I would like to attend**

Name(s) attending \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you: \_\_\_\_\_ need a ride \_\_\_\_\_ can't drive too far

Do you have special dietary requirements?

\_\_\_\_\_ vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_ other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in hosting or attending a family-oriented dinner? If so, please list the ages of your children. \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you like to host a dinner?** \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

Maximum # GUESTS you can accommodate \_\_\_\_\_

**Last day to sign up: May 10**

**Please put this completed form** in the Circle Dinner pocket on the Sign Up Site board in Channing Hall.

**You can also sign up by email:** contact Martha Musser at [mmusser@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mmusser@nycap.rr.com) or 434-2246.

We will contact each host with a guest list. This is a potluck meal. Your host will contact you to provide directions and coordinate food.

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