

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

WINDOWS

Newsletter of the First Unitarian
Universalist Society of Albany

May 2012

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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.)

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 and environmental topics), Children's Chapel, social events, and adult education.

All are welcome!

Services

May 6 "Who is Illegal?," The Rev. Sam Trumbore

The immigration debate is often framed in the language of law. "They" are called "illegal" aliens who sneak across our borders. They don't belong here and should go home. They are nameless, faceless undocumented people whose stories we don't know. And what about their ancestors who didn't need documentation because this was their land? Who "discovered" it in the first place and how were they removed? Music: Choir

May 13 "Rite of Passage Service"

The culmination of the Rite of Passage class this year will be to present a service for the congregation. As part of that service, these ninth and tenth grade students will be presenting short belief statements that they have been developing during the class. These beliefs are likely to grow and change along with the students. Come hear what's in the minds of our youth today as they face the world we share.



May 20 "Building Up, Reaching Out, Breaking Through!"

As a prelude to our Annual Meeting after the service, Rev. Trumbore and the Breakthrough Congregation Team will help reflect back the state of the congregation, its hopes and dreams as collected during the Stewardship Gatherings. These meetings have been a great opportunity to see where we are and how that matches up with our strategic plan. We've built up an expanded facility, we've reached out to welcome new members, now we're ready to break through the barriers that keep us from reaching even wider and building up Unitarian Universalism in the Capital Region.

May 27 "Lest We Not Forget," Mark O'Connor and Don Odell

We may strive to be a congregation of peacemakers, but we live in a war torn world. Men, women and children die daily in the cause of making peace. Some do this work nonviolently with words. Others take up arms. However we understand the path to peace, we can remember all those who have lost their lives in the past year. May they rest in peace. Music: Choir

Calendar

Events happening every Sunday at FUUSA

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

Exceptions:

Events happening every week in the month of May

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
Thursdays	5:00 PM	Metta Meditation	26

Exceptions:

All other events happening in the month of May

1-May	7:00 PM	UU Christians.....	B-5
2-May	2:00 PM	SGM Patka	B-5
	6:00 PM	Wellspring Meeting	B-8
3-May	7:00 PM	SGM John Sherman	B-5
4-May	5:45 PM	Parent Group Channing Hall, 23, 24/25	
5-May	8:45 AM	Getting to Know UU	23, B-7, B-8
	10:00 AM	Health Fair	Channing, Emerson
6-May	10:00 AM	Children's Chapel.....	
	11:30 AM	Auction Committee.....	B-8
	11:30 AM	Social Responsibilities Council.....	B-7
	12:00 PM	Pre CROP Walk Lunch . Channing, Kitchen	
	12:00 PM	Rummage Sale SetupEmerson Community Hall	
7-May	9:00 AM	Rummage Sale Setup and Sorting . Emerson	
8-May	9:00 AM	Rummage Sale Setup and Sorting . Emerson	
	6:00 PM	Lifespan Learning Committee	B-7
9-May	9:00 AM	Rummage Sale Setup and Sorting . Emerson	
	5:00 PM	Religious Services Committee Meeting..	B-8
	6:30 PM	SGM Peggy Sherman	B-5
10-May	9:00 AM	Rummage Sale Setup and Sorting . Emerson	
	6:30 PM	Finance Committee	
11-May	9:00 AM	Rummage Sale Emerson Community Hall	
12-May	9:00 AM	Rummage Sale Emerson Community Hall	
	6:30 PM	Rite of Passage service rehearsal.. Emerson	
13-May	11:45 AM	Forum	B-8
	5:30 PM	Walker Book Club	Channing Hall
14-May	10:00 AM	SGM Patrick/Odell	B-5
	7:00 PM	Monday Men	B-8
	7:00 PM	SGM English	B-5
15-May	6:45 PM	Rite of Passage Info Session	B-8
16-May	2:00 PM	SGM Patka	B-5
	5:30 PM	Safe Congregation Response Team	26
	6:00 PM	Wellspring Meeting	B-8
	7:00 PM	Congregational Conversation on the	
		Budget, Bylaws	B-7
17-May	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees	B-8
	7:00 PM	SGM John Sherman	B-5
18-May	6:00 PM	Circle Dinners	Offsite
	6:30 PM	Rite of Passage Orientation . Channing Hall [
19-May	12:00 PM	Personal Defense Course	Channing Hall
	6:00 PM	Circle Dinners	Offsite

20-May	11:30 AM	Annual Congregational Meeting	Emerson
	11:30 AM	Peace Team.....	B-7
	11:45 AM	Green Sanctuary Meeting.....	B-8
23-May	6:30 PM	SGM Peggy Sherman	B-5
28-May	9:00 AM	Holiday - office closed	
	7:00 PM	Monday Men	B-8
	7:00 PM	SGM English	B-5

Spring Rummage Sale

We will sell gently used household goods, small appliances, sheets, towels, and table linens. Please NO TV's, tape recorders, electronics, and computers. NO kids' toys or gear, no books.

Set-up

Sunday, May 6 Set-up begins after the service!

Donations accepted at FUUSA

Sunday, May 6: after the service

Mon.-Thurs, May 7–May 9: from 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Thursday, May 10: from 9 a.m.-12 noon.

Rummage Sale Hours

Friday, May 11: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday, May 12: 9 a.m.-12 noon, and Bag Sale 12 noon-2 p.m.

Clean-up

Saturday, May 12: 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

Looking Ahead

June 2 Plant Sale

June 20-24 General Assembly—Phoenix AZ

News

Annual Meeting, Sunday, May 20

The Annual Meeting of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany will be held in Emerson Community Hall on May 20 at 11:45 a.m. Items of business will include: report of the nominating committee and election, presentation and adoption of the 2012-2013 budget, proposal of bylaws changes, and other business.

This will be an opportunity on Wednesday, May 16 at 7:00 pm. for members and friends to review the draft budget and the proposed bylaws revisions. Both documents are available in the lobby.

Rite of Passage service

The Rite of Passage youth will present their service on Sunday, May 13. They will have completed our year-long program with Leah Purcell, Rev Sam and their adult mentors including their trip to Boston. The program helps them learn more about Unitarian Universalism and develop their personal credos. Here's a chance for you to be a part of our vital and nurturing religious community and to support our youth.

Sing Out for Justice!



Kim and Reggie Harris, featured performers at the June 3 combined worship service in Round Lake.

Join hundreds of Unitarian Universalists as we sing out for justice with Kim and Reggie.

Consummate musicians and storytellers, Kim and

Reggie Harris combine a strong folk and gospel legacy with a solid background in classical, rock, jazz and pop music. Creative curiosity, years of road and stage experience and interactions with performers such as Pete Seeger, Ysaye Barnwell, Jay Leno, Tom Paxton, Bernice Johnson Reagon, Harry Belafonte and others, has led them to produce music that entertains and inspires.

Kim and Reggie will help us get spiritually prepared for our June 23 "Day of Service" where we will put our faith into action by helping the backstretch workers from the Saratoga Race Track (details to follow.)

We will once again be at the historic Round Lake Auditorium, joined by our combined choirs. Worship at 10:30, childcare provided, and picnic to follow.

Reminder!! May 5th FUUSA Fair

FUUSA's first Community Health Fair will take place on Saturday, May 5 from 10:30 to 2 p.m. Needed: donations of a healthy dish for the community lunch and/or help with aspects of the event. Contact Mark Yolles at xxxxxxxxx to sign up or for info.

Together building a world where there's enough for all

Will YOU help build a better world? Join with fellow FUUSAns and our Capital District neighbors in the CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, May 6. Families are especially encouraged to participate. Pledges are also needed to support our FUUSA walkers. Visit the CROP Walk table at coffee hour or contact Dawn Dana for information.

Spring rummage sale

May is just around the corner and so is FUUSA's Spring Rummage Sale. The *sale* days are May 11 from 9am-5pm and May 12 from 9am-2pm, but starting Sunday, May 6, we will need volunteers to help make the sale a success!

We will start accepting the **gently** used household goods, bedding and linen on May 6. You can put the donations in a marked bag - 'for the Rummage Sale' - and also your name, in the coatroom. In the past few years we have found some 'treasures' that were mistakenly donated. If that happens again this year we want to be sure 'the treasure' gets returned

to its rightful owner.

Sign-up sheets to help the week of May 6-12 can be found on the sign-up bulletin board in Channing Hall.

If you have any questions, contact Patty Burch (xxxxxxxxxx).

Member art show in Channing Hall

The Art and Aesthetics Committee has revived a tradition of FUUSA member artist exhibits with our current show. Contributions include photographs, oils, fabric, and tapestry, watercolors and collage. The show will hang through June 16th. Artists exhibiting are Molly Daniels, Bob Franklin, Arlene Gilbert, Julie Lomoe, Mary Reich, Dave Street, Lois Webb, Arlen Westbrook, Barb Manning, and Terry Way. Thanks to all.

Beautiful gardens

If you enjoy the many gardens around FUUSA and their incredible variety of beautiful plants, please volunteer to help maintain them this summer. The spring garden clean up is scheduled (as Windows goes to print) for Thursday and Friday May 3 and 4. (Since FUUSA activities are scheduled for the first two Saturdays in May, the spring cleanup could not be scheduled for a weekend.) Summer garden maintenance will start on May 20 and run through September. Anyone who would like to help with the spring clean up and/or summer maintenance, please contact Paula Moskowitz.

As in previous years, we are looking for two volunteers per week, so no one will have to work in all four gardens. Basic gardening supplies can be found in the shed on West Street; the combination to the lock on the shed is listed in the instructions which will be sent to all participants. Families are most welcome and can be paired with a volunteer experienced with the FUUSA gardens upon request.

When you sign up, remember - you can come in any day and any time of day during your week - whatever is most convenient for you! We plan to maintain the summer garden schedule on the FUUSA web site, everyone will be notified as soon as it is up and running.

If enough of us are willing to spend just a couple of hours once or twice over the summer we can keep the gardens in good shape for all to enjoy!

Any questions, contact Paula Moskowitz (pgmosk@earthlink.net or 439-6347). THANKS!

Our Youth Group needs adult support

I hope that you were able to attend the service the Senior High Youth Group presented on April 22nd.

Unfortunately, the youth were not able to spend the night at FUUSA the Friday of their rehearsal as they and I had hoped. This would have been a great group-building opportunity for them and I would have like to have gotten to know them better in the special environment of an overnight. I was willing to spend the night at church. But in order to follow our Safe Congregation Policy, we also needed 3 adults to take a shift chaperoning during the night OR for one adult (besides me) to sleep at church, too. And no one who was active for over a year in the congregation volunteered. I know that this is a busy time of year and that giving up time or sleep is tough! But I ask you to consider stepping up for this next time around. We might need to get creative. Maybe if a parent is willing to be a chaperone for a shift in the night, a FUUSA friend could take their kids on an outing the next morning so the chaperone could take a nap. Perhaps you could come up with other ideas because...

...next year the youth would like to host a St. Lawrence District Youth Conference (often called a "con"). FUUSA has hosted wonderful cons in the past where UU youth from around our district and from eastern Canada gather for 2 nights in the building. They have workshops, fun activities, meetings, worship and their own coffee house. In the past the youth have received magnificent support from the adults in our congregation to host the con. In order to follow the safety policy of the St. Lawrence District, they will need adults to chaperone in teams of two through the night for a Friday night and a Saturday night. They will also need lots of help from adults with meals. If you would like to know more about the benefits and requirements of youth cons, please contact me. --Leah Purcell

Plant sale

Saturday, June 2

Our annual plant sale will be held 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 19th so that the plants have time to revive from being dug up. Once you have them ready, call Donna Meixner (xxxxxxx), Jan Satin (xxxxxxx) or Barb Manning (xxxxxxx) to arrange pick up or drop off. We can store them until the plant sale. Thanks!

Wine and Cheese Tasting a success

Nearly 85 FUUSAns gathered on March 31, 2012 for our 7th Annual Guided Wine and Cheese Tasting fundraiser. Participants shared company and a tasting experience of *Wines and Cheeses of New York*. The five featured wines were carefully selected from the Finger Lakes and Long Island and were paired with five great artisan cheeses from the North Country, Hudson Valley, Long Island, and the Finger Lakes. Attendees enjoyed rich fellowship and excellent wines and cheeses while learning about New York's wine regions, farmhouse and artisan cheeses, wine and cheese pairings, and constructing and serving cheese plates.

The event raised \$741.28 for FUUSA.

Thank you to the organizing committee of Rick Whitebread, John Sherman, Peter Meixner, Sue and Al Berzinis, Patty and Tim Burch, Don Odell, Russ Myer, Eric Paul and Alifair Skebe for helping with the pairings, preparations, and serving the night of the event. A special thank you to Peg Sherman, Lynne Lekakis, and Patti Burch for helping with room set-up, food prep, and clean-up the night of the event. Thank you to Al DeSalvo for shopping for fruit, crackers, and other accompaniments. Thank you to The Cheese Traveler for procuring the cheese, Honest Weight Food Co-op for the accompaniments, The New York Wine and Grape Foundation for literature and posters, and Lively Run Goat Dairy for their donation towards cheese.

Have you seen it?

The white binder labeled Orders of Service 2011-12 has disappeared from the office! If you have any knowledge of where it might be, please tell Stephanie! It was last seen in the office early Sunday morning, April 15.

Lifespan Learning

Personal Defense Readiness Training May 19, 1-4 pm, Channing Hall

Lifespan Learning will be hosting a Personal Defense Readiness Training led by Black Tiger Karate Instructor Janet Mangold. This self-defense training is based on the S.P.E.A.R System, a method that integrates the body's reflexive responses and instinctive survival mechanisms. The suggested contribution to cover the instructor's expense is \$10 - \$25 per person. Sign up for the class at Sign Up Site in Channing Hall.

Rite of Passage 2012-13 informational meeting
Leah Purcell and Rev. Sam will be offering the Rite of Passage again next year for 9th and 10th graders. We will hold an informational meeting Tuesday, May 15 at 7:00 in room B-8. This will be for youth who will be in 9th or 10th grade next year and their parents or caretakers and also for potential adult mentors. If you are interested in joining the "mentor pool" please contact Leah Purcell by Wednesday, May 9th. You can find out more about

the role and responsibilities of a mentor at <http://www.albanyuu.org/mentordescr.pdf>.

Summer Session of Religious Education

From June 17 through September 2, the RE program is in Summer Session. This is a wonderful time of the year when we offer multi-age activities geared for children in preschool through about 5th grade. The older children and youth come and join us in the activities. Or they can join their families in the service. This is our chance to do things we don't normally get to during the traditional year. We get out lots of arts and crafts materials, play indoor group games and read picture books that are a bit longer than those that are used for Sunday school, but that have wonderful Unitarian Universalist themes. And unlike the rest of the year, it's multi-age! For some of the older children and youth, this is a rare opportunity to get messy and play games. The nursery will be open for infants and toddlers so the caretakers can make sure they are happy and their needs are taken care of.

We meet upstairs in the air-conditioned classrooms from 10:00 to 11:00. Then we'll join the adults for

multi-generational “Lemonade Hour” in the back of Emerson. Come as often as you like; each session is “stand alone”. I’ll plan activities and stories and set up the classrooms and I’ll work (play?) most every Sunday in Summer Session. All I need is adult volunteers. If you have volunteered for RE in the past or are a parent or caretaker, please sign up to help me for as many Sundays as you are able and willing. See the signup sheet in Channing Hall.

Register now for spirituality conference

May 10 is the last day to register for the Third Annual St. Lawrence District UU Women & Religion’s Spirituality Conference in Syracuse. Come for ritual, workshops, shared experiences, and friendship to feed your mind, body and spirit. More details and registration information on the website: www.slduwr.org

Award winning books

FUUSA’s Joy Library holds many award-winning titles you may have always intended to read. The LibraryThing catalog has compiled lists of some of the great books we have and I’ve added our call numbers. These are not our only award-winners. I’ll list some more next month. —Sally Knapp

The 100 Most Influential Books Ever Written: The History of Thought from Ancient Times to Today

The I Ching, or, Book of Changes by Richard Wilhelm (1 - 14th century BCE) [299.51 WIL]

The Upanishads Breath Of The Eternal by Swami Prabhavananda (7th–5th century BCE) [294.5 PRA]

The Republic of Plato by Plato., (380 BCE) [321.07 PLA]

The Aeneid of Virgil by Virgil. (19 BCE) [873.1 VIR]

The Prince, Transl. W K Marriott, Introd H Butterfield. by Niccolò Machiavelli (1532) [320.1 MAC]

Leviathan: With Selected Variants from the Latin Edition of 1668 by Thomas Hobbes (1651) [320.1 HOB]

Critique of pure reason by Immanuel Kant (1787)

[121 KAN]

The Origin of Species (Mentor) by Charles Darwin (1859) [576.82 DAR]

Thus Spake Zarathustra (Dover Thrift Editions) by Friedrich Nietzsche (1883-1885) [193 NIE]

I and Thou by Martin Buber (1923) [181.3 BUB]

The feminine mystique by Betty Friedan (1963) [305.420973 FRI]

Beyond freedom and dignity by B. F. Skinner (1971) [150.19 SKI]

1001 Books You Must Read Before You Die

Aesop's fables, based on the translation of George Fyler Townsend by Aesop., (2006 Edition) [883.01 AES]

The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupery (2006/2008/2010 Edition) [843.912 SAI]

One Hundred Years Of Solitude by Gabriel García Márquez (2006/2008/2010 Edition) [863 MAR]

Reveries of the Solitary Walker by Jean-Jacques Rousseau (2006/2008/2010 Edition) [848.509 ROU]

The Stranger by Albert Camus (2006/2008/2010 Edition) [843.914 CAM]

The Namesake: A Novel by Jhumpa Lahiri (2008/2010 Edition) [813.54 LAH]

HarperCollins 100 Best Spiritual Books of the Century

An Autobiography: The Story Of My Experiments With Truth by Mahatma Gandhi [92 GAN GAN]

Black Elk Speaks by 1863-1950 Black Elk [978.004 BLA]

The Courage To Be. by Paul Tillich, 1886-1965. [179.6 TIL]

Gitanjali : a collection of Indian songs Rabin-dranath Tagore by Rabindranath Tagore [891.445 TAG]

I and Thou by Martin Buber [[181.3 BUB]

The Immense Journey by Loren C. Eiseley [575 EIS]

Night by Elie Wiesel, 1928- [940.53 WIE]

The Phenomenon of Man by Pierre Teilhard De Chardin [113 TEI]

The Road Less Traveled by M. Scott Peck [158.1 PEC]

The World's Religions : Our Great Wisdom Traditions by Huston Smith [291 SMI]

Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind: Informal Talks on Zen Meditation and Practice by Shunryu Suzuki [294.3 SUZ]

Our Community

CommUnity Potluck

Sunday, May 6, 6:00 PM

Al and Sue Berzinis will host a **Delmar/Bethlehem** potluck. "We'd like to get to know our neighbors." Call xxxxxxxx to let them know you will attend and what dish to share. Or email xxxxxxxx

6 to 9 at 6:09: Circle Dinners

May Dinners: Friday, 5/ 18' or Saturday, 5/19

Circle Dinners, organized by Martha Musser, are potlucks held in the homes of FUUSA members and friends. These dinners provide an excellent opportunity to socialize in small groups of six to nine people. Everyone is welcome, singles and couples, regardless of dietary restrictions. We encourage families with young children to attend or host a multi-generational dinner.

The May dinners are the last of the church year, but stay tuned for next year's schedule. If you would like to attend, you can complete the sign-up form in Channing Hall or email Martha at xxxxxxxx. In your email, please specify the number of adults and children who will attend and whether you prefer Friday or Saturday night or can attend on either night. Also indicate if you are willing to host or need a ride. If you are *not* bringing children, indicate if you would like to attend a multi-generational dinner.

Last day to sign up: Sunday, May 6, 2012

If you would like to know more about Circle Dinners, please contact Martha Musser at mmusser@nycap.rr.com.

Parent Group

FUUSA Parent Group meets on Friday May 4th. Potluck dinner from 6 to 7 PM; please bring a dish to pass and a beverage. Parent discussion of Children's Books that model UU Principles from 7 to 8:30 PM; please bring any books that you recommend. Childcare is provided. Please contact Paula Brewer for more information.

About Us

The Gallery at the Spectrum Theater on Delaware Avenue in Albany will feature, from now until May 29th, a group of large multi-media collages by **George Ellsworth Shear**. Working originally in his studio in Manhattan's Chelsea art district, Shear developed an illusory vocabulary, involving painted surface, pasted ephemera, oil pastel and pencil, all inspired by his background as an architect and his interest in abstraction and perspective.

Spring sign ups for fall event: save \$

It's time to sign up for UU Weekend at Silver Bay, this October 12 - 14! In fact, if you sign up by June 15 you can attend the weekend at LAST year's prices; after June 15 prices will increase. Also, 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 going this year - 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 (yoga or

**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, 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.



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 5** from 8:45 a.m. to noon.

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

There is a sign up sheet in Channing Hall (at the Sign Up Site), or you can call Amy Lent Director of Member Services (church office, 463-7135) to RSVP.

New Member Sunday

On **Sunday, June 3**, 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 excellent introduction to your new community, but it is not a requirement! Please call either Kathy Hodges, Chair of the Membership Committee (xxxxxxx) or Amy Lent, Director of Member Services (at the church office, 463-7135) if you are interested in becoming a member.

something similar), stimulating humanist and/or political discussions, music, a Sunday service and much, much more! We already have signed up Jim Scott as our "artist in residence" for the weekend. Jim is an exciting acoustic guitarist, singer, and composer of powerful music that furthers the ideals of ecology, justice, and peace. In addition, Jon McPherson, the "Close To Home" cartoonist will be the weekend's motivational speaker and cartoonist.

This is also a cooperative weekend (which means we all pitch in and volunteer for a job be it large or small). By signing up early you also have the best chance of reserving your spot to present that program/workshop you've always wanted to lead, or to get your "choice" volunteer assignment. To volunteer to lead a workshop (movement, craft, thought provoking, or you decide), contact Jan McCracken at xxxxxxxx.

Watch for the 2012 registration form on the Albany UU website (www.albanyuu.org), search for "UU Weekend" on Facebook, or look for information at

the CRUUNY service in Round Lake on June 3 . Members of the Albany congregation, a sign up/ information table will be available in Channing Hall before and after services. The Silver Bay Resort and Conference Center is located on beautiful Lake George and in October the surrounding hills are at peak fall foliage! - UU Weekend Committee (Albany, Saratoga, Schenectady, Glens Falls. Two Rivers congregations)

Joys and Caring Corner _____

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 May Ann Randall (mabrandall@gmail.com.)

Social Justice

It is proving to be a very busy Social Justice spring. We Stood on the Side of Love and justice for Trayvon Martin, and will Stand Against Racism with a teach-in on April 28. We will advocate with Interfaith Impact on April 30 and we will march with the Gay Pride Parade June 10. Please read about all the other social justice issues in Windows and see how you can join in to make a difference. Our next SRC meeting is May 6, the day we will be participating in the CROP Walk.

Standing on the Side of Love,
Lois Griffin, Chair SRC

Overflow Homeless Shelter letter of thanks

As April draws to a close, the need for help at the overflow shelters ends until late fall. It is time for us to express our appreciation!

Patty Burch and Barb Cooley want to thank all of you who helped out with our commitment to preparing a meal two Mondays a month for the Overflow Shelter at the First Lutheran Church this past season. Your willingness to help out makes this responsibility a pleasure. There are so many of you again this year that we will not attempt to list your names, we are grateful to both men and women, youth and families, members and friends of FUUSA. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!

In addition to the meals which FUUSA has been

helping to prepare since 2004, this year we were asked to volunteer for a week of overnights in February at the St. Peters Episcopal Church overflow shelter (from the Mission). Again, there is a willingness to help out at FUUSA which is most reassuring and I thank those of you who gave up a night of sleep and comfort during that week. We hope to help out again next year in a similar way; most of you expressed a willingness to visit that experience again. THANKS TO THOSE FOLKS AS WELL!

Peace, Barb Cooley

Focus food pantry

FUUSA on a monthly basis is very active with the Focus Food Pantry. April 11, ended the hot breakfast Program for the season. It will resume in early Nov. 2012. The FUUSA volunteers also help on a weekly basis at the pantry filling the bags with needed nutritional groceries.

The annual school backpack program will begin this June: throughout the summer months we will be collecting needed school supplies for grades Pre-K through 12th grade. The list of the school supplies was generated from the Albany School District for the new school year 2012-2013. Watch for the supply list in the June Windows, and drop off items at FUUSA throughout the summer (collection basket will be in the coatroom.) During the week of August 27th, the backpacks will be filled with the school supplies and distributed to the children of the families who registered with the Fo-

cus Food Pantry.

Our monthly collection will be held on the 4th Sunday in May. Since that is Memorial Day weekend, you may want to contribute to the May collection earlier in the month. Feel free to put your

check written out to Focus Food Pantry in the collection basket.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact either Patty Burch or Renee Panetta.

Columns

Sam's Outlook

An education in working with partners

Unitarian Universalists like to be out in front making a lot of noise about what is wrong in the world and looking for ways to make it right. The struggle for civil rights in the South during the 1960's helped define our newly merged denomination of Unitarians and Universalists. We cut our teeth learning to lobby our representatives, to write letters to the editor, to organize demonstrations, to boycott products, to testify at governmental hearings and generally to let the world know what we think should be done. We are an activist faith, eager to tackle the problems of the world and fix them if we can.

So when our social justice community partners with whom we've been planning our first ever Justice General Assembly 2012 in Phoenix, Arizona asked us to talk about "The Doctrine of Discovery" in our congregations and pass a resolution opposing it at the GA plenary, I felt a little surprised since I hadn't heard of it before. When I've mentioned it in conversation, few have heard of it either. Judging from the number of people who stayed after the potluck on April 21st to learn more, I noticed the interest level in this doctrine is fairly low.

So what is it and why should we care?

Let's pause right here for a moment to consider an attitudinal adjustment.

Though Unitarian Universalists do not have the kind of power and influence that the Catholic Church has or the lobbyists for major corporations have, we are an influential denomination. We vote and we are well connected in wide networks. Our local representatives and government officials know who we are by name. We have some influential moral power to wield.

Our Justice GA partners do not have the level of influence we have. So when we work in collaboration with our partners, we have some power to bring

to the table to share with them. Our priority, since they have asked us to come to Phoenix rather than move GA to another city to protest SB 1070, is to serve their interests and be helpful to them. To figure out what will help, we have to ask them since we really don't know the problems with which they are dealing. We don't know their priorities.

So if we really want to work together in partnership, we need to listen and learn. They have told us that the best thing we can do to help them is educate ourselves about the Doctrine of Discovery and repudiate it. Putting our institutional weight and resources behind this one action means a lot to them.

Working in coalition means finding common values. It means mutual empowerment. Too often in the past, our efforts to help those who are marginalized, discriminated against and oppressed, have reinforced their status. Too often "helping" organizations show up with dis-empowering answers. Rather than working to find mutually satisfying answers that respect and honor the dignity of both parties, powerful helpers manipulate resources and actions to serve their desires.

Knowing that our partners want us to educate ourselves about the Doctrine of Discovery is enough to motivate me to pay attention and listen to our partners tell us why this matters to them. Before I do anything, I want to understand why, of all the things that we could do, they selected this one priority.

End of pause.

I'll be answering these questions during the Sunday service on May 6th. As a teaser, this doctrine goes back to the time of Columbus. The Pope gave his blessing on taking the land and resources of soulless non-Christians, selling them into slavery or killing them, and removing them from that land. When we discuss immigration, the first question we need to consider is whose land and borders are they anyway? By what right did the United States of America claim this territory and define the formerly indigenous people of this land illegal? A certain Supreme Court case decision in 1823 may be very

relevant to this question. There may even be a relevance as late as 2005 right here in New York State.

Our partners want to re-frame how we think about immigration through education, relationship and action. We have a lot to learn. Come May 6th with an open mind and heart to the suffering of past and present, and begin imagining a more compassionate future.--Rev. Sam

Chuck's Chat

Amazing week

Barb and I have been fortunate to have had an amazing week beginning on April 12 and ending on April 18. During that time we met Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed, Rev. Thandeka, had a great time at the annual fellowship dinner, and watched and sang along with Pete Seeger, Kim and Reggie Harris, and other great performers. You may not know all of the people we saw, so let me give you a capsule with links if you want to know more.

Rev. Mark is a UU who served 26 years as a parish minister, and now is a UU author and roving lecturer. He spoke at FUUSA on April 12th and then stayed with us. Although I can never experience racism the way he has, he was able to convey the stress of racism with phrases such as "in every situation I have to do a risk assessment." His moving reading on Thursday night, in honor of Trayvon Martin, was a gut wrenching experience. (<http://www.uuworld.org/about/authors/markmorrison-reed.shtml>)

We met Rev. Thandeka at the annual fellowship dinner on Friday night. She is one of our leading UU thinkers. Her mantra is working toward "Love Beyond Belief." Through the efforts of Rev. Sam, she will be working with FUUSA next fall to enhance our worship services and stewardship campaign. After spending 45 minutes with her in a one-on-one conversation, I can't wait to see how this evolves. (www.revthandeka.org)

I expect all of you know who Pete Seeger is. You may not know that he is turning 93 this year. On Tuesday night we were lucky to see him perform at a benefit concert for the Rural Migrant Ministry at Riverside Church in Manhattan. He led us in the

first song, Quite Early Morning, which begins "Through all this world of joy and sorrow we still can have singing tomorrows". Then he sat down and sang along until he ended the performance by running up onto the stage and leading the performers and the audience in a sing-along of "If I had a Hammer." His voice is gone but the sparkle in his eye, his banjo and guitar playing, and his infectious enthusiasm lives on.

Kim and Reggie Harris also performed in the concert. We have enjoyed and been inspired by their music for over 30 years. They led us in the song "Come to the Tree of Life" which is a civil rights song that says "There are things that we feel that we don't know we feel." I am hoping that they sing this as part of their participation in the joint CRUUNY service on June 3rd in Round Lake. Another thing to look forward to.

In addition to Pete Seeger, and Kim and Reggie Harris, there were other performers as well who were equally talented and inspiring. Tyrone Aiken sang "Amazing Grace" and Larry Marshall sang "There is a Balm in Gilead". As this music echoed through the huge nave of Riverside Church, the hairs on the back of my neck stood up and I felt a "Love Beyond Belief". I closed my eyes and let the music roll over me.

As I wrote this, I was looking for the link between these varied experiences. We were clearly busy over the last week but it wasn't hectic. I felt very little stress. Having two relaxing meals in New York with Barb to celebrate her birthday helped. Being open to new experiences, acknowledging the emotions evoked and appreciating them is even more important. I could not have been in touch with these emotions and feelings without my 40 years of being a UU. Mark Morrison-Reed made this point with me when we talked. These types of feelings and emotions were not acceptable or at least were not verbalized within my early religious experience. I may have felt strong emotions when I was in my twenties, but would not have felt I could try to describe them or share them. Now that I can, I am forever grateful to what being a UU at FUUSA has meant to me. Thank you all.--Chuck

Religious Exploration

Filling the Top Drawer

At our retreat in March the Religious Education Council and I did the laundry. We used pieces of paper in T-shirt shapes to write down all the events, programming and new initiatives we did this year and hung them on a line. Then we took them down one by one. We held up and considered each one. Should we put it in the “attic” to use sometime in the future? Donate to some other group in the congregation? Put it in the recycling? Fold it up and carefully put it in a drawer? Did it need mending or decorating first? Do we need to go shopping before the fall?

Now we have a whole drawer full of nice clean shirts ready for next year. That is to say that we have our goals and objectives for 2012-13 Religious Education program. Here are some:

Focus on Curriculum – to promote UU values and offer opportunities for spiritual practice, and to implement our Safe Congregations Policy

- ◆ UU Spirit Play for Pre-K/K
- ◆ Workshop Rotation in January
- ◆ Our Whole Lives Expansion

Focus on Youth – to help them develop a lifelong UU religious identity

- ◆ Create a Youth/Adult Committee
- ◆ Make worship services more youth-friendly

Focus on Social Responsibilities – to promote stewardship of our congregation, our denomination, and our world

- ◆ Involve youth and children in Social Responsibilities Council events
- ◆ Create opportunities for service for families
- ◆ Integrating service component into RE programming

You may not be familiar with all the bullet points, but do the areas of focus resonate with you? They support the mission of the Religious Education Council and FUUSA’s Strategic Plan. So the program for children and youth is us, the congregation.

There will be many opportunities for you to support

the 2012-13 Religious Education program. We’ll need about 40 volunteers to work in teams of 4 (or more) for Sunday school. And we’ll need Rite of Passage mentors. We’ll need congregants to be children’s workshop leaders for the month of January and volunteers to decorate classrooms for Workshop Rotation. We need people to play the piano or guitar. We need volunteers to help with RE Council events like the Pasta Potluck, Halloween Food Drive and Healthy Party, the Tree Trimming and Holiday Crafts Workshop, and Sundae Sunday. The youth need help for their con. I need help with props for the service. We need help developing service projects and working with projects already in place at FUUSA. We might need volunteers willing to attend a training session for facilitators for the younger grades of Our Whole Lives. We need support for senior high youth advisor training. We need adults willing to serve on a Youth/Adult Committee.

What a list of needs! As Rev. Sam has pointed out, a thriving congregation has many “good problems”. Happily, I know we have many, many good problem solvers at FUUSA. Working together, guided by our Unitarian Universalist principles, we can do this. Look for signup sheets, and other publications, email and the web to find out how you can join in. Or talk to me. I think I might have a shirt in just your size.

In joy and faith,
Leah

Bringing It Home

How are we doing?

The Religious Education Council would like to hear from families about the experiences of their children and youth in Sunday school and other RE programming. We haven’t been very successful receiving your responses with evaluation forms in paper or sent in emails. The Council is considering using an online program like Gismo or Survey Monkey to conduct a survey in June. In the meantime you might spend some time gathering your thoughts about the program and ask your child or youth about their experiences. One way you can make Religious Education meaningful is to regularly discuss Sunday school or youth group events at home. Look for information about each session of Sunday school in the Thursday emails I send to families with “RE Update” in the subject line. Leah Purcell

Annual Meeting **Sunday, May 20, 2012**

- 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 bylaws changes, and any resolutions to be presented at the meeting, may be picked up in the lobby starting April 29. A Congregational Conversation on the proposed budget and bylaws changes will be held on Wednesday, May 16 at 7:00 pm., Room B-7. Members of the Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee will present the 2012-2013 budget and answer any questions.

Limited absentee ballots available: see information below.

Read about the candidates here—meet them at coffee hour, May 6 & 13.

OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED

(1 year terms)

PRESIDENT

Chuck Manning I am honored to be asked to serve a third (and final) year as the President of FUUSA. I have been an active member for over 37 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. I continue to be energized by the excellent Board and Staff at FUUSA as well as encouragement from the congregation. This is an exciting and vital time for us as we complete our Stewardship Gatherings. The Threshold Team is working with the Stewardship Committee to compile the notes from these Gatherings. I am looking forward to a great year as we work together to share our vision with the world. Thank you all again for your support and generosity.

VICE-PRESIDENT

Peggy Sherman Thank you for nominating me for a third year as your vice-president. Our congregation has been an important part of my life and that of my family for more than 25 years, and I value our close and supportive community. I am excited to see FUUSA embrace the strategic goals of making a difference in our larger community and serving as a beacon of liberal religion in the Capital Region. Our community continues to evolve and change, fueled by the commitment of our members and the dedication of our staff and volunteer

Offices to be elected

- President Chuck Manning
- Vice-President Peggy Sherman
- Secretary Donna Meixner
- Treasurer Sue Berzinis
- Ass't. Treasurer Mike Babala
- Religious Education Chair*
 Paula Brewer
- Social Responsibilities Chair*
 Karen Kaufmann

Contested Elections**

Board of Trustees
(Two 3-year terms and One 1-year term—3 to be elected)

- Al DeSalvo
- RoseAnne Fogarty
- Bob Franklin
- Rebecca Myer
- Jean Poppei
- Sue Stierer

Endowment Trust
(5-year term, 1 to be elected)

- Kevin Purcell
- Todd Thomas

Nominating Committee

(3-year terms, 2 to be elected)

- Cate Bohn
- Ann D'Attilio
- Dave Metz
- Paula Moskowitz

Uncontested

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

- Sarah Martin
- Mary Myers
- David Quist
- Jan Satin
- (2-year term, 2 to be elected)*
- Jennifer Quail
- Annika Pfluger

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

- Patty Burch
- Martha Musser
- (1-year term, 2 to be elected)*
- Ed Hancock
- Jaye Holly

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 20, 2012. Request a ballot from the church office. Ballots will be available from Sunday, May 6 to Friday, May 18. **Completed ballots, sealed in an envelope, must be received in the church office on or before 11:00 AM on Friday, May 18.**

leaders – our professional and lay ministry. In the next year, I would like to collaborate to find more ways to support and enable the FUUSA volunteers and program leaders who make it all happen.

My FUUSA experience includes serving as treasurer, board member, RE teacher, canvasser and member of the nominating committee, endowment trust, personnel committee and strategic planning committee. My professional career has been in state government financial management. I look forward to continuing to serve FUUSA 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 second 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

Sue Berzinis Before relocating to Delmar, both my husband Al and I knew we needed to seek something beyond our life in the Lutheran tradition. We found FUUSA and joined about 4 years ago. I was soon involved in resettling the Iraqi refugee family supported by our congregation. I am also a member of the Green Sanctuary and Community Connections Committees. While living in Marietta OH, I had served as the bookkeeper for a church of 300 members where I computerized all the bookkeeping and financial accounting procedures. In the 1990s I owned and operated a retail made-from-scratch bakery in Lenox, MA, preparing all payroll and tax reports myself. I also served as Treasurer for the local Chamber of Commerce in Lenox while living there. I am ready to step up my involvement in the life of this organization.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Mike Babala My wife Sharon and I have been involved with FUUSA for over 15 years. Three and half ago, I retired from the NYS Dept. of Health. In my many years there, I held a vari-

ety of administrative functions. I also served as a PEF Shop Steward. 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. I have served as the Assistant Treasurer for the last two years and welcome the opportunity to do a good job as the Assistant Treasurer for another year.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(3-year term: 2 to be elected; 1-year term: 1 to be elected)

Al DeSalvo I am honored to be considered for a position on the Board of Trustees. As a member of FUUSA for more than 25 years, I have seen our community grow and change, with especially remarkable progress made over the last ten years. If elected, I will work with Board members, committees and staff to assure that our FUUSA community continues its work as a transformational congregation, maintains and enhances its openness and welcoming to all, creates opportunities for new members to be involved in all aspects of our society's life, remains out front on social justice issues and strongly supports our religious education program. Our community considered these objectives during the time when I was congregational President and we were planning, designing, developing, raising funds for, and financing our new Emerson Hall and RE space. We have grown, diversified and become a center of community activity. I want to assure that we continue in that direction.

My commitment to FUUSA is long and deep. Being president was one of the most challenging and satisfying experiences I have had. I have also been vice-president twice, previous at-large member of the Board, Endowment chair and Endowment member, canvasser for many years, Forum Committee chair and member, Auction chair, Buildings and Grounds and Building Use committee member, a member of the initial Capital Region Unitarian Universalists of New York (CRUUNY) and an originator of the wine and cheese event. I currently serve on the Committee on Professional Ministry, Public Relations Committee, and Membership Committee. I also enjoy being a service leader, coffee hour host, usher, and Children's Chapel pianist.

We have a remarkable community in FUUSA. It is one to be nurtured, cherished, and shared. If elected to the board, I will strive to build upon our strengths to assure we continue as a place where all feel welcome.

RoseAnne Fogarty I began attending FUUSA in the 1970s, and signed the book in 1986. Over the years I've helped with coffee hour, ushering, RE, and the summer program for neighborhood kids. I'm a rummage sale regular. I also helped develop the membership brochures on various topics, and I've

occasionally done art work as needed. My daughter Meg Smith has completed the "Our Whole Lives" curriculum and the Rite of Passage program; she's been a passionate Unirondacker for 6 years. My husband Perry Smith (whose religion is classical music) attends St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

I'm especially interested in how we can transition our youth into the adult congregation. I'm also committed to all things green.

Bob Franklin Our Society is expanding our horizons. We have undertaken some new and exciting challenges for growth and have set 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. As a member of the Board of Trustees, I would welcome the opportunity to share this responsibility to help guide our Society as we approach each new challenge.

I have been a member of FUUSA since 1988, and would be pleased to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees, if elected. 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.

Rebecca Myer I've been a member of FUUSA for 5 years (since moving to Albany) and have been a UU for over 20 years. I am a mother of 2 grown children that went through a UU RE program (we love Unirondack) and the wife of the crazy guy that plays drums for us periodically on Sunday morning. I am a total fan of our Small Group Ministry program and have worked on and contributed to the Oriel since I joined FUUSA.

In my opinion, we have very strong lay leadership in this church. I would be honored to join their ranks and give my time and energy to the work needed to fulfill our mission and our strategic goals. We are the current stewards of this wonderful church and it is our obligation to leave a strong FUUSA for those who follow us. As a board member I'd look forward to being part of that key work.

Jean Poppei I identified early as a Unitarian, attending RE in a number of Unitarian (now UU) churches. In the late 80s, I enrolled our daughter in the RE program, and became a member of FUUSA in the mid 90s. I served as Convener for the Safe Congregation Task Force, helped to organize the congregational World Café to encourage dialogue about the issues, and currently serve on the Safe Congregation Response Team. I've been involved with the rummage sale, which provided opportunity for connection with our FUUSA neighbors. In

June, I'll be attending General Assembly as a FUUSA delegate and am thrilled with the social justice focus. Our daughter will be receiving final fellowship as an ordained UU minister then which adds to the excitement. I've served on the Boards of UHPP and the Capital District Child Care Council. I'm Professor Emerita at The Sage Colleges, stepping down last June as Chair of the Psychology Department, but continue to do some graduate teaching, as well as counseling at a local social services agency.

Sue Stierer Growing up UU, I first attended FUUSA with my family in 1964, becoming active in Liberal Religious Youth, then later in RE, and editing The Oriel. The Rev. John Colorado's Worship Services class in 1980-81 spurred me to apply to Starr King School for the Ministry; I attended there 1981-1984, then joined a Christian prison ministry group in Northern CA, married and raised two girls. Ready to return to my UU roots in late 2008, I found the UU church in Fresno, CA, and became active in Worship Associates, the children's library, and their summer daycamp. Since returning to FUUSA in January 2010, I have loved being part of our choir, the Oriel, and a new group, Christian UUs, exploring the teachings of Jesus. I work with homeless women, many domestic violence survivors, at the YWCA in Troy. I would be privileged to bring the perspective of my varied experience to the position of Trustee at FUUSA.

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 REC. My daughter currently is in Rite of Passage and a participant in the youth group. I am the child-care coordinator for FUUSA events requiring childcare; and coordinate the FUUSA Parent Group. I look forward to continuing to work 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: 4 to be elected)

Sarah Martin I joined FUUSA this year after a recent move to Albany. Before that, my four children and I were deeply involved with First Unitarian Church of Rochester, where they attended the religious education program and I worked as the infant and toddler care coordinator. My children are currently in the Neighboring Faiths, Violet, and Blue classrooms, with my youngest regularly attending the toddler room. I have had the wonderful opportunity to be one of the teachers in the Green

room this spring. In Rochester, I also taught religious education to 3s, 4s, 5s and 6s over the years. I've been a Girl Scout leader for 15 years, homeschool 3 of my children, and I previously worked as a grades teacher for a Waldorf-inspired homeschool co-op in Rochester. I am also a writer. We have found the FUUSA community to be warm and welcoming and are feeling very much at home here. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve on the Religious Education Council.

Mary Myers I dragged my two children into FUUSA one day in spring of 2001, promising them we'd "just take a look." Well, we all liked what we saw, and have been coming back ever since. Those children (Alison and Tom Baxter) are young adults now, and it's my belief that they are such thoughtful, kind and special people due in no small part to the positive influence of the religious education program here. My own involvement in FUUSA began when I was asked to be a teacher in the pre-K classroom, and discovered it was a great way to meet others; both the parents and my co-teachers (not to mention the chance to get to know the children and then watch them grow!). Since then, I've taught OWL, as well as the classes before and after OWL, and also had the pleasure of serving as a mentor during the Rite of Passage program. I'm currently enjoying a stint as a kindergarten teacher. In addition to teaching RE classes, I served on the RE council once previously, and also was a member (then chair) of the Committee on Professional Ministry, as well as a member of the Personnel Committee. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to serve on RE council again, with the benefit of the experience of having taught a wide range of age groups. In my professional life, I work as an Educational Specialist at Albany Med, and develop educational programming for nurses and other health professionals, in addition to coordinating the orientation program for RNs who are hired to work in the hospital.

David Quist I've been coming to FUUSA regularly with my wife, Britany, and our two children, Bethany and Benjamin, for over two years now; we become members last February. My wife and I have enjoyed volunteering in the Toddler Room, and our children have gained much by their participation in RE. FUUSA has impressed me with its vitality, its open, welcoming character, and its tolerant tradition of fostering personal spiritual and ethical exploration. Raised in a progressive Protestant tradition, I have always felt we have much to learn from each other, and from other faiths. I am coming to realize that I am, at heart, UU. I am glad that my children are having the opportunity to benefit from this community, and am pleased to be offered the opportunity to "give back" that much more by serving on the RE council. It would be a pleasure to help build on the successes of a great RE program.

Jan Satin I have been a FUUSA member for 23 years. Cur-

rently I co-chair the Bazaar, coordinate Receptions, am a Pastoral Care Associate and am a member of Ps & Qs. I have previously served on the Board of Trustees, RE Council and Nominating Committee.

I taught elementary grades for many years. I am an educational volunteer and have been a Board member for the Albany County Cooperative Extension. I coordinate the Tiny Tots program for the Albany Symphony and serve on the Vanguard Board.

I am interested in again serving on the RE Council to help support FUUSA's religious education program. I am also looking forward to having more contact with FUUSA's younger generations.

(2-year term: 2 to be elected)

Annika Pfluger Annika is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist, having grown up attending the First Universalist Church in Syracuse, NY. Annika and her 9 year old son, Danny, currently live in Delmar where Annika teaches private cello and piano lessons out of her home studio. Annika is looking forward to becoming part of the RE Council to help pass along the UU tradition to the next generation.

Jennifer Quail My two children are enriched by our RE program. Since my family is entwined with this aspect of FUUSA, I hope to enhance its vision by serving on the Religious Education Council. In addition, as a public school teacher, I recognize the challenge of being a teacher/leader and hope to support those guiding our children weekly. Specifically, I believe in the power of ritual (routine) to center younger children as they navigate a liberal faith and hope to reassure them with a sound plan for their spiritual growth.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL CHAIR

(1 year term)

Karen Kaufmann I "came home" to FUUSA about three years ago and quickly became active in SRC seeking to fulfill my intention of contributing to a more peaceful, just and sustainable community. I served as an elected member and then vice-chair. I have been impressed and humbled by the group's accomplishments and the commitment of its participants. There is so much activity that the main chore of the leadership is to find time for everything!

After a career in state government I have gravitated toward SRC's advocacy activities and currently represent FUUSA in the FOCUS advocacy group on food issues. My recent retirement has enabled me to increase my participation in FUUSA programs such as Small Group Ministry and Wellspring, as well as SRC activities, and I have consistently felt blessed and nourished by my interactions with other FUUSAns.

I am honored to be considered to chair this dynamic and dedicated group and commit myself to helping facilitate its valuable work.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES COUNCIL

(3 year term: 2 to be elected)

Patty Burch My husband Tim and I moved to Albany in the Fall of 2010. One of the first things that we did was to find a UU congregation. We have been UU's since 1987 and wanted to continue our UU journey. Our first Sunday at FUUSA just happened to be "Get Connected" Sunday in January 2011. After the inspirational service in the sanctuary we headed to Emerson with the rest of the congregation and were wowed with ALL the various committees that FUUSA had to offer. One of the tables that I stopped at was the Focus Food Pantry and talked with Lois Thomson and Renee Panetta; I was hooked! Since then I have been a part of the Focus Food Pantry committee and then started attending the SRC monthly meeting to find out more. I easily discovered that yes, FUUSA is social and responsible. I was touched that the nominating committee asked me to serve as a voting member on the SRC. I look forward to the new year and to be part of THE dynamic SRC.

Martha Musser My husband David and I joined FUUSA in October 2010, after visiting for eight months. At FUUSA, we found a community whose interests, concerns, and worldview paralleled our own. Since joining, I have supported the activities of the Social Responsibilities Council and the Green Sanctuary Committee by participating in the Legislative Advocacy Day, drafting a policy position on hydraulic fracturing and attending the legislative hearing, encouraging outreach to WAMC for greater coverage of green issues, attending rallies, and assisting with the Green Sanctuary Wiki site. I am also the organizer of Circle Dinners, which strengthen connections among members and newcomers as they socialize over dinner in a private home.

I have a long-standing professional interest in educational equity. I believe such equity is essential to preparing every child for meaningful, productive participation in the workplace and the community. At the State Education Department, I was responsible for reporting to the Governor, the Legislature, the Board of Regents, and the public on the educational status of the State's schools. Sadly, in each year, I reported that the schools that served the largest percentages of minority and disadvantaged students, on average, had the fewest resources, the least qualified teachers, and the poorest outcomes. After retiring, I worked as a consultant for the Campaign for Fiscal Equity, doing research and data analysis in support of its efforts to improve the education of students in

New York City Public Schools. A central goal of the Social Responsibilities Council is to improve the lives and opportunities of children and adults in Albany. I look forward to assisting with that goal.

(1 year term: 2 to be elected)

Ed Hancock I have been a UU since 1970 and a member of FUUSA since 1972. I was raised Roman Catholic but walked away when Catholic practice and custom seemed too at odds with its teaching. While I regularly entered 405 Washington Ave for daily SUNYA Russian classes in 1964, it was not until 1969 that I first attended a FUUSA service at the suggestion of a mutual friend. I was very impressed by the involved and socially concerned congregation, so when I found myself in Norfolk VA, I looked up the local UU church and found more of the same. The minister was also the chapter president of the ACLU. The church was welcoming to gays, hippies, gray haired people, and officers and sailors in uniform. The leader was not cloaked in self importance of a priest and discussed issues with congregants. The Spring rebirth of the earth was celebrated outside on a river bank with a flower communion. Totally cool. So upon my return to Albany I attended, was welcomed by and joined FUUSA. I have been an RE teacher for many semesters, an RE council member for 9 years, a board of trustees member for 3, and father of Tom for 16. I have been involved with the SRC as an attendee and as an appointed member for a year and I am seeking election to the SRC to continue my participation there and with the Peace Team. I am reminded by Dr. Seuss and Horton that every voice in Whoville counts and one more may just make all the difference.

Jaye Holly After living in Maryland for about 12 years, I returned to the Albany area about 3 years ago. Having been away for so long, it was both foreign and familiar. It was an opportunity to look at old things in new ways, including my spiritual life. Having grown up in the African Methodist Episcopal church, I had been a member of Israel AME when I lived here before, but had drifted away from the church while in Maryland. I had been missing having a spiritual home and decided that part of re-settling in the Capital District would be to do some exploring of different churches. My first stop was FUUSA, and it was also my last stop.

The thing that captured me was the commitment to social justice. I have spent a lifetime working for social justice in both paid and unpaid positions. From fundraising to political advocacy to serving on non-profit boards, fighting the good fight has been my passion. Serving on the SRC would be another way of me giving back, while continuing to learn about emerging social justice issues, so I'm looking forward to the opportunity.

ENDOWMENT TRUST

(5-year term: 1 to be elected)

Kevin Purcell I am eager to serve on the Endowment Trust. I have served the Congregation in several capacities. I've taught Our Whole Lives twice, worked for our status as a Welcoming Congregation and on other committees. Our daughters are in college but I have no doubt that their experience at FUUSA will enable them to be life-long UUs. Working for the Endowment Trust would allow me to use my experience as a financial lawyer directly for FUUSA. I've been proud to be a member since 1994.

Todd Thomas I have been a member of FUUSA since 1993. Most recently, I completed a term on the Endowment Trust. I have served on the Finance Committee, the Readiness Leadership Team, and as the chair of the Personnel Committee.

Particularly relevant to the Endowment Trust is my job at Excelsior College. There, I am the Assistant Vice President for Budgets and Financial Analysis. I recently assisted in the process of selecting investment advisors for the College. My job at Excelsior provides a great opportunity to use both my quantitative and interpersonal skills, a combination that will be helpful in promoting the continued success of the Endowment Trust. The Endowment Trust runs very well now, and I would like to use my term to seek ways we can continue to grow the Endowment while lowering the portfolio risk.

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 term: 2 to be elected)

Cate Bohn I am delighted at the opportunity to serve on the Nominating Committee. I just finished a three year term on the Religious Education Council. I hope to promote committee involvement among the diverse FUUSA congregation through the Nominating Committee.

Ann D'Attilio Shortly after our daughter Mary was born in January of 1979, Mike and I began attending FUSA (as it was named then). We gradually became more involved and "signed the book" on Valentine's Day of 1982. It's been an affair of the heart ever since.

Over the years I have served FUUSA in many capacities, as an RE teacher, as a co-coordinator of the Rummage Sales for many years, as a member of the Program Coordinating Council, Joy Library Committee, the UU Weekend at Silver Bay Planning Committee, the former Social Events Committee,

etc. For 18 years I served as FUUSA's Director of Religious Education and since retiring have been a caregiver for my two young grandchildren. I'm gradually easing back into FUUSA involvement and would love to serve on the Nominating Committee if elected.

FUUSA was a refuge for me, a place where I could worship without feeling like a hypocrite and where I could raise my children, and it has become a congregation where I feel I belong. I would like to see it continue to be a vibrant congregation that welcomes everyone and hope that we will be able to reach others like me, people who are UUs without knowing it.

Dave Metz currently serves as FUUSA's Treasurer. This also makes him an *ex officio* member of the Finance Committee and the Endowment Trust. He is also a member of the Choir, the Partner Church Committee, the Building Use Committee, and the Buildings and Grounds Committee. He was Project Manager for the construction of Emerson Hall as well as remodeling of the RE Building and Channing Hall. Raised an Episcopalian, 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 as 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.

Paula Moskowitz My husband and I started coming to FUUSA when our daughter was 5 years old, looking for a community that would reinforce the values we were teaching her at home. Little did we know that we would be finding a home for ourselves as well; one that has taught us to look beyond previously held beliefs and embrace the worth and dignity of all, along with the interdependence of the web of life. Over the last 20 years I have taught RE, served on the RE Council, was a member of the architecture committee that planned and saw to completion our wonderful Emerson Community Hall, chaired Public Relations and Gardening, served on the UU Weekend Committee, and helped out with many FUUSA events. In joining FUUSA, we found a community of friends and people committed to the values and goals we hold dear. I am honored to be asked to run for the Nominating Committee. As FUUSA moves into the future, we will need to identify new leaders and new ideas to ensure that we continue on our wonderful path of growth and service, and fulfill our mission and the goals of our Strategic Plan. As a member of the Nominating Committee, I feel I would have the opportunity to help identify and bring to the table these new voices.

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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, 9:00-3:30

July-August: Monday–Thursday 9:00-12:00

Website

www.albanyuu.org

Building use

To **reserve a room** for a FUUSA activity, contact Office Administrator Stephanie Hayes (463-7135 or administrator@albanyuu.org).

To **rent classroom space** for a personal or non-FUUSA activity, contact Office Administrator Stephanie Hayes (463-7135 or administrator@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).

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

Publication deadlines

FUUSA Preview email: 9:00 a.m. Wednesdays

Order of Service: 9:00 a.m. Thursdays

Windows: 9:00 a.m. 3rd Friday of the month

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