

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, War Healing Circle; social events, and adult education.

All are welcome!

WINDOWS

Newsletter of the First Unitarian
Universalist Society of Albany

November 2011

In this issue:

- 1 **Services**
- 2 **Calendar**
- 3 **News**
- 6 **Lifespan Learning**
- 7 **Our Community**
- 12 **Social Justice**
- 15 **Columns**
- 18 **Volunteer Opportunities**
- 19 **Contact Us**
- 20 **Flyers**

Sunday Schedule

9:00 AM

Mindfulness Meditation

9:45 AM

Nursery/Toddler rooms open

10:00 AM

Service

Children's Chapel

(1st Sunday/mo.)

Religious Education

11:00 AM

Coffee Hour

11:45 AM

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

7:00 PM

War Healing Circle

(2nd & 4th Sunday/mo.)

Services

Nov. 6 "Occupy Wall Street: Messages and Meanings," the Rev. Sam Trumbore (Sanctuary)

Much is in process as this movement spreads to places like Albany and Schenectady. Getting past the many complaints, concerns and agendas, why has this movement taken off? What is the source of energy that drives it? Where is it going? What are the deeper messages and meanings of this movement? NOTE: There will be a follow up conversation to this service on Tuesday, Nov. 8, at 7:00 pm. Music: Choir

Nov. 13 "Our Unitarian Universalist Jubilee Year: 50 behind and 50 ahead!," the Rev. Priscilla Richter (Sanctuary)

Fifty years ago, the Unitarians and the Universalists merged into one association of congregations. We'll look back over those years and look forward to the next fifty. Bring your checkbooks as we'll have a special collection for Association Sunday! Rev. Richter and Rev. Trumbore will be speaking in each other's pulpits on this same topic.

Nov. 20 "The Affinity Between Unitarian Universalism and the Soul of America," the Rev. Sam Trumbore

The Unitarian Universalism is a religious tradition deeply embedded in the development of the United States of America. This isn't just because people like George Washington, John Quincy Adams, and Thomas Jefferson had strong liberally religious leanings. Core ideas that formed this nation like religious tolerance and freedom are central to how we do religion. This service will conclude with our traditional corn muffin Thanksgiving celebration.



Nov. 27 "The Virtue\$ and Vice\$ of \$elfishne\$\$", the Rev. David Weissbard

Many people are not aware of the philosophical underpinnings of the Republican agenda. Reportedly the party leadership is reading the works of Ayn Rand who was popular among conservatives a generation ago. The assumptions she makes about human nature and our place in the world explain a lot about the contemporary political and economic scene which owes more to Ayn Rand than to Jesus of Nazareth. We'll be looking at her message and why some people find it so attractive. 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: . Nov. 6—Service will be in Sanctuary, Children's Chapel will be in Emerson Community Hall
Nov. 13 —Service will be held in the Sanctuary

Events happening every week in the month of November

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

Exceptions: Nov. 23—No choir rehearsal

All other events happening in the month of November

1-Nov Tuesday			
	7:00 PM	Lifespan: UU Prophetic Imperative	Room B-8
4-Nov Friday			
	6:00 PM	Parent Group	Channing , Kitchen, Rm 23, 24/25
5-Nov Saturday			
	6:00 PM	Ethical Eating Potluck	Channing Hall, Kitchen
6-Nov Sunday			
	8:30 AM	Change of Time Breakfast	Channing Hall, Kitchen
7-Nov Monday			
	6:15 PM	Religious Education Council	Channing , Kitchen
9-Nov Wednesday			
	9:00 AM	Holiday Bazaar setup	Emerson Hall
	5:00 PM	Religious Services Committee Meeting	Room B-8
10-Nov Thursday			
	9:00 AM	Holiday Bazaar Setup	Emerson Hall
	9:30 AM	Art show take down	Channing Hall
	5:30 PM	Endowment Trust Meeting	Stott Lounge/Joy Library
11-Nov Friday			
	9:00 AM	Holiday Bazaar Setup	Channing , Emerson , Kitchen
12-Nov Saturday			
	9:00 AM	Holiday Bazaar	Channing Hall, Emerson Hall, Kitchen
13-Nov Sunday			
	9:00 AM	Holiday Bazaar	Channing Hall, Emerson Hall, Kitchen
14-Nov Monday			
	7:00 PM	Monday Men	Room B-8
	7:00 PM	New UU - Unitarian Universalist Roots	Room B-7
16-Nov Wednesday			
	1:00 PM	Peace & Current Affairs Study Group	Room B-8
17-Nov Thursday			
	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees	Room B-8
18-Nov Friday			
	9:00 AM	Newsletter deadline	
	6:00 PM	Meditation Retreat	Emerson , Kitchen, Room B-8
19-Nov Saturday			
	8:00 AM	Meditation Retreat	Channing , Emerson , Kitchen, Rm B-8
	6:00 PM	Circle Dinners	Offsite
	6:30 PM	Peace & Current Affairs Study Group	Room B-8
20-Nov Sunday			
	11:00 AM	Holiday Bazaar Postscript	Channing Hall
	11:30 AM	Peace Team	Room B-7
	2:00 PM	Concert: Harpsichord & Viola da Gamba	Emerson

	6:00 PM	Circle Dinners	Offsite
21-Nov Monday			
	12:00 PM	Channing Circle	Channing Hall, Kitchen
22-Nov Tuesday			
	7:30 PM	Union Thanksgiving Service	Temple Beth Emeth
24-Nov Thursday		Holiday—office closed	
	2:00 PM	Thanksgiving Potluck	Channing Hall, Kitchen
27-Nov Sunday			
	11:00 AM	Holiday Bazaar Postscript	
28-Nov Monday			
	5:30 PM	Lifespan: Crash Course Continued	Room 26
	7:00 PM	Monday Men	Room B-8

Forum
13–Nov Prof. Mimi Katz: the latest science in anthropogenic global warming

Looking Ahead
9-Dec Potluck--Board sponsored
10-Dec RE Holiday Crafts Workshop (afternoon)
24-Dec Christmas Eve Services and Reception
25-Dec Christmas Brunch Potluck

News

Change of Time Breakfast Sunday, Nov. 6

Seatings at 8:30 and 9:00
AM—STANDARD time

Featuring: Delicious eggs with orange juice, bagels and danish, coffee and tea. \$5.00 for adults and children 10 and over; \$2.00 for Children under 10.



Last chance--make reservations in Channing Hall during coffee hour on Sunday, Oct. 30.

Threshold Team

FUUSA now has a Threshold Team to coordinate our work as a Threshold Congregation. Being a Threshold Congregation means that we will be getting special assistance over the next three years from regional UU staff and consultants as we implement our Strategic Plan.

Being a Threshold Congregation also means that we are ready to break through to the next level of activity and effectiveness. Acting as a catalyst to guide us through the next three years is the Threshold Team. The members of the Team are: Jacqui Williams, Elissa Kane, Adrienne Cattell, Virginia Reed, Michael Hornsby, Tim Burch, Shawn Fitzgerald, Betsey Miller, Linda Hunt, and Kathleen Diina-Feldman. They are highly skilled and diverse group of FUUSA members who have begun meeting and defining their role in the Threshold process. They will need our support and encouragement as they help FUUSA grow as a beacon of Unitarian Universalism in the Capital Region.

We gave away the plate twice in October

Thank you to all for your generosity on two Sundays in one month to two great programs that serve those in need in East Africa and in our own State.

On October 2, we donated \$1,764 to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's East African Relief Fund.

Then on October 23, we donated \$1,318 to the St. Lawrence District's Flood Relief fund.

Thank you all.

Flyers in this issue

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

- ◆ Rummage Sale
- ◆ Holiday Bazaar

FUUSA job openings

Dave Stone will be retiring at the end of January 2012, after over 20 years of loyal service to FUUSA. His extensive knowledge and dedication to our community will be difficult to replace. The Personnel Committee has used Dave's retirement as an opportunity to consider what his job description was and how to best fill his roles. The Committee recommended and the Board approved hiring two part-time employees: (1) an Office Administrator (3/4 time) and (2) a Custodian (1/2 time). Note that Amy Lent, FUUSA's current Church Administrator, is reducing some of her administrative duties and expanding other duties that encompass changing her title to Director of Membership Services (1/2 time) and Communications Coordinator (1/2 time). Also, the new Custodian position is in addition to the part-time Custodian position held by Olga Oja.

We have begun advertising for the Office Administrator and Custodian positions. The full job descriptions of the two positions (including hourly salary ranges) and the employment applications are available on the FUUSA web site. If you or someone you know may be interested in either of these positions, please mail a résumé to the FUUSA office "attention: Mark Butt, Personnel Committee Chair." Résumés and Employment Applications should be sent within two weeks of the release of this newsletter (expected hiring date is the beginning of January 2012).

Holiday Bazaar--café & craft sale Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 12-13

Do you have a Treasure for Granny Jo's attic table? Soup for Randy's Café or Art for Arlene's gallery?

We need needle work and other crafts for our **Holiday Bazaar and Craft Sale**. What will you contribute? Sign up in Channing soon. Take a flyer or two to work. Tape one to your car rear window.

Give them to all you neighbors. You are our best publicity. Thanks. Pie making will take place Tues. Nov. 8 at 9:00am-- Bring your favorite apple peeler and knife.

“Slowing Down”

Artist Penny Koburger's work is on display in Channing Hall until Nov. 9. Penny likes “to paint and draw a variety of everyday subject matter. Painting allows me to slow down and really contemplate a person, object, or “nature.” She works in both oil and watercolor and is currently president of the Bethlehem Art Association and a member of the Albany Artist's Group.

Safe Congregation Response Team

Last April the Board of Trustees approved “Toward a Safe Congregation, A Policy for the Prevention of Unsafe Behaviors and Response When They Occur”. The purpose of the Policy as stated in the Introduction is:

“As Unitarian Universalists, our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person and in justice, equity and compassion in human relationships inspires us to promote and support right relations among members and friends of and visitors to the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany (FUUSA).

We embrace the challenges inherent in sustaining a religious community, offering support and compassion in the face of the inevitable shortcomings of individuals at FUUSA and of our community as a whole. Among those shortcomings, behavior that is deemed inappropriate, disruptive or harmful may also occur.

This document describes FUUSA's approach to both preventing and responding to such behaviors, especially as they are directed toward children, youth and vulnerable adults.

Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the entire congregation, not just those in leadership or teaching positions, to create and sustain a supportive community that promotes safety, respect and right relations, with special consideration for the unique needs and challenges faced by children, youth and vulnerable adults.”

The full Policy is available at <http://www.fuusalbany.org/safecong.pdf> and there is a copy in

the FUUSA office. The Policy is being implemented this year and the Safe Congregation Response Team has been formed. The members of the team are Owen Devine, Kathy Harris, Jean Poppei, Leah Purcell and Rev. Sam.

Multigenerational Christmas Service and Pageant

Sunday, Dec. 18

Children, youth, and adults who would like to play a part in our pageant please save these dates:

Sunday, Dec. 4 from 11:30 to 12:00 – selection of major parts of the pageant and costume selection – in room B-3/4

Sunday, Dec. 11 from 11:30 to 12:30 – rehearsal in Emerson Community Hall

The major parts require memorization of some lines. Many other parts do not. Organized by Leah Purcell

UUSC holiday cards

Yes, UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) Holiday Cards will be available during coffee hour later this month and early December. Cards are \$10 a package: Look for Maria Joyner selling them in Channing Hall. Share the spirit of the holiday season with beautiful UUSC holiday cards. Sales of these greeting cards will help UUSC protect basic human rights and advance social justice in the United States and around the world.

Thank you to Maria for selling the cards and thank you for buying to all purchasers. --Don Odell, UUSC liaison.

Entertainment books

A limited number of Entertainment books are available for purchase at Coffee Hour. Price \$35.00. Contact John Walko to reserve a copy. 765-3756 or jdassociates32@gmail.com

Denominational Affairs update

Current Study/Action Issue (CSAI) The UUA General Assembly in 2010 selected *Immigration as a Moral Issue* the CSAI for 2010-2014. Congregations and districts were encouraged to begin programs of education and reflection, service, community organizing, advocacy, and public witness. This process was to continue through Spring 2012. On

March 1, 2012, all of the comments received by **March 1, 2012** are reviewed by the UUA Commission on Social Witness. These comments assist in their refining the Resource Guide and help the CSW prepare for General Assembly (GA) workshops on this issue. More detail is available at <http://www.uua.org/immigration/re/moral/172548.shtml>.

The resource guide for this CSAI is available at <http://www.uua.org/immigration/re/moral/152647.shtml>. A study guide is available at <http://www.uua.org/immigration/re/moral/guide/index.shtml>.

The “Justice General Assembly” in Phoenix, Arizona June 20-24, 2012. The 2010 UUA General Assembly also voted to make the 2012 General Assembly a “Justice GA”, and to have a very different GA. As stated by the UUA, “General Assembly 2012 will be a gathering with multiple ways of engaging in justice work for people of all ages. Joining with the people of Arizona, we will worship, witness, learn and work together. We will leave General Assembly grounded in our faith, energized for justice and with resources to bring this work home to our congregations.” You can keep up to date on the planning and progress in preparation of this GA at <http://www.uua.org/ga/2012/index.shtml>. Details will be forthcoming in upcoming issues of Windows. -Don Odell, Denominational Affairs liaison

What’s red and white and green, comes in December, and get us to Boston?

Buy your holiday poinsettias at FUUSA and you’ll support our Rite of Passage youth in raising money for their Rite of Passage trip to Boston in May. The youth will take orders at Coffee Hour on Nov. 6, 13 and 20. Pick up day is Dec. 4 at FUUSA. The plants are white or red and come in 6” pots with gold foil. Cost: \$13.50 each or two for \$26.00. You can also order yours by contacting Leah Purcell at 463-7135 or dre@albanyuu.org.

Lunch with the Minister Noon, Sunday, Nov. 20

Are you new to our congregation and would like to get to know our minister? Rev. Trumbore will be available after the Sunday service for lunch and conversation about Unitarian Universalism, our congregation, religion, spirituality, philosophy, eth-

ics, ideas ... and whatever else comes up! For November, we will meet at Shining Rainbow Chinese Restaurant, 209 Central Avenue (near the corner of Central and Robin) on the north side of the street. **Please RSVP** by 11:30am that Sunday to Rev. Trumbore (in person, email: strumbore@uumin.org or call/text: 366-4532) so he'll know how many seats to reserve. NOTE! Space is limited at the table, so call early!

Healthy Congregations training

One of the benefits and responsibilities of being a Threshold Congregation is that we are hosting the Healthy Congregations Training on the following dates in 2012 - Feb. 3 & 4, Feb. 24 & 25, and Mar. 16 & 17. This training will be a transformative activity for our congregation, IF we can have a large attendance from a representative cross section of dedicated members.

The deadline to register is January 22--why not sign up today so you don't forget! This cluster-wide event will be held here at FUUSA, so it couldn't be easier to attend.

If you only have time for one UU conference or training this year, this is the one I recommend. A flyer is posted in Channing Hall describing the conference and the same flyer on the FUUSA website has a live link to register. If you think that you would be interested in attending, please let me know. --Chuck Manning

Virtuoso music for viola da gamba and harpsichord

Sunday, Nov. 20, 3 PM, in Emerson Community Hall

Barbara and John Metz will perform a varied program. It will include J. S. Bach's intricate Second Sonata for viola da gamba and harpsichord, Bach's descriptive Capriccio on the Absence of the Dear Brother, a sensual and resonant set of dances by Marin Marais (composer to Louis XIV), a chamber sonata by Telemann, and a short modern piece by Connecticut composer Michael Albaine. The program will feature two harpsichords, one owned by John and the other owned by our own Findlay Cockrell.

Currently Connecticut residents (and UUs,) John and Barbara retired from the music faculty of Ari-

zona State University. Check out their web site at metzmusic.com, or hear them on YouTube at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1puJ_8Tk5-w

Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8.00 for students, available at the door.

How would YOU use WiFi at FUUSA?

The Board of Trustees is considering having WiFi installed to cover all of the rooms at FUUSA. Currently it is available in Emerson Community Hall,

Joy Library, the offices and somewhat (situationally) available in Channing Hall and B-8. If you would have a use for WiFi in other parts of the building such as the Sanctuary or the other classrooms, please let Amy Lent (463-7135) or me know. There are financial implications so we only want to consider adding the full building WiFi if there is a demonstrated need for it. --Chuck Manning

Lifespan Learning

Introduction to Biblical Sources of our UU

Prophetic Imperative

Tuesday, Nov. 1; 7:00 pm-8:30 pm

Led by Rev. Trumbore

The sources of UU social activism are rooted in the Biblical prophetic tradition. To appreciate those sources can help us relate with Jews, Christians and Muslims as well as find very deep roots for our own passion for justice and social activism. This class will connect the ancient world, words and vision with the UU prophetic imperative that drives us today. This is the last of four sessions; you do not need to have attended the previous sessions to come to this one.

Please register at the Sign Up Site in Channing Hall or contact the office (463-7135).

The New UU, religious education for adults Session 2: Where Do We Come From? Unitarian Universalist Roots

Monday, Nov. 14, 7:00-8:30 PM

Facilitated by Leah Purcell, DRE and Robb Smith

Universalists are often asked where they stand. The only true answer to give to this question is that we do not stand at all, we move. — Lewis Beals Fisher, late 19th-century Universalist theologian

This workshop offers a brief overview of Unitarian Universalist history, focusing on ideas and people which shaped our living tradition and are a source for our individual philosophical and faith development. This workshop is part of the UUA's Adult Education course *The New UU, a Tapestry of Faith* program to orient and teach newcomers about UU-ism. Longtime UU's are also welcome to learn the

“basics of UU-ism” and to share with newcomers what it means to them to be a Unitarian Universalist and to be a member of FUUSA.

The New UU is designed so that each of the workshops are freestanding, so everyone is welcome to all or any of them. Look for the other four workshops, scheduled on Mondays in January through April, 2012.

Sign up in Channing Hall or call the FUUSA office – 463-7135. For more info contact Don Odell, *The New UU* Coordinator

Mindfulness Meditation Training

Nov. 18-19

This training, will be led by Rev. Trumbore, on Friday from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, and Saturday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. It gives the participants an opportunity to learn Buddhist mindfulness meditation techniques or refresh and deepen their meditation practice. All are welcome whatever your level of experience. There will be a potluck vegetarian lunch on Saturday and all are encouraged to bring something to share. Please register at the Sign Up Site in Channing Hall or contact the office (463-7135). (A voluntary donation can be offered at the end.)

Rev. Trumbore has practiced Buddhist insight meditation for over 25 years and is Past President of the Unitarian Universalist Buddhist Fellowship. He has found this meditation technique to be one of the best for Unitarian Universalists. It helps people train their minds to strengthen concentration and intensify moment-to-moment awareness. Regular practice of this technique quiets and sharpens the mind and opens the heart.

Joy Library notes

Conscience: Two Soldiers, Two Pacifists, One Family — A Test of Will and Faith in World War I. by Louisa Thomas. 2011 [940.3162 THO]

“Louisa Thomas examines how the question of conscience guided America’s thinking about war and dissent in the first decades of the twentieth century, in an intimate history of her great-grandfather the Socialist leader and pacifist Norman Thomas and of his three brothers (of whom two were soldiers and one a conscientious objector).” “Books Briefly Noted”. The New Yorker. July

4, 2011.

“This is an unforgettable saga of four brothers, each fighting for freedom in his own way. With powerful narrative writing, great historical sensitivity, and a wealth of poignant letters, Louisa Thomas explores the bonds of family and the nature of conscience. This gem of a book is both a wonderful story and a guide to the nature of moral commitments.”— Walter Isaacson, author of Einstein: His Life and Universe and Benjamin Franklin: An American Life

Our Community

Economic distress: here at FUUSA, too

Are you experiencing challenging circumstances due to our current tough economic environment?

Would you like to help our members who are in economic distress?

In recognition that some of our members may be faced with economic distress, the FUUSA Board of Trustees is re-energizing our **Economic Distress Support Network**. This Network offers help to those who are unemployed, underemployed, and/or are experiencing economic hardship. At the first level, our members and friends can provide help with résumé writing, interviewing skills, referrals, financial counseling, transportation, and childcare. Another level of assistance is emergency funds. On a more personal level, an Economic Distress Support Group is in its formative stage.

How can we at FUUSA continue and enhance our support for each other?

- ◆ If you have skills and can provide help with resume writing, interviewing, referrals, financial counseling, transportation, and childcare, please let Rev. Trumbore know so he can refresh our referral list.
- ◆ If you would like to contribute funds, please send a contribution to the FUUSA office with “*Economic Distress Fund*” on the memo line. This donation is tax deductible and will show up on your year-end tax receipt.
- ◆ If you are in economic distress and would like to explore being part of a group to give and receive

emotional support, please contact Alison Coleman or Rev. Sam Trumbore through the FUUSA office (463-7135).

If you are in economic distress:

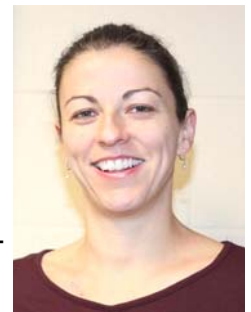
- ◆ Reach out to one of our Pastoral Care Associates for emotional help and compassionate listening.
- ◆ Contact Rev. Trumbore to apply for an Economic Distress Fund grant. As need is discussed in a confidential and compassionate manner, financial assistance may be granted dependent on the applicant’s circumstances and availability of funds.
- ◆ Watch for the announcement of the first meeting of our new Economic Distress Support Group. Join others who are sharing similar challenges to share mutual support and caring.

Welcome new members

We owe our readers a couple more photos of new members who joined in October: Cora Stackelberg and John Scaringe. We hope to have them available by next issue!

Debra Antonelli-Sanchez and Jackie Sanchez attended UU for the first time together on their 9th date. Ten years later they are officially joining with their two year old twins who are currently enjoying the toddler room.

Jackie is a mental health therapist and has a private clinical practice in downtown Troy. She also works as an IT Project Coordinator for a Behavioral Health-





care Company. For fun, she enjoys playing co-ed flag football, volleyball and dance. In her spare time she volunteers for the Crime Victims Program in Rensselaer County.

Debra is a certified Senior Professional in Human Resources and owns Delark HR Solutions which provides consulting services to area businesses. Debra is also a volunteer leader for two local HR & Recruiting member organizations. She loves golf and the New York Jets.

Together, Jackie & Deb love to read, dance and play with their children.

They also host a spring and fall poker tournament every year to benefit two local charities. The next tournament is November 19th so please see them for details if you are interested in participating!

Brigid Mack and John Scaringe Born and raised in Albany, NY, **Brigid** first heard of FUUSA as a

teen from friends who were members. **John**, who is from Colonie, NY, grew up in a proud Italian Catholic family. They met doing a community theatre production more than 15 years ago. Brigid & John first formally joined a UU church in western NY when they were finding a religious



compromise for their future lives together. Rev. Sam then married Brigid and John in 2004. Brigid and John returned to Albany in Fall of 2009. They have been meaning to join FUUSA ever since, but first they had to sell the house in North Carolina, have their second daughter, move out of her parents' house, move into their own house... Brigid now keeps busy as a Family Medicine physician with Albany Family Practice Group. John is even busier chasing their two daughters.

Cora Stackelberg and her husband Olaf moved to Schodack from Ohio in 2007. They are both retired and came here to be close to their son Paul and his family, other relatives in the New England area, and their second home in northern Vermont. Their son John and his wife live in California.

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.

Cora especially enjoys reading, listening to classical music and gardening. She gardens in Schodack but her primary garden is in Albany, Vermont where they spend considerable time during the spring, summer and fall.

Sara Mangan is thrilled to be joining such a welcoming and justice-oriented community in her journey of spiritual exploration. Sara moved to the capital region three years ago, and works for the state in Albany. She spends most of her time doing heavy labor, as she recently bought her first home with her very handy man. She loves being home with her partner Keith, his daughter Izzy, their two dogs, one cat, and endless supply of games that involve impersonating Disney characters. She also enjoys meditation, long hikes, reading and travel. Sara treasures being non-traditional, independent, and feels she has found her match here at FUUSA.



6 to 9 at 6:09: November Circle Dinners Take your pick, Saturday, the 19th or Sunday, the 20th

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 en-

courage families with young children to attend or host a family-oriented dinner.

If you would like to attend, you can complete the sign-up form in Channing Hall or email Martha. In your email, specify the number of adults and children who will attend and the nights you can attend--Saturday, Sunday or both. Also indicate if you are willing to host or need a ride. If you are *not* bringing children, please indicate if you would like to attend a family-oriented dinner. **Last day to sign up: Nov. 6**

Save these dates for future dinners: Saturday, Jan. 14; Friday, Feb. 17 or Saturday, Feb. 18; Saturday, Mar. 24; Friday, May 18 or Saturday, May 19.

If you would like to know more about Circle Dinners, please contact Martha Musser.

About Us

DJ and Renee Panetta joined a group of 12 other people to volunteer to help the residents of Prattsville as they recover from the devastation from hurricane Irene. The Panettas encourage others to help as the need is still there and cold weather fast approaching. The Panettas are organizing a work party to Prattsville on Nov. 26. Please call Renee if you are interested in going or if you have items to donate.

A warm "thank you"

Many thanks to all who made Everybody's Birthday such a great success. Thanks to the delicious cake-bakers, the "setter-uppers", the "cleaner-uppers", and all who came to enjoy the treats and fellowship.--Linda Way, Meredith Mercer, Lois Thomson

Parent Group

FUUSA Parent Group will meet on Friday Nov 4. We begin with a potluck dinner from 6 to 7 PM; please bring a dish to pass and a beverage. At our parent discussion, from 7 to 8:30 PM, we will discuss Community addressing the following questions:

1. What do you define as your community?
2. Do you have more than one community?
3. How does community affect your parenting?
4. How can we get our children involved in serv-

ing our community? All parents are welcome. Childcare is provided. Contact Paula Brewer for more information. Topic for Dec. 2 Parent Group will be "How to put UU into your family's holiday".

Ethical Eating Potluck

Saturday, Nov. 5, 6:00 pm

Come share a fall evening meal in Channing Hall with friends and enjoy discussion on why our food choices matter. The Green Sanctuary Committee will be sponsoring this "potluck or pay" event focused on the benefits of choosing local foods in support of FUUSA's commitment to the UU Ethical Eating Statement of Conscience.

Bring a dish with at least one locally grown or produced ingredient. Alternatively, you can simply come and pay at the door- \$3 per adult, \$2 per child under 12, \$10 max per family. We'll provide the hot mulled cider!

Sign-up sheet and recipe ideas will be at the Green Sanctuary table during coffee hour. You may also contact Sue Berzinis or Alyson Kelly. Let us know if you'd also like to contribute musical entertainment, a harvest story, or harvest-themed centerpiece items (gourds, maize, etc.). All are welcome!

Note: Fresh, local ingredients abound at venues like the Honest Weight Food Co-op, area farmers markets and our local farms. Let's celebrate the local harvest!

Thanksgiving at FUUSA

Thursday, Nov. 24, 2:00 pm, Channing Hall

Where can you have a Thanksgiving feast where each dish is a specialty, where the company is lively, and where many hands share the clean up? At FUUSA, of course! Your hosts will be the Purcells. On Thanksgiving Day we'll gather at 2:00 for appetizers and conversation and we'll sit down to eat at 3:00.

Of course we can enjoy more than just eating, so bring your favorite board game to play after the meal. And of course, this holiday is also an opportunity for us to be thankful for the blessings we have and for us to be generous to others, as best we can. So we'll have a Guest at Your Table box to accept donations to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Sign Up Channing Hall or contact Leah Purcell (487-1536 or dre@albanyuu.org) to let her know you are coming and what you'd like to bring.

CommUnity Potlucks

FUUSAns meet occasionally in members' homes in various neighborhoods for a potluck dinner. Newcomers are always welcome! Call the church office if you would like to host a potluck.

“Guilderland Plus”

Friday, December 9, at 6:30 p.m.

Debbie Moskowitz graciously offered to host the “Guilderland Plus” potluck dinner this month. Her home is at 1903 Evva Drive, Schenectady, NY 12303. Please call for directions and for dish to share.

Channing Circle

Everyone invited!

Channing Circle will meet Monday, Nov. 21st; brown bag lunch at noon, then program at 1 p.m., to which everyone at FUUSA is invited. Arlen Westbrook, FUUSA member, will talk about the new book "Integrating Delmar: The Story of a Friendship," which she wrote with Margaret Cunningham. The book, in summary, is about how in 1947 when property deeds had restrictive covenants a white family rented to the first black family in Delmar, then later shared the house for short periods of time. The Times Union front page story (10/2) recounts how "the nasty reaction that made them social outcasts and how they bonded as a result of racism." Miki Conn, daughter of the Cunninghams, as been invited to attend. It is important to note that everyone involved was a member of FUUSA. This is part of our institutional memory. Copies of the book will be available for sale.

The December meeting of Channing Circle will be a lunch at Ristorante Paradiso around the corner on Monday, December 19th. Reservations will be required. More information will be forthcoming.

What are YOU doing Christmas morning?

Christmas Day is a Sunday this year...so Rev. Sam is planning not to have a regular Sunday service. (More on that later.) For now, we'd like you to know that Rev. Sam, Amy Lent and Ken Myer are host-

ing a potluck brunch at FUUSA that morning. Details and sign ups will be in December--but save the date on your calendar now!

Joys and Caring Corner_____

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.

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
Mary Ann Randall.*

Social Justice

Transgender Day of Remembrance
Sunday Nov. 20, 5:30 to 7:30 PM
Emerson Community Hall
Co-sponsored by SRC

I hope many of you will attend this event to support those who have had the courage to lead authentic lives. I quote the Rev. Paul Langston-Daley, who says:

“Living authentically takes courage, strength, and above all faith.....The 12th International Transgender Day of Remembrance is very personal to me, as I transitioned from female to male five years ago....But I was afraid to be my authentic self. What if friends deserted me the way I had deserted others?....Could I find a church that would accept me as their minister. I also knew the horror stories of trans people who had been ‘found out,’ then beaten or killed.”

Won't you join Rev. Paul whom we knew at FUUSA as Rev. Pam, our interim minister, in commemorating this day of remembrance?

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

Welcoming a Guest at Your Table

Each year at during November and December, friends and families in our congregation participate in Guest at Your Table — a UU tradition for decades. By bringing home a beautiful Guest at Your Table box, families and individuals can participate in the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee as it puts our shared values into action in the United States and around the world. Through a potent combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots human-rights leaders, UUSC promotes economic rights, advances environmental justice, defends civil liberties, and preserves the rights of people in times of humanitarian



crisis.

In each household, the Guest at Your Table box is placed in a prominent spot, often at the family dinner table. When family and friends gather to enjoy their blessings, they can reflect on the contributions of their “guests” to the movement for universal human rights — and share generously. Each week, we can choose a different story to read, bringing our guests to life and helping celebrate our own rights. These stories can be found in *The Stories of Hope* booklet available in the RE office, or from the UUSC at http://www.uusc.org/files/2011-2012_Stories-of-Hope-Booklet.pdf.

Sharing our blessings through Guest at Your Table ensures that UUSC’s human-rights work continues. Please consider making a contribution that meets membership levels. Since UUSC is an independent organization that receives no funding from government or the UUA, your support and membership are vitally important.

If you would prefer not to bring home a box, you can take a donation envelope or support UUSC directly online at <http://www.uusc.org/givetoguest>. We will open our Guest at Your Table program in the regular service on November 13, and in the children’s chapel on December 4.

Guest at Your Table boxes and envelopes will be available in the RE office beginning November 20.

Thank you for your upcoming participation and generosity from your FUUSA UUSC local representative, Don Odell, and from Leah Purcell, DRE, who does so much to make this effort work

FOCUS Food Pantry update

Both Renee Panetta and Patty Burch want to give a huge THANK YOU to FUUSA for the continual support of the FOCUS Food Pantry.

At the last meeting there was a discussion of the need for personal care products for the families that use the FOCUS Food Pantry. So beginning in November in the FUUSA coatroom will be a bin marked: FOCUS Food Pantry Personal Care Products. All sizes of the products are needed from travel size to family size. The suggested items are: shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes (if possible), bar soap, feminine products and toilet paper.

If you have any questions please see Patty Burch or Renee Panetta. The FOCUS Food Pantry has thrived because of the FUUSA's generosity-- THANK YOU again and again!

A birthday present

On my birthday, some of us were demonstrating in front of the Governor's mansion to try to save the violence prevention program SNUG. (Over 75 of you had signed our petition to continue its funding.) A woman in the crowd recognized me, came up and hugged me. It was Noelene Smith who had represented The Family and Children's Alliance for our "Give Away the Plate." She told me how the program, the Baby Institute, that helps families in parenting skills was kept alive by our contribution. The program has found other funding and is continuing its good work.

If you know of a worthy Albany program that could benefit from our contributions, you can e-mail me for its consideration.

A BIG THANK YOU for all the support that you give to social justice.—Lois Griffin, SRC Chair

Make a difference:

Sign up as a volunteer TUTOR-MENTOR
Training: Mon. Nov. 14, 11-noon or 7-8 p.m.
15 Trinity Place, Albany
Call Dir. Benna Eldridge 449-5155

Green Sanctuary update

The Green Sanctuary Committee has been very busy this fall. Here are some of the things we've been up to:

We will host an Ethical Eating Potluck, Sat. Nov. 5, at 6:00 PM followed by a presentation by Sue Berzinis, Alyson Kelly and Jessica Semon. Please bring a dish with at least one local ingredient or pay \$3 per head/\$10 per family. Learn more about it on the Wiki: <http://fuusalbany.org/wiki/index.php/GSC/October2011>

Martha Musser and other members of the Green Sanctuary Committee have been studying the issues around hydrofracking, the extraction of natural gas that is not otherwise recoverable by injecting water, chemicals, and sand into rock formations far underground. The Department of Environ-

mental Conservation (DEC) has released an Environmental Impact Statement and draft regulations in preparation for issuing permits for hydrofracking in the Marcellus Shale regions of New York State. They are accepting public comments until December 12. Committee members have viewed the movie Gasland, read newspaper articles and other reports, and attended panel discussions and hearings. The committee has written a position statement on hydrofracking, which advocates a closer examination of the pros and cons by NYS before issuing permits to the gas industry. Sandy Steubing mailed out the statement to local legislators and the DEC public comment address. Sandy has met personally with both city and Albany county officials and presented them with the document. You will find a link to the statement on hydrofracking, which was approved by a vote of the Social Responsibilities Council, on the wiki: <http://fuusalbany.org/wiki>.

Three forums were planned for this fall. This first was a movie on overpopulation, "Mother, Caring for 7 Billion", which was shown Oct 9 and sparked some really good discussion. If you are concerned about this global issue and want to help, consider pledging at www.populationspeakout.org. Prof. Mimi Katz will present a forum discussing the latest science in anthropogenic global warming, Nov 13 at 11:45. And Dec 11, we will have a forum on the Geopolitics of Oil by Bill Reinhardt. See you there!

Chris Bystroff is working with a CRUUNY-wide Green Sanctuary Committee on an educational event on climate change called the "Wedge Game" with the help from a grant from the St. Lawrence UU district. They will bring Princeton University's Dr. Roberta Hotinski to RPI Saturday, Nov. 12 to work on small things we can do as a country (e.g. wedges) that when combined make big changes in carbon emissions over the years. It is going to be fun. Several local elected officials and business leaders, as well as professors and religious leaders will be attending. The event is by invitation only, but if you want to attend, get yourself on the invite list by contacting Chris at bystrc@rpi.edu.

We continue to recycle cell phones and rechargeable batteries; Chris Franklin is in charge of this. Contact Chris if you have any questions. David

Musser has created a wiki page for FUUSA (<http://fuusalbany.org/wiki>) where anyone can add or edit the content. Check out the ongoing discussions on the Green Sanctuary page of the wiki on hydrofracking, ethical eating, and other green topics.

Remember we are all the Green Sanctuary; let us all be mindful of our fossil fuel use and our impact on our mother the Earth. Many thanks for entrusting us with this important committee.--Sandy and Chris and the Green Sanctuary Committee

Peace and Current Affairs Study Group: films, books and discussion:

Interesting times in our country. Occupy Wall Street has become a nationwide and worldwide movement, the US has been at war in Afghanistan for over 10 years, millions are out of work, college grads carry huge debt but are unable to find decent-paying jobs -- or any job at all, homes are being foreclosed on, the poverty level is soaring, and poorly-educated young people are enlisting in the military as a way to get health insurance and money for a college education. Too many people have nothing left to lose, but many, including here in Albany, have been developing a better understanding of the causes of these, and many of our country's other, problems, and are now rising up in protest.

You are invited to join with others who are seeking greater understanding of where we are now and how we got here. Peace Team is offering a series of study groups in which films will be shown and books discussed: Wednesday, Nov. 16 at 1 PM in B-8, and repeated on Saturday, Nov. 19 at 6:30 PM in B-8: "The Corporation", a documentary that won 26 awards, examines the nature and evolution of the corporation. If you plan to attend either the daytime or evening group, please sign up on our sheet posted on the bulletin board in Channing, or email peaceteam@albanyuu.org. Questions: email Ed Hancock.

Our first book selection to be discussed is *War Is a Racket* by retired US Marine General Smedley Butler. In this short book Butler elucidates the interface between the military and the corporate plutocracy (as President Eisenhower later put it, "The Military-Industrial-Congressional Complex"). If you would like to sign up for the Peace Team email list serve, please email Dave at dstone@albanyuu.org.

Cooking for the shelter

The Overflow Homeless Shelter will open for the season at the First Lutheran Church (basement) on the first of November again this year and FUUSA will be preparing two meals a month until the end of April, sharing Mondays with the First Presbyterian Church.

FUUSAns (2 or 3) prepare a nutritious yet economical meal for 25 in FUUSA's kitchen, on the 2nd and 4th Monday afternoons from about 3:45 – 6:00. We welcome anyone who is interested and free on Monday afternoons to help cook--just sign up on the Channing bulletin board. If you are not free at that time, we are also looking for salad and/or dessert providers who prepare at home and deliver to FUUSA on Sunday or Monday. If you wish, you will be reimbursed for the expense.

Tim and Patty Burch, Sue Ellen and Delainie Bart, or Barb Cooley will plan the meal and do the shopping ahead of time. Those signed up to help join us in the kitchen at 3:45. We deliver the meal to the shelter about 6:15 so you are free by 6:30. Cooking for the shelter is a great way to be involved in our inner-city church neighborhood while cooking with UU friends! If you are interested in helping with the cooking, please sign up in Channing for the date of your choice. If you would like to provide a salad or dessert instead, sign up for that--bring dessert for 25 (cookies, bars or brownies) to FUUSA on Sunday (well marked for the shelter) or deliver it by 5:30 on Monday. Whoever is in charge will remind you a few days prior.

The current sign-up covers November-January; we'll deal with February-April after the holidays.

Thanks for your generous concern and participation in this volunteer opportunity! FUUSAns are GREAT volunteers!--Barb, Tim and Patty, Sue Ellen and Delainie

Columns

Sam's Outlook

Occupy ... Everything!

What a difference a month can make! At the beginning of September the fury of the Tea Party at deficits and the unreasonable, job killing tax burdens of corporations and the wealthy were at the center of the national debate. The idea that the rich should pay more was framed as unamerican class warfare. The reason the economy wasn't recovering is burdensome regulation by government. Whatever is wrong with America could be blamed on government – government can do no right. Get government out of the way so business can lead us back to prosperity, argued the Conservatives.

Then the occupation of Wall Street started Saturday, September 17, in Zuccotti park, a block away from the World Trade Center memorial. An interesting note, this park, formerly known as Liberty Plaza Park, was heavily damaged on September 11th, 2001. It was purchased by Brookfield Properties, a private company, that named it for their CEO, John E. Zuccotti, who is one of those 1% at the top with a compensation in the millions. In just a short period, the Occupy movement has been replicated across the nation and around the world in over two thousand places, over 290 occupations, and the energy seems to be building.

Discontent in America, expressed quite differently than the Tea Party, has found a way to focus its energy modeled on the organizing methods in Tahrir Square during the Arab Spring. Adbusters, a Canadian group that describes itself as "a global network of artists, activists, writers, pranksters, students, educators and entrepreneurs who want to advance the new social activist movement of the information age. Their vision has captured the imagination of the world, succeeding probably beyond their wildest dream.

For some, the Occupy Movement has been hard to figure out. Unlike many protest movements, these occupiers don't have a cohesive set of demands yet. They have published statements about what concerns them however. They are concerned about the wealth and power the top 1% has over

our government. They are concerned about corporate personhood and money in politics. They are concerned about student loans and the high cost of a college education. They are concerned about unemployment and under employment even with a good education. They are concerned about underwater mortgages and foreclosures. They are concerned about bankers getting away with wrecking our economy through complicated financial instruments. They are also concerned about inaccessible and unaffordable healthcare; crimes against our planet; the list can be quite long.

Now the Occupy Movement has come to Albany and soon Schenectady. I was down at Lafayette (state) and Academy (city) Parks on Washington Avenue across from the Capital and Albany City Hall on Friday, October 21, the first day (to see some pictures I took, visit: <http://blog.timesunion.com/trumbore/albany-is-now-occupied/940/>.) The location is fantastic, right next to these two powerful governmental symbols. Yes, the banks are the target of Wall Street. But here in Albany, the poisonous influence of the 1% shows up in the deep pockets of lobbyists walking the halls of the Capital and the Legislative Office Building – all in close proximity to those two conjoined parks. If the movement endures the coming cold weather and is around for the beginning of the legislative session, I hope their drums and chants will be heard in those halls.

What is most captivating to me about this movement is that it is intentionally leaderless. These Occupiers are practicing "direct democracy." Every day there is a General Assembly where the whole group makes decisions by consensus. A new visual communication technology is emerging to facilitate this process using hand signals. People are using their handheld, Inter-networked computers to facilitate communication. We just don't know what will emerge out of this communication rich environment that will positively (or negatively) affect the change in the areas of concern that they have addressed.

But one success they are already having. They have changed the national conversation and brought their concerns before the nation. That is no small accomplishment when corporate media would like us to look the other way. But the visual

drama of the Occupy Movement is like media candy. The cameras just can't stay away as the drama of the movement is very attractive.

I hope this congregation can find a way to support Occupy Albany. Maybe we can donate some blankets and tarps, thermal underwear, offer to cook a meal, or share our facility in some way. I dearly hope this movement will be part of making the world a place with more justice, equity and compassion for all.—Rev. Sam

Chuck's Chat

One thing I learned in High School

In my senior year in High School I was in the Senior Play – “You Can't Take It With You”. I played the part of Paul and, prophetically, Barb played my wife, Penny. The play is a comedy that follows the lives of a wacky family who pursue a variety of activities in a chaotic atmosphere. Penny writes plays and paints. Paul makes fireworks. The family patriarch is the Grandfather who lives life by the play's title and encourages his family to do the same.

The play popped back into my mind after attending the excellent seminar presented by the FUUSA Endowment Trust on “Important Documents”. Two experts in two hours gave us an overview of the mechanics of wills, trusts, powers of attorney, health care proxies, living wills, and the Medical Orders for Live Sustaining Treatment (MOST) form. There were 50 pages of hand outs for us to take home. Although Barb and I thought we were fully up to date on these topics, we learned a few things that will make us better prepared for the future.

The questions raised at the seminar were very revealing. It was obvious that they all came from direct personal experience of the participants. Some of the questions were for themselves and others were based on the needs of elderly parents or relatives. It is clear that these topics have a resonance for most of us.

What struck me about the seminar was that it dealt very clearly with the mechanics of controlling how you die and defining what happens to your assets after you die. What the seminar was not intended to deal with were the much more profound ques-

tions:

- ◆ If a loved one has a “Do not resuscitate clause in their Health Care Proxy” would it apply if 911 were called and the emergency medics came? The answer that will guarantee that the loved one's wishes are carried out is to not call 911. I asked myself, would I have the courage to not call?
- ◆ How should we decide what to put on our health care proxies? How do we discuss these choices in a direct and honest way with those responsible for caring out our wishes?
- ◆ How do we help a friend deal with a terminal illness and how do we help their family and friends determine what to do?
- ◆ How can we balance supporting our family after we die, but also leave a legacy so the broader community and causes we believe in will live on?
- ◆ Thinking about these, inevitably leads to, Why are we here?

I do not have easy answers to these questions. I do know, that as I think about them, it is profoundly comforting to have our beloved FUUSA community to support me. Through conversations, courses, worship services, memorial services, and conferences Unitarian Universalist values lead me to answers (or at least a sharing of questions). It is helpful to know that I am not alone.

This brings me back to what I learned in High School, “You Can't Take it With You”. After the seminar, Barb and I discussed how we can do our part to insure that FUUSA will always be here after we are gone. It turns out that is easy, once we decided to do something. We decided to change our wills and include the following: “I give 5% of my estate to the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany (tax I.D. number available from the church office), a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, located at 405 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY for its unrestricted use.”

I have always been amazed how seemingly random events in my life have led me to significant insights. A high school play, a friend's terminal illness, and a seminar at FUUSA end up giving me a much deeper appreciation for my faith and how I can support it.—Chuck

Religious Exploration

The wellsprings of our history

When I was first a DRE, I wondered aloud to others why we put such energy into learning about Unitarians and Universalists and Unitarian Universalists from our past and from today - P.T. Barnum, Thomas Jefferson, Clara Barton, William Ellery Channing, Hosea Ballou, and Paul Newman. My religious background didn't give me much guidance on this; I had never heard of a famous Presbyterian (except John Calvin, and we didn't bring him up a lot.)

I have since learned and come to appreciate that we have a living tradition and figures from our past have kept the course of our theology moving in an overall liberal direction. Early Unitarians and Universalists spoke their heresies of the oneness of god and universal salvation. The Transcendentalists like Emerson, found truth in religions other than Christianity. Humanists, feminists and ecologists focused on Nature, science and environmental concerns. People from the past and present who work for social justice envision and create Beloved Community.

What has always appealed to me as a Unitarian Universalist that we support each individual's responsible search for truth and meaning. We value figures from our past because our liberal religion doesn't have a static theology. Unitarians, Universalists and Unitarian Universalists from the past articulated their theology and sometimes were prophets, agitating people from complacency. We can admire UU's of the past and present because of their good work and courage and for helping us develop our internal moral compasses. Our history and heritage is a source of our Unitarian Universal-

ist identity which can sustain us when we lack courage or cannot see the way ahead of us clearly.

So how do we connect with our venerable UU ancestors? I'm lucky that I get to study UU history as part of my job. Many trainings and workshops I've attended included historical timelines with various and sometimes overlapping UU themes. I've been able to craft an interactive way to create a timeline for the participants of our Rite of Passage program. Our children and youth learn about notable UU's through curricula that are specifically oriented toward UU history and heritage like "Travels in Time" and "UU Superheroes". The Tapestry of Faith curricula draw from many sources of UU-ism, including historical figures. For adults, there are lots of books in Joy Library. I found to be interesting: *The Epic of Unitarianism* by David Parke, *The Larger Faith* by Charles Howe and *Unitarian Universalism, A Narrative History* by David Bumbaugh (and under 200 pages each).

But what if you want to just dip your toes into UU history and explore its value to you on a more personal level? For you, there is Lifespan Learning offering: ***Where Do We Come From? Unitarian Universalist Roots***. Robb Smith and I will co-facilitate this workshop from *The New UU* on Monday, Nov 14 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. (See article in this issue of *Windows*) This will be more than just learning a bit about our history. It will give newcomers a chance to examine their own personal stories in the light of our Unitarian Universalist tradition and heritage. It will also be a chance for newcomers to the congregation and long-timers to connect. If this appeals to you, I hope you'll come join us.

In joy and service,
Leah

Help needed for rental events

The Building Use Committee finds it needs to recruit more folks to do some of the tasks that support our hall rentals. This is paid work that occurs on an as needed basis. If you are interested in being on the list to do any of these jobs, please call Church Administrator Amy Lent (463-7135).

◆ **Re-set Crew** The group puts the building back the way we want it for Sunday mornings! Typically involves moving chairs and tables, taking

out trash, general tidying up of all rooms that have been used by renters. The greatest need is for persons who would be available on an occasional Saturday or a Sunday morning, but sometimes we need help on a weekday if there are back-to-back events and not enough time for the staff custodian to move all the furniture.

◆ **Building Steward** The Steward's job is to be welcoming and helpful to renters and to represent the interests of the Society. This includes understanding the rental contract and making sure both

we and the renters do our parts, unlocking doors and supervising building entry, fetching needed supplies (but NOT moving furniture), and securing the building at the end of the event. These jobs occur mostly on weekends, but also some weekday evenings.

♦ **Custodian for event clean up** Sometimes we need an extra custodian for a few hours when

neither of our staff custodians are available to clean up after an event. The job would include cleaning and re-stocking of bathrooms, sweeping and possibly mopping floors in Emerson Community Hall or Channing Hall, taking out trash, and whatever other cleaning needs to be done to be ready for Sunday morning.

Union Thanksgiving Service, 7:30 pm, Tuesday, November 22 at Congregation Beth Emeth, 100 Academy Road, Albany

Each year Congregation Beth Emeth, Trinity United Methodist Church, Westminster Presbyterian Church and the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany gather for a joint Thanksgiving service. Trinity, Westminster and FUSA (only one U in those days) all had fires that burned our buildings at different times at the beginning of the 20th century. While they were being repaired, we all worshiped at Congregation Beth Emeth's building. When our buildings were rebuilt, we began the tradition of having this joint service.

The theme for the service will be **9/11 Ten Years Later** and our guest speaker will be the newly invested Federal Court Judge from our District (and first woman to hold that position) **The Hon. Mae D'Agostino** whose topic will be "9/11 Ten Years Later: What Have We Learn & What Challenges Lie Ahead."

Please also bring canned goods for the Focus Food Pantry as your offering.

Volunteer Opportunities

Distribute Rummage Sale coupons to our neighbors ***NEW this month*******

The Community Connections Committee is looking for some volunteers to distribute discount coupons for the Rummage Sale in our immediate neighborhood. Even 20 minutes of your time would be a big help. Contact Mark Yolles.

Upload sermon audio on Sundays

The services in Emerson are recorded in MP3 format on a chip. Using audio editing software, the sermon is placed in a separate file, and that file gets uploaded to the FUUSA website. It's about 15 minutes worth of work, once you've been trained. If you are interested, talk to Rev. Sam and he can tell you more!

Caring Network drivers

The Caring Network could really use some help in the transportation area. Specifically we have need of people available during the day to drive folks to medical appointments, grocery shopping, etc. So, if you can help out once in a while--we need you! Call Sharon Babala. And, thank you!

Every Sunday...

We need one Lead Usher, three Ushers, two Coffee Hosts, two Greeters, two Welcomers, and one Chalice Lighter! These are easy commitments to make, and they are a BIG PART of our Sunday hospitality.

Two ways to sign up: Online at <http://tinyurl.com/SundayVolunteers> OR in Channing Hall at the Sign Up Site.

You can check at either location to see which spots need to be filled. Names added to the paper sign up in Channing Hall will be added to the online version every Monday. If you've never done a particular job before, please know that both training and job descriptions are available!

Contact Us

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email: board@albanyuu.org

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Lynne Lekakis kaneandlekakis@gmail.com

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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, 9:00-4:00

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

Website

www.albanyuu.org

Building use

To **reserve a room** for a FUUSA activity, contact Administrative Assistant Dave Stone (463-7135 or 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).

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).

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

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

Publication deadlines

Weekend 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



Holiday Craft Fair & Bazaar



Saturday, Nov. 12, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Sunday, Nov. 13, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

*Offering a diverse selection of quality handcrafted items
By Many Vendors*

Stained Glass

Natural Soaps

Fine Art

Gift and Decorative Items

Pottery

Ornaments

Needlework / Hand knits

Beeswax Candles

Jewelry

Homemade Kitchen Crafts

– jams, jellies, sauces

– candy, cookies, breads

– soup and cookie mixes

– pies for the holidays

*Shop for one-of-a-kind treasures in **Granny's Attic**
and that special book in our **Used Book Nook***

Featuring...

Come shop and stay for lunch!

Randy's Café

Serving delicious homemade soups, chili, quiche, desserts & more

Café will be open both days.

Location: First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany
405 Washington Avenue (at Robin St.), Albany, NY

Free Parking at UAlbany's downtown Hawley Ave. Lot at
Washington Ave. & Robin St.

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John and Barbara Metz

"For Old Times' Sake"

Sunday, November 20, 2011, 3:00 p.m.



sensuous and spectacular music for viola da gamba and harpsichord
music by Telemann, Bach, Marais, and Albaine

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*".. for sheer musical excellence, his duets with his wife surpass anything I had
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