

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

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

Nov. 4 "Using Power Justly," the Rev. Sam Trumbore

Our religious voice curbs the unjust use of power by government no matter who is elected. Both voting and advocacy matter to advance democracy and protect minorities.

Nov. 11 "Answering the Call to Serve," the Rev. Sam Trumbore

Send an inspirational word through our former intern, Chaplain Chris Antal, to his Army reserve unit currently serving in Afghanistan. His ministry helps connect our congregation to the reality that our country is still at war over there.

Nov. 18 "November's Solitude," the Rev. Sam Trumbore

Let us pause to praise solitude before the bustle of the holiday season begins. This service will conclude with Rev. Trumbore's Thanksgiving celebration featuring freshly made corn muffins.

Nov. 25 "By the Sweat of their Brows," by the Rev. David Weissbard

Rev. Weissbard will connect growing up in our congregation with the rhetoric of presidential campaigns and appreciating our privilege at Thanksgiving.

WINDOWS

Newsletter of the First Unitarian
Universalist Society of Albany

November 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 and 4th Sundays)



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 (some Sundays)	Emerson

Exceptions:

Events happening every week in 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:

All other events happening in November

1-Nov	6:00 PM	Our Pieces of Peace.....	Channing	26-Nov	10:00 AM	SGM Odell/Patrick.....	B-5
	7:00 PM	Peace planning voices.....	24/25		3:00 PM	Overflow Shelter Meal Prep	Kitchen
2-Nov	6:00 PM	Meditation Retreat	Emerson, B-7, B-8		7:00 PM	Monday Men	B-8
3-Nov	8:00 AM	Meditation Retreat	Whole Building	30-Nov	6:00 PM	Potluck/Kids Project	24/25
	12:00 PM	Peace Planning Voices.....	24/25		6:00 PM	Potluck/Multigen Event.....	Channing
4-Nov	8:00 AM	Change of Time Breakfast.....	Channing				
	10:00 AM	Service.....					
	11:45 AM	SRC	B-7				
5-Nov	7:00 PM	Study Group: The Righteous Mind	B-8				
-Nov	9:00 AM	Election Day/ Pie Making....	Channing, Kitchen				
	7:00 PM	Wellspring Meeting	B-8				
7-Nov	5:30 PM	Membership Ministry	B-8				
8-Nov	12:00 PM	Set up Holiday Bazaar	Channing, Emerson				
	7:00 PM	Program Coordinating Council (PCC).....	B-8				
9-Nov	8:00 AM	Set up Holiday Bazaar					
	 Channing, Emerson	Kitchen				
	6:00 PM	FUUSA Parent Group.....	Kitchen, 23, 24/25				
10-Nov	9:00 AM	Holiday Bazaar to 4 p.m.					
	 Channing, Emerson, Kitchen					
11-Nov	10:00 AM	Service.....					
	11:00 AM	Holiday Bazaar to 3 p.m.					
	 Channing, Emerson, Kitchen					
	11:45 AM	Forum	B-8				
12-Nov	10:00 AM	SGM Odell/Patrick	B-5				
	3:00 PM	Overflow Shelter Meal Prep.....	Kitchen				
	7:00 PM	Monday Men.....	B-8				
13-Nov	7:00 PM	CRUUNY Worship Planning	B-8				
	7:00 PM	SGM John Sherman	B-7				
14-Nov	5:15 PM	RSC	B-8				
15-Nov	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees	B-8				
17-Nov	6:00 PM	Circle Dinner.....	Offsite				
18-Nov	11:00 AM	Post Holiday Bazaar	Channing				
	10:00 AM	Service.....					
	12:30 PM	Rite of Passage Meeting	Channing, B-8				
19-Nov	12:00 PM	Channing Circle	Channing				
20-Nov	6:00 PM	Wellspring Meeting	B-8				
22-Nov	1:00 PM	Thanksgiving Potluck. Emerson Alcove	Kitchen				
	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting	B-8				
25-Nov	11:00 AM	Post Holiday Bazaar	Channing				
	10:00 AM	Service.....					

Looking Ahead	
Dec. 1	Getting to Know UU
Dec. 7-8	Circle Dinners
Dec. 8	RE Holiday Crafts Workshop
Dec. 14	Parents' Night Out
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Services

News

Green Sanctuary volunteers at WAMC

The Green Sanctuary Committee volunteered at the WAMC pledge drive on Tuesday evening, Oct. 2 to show our support. For the past year, Green Sanctuary has been advocating greater coverage of environmental issues on WAMC. We have been pleased with WAMC's coverage in recent months and were particularly impressed that WAMC arranged for Bill McKibben to lecture at the Egg in January and gave away 400 tickets as premiums for pledging.

Nine FUUSAns--Carol Butt, Chris Bystroff, Dick Dana, Nicola Dutre, David Musser, Martha Musser, Jessica Semon, Sandy Steubing and Betsy Wright-participated. Calls were very slow before 8 o'clock, but things picked up in the last hour. David even received a pledge for \$1,000.

The announcers, Bob Barrett and Ian Pincus, mentioned FUUSA and Green Sanctuary twice on the air, so our participation generated publicity for FUUSA and its work on environmental issues. It was also a lot of fun! We plan to volunteer in future pledge drives and hope to increase participation of FUUSAns.

Last call for vendors, volunteers, crafts, art

FUUSA's annual Holiday Bazaar & Craft Fair will be held Saturday, Nov. 10 and Sunday, Nov. 11. Volunteers are needed to set up the day before, bake, and work the days of the event. There is still room for outside vendors if you are interested in purchasing a space to sell your hand-made items. If you would like to help out in any way, please contact Jan Satin (xxx) or Barb Manning (xxx or xxx). If you would like to show your paintings, fiber art, sculpture, and photographs or other artwork please call Arlene Gilbert at xxx to arrange to participate.

Granny needs you! "Granny's Attic" is in need of items to sell at the Bazaar: nice costume jewelry, knick knacks, Christmas decorations, etc. However, if it didn't sell in your garage sale, it won't sell here! Contact Jan Satin (xxx) or Barb Manning (xxx).

Calling all peelers! On Tuesday, Nov. 6 (Election

Flyers in this issue

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

- ◆ **Change of Time Breakfast**
- ◆ **Holiday Bazaar**

Day), Jan Satin will lead a group of volunteers in peeling and cutting up apples for the Holiday Bazaar apple pies. If you want to have a fun morning with a group of friendly people, come to Channing Hall at 9 a.m. on the 6th and if you have a favorite peeler or knife, bring that with you! Any questions, call Jan Satin (xxx).

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 for poinsettias at Coffee Hour on Nov. 4, 11, 18 and 25. Pick up day is Dec. 2 at FUUSA. Please make your payment when you place your order with the youth.

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.

Pledge contributions and stock transfers

I want to thank all members who are making contributions in order to meet their pledges for the 2012-13 fiscal year (which began on July 1.)

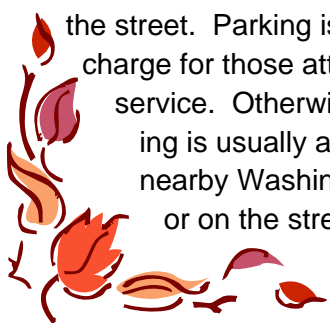
Also, for those members who are going to transfer securities to FUUSA towards their pledge, please note that it can take several weeks between initiating the electronic transfer and the completion of transaction. So, if you are going to make such a contribution and want it to reflect in the 2012 federal tax year, you should start the process in November to avoid year-end surprises! If you intend to donate shares of a mutual fund, the length of time varies depending on whether FUUSA currently has an account with the same company. You can read the instructions on the Securities Transfer form (available in the church office and on the website) and call if you have questions. Thanks, Mike Babala, Assistant Treasurer

**Union Thanksgiving Service
Tuesday, Nov. 20 at 7:30 PM
Trinity United Methodist Church
235 Lark St., Albany**

State Senator Neil Breslin will be the guest speaker at this year's Union Thanksgiving service. Neil is "a great friend of FOCUS and a great spokesperson for our common calling to serve our neighbors and help make the world a better place." The offering will be either in-kind or financial gifts for the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry, and a time to share fellowship and refreshments will follow the service.

Limited parking will be available on a first come/first served basis in Trinity's lot located 1/2 block south of the church on the west side of

the street. Parking is free of charge for those attending the service. Otherwise, parking is usually available in nearby Washington Park or on the street.



Union Thanksgiving: History of the burned churches

The idea of a community Thanksgiving Service dates from 1901 during the ministry of William Brundage, when First Unitarian Society of Albany trustees formally invited Temple Beth Emeth, All Souls Universalist Church and Trinity Methodist to observe the holiday together. Unitarian local historian John Guffin describes the invitation as an "olive branch to the community." Only Trinity Methodist declined, perhaps still smarting from the defection of Rev. Brundage, their former pastor, in 1895.

Why three protestant and one Jewish congregations have chosen to meet together has an interesting history. In 1905, after a serious fire in the First Unitarian's Lancaster Street Church, Temple Beth Emeth made them a generous offer of use of their meeting space on Sunday morning. Beth Emeth made a similar offer to Westminster Presbyterian in 1927, and to Trinity Methodist in 1931 after fires in each church. A sense of mutual respect and affection among these congregations, as well as appreciation of Beth Emeth's generosity, has been a support of this thanksgiving service for eighty years.

Our present Union Thanksgiving Service began in 1927. Responsibility rotates among the four congregations. Originally the service was on Thanksgiving morning. Mostly the men attended while their wives toiled over the dinner at home. That changed in 1969, a year that Union Baptist Church also joined our service. Trinity Methodist became a regular participant in the service in 1986.

Over the years, offerings of money and food have been given to the FOCUS food Pantry, Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood, OXFAM and NAACP.

This is the heritage that continues as we meet this year at Trinity United Methodist. Come, experience the joy of Thanksgiving with our union of neighbor congregations!

New Member Sunday

On Sunday, Dec. 2, we will welcome new members into our congregation. Newcomers who have recently signed our membership book, and others who want to join, are encouraged to come and be recognized.

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

One officially becomes a member by signing the membership book in the minister's office. And then

we will welcome you to the congregation during the Sunday service on New Member Sunday! Please call either Kathy Hodges, chair of the Newcomer Welcoming Committee (355-5018) or Amy Lent, Director of Member Services, (at the church office, 463-7135) if you are interested in becoming a member.

Wanted: musicians!

Can you play the piano or guitar? Would you like to join me in presenting Children's Chapel once in a while? Children's Chapel is a service for children and families that takes place the first Sunday of each month from 10:00 to about 10:25. Music is an important part of this service. Some of our favorite hymns and songs are "Love Will Guide Us", "Come, Come Whoever You Are" and "The Magic Penny Song". Let me know if you are interested in accompanying us. Thanks, Leah Purcell

Merry Rummage to all and to all a good sale!!

Well, there are no beloved poems about rummage, so pardon us as we cast about for some way to get your attention. Here's the background, in brief.

Chuck Manning called a meeting, which was well-attended, to discuss one of our dearest traditions, the rummage sale. As you know, the Fall version was canceled. What about the future?

Those at the meeting agreed that in many ways the sale fulfills our mission and strategic plan, i.e., it serves both the members and the neighborhood. But, we all agreed that it is time to look anew at the biannual events. Four of us volunteered to begin the review. We met and decided: we would like to continue the sales BUT in a modified way. (There are many details of timing, setup, offerings, etc. to be addressed.) The most immediate change is to spread the many responsibilities of the sale among members of a committee—6-8 persons- who agree to take on some aspect of the sale, for example setup, volunteer recruitment, sorting, cleanup, etc.

This concept was approved by the PCC. So, we on this "rummage committee" are committed to a sale on May 3 and 4 but are seeking 3-4 additional persons who are willing to begin meeting soon to: 1) review all aspects of the sale; keep some and possibly change some of the routines to make the sale more efficient, more productive, less burdensome; 2) take on one of the necessary tasks to create a successful event.

If you are willing to assist in the planning and implementation of a Spring rummage sale, please call/ email me. Mary Ann Lettau; xxx. Without a sufficient response, the future of FUUSA rummage is bleak! YOU are needed.

"Save the dates" from the St. Lawrence District Nov. 9-11, 2012. Youth PokeCon. Sponsored by the UU Congregation of Binghamton's Youth Group. This event is open to SLD Youth (14-19 in high school). Some deadlines have already passed, but the final registration date is Nov. 4. Please let our DRE Leah Purcell know immediately if you are interested. Details are available at <http://www.sld.uua.org/calendar1.html>.

April 26-27, 2013. District Assembly 2013 A Joint Venture of the St. Lawrence & Ohio-Meadville Dis-

tricts. The St. Lawrence and Ohio-Meadville Districts will join together for an energetic, stimulating assembly with the theme "Out of Bounds: Moving Beyond Our Boundaries." Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA, will be the keynote speaker. The location will be announced soon.

May 17-18, 2013. Empowering Ourselves And Each Other The Unitarian Universalist Women & Religion will present their Fourth Annual St. Lawrence District Women's Spirituality Conference at the First UU Society of Syracuse, NY. Check out their website at <http://www.uuwr.org/SLDUUWR/> for updates.

You can always stay up to date by checking the District web site: <http://www.sld.uua.org/>.--Don Odell, Denominational Affairs.

Christmas pageant—important dates

Planning is underway for the multigenerational Christmas service and pageant on Sunday, Dec. 23. Children, youth, and adults who would like to play a part in our pageant please save these dates:

Sunday, Dec. 2 from 11:30 to 12:00 – selection of major parts of the pageant and costume selection – in Emerson Community Hall

Sunday, Dec. 16 from 11:30 to 1:00 – rehearsal in Emerson Community Hall

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

NYSCU meeting report

The annual meeting of NYSCU (New York State Convention of Universalists) was held at the UU Congregation of Saratoga Springs on Oct. 13, 2012. Three delegates, Dave Munro, Don Odell and Robb Smith, represented FUUSA at the meeting.

In addition to the annual meeting, there was a keynote address by the Rev. Dr. Lee Barker (President of Meadville-Lombard Divinity School), and one of his students, Viola Abbitt (who preached at FUUSA on Oct. 14 and for whom Rev. Sam Trumbore is serving as mentor). Rev. Barker's talk was titled "Ministry in a Post-Denominational Age." He reviewed the trending state of religion, noting the increase of persons not identifying with any denomination, and the increase in persons identifying themselves as spiritual but not religious. He indicated

how UU divinity schools are attempting to respond to these trends, noting, in part, that the denomination must deal with diverse means of communication and sources, emphasizing values over identification, and that there can be no spiritual path without a commitment to social justice.

Lifespan Learning

Mindfulness Meditation Training Friday-Saturday, Nov. 2-3

This training will be led by Rev. Trumbore, on Friday 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 Signup Site in Channing Hall or with the office (call 463-7135) if you'd like to participate. (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. This training will be repeated January 4-5, 2013 and March 22-23, 2013. Sign up at the Sign Up Site in Channing Hall.

Study Group: *The Righteous Mind* by Jonathan Haidt Monday, Nov. 5, at 7pm

Following up on lots of interest expressed after hearing Rev. Trumbore's Oct. 21 service titled, "Building a Bigger Tent" that quoted some of the ideas of Haidt, Rev. Trumbore will gather a group of people together to begin examining the ideas in this book that are relevant to Unitarian Universalism. Based on how many people gather and the interest, the study group may be extended for another couple of weeks. Led by Rev. Sam Trumbore. Sign up at the Sign Up Site in Channing Hall.

There were workshops on mindful meditation, end-of-life decisions, and how a number of the churches in the District define themselves, and how they define and do ministry. There were many variations on this subject.--Don Odell, FUUSA Denominational Affairs

To decide if you are interested in studying some of Haidt's innovative ideas, watch is TED talk that can be found at this URL: http://www.ted.com/talks/jonathan_haidt_on_the_moral_mind.html . Rev. Trumbore's sermon can be found at this URL: <http://blog.timesunion.com/trumbore/welcoming-political-diversity-within-religious-community/1100/> . The Bookhouse is a good source for *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion* that will be the study text for our conversation.

Joy Library notes

Immigration Reform

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations and Unitarian Universalist Service Committee joined 60 other religious groups in signing the Interfaith Statement in support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform <http://www.uua.org/immigration/witness/57099.shtml>)

In support of Immigration Reform we acquired the following books:

--Aviva Chomsky, *They Take Our Jobs!: And 20 Other Myths about Immigration*, Beacon Press (2007)

--Margaret Regan, *The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona Borderlands*, Beacon Press (2010)

--Luis Alberto Urrea, *The Devil's Highway: A True Story*, Little, Brown and Company (2004)

--Sonia Nazario, *Enrique's Journey*, Random House Trade Paperbacks (2007),

--Tram Nguyen, *We Are All Suspects Now: Untold Stories from Immigrant Communities after 9/11*, Beacon Press (2005), Paperback, 212 pages

--David Bacon, *Illegal People: How Globalization Creates Migration and Criminalizes Immigrants*, Beacon Press (2009)

--Yassin Aref, *Son of mountains : my life as a Kurd*

and a terror suspect, Troy, N.Y. : Troy Book Makers, c2008

--Darrell M. West, *Brain Gain: Rethinking U.S. Immigration Policy*,.Brookings Institution Press, 2010.

See also *Paying the Price: The Impact of Immigration Raids on America's Children*, a publication of National Council of La Raza and Urban Institute. Online at <http://tinyurl.com/qmujmy>

UUA Common Read

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander is the 2012-13 Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Common Read. Alexander asserts that crime-fighting policies and systems in the U.S., such as the "war on drugs" and the incarceration system, disproportionately and intentionally affect Americans of color. Help build community in our Unitarian Universalist faith movement by taking part in this year's Common

Read. Joy Library owns two copies. [364.973 ALE]. See <http://www.uua.org/re/multigenerational/read/index.shtml>

New of interest

Beautiful Trouble: A Toolbox for Revolution by Andrew Boyd and David Oswald Mitchell

Beautiful Trouble brings together ten grassroots groups and dozens of seasoned artists and activists from around the world to distill their best practices into a toolbox for creative action. Among the groups included are Agit-Pop/The Other 98%, The Yes Men/Yes Labs, Code Pink, SmartMeme, The Ruckus Society, Beyond the Choir, The Center for Artistic Activism, Waging Nonviolence, Alliance of Community Trainers and Nonviolence International. Beautiful Trouble puts the accumulated wisdom of decades of creative protest into the hands of the next generation of change-makers. [339.21 BOY]

Our Community

A FUUSA Thanksgiving Feast!
Thursday, November 22, starting at 1:00pm
Emerson Community Hall

Not spending Thanksgiving with extended family? Tired of cooking all that food? Why not gather with members and friends of our congregation for a joint Thanksgiving meal.



On Thanksgiving Day, people will gather at 1:00 pm for appetizers and conversation, dinner will be served at 2:00pm. Sign up in Channing Hall or call the office (463-7135) to let us know you are coming and select an item to bring. Please also bring games for kids and adults after dinner to increase our family fun.

supper at someone's home. If there is sufficient interest, the next dinner, scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 17, will be a multi-generational dinner. We hoped that families would view circle dinners as an opportunity to increase their involvement in the FUUSA community. In past years, however, few families with children have participated, perhaps, because the needs of families are met by the multi-generational potlucks held frequently in Channing Hall.

If you want family participation in circle dinners, please let us know by signing up for the multi-generational dinner or communicating your interest in future dinners. Families and adults who would like to attend a multi-generational dinner on November 17 can sign up in Channing Hall. You can also sign up, get more information, or express an opinion by contacting Martha Musser at xxx.

The deadline for signing up for the Nov. 17 dinner is Sunday, Nov. 4. (The dates for the next Circle Dinners are Dec. 7 and 8.)

Change-of-Time Breakfast

Sunday, Nov. 4—see flyer at end of newsletter

Menu: all the usual plus your choice of Plain Eggs, Cheese Eggs, Veggie Eggs with cheese, Everything Eggs (Egg-Beaters available).



6 to 9 at 6:09:
Circle Dinners on Saturday, Nov. 17
Circle dinners provide the opportunity to socialize with fellow FUUSAns and visitors over a potluck

Welcome, new members!

Kaitlyn Proto and Stephanie Roberts live in the Beverwyck neighborhood of Albany with their dog,



Quimby, and two cats, Link and Zelda. **Kaitlyn** moved to Albany from Boston one year ago. She is a registered nurse at Sunnyview Rehab. In her free time, she enjoys playing the flute, traveling and reading.

Stephanie works for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She volunteers with the Regional Food Bank, and also fosters for Peppertree Rescue. Stephanie was not available on Oct.7 New Member Sunday to be introduced to the congregation, so be sure to say hi when you see her!



York State Attorney General's Office as an Administrative Assistant with 30 years of service, and Bryce from the New York State Division of Parole as a Senior Parole Officer with 37 years of service. They volunteer at the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society (Michele with the cats, Bryce with the dogs!) and have done some traveling.

They both like being around people and enjoy being involved in the community. Michele has participated in musical activities and done some theatre. They both enjoy concerts, art events and being outdoors.

They look forward to joining the FUUSA congregation, getting involved and meeting everyone. They look forward to a purposeful, enriched and fulfilling experience and appreciate having the time now to be able to do so.

Andy Hendin I joined the UU movement in 1995. I moved to Albany in March to accept a promotion with my employer. I'm a mass transit advocate (yes, I have a bus pass!) and enjoy living close to work and all the fun that downtown, Lark St. etc. have to offer.



Michele and Bryce Rodin first got interested in joining FUUSA approximately 16 years ago. "We desired to give our son Matthew and ourselves a religion that is tolerant of all faiths. We started attending some Sunday services and our son attended the Sunday classes. I assisted in a multi-aged Sunday school class. This was only for a year but was a good education and enlightenment for me at the same time."



They are now both retired: Michele from the New

Channing Circle invitation

If you are free to come to a Brown Bag lunch on Monday, Nov. 19 you have met the membership criteria for FUUSA's Channing Circle (CC) and are hereby invited to attend. The Circle is a social activity at FUUSA and serves to connect and also reconnect people of a certain age. Lunch will be followed by a group discussion with those attending encouraged to bring an item from the media that is of interest. Coffee, tea and dessert are provided.

The Dec.17 meeting will be a Holiday Luncheon at the Ristorante Paradiso around the corner. The three course meal is family style and will cost about \$20. Join the CC email list to get reminders and information. (If anyone can help with adding new names to our mailing list it would

be appreciated.) Contact mpy116@gmail.com for any further information about the Channing Circle.

Small Group Ministry

Small Group Ministry (SGM) brings people together in small groups twice a month where they share matters of consequence in their personal lives as they talk about the meeting topic. Over the course of the year, members of the group learn to listen and really get to know each other and develop special relationships that many participants consider a highlight of their FUUSA experience. Groups will start meeting soon and new groups will be formed throughout the year as needed. If you are interested in participating as a group member or facilitator contact John Sherman at jsherman@nycap.rr.com or xxx or visit the Sign Up Site in Channing Hall.

Walker Book Club

Join the Walker Book Club for the next book discussion on Sunday, Nov. 11. We meet the second Sunday of each month in FUUSA's Channing Hall at 5:30 PM. Newcomers are always welcome.

The discussion is preceded by a welcoming potluck supper, followed by a lively discussion of the book of the month chosen by participants. Bring your favorite dish to share and a small contribution to cover beverages. Use dishes etc. at FUUSA and help with the dishwasher or be green and bring your own.

For Nov. 11 we are reading The Swerve: How the World Became Modern, by Stephen Greenblatt. "In this gloriously learned page-turner, both biography and intellectual history, Harvard Shakespearean scholar Greenblatt turns his attention to the front

**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, Randy Rosette, Jerry Deighan, Bruce Rodgers and Sandy Stone.

end of the Renaissance as the origin of Western culture's foundation: the free questioning of truth."—Publisher's Weekly.

The choice for December 9 is The Other Side of the Bridge, a novel by Mary Lawson set in the small farming community of Struan, in Northern Ontario. "It's an age-old story—two brothers in love with the same woman—but in Lawson's masterful hands, the emotive tale of Arthur and Jake Dunn and the young woman who comes between them takes on a luminous originality."—Booklist.

Contact Linda Hunt at xxx with any questions about the group or if you want to have your name added to the Walker Book Club mailing list to find out what other books we are considering reading over the next several months.

Social Justice

SRC offers two exciting volunteer opportunities
The Social Responsibilities Council is working on two projects that will enable FUUSA volunteers to provide vital direct service to our immediate neighbors in need and, in the words of our Strategic Plan, "make a difference in the lives of children and families in the City of Albany."

Reading Assistance at Sheridan Preparatory Academy. Thanks to the efforts of Lois Griffin and Martha Musser, a meeting was set up for a FUUSA

delegation with the Albany school district volunteer coordinator and the principal of Sheridan Prep, a city public school within a few blocks of FUUSA that serves kids facing the challenges of urban poverty. A particular need was identified for volunteers to provide reading assistance to students who aren't receiving other intervention. See the article below for more details. What a great way to impact the future of our young neighbors!

A Day of Simple Giving. Grassroot Givers is a fabulous organization that connects those in need of specific supplies and material goods and those who

have resources to share. They collect clothing, household items, toys, etc. and make them available to those in need in Albany, particularly the homeless. Check out their website <http://www.grassrootgivers.com/> On Saturday, Nov. 17 from 10 AM to 2 PM, they are hosting A Day of Simple Giving, where groups and volunteers will create or assemble practical gifts to share with homeless shelters and low-income families. We have signed on for a Donation Station where we will assemble soup mix bags that will be distributed to homeless shelters and food pantries. This is a fun intergenerational activity (kids welcome!) with an immediate benefit to our neighbors in need. Please sign on by contacting Renee Panetta at xxx or add your name to the sign-up sheet in Channing.

Can you make a difference in a student's life?

Almost 50 percent of Albany High School students fail to graduate in four years and surely face lives of poverty and unemployment. At Sheridan Preparatory Academy, a few blocks from FUUSA, 75 percent of tested students did not meet the Standards for English language arts. Without intervention, too many of these students will never earn a high school diploma.

We have the opportunity to make a difference in these students' lives. In a meeting with FUUSAns, the young, energetic principal asked for volunteers to provide assistance with reading. Remediation specialists provide instruction to students whose reading skills fall below a specified level. At her request, we hope to mobilize volunteers to work one-on-one or in small groups with students reading above this level to increase their skills.

Volunteers can choose a day of the week and time from a schedule of reading classes for kindergarten through grade 5 and can join together to commit to providing this help on a regular basis. If you want to know more, contact Martha Musser at xxx or Lois Griffin at xxx.

Cold weather: Overflow Shelter responsibilities!

Overflow Homeless Shelter will open for the season at the First Lutheran Church on the first of November again this year and FUUSA will be preparing 2-3 meals a month until the end of April, sharing Mondays with the First Presbyterian Church. Most of you know the routine, but for those who are new or newly interested, here is the drill.

We welcome anyone who is interested and free on the 2nd, 4th, and occasional 5th 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 Sun. or Mon.. If you wish, you will be reimbursed for your expenses.

Tim and Patty Burch 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. Whoever is in charge will remind you a few days prior.

Thanks for your concern and generous participation in this volunteer opportunity!

Overnight Shelter at St Peters Episcopal Church

needs volunteers to assist the staff member from the Mission with 15 responsible visitors who will overnight at St. Peters December - March. This is an overnight commitment with a short night's sleep. Last year, for the first time, FUUSA provided volunteers for a week of overnights in February. If you would be interested in continuing this commitment and volunteering in February, please sign up on the sheet in Channing.

FUUSAns are great volunteers! Thanks, Barb Cooley and Tim and Patty Burch

❖The **Blanket Box** is now in the coat room waiting for your blankets, comforters, sleeping bags, warm coats, etc. for the homeless shelter. Thanks for your contributions. ❖

Social Witness Deadlines from the UUA

- ◆Nov. 1, 2012: Resource Guide for the 2012-2016 Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) "Reproductive Justice" becomes available.
- ◆Nov. 15, 2012: Commission on Social Witness (CSW) releases draft Statement of Conscience (SOC) on "Immigration as a Moral Issue." The deadline for receiving comments is March 1, 2013.

For more information on both, see [Current Study/Action Issues](#).

You have an opportunity to participate in this process. The UUA and its Commission on Social Witness do listen to us! Contact our congregation SRC (Social Responsibilities Council) if you want to be involved in this effort.--Don Odell, Denominational Affairs (drodell31@yahoo.com, 482-4574)

SRC Peace Team co-sponsors two events:

Our Pieces of Peace

Thursday, Nov. 1, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Channing Hall

Please join us for a relaxed evening of sharing artistic messages about our visions of peace--a variety of poetry, song, drama, readings, quotes, artwork, meditations and commentary.

Before the presentations we'll have a half hour of fellowship and light refreshments.

This event is co-sponsored by Grannies for Peace, the Social Responsibilities Council of FUUSA, and Veterans for Peace. Readers and performers from each group will combine their ideas and talents to present 18 different short pieces. We hope to have fun and be inspired while creating a mosaic of what working for peace means to each

of us.

Voices of a People's History of the United States

On Friday, Nov. 9, a dramatic presentation of Howard Zinn's *Voices of the American People* will be presented at Delmar Reformed Church (386 Delaware Ave, Delmar) following a potluck fund raiser for Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace. This is a cooperative effort by SRC Peace Team, FUUSAs and BNP peace activists.

We will begin the evening with a potluck dinner and silent auction, starting at 5:30 pm. Please bring a potluck dish to share. The play will begin at 7:00 pm. A donation of \$10 is requested. \$2 for students.

Green Sanctuary Forum

Ecovative packaging, Jan Patrick

Nov. 11, 11:45 AM

Ecovative adapts living systems to create environmentally responsible materials to help people live in harmony with the rest of life on planet Earth. Mr. Patrick will describe the history, technology, and products of this exciting local business that uses mushroom technology to replace oil based Styrofoam™.

Columns

Sam's Outlook

Educating Albany's children: tomorrow and today

At our invitation, Patricia Brown, the director of the Albany Promise program, visited the October meeting of the West Hill Ministerial Fellowship in Channing Hall. At our September meeting, I had exchanged some heated words with another of our ministers who was criticizing the Albany Promise program without knowing much about it. To settle our dispute, I offered to invite Ms. Brown to inform us about the program. Of course the minister with whom I had been arguing didn't come, but the rest of us learned a lot. (handouts available here: <http://albanyuu.org/docs/2012/ap2012.html>)

Originally, I had thought the Albany Promise program was based on Jeffrey Canada's Harlem Children's Zone work down in New York City. While

having a number of similarities, Albany Promise is modeled on a "cradle to career" program in Cincinnati called STRIVE. Over six years, STRIVE was instrumental in bringing 8th grade math scores up 15% and college enrollment up by 10%. University graduation rates for local urban youth increased 7-10%. Kindergarten preparedness, fourth-grade reading, math scores and high school graduation rates all saw improvements.

The new State University of New York Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher co-founded STRIVE in 2006 and brought the program with her (along with Patricia Brown to run it) when she came to New York. Albany Promise is part of a newly formed network of these programs across New York and the nation using the "cradle to career" model.

A cradle to career network brings together leaders in Pre-K-12 schools, higher education, business and industry, community organizations, government leaders, parents and other stakeholders who are

committed to helping children succeed at every step from birth to a career. As demonstrated by the success of STRIVE, a comprehensive community effort can positively affect a region's education pipeline and improve student success at every level.

What I found intriguing about Ms. Brown's presentation are the socially sensitive, scientific methods. Sober scientific measurement sets the baseline for the problems to be addressed. Action teams are assembled with diverse representations of stakeholders who share best practices. The best practices are only "best" if they move the measurements for that problem. Brown understands all these performance based methods because these are the ones used in industry to optimize production yields. She worked originally as an engineer for Proctor & Gamble. Albany Promise, following the STRIVE model, will commit to the practices that "move the needle" and show results that can be measured, an objective way to decide what works.

So what does all this mean for our congregation? On the macro level Albany Promise wants to focus on key moments in a child's life they may fall behind, such as: before they are even born, before they enter kindergarten, and when they are preparing for testing at 4th and 8th grade exams. They are focusing on ninth grade students getting at least five credits toward graduation. They plan to focus on absenteeism that predicts failure as early as possible.

I learned more about Albany Promise at a "Cracking the Culture" symposium breakfast hosted by Dr. Bob Paeglow, celebrating 10 years serving poor people's health needs in the West Hill neighborhood at Koinonia Health Care. Members of the community present spoke passionately about the problems of trauma, lack of hope, fear and high levels of stress. As one speaker said, "If the parent doesn't work, the child doesn't see a future." "If you don't work, you don't feel good about yourself." All this detracts from the resolve needed to apply oneself to schoolwork.

Our congregation is stepping up to make a difference by partnering with Sheridan Preparatory Academy just a few blocks from us. Chuck Manning, Karen Kaufmann, Martha Musser, Lois Griffin,

Leah Purcell, and I met with the district's volunteer coordinator and the school principal. We were very impressed by the school and how hard everyone is working to help these kids succeed. There are very specific ways we can help that will make a big difference for them right now. And those first years of school are a critical place for an intervention that may save a life.

The problem of the miserable graduation rate of Albany High students has many sources. The work being done by Albany Promise holds hope for the future. Today we can make a difference in the lives of the elementary age children at Sheridan Prep. Please contact Martha Musser and Lois Griffin to find out how (see related article in this Windows) —Rev. Sam

Chuck's Chat

Let us dance together

We got our annual report from Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood in the mail. Along with describing their accomplishments for the year, the report listed donors. There were 28 FUUSA members listed along with FUUSA as an organization. This is part of what it means to belong to our beloved community. There are folks here who share our passions.

Attending the symphony or other cultural event is another example of a shared passion. We always see other FUUSAns there. So our beloved community goes well beyond our building's walls. When we do "Beloved Community" right, it can happen anywhere if we watch for it. The floor in Emerson Community Hall is one of our enduring stories. Most of us, giving a tour of the building, recount how the floor came from School 16. That we had a short time to tear it out of the gym, then store it in rented storage. From there the boards went to the Browns' barn. We had nail pulling parties. Under the direction of Dave Metz, we rotored off the glue. Then the boards were transported back to FUUSA for installation. As crazy as this project seemed, it happened because we worked together in a spirit of cooperation and community.

There are many more ways we work together. But what is it that defines these cooperative activities as Beloved Community? A quick dictionary defini-

tion of beloved is “something dear to the heart.” For me this fits my feelings and emotions when I think about the FUUSA community. I have a visceral, emotional response. Seeing members of the community outside of our building triggers that response to some degree. Working with them cooperatively triggers that response. But what really sets it off is seeing us work together, overcoming differences and achieving something together “in love.”

I believe we need to take this feeling of beloved community, how we work together, and put it into words. We can do this by writing a covenant together as a congregation. The Board has made this one of our priorities for the year. As a Board we have a covenant, the RE Council has a covenant, RE classes have covenants, and the UUA Board has a covenant. Do we really need a covenant? I believe it can be a statement of what we hold at the center of our community that makes it a beloved community. From the UUA Web site, “We covenant to value our common journey, to recognize and respect our individual dignity and gifts, to support the attainment of a better world, to praise the mystery, and to engage in the practices of a religious life.”

That definition may seem a little dry, but more poetically we covenant so that we can dance together as Ric Masten said;

Let it be a dance we do.
May I have this dance with you?
For the good times, and the bad times too,
Let it be a dance.

A child is born. We all must die.
A time for joy, a time to cry --
So, take it as it passes by,
And let it be a dance.

The morning star comes out at night.
Without the dark, there'd be no light.
Yet, if nothing's wrong, then nothing's right.
So, let it be a dance.

Let the sun shine. Let it rain.
Share the laughter. Bear the pain.
Round and round we go again,

And let it be a dance.

Those words are “dear to my heart”. I feel the emotions they create when I encounter other members of our beloved community outside our walls, when I work on FUUSA business in a spirit of cooperation, when I am moved by a worship service, and when I make a connection with a new person seeking what we have to offer. More importantly, they also come to mind when I share a FUUSA member’s profound joy or pain. When a baby is born or someone dies. As a beloved community we must be here for each other as we go through life’s dance. I hope, working together, we can create a covenant that will inspire us as we dance together in beloved community.

Religious Exploration

Our seventh source

The mention of a seventh Source may be curious to you, and for different reasons, depending on your understanding of Unitarian Universalism. Some of you may think “seventh **Source**? I know there are seven Principles, but are there sources too?” And others may think “**seventh** Source? I thought there were only six.”

If you enter the classrooms of the older children you’ll see not only posters that list the seven Unitarian Universalist Principles, but also posters of our six Sources, from which Unitarian Universalism draws:

- ◆ Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- ◆ Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love;
- ◆ Wisdom from the world’s religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- ◆ Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God’s love by loving our neighbors as ourselves
- ◆ Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and

spirit;

- ◆ Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature

What is missing from these sources? Religious educators have identified one more source which we can use to develop our faith and our understanding of the world and our place in it - Unitarian Universalism itself.

I recently attended the annual fall conference of LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Association. You often hear it pronounced “LeRAYdah”.) in historic Williamsburg, VA. The theme of the conference was *The Arc of the Universe is Long - How Unitarian Universalist History Matters*.

As one of the keynote speakers, Rev. Dr. Paul Rasor explained, our Unitarian Universalist history matters because it gives us a place from which to stand. It is not as if each of us is starting from scratch. Our history and the stories of those who have gone before us give us a framework to understand what matters – what our common values are. And so we have a responsibility to learn the stories within Unitarian Universalism not just for the information about our history, but also so we can wrestle with the ideas of them, understand the context that they are in, come up with our own ideas and struggle again, until the story is our own and we are part of the story.

As our religious education volunteers can tell you, most Sunday school sessions start with a story. It is not just for fun; it is to engage both the children and

the adults in the religious work of wrestling with the story. The stories in our program come from all seven Sources. And hopefully, children will hear the stories repeated. Those way new insights can arise, including the realization of whose voices are not heard in the story.

Stories are not just for children. The Tapestry of Faith program has story based courses for children, youth and adults. One of Tapestry of Faith’s features is that it is all available on line. So I’m able to email the families of each Sunday school group a link of that week’s session, which includes the story, and ways to bring the message home as well. The stories are listed alphabetically at <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/index.shtml> and you can search for stories there too. You might want to check out the adult UU history course, *Faith Like a River* at <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults/river/index.shtml>

As Rev. Rasor shared at the conference, our past influences our present, and our past and present influence the future. What we do now and *how* we do it matters. Let’s be more inclusive. Let’s hear different stories than the one’s we’ve already heard. We are already telling the larger story; let’s hear local, newer ones. Let’s also be mindful of whose story is not being told. Finally, let’s not only identify and articulate act on our ideals, let’s act on them. With a deep understanding of who we are and what we stand for, we can take action to bend that arc of the universe toward justice.

In joy and service,
Leah



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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)

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, Jaye Holly

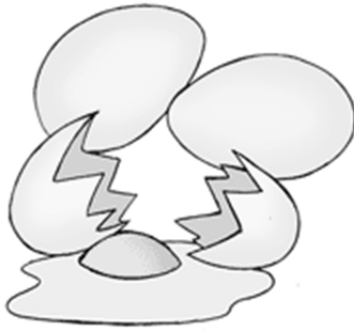
Send submissions for all publications to:
Windows@albanyuu.org or to the church office.

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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Annual Change-of-Time Breakfast
Recently re-named:
***George Kleinberger Memorial
Change-of-Time Breakfast:***

Change-of Time Breakfast will be held on Sunday, November 4th,
2012

1st seating at 8:30am

2nd seating at 9am

If possible, please sign up in advance
(but as always, you can also pay at the door).

Adult entry will be \$5.00
children 5-12 will be \$3.00
children under age 5 will be at no charge.

To sign up to attend, volunteer for this event (or with any
questions)

Please e-mail Renee Panetta at panetta4@nycap.rr.com
or Call (518) 869-3074.



Holiday Craft Fair & Bazaar



Saturday, Nov. 10, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Sunday, Nov. 11, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Offering a diverse selection of quality handcrafted items

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.

Visit our website at www.albanyuu.org for more information and driving directions.

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