

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

October 2011

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Sunday Schedule

- 9:00 AM
Mindfulness Meditation
- 9:45 AM
Nursery/Toddler rooms open
- 10:00 AM
Service
Children's Chapel
(1st Sunday/mo.)
Religious Education
- 11:00 AM
Coffee Hour
- 11:45 AM
Forum (2nd & 4th Sundays/mo.)
- 7:00 PM
War Healing Circle
(2nd & 4th Sunday/mo.)

Services

Oct. 2 "Our Prophetic Inheritance," the Rev. Sam Trumbore
Many Unitarian Universalists have mixed feelings or have left behind many aspects of the Biblical tradition of our institutional heritage. The characters who still have a hold on us, though, are the prophets. These trouble-makers who rail against the *status quo* we honor in our principle of justice, equity and compassion in human relations. They spoke truth to power. Are we willing to do the same?

Oct. 9 "The Revelation of Encounter," Dr. Daniel McKanan,
Featuring highlights from his forthcoming book, *Prophetic Encounters: Religion and the American Radical Tradition*, Dr. McKanan will challenge us to find the sacred within our shared struggle for freedom, equality, and community.

Oct. 16 "Prophecy, Atonement and Forgiveness," the Rev. Sam Trumbore (in the Sanctuary)
As Sam's Outlook column points out this month, prophets can be difficult people with whom to sustain a relationship without a shared sense of purpose, commitment and urgency. Being present with a prophet requires a willingness to witness one's resistance and reactivity. It requires allowing unpleasant emotions to surface. And it requires a willingness to consider being changed by the encounter ... for the better.

Oct. 23 "The Prophet Margin," the Rev. Douglas Taylor
There has been a shift in how we do justice-making these days. The Beloved Community is still our goal, but the map showing the way is changing. The good news is we are well on our way.

Oct. 30 "Celebrating the Wheel of Life," Leah Purcell and the Rev. Sam Trumbore
This multi-generational service will draw on themes and practices from the "Day of the Dead" festival in Mexico and Earth centered tradition, Samhain. We will honor the births, major life passages, and deaths that have occurred over the past year in our congregation. You are invited to bring a picture or a symbolic object that remembers the person or event. Out of them, we will create an altar to honor them and our shared life together.



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: Oct. 16 Service will be in the Sanctuary.

Events happening every week in the month of October

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 the month of October

1-Oct	Saturday		
9:00 AM	Women for a Better World	Channing Hall, Kitchen, Room 23, Room 24/25	
2-Oct	Sunday		
11:00 AM	Everybody's Birthday Party	Channing Hall	
11:30 AM	Social Responsibilities Council	Room B-7	
12:30 PM	Rite of Passage	Room B-8	
3-Oct	Monday		
6:15 PM	Religious Education Council	Channing Hall, Kitchen	
4-Oct	Tuesday		
7:00 PM	Lifespan: Biblical Sources of our UU		
	Prophetic Imperative	Room B-8	
7:00 PM	UU Christians	Room B-5	
5-Oct	Wednesday		
5:30 PM	Safe Congregation Response Team (SCRT)	Room B-7	
7:00 PM	Wellspring Meeting	Room B-8	
6-Oct	Thursday		
6:30 PM	Finance Committee	Room B-8	
7-Oct	Friday		
5:30 PM	Multigenerational Pasta Potluck	Channing Hall, Kitchen	
6:00 PM	NYSCU - Binghamton	Offsite	
8-Oct	Saturday		
8:00 AM	NYSCU - Binghamton	Offsite	
10:00 AM	Essential Documents Seminar	Channing Hall, Kitchen	
9-Oct	Sunday		
11:45 AM	Forum: movie	Emerson Community Hall	
5:30 PM	Walker Book Club	Channing Hall, Kitchen	
10-Oct	Monday		
7:00 PM	Monday Men	Room B-8	
7:00 PM	New UU - Theology and Worship	Room B-7	
11-Oct	Tuesday		
7:00 PM	Lifespan: Biblical Sources of our UU		
	Prophetic Imperative	Room B-8	
12-Oct	Wednesday		
5:00 PM	Religious Services Committee Meeting	Room B-8	
13-Oct	Thursday		
7:00 PM	Program Coordinating Council (PCC)	Room B-8	
14-Oct	Friday		
6:00 PM	UU Weekend at Silver Bay	Silver Bay, Lake George	
6:30 PM	Guilderland Plus Potluck	Thomson's	
15-Oct	Saturday		
8:00 AM	UU Weekend at Silver Bay	Silver Bay, Lake George	

16-Oct	Sunday		
8:00 AM	UU Weekend at Silver Bay	Silver Bay, Lake George	
11:30 AM	Peace Team	Room B-7	
18-Oct	Tuesday		
7:00 PM	Lifespan: Biblical Sources of our UU		
	Prophetic Imperative	Room B-8	
19-Oct	Wednesday		
7:00 PM	Wellspring Meeting	Room B-8	
20-Oct	Thursday		
7:00 PM	Board of Trustees	Room B-8	
22-Oct	Saturday		
8:45 AM	Getting to Know UU	Kitchen, Room B-8	
6:00 PM	Circle Dinners	Various homes	
23-Oct	Sunday		
6:00 PM	Circle Dinners	Various homes	
24-Oct	Monday		
5:30 PM	Lifespan: Crash Course Continued	Room 26	
7:00 PM	Monday Men	Room B-8	
27-Oct	Thursday		
6:30 PM	Finance Committee	Room B-8	
28-Oct	Friday		
5:30 PM	Rite of Passage Overnight	Channing, Kitchen, B-7, B-8	
29-Oct	Saturday		
8:00 AM	Rite of Passage Overnight	Channing, Kitchen, B-7, B-8	
2:00 PM	Halloween Party / Food Drive	Channing Hall, Kitchen	
30-Oct	Sunday		
12:00 PM	Rummage Sale Setup and Sorting begins	Emerson	

Forum

Sunday, Oct. 9, 11:45

"Mother, Caring for 7 Billion" (movie)

Looking Ahead

11/4	Rummage Sale
11/5	Rummage Sale
11/6	Change of Time Breakfast
11/13	Holiday Bazaar
11/18-19	Meditation Retreat
11/19-20	Circle Dinners
11/20	Concert: Harpsichord & Viola da Gamba
11/20	Transgender Day of Remembrance
11/24	Thanksgiving Potluck

News

Guests in our pulpit

Oct. 9 Dr. Daniel McKanan is the Ralph Waldo Emerson Unitarian Universalist Association Senior Lecturer at Harvard Divinity School. A historian of religious social change movements, he has written on nineteenth century abolitionists and pacifists, on intentional communities in the Camphill and Catholic Worker movements, and on religion and socialism.

Oct. 23 The Rev. Douglas Taylor serves the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton. Rev. Trumbore will be exchanging pulpits with him this Sunday.

Everybody's Birthday

On Sunday, October 2, we will celebrate Everybody's Birthday Party instead of regular coffee hour. Tables marked for each month, laden with a delicious cake or two, will be set up in Channing Hall. This is your opportunity to meet and greet old friends and new, from seniors to toddlers, who share your birthday month. Come, share, connect and celebrate! If you would like to help by providing a cake and/or hosting a table, please call Linda Way or Lois Thomson, Gluten-free cakes will be available – everyone has a birthday – everyone is invited!

Give Away the Plate: East African Relief

FUUSA will give away the plate on Sunday, Oct. 2 to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) East African Relief Fund. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

The long-term conflict and statelessness in southern Somalia, compounded by the severe drought due to changing rain patterns affecting the Horn of Africa and East Africa at large, has resulted in a catastrophic famine in this area. The UUSC is providing immediate relief for Somalis affected by famine, and assisting communities in Ethiopia and Kenya that are hosting Somali refugees. The UUSC is using a multifaceted approach, and is working with partners on the ground to provide immediate relief. If you seek more detail, please go to http://www.uusc.org/content/uusc_launches_relief_fund_for_east_africa_famine If you are unable to join us on October 2, you may

Flyers in this issue

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

- ◆ Healthy Congregations Training
- ◆ Halloween Party

leave a check to the UUSC with East African Relief Fund in the memo line, or go to the Somalia and East Africa Relief Fund on the UUSC website.

Newcomer orientation

Learning about Unitarian Universalism and FUUSA, Saturday, Oct. 22

We invite you to meet with others who are new to the congregation at our next “**Getting to Know UU**” session, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 22 from 8:45 a.m. to noon.

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

There is a sign up sheet in Channing Hall (at the Sign Up Site), or you can call Amy Lent interim Membership Coordinator (and Church Administrator) at the church office, 463-7135. Childcare is available: please let us know you need it when you register.

New Member Sunday

On Sunday, Oct. 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; Fi-

nancial 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 Team or Amy Lent, interim Membership Coordinator, (at the church office, 463-7135) if you are interested in becoming a member.

Additional New Member Sundays are expected to take place the first Sundays in December, February, April and June.

Got five?

We still need a few more volunteers in order to have teaching teams with 4 volunteers each so that everyone gets two Sundays "off" each month. Since we're doing Workshop Rotation in January, we need teams of 4 only through December. That means a commitment of only FIVE Sunday mornings! And it won't happen without you! From the toddler group to the Senior High youth, the goals and needs are the same. And each age is important. Let me know if you would like to volunteer. Put children in your midst, share their mystery of being alive and see if that doesn't enrich your life. - Leah Purcell, DRE (dre@albanyuu.org or office 463-7135)

Lunch with the Minister

Noon, Sunday, Oct. 23, at Sukhothai Restaurant, 62 Central Avenue

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, ethics, ideas ... and whatever else comes up! For September, we will meet at Van's Vietnamese Restaurant 307 Central (between Lake and Quail) on the north side of the street. Please RSVP by 11:30 am 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!

NYSCU annual meeting Oct. 7-8 at UU Binghamton.

Registration forms are available at FUUSA for the NYS Convention of Universalists annual meeting. Please check the NYSCU web page at <http://nyscu.org/> for details as they become available.

Rummage time...

It's back! The Annual Fall Rummage Sale featuring gently used clothing will be held in Emerson Community Hall on Friday, Nov. 4 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday, Nov. 5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The bag sale will start at 12 noon on Saturday. What we need are items to sell and volunteers to help with the success of this fund raiser for both FUUSA and the charities that we help.

The month of October is a GREAT month to go through drawers and closets to see what is gently used but you no longer want to wear. Please remember to be sure the zippers work, the buttons are on and there are no holes in the clothing items. We are also looking for jewelry and fancier clothing. The committee would like the donations to be wearable and worth purchasing.



Besides gently used clothing for all ages and seasons we hope to have holiday decorations (think Thanksgiving, all the December holidays and News Years Eve.) bedding, towels and table linens.

Now that you have an idea of what you want to donate...Please sign up to help! Beginning on Sunday Oct. 30 and through out the week we will need help to create a boutique type atmosphere in Emerson. Then, of course, is the sale itself and the Saturday early afternoon transformation from boutique to worship space for Sunday!! Sign up sheets will be on the bulletin board in Channing Hall starting on Sept. 25. If you have any questions feel free to contact Patty Burch.



PCC news

The Program Coordinating Council (PCC) decided at their September meeting to do more of their

work online this year, and gather in person on these Thursdays: 10/13, 12/8, 2/9, 4/12 and 6/7. Please put these dates on your calendar!

At the event scheduling meeting last spring, the PCC wisely booked some dates on the FUUSA calendar for multi-generational potlucks/events. We're looking for volunteer teams to organize them and plan a program (serious or just plain fun!) after the meal. FUUSAns would be welcome to attend the potluck, the program, or both. Potluck directions and advice for organizers will be provided! We hope to end up with a mix of intergenerational events that will help strengthen connections within our community.

If your committee would be interested in hosting one of these events, please contact Peggy Sherman. The dates planned are: Fri. Dec 9, Fri. Jan 20, Fri. Feb 10, Fri. Mar 16, Sat. Apr 21, Fri. May 11, Fri. June 8.

The first words in the Sunday service every week are spoken by the person doing the Committee Focus. This brief role gives you an opportunity (one minute!) to promote your committee or FUUSA activity to the congregation. If your committee would like to sign up for one of the Sunday "Announcer" slots, please contact Peggy Sherman.

Holiday Bazaar just around the corner

FUUSA's annual Holiday Bazaar & Craft Fair will be held Saturday, November 12 and Sunday, November 13, 2011. We are looking for volunteers to help make things to sell, set up the day before, bake, and work the days of the event. There will be outside vendors, tables with FUUSA-made and donated items, a bake sale, and a café serving lunch and snacks. If you are interested in purchasing a space to sell your hand-made items or just want to donate something that you have made for us to sell at the event, or help out in any of the areas mentioned above, please contact Jan Satin or Barb Manning.

Notes from Joy Library

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander. The New Press, 2010. (364.973 ALE) shelved in NEW BOOKS.

"Ever since Barack Obama lifted his right hand and

took his oath of office, pledging to serve the United States as its 44th president, ordinary people and their leaders around the globe have been celebrating our nation's "triumph over race." Obama's election has been touted as the final nail in the coffin of Jim Crow, the bookend placed on the history of racial caste in America...

"Perhaps greater lies have been told in the past century, but they can be counted on one hand. Racial caste is alive and well in America. Most people don't like it when I say this. It makes them angry. In the "era of colorblindness" there's a nearly fanatical desire to cling to the myth that we as a nation have "moved beyond" race... "There are more African Americans under correctional control today—in prison or jail, on probation or parole—than were enslaved in 1850, a decade before the Civil War began... "As of 2004, more African American men were disenfranchised (due to felon disenfranchisement laws) than in 1870, the year the Fifteenth Amendment was ratified, prohibiting laws that explicitly deny the right to vote on the basis of race..."

"When we pull back the curtain and take a look at what our "colorblind" society creates without affirmative action, we see a familiar social, political, and economic structure—the structure of racial caste. The entrance into this new caste system can be found at the prison gate... This is not Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream. This is not the promised land. The cyclical rebirth of caste in America is a recurring racial nightmare..." Michelle Alexander. Mother Jones <http://motherjones.com/politics/2010/03/new-jim-crow-war-on-drugs> (Accessed 9/15/2011).

THE PERSISTENCE OF THE COLOR LINE: Racial Politics and the Obama Presidency by Randall Kennedy. Pantheon, 2011. (973.9320 KEN) shelved in NEW BOOKS.

"Mr. Kennedy, a Harvard Law School professor, sets what we know of Mr. Obama's presidency thus far in relief against the sorry history of racial politics in the United States. He worries, even in 2011, about "an inflated sense of accomplishment" in regard to racial progress. He points out that, in all of its history, America has elected only three black senators and two black governors..."

“Among the best things about *“The Persistence of the Color Line”* is watching Mr. Kennedy hash through the positions about Mr. Obama staked out by black commentators on the left and right, from Stanley Crouch and Cornel West to Juan Williams and Tavis Smiley. He can be pointed. Noting the way Mr. Smiley consistently “voiced skepticism regarding whether blacks should back Obama,” Mr. Kennedy quotes, with seeming approval, a headline on the Web site *TheRoot.com* that asked, “Who Died and Made Tavis King?”

“The finest chapter in *“The Persistence of the Color Line”* is so resonant, and so personal, it could nearly be the basis for a book of its own. That chapter is titled “Reverend Wright and My Father: Reflections on Blacks and Patriotism.”

“Recalling some of the criticisms of America’s past made by Mr. Obama’s former pastor, Mr. Kennedy writes with feeling about his own father, who put each of his three of his children through Princeton but who “never forgave American society for its racist mistreatment of him and those whom he most loved.

“Pay attention too to this book’s many ringing sentences. Let me close with this poison-tipped one. “When people exclaimed that they never thought that they would live to see the day a black man was elected president,” Mr. Kennedy observes, “they were indicating how little they expected of their fellow Americans.” **DWIGHT GARNER** “One Nation, Still Divisible by Race” *BOOKS OF THE TIMES*. August 11, 2011

Lifespan Learning

Essential Documents seminar
Saturday, Oct. 8, 10 AM to noon

There is still time to sign up for the Essential Documents seminar hosted by the Endowment Trust. The seminar will deal with Living Wills, Healthcare Proxies and Durable Powers of Attorney. We need to know in advance if you intend to come, so please contact Dave Metz, or sign up at the Sign Up Site in Channing Hall.

Introduction to Biblical Sources of our UU
Prophetic Imperative

Tuesdays, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 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.

The four classes will begin with a look at the historical and theological context out of which the prophets emerged. Who were they and what was their agenda? The next class will look at the written record of the prophets. What is the structure and integrity of those texts and how do we read and interpret them? Once the class has a greater

understanding of the prophet's context and interpreting their narrative, it will look at samples of prophetic writing from the different Biblical sources to better understand the prophets in their own words, getting a sense of their similarities and differences. The course will conclude by looking at how the Biblical prophets have informed and guided Unitarian and Universalist social visionaries and modern prophets like the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. How can reading them can be relevant to Unitarian Universalists today?

Each class will build on the last, but people are welcome to come to any of these classes. Please register at the Sign Up Site in Channing Hall or contact the office (463-7135).

The New UU, religious education for adults
Session 1: Theology and Worship

Monday, Oct. 10, 7:00-8:30 PM

Facilitated by Rev. Sam Trumbore and Don Odell

The New UU provides a chance for newcomers and long-timers to connect and to examine their own stories in the light of their respective Unitarian Universalist journeys.

You can sign up for any one or all the sessions. See the Sign Up Site in Channing Hall for list of all six sessions' topics. And if you have questions, please contact Don Odell.

Our Community

Intergenerational Pasta Potluck Friday, Oct. 7, 5:30 pm

It's not too late to sign up! This is a potluck OR pay event, meaning you can sign up to bring food or sign up to just come (and pay at the door – the cost is \$3 per adult, \$2 per child under 12, \$10 max per family). The after dinner program, for those who would like to stay, will be a Religious Education open house. Sign-up sheets for dinner and for volunteers are in Channing Hall.

Women for a Better World Potluck brunch, Oct. 1

A new group was formed in the late Spring of 2011 at FUUSA. The group is called Women for a Better World. Our initial meeting was filled with great ideas and MANY suggestions on how to make it a 'better world'.

So the women's group is continuing with our second meeting on Oct. 1, 2011 from 10a.m.-12noon; in Channing Hall. We will be hosting a potluck brunch and a guest speaker Elaine Houston from News Channel 13. Elaine has written a very inspirational book called *The Friendship Between Women* and will be talking about her book.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Nichola Dutre or Patty Burch.

Don't miss UU Weekend at Silver Bay!

Our wonderful UU Weekend at the Silver Bay Resort on beautiful Lake George is right around the corner - October 14-16. If you haven't signed up, and paid your deposit and even your balance, times a-wasting! The weekend not only promises spectacular fall foliage, but thought-inspiring workshops, a hike, talent show and great children's programs. Kicking the weekend off in grand style, there will be music by Kim and Reggie Harris on Friday evening. Participating in the UU Weekend is a wonderful way to deepen your connection with our and other UU communities. You can sign up for the weekend before and after the service on Sundays, or you can download the registration form from the FUUSA web site and send it in with your payment. Instructions are on the form. But hurry, you don't want to miss out on one of the

highlights of the year! (<http://www.albanyuu.org/uuwregform.pdf>) - UU Weekend Committee.

6 to 9 at 6:09: October Circle Dinners Take your pick, Saturday, the 22nd or Sunday, the 23rd

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. Some dinners will be family oriented: We encourage 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: Oct. 10

Save these dates for future dinners:

Saturday, Nov. 19 or Sunday, Nov. 20

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.

Small Group Ministry

Small Group Ministry (often referred to as SGM) is an opportunity to really get to know other FUUSAns and to share matters of consequence in our personal lives. Are you interested in facilitating or participating in a small group? Contact John Sherman or visit the Sign Up Site in Channing Hall. Fall groups will start meeting in October.

Walker Book Club

The next meeting of the Walker Book Club is Sunday, October 9, 2011, at FUUSA at 5:30 PM in Channing Hall. Newcomers are always welcome.

Each meeting begins with a potluck supper, fol-

lowed 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. Participants may choose to either: bring and store their own dishes, drinking vessels and eating utensils; or use dishes etc. at FUUSA and help with the dishwasher.

Dates and books currently scheduled:

Oct.9: Just Kids by Patti Smith

Nov. 13: When Everything Changed by Gail Collins

Contact Linda Hunt with any questions or for a list of books suggested by participants for future months. Join the Walker E-List and participate in suggesting and choosing books to discuss.

CommUUnity 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, October 14

It is time for the Guilderland Plus Pot Luck dinner group to meet again. The Guilderland Plus group, so called because it started as a neighborhood group some years ago but now includes everybody interested in joining us, regardless of neighborhood. We are an informal social group that meets once a month at the homes of those willing and able to host us. We have a great time sharing dishes and chatting away the evening.

The first meeting of the year will be co-hosted by Lois and Bob Thomson and Anita Patka. It will take place at the community room of Heritage Village in Guilderland Please contact Lois and Bob for directions and to talk about a dish to share.

Gardens and garden tools

Many thanks to all the volunteers - and staff - that kept our gardens in such good shape during this summer's extreme weather conditions. Also, if someone left behind a good set of pruners, contact Amy Lent in the office. Coming soon - information on fall cleanup! -Paula Moskowitz

**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.

UU Christians meet

FUUSA's UU Christian group meets at 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of the month. Anyone who is interested in considering New Testament stories with an inquiring mind is welcome to participate.

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

What is "Social Justice?" The Social Responsibilities Council is involved in many things called "social justice", because you here at FUUSA support these things. But probably each one of us defines the meaning in a different way. For some it is doing tangible things, cooking for the homeless, helping an immigrant family, etc. For others it is working toward legislation that makes the world a better place, saving the planet for our children. Whatever we do, we are more effective when we work together.

An issue that we have not worked on is the cause of the undocumented immigrant. For most of us, this is a nameless, faceless person who has "crashed the line, not taken turns." And who of us

likes that? But what if that line crusher is starving, or has starving children, or is separated from family? In his sermon 9/18, Rev. Sam spoke of such persons who are literally dying to try to get to the U.S.

The UUA General Assembly in June 2012 will be focusing on the issue of Arizona's repressive law and GA will not be business as usual, but will be involved in ways to deal with the injustices toward immigrants, both in Arizona and other states such as our own. How FUUSA will participate is our challenge.

All are welcome at our Social Responsibilities Council meetings the first Sunday of the month.

Standing on the Side of Love
Lois Griffin

FOCUS update

The FOCUS School Supply Project was a major success and FUUSA was right there along with 12 other congregations, making sure that the children of the families that use the Food Pantry, were ready for school!

- ◆ 160 students each received a backpack full of grade appropriate school supplies
- ◆ 91 students living at the Schuyler Inn (an overflow shelter for homeless families) received backpacks full of grade appropriate school supplies.
- ◆ 29 boxes of extra supplies went off to the district office, City of Albany Public Schools, for distribution to children in need.

To all the FUUSA members and friends who donated throughout the summer both with actual school supplies and through monetary donations-THANK YOU!

FUUSAns have been strong and loyal supporters of the Focus Food Pantry –a tradition we hope to continue this year! Every month on the 4th Sunday you will find Focus Food Pantry envelopes in the Order of Service. All monies collected in these envelopes, cash or checks, will be donated to the Focus Food Pantry to purchase nutritious food for the ever-growing population in Albany that uses the Food Pantry to feed their families.

Thank you in Advance for supporting the Focus Food Pantry.

Some very exciting news about the FOCUS Food Pantry! The breakfast program will be running throughout the year beginning next month. Between May through October, there will be a "breakfast express" with cold meal choices only, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Then, from November through April, there will be a traditional hot/cold breakfast entrée selection as always; on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Volunteers will be needed for both breakfast programs, so please call or e-mail Renee Panetta or Patty Burch with any additional questions or to become involved. Additionally, we are always looking for pantry volunteers; so please feel free to get in touch with us about that as well.-- Renee Panetta and Patty



Your generosity to FOCUS feeds folks at the Express Breakfast Club and at the Winter Breakfast Program which serves hot breakfasts three days a week starting on Nov. 1.

Burch

Green Sanctuary

The Green Sanctuary Committee would like to announce a couple of important events for the congregation to take note of:

- 1) We will be showing the movie "Mother, Caring for 7 Billion" at 11:45 on Sunday, October 9th.
- 2) We will be sponsoring a potluck on ethical eating Friday evening November 5th.

Both events are educational and entertaining.

Much of our work for the past couple of months has been around the hydrofracking issue here in New York as Gov. Cuomo and Dept. of Environmental Conservation consider issuing permits for this controversial method of drilling for methane (natural gas). Go to the FUUSA Wiki (<http://fuusalbany.org/wiki/>) to catch up on all our activities. Better yet, join us for our next meeting on Oct. 16th after the service.

Social Justice Conference

Oct. 29 at First Universalist, Rochester

Come and meet social justice activists from congregations throughout the St. Lawrence District. Come and hear the Rev. Susan Frederick Gray, Parish Minister at UU Congregation of Phoenix, Paradise Valley, Arizona addressing *Repairing the*

Statue of Liberty: UU's and Immigration in the U.S. Rev. Frederick Gray has help lead the fight against the repressive immigration laws in Arizona, and has been an important voice for the "Justice GA" in Phoenix next June.

Registration can be done online at <https://sluud.wufoo.com/forms/social-justice-conference-2011/>. The conference registration brochure is also available in the lobby display at FUUSA, and at the SRC table on Sunday mornings during coffee hour, or at <http://www.sld.uua.org/>

[pdfs/2011/2011sjconferencebrochure.pdf](https://www.sld.uua.org/pdfs/2011/2011sjconferencebrochure.pdf). And, let the Social Responsibilities Council know if you are going by signing up at the SRC table on Sunday mornings, or on the sign up board in Channing Hall, or by contacting Don Odell (drodell31@yahoo.com, 482-4574). We would like to work out carpooling arrangements for either Friday afternoon or very early Saturday morning.

The pre-registration fee is \$30 if done by October 22, and is \$35 at the door. Students: \$10.

Columns

Sam's Outlook

On being a prophetic religious force

If you met a Biblical prophet at the town gate, more than likely you wouldn't like him. He would be ripping his clothes, pouring dirt and ash on his head, and calling out in distress. He would be yelling at people to listen. If you stopped, he would scold you for enjoying yourself while the poor went hungry, the widow and orphan had no place to sleep and the sick had no comfort. He would bring to your attention problems you'd been overlooking or avoiding. The prophet would accuse you of forgetting your covenant with God to obey the commandments before everything else. And finally the prophet would lament. He would lament the horrible things that were in store for you and the whole community if you didn't change your ways.

Do these Biblical prophets sound familiar? They should be. We hear them on the radio, television talk shows, we read them in magazines and newspapers, we get emails, texts and tweets from them every day. If you are one, you may be constantly frustrated that people don't see and feel the distress you do as you look at the world and weep for it and our bleak future. If you aren't one, you may find these prophets endlessly annoying and irritating as they look at the "cup almost empty" side of every issue. You may be tired of their shrill voices and their constant harassment.

I thought about the tension between prophets and their targets when I heard our Threshold Consultant, the Rev. Renee Ruchotzke, talking about our congregation's mission statement. She said, "I hear a passive voice in your mission statement."

This had never occurred to me.

I reread the statement and noticed these words, "to respond to moral and ethical issues in our local, national and world communities." I was glad those words are in our statement but hadn't realized they are re-active rather than pro-active. It can be read this way: If we notice there are problems in the world, we'll do something about it, otherwise, we'll just focus on our own concerns. You can also hear a passive voice in "to sustain a vital and nurturing congregational life." Yes, we do want a vital and nurturing congregational life, but "sustain" suggests maintaining a status quo rather than being a leader in envisioning the multi-cultural, multi-racial, pluralistic community that our Welcoming Congregation statement presents. (Have a look at them carefully next Sunday on the back of your order of service.)

When I attend our Social Responsibilities Council meetings and see twenty people around the table with a strong Green Sanctuary Committee and our engaged Peace Team, I witness an active, prophetic voice out in front leading our congregation. A year and a half ago in the *Building the World We Dream About* class exploring what it takes to truly become a multi-cultural and multi-racial congregation, I witnessed a growing commitment to envisioning a different kind of institutional identity. The care and attention to climate change, conservation, peak oil and resource depletion by the Green Sanctuary Committee is anything but passive as they gently move us in the direction of sustainable lifestyles. Some of us are moving and getting ahead of our mission statement, moving with active rather than passive voices. Others however may not be with the program, focused on their daily struggles, and be fine with a congregation that is a little more laid back.

So to help both the prophets in our midst and those who feel harassed by the prophets get to know and understand each other better, I'll be focusing this month on the theme of prophecy in the sermons and in a class I'll be presenting during the month of October on Tuesday nights at 7:00pm. By looking backward at the Biblical prophets and at contemporary prophets, we'll see they have much in common.

What is at stake for us in this exploration is the identity of our congregation. That prophetic energy becomes quite visible within Unitarian Universalism when attending our yearly General Assembly meetings that draws out our prophets. My sense of us is we would like our congregational purpose to have more of an active voice. Yet this isn't universal by any means. I challenged the congregation in my September 18 sermon on immigration reform, bringing that activist energy home from General Assembly, anticipating "Justice GA 2012." I heard both positive and negative responses.

What we are good at, and enjoy doing, is communication. We like to talk. We like to consider together the bigger issues and then take a stand. Let us begin, with our Threshold Consultant's help, to consider if we are ready to choose a more active voice, to articulate a compelling vision of the world we dream about, and to start committing our resources of time, talent and treasure to bring it to life.—Rev. Sam

Chuck's Chat

FUUSA's response to the Justice General Assembly (GA)

The service on September 18th provided some background information on the 2012 Unitarian Universalist General Assembly that will be in Phoenix next June. The Board also discussed this at our retreat in August. We agreed that a FUUSA response must come from the congregation and not be decided by the Board. At the retreat Rev. Sam offered to present the issues related to the 2012 GA in his sermon on September 18th. For those of you who were not there or who would like to re-read his sermon it is available at: <http://www.trumbore.org/sam/sermons/Considering-Justice-GA-2012.pdf>

At the end of his sermon he asked for a response from members of the congregation who would be interested in working on an appropriate FUUSA response to the Justice GA.

I admit that I do not yet have a clear position on what FUUSA's response should be. But I do know based on our experience at the General Assembly in Charlotte this year that we can have an impact, even if it is on only one life. The story (which I apologize to those of you who have heard it) is:

While Barb and I were at the General Assembly in Charlotte this summer about 1,000 UU's gathered in Charlotte's Marshall Park to show support for all people to have equality and in particular, to show support for the L,B,G,T community in their fight for marriage equality. We were a sea of bright gold-colored T-shirts and hats, "Standing on the Side of Love". Coming on the heels of the passage of the bill in New York State, it was a moving event.

The importance of our continuing to speak out and maintain a public witness on issues that are important to us was re-enforced as we checked out of our hotel in Charlotte.

A young man of about 30 was standing behind the registration desk and asked if our stay had been pleasant. This young man had been the same person who had checked us into the hotel a week earlier. He asked if we were heading back to Albany. I said "Yes, we are and today we are proud to say that we are from New York, after the NYS legislature passed the marriage equality bill last Friday. Many New Yorkers have worked on getting this passed for a long time."

His demeanor changed and he became very serious. He said "That's what I like about UU's – you live your beliefs!"

We asked him "Did you see Saturday's 'Charlotte News'? There is a photo on the front page showing UU's demonstrating in nearby Marshall Park for equal rights for all L,B,G,T people in NC as well as all other states."

He said, "UU's have restored my faith in organized religion." He reached across the counter and grabbed one of my hands and one of Barb's hands and said "Thank you so much for telling me this. I really needed to hear this. You have made my day."

Holding back our tears, we said “Thank you for saying that; you have made our day, too.”

We felt proud to be a UU. But this battle for equal and just rights is not over for many different groups of people – whether they are part of the L, B, G, T community, people of color, immigrants or others. Our work is not done. Personally, we plan on going to the GA 2012 in Phoenix to continue this work. If others from the FUUSA community want to join us as individuals in body, in spirit, or by providing financial support to those who want to go, we support that effort.

However, before the FUUSA response is finalized, I believe there needs to be a more in-depth analysis of a number of questions including those raised by Reese Satin in another section of the newsletter. These discussions need to begin soon. Please let me or Rev. Sam know if you want to participate--Chuck

Point of View

Some comments and questions regarding FUUSA's immigration activities

After today's sermon describing some of the horrific effects of current US immigration policy and practices and a call for FUUSAs to take part in the upcoming Social Justice GA, I am left with the following unresolved issues.

1. How do we (UUA & FUUSA) want to change the policy?
 - a) Do we just oppose the current state of affairs or do we have an agreed-upon set of substitute policies?
 - b) If we have, what are they and what are their implications.
 - c) If we don't, do we support fully open immigration?
2. What will demonstrations in Phoenix seek to do?
 - a) Change Arizona law?
 - b) Advance our, as yet unspecified immigration agenda?
 - c) Something else?
3. Before FUUSA undertakes significant participation, I think we should develop answers to the above questions as well as the following issues:

a) How do we propose to deal with the results of more liberal immigration policies which currently account for a number of serious problems with national identity in European countries resulting in oppressive legislation.

b) What actions are we prepared to take regarding opposing more draconian state laws in Georgia and Indiana, or is Arizona just a convenient target?

c) How do we plan to deal with the economic impacts of significantly more open immigration? For example, if we pay migrant workers “equal” pay, how will we adapt to \$7 a head lettuce?

In short, simply railing against current immigration law is not a sufficient basis for encouraging the congregation to adopt a new initiative and support the social justice GA. At any rate, the statement in our plan to support activities consistent with our values seems to me sufficient basis for the activities you're seeking to support. So, the issue seems to be not whether action on immigration policy is consistent with our strategic plan, but whether we have specific immigration policy goals and thoughtful plans of how to accomplish those goals.

I think we could do this through congregational information and discussion sessions on the topic.—
Reese Satin

Religious Exploration

“Put the children in our very midst! Let us give children opportunities to observe common things and happenings and stories that relate to their own experiences. Give them opportunities to sense for themselves the mystery in being alive and growing and learning. We would be companionable and sympathetic, joining children in their own wonderings and learnings and actions.” - Sophia Lyons Fahs

Some of you may be familiar with the work of Sophia Lyons Fahs and her relationship with Unitarian Universalism – others perhaps not. I learned a lot more about her at Heritage Week which was held this summer at Murray Grove and attended by about 20 UU Religious Educators and Ministers of Religious Education and led by Rev. Dr. Elizabeth M. Strong, herself a Minister of Religious Education and a scholar and my mentor in the credentialing program.

The focus of the six day program was the History of Unitarian Universalist Religious Education. I figured the week would be dull and full of arcane facts, but I was really interested to learn about how our curricula and programming have changed, and gone through phases that sometimes built up, but mostly reacted to the previous programs.

Mrs. Fahs worked to establish programming and curricula in the liberal religious tradition that has the child at the center of the program. This seems obvious to us now. What else would be at the center? Before the 1940's in Unitarianism and in Universalism, content was at the center. Briefly stated, the content was the Bible for both, and for the Universalists, professions of faith and for the Unitarians, catechisms.

Having the child at the center is not easy. It means that the child's emotional, social, cognitive and spiritual needs drive how curricula are written. And it means that the core of the work of the RE volunteers is not teaching any specific thing. We have no academic or theological requirements. Our UU Principles lift up for us what we value and they give all of us, especially children, something to hang onto as uniquely Unitarian Universalist and not something else.

Instead, the curricula and classroom environment established by the teachers provides children and youth with the opportunity to

- ◆ practice compassion,
- ◆ explore and wrestle with philosophical, moral, ethical and spiritual thoughts and beliefs, and
- ◆ be in a safe and inviolable space to practice Unitarian Universalism.

We encourage freedom of thought, questioning and expression, but not without guidance and encouragement. It's not for us to present our children with information and then "let them do their own thing." Rather, we create Sunday school to be a spiritual home for all of us, children, youth and the


adult volunteers, to explore and celebrate the things that bring meaning, joy and purpose to our lives.

Ironically being an RE volunteer is both easy and hard. You have come to FUUSA two Sunday mornings a month well-rested and ready to make connections with others. That's the hard part. But everything else you need is provided for you – space, materials, clear plans for each session, and the support of your fellow volunteers, the parents and your Religious Educator, (that's me!)

We still need a few more volunteers in order to have teaching teams with 4 volunteers each so that everyone gets two Sundays "off" each month. Since we're doing Workshop Rotation, we need teams of 4 only through December. **That means a commitment of only FIVE Sunday mornings!** **And it won't happen without you!** From the toddler group to the Senior High youth, the goals and needs are the same. And each age is important. Let me know if you would like to volunteer. Put children in your midst, share their mystery of being alive and see of that doesn't enrich your life.

In joy and service,
Leah

I'm in the homestretch! In the next few months I'll be completing my portfolio for the Religious Educators Credentialing Program. I'll send that to the Credentialing Committee at the UUA in January.



My interview with the Committee is in May. This spring I'll be revising my materials if necessary and preparing for the interview. If you're wondering what credentialing for Religious Educators is, check out this short, cute video <http://www.xtranormal.com/watch/12410498/religious-education-credentialing-program-intro>

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.

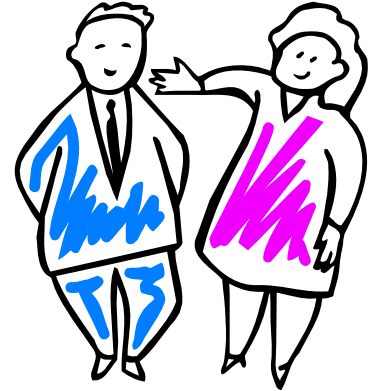
◆ **Building Steward** The Steward's job is to be welcoming and helpful to renters and to represent the interests of the Society. This includes understanding the rental contract and making sure both we and the renters do our parts, unlocking doors and supervising building entry, fetching needed supplies (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.

Hi! My name is...

When you wear your nametag, you are saying something about yourself beyond your name. Just by pinning it on, you say:

- ◆ I am an open person who wants to know others and be known.
- ◆ I am aware that our church is too large for me to know everyone and for everyone to know me.
- ◆ I am a courteous person, who relieves others of the struggle of trying to remember all our names;
- ◆ I am a realistic person who knows there is a constant stream of visitors to our church, and that they will never get to know us without our help.



Sunday Volunteer Opportunities

We need one Lead Usher, three Ushers, two Coffee Hosts, two Greeters, two Welcome Tablers, and one Chalice Lighter every Sunday!

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!

Other volunteer opportunities:

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! Contact Sharon Babala. And, thank you!

Contact Us

Board of Trustees 2011-2012

email: board@albanyuu.org

Executive Committee

Chuck Manning, President
Peg Sherman, Vice President
Dave Metz, Treasurer
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Church Administrator, interim Membership

Coordinator

Amy Lent administrator@albanyuu.org

Director of Religious Education

Leah Purcell dre@albanyuu.org

Music Director

Matt Edwards mge01@yahoo.com

Administrative Assistant/Sexton

David Stone sexton@albanyuu.org

Rental Agent

Lynne Lekakis kaneandlekakis@gmail.com

Custodian

Olga Oja

Regular meeting days

Check current calendar for time and location

Board of Trustees, 3rd Thursday

Program Coordinating Council, 2nd Thursday

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

Phone: 518.463.7135

Address: 405 Washington Avenue, between Robin Street and Lake Avenue, Albany, New York 12206

Main entrance is on Washington Avenue. Rear entrance is on West St. Both have ramp access. The building is fully handicapped accessible.

Parking: Parking is available on the street. On Sundays (and for some special events) FUUSA has permission to use the University at Albany's downtown campus parking lots: the Hawley Lot on Robin Street at Washington Avenue and the Thurlow Terrace Lot on Western Avenue.

Office hours

September-June: Monday-Friday, 9:00-4:00

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

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



Central East Regional Group of the Unitarian Universalist Association

www.cerguua.org

Rev. Renée Ruchotzke

Leadership Development Consultant

243 Highland Ave, Kent, OH 44240-2503

rruchotzke@uua.org

330-554-0828

The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, NY and the Central East Regional Group cordially invite you to send a group of your key leaders to:

Healthy Congregations® Training

Register at

<https://sluud.wufoo.com/forms/healthy-congregations-training-3-weekend-series/>

Deadline: Sunday, January 22, 2012

Our regional leadership development consultant, the Rev. Renee Ruchotzke is offering the six-part training that will help your congregation!

- Participants will gain increased knowledge about systems, health issues and how these affect their congregations.
- Participants will gain new understanding of their congregation as an interdependent system.
- Participants will gain a stronger view of themselves as part of a congregational team and as part of our larger faith.
- Participants will gain a deeper understanding of Unitarian Universalism and of leadership as a spiritual practice.
- The foundations of cluster partnerships and networks will be strongly encouraged after completion of the course.

Cost: \$85 per participant for the three weekend series

Includes: [Healthy Congregations®](#) workshop materials

Saturday's lunch all three weekends

Where: The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany
405 Washington Ave
Albany, NY 12206

Who: Ministers
Board Members
Committee on Ministry Members
Religious Educators
Committee Chairs
Emerging Leaders
Youth and Young Adult Leaders

...Over



Central East Regional Group of the Unitarian Universalist Association

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Rev. Renée Ruchotzke

Leadership Development Consultant

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rruchotzke@uua.org

330-554-0828

Schedule:

Friday, February 3, 2012: 6:30-9:30pm (dinner on your own)

Saturday, February 4, 2012: 9:00am – 5:00pm (lunch provided)

Session 1

“Creating Healthy Congregations”

This workshop focuses on the congregation’s ability to accept differences and to lead based on strength and mission.

Session 2

“Healthy Congregations Respond to Anxiety and Change”

This workshop encourages the promotion of health as “responding” to anxiety and change, rather than “reacting” to it. It also lifts up the ability of communities to manage rather than deny conflict and to promote flexibility and creativity.

Friday, February 24, 2012: 6:30-9:30pm (dinner on your own)

Saturday, February 25, 2012: 9:00am – 5:00pm (lunch provided)

Session 3

“Leadership in Healthy Congregations”

A major premise of this workshop is that leaders promote health through their presence and functioning, rather than programs or skills. It focuses on leadership through the lens of the leader’s ability to challenge and strengthen the congregation

Session 4

“Relationships in Healthy Congregations”

The focus on relationships is described through the abilities to encourage grace and truth. There is discussion of the development of care and empowerment in healthy congregations.

Friday, March 16, 2012: 6:30-9:30pm (dinner on your own)

Saturday, March 17, 2012: 9:00am – 5:00pm (lunch provided)

Session 5

“Healthy Congregations Develop Generous People”

Stewardship in this workshop is expanded as recognition of the interdependent web of life. The workshop focuses on developing gratitude and generosity through the ability of the community to make decisions.

Session 6

“The Spiritual Life of Healthy Congregations”

Spirituality is discussed as the ability to share and participate, rather than focus on the self. Hospitality for all and looking at life as a series of new beginnings is also a part of this resource.