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# Windows

Newsletter of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

Vol. '08-'09, Issue 6  
 February 2009

**Minister**

Rev. Sam Trumbore

**President**

Linda Way

**Church Administrator**

Amy Lent

**Director of Religious Education**

Leah Purcell

**Religious Education**

**Director Emerita**

Ann D'Attilio

**Music Director**

Matt Edwards

**Membership Coordinator**

Lynne Lekakis

**Administrative Assistant/Sexton**

David Stone

**Custodian**

Olga Oja

**Publication deadlines**

Feb. *Update*: Feb. 2

Mar. *Windows*: Feb. 17

**Channing Hall and more**

Work on the West Street wall of Channing Hall is almost complete. The wall is now insulated for the first time, plywood and drywall are up, and the sisal wall carpeting is in place. Only some trim molding and touch-up painting remain to be done. It will be ready for art displays within the next week or so. And the presence of the carpeting seems to have reduced the auditory tumult at coffee hour! Additional projects completed over the past couple of weeks include hanging the white board in classroom B-7 and modifying the RE windows to prepare them for new storm windows.

Many thanks go to those who have helped in these projects. Especially difficult was the installation of the sisal wall carpeting. That's a single, seamless piece of material weighing about 200 pounds and measuring 9 feet 5 inches tall and al-

**Your voice is needed in  
 FUUSA's planning**

Save the dates and watch for more information about the next opportunities to contribute to our society's strategic planning process:

- ◆ Saturday afternoon, February 21
- ◆ Two Sundays after church, February 22 and March 1

The Dreamcatchers want to hear from you!

most 30 feet wide, glued to the new wall in about 3 hours last Saturday morning.

Volunteers for these projects included Reese and Josh Satin, Arden Dockter, Steve Moskowitz, Russ and Ken Myer, Chuck Manning, Terry Way, Mark Yolles, Peter Meixner, Bob Franklin, Peter and Debbie Brown, Stephen Dolben. Give them your thanks next time you see them.

**Sam's Outlook**

**Darwin at 200**

Sigrin Newell, chair of the Religious Services Committee, alerted me in the fall to the big day, February 12, 2009. That day is Darwin's 200th birthday!

Along with Copernicus and Galileo, Charles Darwin is one of the revolutionary thinkers who changed how we think about the world. Though not alone in his discoveries, it was Darwin's exacting observations, analysis and published thought that continues to guide us today. The evidence for his theory of natural selection is so abundant and overwhelming, no serious scientist would consider even attempting to refute it.

I've been reading a stimulating biography of him by Darwin scholars Adrian Des-

mond and James Moore titled, *Darwin: The Life of a Tormented Evolutionist*. I hadn't realized his grandfathers on both sides of the family tree were freethinking Whigs who attended Unitarian services in England. Grandfather Erasmus Darwin knew and appreciated Joseph Priestly.

More little tidbits to tease your interest: Charles Darwin was originally interested in becoming a doctor and studied in the cosmopolitan city of Edinburgh. He didn't do very well in his studies and found dissection turned his stomach. So, his father, a renowned doctor, sent him off to Cambridge to study for the ministry. But what stimu

***Sam's Outlook, continued on pg. 3***

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## *From the President*

Many of us have heard the oft repeated aphorism that ministers' sermons and Sunday services are meant to both "comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable." But until recently I would never have guessed that this familiar adage may have unintentional relevance to the practice of the community greeting – a practice which has again become a regular part of our Sunday service and one about which I have heard a surprising number of comments.

Pragmatically our community greeting, coming right after announcements, allows latecomers to enter the service with minimal distraction and disruption. But to me pragmatism is hardly persuasive compared to the comments I recently read in, of all places, a "Dear Abby" column. (Having cited my source, I fear some of you will stop reading; I suspect others will not hesitate to let me know what you think of advice columnists... and their readers. I hope most will continue reading.)

The mid December "Dear Abby" column, "Worshippers Split on Greetings" included letters both pro and con the practice of greeting and handshaking during a worship service. Negative comments included sentiments many of us have heard at FUUSA. "The moment is manipulated, interrupts the flow of the service" and can easily spread colds and flu. But it was the positive comments, far more heartfelt than I ever would have guessed, which moved me. One was from a woman who said she never cared for the "forced greeting" when she attended church with her husband and family; but "now that I am divorced and attend church alone, I realize that the human contact is priceless." She went

on to say that some weeks it is the only physical contact she has with another person; and that even though the greeting is prescribed, it never fails to brighten her day.

Finally, there was the following: "Before receiving disability insurance, I was homeless. Many times, the only thing that kept me from committing suicide was the opportunity to enter a local church...and the reminder that I was still part of the human race... Often my appearance and status was enough to turn people away...[but] others reached out to me with open arms and hearts. And they weren't afraid of catching some unknown disease that living on the streets might produce." This letter spoke poignantly to me of both the "inherent worth and dignity of every person" and "radical hospitality." It also caused me to reflect for a moment – and hope that whenever I can, I will offer an outstretched hand and not shrink from another's touch.

Whatever your thoughts are about the community greeting in our Sunday service, as UUA presidential candidate Peter Morales suggests, true religious hospitality is both an important spiritual practice and an expression of spiritual health within our congregations.

While a very different context, yet related to the experience of religious hospitality, quite a number of folks from FUUSA attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Memorial Service at the New Testament Mission Baptist Church on January 15<sup>th</sup>. The choir of the Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, our neighbors, helped provide what was an incredible gospel experience; and although the theology we heard was not our own,

the deep commitment to justice, equality, and helping others is a mission we share. For me, and I believe for others as well, the service was filled with a spirit of community and common cause, a joy of fellowship and worship, and an exciting energy of "yes, we can." With its theme "Transforming Dark Yesterdays into Bright Tomorrows," and the inclusion of a wide variety of faith traditions, the evening was one of renewal, hope and inspiration – and an annual service I plan to attend again.

**It's Almost February...Think Summer:** What? We haven't even heard from the groundhog yet! Nevertheless, while Punxsutawney Phil may still be in his burrow, your Religious Services Committee is anxious to find a coordinator and line up presenters for summer services in July and August. Actually, many services have been tentatively scheduled, others have been suggested, and a handful of folks have already offered to help with planning, music, and regular Sunday tasks. What is needed is someone to be sure it is all properly scheduled and all bases are covered—and that does **not** mean that he or she need be present each week. Last fall the Board of Trustees, recognizing the success of summer programming, adopted a commitment to year round services. If you have ideas or are willing to help, please let me, Sam, or Sigrin Newell, chair of Religious Services, know. Regardless of the snow on the sidewalk, it's time to begin planning summer Sundays.

For now, remember the warmth that can be found at FUUSA—and come and get it—often!

*Linda*

## Committee on the Professional Ministry

This committee held its quarterly meeting recently. With an eye to seeing what has been accomplished and also where attention will be focused as the church year progresses, we reviewed Sam's goals and key responsibilities for 2008-09 which had been discussed in detail at our October meeting. The two-page document is posted on FUUSA's web site--click Minister. We invite your comments about Sam's ministry, verbal or written. If you would like to meet with the committee, please let us know. Committee members are: Meredith Andrews, Peter Brown, Al DeSalvo, Bruce Rodgers, Martha Schroeder, Nancy Willie-Schiff.

## Anti-Racism: Transforming Our Whiteness

With Rev. Bill Gardiner and Rev. Melissa Carvill-Ziemer  
Feb. 13-15, at U.U. Rowe Camp & Conference Center

As white people, we don't experience the racial oppression that people of color do. We will have an opportunity to explore the forces that have shaped our own personal journey regarding race, clarify the ways whiteness operates on our lives, and explore ways of transforming it into a force for justice. Whiteness is a social construct that took shape in colonial times, and we can enrich our lives by learning more.

Registration: 413-339-4954 or [www.rowecenter.org](http://www.rowecenter.org)

## 2010 Census jobs info

Sunday, Feb. 1, at noon in Room B3/B4. If you have questions please call Alison Coleman.

*Sam's Outlook, cont. from pg. 1*  
lated Charles' interest while in school was not theology but collecting beetles and shooting and stuffing birds. What moved him off the track to a nice little parish in the country was the chance opportunity to be the gentleman's companion to Captain Fitzroy of the Beagle as she surveyed South America and later sailed around the world.

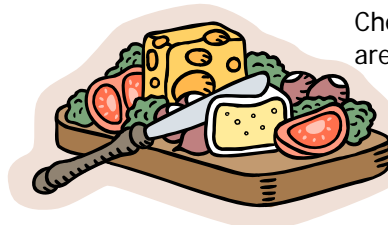
Darwin's publication of *On the Origin of the Species* didn't make many waves among Unitarians and Universalists when it was first published in 1859. The storm clouds leading to the Civil War and abolition of slavery were front and center of their concerns. What did catch the attention of the Protestant Clergy was the publication of *The Descent of Man* in 1871. This directly challenged the Biblical understanding of our origins. Unitarian and Universalist clergy had to decide whether they were on the side of reason and science or Biblically based theology. Most chose reason and science.

One of the first enthusiastic Unitarian adopters of Darwin was the brilliant Rev. Dr. Francis Ellingwood Abbot. He incorporated Darwin and evolution into his book, *Scientific Theism*. Abbot's Free Religious Association's publication *The Index* had Darwin as a faithful subscriber.

So to celebrate Darwin's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday, I'll have more for you in my Sunday morning sermon February 15<sup>th</sup>, describing how Darwin has influenced Unitarianism and Universalism. Sunday afternoon at 1:00 pm, I've invited two scholars of the history of science to talk about Darwin and his continuing legacy for us today. Not only was he a great scientist, we was also a kind and decent human being who struggled with the implications of his discoveries on society. I encourage you to join me to honor his humanity as well as his science Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> and stay for the lectures.

Rev. Sam

## "I have this cheese.....now, what about the wine?"



Cheese and wine are naturals together.



Come to a relaxing and entertaining evening of cheese and wine pairing featuring the expertise of cheese meister **Eric Paul** and wine mavens **Peter Meixner, John Sherman, Rick Whitebread, and Al De Salvo.**

**Saturday, Feb. 28 at 7 PM \$25**

Sign up early to assure yourself a seat. Look for the reservation table in Channing Hall starting Sunday, Jan. 25 and each Sunday thereafter.

# Religious Exploration

## Come and stay under the umbrella of beloved community

### Our community is here for you

Our community is here for you now and always—not just when you are at your best emotionally, physically *or financially*. Members and friends of our congregation are not immune to the economic downturn. I have had parents tell me that they need to put off paying the \$50 cost of registering their children in the Religious Exploration program until they are in a better financial situation. While I don't wish misfortune on any one, I am grateful when people share this with me because I can give them reassurance that, of course, they may defer their payment to the RE program. I also have reduced or waived the fees for families who can never afford it. What unsettles me is when parents tell me that they have backed away from volunteering in our program, or participating in activities or coming on Sunday mornings because they are behind on their financial obligations to FUUSA. In case others have doubts, let me reassure you all here that FUUSA is not some sort of "pay for play" club; we are a beloved community of individuals that support each other. If you are suffering or in need, or even just a little shaky, now, more than ever, is the time for you to be with us. Our umbrella is big and it is strong, so come and stay in its shelter.

### We are here for others seeking shelter

Congregations tend to grow in uncertain times as people reflect upon what they really require in life. The children's singer, Raffi sings happily, "All I really need is a song in my heart, food in my belly and love in my family." We may find that more and more people come to our

doors seeing inspiration, physical necessities and community. Let's continue to hold our open arms to people of goodwill who are drawn to our messages of tolerance, inclusivity, and hope; our encouragement to seek truth and meaning; and our mission to offer a vital religious community.

### We are under a wider umbrella--the St. Lawrence District

Those of us who serve in the leadership of FUUSA do not go it alone. We are one of 34 the chartered UU congregations in upstate New York and northern Pennsylvania that make up St. Lawrence District, which gives us vital support. Working with the Unitarian Universalist Association, our district's job is to "serve, connect and grow new and existing Unitarian Universalist congregations in our District." As Director of RE, I get lots of help and guidance from the District Program Consultant for Lifespan Faith Development. Many of the trainings I attend are run by the district. Our senior high youth regularly attend conferences sponsored by the district where they meet and interact with youth from all over the state. The district provides resources to youth advisors. That's how the district supports just the RE program. Rev. Sam, Amy Lent, Lynne Lekakis, Linda Way and others at FUUSA get support and make use of resources available from the district.

"From you I receive; to you I give." Many of us at FUUSA serve the district as well, and find that work truly rewarding. A congregation of our size, vibrancy, strength and stability has much to offer the larger UU community. .

And so we are honored and excited that this year FUUSA will host the St. Lawrence District Assembly.

There will be workshops, lectures and a service around the theme "Building the Beloved Community". This is the best opportunity you will ever get to come to a gathering of UU's who are sheltered by this larger umbrella. See the flyer in this issue of "Windows" and mark your calendars now for Friday evening April 24, all day Saturday, April 25, to attend this great event. I am organizing children's programming for District Assembly, similar to the RE programming FUUSA offers during the summer, including youth, so make this a family event. Let's be good hosts. If our fellow UU's can journey from across upstate NY and northern PA to attend, then we can travel across town to join them.

*Explorations, continued on pg. 6*



### Bringing It Home

Make your children's allowance meaningful. Don't make them earn small amounts by doing individual chores at home. You don't run a hotel. Instead give them an amount you think is appropriate and make it clear that you expect them to be responsible members of the family.

Teach your children to budget for savings and for charitable giving. Give your children guidelines about how much of their allowance must be put into savings and under what circumstances they can spend from savings. Require them to set a certain amount aside for charity so that when the time comes for giving, it feels natural and not like such a sacrifice.

# Social Responsibilities Council

Work continues on SRC's Inner-City and Community Outreach, Green Sanctuary (our environmental committee), Criminal Justice and Prison Reform, Emergency Shelter Meals (with thanks to those who have helped to prepare and deliver these meals) and Forum. In addition, we are exploring the congregation's interest in 'adopting' or co-adopting a refugee family, planning some letter writing in support of single payer universal healthcare – in keeping with the June 2008 Action of Immediate Witness on this issue and we continue to explore and support - with enthusiasm - the possibility of hosting a summer youth program here at FUUSA.

If you have questions, would like more information about SRC, or are interested in becoming more involved in these activities, please stop by 'The Table' during coffee hour or come to one of our meetings. The next meeting will be held on Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:40 in classroom B7. All are welcome to attend

## **"Call to Service" and opportunities to be involved**

◆Ride Wanted: Take a day to visit the beautiful Saranac Lake/Lake Placid area while at the same time helping maintain family ties for someone in prison. A Schenectady resident is looking for a ride for herself and their 8 month old daughter. Her fiancé is serving a 3 year sentence. Visiting days are limited to Saturday and Sunday. She has a car seat for the baby, and she can help pay for gas. (There are additional funds to make up the difference if you provide receipts.) You'll be doing more than just giving a ride...prisoners who are able to stay in contact with loved ones have much more successful re-entry than those who do not. Please speak to Judith Brink at the SRC Table during coffee hour for details.

◆If you have extra blankets or warm jackets at home, please bring them to FUUSA for distribution to the homeless. Carol Butt is organizing this effort – and a collection box for the blankets is located in the coat room.

◆Emergency Shelter Meals. FUUSAns prepare and deliver meals for the emergency overflow shelter on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month from mid-November through mid-April. We'll also be preparing meals on the March 29 (the 5th Monday). This is a great opportunity to make a big difference while you enjoy the camaraderie of others. Contact Barb Cooley or Lois Griffin for details.

◆The UUAs 'Action of the Month' for February is BGLT Equality. Targeted issues include: repealing 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell', supporting the Employment Non-discrimination Act, Marriage Equality, and stricter hate Crimes Enforcement. For information on how to get involved, contact [uua.org/social\\_justice](http://uua.org/social_justice).

## ◆ **Green Sanctuary News**

Reminders:

◆Boxes for recycling ink cartridges : & cell phones are in the coat room on a shell. Information on Home Energy Audits is at the SRC table. 60 and 100 watt equivalent CFL bulbs are for sale at the SRC table. Save the date - Saturday, April 18th for the Earth Day Fair. More information to come. We will provide the Food Pantry with free CFL bulbs possible with the proceeds from our sales at FUUSA.

Thanks

## **Regional Events**

*Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!*

◆The first Convocation of UU

## **FORUM**

**Feb. 8, Room B-8 What one person can do to create a more peaceful world.**

Peace activist **Maud Easter** will speak about her role as Steering Committee coordinator for the activities of Women Against War, including Grannies for Peace, projects involving Iran and Afghanistan, and work with Iraqi refugees. She will share info on the range of peace groups in our area. Come to learn where you might fit in.

**Feb. 22, Emerson "Why Democrats may rue the day they took control of New York State government."**

Get the latest news on Albany politics, as explained by **Jay Gallagher**, Capital Bureau Chief and columnist for Gannett News Service--always a fascinating experience.

**Forums are in Room B-8 (except as noted) at 11:30 a.m.**

Women and Progressive Women of Faith will be held in Houston Texas from Feb. 26-March 1, 2009. Registration (which includes 4 meals) is \$350 per person, with discounts available for youth and young adults, and for groups of 4 or more from one congregation. This is the first international gathering of UU women in our history. It offers a unique opportunity to connect with UU women from around the world. The Convocation strives to create a worldwide learning community of UU women, dedicated to enriching women's lives, worshipping together sharing stories  
**SRC, continued on pg. 8**

**Explorations, cont. from pg. 4  
Celebrating the community of  
our "cluster" in worship**

Did you know we're part of a UU "cluster" too? The ministers, presidents and Directors of RE from the congregations of Albany, Schenectady, Saratoga Springs and Glens Falls meet regularly to support each other, share ideas and strengthen our congregations. To culminate our time together at District Assembly, on Sunday, April 26, we will hold the first ever worship service among the four UU congregations of the Capital Region. It will be held at the Hilton in Saratoga Springs at 11:00 am. (Childcare for infants and toddlers will be at the nearby Saratoga congregation.) Rev. Sam and I are on the committee working with the Rev. Tom Owen-Towle on this and I can tell you now that we are all so excited about the service we have planned. This will be the one day of the year that FUUSA will not have Sunday morning programming. Please plan to come to Saratoga that morning to attend a multigenerational service, filled with music, artistry and pageantry like you have never seen before.

In joy and service,

**Annual  
Fellowship  
Dinner**

**Friday, April 3, 2009**

at

**Franklin Terrace, Troy**

**Lifespan Learning**

**Owning Your Religious Past**

Tuesdays, February 3, 10, 17, 24  
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Co-facilitated by Leah Purcell and Larry Gambino

The majority of adult Unitarian Universalists come into the denomination from other religions. Many of us have a need to reckon our religious upbringings with our current religious lives. *Owning Your Religious Past* is an adult education course which helps UUs grow in their faith and move from a place of discomfort to one of affirmation. The goal is to help you not only leave things behind, but also be certain of what you want to bring with you as you continue along your path. This course is for anyone who wants to explore who they hope to become as Unitarian Universalists – long-timers as well as newcomers.

This class can accommodate up to 15 people. Sign up in Channing Hall or contact Leah to sign up or get more info. (463-7135 or dre@albanyuu.org)

**Darwin at 200: His Legacy**

**Sunday, February 15, 1:00 pm**

**Lectures by Drs. P. Thomas Carroll and Sherrie Lyons**

(discussion and reception will follow)

Tom Carroll came to the study of Darwin working in graduate school to locate, collate, transcribe, and publish the correspondence of Charles Darwin housed at the American Philosophical Society Library in Philadelphia. He has taught history at the Department of Science and Technology Studies, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He currently serves as the Executive Director of Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway Project.

Sherrie Lyons has her PhD in the history of science from the University of Chicago and currently teaches courses on biology, nutrition, and evolution at Empire State College, New York. She is the author of *Thomas Henry Huxley: The Evolution of a Scientist* (Prometheus Books 1999). She has published numerous articles on 19th and 20th century evolutionary biology and the marginal sciences.

**Presentation on**

**Healthy Boundaries in Congregations**

by Amy Vincent, MSW, of Albany County  
Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center

**Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009**

**10:00 to 11:30 am  
Sanctuary**

Recognizing possible signs of an adult being an abuser  
Creating healthy boundaries between adult volunteers and children/youth

This presentation is for all volunteers who work with our children and youth: Friends and members of the congregation are also invited.

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# Membership Musings

## Here today, gone tomorrow?

I have written before about the mysteries of membership but today I am perplexed. I'm not just talking about what makes folks come visit and then decide to stay. I'm not talking about the defining moment when a person feels connected, or doesn't. I'm not talking about the make-or-break greeting systems I've heard about. (We have a 'make' one, by the way, as indicated by a visitor a few weeks ago who spoke up publicly at the service and thanked the congregation because she had felt so welcomed. That was you; we didn't catch her at the membership table that busy, snowy morning!)

If one wishes to count, there are many approaches to counting. Do you count how many new members we have introduced to our congregation in the calendar year, the "school" year, or the budget year? And when you count, do you only count the new people, or do you count those who have moved away, chosen to leave the congregation or just faded away? Then, there is the

political counting. At census time, we have to report to the UUA the number of members we have and then we must pay a membership fee for each one. I'm guessing that this number is known throughout the clan and reflects upon us all. The next level of counting has to do with the activity level. Do we count each member who participates? Each member who pledges enough to cover the fee to the UUA? Do we count members who don't participate, but pledge? Do we count the people who are so clearly members and pledge, but for whatever reason don't wish to make a formal commitment?

For me, when I do more in a group, I feel more connected. It works for little groups like my family, and bigger groups of hundreds of people. Yesterday I watched the inauguration on TV at the public library, because I wanted to watch it with Elissa. If I hadn't gone there, I bet I would have come over to

FUUSA to watch it with people not only who share some of my political views, but those I know. But to some people, joining is challenging and final somehow. Sort of like marriage, I guess. It just doesn't appeal to everyone.

So, I started off with confusion. Now I'll throw some facts in to really muddy up the thinking. Since I started being your membership coordinator (the day Emerson opened 9/07) we have averaged 2 visitors per week. That is about 104 visitors a year. Last year's annual report (springtime in the calendar) showed over 30 new members who had joined during that span of time. This year the census number reported to the UUA was 353 adult active members, which is ten more than last census.

Seems to me like no matter how you look at it, or in which month, we are growing. I am looking into the visitor stats for the previous years, and will let you know what I find. In the interim, thank you for doing all you do to make people feel welcome. - -- Lynne Lekakis

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## 2008-2012 Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI)

This CSAI was approved at the 2008 Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in Palm Beach. As a study action issue, UU congregations are asked to address this issue over the next couple of years. Religious organizations throughout the world have discussed the production, distribution and use of food, and the wide disparity between food production (small farmers contrasted with mega producers), transportation issues, social inequality and environmental problems.

The process encourages the creation of a congregational task force on this study/action issue, with opportunities to comment in the late winter/early

spring of each year. The first comment period deadline is March 1, 2009. Your Denominational Affairs liaison is a little tardy on getting this effort publicized at FUUSA, but better late than never. If you are interested in this issue, please go to the Unitarian Universalist Commission on Social Witness's web page at <http://www.uua.org/aboutus/governance/electedcommittees/socialwitness/index.shtml>. You should also contact Denominational Affairs liaison Don Odell for information, and willingness to establish such a congregational task force.

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## Spirituality Book Club

The Spirituality Book Club meets at noon on Sundays to discuss books on spiritual subjects. Upcoming books are:

Feb. 15: [Think on These Things](#) by Krishnamurti

Mar. 15: [Proverbs of Ashes: Violence Redemptive Suffering and the Search for What Saves Us](#)

Apr. 19: [Art of Power](#) by Tich Nhat Hahn

If you have questions contact Philomena Moriarty Trumbore.

## Call for nominations

The Nominating Committee has issued a call for nominations for the following positions to be elected at the Annual Meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009

### Requirements for Elected

#### Positions:

Any person holding an elected position must be an active member of FUUSA for at least 30 days prior to being elected and must not have a pledge in arrears (2007-2008 pledge year or previous). Candidates for the Endowment Trust must be members for at least 3 years.

#### Nomination Procedure:

Society members may contact

any one on the committee letting them know of their interest in the above positions or to suggest someone else you feel would be qualified. Call Chris Jensen, Committee Chair, if you have questions (783-9202). Committee members are: Chris Jensen, Meredith Mercer, Barb Metz, Jon Newell, Jan Satin and Sue Walko. Nominations of candidates for any elected position may be made by presenting the Nominating Committee with a nominating petition signed by 25 active members of the Society. Petition forms can be found in the church office. The deadline for such petitions is April 5<sup>th</sup> and may be put in the Nominating Committee's mailbox in the office.

Position	Term	Position	Term
President	1 year	Religious Ed. Council Chair	1 year
Vice President	1 year	Social Responsibilities Council Chair	1 year
Secretary	1 year	Religious Education Council (4)	3 years
Treasurer	1 year	Social Responsibilities Council (2)	3 years
Asst. Treasurer	1 year	Nominating Committee (2)	3 years
Board of Trustees (2)	3 years	Endowment Trust (1)	3 years

## Save the date for another double header

**Saturday, March 7**

**Fundraiser dinner** for the Rite of Passage trip to Boston

**Musical Concert** for all generations sponsored by the Religious Education Council

Associate Professor of Voice at the world renowned Berklee College of Music in Boston, Jeannie Gagne is vocalist and songwriter whose performances include work with 5-time Grammy-winner George Duke, and opening for Bare Naked Ladies, After twenty years writing and performing rock, blues, jazz, and folk/rock, Jeannie has embarked on realizing a vision to create concerts that leave everyone feeling inspired.

## District Futures Team conversation

**Feb. 1, after the service**

The St. Lawrence District's planning consultant, Jeanne Crane, will be facilitating a discussion as part of the work of the District's Futures Team. The Team is charged to develop a five-year plan for the District to meet the present and emerging needs of our congregations. The Team's beginning vision is to create beloved communities that are sustainable, theologically inclusive, multigenerational, multicultural, justice oriented and engaged in right relations.

The Futures Team is starting its work by visiting congregations across the District over the next few months to discuss where each congregation is today, its vision for itself and UUism, how the District can better connect with it, as well as new opportunities and specific topics of interest. Given many FUUSAns' longstanding involvement in District and wider UU activities, I am confident that Jeanne will lead us in a conversation that is both informative and transformative. --Dave Munro, Chair of the Futures Team

**SRC, cont. from pg. 5** and supporting emerging leaders among us. For registration and additional information see [www.portal.icuww.com](http://www.portal.icuww.com).

◆ The 14th Annual 40 hour FAST Together will be held from 8:00 PM on March 4 until noon on March 6. The event, sponsored by the Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State will focus on 'Wage Theft.' For details and information on how to get involved, see [www.labor-religion.org](http://www.labor-religion.org).

**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.

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**Production:** Dave Stone

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**Newsletter Crew:** Many hands!

**Send all submissions to:**

[Windows@albanyuu.org](mailto:Windows@albanyuu.org) or to the church office.



## Channing Circle

This time we did not have to cancel our January gathering because of the weather; indeed, 32 good people came through the slush to attend our program. We answered, in turn, the question: "Tell us about your best friend in early childhood; are you still in touch with that person?" Two of us were able to report that they were still in touch with their first childhood friend whom they had known since pre-school days.

We meet again on Monday, February 16. The program, "Would you know a kudu if you met one?", will feature a DVD of pictures taken by Priscilla Crago of wildlife in Africa on her trip to Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe last summer. Priscilla will also introduce us to a kudu or two. All members and friends of FUUSA are welcome to attend the program which will begin at 1 pm.

Channing Circle folk, which include all who are retired, regardless of age, should bring their lunch at noon. Dessert, supplied by members of the group, coffee and tea will be provided.

We will begin to plan summer outings. If you have schedules for summer programs in our area, please

bring them with you. We hope that several of you will have suggestions for venues that interest you and that you might be willing to organize.

We look forward to seeing you all and hope you have circled future 3rd Mondays of the month on your calendar for the remainder of the church year.-- Thayer Heath and Ursula Poland

## Small Group Ministry

Small Groups are open groups, welcoming new members throughout the year. So if you were thinking of joining, but just didn't get to it, you may still do so by calling Pam Collins.

## Can Can with the Choir!



Please bring your (clean) returnable beverage containers—or receipts for those you've already returned—to support the FUUSA Choir's tour of Eastern Europe.

There is a container in the coatroom for bottles and cans, and an envelope for receipts.

## Walker Book Club

The Walker Book Club will next meet on Sunday, February 8, commencing with a potluck supper at 5:30 PM at Lisa Walker's, Delmar. Bring your favorite dish to share, and a small contribution to cover beverages. If you need directions, call Lisa. Newcomers are always welcome.

Dates and books currently scheduled:

Feb. 8. Richard Russo, Bridge of Sighs. Suggested by several present.

♦Mar. 8. Greg Mortenson & David Oliver Relin, Three Cups of Tea. Suggested by Barb Cooley and Winston Hagborg.

♦Apr. 19. Arundhati Roy, The God of Small Things. Suggested John Cooley.

♦May 10. Phil Doran, The Reluctant Tuscan. Suggested by Don Odell.

♦June 14. Short stories to be selected at the April meeting, and available at the May meeting.

## Sunday Volunteers

Sign up in Channing Hall or call Eileen Hoffman or for Greeters Lynne Lekakis.

	Lead Usher (1)	Ushers (3)	Coffee Hosts (2)	Greeters (2)	Chalice Lighter (1)
Feb. 1	D. Dana	A. Patti	S&M Babala	B&A Smith	
Feb. 8	C. Manning	B. Manning	J. Sherman	J. Bolgatz	H. Kessel
Feb. 15	A. Brandon				A. DeWillers
Feb. 22			T. Henderson		A. Radin

## Labyrinth

Walking  
meditation



Channing Hall  
Saturday, Feb. 21  
10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

## Events Happening Every Sunday at FUUSA

9:00 AM	Mindfulness Meditation	Sanctuary
10:00 AM	Service	Emerson
10:00 AM	Religious Education	Classrooms
11:00 AM	Coffee Hour	Channing, Emerson

**Exceptions:**  
Feb. 1 Children's Chapel will be in the Sanctuary

## Events Happening Every Week in the Month of February

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 February

1-Feb	10:00 AM	Children's Chapel	Sanctuary	11-Feb	3:30 PM	Staff Meeting	Study
	11:45 AM	SRC Meeting	B-7		5:30 PM	ARISE Core Team	B-7
	12:00 PM	District Futures Team	Emerson alcove		7:00 PM	Wash. Sq. Nbd. Assoc.	Channing
	12:00 PM	Census Test/A Coleman	B 3-4		7:00 PM	Choir rehearsal	Emerson
2-Feb	9:00 AM	Windows Update deadline		12-Feb	7:00 PM	PCC Meeting	B-8
	10:00 AM	SGM Perkins	B-8		15-Feb	11:45 AM	Green Sanctuary Comm.
	5:30 PM	Membership Committee	B-7	12:00 PM		Spirituality Book Club	B-8
	6:15 PM	Religious Education Council	Channing	1:00 PM	Darwin Lecture	Emerson	
3-Feb	7:00 PM	SGM Facilitators	P Collins'	16-Feb	Holiday - Office Closed		
	6:30 PM	AdEd: "Owning Your Religious Past"	B-8		10:00 AM	SGM Perkins	B-8
4-Feb	1:30 PM	SGM Patka	B-8	12:00 PM	Channing Circle	Channing	
	5:30 PM	SGM Murray	B-8	7:00 PM	SGM Street/Boreali	Stott/Joy Library	
	6:30 PM	Earth Spirits	26	17-Feb	9:00 AM	Windows deadline	
5-Feb	7:00 PM	SGM Street/Boreali	Stott/Joy Library		6:30 PM	AdEd: "Owning Your Religious Past"	B-8
6-Feb	5:30 PM	SLD Board Dinner	Channing, Kitchen	7:00 PM	Service Rehearsal	Emerson	
7-Feb	8:30 AM	SLD Board Meeting	26	18-Feb	1:30 PM	SGM Patka	B-8
	8:45 AM	Getting to Know UU	B-8		5:30 PM	SGM Murray	B-8
	9:00 AM	Teacher Orientation	Channing, Sanctuary	19-Feb	5:30 PM	Public Relations Committee	Channing
	6:00 PM	UU Weekend Schol. Dinner	Emerson, Kitchen		7:00 PM	Board of Trustees	B-8
8-Feb	11:00	Auction Comm.	Emerson alcove	7:00 PM	SGM Street/Boreali	Stott/Joy Library	
	11:30 AM	Oriel Meeting	B 3-4	20-Feb	6:30 PM	Guilderland Plus Potluck	Gambino/Hunt's
	11:30 AM	Forum: Maud Easter	B-8		10:00 AM	Labyrinth to 2:00	Channing
	11:30 AM	Sr. Hi. Trip Info Session	26	3:30 PM	Dream Catchers World Café	Channing	
	1:00 PM	Rite of Passage Meeting	Emerson	7:00 PM	Dances of Universal Peace	Channing	
	5:00 PM	Cancer Support Group	B-8	22-Feb	11:30 AM	Forum: Jay Gallagher	Emerson
9-Feb	1:00 PM	Windows Update mailing	Channing		12:00 PM	Dream Catchers Discussions	Channing
9-Feb	3:30 PM	Shelter Meal Prep	Kitchen	23-Feb	1:00 PM	Windows mailing	Channing
	5:00 PM	Partner Church Committee	Stott/Joy Library		3:30 PM	Shelter Meal Prep	Kitchen
	7:30 PM	Monday Men	Stott/Joy Library	7:30 PM	Monday Men	Stott/Joy Library	
10-Feb	6:30 PM	AdEd: "Owning Your Religious Past"	B-8	24-Feb	6:30 PM	AdEd: "Owning Your Religious Past"	B-8
	7:00 PM	SGM Sherman	Stott/Joy Library		7:00 PM	SGM Sherman	Stott/Joy Library
	7:00 PM	Dream Catchers	B-7	26-Feb	7:00 PM	Finance Committee	B-8
				28-Feb	6:00 PM	Wine Tasting	Channing, Kitchen

## Please request tables for Sundays

If your committee is among those that occasionally needs a table in Channing Hall to recruit or advertise or sign up or write letters or....you name it...: You need to read this!

We need committees to reserve table space in advance so that staff will have time to handle the request. There will be three tables in Channing Hall and two in the Emerson elevator lobby. In an effort to improve traffic flow in Channing there will be no tables along the wall with the two doors to the lobby and the coffee service window. And for the same reason there will be no tables in the entrance lobby other than the welcome table.

Please request your table space by contacting Dave Stone at the office 463-7135 or [sexton@albanyuu.org](mailto:sexton@albanyuu.org) <<mailto:sexton@albanyuu.org>>.



**First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Wine and Dine for U.U. Weekend 2009**

**Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009**

6:00 Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres, 6:30 Dinner

*Coffee hour on Sunday 1/25 is your last chance to reserve, or call Meredith Mercer.*

## ***Sunday Services***

***Mindfulness Meditation, 9:00 a.m., Sanctuary***

***SERVICE is at 10:00 a.m., Emerson Community Hall except as noted***

Religious education classes for children are at 10:00: the Nursery opens at 9:45.

**Feb. 1 "Do You Hear?" Guest in our Pulpit (Emerson) Children's Chapel (Sanctuary)**

"All the dreams, all the dares, all the sighs, all the prayers--they are yours, mine, and theirs..." Do you hear it? There is a change in the air, a window of opportunity, a challenge being made--to this country, yes; but also specifically to us, to this faith tradition. We are being called. "Do you hear, do you hear?"

**Feb. 8 "Awakening Through Brokenness"--The Rev. Sam Trumbore (Emerson)**

Many of us have experienced adversity in our lives, moved through it, and been the stronger for it. As economic hard times weigh down our nation, this is a good time for our congregation to increase our sense of support for each other. Difficulties and challenges can be the catalyst for our spiritual growth and development – for both the ones enduring hard times and the ones offering help and support. Hard times can bring our congregational community closer together.

**Feb. 15 "Darwin at 200" --The Rev. Sam Trumbore (Sanctuary)**

Few discoveries have had such a big impact on the religious world as the discovery of natural selection. Many believers in a Creator couldn't swallow the idea that all life evolved randomly from the simplest cells formed out of amino acids. Unitarian and Universalist clergy had to decide whether they were on the side of reason and science or Biblically based theology. We'll honor this great man this morning and his influence on us. (Be sure to stay for the afternoon lectures!)

**Feb. 22 "Would you have been an abolitionist?" (Emerson)**

Abolitionist John Brown used his home in the Adirondacks as a station on the Underground Railroad and then as a base for his raid on the arsenal at Harper's Ferry. The support of Emerson, Thoreau, and Frederick Douglas was essential in building Northern support for this raid, which was the catalyst for the Civil War. John Cooley and Sigrin Newell will explore the life of this controversial hero/martyr/madman and David MacLeod will enact Brown's dramatic oratory style, in recognition of Black History Month.