

DECEMBER 2011

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF SYRACUSE
109 WARING RD.
SYRACUSE, NY 13224

FIRST NUUS



Reverend Holly Baylies, Consulting Minister
Ruth Yamaguchi, Adm. Asst.

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BUILDING COMMUNITY WITH COMPASSION, SERVICE, DIVERSITY, AND SPIRIT

WE EXPRESS COMPASSION THROUGH CARING, LOVE AND SUPPORT FOR OTHERS.

WE SERVE BY PROMOTING OUR PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES THROUGH LEADERSHIP, GIVING AND ACTION.

WE ARE INSPIRED BY DIVERSITY TO ACCEPT, RESPECT AND CELEBRATE DIFFERENCES AND INTERDEPENDENCE.

WE GROW IN SPIRIT THROUGH OUR RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCES, INQUIRY, EDUCATION, REFLECTION AND TRANSFORMATION.

MINISTER'S WEEKLY SCHEDULE

**Holly's weekly hours: Tuesday, Wed, Fri.
10am – 2pm & by appt.**
Church Office Hours:
Tuesday through Friday 8am – 2pm
Monday-Holly's sacred day off!
Tuesday- AM Staff meeting and
*available for appointment meetings
Wednesday- Church Office and
appointments, meetings
Thursday- Sermon Prep at home
Friday- Church Office and appointments, meetings
Saturday- office at home
Sunday- Church and afternoon appointments
* To schedule an appointment with Holly
e-mail firstuurev@twcny.rr.com or
revholly1@aol.com
Office phone 446-5940
For emergencies Holly's cell phone 617-548-51

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Jim D'Aloisio, President
Jerry Trexler, Vice President
Susan King, Treasurer
Fred Lyman, Financial Secretary
Nancy Clausen, Interim Clerk
Janet Mallan, Marilyn Lyman, Members at Large

**November's Ushers: Thank UUs to Marge and
Cliff Mellor, Diane Case, Dave Dickinson, Randy
Irish, Bob and Jane Pickett, Marilyn and Fred
Lyman**

**Coffee Helpers: Thanks UUs to Pamela
Spearman, Diane Case, Marcia Rand**

**November's Flowers: Thank UUs to Brian
Gruninger and Dana Sovocool.**



Church Mice at Work

**How fresh and bright
the narthex looks with its new coat of paint?
Thanks to Jerry Trexler and painting crew - Jim
Anderegg, Susan King, Cliff Mellor, and Marcia
Rand.**



Around The Block Updates

**Healing thoughts to Peggy Flanders who broke
her right arm in an accident Sunday in the
Sanctuary. She appreciates all the offers of
assistance offered and expects to be fully
healed before next gardening season**

**Eastern Farm Workers Assoc is very much in
need of warm clothing of all kinds, especially
for children. Thanks to all those sharing
necessities in good condition as your children
grow out of them.**

**If you haven't, please thank the Wolf family for
Jonathan's remarkable violin talent and dad,
Clark's skill on piano.**

**Also we greatly enjoyed the piano playing and
selections of Brad Bowers who provided
coverage on Thanksgiving Sunday.**



December Services

December 4 – Rev. Holly preaching
**December 11- Worship Service/Music
Committee, presentation by Linda Myers**
December 18 – Intergenerational Service
December 24- Christmas Eve Service 7PM
December 25 – Worship Service/Music Committee



Prayer for This House

**Yes, we are among the lucky ones,
graced with a place to find warmth and friendship;
to gather our spirits in a common search
for a community that matters.**

**All we need do is to walk through the doors
to find others who share our wants and our needs,**

**our joys and our grief,
as we speak of the mysteries of this life
and join to prepare and to gather;
to sing our songs of celebration
stories of babes and sages
to speak the words of comfort
to honor our children.**

**And give thanks for all who have touch our lives
For this season of hope
We are grateful.**

Merry Christmas


Holly



WELCOME NEW MEMBER TIM O'HARE

Tim became a member of FUUSS in October. You may have already seen him in the choir. The rest of his family includes his wife, Cathy, and daughter Adriane who attends Elmira College. In his free time he likes to read fantasy and science fiction. His dream vacation would be to go to the London Olympics. Find out more about him on the New Member Board behind the Newcomer's Table in Fellowship Hall and please take time to welcome Tim to our church.

Are you looking for a good book or entertaining movie or making any other purchases from Amazon? Start your search from the FUUSS Homepage and Amazon.com will provide a donation of 10% of your purchase back to First UU.



BJ's MEMBERSHIP

Members of First UU can receive a membership at BJ's Wholesale Club for just \$20 (regular price \$45). If you wish to join, please stop by the Office and pick up a form for the reduced rate.

JUST A REMINDER TO MAKE SURE TO CLEAR ANY SCHEDULING THROUGH THE OFFICE IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY CALENDAR CONFLICTS

CANDLES

You may have noticed the candles on the table in the back of the sanctuary. As you come into the sanctuary, before the service begins, please feel free to light a candle for a silent joy or concern that you would prefer not to share in words.

Updated church directories are available through the office...either email or call to request.



Chalice Circles at First UU

What is a Chalice Circle?

CHALICE CIRCLES are small groups of 8 - 12 that offer a great place to know people in depth, to search for your spiritual growth in a community of encouragement, and for inspiration and companionship. It is spiritual and personal reflection and learning at its most immediate.

Who Can Join?

Chalice Circles are open to anyone who wants to participate.

When Do They Meet?

There are two wonderful Chalice Circles in the church this year (so far!!!) One meets on the First and Third Sundays at 12:00 – 2:00 in the Parlor (Phil Klein, Moderator). The second meets on the First and Third Wednesdays at 1:15-3:15 in the Parlor (Peggy Flanders, Facilitator) If you would like to talk to someone about the current groups, please contact Peg Flanders, Facilitator for the Wednesday group. (pegflanders@twcny.rr.com, 488-8077). Or check the dates with Ruth in the office and stop in. There is always an open chair!

Youth Religious Education (YRE)

Tina Lesley-Fox YRE Director

LOOKIN IN

The next few weeks of children's programming will look a little different. Instead of having class by age, all of our children will meet together (with the exception of the OWL kids who will continue to meet at May). The kids will have a chance to work on some community service projects, prepare for the inter-generational service on December 18th and play some games. They will be sharing some of what they have learned in their individual classes and building community with each other. This is the time of year when we give our regular teachers a little break and let other adults step in for a chance to connect with our younger members. If you are interested in helping out on December 4th or 11th please contact Tina. 422-8984

Our inter-generational service this year will have the theme "Winter Holidays, A celebration of Peace" We are very much looking forward to this annual service where the children will share some of what they have been learning, we will sing some beautiful songs and Santa will make a visit. Be on the lookout for more information about Santa soon!

LOOKING OUT

Last week began our annual Guest at Your Table campaign. For those of you new to the church this is the time of year when we as a congregation collect money to donate to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). Guest at Your Table has been an important part of UUSC and UU culture since 1975, when it first began. The program made its UUSC debut following a trip made by Warren Salinger, then UUSC institutional advancement director, to the Netherlands. While there, he was inspired by an organization's program *Gast aan Tafel*, which educated supporters about the organization's work, while raising vital funds. The program used colorful boxes that the whole family could enjoy. Salinger immediately began working with UUSC staff to adapt the idea for use in UU homes nationwide — and even worldwide!

Each year since 1975 involvement in Guest at Your Table has grown, strengthening UU connections to our shared principles and helping to challenge injustice throughout the world.

Today, nearly every UU congregation in the United States, and some around the world, participate in this important tradition. Together, members of these congregations help raise more funds and memberships each year to support UUSC's mission than any other initiative.

Below you will find some information about how our dollars can be put to work.

- \$20 pays for training in survey collection for a worker member of the Northwest Arkansas Workers' Justice Center to collect data from poultry-processing workers on their wages, working conditions, and the most serious issues facing them on the job. The center will use these surveys to launch an organizing campaign against a local poultry plant in the area.
- \$40 helps 30 families in Myanmar bring their crops to market successfully. Participating in revolving loans allows farmers to buy food and meet basic needs while waiting for their harvest, when they will be able to sell their rice at a better and fairer price.
- \$75 helps workers in Arkansas, enabling the Northwest Arkansas Workers' Justice Center to conduct outreach and education projects tailored to specific challenges faced by poultry-processing and construction workers.
- \$170 supplies water-testing strips and chemicals for one month to members of indigenous communities in San Marcos, Guatemala, to carry out water-quality monitoring of rivers downstream from the GoldCorp mine.
- \$200 provides one ox for a group of families returning home from post-war camps in northern Uganda.

Remember, your gift of \$100 or above qualifies for a matching gift from the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, in Manhasset, N.Y.!

GREEN SANCTUARY



CHRISTMAS – BIRTH OF A NEW **GREEN** TRADITION: Do we really need all those neat cheap gadgets and merchandise made in foreign lands? How many cashmere sweaters can a person use? What size flat screen is BIG enough? Let's think outside the box and give gifts that are **eco-friendly and produced by American hands**. *Local is good!* How about a gift certificate to a hair salon or barber? Mom would love the gift of a cleaning lady for a day. A gift certificate to a local owner-run restaurant would please anyone. Some young guy/gal who is struggling would love to tune up your computer. Gram, Gramp, Auntie, or a friend would love a ticket to a local theater or music festival. A gift from a local arts and crafts festival would support a grateful artist. Leave the mailman, trash guy, babysitter a nice BIG tip. A food basket from a local farm would be much appreciated. Give a donation to your favorite charity.

Christmas is about caring about US, encouraging American small businesses to keep plugging away to follow their dreams. And, when we care about other Americans, we care about our communities, and the benefits come back to us in ways we couldn't imagine. THIS is the new American Christmas Tradition.

Community Supported Agriculture -- First UU has provided a pod for the local organic produce program for the past five years. The Green Sanctuary Team has been happy to support this effort and several families have enjoyed the delicious fresh vegetables and fruit (especially blueberries!) from Grindstone Farm. However, participation by our congregation has dwindled and the effort required to support this good cause is more than we feel we can maintain. Fortunately, a nearby resident is willing to have the pod move to her garage at the end of 2011. People from First UU will be welcome at the new location so look for future announcements about joining this pod. Thanks to those who have helped with this endeavor.

SIGN UP FOR HOLIDAY FLOWERS

It's time to sign up to sponsor a Christmas plant, to decorate the sanctuary for the service on December 11th, and then to be delivered to the homes of our members and friends who may be homebound, ill or just in need of a bit of good cheer in this season. The plants are \$10 each and may be given in memory or celebration of a person or event of significance to you. You are invited to participate, by either sponsoring a plant or volunteering to make a delivery and visit sometime after the service on the 11th. Sign up at the table in the Fellowship Hall on **11/27 or 12/4**.....or mail your request and the church office by Friday, for your generosity.



payment to be received in December 2nd. Thank you

The Hospitality & Fellowship Committee is looking for Helpers!

The Hospitality & Fellowship Committee helps to strengthen the fellowship of the congregation by coordinating refreshments at weekly coffee hours, adult RE programs and potlucks. The Hospitality/Fellowship Committee also works on fundraisers and other events held at First UU. As First UU embarks on our Healthy Congregation program, the H&F Committee will be working hard to keep the congregation well fed and comfortable through the process. Over the course of the year, we will need committee members and volunteers to help coordinate the weekly coffee hour, potlucks as well as providing support for the Health Congregation and future fundraising activities. You do not have to be a committee member to volunteer to help. In fact, hosting coffee hour is a great way to meet people and to have fun. Ideally, it would be great if lots of members of the congregation rotated through helping with the coffee hour, as its a positive and fellowship building experience.

Right now, I am recruiting volunteers for coffee hour. If you are interested in helping with coffee hour, please contact me. Coffee hour is a great way to meet and mingle with people. It takes a few hours of your time both before and after services and I will train you.

If you are interested, in helping with coffee hour and/or being on the Hospitality & Fellowship Committee, please contact Pamela Spearman (481-4033 or paspearman@gmail.com)



Paintings by JOAN APPLEBAUM in December at May Memorial Gallery

During the month of December artwork of Joan Applebaum will be featured in the Gallery at May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society.

The Gallery is located at 3800 East Genesee Street, Syracuse. Hours are 9am to 3pm weekdays. It is wise to call ahead, as the hall is sometimes occupied by events. Ph. 476-8920.

www.mmuus.org

Joan Applebaum

Windy Hill Studio

<http://windyhillstudioarts.com>

The Scoop



Who really counts?

Now there's a loaded question. If it means which people really matter and if we buy into Unitarian Universalism's principles, the answer is a no brainer. Everyone counts in some fashion or other. It becomes our job to grapple with how to live that out.

What counts? UUs explore that question ad infinitum; it's our thing. But if it simply asks what life's absolute essentials are, we would quickly rattle off obvious basics like shelter and food.

Why count? Lately we've seen tallies of First UU donations to neighbors who lack some of those obvious basics. The totals are not presented for self-glorification. Still, a modest, humble pat on the back might be forgiven.

These numbers showcase a congregation serving others, making some lives healthier, warmer, richer. Each item reaches someone with a compelling personal story.

A few weeks ago a young pregnant woman, both a recipient and a volunteer at St. Lucy's pantry, was helping to shelve a bag of children's books from First UU. When she came to toddlers' board books, she began leafing through each one, placing a few on her backpack.

"My three-year-old loves reading books with me," she beamed. Bingo... that matters.

Our more pristine looking book donations are being temporarily set aside at the pantry. They will become holiday presents for some of the neighbors who are consummate readers. That matters.

So who's counting? We are. St. Lucy's pantry assists over 500 people each month. This fall we've sent to St. Lucy's and Eastern Farm Workers:

22 dental items 7 bags of clothing 9 bags of food
13 deodorants 2 cartons hygiene supplies 10 huge bags of toilet paper
102 soaps, lotion 29 shampoos, conditioners 931 books

Upcoming collections include: band-aids and first aid supplies (12/4); lotions (12/11); and baby care products (12/18). Food stamps do not cover purchase of these items.

Living our principles counts.

Guest at Your Table



- uus.org/givetoguest: Support Guest at Your Table
- [How UUSC puts your donation to work](#)

By celebrating Guest at Your Table in your congregation, you are helping nurture a spirit of gratitude and "justice, equity, and compassion in human relations." Guest at Your Table fosters understanding and awareness of UUSC's human-rights work.

Guest at Your Table is an annual tradition in which congregation members take home a box featuring people that UUSC has worked with recently. These people are your "[guests](#)," and you are asked to share your blessings with them. As you give to your guests, you can learn about them by reading the [Stories of Hope](#) booklet.

Most congregations begin their Guest at Your Table celebration on the **Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 20, 2011**. But please check your congregational calendar for your opening date.

Your Guests

Who are this year's special guests? [Learn about the people on your box here!](#)

Gifts to Guest at Your Table

When your congregation concludes the program, please convert the donations you have given your guests into a check, then return it in the Guest at Your Table box or envelope to your congregation's Guest coordinator or send it directly to UUSC. The funds raised through this program support our human-rights work in the United States and around the world! Individuals and families can contribute during their congregation's Guest celebration, or [contribute online to Guest at Your Table](#). Here are some examples of [how UUSC invests your donations to Guest at Your Table](#).

Are you coordinating Guest at Your Table in your congregation? [Check out our organizers' page for materials, ideas, and support!](#)

**Deadline for submissions for next issue:
DECEMBER 23, 2011
firstuu@twcny.rr.com,**

Church Calendar

Key: FH=Fellowship Hall; K=Kitchen; L=Library
(behind Sanctuary); N=Narthex; P=Parlor;
S=Sanctuary; TR=Teen Room; ER= East Room



DOLCE MARIA

8:00 PM Friday 12/2

Unitarian Church, 109 Waring Rd., Syracuse

General Admission \$25; Senior \$20;
College Student \$10; Grades 3-12
FREE

[CLICK HERE](#) to purchase tickets

DECEMBER

Th 1 7:00 p Worship/Music Cmte. (P)
8:00 p Folk Dancers (FH)

Fr 2 8:00 p NYS Baroque Concert

Sa 3 11:00 a Dedication

Su 4 10:30 a Worship

12:15 p Chalice Circle

We 7 1:15 p Chalice Circle (P)

Th 8 9 7:00 p Folk Dancers (FH)

Su 11 10:30 a Worship

We 14 7:00 a Green Sanctuary (P)

Th 15 7:00 p Folk Dancers (FH)

Su 18 10:30 a Worship

12:15 p Chalice Circle (P)

We 21 1:15 p Chalice Circle (P)

5:00 p Montessori Christmas Prog (S)

6:30 p CUUPS (ER)

7:00 p Board Meeting (P)

Th 22 7:00 p Folk Dancers (FH)

Sa 24 7:00 p **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Su 25 **NO SUNDAY SERVICE**

Th 29 7:00 P Folk Dancers (FH)



