



## 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 Musings

#### Prunes a' La Mode

Pledge month always makes me cringe in much the same way that prunes affect my taste buds! However there is a correlation between prunes and the annual pledge season; a box of prunes is sometimes hard to look at but they are occasionally necessary to keep everything in good working order!

Gastronomically speaking the consumption of prunes is not on the top of our list as a conversation piece. They are wrinkly, somewhat unattractive and lack ambience. They are seldom included in the 'Galloping Gourmet's' collection of culinary delights or in anyone else's cookbook either. But we are all very familiar with what they are good for and why we need them. In the same vein, Our leadership has struggled with how to address the looming expenses of the coming year, especially the most visible and obvious, our church building and grounds along with maintaining our Staff, Music program church school, and activities. The Pledge and Finance Committees have thought long and hard as to how to "season", display and to garnish those fiscal "prunes" that we so dislike addressing, but once again, it is that time.



Like prunes, our Pledge Drive is the most difficult part of our inner health that we continue to have to face in order for our church to run smoothly and continue to do its job efficiently.

As I review the past month, I have come to deeply admire all those who have given their time and money, who have kept their hands and their hearts on the pulse of this church, which we love and have committed ourselves to care for. Yes, there will always be those tangible and unexpected expenses, but what shines through the deficits on a cold winter's day, is a kind and happy church, filled mostly with laughter and sometimes with worry, ready to bring to our children a message of love and acceptance in which to make a difference in the welling being of our community; a place of learning, reflection and worship for all who strive to find a deeper meaning in the process of our daily living.

At times we are discouraged with the responsibility of the care of our church, but more often than not we are proud of who we are, determined to find our way and anxious to explore more thoroughly what we can become. So as we are asked to take our personal and financial inventories and strive to plan our future wisely, let us eat thy prunes in gladness for tomorrow we shall, uh umm.. Feel oh so much better!

*Sincerely, Holly*

**2010 will mark First UU's 150th anniversary. We are therefore striving for \$150,000 as our pledge goal. Many of our programs have been drastically reduced and we are hoping to begin the rebuilding of First UU. The building has many physical needs and our committees require financial support to thrive.**

**Please help us Honor our History and Secure our Future with your generous financial gift. We value the time and talents of our congregation but also require the treasures to keep our society growing. Lets continue to make an impact for the next 150 years!!**

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 Email: firstuu@twcny.rr.com  
 Church Office Hours: 9:00 - 3:30, Tues.- Fri.

**Interim Minister:**

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**Secretary:**

Ruth Yamaguchi

**Music Director:**

Jonathan English (firstuusic@twcny.rr.com)

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Sonja Lamicela (firstdre@twcny.rr.com)

**RE Assistant:** Glenn Gesek

**President:** Joe Cavallaro (joecav50@gmail.com)

**Vice President:**

Peg Flanders (pegflanders@twcny.rr.com)

## SUNDAY MORNINGS AT FIRST UU

SERVICES START AT 10:30 AM

- March 1** "March 1st "Is it Worth the Dream?" There are those among us who thrive on taking chances, or betting on the unknown with the hope of making it big. Some are winners but most of us need to take a second look at what it is we are hoping for, working toward and how it will come about, by chance or by change?  
-Rev. Holly Baylies
- March 8** "The Origins of Morality " The Origins of Morality take a hard look at the roots of our moral principles, spawned from our Judeo Christian heritage, they at times leave a lot to be explained!  
-Rev. Holly Baylies
- March 15** "Taking Inventory " Upon welcoming our new members this sermon will explore the perpetual sorting out of our spiritual practices which is an activity that is easily overlooked and all too often ignored...  
-Rev. Holly Baylies *(New Member Sunday)*
- March 22** "Living Faithlessly " Again this year, CUUPS celebrates the Spring Equinox with chanting, story telling, poetry, ritual and mirth.  
- Alan Stillman, Coordinator
- March 29** "Prisoners of Excellence" Many of the demands of our living involve perfecting something, be it the skills of our job, the efficiency of running a home or the mere flaws in our character we wish to eliminate. This sermon examines the parameters of excellence in our strivings to meet the expectations of those around us. -Rev. Holly Baylies



*Holly's sermons are available. Please email her at [firstuurev@twcny.rr.com](mailto:firstuurev@twcny.rr.com) to request a copy.*

### Minister's Weekly Schedule

<b>Monday:</b>	Holly's sacred day off!
<b>Tuesday:</b>	AM Staff meeting and available for appointments, meetings
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Church Office and appointments, meetings
<b>Thursday:</b>	Sermon Prep at home
<b>Friday:</b>	Church Office and appointments, meetings
<b>Saturday:</b>	Office at home
<b>Sunday:</b>	Church and afternoon appointments

*To schedule an appointment with Holly:  
e-mail: [firstuurev@twcny.rr.com](mailto:firstuurev@twcny.rr.com) or [revholly1@aol.com](mailto:revholly1@aol.com)  
Office phone: 446-5940  
For emergencies: Holly's cell phone is 617-548-5113*

### Chalice Circles - A Great Way to Meet in a Small Group



Groups meet for reflection and dialogue on matters of ultimacy in our lives in the context of a small, intimate, trusting group. Groups of between 6 and 10 people meet with a facilitator for 2 hours to get to know each other better personally and on more varied topics than the typical coffee hour conversation allows. Facilitators and then their groups work with Rev. Holly to develop topics of interest to all. Current groups and facilitators: 1st and 3rd Sundays 12:15 pm (Evelyn Ehrlich), 2nd and 4th Mondays 7 p.m. (Glenn Gesek/Susan King), 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 1:15 pm. Interested in different days and times? Contact any of us listed!

#### SUNDAY CHALICE CIRCLE is Recruiting New Members!

It's a good way to get to know people in a smaller setting. We meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays, usually in the Parlor. There is an open chair but we ask for a commitment of time after you know what we're about. Questions? Contact Evelyn Ehrlich, Facilitator, at [evelyntehrlich@hotmail.com](mailto:evelyntehrlich@hotmail.com) 475-4472 or Pamela Spearman at [paspearman@bluefrog.com](mailto:paspearman@bluefrog.com)

# President's Report



*My fellow members, friends and Unitarian Universalists who I know genuinely care, dare I say love, our First UU...this is our time to express the value that our liberal religious community holds in our hearts. The month of March is set aside for us all to indicate our pledge of financial gifts to First UU for the coming church year. It is an important time to consider how our generosity impacts the work of our church.*

*First UU is my opportunity to put my values and principles into practice together with friends who share them. I view my gifts to the church as a way to enable the voice of the UU faith to take shape in the sermons of our minister, the music of our choir and the teaching of our children. Together we create a spiritual home that draws a circle of love that takes those of us in that may have been drawn out of other's circles.*

*Please consider how First UU affects you and how your gifts effect it. This is the year that we need everyone to participate as fully as possible. Pledge your gifts of financial commitment as generously as your circumstances allow. Your gift to the church should not be a hardship; but neither should it be an easy gift. Rather it should reflect a serious commitment to the place you have chosen as your spiritual home, the place where your children will be educated in religious matters, the place where you will continue your own search for religious meaning.*

*Be sure to give a grateful thank you to the stewards of our Annual Budget Drive and especially Tanya Gesek who volunteered to head the effort this year. Please stop by their table in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday in March, ask questions, say thanks, and be sure to hand in your pledge.*

*Joe Cavallaro, President*

## FUUSS FISCAL UPDATE (AS OF JANUARY 31, 2009)

(represents 7 of 12 months or 58% of fiscal year)	Actual to Date Expenses and Income:	Total Annual Budgeted Expenses and Income:
To Date (July 1, 08 - January 31, 09) Total Expense:	\$103,022.28	\$197,703.50
To Date (July 1, 08 - January 31, 09) Total Income:	\$125,904.68	\$197,703.50
2007-2008 Surplus/ (Deficit) Carried Forward:	(\$4,275.25)	
Overall Operating Surplus / (Deficit):	\$18,607.15	
To Date Pledges Received:	\$90,004.67	\$136,790.00
To Date Fund Raising:	\$93	\$5,000.00

### News from the Nominating Committee:



The following people are on the nominating committee and would like to answer any questions you have about leadership positions: Jerry Clauson, Cynthia Keiber-King, Lee Murray, Jerry Sharfstein, and Mary Springston.

We seek individuals who are interested in the following positions for President, Vice President, Treasurer, Board of Trustee members and Nominating Committee members. We encourage you to submit an application of intent by March 15th.

Application can be found in the church office. You can also stop by the Nominating Committee table on 3/8 and 3/15 during coffee hour to pick up a form or learn more about these opportunities.

# Community Activities and Calendar

March 2009

## THE BUDGET DRIVE WILL BEGIN WITH A KICKOFF LUNCHEON ON MARCH 1

All are invited to enjoy a free lunch to celebrate our community and will be encouraged to make their financial commitment at this time. Final pledges are due by March 29. Child care will be provided for our youngest members and friends!

Please RSVP to [tgesek@twcny.rr.com](mailto:tgesek@twcny.rr.com) or sign up in the Fellowship Hall on the Big Board.



**Movie With The Minister**  
(ALL AGES WELCOME -SHARE COMMUNITY WITH ALL)  
Friday, March 20th @ 7:00 pm

The congregation is invited to join the minister in the parlor for the movie Into The Wild which is based upon a true story of a young man "who abandons his life of comfort to pursue the freedom of life on the road, a quest that leads him into the Alaskan wilderness." It is an experience that changes his whole attitude on the meaning of relationships. Bring something snacky to share. **All are welcome.**

### YOUR HELP NEEDED:

Ushers (upstairs), greeters (downstairs) and social hour help (set up/clean up, people interested in learning the ways of the kitchen) are needed every week!

How to do it:  
Sign up on the Big Board.

Need training or information?  
Call or write Peg Flanders, Vice President, [pegflanders@twcny.rr.com](mailto:pegflanders@twcny.rr.com), 488-8077 (9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)

1 (Sun)	10:30 am 12:15 pm 12:15 pm	Worship (S) <b>BUDGET DRIVE LUNCHEON</b> Chalice Circle (P)	<b>Key:</b>  B=Betts Room ER= East Room (room at the end of the RE Wing hall) FH=Fellowship Hall K=Kitchen L=Library (RE Office) MR=Music Room N=Narthex P=Parlor S=Sanctuary TR=Teen Room AR = Archive Room (room behind sanctuary)	
2 (Mon)	7:00 pm	Committee on Ministry (P)		
3 (Tues)	7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Worship Service Committee Meeting (P) Ministerial Search Committee (AR)		
5 (Thur)	6:30 pm	Coming of Age Meeting (P)		
7 (Sat)	1-4 pm	Peoplemap Training Workshop [part 1] (P)		
8 (Sun)	10:30 am	Worship (S)		
9 (Mon)	7:00 pm	Chalice Circle (P)		
10 (Tues)	7:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting (P) Membership Committee Meeting (B) Ministerial Search Committee (TR)		
11 (Wed)	1:15 pm	Chalice Circle (TR)		
12 (Thur)	7:00 pm	Coming of Age Meeting (P)		
15 (Sun)	10:30 am 11:45 am 12:00 pm 12:15 pm	Worship (S) Lunch Bunch Membership Committee (AR) Chalice Circle (P)		<b>REMINDER:</b>  CHOIR REHERSAL IS HELD ON THURSDAYS (MARCH 5, 12, 19, AND 26) AT 7:15 PM IN THE SANCTUARY
16 (Mon)	7:00 pm	Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting (P)		
17 (Tues)	7:00 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting (P) Ministerial Search Committee (TR)		
19 (Thur)	7:00 pm	Coming of Age Meeting (P)		
20 (Fri)	7:00 pm	Movie with the Minister and DRE (P)		
22 (Sun)	10:30 am 12:15 pm 6:30 pm	Worship (S) Sacred Spaces (P) Junior Professional Artists (S)		
23 (Mon)	7:00 pm	Chalice Circle (P)		
24 (Tues)	7:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Mentoring Meeting (L) Ministerial Search Committee (TR) PFLAG Meeting (P)		
25 (Wed)	1:15 pm	Chalice Circle (TR)		
26 (Thur)	7:00 pm	Coming of Age Meeting (P)		
28 (Sat)	1-4 pm 9a - 4 pm	<b>Peoplemap Training Workshop [part 2] (P)</b> <b>Life Line Screening (FH)</b>	<b>Deadline for submissions for next issue:</b> <b>Wednesday, March 18,</b> <b>for the issue that will cover events from April 1, to May 1, 2009, at <a href="mailto:firstuu@twcny.rr.com">firstuu@twcny.rr.com</a>, or in the office.</b>	
29 (Sun)	10:30 am	Worship (S)		

### LUNCH BUNCH NEWS

On February 15th the Lunch Bunch gathered after the Sunday service with their lunch bags for fellowship and conversations. A birthday cake for Ginny Heckel and Evelyn Ehrlich was shared by all. Special thanks goes to those members of FUUSS who transported some of the senior members. The next such gathering will be March 15th.



# FROM ME TO UU! REACHING IN AND REACHING OUT WITH OUR UU FAITH



## Youth Religious Education News

The RE Department, along with the Young Adult Group, is very happy to be offering an exciting opportunity for our children. During the Worship Service on June 14th, they will be performing the play, "1000 Cranes". From now until then we will be very busy preparing the set, costumes and performance for this play. The message of the play itself is an important one in these times and we will be discussing it's relevance as we explore the script.



On January 11, the Coming of Age Youth and their teachers and mentors spent a day in service and retreat. It was an exciting event with ALL of the class and several of the mentors in attendance. First they gathered to make a Lasagna dinner for the families who are staying at the Ronald McDonald house. Then they all went over to deliver the food and find out more about ways that the Ronald McDonald house helps families. Then they returned to church where they shared dinner together, because they also made a dish for themselves. They worked on their curriculum and also spent some time in worship and spiritual practice and made prayer flags. The next morning they enjoyed some game time in class with Jim D'Aloisio. Thank you to all who participated and made this happen, including Tina Lesley-Fox, who masterminded the event, Brenda Owens, Kipp Mudge, Eileen Taveneiere, Chriss Allen, Keith Bertrand, Jerry Sharfstein, Rebecca Karpoff, and an extra special thanks for Jeff Lamicela and Barbara O'Bryan who stayed up to chaperone the crew all night.

If you stop by the Youth Group Room on Sunday morning (hint: it's across the hall from the Bett's room), you will see a group of 5-10 teenagers lounging on couches, eating Ramen noodles, and joking with one another. It's this camaraderie and relaxing atmosphere that keeps me coming back (almost) every week-we really are all friends. I can tell these people anything, and though I cannot guarantee that they won't laugh, if they do, they really are laughing with me, not at me, and if I have a problem, they really will try to help. I find acceptance and renewal with the burning chalice and this group of allies. But UUism for teenagers does not end Sundays at noon, when most of us leave- every few months conferences are held around the district, that allow us to connect with other teens who share similar views and values and have experiences that we couldn't have anywhere else. These "cons", as we call them, as well as youth group, allow us to worship in our own unique way, learn about ourselves and each other, and most importantly have a lot of fun.

*Vanessa Bellini*



## News from the Youth

Being March, we felt that it was a good time to update you, the congregation, on what WE, the Youth Group have been up to. Many of you know that we were recently planning to work with the Syracuse Samaritan Center. Unfortunately, a scheduling mix-up kept us from serving the meal on February 22. We did raise \$130, which will either be used for items off of the Samaritan Center Wish List or be put towards a future meal at the Samaritan Center. Thank you all for your kind donations. This past December, we did pitch in for the Salvation Army, ringing the bell at Shoppingtown Mall. This was a lot of fun and certainly something that we will look to do again in the future. Many of you have given us positive feedback regarding our support of the music during services: thanks to Mick O'Bryan, Dylan Holgate, Nick Lamicela, Joel Bowman, and others who have pitched in to share their musical talents. We are focused now on the upcoming Youth Conference to be held at May Memorial during the weekend of March 27. In order to make that conference happen, adult support will be needed. If you are interested in helping out as an overnight advisor, or in some other capacity, stop by the Youth Room and let us know! Other events are in the works – we will share more information as the plans are made.

*Glenn Gesek, Youth Group Advisor*

# Adult Enrichment News

Several items of interest:

- Check out the NEW MEMBERS TABLE as the book cart has been taken over by this group. There will be UU books available and copies of THE UNIVERSALIST HERALD AND COPIES OF GOOD NEWS FROM THE UU CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP that people are welcome to take.
- THE FRIDAY LUNCH BUNCH HAS ADDED A FEATURE. THEY ARE BRINGING SOME OF THE GROUP WHO CAN'T DRIVE TO CHURCH ON SUNDAYS. MORE PEOPLE ARE IN NEED OF THIS SERVICE. SPEAK TO NANCY CLAUSEN OR JANE PICKETT IF YOU WANT TO HELP.
- THE BOOK GROUP IS MEETING AND WILL HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN A LATER NEWSLETTER.

We would look to draw your attention to the following: SLAVERY TODAY SERIES run by the Gage Foundation at Fayetteville Free Library 300 Orchard St., Fayetteville. Beyond Boundaries and the Cultural Resources Council will present "Slavery and Our Roots" Feb. 27-March 21, a rich offering of 11 events and facilitated community discussions addressing the hidden and the distorted, helping people to together think through what keeps society from achieving social justice, both locally and globally. The first mini-series will be on the topic of "Slavery Today," with sessions at

Fayetteville Free Library:

- Monday, March 2, at 7 p.m.: This will be a discussion of Patricia McCormick's book "Sold." The story focuses on a Nepalese girl bought by a Calcutta brothel. The book will be on sale at the Feb. 27 opening lecture. Copies can also be purchased from the Gage Foundation.
- Monday, March 9, at 6:30 p.m.: The feature-length film "Trade" will be shown. It tells the story of a 13-year-old Mexican girl sold as a sex slave into the United States.
- Monday, March 16, at 7 p.m.: The mini-series concludes with a panel discussion on human trafficking in Central New York. This program offers an opportunity to understand the vulnerabilities that foster this predatory activity and learn how to prevent or hinder this practice.

For more information, visit <http://www.beyondboundariescny.org>.

- *Gracia Sears, co-chair*

**SLAVERY & OUR ROOTS**  
A COMMUNITY DIALOG

**OPENING LECTURE**  
David Ruggles and Radical Black Abolitionism in New York by Prof. Graham Hodges of Colgate University  
08 Friday, February 27, 7:30 pm @ Reilly Hall, Le Moyne College (315) 445-4575

**CLOSING CEREMONY**  
Exploring and Celebrating Who We Are  
09 Saturday, March 21, 7:29 pm @ St. Colman's Theater, 2129/27th, Townsend St., \$5 Children 12 and under • \$10 adults • RSVP: (315) 478-4571

**REVISED INFORMATION**  
Please note new information for March 12 and March 19 events

<p><b>SLAVERY TODAY</b> Fayetteville Free Library 300 Orchard St., Fayetteville</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday, March 2 7-8:30pm Dialog circle on book SOLD by Patricia McCormick • RSVP: (315) 637-9511</li> <li>Monday, March 9 6:30-8:30pm Feature Length Film: "Trade" - on human trafficking across US-Mexican border</li> <li>Monday, March 16 7-8:30pm Panel presentation on human trafficking in NY</li> </ul>	<p><b>NORTHERN SLAVERY &amp; RACISM</b> Syracuse University Warehouse 350 W Fayette St., Downtown (315) 478-4571</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wednesday, March 4 7-8:30pm Film: "Unearthing the Slave Trade" Discussion with activist Adelle Branch</li> <li>Wednesday, March 11 7-8:30pm Film: "Traces of the Trade" Discussion with DeWalle's descendant Gay Swenson</li> <li>Wednesday, March 18 7-8:30pm Film: "Teach our Children" Discussion with Prof. W. Walker, SUNY Oswego</li> </ul>	<p><b>SLAVERY'S LEGACY</b> Community Folk Art Center 805 E. Genesee St., Syracuse (315) 442-7930</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thursday, March 5 6-7:30pm Discussion on "Race, Class &amp; the Creation of Power and Privilege in the 20th Century" with Prof. Herb Rubin, Syracuse University</li> <li>Thursday, March 12 6-7:30pm Discussion of art catalog "Through the Eyes of Others" with exhibit curator, Prof. Gretchen Sears, SUNY Oswego</li> <li>Thursday, March 19 6-7:30pm Discussion on "A Suspicion Only: Racism in the Early Republic" from Death or Liberty with author, Prof. Douglas Egerton, Lafayette College</li> </ul>
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Opening lecture and all mini-series events are free and open to the public.  
A consciousness-raising series, addressing slavery, its legacy and its persistent presence today

Co-presented by:  
Beyond Boundaries, African American Studies, Le Moyne College, SUNY Oswego, SUNY Cortland, SUNY Cortland State University

Additional sponsorship for Slavery & Our Roots by: LE MOYNE COLLEGE, AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, SUNY CORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

"Black Child" by Philip Thomas Cole Tilford, 1815-1825 (courtesy of the Fenimore Art Museum, Cooperstown, New York)  
"Am I Not a Man and Brother?" 2009 photograph by Brandy Carroll

# The Green Corner



Have you noticed this time of year, as the snow melts off, the unsightly litter along our streets and highways. A high percentage of it is juice and water bottles that do not have a required deposit. OCRRA states that 80% of deposit required beverage bottles are recycled in Onondaga County, as versus only 16 % of non-deposit bottles.

The Bigger Better Bottle Bill would (1) update the present bottle bill by including deposits on non-carbonated drinks such as water, iced tea, sports drinks; (2) require beverage distributors to turn over undeclared deposits to the State Environmental Protection Fund. Currently they are keeping approximately \$140 million.

This bill has passed in the NY Assembly and Governor David A. Patterson has included it in the present budget. Thanks to all who signed the BIGGER BETTER BOTTLE BILL petition. Next Step: Please call Senator David J. Valesky at [valesky@senate.state.ny.us](mailto:valesky@senate.state.ny.us) and urge the senate to pass the bill. The Assembly has passed the bill and Governor Patterson has included it in the 2009-2010 budget.





# The Church Mouse

## Thank You



Thank you for your help!

- ▶ Thank you to Joyce Homan for donating a high chair.
- ▶ Thank you to Jim Vossler for fixing the phone system and wiring at First UU.



We asked our music director, Jon English, some questions about his musical background, his observations as music director, and how he views music and spirituality in his work at First UU. Jon grew up here in the Syracuse area, loved to sing since childhood, sang all through grade and high school, including musicals. He trained at Eastman School, in Austria and Germany, and Boston before returning to Syracuse, where he currently teaches voice at Syracuse University and privately. He enjoys teaching voice to a wide variety of students, and delights in watching how learning grows us all up. John has participated with the Syracuse Symphony, Syracuse Opera, Civic Morning Musicals, and Oasis, and is performing in a recital this March in Liverpool.

**ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CONGREGATION ABOUT HOW TO ENJOY AND EXPERIENCE MUSIC AT CHURCH?** .... *Participate, says Jon. Sing, play, challenge yourself to learn something. Be a careful listener, broaden your mind to varieties of ways of singing.*

**WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THIS CHURCH AS A PLACE TO MAKE MUSIC?** .... *We are unique individuals here. People try to listen and understand each other. They think and speak up. There is an opportunity for diversity here. It is a great place to make music! I hope to remind the congregations of the role that music can play in the spirit.*

**ABOUT MUSIC AND SPIRITUALITY** ..... *Music and the spirit are intertwined. There is music in wind, birds, and water. Music can be the source, the center, the fiber of spirituality. I believe that we can't have spirituality without music.*

**COMMENTS ON OUR INTEREST IN BEING A WELCOMING CONGREGATION FOR GLBT FOLKS...** *It's one of the greatest and most appealing aspects of UUs. There are still issues, and growth takes some trials.*

**ON A LIGHTER NOTE** .... Jon enjoys composing music, carpentry, fixing up his home, watching This Old House, remembers fondly All In The Family on TV. Mai Lan is his favorite restaurant, Star Wars and The Sound of Music are two movies he likes. He dreams about building a house, and studying with a stonemason, carpenter, silversmith, rug weaver and glassblower. He acknowledges he has a terrible curiosity.

**We hope that our music continues to inspire and energize the church services, and we encourage you all to sing out with gusto!**

**Recent Usher & Greeters:**  
*Peg Flanders, Diane Case, Cindy Sharfstein, Eileen Taveniere, Lora McCooey, Joyce, Homan, Jerry Clausen, Jane Pickett, Susan King, Glenn Gesek, Barb Carter, Marcia Tupper*



**Coffee Hour Helpers for February:**  
**Thank UUs to:**  
 Jeff Lamicela, Eileen Taveniere, Nadine Fernandez, and Jim Anderegg

### **Congratulations to Braeden Lentz, of our congregation, who just graduated from Hartwick College.**



He will be a Program Associate for the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock's Veatch Program that has awarded over \$8 million in grants to support organizations that put UU principles into practice.

## CONGRADULATIONS

**Way to go!**  
**More info at: <http://www.uucsr.org/veatch.asp>**

### Flowers for February



- **Jim and Pam Anderegg in honor of their 30th wedding anniversary**
- **The O'Bryan's for the Beauty of the Pinecones**
- **The Bellinis in anticipation of Spring.**

Honoring  
Our History



Securing  
Our Future

Commitment

Community

Compassion



Our Annual Budget Drive is upon us and this coming budget year marks the beginning of a new ministry for our Society! The budget drive is important as it sets the budget for the 09-10 calendar year beginning in July 2009. Most of our operating budget is supported by the financial contributions of all members and friends.

In reviewing the summary comments from the congregational survey conducted by the Ministerial Search Committee, it is clear that our community is unified on several important issues. The two most important challenges in the next 3-5 years will be the inter-related challenges of membership growth and increased financial strength.

Our pledge goal for this year is \$150,000; a 10% increase over last year. We felt this was a reasonable goal given the current economic climate yet meaningful as we fast approach the 150th anniversary of our Society. It will be a time to reflect not only on the strong foundation built by those that came before us, but on the legacy we wish to leave the generations to come. It is important that we both honor our history and secure our future by making a meaningful commitment to financial security for our community.

Of immediate importance is being able to offer our new minister compensation for the very important work we are asking him or her to do. Long-term goals should include getting on our own two feet. We need to return to social justice work so we can make our mark on the Central New York and greater world community. Let's reduce our reliance on the endowment fund to further secure our future. We all agree that is important to once again meet our financial obligations to the regional and national associations.

Whether you need Youth Religious Education to support your families, music to fill your soul, a monthly newsletter to inform you of goings on, a Sunday service to gather in community, or a chalice circle to stimulate your intellectual growth, our society needs your time, your talent, and your financial contribution. Visitors have marveled at our worship and fellowship space yet our building will continue to require upgrades and just basic maintenance.



Commitment to our seven principles is the foundation of our Society. Community is how we celebrate our liberal faith. Compassion allows us to reach outside ourselves. Please keep our congregation strong through your generous financial pledge for the coming calendar year.

## Membership Corner

Membership Induction Service will be 3/15, please join us in welcoming several former members who reactivated membership as well as several new members. Our returning members are Kathryn Tedford who was dedicated as child and has pleasant memories from her time here as a younger person. Barbara Carter was married to Don Carter by Rev. Howe in 1980. Shortly after they moved to Pennsylvania. Barbara taught Biology at OCC. Two of her four children live in the area. She returned in 2006 and is active in her chalice circle.



Our Membership Sunday will be March 15th. This is an opportunity to invite friends to become members by signing our Membership Book. It will also be an opportunity to introduce people who reactivated their membership or who signed the book since Rev. Baylies arrived.

WCNY has not given us specific time slots yet for Tel-auc. I am hopeful we will be able to volunteer at time when they will announce that a group is here from FUUS. We will keep you posted. We need a minimum of six volunteers and a max of 35. I am hoping for one 6-9:30pm slot for us. It will be some time during 4/23-26, or 4/30-5/3. Susan King has volunteered in the past is very knowledgeable about the process. Now that the snow piles have melted somewhat. Please honor our visitor parking slots on Sundays.

*First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse to Host a Preventive Health Event*



First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse will be hosting a preventive health event for local residents. The event is being offered by Life Line Screening and will take place at First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse on March 28, 2009. Life Line Screening is the nation's leading provider of community-based preventive screenings and scans for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries, which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms, which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease; and atrial fibrillation (irregular heart beat), which is closely tied to stroke risk. All five affordable, non-invasive, painless vascular screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register for a Stroke, Vascular Disease, Osteoporosis and Heart Rhythm Package for \$149. You must pre-register for the screenings. Appointments are limited, so sign up now by calling 1-888-653-6441, or visit Life Line Screening's website at [www.lifelinescreening.com](http://www.lifelinescreening.com).



Hospice of CNY will present "Living With Dying" educational series starting this March. The series will be offered from 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM for six, consecutive Monday nights beginning March 2 and ending April 6. Registration is \$85.00 per person. For more information or to register, contact Michele Devlin at Hospice (315) 634-2123.

This six-session series is an opportunity for members of the community to engage with others and specialized educators on topics like health care decision-making, death, dying, and bereavement. Participants will personally explore their past, present, and future when facing mortality and life-threatening illnesses, and life losses.

## SPRING GARAGE SALE PLANS

**This Is Our Largest Fund Raiser If We All Pitch In!**

**Save the dates!!!**

**Collection: April 27 - 30. Sale dates: May 1-3.**

Save your stuff!! This year we are adding back in clothing in GOOD, wearable condition! (Good clothing on hangers presented well would help us set up and display!) Linens in good condition also sell well. We have leftover books from previous sales but best sellers are always hot! NO knives, shoes, outdated or textbooks. Consider AGE AND real WORKING CONDITION OF

ELECTRONICS (such as t.v.) Timing and Coordination will begin in early April. Coordination for set up and sale will be handled by Linda D'Aloisio. Coordination of clean up and recycling of leftovers is up for grabs.



## Raise Money for FUUSS By Buying Groceries!

When you purchase P&C gift cards through FUUSS, you receive a card at the full value you purchased and the church receives 5% of the total purchase price. **The next order for gift cards will be taken on March 8th** - See Joe Cavallaro after service to place your order (please remember to bring your cash or check made out to FUUSS). Your cards will be available on Sunday, January 18th.



## Concert Alert!!!!

### The Candlelight String Quartet

April 4th at 7:30



Robert Connell, Violinist

Chris Shenkel, Cellist

Janice Carr, Violinist

Amy Diefes, Violist

#### ROMANTIC GEMS for STRING QUARTET

Dvorak's "American" String Quartet

Puccini's Chrysanthemums

Borodine's String Quartet No. 2

Suggested Donation \$10.00 - \$15.00

DO YOU HAVE A HIGHCHAIR THAT  
YOU NO LONGER USE OR NEED?



If so, consider donating it to  
First UU!

We have a need for several  
highchairs so that the  
toddlers have a  
comfortable place to eat  
and have activities in the  
nursery and at our potlucks. Please  
contact the church office if you can  
contribute to the comfort of the youth  
attending First UU!

### Spring is Coming!

It is again time to subscribe to a season's worth of fresh organic food from the **Community Supported Agriculture** program. By buying your food directly from our farmers, you eat food that is in season, support local farmers by guaranteeing a market for their produce, eat organic rather than industrialized food, and get food from near home rather than thousands of miles away. Shareholders will receive luscious greens, tomatoes, blueberries, beets, carrots, apples, pumpkins, and other goodies. Our principal farmer is Dick DeGraff, whose farm is just off Route 81 south of Pulaski. Dick has a farm store and berry fields, which we are invited to visit. You should know that it takes four people or more to eat up one food share. You can divide your share (and the cost) with other families.



You will get a discount - standard share at \$425 rather than \$450 - if you sign up for your food by March 13. Final deadline to sign up is June 1. Working shares are available at \$300 for the season; these require 20 hours of work on the farm. There are deluxe shares and late-season shares too. Brochures and sign-up forms are in our pamphlet rack near the downstairs (main) door and on the Green Sanctuary table. Or go to [www.csacny.com](http://www.csacny.com) for full information and to download a form.

Shareholders will be invited to two potlucks, one each to open and end the season. Potlucks will be held at FUUSS. FUUSS is again a "pod" (pick-up point) for weekly deliveries of food. Fred and Marilyn Lyman will manage the food distribution once every week between June 16 and October 29. Join us in supporting our local growers!

*-Susan King for Community Supported Agriculture*

FIRST  NEWS

#### NEWSLETTER NEWS

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

We're on the Web!  
[www.firstuusyr.org](http://www.firstuusyr.org)