

JANUARY 2012

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

# FIRST NUUS



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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 MUSINGS JANUARY 2012**

### **The March of Time**

**What happened to 2011 ? Where did it go? A year has a way of rolling on by like the endless links of an earthmover. Trekking over every moment of grace and despair, it never stops to savor the moment or to wait for aching hearts to cease.**

**It just moves on, almost carelessly over our days; be they filled with sunlight and laughter and treasured times or in those agonizing moments of loss and misery.**

**In our days of jubilation and pain, time moves on, link by link, inviting, yet never waiting to gently merge each precious moment into the next... such are those moments- some for the better to vanish, unbidden into yesterday- others to cling onto, lest they leave us too soon.**

**In these days of anticipation, those endless links of time await our vigilance and questions:**

**Who shall we become this year and what strength we will find from the lessons of yesterday? Which graces will we remember and what blessings will be bestowed upon us? When will the gifts of insight, in times of need, find us? What will be our wisdom gained and knowledge spent? Who will enrich our lives and who will leave us? What is the one lesson learned in life we would share with another?**

**For prophecies told and truths known, for new courses set and old pathways abandoned; in sickness and in health for better or worse, time is our partner in life to cherish or reject, to embrace its coming or to pass it by.**

**May this year of change and transition be one to cherish and treasure. We welcome its coming and gladly prepare for new memories to bless us in the days ahead.**

**Happy New Year!**

**Sincerely  
Holly**

**During the week of Jan 22 to the 29<sup>th</sup> Holly will be attending The Fraters, a Universalist study group of 20 select ministers from all across the country. The Fraters is the oldest continuous Universalist tradition which was founded in 1903 and continues to this day.**

## SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2012

Sunday Services are at 10:30 AM

January 1 – Rev. Betsy Spaulding presentation

January 8 - Holly Preaching- The Politics of Religion

January 15<sup>th</sup> - Holly Preaching TBA

January 22 - January 22, at 10:30 a.m. Roslyn Rasberry will present "On Being Human: A New Story of Us." Roslyn is a motivational speaker and workshop leader whose work, *Vital Change*, seeks to initiate a dialogue that deepens self and societal understanding while opening practical avenues of solutions.

January 29 - Guest Preacher



### AROUND THE BLOCK

Our deepest sympathies go out to Jerry Trexler and his family on the death of his father on the morning of December 18<sup>th</sup>. Funeral services were held at the Falardeau Funeral Home in Baldwinsville on Dec 23. Burial was in Maple Grove Cemetery in Jordan. Holly and Jerry officiated.

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.

Special thanks to 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



## CHURCH MICE AT WORK

Thank UUs to those who helped in decorating the church so beautifully, Dana Sovocool, Brian Gruninger, Randy Irish, Marge Mellor. Special thanks to Liz Kalish for her horticultural expertise with the live greens arrangements for Christmas.

Thank UUs to December's Ushers: Marge Mellor, Cliff Mellor, Joyce Homan, Cindy Sharfstein, Marilyn and Fred Lyman, Shaila Wood, Julie and Rob Piato

## From the President

**Healthy Congregations is a GO!**

We now have 30 people who have signed up to participate in the program! And we can take more, although we'll be starting the program soon. On Sunday the 8th we're having an after-church meeting of the group, to share our answers to some introductory questions that Connie Goodbread prepared for us. The first weekend that we work with the consultants will be 20-22 January. Don't let needing childcare, or a ride, deter you from joining the group. Let me know if you are interested - [jaibbes@aol.com](mailto:jaibbes@aol.com).

- Jim D'Aloisio

**The New Monday Night Chalice Circle**

.... will be taking time off for the holidays, and will resume the schedule of the first and third Mondays of each month at 6:30 PM on the 18th of January. There will be no meeting on Monday the 2nd. The 18th would be a great time to come by and try it out, to see if small group facilitated discussions on meaningful topics chosen in advance is something you might be interested in. Our first topics are "What Do You Believe? Parts I and II." We'll save a chair for you!

- Jim D'Aloisio

## Youth Religious Education (YRE)

Tina Lesley-Fox YRE Director

**There will be no RE program or childcare on Sunday, Sunday January 1. We look forward to seeing you back on January 8.**

### FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Yet another month has passed. My husband surprised me recently by pointing out that a full year has passed. How quickly time goes by. I hope the strong notes our choir ended 2011 on will continue into 2012!! Thank you, choir, for your hard work.

In 2012, I'd like to see others join us in services There are always opportunities for musicians to share their talents in our congregation. Singing along during the hymns is the easiest, but singing in the choir is not much harder. Closet musicians and divas alike, looking to do a prelude or postlude should also contact me. Maybe the week's topic is appealing, or maybe you're a student working on a piece for NYSSMA. As a music teacher, I have always encouraged my students to contact their church's music director for opportunities, and now in the role of a church music director, I encourage our musical youth to contact me. This is also a way to keep in touch with our youth as they alternate between May Memorial and FUUSS. As for me, I am continuing to grow. I now have a source for organ music and am looking forward to challenging my newly discovered feet. It will also be interesting to see how the Healthy Congregations program unfolds, where it takes us and what we discover there. May 2012 be a year of discovery and learning, filled with music!

### GREEN SANCTUARY



**WELL DONE!** Thank you to the 61 concerned people who signed our petition to Governor Cuomo asking him to halt hydrofracking for natural gas in New York.

Our Green Sanctuary Team will continue its focus on water as we move into 2012. We'll keep our eyes on the situation with hydrofracking and let you know what's up. We'll also learn more about Onondaga Lake as we rejoice together in its rebirth. We'll even share ways we can continue to live our Seventh Principle in connecting with our water, air, earth and other living things.

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is involved in a project building houses for those in need in Haiti. Kenel Antome of the Green Sanctuary Committee at May Memorial has recently returned from this project. He will be speaking about it at May Memorial on Sunday, January 22 at 9 am. All are welcome.

## **Grateful Thanks to the Sponsors of Christmas Flowers:**

**Jim & Pam Anderegg in memory of Vivienne Dennis & James Anderegg; Paul Barfoot in honor of the children; Diana Bellini; Barbara Carter in memory of Don F. Carter; Joe Cavallaro in memory of my parents; Nancy & Jerry Clausen in honor our children Keith and Pam and our grandson Joe; Jim D'Aloisio in honor of our spiritual home; Peggy Flanders in honor of the wedding anniversary of Helen & Bernard Sperber on Christmas Eve 1933; Joyce Homan on honor of the Best of the Season; Randy Irish in memory of many; Phil Klein in honor of Peggy Flanders; Peggy Lynn in memory of William Duggan & Charlie Hemans; Janet Mallan in memory of Genelle Altman, former member; Marge & Cliff Mellor in memory of Clifford & Helen Mellor and Rudolph & Katheraine Loth; Margi Nasemann in memory of Rev. Ray Nasemann; Marcia Rand in honor of my first UU Family & Friends; Tim Rice in memory of Susan Rice and Joanne Rice; Cindy & Jerry Sharfstein in memory of Kimberly Sharfstein; Pamela Spearman; Eileen Taveniere in memory of Barbara Taveniere & Marguerite O'Bryan; Jerry Trexler in memory of Diane Hotchkiss and Lura & Irvin Hotchkiss; Marcia Tupper in honor of our church leaders and our families; Jane and Bob Pickett**



# NEEDED IN JANUARY

## The Scoop



It is so tempting to approach this by waxing poetically--or euphemistically. But let's not dance around the subject. Let's just spit it out.

Feminine hygiene products. There. Now that we have your attention, here's the story.

Leslie Dubiel of St. Lucy's Pantry expressed such gratitude to our UU community for all the personal care items and books we have sent over. At the last drop-off we asked whether there was something the neighbors needed that the pantry had considerable difficulty supplying. Without skipping a beat she blurted out, "Feminine hygiene products!"

There it is, First UU. The gauntlet has been thrown down. We surely can rise to that challenge! Henceforth, January is Feminine Hygiene Products Month at First UU.

We will use one of the book donation baskets in the coatroom for collecting packages of pads and tampons. Regardless of whether we cruise down the feminine products aisle on a regular reconnoiter or as a trip down memory lane, let's fill that basket many times over.

For those not so inclined, weekly Sunday collections will continue in the narthex: 1/1, dental products; 1/8, soaps; 1/15, shaving items; 1/22, hair products; and 1/29, first aid items.

St. Lucy's Pantry serves nearly 600 households each month and the number is growing. It's good to know we can be part of that service.



**Dance in the New Year**  
**with MMUUS and First UU**  
**at May Memorial**

New Years Eve Dance Party\*

Saturday, December 31

8:00 p.m. - 12:30

Bring an appetizer or dessert.

Cash bar (beer and wine)

Contact Michael Dillon at [zubenal@hotmail.com](mailto:zubenal@hotmail.com) or 471-1237 at least 5 days in advance if you'll need child care, can help in any way, or have any questions.

\*For the 21 and older crowd

**Deadline for submissions for next issue:  
JANUARY 24, 2011  
[fristuu@twcny.rr.com](mailto:fristuu@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

**JANUARY**

**Su 1** 10:30 a Worship  
12:15 p Chalice Circle  
**Mo 2** 6:30 p Chalice Circle (P)  
**We 4** 1:15 p Chalice Circle (P)  
**We 6** 6:00 p SLD YAC Overnight through Saturday  
**Th 9** 7:00 p Folk Dancers (FH)  
**Su 8** 10:30 a Worship  
12:00 p Committee on Ministry (P)  
**We 11** 7:00 a Green Sanctuary (P)  
**Th 12** 7:00 p Folk Dancers (FH)  
**Su 15** 10:30 a Worship  
12:15 p Chalice Circle (P)  
6:30 p JrProArt (S)  
**Mo 16** 6:30 p Chalice Circle (P)  
**We 18** 1:15 p Chalice Circle (P)  
**Th 19** 7:00 p Folk Dancers (FH)  
**Fr 20** 6:00 p Healthy Congregations Session  
**Sa 21 9:00 a Healthy Congregations Session 9-7pm**  
**Su 22** 10:30a Worship  
12:00 a **Healthy Congregations Session 12-4pm**  
**Tu 24** 7:00 a Trust Meeting (P)  
**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
**Th 26** 7:00 P Folk Dancers (FH)  
**Fr 27** 6:00 p YRE Youth Con overnight through Sunday 4pm  
**Su 29** 10:30 a Worship

**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- \*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 [fristuurev@twcny.rr.com](mailto:fristuurev@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, Clerk**

**Janet Mallan, Marilyn Lyman, Peri Nelson,**

**Members at Large**

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 three 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 Mondays from 6:30 to 8:30pm in the Parlor (Jim D'Aloisio, facilitator), the third 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!

