

NOVEMBER 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.

Tina Lesley-Fox, Coordinator of Religious Ed.
firstuusyrdre@yahoo.com

Sara Jo Brandt-Doelle, Interim Music Director
sarajobrandt@hotmail.com

446-5940 - firstuu@twcnv.rr.com - www.firstuusyr.org

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.

Notice of Special Congregational Meeting - 6 November 2011

There will be a Special Congregational Meeting after services on Sunday, 6 November 2011 immediately after the Sunday Service, for the purpose of considering the following Proposal, endorsed by the Board:

That we engage consultants through the St. Lawrence District to provide the "Healthy Congregations" program this church year, at a total cost not to exceed \$10,000, to be paid from available Endowment Funds.

- Jim D'Aloisio, President

jaibbes@aol.com

449-064

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

Jerry Trexler, Vice President

revholly1@aol.com

Office phone 446-5940

For emergencies Holly's cell phone 617-548-51

* To schedule an appointment with Holly

e-mail firstuurev@twcny.rr.com or

Sunday- Church and afternoon appointments

Saturday- office at home

Coffee Helpers: Thanks UU's to Marcia Rand, Pamela Spearman, Jerry Clausen

Church Mice at Work -



DID YOU NOTICE:

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.

How trim, weed-free and still colorful the front garden and nearby landscaping looks? Thanks to Liz Kalish and her team of gardeners - Peggy Flanders, Bettina Frisse, Tim Rice, Betsy Spaulding and Marcia Tupper.

And how clean the kitchen, parlor and other inside areas are? Thanks to Beth Geiss-Waldron, The Doelle Family, Randy Kalish, Felice and Dennis K-B, Radell Roberts, Nancy and Jerry Clausen, Pam Anderegg, Janet Mallan, Fred Lyman, Glen Gesek and Gary Potter. They cleaned, dusted, vacuumed, replaced light bulbs and batteries, installed storm windows and did a bunch of other things to make our building attractive and welcoming.

And to those who gave some time and didn't get recognition because our memories are not perfect – a big thank-you.

It was a successful fall clean-up day fueled by Johnny's pizza and cold drinks.

Thanks to everyone,

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Officers and members of the Board

JimD'Aloisio, President

Susan King, Treasurer

Fred Lyman, Financial Secretary

Nancy Clausen, Interim Clerk

Janet Mallan, Marilyn Lyman,

Members at Large

To October's Ushers: Thanks UU's to Kathy

Sowards, Peg Flanders, Jane Pickett, Bob

Pickett, Brian Gruninger, Mary McLatchie, Tim

Rice, Jerry Trexler, Keith Bertrand, Pam

Anderegg, Marcia Rand



Sincere Congratulations to Keith Bertrand and Ed Whitmore on their October 22 marriage.

Finally!

Minister's Musings

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee..." just sticks in my head each time I witness the changing of the seasons... the geese flying south; the ethereal rays of sunlight highlighting the hills and accentuating their colorful glow; the disappearance of mosquitoes and other annoying bugs as their lifespan ends. Then, there is that first puff of visible breath as the earth cools, the fluffy flakes of snow come and, its yearly fascination is over. We hunker down prepare for what we know Syracuse is capable of, and for what we are capable of!

This coming winter I am confident that we will do just that, "hunker down" and prepare! I sincerely hope our seasonal preparations will include a congregational vote to engage in The Healthy Congregations Program. It is a time to regroup, reflect and to renew our spirits, vision and direction for the coming year(s) as a viable congregation.

Over the summer, The Board of Trustees spent a great deal of time examining what was available and their conclusion was to engage in The Healthy Congregations Program. Some have requested more information, or a detailed account of the material presented. Others have noted the time commitments. In response to those queries;

- 1.) The Healthy Congregations program is designed specifically for the needs hopes and desires of our congregation. The actual content is developed during the first session from information provided by the participants. That is why there is not a boilerplate. Each congregation is different and those differences are the reason why the program is tailored for us specifically.
- 2.) A "yes" vote does not mean you must attend any or all of the sessions. This is a hand's on workshop, not merely a lecture series. As each session provides more insight, ideas will be carried directly to the congregation. It would be ideal if as many parishioners as possible could make a commitment to at least some if not most of the sessions, which will be spaced out according to the recommendations and convenience of the facilitators and the participants.
- 3.) As your Consulting Minister who has read the 5 year plan, which is now outdated as viable document, (that could not be utilized as it would have been when it was written) we must regroup and create a future for ourselves that prioritizes all of our individual and collective goals and objectives. We do need to examine the ways we interact with one another to grow in a healthy environment of communication and cooperation with a common purpose that unites us all.

I feel strongly, and I hope that you do as well, that there is something very special about this congregation and we are on the verge of recognizing how strong we can be once we have united in a common quest for identity, unity and mission. The Healthy Congregations program is geared to help us gain the unity of mission we so badly need.

I hope to see you all at the special meeting on November 6th. We have nothing to loose, and so much to gain. Members of the Board of Trustees and I would be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

See you in church,

Sincerely,

Holly



*WARNING WARNING
INTRODUCING THE NAME TAG
POLICE*

Coming Soon and Unannounced ...those neglecting to wear their nametags on Sunday mornings may be accosted by some pint sized police officers from the RE Program who will issue a ticket and a \$1.00 fine for such an offense! All proceeds will go to the RE program. Tickets can be paid in the Office



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.

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



SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

November 6 Rev Holly Preaching

November 13 Rev Holly Preaching

November 20 Rev Holly Preaching

November 27 Worship Committee



Around The Block Updates

News Flash! Pamela Anderegg will be home from having neck surgery on Sunday afternoon. All went very well and she should be back with us soon.

Shaila Wood is recuperating from having a hip replacement, and is now driving!

Nancy Clausen has had a bout with arterial fibrillation which was diagnosed during her hospital stay this summer.

Radell Roberts is back to work after suffering a painful a bout of abdominal problems.

The indomitable Phil Klein is back with us after a tough summer.

Youth Religious Education (YRE)

Tina Lesley-Fox YRE Director

The theme of this year in RE is Looking in, Looking out. We have been talking lots as a community about what our church means to us. We have been exploring our UU faith and thinking about how that faith informs our decisions in our everyday lives. As UUs our faith steers us towards compassion for all human beings, caring for the earth, the right of every person to have a vote, the importance of a fair and just world. Outside of our church community many people all over our country and all over the world have been standing up and "occupying" fighting for these same things. I have been thinking a lot about our role as UUs in this movement. How do we support these people young and old who are taking a stand? In what ways do our principles guide us to live out our lives? In what ways is our mission as a church the same or different from those of the occupy movement? How do we as a church community create a welcoming environment for those folks who are working to change the world?

In our RE program our children have been learning about the inherent worth and dignity of every person. For them it just makes sense. Of course everyone is valuable, of course everyone's voice should be heard, of course everyone should share the wealth. Why would it be any different? That is what is fair, right?

So how do we as adults learn from our children and youth? How do we as a church community share our wealth? One way is to talk to people in your life about your faith as a UU. Tell them why your church community is important to you. Explain our seven principles and what they mean to you as an individual. Invite people in your life to service or to an event at church so they can begin to experience the awesomeness of Unitarian Universalism.

November and December are known as months of giving. Over the next two months take some time to LOOK IN and think about what you are thankful for, what is important to you and how your life has been changed by your involvement with our church. Then LOOK OUT and take action. Invite someone to share your experience, volunteer at an organization that is important to you, donate, take someone a meal, drop by Occupy Syracuse with a pot of soup, do something nice for someone you don't know. The world will be a better place because of it.

Tina

FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Sara jo Brandt-Doelle

Recently, a choir member looked at me and said, "I have a choir voice, not a solo voice." All I could think was, "You're in the right place!" A choir offers us all the opportunity to lend our "choir voices" to the service, participating in a way that we can't while sitting in a pew. There's something special about the people willing to show up early, or even on weeknights, to rehearse for the Sunday service. Providing music to help augment the message and feeling of a service, helping ourselves and others on the search for truth and meaning, is truly an honor and a blessing.

A voice blended with others is stronger, more powerful and more effective than a voice alone. A "choir voice" encourages the kind of cooperation that is so needed in the world we live in. Be it at home, in church, in politics, in businesses or at protests, voices joined together in one message can accomplish great things.

This is an especially important time for music at FUUSS. The music director search committee has formed and will soon start looking for the next music director, one without "interim" in the title. Times of change can make us feel unsure, even doubtful about the future, but they also offer us an opportunity to regroup, reinvigorate and emerge stronger than before. As the search committee begins its search, I would encourage you to consider what you would like music at FUUSS to sound and feel like over the next years. I also encourage you to come and try-out your "choir voice" on Sunday mornings. Get to know what choir is all about.

Sara

GREEN SANCTUARY



Another delicious season has come to a close for those of us at First UU in the CSA at our church pod. Once again, we have helped ourselves, our farmer and the earth with our pleasure in eating local organic food for the past 20 weeks. Consider joining us next summer as a member of this important local network of people who care.

WATER: "...About two-thirds of fresh water is used for agriculture. Over the coming half century, as incomes rise, people will try to buy agricultural products that require more water. Cities and industries will demand more than three times as much water in developing countries. Watershed managers will increasingly want to limit water diversion from rivers to maintain flood plains, permit fish to migrate, recycle organic matter and maintain water quality.

Water shortages are projected to be significant in northern Africa, India, China parts of Europe, eastern Australia, the western United States and elsewhere. Climate changes will increase the water available for agriculture in North America and Asia but decrease it in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. Similar stories could be told about land, overfishing and carbon and nitrogen emissions to the atmosphere...."

Joel Cohen, New York Times, Op-Ed, Oct. 24, 2011



May Memorial to Host Holiday Fine Craft Show, Nov. 18-20

Fine crafts and art from local artists will be featured at the Holiday Fine Craft Show, November 18-20, at May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society. Baskets, cards, ceramics, fiber arts, glass, jewelry, photography, soap, and woodcrafts will be featured. This show provides an opportunity to purchase beautiful gifts for holiday giving or for yourself.

Participants are Amber Waves of Glass, Andries Douglas, Annette Sheedy, Ballina Baskets, Barbara Weingart, Butternut Pottery, Dana Blythe Stenson, Eye Studio, Ginny Spina, Grandpa Joe's Woodcrafts, Harry Freeman-Jones, Island Designs, Jennifer Locke, Jennifer Newman, Kelly Sullivan, Lorraine Markley, Sue Ellen Romanowski, and Syracuse Soapworks. The show is open Friday, November 18, 3-7 p.m.; Saturday, November 19, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, November 20, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Entrance fee is \$3. Free parking. For more information, go to www.mmuus.org.

INSPIRATION



CATCHING FIRE IN THE BURNT OVER DISTRICT

Rev. Renee Ruchotzke referred to the Nineteenth Century name for upstate New York in this keynote speech at the UU Leadership Conference, UU Congregations at the Speed of Change. In our multicultural world, the church has changed too. Some people now don't want religious stuff muddying their spirituality. In the old days, church set the schedule and all ages responded. Men were the leaders. Now, we are more diverse economically and otherwise, we need to be flexible and many congregants are women and are older.

Now is a time to rethink how we do church. Who are we as UUs? We must be true to our core. We need a shared understanding of our community as we learn to let go of the old religious ideas and learn what works and what doesn't. New models must come from all of us together, not just from the minister. Small groups? Saturday services? Using social networking well! Monthly focus such as Green Sanctuary? We can learn from other congregations.

WE must follow-up with newcomers as they are encouraged to participate in the journey of membership. How do we help newcomers find spiritual meaning and purpose with us? We must help them know our core purpose and our unique message. We must share radical love as we seek the truth in love. Diversity is essential as we live the loving human potential with all of our attention on the NOW. Should we rethink the meaning of membership? Will we really become a healthy congregation?!

Embrace change!

**Nancy Clausen and I were privileged to hear this inspiring message. Talk with us about it.
Marilyn Lyman**



ST. LUCY'S SCOOP

THANKS! Do keep those books and magazines coming in. Since mid-summer we've brought more than 630 used books for all ages to St. Lucy's food pantry. As for magazines--who's counting! The collection baskets are in the coat room.

WHAT HAPPENS? Leslie Dubiel, pantry director, says many books are borrowed and returned in exchange for other books. However, some neighbors pass the books along to their friends or family. Still other neighbors hang on to the books they select because having a personal library brings them great joy. Folks look for books whenever the pantry is open.

PICTURE THIS: At the pantry there sits a metal case with wire racks, each holding a few personal care items like a toothpaste rack, a shampoo rack, a soap rack. Some days a rack or two might be empty. Neighbors can food shop at the pantry only once a month and select only one item from the personal care case, *not one from each rack*. So it's either soap...or tissues...or shampoo... Food stamps do cover these products.

SO... On your weekly shopping trek, help fill up one of those empty personal care racks by picking up just one item for our Sunday collection in the narthex.

THANKS



PICTURE THIS: At the pantry there sits a metal case with wire racks, each holding a few personal care items like a toothpaste rack, a shampoo rack, a soap rack. Some days a rack or two might be empty. Neighbors can food shop at the pantry only once a month and select only one item from the personal care case, *not one from each rack*. So it's either soap...or tissues...or shampoo... Food stamps do not cover these products

**Deadline for submissions for next issue:
NOVEMBER 22, 2011
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
(at end of corridor)

NOVEMBER

Th 3 7:00 p Folk Dancers (FH)

Su 6 10:30 a Worship
12:00 p Special Congregational Meeting
12:15 p Chalice Circle

We 9 1:15 p Chalice Circle (P)

Th 6 9 7:00 pFolk Dancers (FH)

Su 1310:30 a Worship
12:00 p Newcomers Get-together (P)

We 167:00 p Board Meeting (P)

Th 17 7:00 p Folk Dancers (FH)

Su 2010:30 a Worship
12:15 p Chalice Circle (P)
6:30 p JrProArt (S)

Tu 22 **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

We 23 1:15 p Chalice Circle (P)

Th 24 **THANKSGIVING**

Fr 25 **OFFICE CLOSED**

Su 2710:30 a Worship



