



# Uni-Verse

## December 2009



"Providing a safe and inviting space for religious freedom"  
 UUFBF Vision Statement

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Big Flats**  
**P.O. Box 103**  
**Big Flats, NY 14814**  
**Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association**  
**607-562-3017 www.uuonline.net**

### Sunday Services:

10:30 a.m. at the Fellowship just off Hibbard Road, located on the north side of Interstate 86 between exits 49 and 50.

All are welcome for coffee and conversation following the service.

### Children's Religious Education Classes:

10:45 a.m. Sunday mornings, September through June.

### Sunday Service Schedule

December 6	<b>Living An Aware Life</b> with Michael Mann In 2005, author and essayist David Foster Wallace gave a remarkable commencement address at Kenyon College (my alma mater). In that speech, he discussed our "being conscious and aware enough to choose what you pay attention to (in life), and to choose how you construct meaning from experience." In a way not adequately conveyed here, it talked about the banal and the profound in our lives and how each can teach us. A truthful, funny, and unflaggingly warm address, it was obviously the work of a wise and insightful man---and is one of my favorite writings of all time. Come join me as I use much of the speech itself to explore what it can mean to truly be alive and engaged in the world.
December 13	<b>Beacon Press and the Watergate Papers</b> with Reverend Darcey Laine. This Sunday we tell a proud story from our UU history that reminds us of the importance of the free press to a democracy. What lessons does this story offer for the future of our movement and of our country?
December 20	<b>Religious Education Sunday: December in Our Town</b> Our children present a holiday musical directed by Elizabeth Brown-Shook.
December 27	<b>Winter Solstice and Kwanzaa - Kindling Other Flames and Winter Celebrations</b> with Jenny Monroe



### Bell Ringing

UUF of Big Flats will again participate in ringing the bell at Minier's to raise money for the Big Flats Food Pantry. Our day is Wed. Dec. 23rd from 2-5pm. Please see Tamara or call 737-8082 to sign up for a half hour time slot. Last year we raised a substantial amount of money in a short amount of time and I know we can do it again this year. This is a great social justice opportunity showing the community we care. Thanks in advance for your participation

## President's Ponderings

Hello Fellowship,

Last month I was suffering severe writers block, and while not much better this month, I am determined to move forward. This month I am taking the reporting route. The board had a successful retreat in early November. We are working on streamlining, consolidating and defining the expectations of various committees. I will introduce these updated committees at a congregational meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Furthermore, we compared the cost of expanding our existing worship space to the cost of erecting a yurt. On the wish list is more space, lots of windows, a green space, accessibility, storage space, etc. Whatever route we take it is inevitable that we do something to get out of the sardine can!

In the meantime I hope you all have a safe and happy holiday!

Moving forward through the block,

*Tamara*

## Fellowship News

### Music News

The fellowship's children are busy rehearsing for their December performance, *December in Our Town*. They are doing a wonderful job and having a great time! **The performance will be December 20**. Please come and invite your friends! We are planning a holiday extravaganza with food from the various holiday traditions! Special thanks to Anna Deery for her indispensable assistance!

### Adult RE Film Series

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> film will be "The Crying Game". It will be shown at the Big Flats Community Center on Tuesday, December 8, at 7:00 PM. We will discuss the film the following Sunday morning (December 13) at 9:30 AM at the Fellowship. All are welcome! Plot synopsis below.

*An unlikely kind of friendship develops between Fergus, an Irish Republican Army volunteer, and Jody, a kidnapped British soldier lured into an IRA trap by Jude, another IRA member. When the hostage-taking ends up going horribly wrong, Fergus escapes and heads to London, where he seeks out Jody's lover, a hairdresser named Dil. Fergus adopts the name "Jimmy" and gets a job as a day laborer. He also starts seeing Dil, who knows nothing about Fergus' IRA background. But there are some things about Dil that Fergus doesn't know, either...*

### Dine-out Sunday! December 6th

This month is at Garcia's Mexican Restaurant on the Miracle Mile. If you wish to go please let Tamara know at 737-8082. Garcia's is offering us 10% off meals if you mention the Church or Tamara. Feedback is needed to decide if we would like to go as a group or separately.

### Nursery Volunteers

Please see last page for the Sunday you've been scheduled for.

### FREE TV to good home!

Sara Hurley is replacing her television, and offers the old one to anyone willing to pick it up. It is a 19" RCA color portable, plus VCR, older model but works well. There's even a hand-made cabinet! If interested, call Sara at 733-1776, or [SHurley1@localnet.com](mailto:SHurley1@localnet.com)

### Socks for Second Place East

We are collecting packages of new adult size socks for the folks at Second Place East in Elmira. Just bring them and toss them in the box!

### A Helping Hand

The UU Fellowship is collecting donations to help a family buy Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner. The family has 7 children, and both parents are unemployed. If you have questions or wish to donate, contact Kevin Deery.

## Earthtones

Feeling like a feather  
captured in a copper kettle  
the sun turns on its arm of time  
as the pot brews a mixture of  
the seasons I find myself drifting  
into the middle of a plush green  
velvet valley surrounded by  
swatches and patches of muted  
oranges and yellows that have  
been sewn into blankets woven  
of birch, maple, and oak and  
touched off with a border of  
heavenly blue ribbon.

*Sara Katherine Hurley*

*Note: At least one of Sara's poems will be featured on a weather-sealed post, as part of "Poetry Posts"*



## Winter's Edge

Candles in the cottage flicker  
and dance about in an ivory glow  
Framing the flaming rose colored  
Poinsettia peering out the picture window



A gentle winter dusk lingers as  
Canadian geese blanket the rutted brown fields  
That hug both sides of the rushing waters

Mammoth chunks of ice flow swiftly down  
The river like crumbled marble shaping the white  
Gold of the setting sun into pools of sapphire  
As they fade into the dark shadows of the night

*Sara Katherine Hurley*

there is something quite special about one and all!



And the Grinch, with his  
Grinch-feet ice cold in the  
snow, stood puzzling and  
puzzling, how could it be so?

It came without ribbons.  
It came without tags.  
It came without packages,  
boxes or bags.

And he puzzled and puzzled  
'till his puzzler was sore.

Then the Grinch thought of  
something he hadn't before.

What if Christmas, he  
thought, doesn't come from a  
store?

What if Christmas, perhaps,  
means a little bit more?

Dr. Seuss

<b>Community Events</b>	
Tuesday, December 1 5:30 PM Elmira	<b>AIDS Remembrance Day</b> Gathering in Wisner Park at 5:30 PM, followed by a play from Elmira Little Theatre to be held at Trinity Episcopal Church. Sponsored by Chemung Co. AIDS taskforce.
Tuesday, December 1 <sup>st</sup> 6:30 PM SE Steuben Co. Library Corning	<b>AIDS Remembrance Day</b> Candle lighting and viewing of portions of the National AIDS quilt. Sponsored by Corning Vicinity Faith Communities
Saturday, December 5 <sup>th</sup> 5:00-9:00 PM Market St, Corning	<b>Sparkle of Christmas, Market Street</b> Sign up at the Fellowship to help by tabling for one hour. Or come down for the cheer and find our booth with its traditional buttons, bumper stickers, fair trade coffee and cards.
Saturday, December 12 <sup>th</sup> 1:00-4:00 PM Watson Homestead	<b>Homestead for the Holidays with the Gingerbread Lady</b> Annual gingerbread house-making event back by popular demand. This popular event for families allows up to four people of all ages to work collaboratively to create a gingerbread house. Gingerbread Lady, Linda Hodges, brings all the materials and decorations - all you need is your imagination. Reservations and pre-payment are required. Call the Homestead at (607) 962-0541 or email whomestead@stny.rr.com. Cost is \$30 per house. Refreshments and wagon rides (weather dependent) are also included.
Wednesday, December 23 <sup>rd</sup> 6:45 PM UU Athens Sheshequin Sayre, Pa	<b>Intergenerational Candlelight Service</b> Caroling at 6:45, and the service starts at 7:00 pm.

**FELLOWSHIP HOSTING SCHEDULE** - Hosting is a service that we provide each other. If you are unable to host on a day that you are assigned, please make arrangements for someone else to take your place.

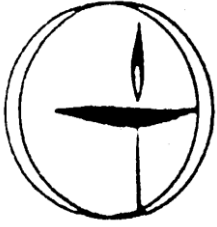
DATE	HOST
Nov 29	Stevenson, Swarthout, Cowles
Dec 06	Martin/Glen, Muffley, Brenner
Dec 13	Allen, Dodson/Miller, Reynolds
Dec 20	Halm/Maloney, Divens-Bruffey, Wilson
Dec 27	Woskinski, L&J Potter, Mann
Jan 03	Spicer, Deery, Scopellitti
Jan 10	Monroe, McCall, Edwards
Jan 17	Stevenson, Swarthout, Cowles

<b>Board Members</b>		
President	Tamara Miller	607-483-8699
Vice-President	Corey McCall	607-846-2574
Secretary	Lori Dodson	607-483-8699
Treasurer	Leslie Potter	607-739-9624
Programming	Jenny Monroe	607-524-8439
Director	Dave Muffley	570-835-5133
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Uni-Verse Editor	Jeni Paquette jpaquette@stny.rr.com	607-937-9809

Uni-Verse is published monthly at \$6.00 for one year (12 issues) by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Big Flats. Submissions are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for inclusion in the following month's newsletter. Editor reserves the right to use and edit submissions. Permission to reprint in whole or part with proper citation granted.

<b>Nursery Volunteers</b>	
Nov 29	Tamara Miller
Dec 06	Alta Stevenson
Dec 13	Jeni Paquette
Dec 20	Terri Divens-Bruffey
Dec 27	Diane Muffley
Jan 03	Deery family
Jan 10	Lvdia Bruffev

*Address correction requested*



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Big Flats, NY 14814

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