

December 2010

"Providing a safe and inviting space for religious freedom."



-UUFBF Vision

## *Sunday Service Schedule*

### *Sunday Services:*

10: 30 a.m.

48 N. Hibbard Road  
Big Flats, NY

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

*Nursery Available during  
each Sunday Service*

### *December 5*

Reverend Janet Ernisse will present "The Hanging of the Greens. And the Reds and the Golds and the Silvers". Following the service we will decorate the fellowship for the winter holidays and have a cookie exchange. If you'd like to participate, bring at least two dozen cookies. Then you can take home an assortment of the same quantity.

### *December 12*

"Enough!" with Reverend Darcey Laine. The holiday season is often a time of shopping, planning, cooking, cleaning, decorating and doing, doing, doing. How can we say "enough"? We will turn to the wisdom of the Buddhist tradition to help us answer this perennial question.

### *December 19*

Children's RE Sunday featuring performance by the children's choir under the direction of Elizabeth Brown-Shook- *December Nights, December Lights, Celebrations All Across the Land*. A variety of candle holders displayed in a shop window leads a group of students to discover the diversity of the season. Learn about the different ways we celebrate in December with this musical presentation. After an uplifting opening number, songs included celebrate Hanukkah, La Fiesta de la Posada, Kwanzaa and Christmas.

### *December 26*

"Welcome to the Darkness-How Does Your Light Shine?" This Sunday we will get to know new members and frequent guests, plus articulate our wishes for the year 2011. Various members of the fellowship will present opportunities for winter work around our building and in our community. We will sign up for small group ministry covenant groups and adult education programs.

## *President's Ponderings*

Sometimes it take a little reminder for us to remember what is really important in life. Sara's emergency surgery was that little reminder for me. Especially during the holidays, but really all year 'round, family is what is important to me.

I am grateful for my family and love them very much. I hope the same is true for all of you.

Gratefully moving forward,

*Tamara*

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## Fellowship News

### *Welcome New Members!*

On November 14th Chris and Ron Telford became our newest members at the fellowship. The Telfords and their three sons, Samson, Thomas and Henry live in Corning. Please welcome the Telfords to their new, extended family!

### *The Fellowship sponsors a family over the holiday season*

Thank you to all who contributed to our Thanksgiving donation of food to this year's family. We collected \$170 with which we purchased a Tops gift card for a family of six. Our sponsorship will continue for the Christmas holiday. Fellowship members are encouraged to sign up to buy a gift for a child or parent. For each child we ask that you purchase one clothing item and one toy. Please look for a sign ups on the bulletin board, which has all the information on ages and sizes. Wrapped presents should be brought to the Fellowship by December 19th. We will also collect cash donations for those who prefer to provide the parents the opportunity to buy gifts for their children. Contact Kevin Deery for questions at 732-1427 and to give any monetary donations to.

### *Remember your Building Fund Pledges*

Please try to fulfill your building fund pledge by the end of the year. This will help the fellowship greatly with financial planning and will be a great tax write-off for you!

### *Belling Ringing Schedule at Miniers*

Wednesday, December 15

1:30-2 pm-Jackie & "Dad"

2-2:30 pm-The Spicers

2:30-3 pm-The Shook-Browns

3-3:30 pm-The Potters

3:30-4 pm-The Miller-Dodsons & The McGoverns

4-4:30 pm-The Divens-Bruffey

4:30-5 pm-The Deery's

5-5:30 pm-Niki Parsons

5:30-6 pm-The Muffleys

In the event that you are unable to fill your spot, please contact our "fill-in family", The McCalls or switch with another family.

### *Members In the News!*

Fellowship member, Sara Hurley, joins other local poets in having their work placed in weatherproof "Poetry Posts" in parks around town. Sara's poem, *She Sleeps with Lions*, is on display at Grove Park in Elmira. Congratulations Sara!



*Together we can  
make a special family's  
holiday season  
merry & bright!*

### *She Sleeps with Lions*

Early morning dew waits for the  
rising sun to cross valley walls,  
leaving the tips of high grass  
glistening as if dipped in cold dia-  
monds.

All is warmth, peace, as I bury myself  
in her padded paws and sleepy head  
listen to the motor racing purr, the  
syncopated rhythm of her heartbeat.

## Our Community & Beyond

Hanukkah *Wednesday, December 1-Thursday, December 9*

World AIDS Day *Wednesday, December 1*

**Display of AIDS Quilt** *Wednesday, December 1, 12 pm*

Corning Library (Southeastern Steuben) will hold a service and display a portion of the National AIDS Quilt. This event is funded in part by the UUFBF.

**All That He Was...** *Wednesday, December 1, 5:30 pm*

[The Elmira Little Theatre](#) presents this special concert performance starting in Wisner Park with a welcome, a reading of names and a candle light walk to the Clemens Center. Refreshments and reception following the performance.

National Cookie Day *Saturday, December 4*

**Sparkle** *Saturday, December 4, 5-9 pm*

[Corning's Gaffer District's 36th annual Sparkle celebration](#). Featuring horse & carriage rides, shopping, dining, outdoor entertainment & activities for the whole family. Enjoy craft and food vendors, holiday carolers & photos with Santa. The UUFBF fellowship will have a vendor booth full of goodies in time for holiday gift giving!

**Children's Choir Rehearsal** *Sunday, December 5 & 12. 11:45 am-12:15 pm*

Islamic New Year *Tuesday, December 7*

**Meaningful Movie at Park Church** *Wednesday, December 8, 7 pm*

*Facing the Wall*, the story of Elmira and its decades-long struggle to recover from the devastation of the river, that defines it. Discussion to follow movie. Potluck supper begins at 6pm.

**Board Meeting** *Sunday, December 12, 9:30 am*

Human Rights Day *Friday, December 10*

**Children's Choir DRESS REHEARSAL** *Tuesday, November 15, 5-7 pm*

**Corning Small Group Ministry** *Tuesday, December 15, 7 pm*

**Elmira Small Group Ministry** *Wednesday, December 16, 7 pm*

Winter Solstice/Yule *Tuesday, December 21*

**Dine Out Afternoon** *Sunday, November 21*

Join everyone directly after service for lunch at Garcia's. A 10% discount will be given.

Festivus *Thursday, December 23*

Christmas *Saturday, December 25*

Boxing Day *Sunday, December 26*

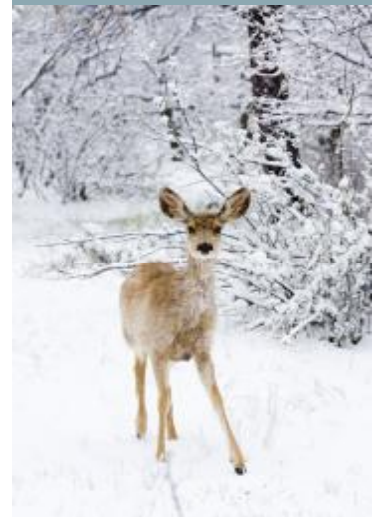
**Building Benefit Concert** *Sunday, December 26, 2 pm*

Christian Li, the former pianist at our fellowship, will be playing a benefit concert to raise money for the new building. Seating will be on a "first come/first seated" basis and tickets will be \$8.

New Years Eve *Friday, December 31*

"And in your Christmas prayers this year  
Say a prayer for the wind  
And the water  
And the wood  
And those who live there too."

-John Denver



## Social Justice Directives



*Let them know what you want...write a letter!*

Bring Social Justice Alive! Suggested activities/events to participate in – choose one that fits your schedule!

OK—Let's take a look at some federal level environmentally friendly bills.

Go to the Library of Congress THOMAS website. This website solely and specifically tracks legislation in progress in the House and Senate.

Specifically, we want the legislation underway for the latest session of Congress and the Senate—the 111th. Here's the webpage:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/LegislativeData.php?n=BSS:c=111>

Here are some bills to watch:

S.3815—Promoting Electric Vehicles And Natural Gas. Yes, I know, electric vehicles - good! Natural gas, hydrofracking—bad! Write

Senator Harry Reid about it, he introduced it!

S.3495-Promoting Electric Vehicles Act. Senator Byron Dorgan introduced this-write him!

S.3663-Clean Energy Jobs And Oil Company Accountability Act. Now we're talking! Introduced by Senator Harry Reid.

See what else you can find!

Drop these guys an email!

## More Fellowship News

### *Small Group Ministries Strengthen our Fellowship*

"Small Group Ministries or Covenant Groups are a transformational practice through which we, with others, can discover our own underlying assumptions about reality and examine our ways of being, some of which have become so habitual that they seem to us just 'the way

things are'. The practice of SGM does ask us to suspend judgment long enough to hear respectfully the understandings of others, even those vastly different from our own." *-Robert Hill, the Complete Guide to Small Group Ministry: Saving the World Ten at a Time.*

New Small Group Ministries will be forming in Corning and Elmira this coming

January. If you are interested in participating in one of these groups, please sign up at the Fellowship or call Karen Reynolds at (607) 654-7162.

### *Save the Date*

[The St. Lawrence District Assembly](#) in Ithaca will be held April 29-30, 2011. Make sure to save the date for dinner, workshops and a lecture.

**"A man's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions."**

**-Oliver Wendell Holmes**

## Sharing Corner

This is one of my favorite side dishes! It comes from the Pioneer Woman, it's easy and would make a crowd pleasing holiday dish. Enjoy!

-Jen

### *Whiskey-Glazed Carrots*

3 lbs. carrots, peeled & sliced  
1 stick butter (yep, butter!)  
1/2 cup whiskey (I like Jack!)

3/4 to 1 cup brown sugar  
1/2 to 1 teaspoon kosher salt  
Freshly ground pepper

Melt a bit of the butter in a skillet over med-high heat. Brown off the carrots on all sides-do in batches if you need to. Remove from skillet. Pour in whiskey and allow to evaporate, about 30 seconds. Reduce heat to medium and add the rest of the butter.

Add in brown sugar and the carrots back to skillet. Add in salt and pepper and cover. Continue cooking until carrots are tender and done and the glaze has gotten thicker.

If that is too hard, then dump it all into a pan and roast it in the oven. The only difference will be the carrots will not be browned off.

Serves 6

## Religious Education News

### Holiday Workshop

Jen will be holding a holiday workshop where the kid's can make some cool, *homemade* gifts for parents, grandparents, siblings or other family and friends on Saturday, December 18th starting at 4 pm.. These gifts will be easy to make and not too costly so they can do one or a few...whatever they choose! The actual items will not be revealed to adults, but kids can view project examples on Sunday, December 5th after service and sign up and pay for the ones that they want to make. Children can also invite friends to join us! Costs and brief descriptions below. If you have questions please contact Jen Peck at: (570) 549-8161.

- Project A: An everyday, useful item for a female family member or friend. \$4
- Project B: A home décor item for any gender, a couple or for an entire family. \$4.50
- Project C: Can be used as home décor or on a desktop for female or male. \$4.50
- Project D: Very useful "travel" item great for men, but ladies would like too! \$5.50



*Hey Kids! Come make your holiday gifts with Miss Jen on Saturday, December 18th!*

### December Nights, December Lights

This year's children's musical will highlight different celebrations across the land and will be presented on Sunday, December 19th. It will include songs for Hanukkah, La Fiesta del la Posada, Kwanzaa and for Christmas.

### The Middle Schoolers are busy!

Our middle school aged children under the guidance of John Shook have created a wonderful garden bench that will grace our outdoor green space. It is a sturdy design with beautiful detail work. Please make sure to take a peek at it if you haven't already and let our builders know how much you appreciate their handiwork. Next up for these kids will be working on a movie with Corey McCall. They will be producing a short movie for us to view coming up soon. Watch your newsletter and Yahoo Group emails for more information!

## Fellowship at work

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

Board Members		
President	Tamara Miller	(607) 737-8082
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	Renata Brenner	(607) 936-4580
Director	Karen Reynolds	(607) 654-7162
Uni-Verse Editor	Jen Peck	(570) 549-8161

Date	Host
December 5	Maloney/Halm, Bennett/Dayton
December 12	Potters, Vikings
December 19	Pecks, Paquette, Scopelitti
December 26	Allen, Miller/Dodson, Mann
January 2	Wilson, Morrell, Shooks
January 16	Spicer, Divens/Bruffey, Talbot, Wosinski
January 23	McCalls, Stevenson, Hurley
January 30	Deerys, Edwards, Ricotta



Address correction requested

## Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Big Flats

PO Box 103  
Big Flats, NY 14814

Phone: (607) 562-3017



Please check here  and return if you no longer wish to receive this mailing. Thank you.



*Hey Kids!*

### *Christmas Trivia from Around the World*

-Christmastime in Australia falls on a summer day, so they celebrate with BBQs and beach activities!

-In Greece the Elves in Christmas stories are mean!

-St. Nicholas is also called Sinterklaas in Russia.

-In Italy it is not Santa Claus who delivers gifts to children, but La Befana, a kindly old witch.

-Christmas caroling began as an old English custom known as Wassailing.

-The U.S.'s Salvation Army started collecting money in 1891 for a charity dinner and used a large crab pot on a street in San Francisco.

-It is the custom to put a fake spider web on the tree as decoration and when found on Christmas morning it is believed to bring good luck.

Join

us

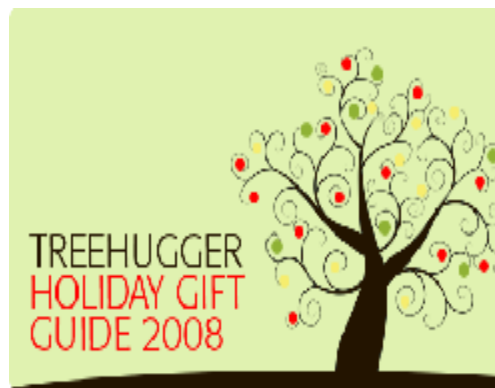
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Sunday



A little birdie told us that we are in need of some birdseed for the birdhouses located around the fellowship grounds.

Please bring in a lidded container with birdseed & either fill up & spruce up a feeder or leave it in the furnace room. Thanks!



Visit us on the web!

[www.BigFlatsUU.org](http://www.BigFlatsUU.org)



Follow us on

[Facebook!](#)

Join our Yahoo Group!

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/uubigflats/>