



# Uni-Verse

June-July 2008

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

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Big Flats**  
**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!

## *Summer Services*

Our summer Sunday Services will be in the Small Group Ministry format.

Small Group Ministry is a means of creating a deeper understanding and knowing about each other through active listening. The facilitator for the session chooses a topic for thought and discussion. All attending the service are invited to respond to the topic's thought provoking questions in turn while respecting each other's opinions and points of view. Small Group Ministry is a means for respectful dialog among participants. Of course participation is at each person's own comfort level.

There are Sundays available for volunteer facilitators. It is an enjoyable experience to facilitate a session. Topics and questions are available. If you are interested in facilitating a session, please contact Program Chair, Terri Divens-Bruffey at 524-6824, or sign up on the sign up sheet at the Fellowship.

## *President's Ponderings*

Dear Fellowship,

I want to share a couple of reasons why I like our fellowship. My wife can hold my hand and no one shoots us a disgusted look. My partner, children and self, are addressed and accepted as the family we are. Activities centered around food are always a great success. I can spout out a comment and enjoy the company of many who feel the same. The people who have joined are also willing to chip in and do the work. We sing the coolest hymns. This wonderful group of people has nourished my personal growth. We can have a bon fire whenever we want. In summer small group format we can discuss whatever we like. I could go on, but if I missed anything you can fill in the blank.

Happily moving forward,  
*Tamara*

## Community Events

<b>June 13<sup>th</sup>, Friday, 7:00-9:00 PM</b> Ernie Davis Middle School, Elmira	Juneteenth The Diversity Panel
<b>June 14<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM</b> Ernie Davis Park, Elmira	Juneteenth Food, games, cultural awareness, service providers, entertainment
<b>June 14<sup>th</sup>, Saturday</b> Wisner Park, Elmira	Pride Event Be sure to stop at the UU table!
<b>June 14<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, 10-2:30 PM</b> Elmira	Glass Fusing with Aaron Jack Join Compeer and make a beautiful piece of glass art. Contact Michelle Page, 733-7661 ext. 328 or email <a href="mailto:compeer@stny.rr.com">compeer@stny.rr.com</a>

## FellowShip News

Dear Fellowship,

Thanks for all your support through-out the year. We had a great year of growth and I am sure we will continue on that path. I wish you all a safe summer and hope to see you for small group format on Sundays.  
Trying to stay cool and move forward,

Tamara

**Dinner and a Movie May 16th** was very successful. The movie, "The Great Debaters" was shown at the Steele Memorial Library co sponsored by the Human Relations Commission. One of the roles of the Commission is to promote diversity and equal opportunity in our community - thus the diversity series. Keep watch for future events throughout the year. Sara K Hurley

### Rowe Camp and Conference Center

Check out the Rowe Camp and Conference Center Spring - Summer Planned Events '08. Rowe is located in the beautiful Berkshires just a few miles from Williamstown, MA. [www.rowecenter.org](http://www.rowecenter.org) Sara K Hurley

### Unirondack Camp and Conference Center

Also check out this camp and conference center in the Adirondacks! [www.unirondack.org](http://www.unirondack.org)

### New Members

On June 1st the Fellowship celebrated Flower Communion and welcomed five new members - Frank Potter, Ruth Lee Potter, Jeni Paquette and Renata & Arthur Brenner.

## Minutes of the June 1, 2008 Annual Congregational Meeting

The Meeting was called to order at 11:45 a.m. by President Tamara Miller.  
A roll call of members was taken, 17 members were present, quorum thus being satisfied.  
Terri Divens-Bruffey presented the Nominating Committee report:  
Jenny Monroe, President                      Corey McCall, Vice President  
Lori Dodson, Secretary                      Leslie Potter, Treasurer  
Dave Muffley, Trustee (two year term)    Gary Swarhout, Trustee (one year term)

Nominations from the floor were requested, none being heard, nominations were closed. Tamara called for the secretary to cast one vote for the slate, which was done.

Nominating committee for 2008-09: Kevin Deery and Terri Divens-Bruffey will continue their terms. A request for nominations from the floor yielded Jean Wosinski and Diane Muffley. The nominating committee made up of these four individuals was elected by voice vote.

Leslie Potter distributed copies of the proposed budget for 2008-09 fiscal year. She answered questions regarding spending in the 2007-08 FY plus the moving of a total of \$6000 by the Board from checking to savings, designated for the building fund. Current position as per 5/31/08 is total funds of \$32,420 in three accounts: \$6,545 in checking account; \$24,854 in Vanguard Money Market and \$1,021 in AG Edwards stock savings account. Within the Vanguard account there are two designated funds: \$1,700 for the Welcoming Community Project and \$9,649 for the Building Fund. Leslie also asked for all pledge forms be returned as soon as possible.

Committee Reports were heard:

**Religious Education:** Carolyn Scopelliti thanked the various teachers who assisted this year and asked for more members to volunteer in this capacity beginning in September.

**Special Events:** Leslie Potter detailed our participation in Octagon Fair, Sparkle of Christmas and Pride and Colleen McCall spoke about the new TGIF events.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Dave Muffley spoke about various projects completed around the Fellowship, most notably the clearing of the dead trees in the back. Co-chair Gary Swarhout was thanked in abstentia.

**Program:** Jenny Monroe detailed the last year of programs and thanked members for exceptional participation and diversity. 13 Small Group Ministry lay-led discussions, 11 member-led programs; 2 UU curriculum programs; 4 member-led celebrations; 2 RE Sundays; 8 presentations by community members; 5 guest ministers of other faiths; and 7 UU minister presentations.

Tamara was thanked by the congregation for three years of service as president and presented with a gift and card.

Jenny charged the membership with the challenge of making this year one of substantial progress on expanding the sanctuary (SET FORTH – Sanctuary Expansion Task Force) and developing adult programs. She asked each member to give one hour per week of their time working on some aspect of committee work, or work around the Fellowship building.

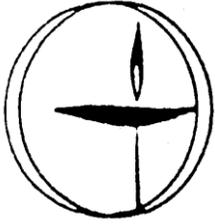
The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

### Board of Trustees:

President:	Tamara Miller	737-8082
Vice-President:	Jenny Monroe	524-8439
Secretary:	Jackie Wilson	734-0856
Treasurer:	Leslie Potter	739-9624
Trustees:	Colleen & Corey McCall	846-2574
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*Address correction requested*



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