



# Uni-Verse

September 2008

"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**

**September 7th - Water Communion Service.** Please bring a sample of water to represent your travels this summer, whether physical, intellectual or spiritual. We'll take time to share what those travels have been as we rededicate ourselves to our congregational purpose. Be prepared to smile for the annual group photo of Fellowship members and friends to be taken after the service.

**September 14<sup>th</sup> - Harp and Hymn History.** Local harpist, MaryAlice Little, will present a brief history of a few of our hymns and interpret them on the harp. She will also present the history of her journey to the harp and the impact playing the harp has had and has on her life as well as others.

**September 21<sup>st</sup> - International Day of Peace.** The International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. It was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981 to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly. The first Peace Day was celebrated in September 1982. Presenters: Lydia and Terri Divens-Bruffey

**September 28<sup>th</sup>** - To be announced, and we welcome your suggestions!

## **President's Ponderings**

Dear Fellowship

Last week when I sat down to write this, my heart was heavy with the loss of life at the Tennessee Valley UU Church in Louisville on Sunday, July 27. Today it is lightened by the words of Rev. William Sinkford in his rededication notice, appearing as a full-page ad in the New York Times of August 10. "Our Doors and Our Hearts Will Remain Open" is its title and within the text he notes that "...the TVUUC may have been targeted because of the congregation's justice work in the community; opening its doors in welcome to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people; feeding and housing the homeless; and working for racial justice. Indeed, TVUUC faithfully embodies Unitarian Universalist's focus on deeds, not creeds." Thanks go to Tamara for organizing a bonfire and vigil at our building on Friday, August 1st. Members and friends of UUFBF were joined by members and friends of the Sayre-Athens congregation as we honored the lives lost and comforted each other's sorrow. We too have the opportunity to rededicate ourselves "...to our religious mission: to welcome the stranger, to love our neighbor, to work for justice, to nurture the spirits of all who seek a liberal religious home, and to help heal this wounded world." We are part of the solution and we need not give in to fear.

With love,

Jenny Monroe

## **Fellowship News**

### **From the Board**

The new board met Sunday, August 10 and established 9:15 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month as the regular meeting. Board members (Jenny Monroe, Corey McCall, Lori Dodson, Leslie Potter, Dave Muffley and Gary Swarhout) were joined by committee chairs: Terri Divens-Bruffey (program), Tamara Miller (SET Forth - sanctuary expansion), Carolyn Scopelliti (RE), and Diane Muffley (Membership/welcoming). Thank UUs were given to Tamara for organizing the bonfire; Jen Spicer for spearheading the wood's path; and Gary and Dave for bathroom and lawn mower maintenance. Work plan for the year was begun with strategic goals - reiterated from last year's board work and congregational survey - to include Expansion of sanctuary; Visibility for site and publicity; Outreach through community events; Leadership development for board and committees, Value and vision by recognizing our assets and mission; and Education for both children and adults. These spell EVOLVE - a good descriptor for us in 2008/09 with the Darwin anniversaries to be celebrated. All Fellowship members and friends are challenged, encouraged and otherwise urged to serve one (or more!) of these goals this year. Please sign up on a committee list or contact a board member to find out how your brains and/or brawn can help us reach the goals we set. Next board meeting will be held on September 7, 9:15 a.m. See you then!

### **Fellowship Seeking Pianist and Program speakers**

Please spread the word that we're looking for a weekly pianist or other musician for Sunday morning services. Also, please let Terri Divens-Bruffey know if you would organize a Sunday worship service by either presenting the service yourself or contacting someone else. Thanks!

### **Directory updates**

Please send Jenny Monroe updates for the UUFBF Directory by Sept. 8th to [jmonroe@stny.rr.com](mailto:jmonroe@stny.rr.com) or 607-524-8439.

### **Pledges**

All-e, all-e in free! Support the work of your local liberal religious community. If you haven't already done so, fill out your pledge sheet and put it in Leslie's treasurer folder in the kitchen. Thanks!

### **Adult Religious Education**

**Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know-and Doesn't** by Stephen Prothero  
Corey McCall will be facilitating a discussion of this book before the service on October 12, 19, and 26 at 9:15am to kick off our Adult Religious Education Program. Please come ready to discuss the significance of religious knowledge for UUs and American culture at large, and don't worry if you don't have a chance to read the book--just come and be part of the discussion! Coffee and childcare will be provided.

### **Children's RE**

Children's RE will participate in the Intergenerational Water Ceremony when we welcome everyone back to the fellowship for regular services. The 14<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup> the kids will be learning about Creating Home with Colleen McCall with spaghetti lunch on the 21<sup>st</sup>. On the 28<sup>th</sup> the younger kids will continue with the Creating Home lesson and the intermediate age kids will be spending time on the path with Jen Spicer. Hope everyone had a great summer and we look forward to working with the children.

<b>Community Events</b>	
Friday, September 12 6:00-9:00 PM Big Flats Community Center Big Flats, NY	<b>"An Evening with Norris Burkes"</b> . Presented by Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition and Corning Vicinity Faith Communities. Dessert and coffee, musical entertainment, and a speech by Chaplain Burkes will make up the evenings activities. Sponsored by the four Corning-Elmira Lutheran Churches. Norris Burkes is a syndicated columnist who writes about faith, life, and chaplaincy. He has served as both a military and hospital chaplain. He has specifically asked to speak to interfaith groups, so we are hoping to spread the word about his visit far and wide.
Saturday, September 20 Elmira College Campus	<b>Octagon Fair</b> Sign up with Leslie Potter to work a shift. Collect stimulating books reflecting our values to sell as well as plants in interesting containers. Come help with our community outreach at this event - one of the ways that we keep from hiding our light under a bushel basket.
Saturday, September 20 6:45 PM 62 Main St., Big Flats	<b>Ramadan Fast Breaking</b> Islamic Association of the Finger Lakes cordially invites you to share in Ramadan Fast Breaking, followed by prayers and dinner. <b>Please RSVP by phone: 607-796-2953</b> , Najeeb Rehman, MD, President IAFL
Saturday, September 27 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church Brighton	<b>Peacemaking Conference</b> The Rev. Dr. Shehadeh Shehadeh of Israel, long-time peace activist and Episcopal priest, will be the featured speaker at the conference. Dr. Shehadeh was named an International Peacemaker for 2008, and has focused much of his career on bringing about peace among Jews, Christians and Muslims in Israel and through the Middle East. He founded the organization 'Clergy for Peace' in Israel and heads the Reconciliation and Peace Department of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. There will also be a workshop, conducted by the Rev. Tim Simpson, on 'The Understanding on Nonviolence in the Early Church.' The event will feature additional workshops, a buffet lunch, a panel presentation and worship. For more information and to order lunch, call or email Brigit Hurley (242-0080 or <a href="mailto:bhurley@pbygenval.org">bhurley@pbygenval.org</a> < <a href="mailto:bhurley@pbygenval.org">mailto:bhurley@pbygenval.org</a> >) or Lisette Maginn (254-1140 or <a href="mailto:lissette_maginn@frontiernet.net">lissette_maginn@frontiernet.net</a> < <a href="mailto:lissette_maginn@frontiernet.net">mailto:lissette_maginn@frontiernet.net</a> >). The cost of the event is \$12, which includes a catered lunch.
Sunday, October 26 Centerway Square Corning	<b>CROP Walk in Corning</b> Let's have a UU presence at this walk for hunger. Proceeds stay in the community and assist abroad. Combine social justice with great exercise. Sign up at the Fellowship. If you can't walk - sponsor someone else. Leashed dogs are welcome!

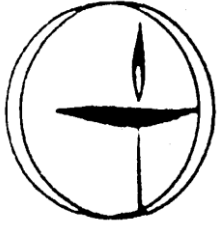
**FELLOWSHIP HOSTING SCHEDULE** - Hosting is a service that we provide each other. If you are unable to host on a day that you are assigned, please make arrangements for someone else to take your place.

DATE	HOST
Sep 7	Spicer, Deery, Scopelliti
Sep 14	Monroe, McCall
Sep 21	Stevenson, Wilson, Swartout
Sep 28	Martin/Glen, Muffley
Oct 5	Allen, Dodson/Miller
Oct 12	Halm/Maloney, Divens-Bruffey
Oct 19	Wosinski, Potter
Oct 26	Spicer, Deery, Scopelliti

<b>Board Members</b>		
President	Jenny Monroe	607-524-8439
Vice-President	Corey McCall	607-846-2574
Secretary	Lori Dodson	607-737-8082
Treasurer	Leslie Potter	607-739-9624
Director	Dave Muffley	570-835-5133
Director	Gary Swarthout	607-377-2967
Uni-Verse Editor	Jeni Paquette <a href="mailto:jpaquette@stny.rr.com">jpaquette@stny.rr.com</a>	607-937-9809

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*Address correction requested*



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