

# Uni-Verse

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association  
607-562-3017

## Sunday Services, December 2007

*A religion where people of diverse beliefs, come together as one faith.*

### ***Sunday Services***

10:30 a.m. at the Fellowship just off Hibbard Road and Route 17.

All are welcome for coffee and conversation following the service.

### ***Children's Religious Education Classes***

10:45a.m. Sunday mornings (September – June).

The kids will be working on and performing a mummer's play.

### **December 2**

Sam Weeks of Ithaca returns to the Fellowship after a few years to bring us a reflective program about how we determine personal boundaries and/or wade into the realm of discomfort.

### **Comfort Zones**

### **December 9**

Marc Adams will present about the non-profit organization he co-founded, HeartStrong, Inc., non-profit educational organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students of religious schools, colleges, and universities. HeartStrong has provided hope and help to GLBT students who have endured faith-based bullying in religious schools around the world since 1996.

### **HeartStrong, Inc**

### **December 16**

Liz Martin and Tamara Miller

### **Winter Solstice Program**

### **December 23**

A play featuring the children from our religious education classes with direction by Michael Deery. Mummers' Plays are an English tradition from medieval times, with even more ancient pagan roots, where masked actors travel from town to town putting on plays at Christmas time.

### **Holiday Mummers' Play**

### **December 30**

**to be announced**

*Happy Holidays to Yule*



# President's Pondering

Dear Santa,

I have been a very good girl this year. Since I still have my two front teeth, I wondered if I could request something a little bigger. If you have the pull (and I hear you have quite a bit), would it be possible to put all the leaders of all the countries in our little corner of the universe on the moon and tell them they cannot come down until they agree to: accept each other for who they are, take seriously the impact we are having on our mother earth, and formulate a plan to ensure everyone has food, clean water and ample housing.

You may have to call on the Easter bunny and Tooth fairy for assistance as it is a tall order. If you can't pull it off, I'll understand.

I know you are extremely busy this time of the year, so if not possible I would settle for a 46' round building, 10 new members and a 1/4 time minister for a little place called the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of big Flats.

Moving forward in a fuel efficient sleigh,  
Tamara



## Announcements

### Cards for wounded soldiers

When you are making out your Holiday card list this year, please include a card to the following:

**A Recovering American soldier  
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center  
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001**



### T.G.I.I.F!

Thank Goodness it's Intergenerational Friday  
Now here's something to look forward to every third Friday of the month, a fellowship get together for all, young and old.

December 21<sup>st</sup> – Potluck bonfire with caroling at six o'clock in the fellowship, come and celebrate the longest night with odd and fire.

*Included in this month's newsletter is a flyer to share.*

*Address correction requested*

## Children's RE:

The children will be practicing a mummings play for most of the month and performing it on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Michael Deery will be directing the production.

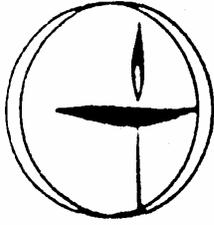
### Tuesday films at the Horseheads Free Library

(Contributed by Leslie Potter, Library Page)

All films start at 11:30 a.m. and last one hour. You are encouraged to bring your lunch; the library will provide snacks, coffee, and tea. It's all free!

Dec. 4: "Racing Against the Clock." Women achieve strength through sports, despite what some might consider "being too old." Actually, their efforts and successes probably contribute to their longevity!

Dec. 11: "Wolves: A Legend Returns to Yellowstone." The reintroduction of wolves to our oldest national park has not been without controversy. Find out whether the wolves have had a positive or negative impact on this environment.



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
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Please check here \_\_\_\_\_ and return if you no longer wish to receive this mailing. Thank You.

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**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.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>HOST</b>
Nov 4	Martin/Glen, Muffley
Nov 11	Allen, Dodson/Miller
Nov 18	Halm/Maloney, Divens-Bruffey
Nov 25	Wosinski, Vikin, Potter
Dec 2	Spicer, Deery, Scopelliti
Dec 9	Monroe, Mc Call
Dec 16	Stevenson, Wilson, Strimple
Dec 23	Martin/Glen, Muffley
Dec 30	Allen, Dodson/Miller

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# Founder of HeartStrong Comes to Big Flats and Corning

**Sunday, December 9, 2007**

Times and Locations:

**10:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship - Big Flats, NY**

**2 p.m. Southeastern Steuben Co.  
Library - Corning**



**Author/Activist Marc Adams**

## Restorative Therapy & Faith-based Bullying at Religious Educational Institutions Uncovered

Marc Adams, Lambda Literary Award finalist and Silver Pen Award recipient for his autobiography, *The Preacher's Son* will be speaking at two forums sponsored by Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Big Flats.

*The Preacher's Son* chronicles Marc's life growing up gay as the son of a fundamentalist Baptist minister in rural Pennsylvania where he endured a childhood of physical, emotional, and spiritual abuse. He went on to attend, by choice, Jerry Falwell's Liberty University where he also was employed for 3 1/2 years in the student recruiting/university relations department. His book articulately reveals life at Liberty and the struggle to conform to the standards for which he would have been a martyr. He shares about his years as an ex-gay. It culminates with his coming to terms with being gay and his coming out to his fundamentalist Baptist Christian family.

Since its release in 1996, *The Preacher's Son* has garnered praise from bookstores, reviewers, the mainstream press, and the gay and lesbian media. Not to be discounted, Marc says, are the thousands of letters and e-mails he has received from men and women, gay and straight, who have read his books and found themselves changed. Marc will share some of his life's story, talk about his latest book, *(lost)Found*, as well as **HeartStrong, Inc.**, the non-profit organization he co-founded. **HeartStrong, Inc.**, is a non-profit educational organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students of religious schools, colleges, and universities. HeartStrong has provided hope and help to GLBT students who have endured faith-based bullying in religious schools around the world since 1996.

All of Marc's books and resources will be available for purchase, including his latest book (the much anticipated follow up to *The Preacher's Son*), *(lost)Found*. For more information about Marc Adams' visit go to [www.meetmarcadams.com](http://www.meetmarcadams.com) or [www.heartstrong.com](http://www.heartstrong.com).