

Uni-Verse

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Big Flats
Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association
607-562-3017 www.uuonline.net

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

February 2008

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:

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

February 3 - Is the Existence of a Soul Real or Imaginary? Paul Frayer is a local retired engineer/scientist who spends his free time studying ancient wisdoms and cultures, history, spirituality, religions and belief systems of the world, philosophy, metaphysics and neuroscience.

February 10 - The Gift of our Enemy presented by Barbara Blom. Sometimes it is from our enemy that we learn the most about ourselves. Our friends will tell us what we like to hear, for they see the best in us, but it is from our enemies that we sometimes discover the all-important hard lessons about ourselves. As the new year begins, what can we learn from our enemy? After the service, plan to stay for the Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition program at 1 p.m. (More details inside.)

February 17 - Connie Sullivan-Blum returns to the Fellowship to share her new findings of **Spiritual Aspects in My Work** as Folk Arts Coordinator at the Arts of the Southern Finger Lakes.

February 24 - Learning About Lent presented by Rev. Susan Husted. Susan will bring us a review of the Christian Lenten traditions leading up to Holy Week and Easter. Rev. Husted is a Presbyterian minister from Elmira, celebrating the 30th anniversary of her ordination this year.

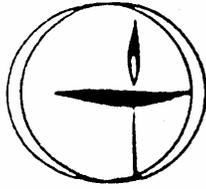
March 2 - Why Not A Yurt? A special combination of presentation and congregational discussion on growth topics, including what one congregation in Maryland did to expand their worship space, plus a discussion of hospitality goals for our building and hosting practices.

President's Ponderings

If you put a goldfish in a small bowl, he will swim around a bit. If you put him in a larger bowl, he will grow a little bit. If you put that goldfish in a ten-gallon tank, he will quadruple in size! The question is do we want to stay guppy size or super-sized? Do we want others to discover us and feel the joy of being a U.U.? How are we inviting, if we cannot offer them a seat on Sunday? Is it more important to stay in our comfort zone than spread UUism?

I know, these are a lot of tough questions. Here are some answers: Yes, there will be some changes. Moving forward is progress. Moving forward is becoming the place we need to be -- a safe haven for free religious thought. Without change, people would still own slaves. Without progress, women would not be able to vote. Without forward progress, people with AIDS would live on an island. Some open discussion on growth matters will be forthcoming. Productive input is not only appreciated but is necessary for us to be successful in sharing our faith with a very needy world.

Moving forward into a ten-gallon tank, Tamara



~ Announcements ~

Who Are the Unitarian-Universalists?

Please plan to stay after the service on Sunday, February 10th to welcome members of the Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition at our building beginning with a 1 p.m. veggie potluck lunch. We have been asked to host the first of the 2008 series of "School of Understanding - Conversations of Faith." A panel of UUs, including Barbara Blom and board members, will speak about what UU means to them, followed by Q&A. It's exciting to be able to respond to this interest in our community. Wondering what to do after the service ends and before 1 p.m.? Help us do some window washing and cobweb clearing, bring your own favorite cleaning supplies and tools. Thanks for your support. For more information or questions, call Jenny Monroe.

Sunday Services Countdown

Thanks to all of you who have assisted with services and/or suggested speakers for me to contact. There are only 7 Sundays left unspoken for between March and June, (including Earth Day) so if you want to present something, or have an idea, let Jenny Monroe know ASAP. (jmonroe@stny.rr.com or 607-524-8439).

Jen Spicer – Take a Bow!

For two years, Jen has served as our Uni-Verse editor. She's asked for some time off and we're grateful that Jeni Paquette has offered to keep the newsletter rolling! Send information for the March edition and beyond to Jeni at jpaquette@stny.rr.com

Have you noticed all the new faces?

Please introduce yourself to Renata and Arthur Brenner, Angela Kosanke, Laureen Quattrini, Linn Recatta and Cathy Squires – who all came during January.

And it's good to see some familiar faces back -- Barb Cushman, Desire Vail, Tom Billingsley, Edie Shepard, Sarah Talbot and Cathy Matkosky!

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Membership Anniversary Applause to:

1 year: Colleen & Corey McCall and Matthew Glenn
5 years: Jackie Wilson and Dan Maloney
10 years: Alta Stevenson
15 years: Barbara Cushman
20 years: Coreen & Dick Slocum
25 years and beyond: Sara Hurley, Marcia Allen, Joe & Sonia Vikin, Jean Wosinski and Carl Parmelee

Religious Education News:

We welcome four new students to the Religious Education Program: Jeremiah, Joshua, Jeremy and Caleb. You will notice some physical changes in the RE wing as the office becomes converted to a Youth Room. Our oldest group, 6th grade and up will meet there when they're not teaching the youngest group (Pre-K through 1st grade) in the "Nursery." The 2nd through 5th graders are blessed with a large class and a spacious room to accommodate them.

We are beginning to implement the Tapestry of Faith Curriculum found online at the UUA.org website. It just recently launched providing access to wonderful lesson plans and activities. Any fellowship member is welcome to present a lesson that interests them. The RE committee will gladly offer classroom management for the opportunity to introduce the students to more of our members. We all have strengths and areas of specialty or interest that are worth sharing with our youth. On that note, we also invite any member to share their favorite children's story during the story hour. Yet, another way we grown ups can connect with the youth of our fellowship. Contact Carolyn Scopelliti or Colleen McCall.

TGIIF: February 15th, 7-9 pm, Dessert and Parlor Games at the Fellowship. Bring a scrumptious dessert to share, a box of chocolates or your leftover Valentine's candy. We'll nibble and play parlor games, charades, hot potato, musical chairs and more. All are welcome, young and old.

On-line UU Resources:

Have you peeked at our Fellowship website lately? (<http://www.uuonline.net>) Carolyn and Jenny have made additions – look at the calendar link to see future programs and meetings.

Just for fun, try www.google.com and or www.youtube.com with a search for "Unitarian" and

spend an interesting interval looking at videos that various congregations and the UUA have produced to introduce others to our faith.



Community Events

Religion & Science Forum meets first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Corning (red-brick church at the corner of Cedar and First Streets) **February 5th** meeting will be a continuation of viewing Bill Moyer's *Spirit & Nature* documentary with discussion of stewardship of the earth from various religious perspectives.

How Art Inspires: What's LOVE Got To Do With It? Thurs. **February 14th** at Corning Community College, 12:45 p.m. in the Triangle Lounge will feature drama, visual arts and music faculty and students. Free and open to the public.

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
Feb. 3	Stevenson, Wilson, Swartout
Feb. 10	Martin/Glen, Muffley
Feb. 17	Allen, Dodson/Miller
Feb. 24	Halm/Maloney, Divens-Bruffey
March 2	Wosinski, Potter
March 9	Spicer, Deery, Scopelliti
March 16	Monroe, McCall
March 23	Stevenson, Wilson, Swartout

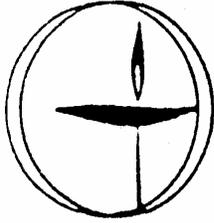
Board of Trustees:

President:	Tamara Miller	737-8082
Vice-President:	Jenny Monroe	524-8439
Secretary:	Jackie Wilson	734-0856
Treasurer:	Leslie Potter	796-2331
Trustees:	Colleen and Corey McCall	

Editor (for March 08 and beyond) Jeni Paquette
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Uni-Verse is published monthly at \$6.00 for one year (12 issues) by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 48 Hibbard Road Ext. Big Flats, NY 14814. Submissions are due by the 15th 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. (February editor: Jenny Monroe; March and beyond will be Jeni Paquette)

Address correction requested



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