



# Uni-Verse

May 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 for coffee and conversation following the service.

## Children's Religious Education Classes:

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

## Sunday Service Schedule

### May 4 - Rev. Dr. Nancy Lane - Healing and Spirituality

A presentation citing the connection between mind and body as evident from the MindBody medical research. She will encourage us to look at healing as a process of transformation, involving psychological and spiritual aspects of ourselves. Nancy is an Episcopal priest and psychologist. [www.ahealingministry.com](http://www.ahealingministry.com)

### May 11 - Dr. Suresh Gulati - My Hindu Faith.

Dr. Gulati is a scientist with Corning Incorporated.

### May 18 - RE Sunday

Come and see what our children have learned throughout the year.

### May 25 - What We Can All Learn From the Little Prince

Homer Wilkins. Saint-Exupery's classic about the little prince from another planet is not just for children. We will discuss the lessons we should learn from this wise visitor, about what's really important in life. Emphasis will be on caring and its many ramifications.

### June 1 - Flower Communion and Welcoming New Members

Followed by the Annual Congregational Meeting. Bring a flower to exchange at this traditional UU spring service celebrating the worth and dignity of every person.

## President's Ponderings

Dear Fellowship

Congratulations to Dan Maloney for his poem/song being recognized in the Star Gazette. Earth day, I think, is of particular interest to U.U.'s. We all look forward to a change in attitude about how we misuse our planet and taking steps to improve the impact we have.

I know last month I was rather poignant about war. Rather, my focus should be on peace. There are some things we can do on a church level to promote our values. A few observances would be not allowing play weapons into church, participating in the peace-event in Elmira every Monday, and not promoting any kind of violence in general. We are, I think, about a better world, a coexisting world that deals intelligently with conflict. That is not to say, in any terms, that violence does not exist, but rather our duty as U.U.'s is to quell it wherever possible.

Moving forward in peace,

Tamara

## Fellowship News

### Congregational Self-Assessment

On Sunday, March 2nd we began a congregational self-assessment. Twenty-four adults have completed the assessment. Here is a snapshot of the four statements that were ranked the highest: (numerals relate to total tally of "how our congregation is doing" / "how important this is to me.")

1. Our congregation has a sense of community, caring, warmth, friendliness, supportiveness, etc. 89 / 94
2. Our congregation provides an opportunity for individual's spiritual journey and growth. 89 / 89
3. Our congregation has good morale: members are interested in our congregation and their fellow members. 86/91
4. The overall quality of our Sunday services is good. 84 / 92

Four other items illustrated a wide gap between "how our congregation is doing" and "how important this is to me." They were:

5. Our facilities are adequate for our staff, our congregation and its needs. 49 / 83
6. Our congregation's community forums, social justice initiatives, book discussions, and new member classes are varied and worthwhile. 53/ 84
7. The present method of raising funds for our congregation is satisfactory. 52 / 73
8. Our adult religious education program provides a rewarding experience for our adults. 53 / 70

So while there is satisfaction with the first four items, the later four point to a disparity between how we are doing and what is important to members. Therefore more adequate facilities, more adult programs, and a better method of raising funds are the most critical items for us to work on improving. Discussion on a plan for addressing these items has begun at board meetings and will continue at the congregational meeting, June 1st. Once an action plan is determined, more active committees will be charged to work over the summer and into the fall. Sign up for what you are passionate about on the dream board in the hall.

### Canvas Dinner – Mark your calendars!

Sat. May 17th Canvas Dinner 6 p.m. at the Fellowship

### Religious Ed News

TGIIF is making Empty Bowls, Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm at 171 Cedar Arts Center. Come learn how to make a handmade clay bowl and take a spin at the potter's wheel. Colleen McCall will provide technical and creative guidance. The bowls will be sold to raise money for the local food pantry. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. The religious education program is preparing for their May 18<sup>th</sup> service. Don't forget to look out back and see what's sprouted in the spaghetti garden. Thanks Matthew for donating seeds and helping us plant. Coming soon: butterfly and hummingbird gardens!

### Welcome Greenpeace Worker to Elmira

Greenpeace is sending John Deans to Elmira to work on project Hot Seat. This is a bipartisan effort to urge Congressional candidates to make global warming a major issue in upcoming elections. He will also work to mobilize the community regarding environmental issues. **Does anyone have items they might loan him until December to help furnish his apartment?** He needs a mattress and box springs, lamps, dressers, curtains, a kitchen table. You can reach John directly at [jdeans@gmail.com](mailto:jdeans@gmail.com) or contact Jackie Wilson at [Jacksonita@aol.com](mailto:Jacksonita@aol.com)

### Congratulations Christian Li

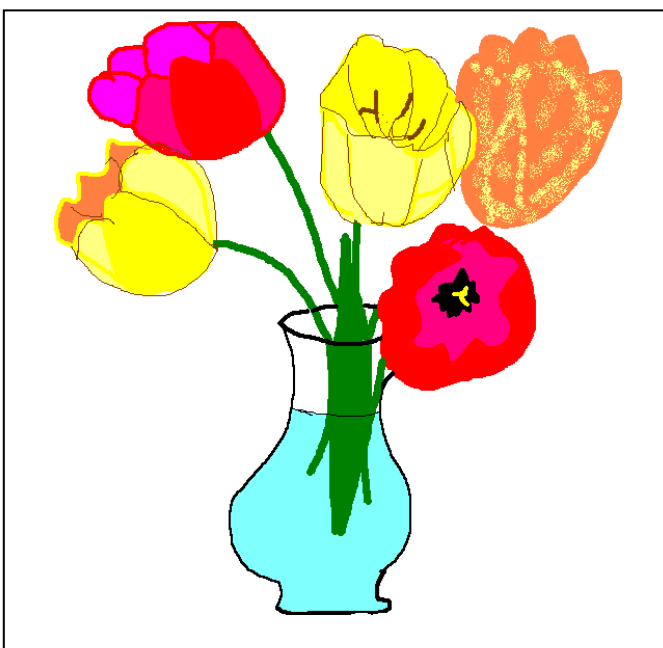
Christian Li became the 46th scholarship recipient of Elmira's Thursday Morning Musicales! He competed with five other talented senior music students from Horseheads and Notre Dame High Schools and also was the accompanist for two of the runners up. If you are one of those people who show up late for Sunday services, you've been missing out on his fabulous introductory music!

<b>SLD Calendar Events</b> <i>St. Lawrence District</i>	Information flyers and brochures are available on the District's website at <a href="http://www.sld.uua.org">www.sld.uua.org</a> or by contacting the District Office at <a href="mailto:smtabone@localnet.com">smtabone@localnet.com</a>
<b>May 10, 2008</b> Rochester Unitarian 10AM-4PM	<b>Beyond Fundraising Workshop</b> Discover a New Approach to Fundraising Experience a slice of General Assembly presented in our own District. Join Wayne Clark, Director of UUA Congregational Stewardship Services, for this workshop that promises to transform your congregation's fundraising effectiveness. Registration Deadline is April 6 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>June 20-22, 2008</b> First UU Society of Albany	<b>OWL Leader Training for Jr. High &amp; Senior High</b> This is an intensive weekend training designed to prepare your leaders to teach the <i>Our Whole Lives</i> program.
<b>Community Events</b>	
<b>May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday, 8:00 PM</b> Corning Community College Science Amphitheatre	<b>Spring Theatre Benefit for CCC Campus Ministry</b> The world premiere of Mary Guzzy's "Lonesome Drum: An American Tale" opens in CCC's Science Amphitheatre. This new play celebrates history and legends of New York's Southern Tier with vignettes, music and dance. It introduces audiences to Frederick Carder, John W. Jones and Jemima Wilkinson and key conflicts that shaped their lives. This original work offers an experience of living history for persons of all ages. A talkback with playwright/director, cast and crew will follow. Production posters for Saturday, May 3rd read SOLD OUT---so that patrons who wish to support Campus Ministry at CCC can purchase tickets in advance, fill the house and enjoy great theatre together! To Reserve \$15 Tickets (payable to "CMAB") e-mail: <a href="mailto:pladley@corning-cc.edu">pladley@corning-cc.edu</a> or call: 607-962-9413
<b>May 3, Saturday, 10 AM-12 PM</b> <b>(rain date May 10)</b> Tanglewood Nature Center, Elmira	<b>Woodland Homes</b> Create a fairy or elf home along the children's tour or come for a tour and picnicking at 11am. All ages welcome
<b>May 10, Saturday, 8 AM-3PM</b> <b>171 Cedar Art Center, Corning</b>	<b>Mother's Day Plant and Pot Sale</b> Purchase a unique handmade planted pot for a special person. Proceeds benefit 171 Arts Center.
<b>May 16, Friday 7:00 PM</b> <b>(dinner at 5:30)</b> Steele Memorial Library Elmira	<b>The Great Debaters</b> This Golden Globe Nominated film (2007) will be screened. Event is co-sponsored by the Human Relations Commission. This is a true story of a professor at Wiley College in 1935 who inspired his students to form the school's first debate team and eventually they went on to challenge Harvard in the national championship. Starring Denzel Washington and Forrest Whittaker. Please join us for a 5:30pm dinner @ Beijing Gardens, Main and W. Gray St., Elmira. If interested in dinner contact Sara Hurley @ <a href="mailto:shurley1@localnet.com">shurley1@localnet.com</a> or 733-1776.
<b>May 18, Sunday, 2:00 PM</b> Congregation Shomray Haddath West Water St, Elmira	<b>Conversation of Faith Series</b> continues Abe and Loda Golos will speak about Jewish worship, the objects in the synagogue, and general matters of Jewish life. Part of the Southern Tier Interfaith School of Understanding program series. RSVP to Paul Solyn at (607) 734-8122.
<b>May 20<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, 7 AM-9 PM</b> Elmira	<b>Elmira City School District Board Election</b> Colleen McCall is running!
<b>May 31, Saturday, 10 AM -12 PM</b> TangleWood Nature Center Elmira	<b>Labyrinth Installation</b> Assist artist Colleen McCall in placing a walking labyrinth in Gleason Meadow.

**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
April 27	Spicer, Deery, Scopelliti
May 4	Monroe, McCall
May 11	Stevenson, Wilson, Swartout
May 18	Martin/Glen, Muffley
May 25	Allen, Dodson/Miller
June 1	Halm/Maloney, Divens-Bruffey
June 8	Wosinski, Potter
June 15	Spicer, Deery, Scopelliti

“If you think one person can't be effective,  
you've never been in bed with a mosquito”  
War Resister's League



**Rochester Islamic Center trip**

On Saturday April 12, about 24 people traveled to the Rochester Islamic Center to broaden our understanding of Islam. Our host was Dr. Muhammad Shafiq, Imam of the Center. Muslims are obligated to pray 5 times each day. Before prayer, they remove their shoes and wash their face and hands. The word Islam means submission to one God, and also means peace. The word Muslim means the one who has submitted himself to God and lives with peace. In worship, they stand shoulder to shoulder to symbolize that they are all equal in God's eyes. Before God, there are no race, gender or class distinctions. Muslims also believe in angels created by God. They believe in the Holy Scriptures and the Qur'an as the final scripture. Islam also recognizes and respects other faiths and religions. Next we met with Dr. George Dardess, Chair of the Rochester Commission for Muslim-Christian relations. He has published a book "Meeting Islam: A Guide for Christians".

After lunch we drove to the Memorial Art Gallery, where we were given a guided tour of religious art through the ages. It is a beautiful place and the guides are very knowledgeable. Thanks to the Corning Vicinity Faith Community and especially Jenny Monroe for organizing this trip.  
Jeni Paquette

**Board of Trustees:**

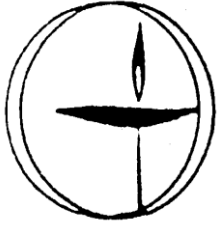
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"If you want others to be happy, practice compassion.  
If you want to be happy, practice compassion."  
Dalai Lama

*Tulip drawing by Jeni Paquette*

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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

*Address correction requested*



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