



Uni-Verse

October 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 Service Schedule	
<p>Sunday Services</p> <p>10:30 a.m. at the Fellowship, just off Hibbard Road, located on the North side of Interstate 86 between exits 49 and 50.</p> <p>All are welcome for coffee and conversation following the service.</p> <p>Children’s Religious Education Classes</p> <p>10:45 a.m. Sunday mornings, September through June.</p>	<p>September 28 Harold Brown, "Creating Peace With Every Bite" How do our food choices support a healthy lifestyle, a healthy environment, sustainable agricultural practices, and a more just and peaceful world? Farmer Brown will explore the possibilities of what one author calls “The World Peace Diet” and how we can bring a deeper sense of peace to ourselves and the world around us.</p>
	<p>October 5 Jim Pfiffer, “The Chemung River” The Chemung is an asset to help revitalize community, to teach kids about the environment and natural resources. It is a place with therapeutic and spiritual aspects. Learn about the volunteer community group “Clean Riverbanks” and the role of the Chemung River Council.</p>
	<p>October 12 Paul Solyn, “The Force of a Promise” Paul Solyn, Executive Director of the Jewish Center & Federation of the Twin Tiers, will lead a discussion of the Jewish “Kol Nidre” formulation for Yom Kippur and the understanding of vows and promises that it expresses.</p>
	<p>October 19 Growing Our Spirit: Association Sunday The long and illustrious history of Unitarians and Universalists in this country is embodied and carried forward by the Unitarian Universalist Association. Big Flats Fellowship is a member of the UUA, contributes to it, and receives a multitude of services and support from it. Today we will learn about, honor, and make a special contribution to the association that joins us with so many others in the cause of free religion.</p>
	<p>October 26 Bushra Sheikh, President of Islamic Association of Finger Lakes. Topic to be announced. <i>Children: wear your Halloween costume to collect for UNICEF!</i></p>

President's Ponderings

Back to school, what a flurry of activities start up in the valley in September and October. I've been pleased to see how many talented and flexible people are coming up with constructive things that our fellowship community can do to reach our goals of expansion, visibility, outreach, leadership development, and education. We're off to a great start with fall lay-led programs, aesthetic improvements in the sanctuary, beginning the long-awaited process of expanding our space and upgrading accessibility for at least one of our bathrooms. Flowers, tomatoes, garlic and a new path through the red pine woods behind the fellowship. A new more visible sign for drivers on the interstate. Religious Education for adults reviewing **Religious Literacy**, Sunday mornings this month. What's your wish for our fellowship?

Six months ago we took a survey to find that sanctuary expansion and adult RE were the top two interests; with greater awareness about us in the community a third. All the activities begun this fall are leading the way to achieving these goals. Are you plugged in? How will you lend your talents, time or money to our goals? How about walking or sponsoring someone to walk in the October 26 CROP Walk in Corning. Here we can walk together, carry our UU banners, help feed the hungry in our valley and assist with worldwide poverty eradicating efforts. Sign up at the fellowship on Sundays through October - and for the first time, you can designate the UUSC (or other such charities) to receive your hard-walked donations. Can't walk? Sponsor someone else. Or bring in a frying pan for Second Place East or a used mattress cover for padding our new chair seats. Everyone can help, 'cause a high tide raises all boats. See you next Sunday.

With love,

Jenny Monroe

Fellowship News

Welcome Michael Deery!

Signing the associate membership book on Sunday, Sept. 14 was Michael Deery, 16, of Elmira in the midst of his family - parents Cathleen and Kevin and sisters Anna and Ella. Michael worked with mentor Matthew Glen last spring, along with guiding the RE classes last fellowship year. This summer he's been active with theatrical productions and his internship with Greenpeace Hot Seat Project leader, John Deans. congratulations on your majority, Michael, we're proud of all your efforts and achievements.

Celebration of Life for Tom Kaufmann

On Sunday, September 7th I had the honor to officiate at a service to celebrate the life of Tom Kaufmann, of Tioga, PA, who with his wife Denise, had joined our fellowship in December of 1998. I was asked by Denise to come to offer their children, Kelsey age 16, and Josh age 14, and their friends and family a Unitarian perspective on the passing of a life. At age 44, Tom had died when the bike he was riding was hit by a car. I was able to speak about a man who lived our purposes. His humility and integrity evident in his long social work career with disadvantaged adults and children, his opposition to the war and to the death penalty. His ability to find compassion for everyone. I encouraged his family and friends to remember his life's legacy and the lessons he taught each of them by his words and deeds. I reminded his children that his spirit is within them and they will never be alone and he will never be forgotten. We never know how our lives will influence others. We so often forget that this life is fleeting, and its love so precious. May we each try to live our values seamlessly, as best we know how, and be daily ever more grateful. In faith, Jenny Monroe

From the Board

Briefs from the Sept. 7 meeting: Thank you this month to Colleen McCall for the flower project at the entrance to the sanctuary (assisted by Jenny & Steve Monroe and Leslie Potter). Thanks for Larry McGovern for cleaning out the gutters! Chalice Lighters "Intent to Apply" form will be submitted by Sept. 15. Sanctuary Expansion Task Force (SET Forth) will meet Sept. 18 at 4 p.m. Diane and Dave Muffley are almost ready with a new sign proposal to replace the fading one. Octagon Fair will feature new buttons, bumper stickers, books and plants. Corey McCall and Jenny will attend St Lawrence District President's Meeting in Canandaigua on Sept. 27. Other training opportunities are available to members - see the bulletin board for upcoming events. Covering sanctuary seats is underway - Jenny requests donations of mattress covers to be cut up for padding. Also, a request from Second Place East for frying pans (10 inch or larger) with lids. Next UUFBF Board meeting: Sunday, October 5, 9:15 a.m. All are welcome.

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.

Community Events	
Friday, September 26 7 PM First United Methodist Church Corning	The Underground Railroad and Music of the African-American Culture , a concert with Kim and Reggie Harris. Tickets available at the Visitors Center, Corning or at the door.
Wednesday, October 1 7 PM First Unitarian Church, Ithaca	"Audacity to Believe: The Witness of a Political Prisoner" Sheila Cassidy, physician, psychotherapist and writer is best known as the young doctor imprisoned and tortured for treating a wounded revolutionary in Pinochet's Chile. She has become an outspoken advocate for human rights and the author on this international bestseller.
Thursday, October 2 Friday, October 3	Get inspired by attending a free screening of Andy Goldsworthy's documentary, Rivers and Tides . Showtimes: October 2 nd , time TBA at Tanglewood Nature Center or Friday, October 3 rd , 7pm at UUFBF
Thursday, October 2	"Gandhi and Nonviolence: How a Hindu Soul Sustains Life" Dr. Suresh Gulati, Ph.D. will present this topic at 12:45 in the CCC Triangle Lounge and again at 7:15 p.m. at the CCC Workforce Development Center in Elmira.
Saturday October 4 th 10-12pm Tanglewood Nature Center, Elmira	Tangleworthy, Fall Encounter: Sculptures of Gratitude The sculpture trail opens for public viewing at noon the same day. Registration preferred but not necessary, 732-6060.
Tuesday, October 7 7 PM First United Methodist Church, Corning	Religion and Science Discussion Group Topic: Animal Intelligence.
Saturday October 11, 10-5 Sunday October 12, 12-5 Friday October 9, 5-8	Please visit artist Colleen McCall's home, 50 Foster Ave, Elmira, during the Elmira Open Studio Tour on Saturday and Sunday. There is also an opening reception on Friday at Rural Research Labs behind the Arnot Art Museum.
Saturday, October 18, 6 PM Sunday October 19, 4 PM UU Church of Athens and Sheshequin	Roots and Wings Celebration Bicentennial Dinner on Saturday, celebrating ROOTS - the founding of the congregation, and on Sunday, WINGS, the installation of The Rev. Darcey Elizabeth Hegvik Laine as their new minister at 4 p.m. For more info - go to www.athensuuc.org or call 570-888-0252. RSVP by Oct. 1.
Sunday, October 26 Centerway Square Corning	CROP Walk in Corning 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!
Sunday, October 26 2 PM Notre Dame High School Elmira	NY 29th District Election Tea (Randy Kuhl and Eric Massa) Join the Chemung County Council of Women, the local press, and Congressional Candidates in Western New York's 29th District for an Election Tea. Each candidate will present for 20 minutes in the auditorium. The presentations will be followed by refreshments and a one-on-one question and answer session with the candidates in the gymnasium.

Religious Education News

Wear your Halloween costume **Sunday October 26** to collect money for UNICEF. Return donations Sunday, Nov. 2 to Colleen McCall. If you wish spare change can be taken directly to a CoinStar machine (Top's or Wegman's) and donated to UNICEF free of charge. Bring CoinStar receipt to church to include with final count. This year's goal is \$100.13.



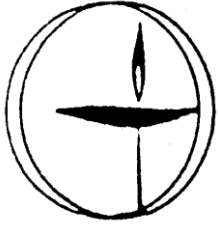
FELLOWSHIP HOSTING SCHEDULE - Hosting is a service that we provide each other. If you are unable to host on a day that you are assigned, please make arrangements for someone else to take your place.

DATE	HOST
Sep 28	Martin/Glen, Muffley
Oct 5	Allen, Dodson/Miller
Oct 12	Halm/Maloney, Divens-Bruffey
Oct 19	Wosinski, Potter
Oct 26	Spicer, Deery, Scopelliti
Nov 9	Monroe, McCall
Nov 16	Stevenson, Swarthout
Nov 23	Martin/Glen, Muffley

Board Members		
President	Jenny Monroe	607-524-8439
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Address correction requested



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