



Uni-Verse

November 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

November 2	Day of the Dead & All Saints Day Let's investigate how the Mexican Day of the Dead (El dia de los Muertos) is related to the Catholic All Saint's Day. Please bring a photograph and story to share of someone dear to you has died in the past year. Daylight savings starts today. Jenny Monroe
November 9	Blessed be the peace makers In honor of Veterans Day, Dave Muffley will present a view of veterans, their beliefs and motivations.
November 16	Guest At Your Table: UU Service Committee Sunday Find out what our denomination is doing to assist others around the world.
November 23	Bread Sunday – Colleen McCall Believe it or not sharing bread is still an honored tradition even though few of us make it ourselves these days. Share a family tradition, a special memory, that secret recipe and/or a tasty loaf. All are welcome and encouraged to bring bread for this intergenerational service
November 30	AIDS Awareness Sunday - Margaret Strumpf will share her personal story about her professional journey made to Thailand to work with people who have AIDS.

President's Ponderings

What a tumultuous month it has been - leaves falling, stocks falling, fear, loathing and politics! It's nice to know that we have a safe place to land on Sunday mornings!
 This year I got involved with phone banking for two candidates that I favor - and it was a fascinating process to be on the other end of those phone calls we all receive.
 Our beloved democratic principle is evident for me this month. A free and responsible search for truth is so precious. Staying in balance between what I am powerless over and what is mine to change - often tricky in my life - seems especially difficult. And then I arrive at our little building and find you - so many of you are such a treasure in my life - fellow passengers in the journey who each carry a life line. Thank you each for keeping your heart open to new possibilities, for keeping your mind open in welcome of new people and ideas, and for just being there. We are an oasis in the storm, and I am so grateful. See you at the polls, November 4th, and see you next Sunday.

Love,

Jenny Monroe

Fellowship News

Children's RE

November 2nd the 3-7 year olds will be learning the lesson of Tango the penguin, while the 8-11 year olds will be learning about voting and the election process.

November 9th both groups will be learning about John Murray.

November 16th the 3-7 year olds will be learning the lesson "Comings and Goings" about leaving home and returning. The older kids will be making a chalice in their RE room with Colleen.

November 23rd is the Intergenerational Bread Service.

November 30th the younger group will learn about Muhammad and the older group will learn about St. Francis.

After each class in the month of November we ask that the kids stay for 15 minutes to work on their service they will be performing in December.

Adult RE

The book for discussion next month is "The Education of Little Tree," by Forrest Carter. It is an easy entertaining read (with deep philosophy) about a Cherokee boy growing up. This book is appropriate for high school and middle school youth as well as more seasoned folk. It is readily available at libraries. I hope to see all of you Sunday mornings at 9:30, November 9 thru November 30. Thanks! Carolyn Scopelliti, RE director

New faces and welcome-backs:

Two UUs found their way to our building in October - Maggie Young and Rick Edwards - seek them out and welcome them! Cindy Cook visited after a few years absence and Nathan Helfinstine was sighted back in our region after serving eight years in the Marines.

Board Briefs:

At the board meeting on October 5, *Thank UUS* went to Alta Stevenson for keeping our weekly programs listed in the Star Gazette. We heard about the first meeting of the SET FORTH (Sanctuary Expansion Task-force) - that they have chosen to move forward with inviting architect Gary Wilson to advise on the possibility of adding a circular worship space to our existing building at the northwest corner. Our intent to apply for a Chalice Lighter's grant was deferred to the next grant cycle by the Chalice Lighters committee of the St. Lawrence District. They are advising us to continue with architectural plans, develop a five year plan, and attend a November 1st workshop with a team from UUFBF (see article elsewhere for details). Dave and Diane Muffley continue to work on a new sign for greater visibility from the highway. Leslie reported on Octagon Fair and successful spaghetti supper fundraisers. Next event for visibility/fundraising will be Sparkle of Christmas in Corning, Sat. Dec. 6th. Jen Spicer has asked the board to consider a pond for the trail she created in the back woods. Carolyn Scopelliti will be reducing the amount of RE furniture to make more space for people. Next board meeting will be Sunday, November 2, 9:15 a.m. - all are welcomed.

Leadership Development:

The St. Lawrence District (SLD) is our local association of 36 upstate NY congregations. Twenty of them have less than 100 members - like us. Growth and pastoral care are the two most common topics requested from congregational leadership. We pay dues to the SLD and have been full-share contributors for over a dozen years. On Saturday, November 1st at the Unitarian Church of Barnevald (east of Utica) a workshop called **Big Ideas for Small Congregations**, lead by Ellen Germann-Melosh, UUA consultant and co-author of "Big Ideas for Small Congregations: A Friendly Guide for Leaders" will be held. SLD Growth Committee is offering small congregations the opportunity to attend this day long training session. This is meant for those who are truly interested in promoting change in their congregations and in nurturing congregational growth. I have signed us up to have a team - so far Jenny, Leslie and Frank Potter are committed to go. We have room for three more members. If you can spend the day and wish to be part of our growth strategy team, please call me ASAP (607-524-8439). This opportunity for learning and growing - both personally and congregationally - will be awesome.

This workshop has two purposes - to offer stimulating possibilities to be taken back and practiced immediately in your congregations. It also serves as an invitation to engage in a discernment process for those who might be interested in participating in a three-year pilot project sponsored by the UUA. The pilot project is designed to grow a few committed small congregations within the St Lawrence District. As many as six congregations from the St. Lawrence district will be selected to participate in the three-year pilot program. Each participating congregation will commit to having a team of 4-6 congregants who will lead the process in their congregation while working with the UUA consultant. Applications will be available at the workshops for those congregations wishing to apply. Criteria for participation will be explained. Selection of

participants for the SLD will be made by the SLD Growth Committee. This application process is open to all congregations who have fewer than 100 members.

SLD News You Can Use:

What does that green banner by our door designate? The Creating Justice Banner Society Award honors congregations in which 25-49 percent of their membership are UUSC members. We are among nine congregations from the thirty-six that make up the St. Lawrence District with this award: First UU Society of Albany, UU Fellowship of Big Flats, First Universalist Church of Central Square, UU Church of East Aurora, UU Society of Northern Chautauqua in Fredonia, UU Congregation of Glens Falls, UU Church of Hamburg, May Memorial UU Society in Syracuse, and UU Church of Amherst in Williamsville.

Many events are listed on the SLD web page (www.sld.org). If you are interested in deepening your understanding of UU-ism, meeting other UUs, and/or visiting nearby congregations - check out what's available. Two events coming up include on Saturday, November 15 a workshop: New Worship for a New Time: creating Engaged Celebration at First Unitarian Church of Rochester and over that weekend, November 14-16 in Binghamton a Youth Con (convocation) for high school aged UU youth to gather.

Greetings from your District Futures Team!

What is your congregation called to do? What opportunities do you see on the horizon? The St. Lawrence District Futures Team is charged with developing a five-year plan for the District to meet the present and emerging needs of our congregations. The new plan will be presented to the District Board in time for a final report to be voted on at the District's Annual Meeting in April 2010. The Team will start its work by visiting congregations across the District over the next few months in order to listen to your stories and hear your hopes and dreams. We look forward to a conversation that is both informative and transformative for all involved! Stay tuned for specific dates. In faith from the SLD Futures Team

UU Fellowship of Chautauqua Denominational House

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Chautauqua, NY has purchased a large house on the Chautauqua Institution grounds and is currently renovating it for use as a Unitarian Universalist Denominational House. It will offer 6 bedrooms with shared bathrooms for weekly rentals of \$300/wk each for the 2009 season. Unitarian Universalists will be given preference for the rooms until December 1, 2008, and then the rooms will be available for the public. All rooms have two beds, one is designed as a family room, and another is handicapped accessible. The house has three full baths (one of which is fully handicapped accessible,) plus two half baths.

The UU Denominational House is centrally located near Bestor Plaza, the Bookstore and the Colonnade at 6 Bliss. It also offers a place to relax- including a secluded patio - for those coming for the day, information for persons interested in UU faith and philosophy, meeting space for programs, and social functions, too.

For information about the UU Fellowship of Chautauqua, the Denominational House, contact information, and reservation forms, please go to www.uufchautauqua.org. For information about Chautauqua Institution and its programs, visit www.ciweb.org. We are looking forward to seeing you at Chautauqua!

Community Events

Saturday, November 1
5 PM
Corning Museum of Glass Auditorium

SPECTRA ~ Corning Incorporated Resource Group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees is sponsoring an event **NO DUMB QUESTIONS.**

Saturday, November 1
8:30 – 3:30
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
408 South Main Street, Horseheads

The public is invited to a **Holistic Healing and Spirituality Workshop** with the Rev. Nancy Lane, Ph.D. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. Healing and Spirituality explores the Mind-body/spirit connection and discusses the relationship between spiritual health and faith in God, and physical and psychological health. This holistic approach reflects Jesus' ministry of healing, which was concerned with the whole person and transformation. Using theology (how we understand God at work in our lives) spirituality (how we are connected to God and Self), and psychology (understanding the power of the mind and the effects of consciousness and unconsciousness) participants will learn how healing transforms lives. The Rev. Nancy Lane, Ph.D., studied Mind-body medicine, the meaning of suffering and healing and the Christian Healing Ministry. Dr. Lane is a Jungian-based psychotherapist and Spiritual Director, and founder of A Healing Ministry— based on the Christian Healing ministry and the principles of integrative and holistic healing of body-mind and spirit. Her latest book, *The Healed Life: A Sacred Journey of Transformation*, will be published in 2009. There is no cost for the workshop. PLEASE REGISTER AT stmatt@clarityconnect.com.

<p>Wednesday, November 5, 7 PM First United Methodist Church Corning</p>	<p>Science & Religion Forum features a presentation by Joe Vikin on Polygamy: A Religion-Historical Perspective. First United Methodist Church, Corning.</p>
<p>Sunday, November 16 7:30 PM Hamilton Hall, Elmira College</p>	<p>Southern Tier Interfaith Coalition presents a concert with Kim and Reggie Harris, Music and the Underground Railroad. The fact and legend of the Underground Railroad is one of the most memorable chapters in American History. Music and the Underground Railroad, a concert of songs, stories and narratives about slavery and the quest for freedom reveals the hope, the power and eventually the triumph shared by a network of people of many races. Through sing-a-longs, audience involvement and a multi-media presentation Music and the Underground Railroad provides an understanding of the secrets and passion of this powerful era. Tickets will be available at the Fellowship from Jenny Monroe.</p>
<p>Thursday, November 27 11:30 AM Christ Episcopal Church Corning</p>	<p>Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner to be served by the church. All are welcome, but reservations are required by noon, Tuesday, November 25. Call 937-5449, Monday-Friday from 9:00-4:00. Sorry, no takeouts.</p>
<p>Saturday, December 6 5:00 – 9:00 PM Market St., Corning</p>	<p>Sparkle comes to Corning's Gaffer District Besides craft and food vendors, entertainment, Kris Kringle in his Crystal House, and horse and carriage rides, there will be the UU Fellowship of Big Flats selling buttons, bumper stickers, and UUSC Christmas cards. This is great exposure for our fellowship as well as a fund-raising opportunity. But like PRIDE and Octagon Fair, it requires willing hearts and hands. Leslie and Frank Potter will set up and take down the canopy tent and bring all the necessary paraphernalia, and volunteers are sought to work an hour or two in the booth. Last year we realized we needed additional lighting. As brightly as the street lights shine during Sparkle, they aren't sufficient for reading the small print on the buttons. We could use at least one clip-on light to beam down on our display. If you have a battery operated clip light (no electric provided) to lend and/or time to work a shift, please let Frank or Leslie know (739-9624 or lesliepotter@hotmail.com) or sign up at the fellowship. Thanks for helping out!</p>

UU PRINCIPLES FOR CHILDREN

A Unitarian Universalist believes ...

- That each and every person is important.
- That all people should be treated fairly.
- That our churches are places where all people are accepted and where we keep on learning together.
- That each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.
- That everyone should have a vote about things that concern them.
- In working for a peaceful, fair and free world.
- In caring for our planet earth.

Arlene R. Spencer

Several members of our UU Fellowship remember Arlene Spencer who attended services during the 80's and 90's. She grew up in the hamlet of Jackson Summit, PA, the daughter of a college educated farmer who belonged to the Unitarian Church of the Larger Fellowship and who evidently influenced Arlene in her liberal beliefs. Arlene enjoyed teaching elementary school in Jackson Summit, Millerton, and Elmira for many years, interrupting her career to join the WAVES during World War II. (Our own Gary Swarhout was one of her 5th grade students at Hoffman School.) She was a very giving person and of an independent and determined nature. She lived on Durland Avenue in Elmira for many years and kept her horse at a stable in west Elmira where she enjoyed riding on the Chemung River bank. Even though she died at the age of 90, she is missed by four of her classmates and by many other friends.

Alta Stevenson



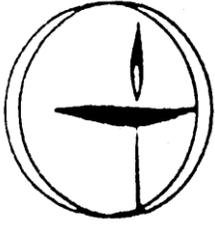
FELLOWSHIP HOSTING SCHEDULE - Hosting is a service that we provide each other. If you are unable to host on a day that you are assigned, please make arrangements for someone else to take your place.

DATE	HOST
Nov 2	Monroe, McCall
Nov 9	Stevenson, Swarhout, Cowles
Nov 16	Martin/Glen, Muffley
Nov 23	Allen, Dodson/Miller
Nov 30	Halm/Maloney, Divens-Bruffey
Dec 7	Wosinski, Potter
Dec 14	Spicer, Deery, Scopelliti
Dec 21	Monroe, McCall

Board Members		
President	Jenny Monroe	607-524-8439
Vice-President	Corey McCall	607-846-2574
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Address correction requested



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