

Uni-Verse

May 2009

"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	
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.	May 3 Friends of the Chemung River Watershed with Jim Pfiffer Find out about this newly-established organization and help decide how our Fellowship will become involved with it. We will also re-introduce the Chalice Lighter's initiative to grow Unitarian-Universalism in upstate New York.
	May 10 Mother's Day with Rev. Darcey Laine
	May 17 Coming of Age for Anna and Lydia - at UUCAS in Sayre, PA 10 a.m. Sign up at the Fellowship for carpools.
	May 24 Spring Cleaning Bring your rakes and hedge clippers for outdoor projects around the fellowship building. After a short worship service on our woods path, we'll share the load of sprucing up our property.
	May 31 RE Sunday Our fellowship's children of all ages will again treat us with their spring worship creation.
	June 7 Flower Communion and Annual Congregational Meeting More details in next month's issue!

Last night, as I was sleeping,
I dreamt - marvelous error! -
 That I had a beehive
 here inside my heart.
 And the golden bees
 were making white combs
 And sweet honey
 from my old failures

Antonio Machado, From Times Alone

President's Ponderings

Opening Hearts and Minds!

What a wonderful beginning to our 50th year celebration we had on April 12! Thanks to the creativity of Diane and Dave Muffley we have a theme for spring exploration of who we have become as the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Big Flats. What will we choose to place in the time capsule, to be opened fifty years hence? Looking around, I see so much growth - growth in new individuals and families coming to Sunday worship, more people sharing with each other the joys and concerns in their lives, more members taking on leadership roles and getting involved in training opportunities in the larger UU world, a joyful and inclusive stewardship process where individuals shared emotionally as well as financially, an adult RE book forum becoming a regular part of our fellowship, exploring new ways to make sure there is room for more to join in, two beautiful young women coming of age and joining with a sister congregation to create this special recognition, members expressing their passions openly - knowing that we offer a safe and affirming place. All this, and yummy food, too!

It affirms for me that we are well on our way. See if you agree. Take the phrases below, from the St. Lawrence District UUA Vision Statement created this past January, and see how Big Flats rates. We are becoming the people we need and together we create the community we seek.

Unlock the Power that Transforms Lives.

In our congregations, people deepen their spiritual lives. They develop a personal spiritual practice, participate in meaningful worship, learn and practice empowered leadership and generosity and find their ministry in the world. Our congregations are vibrant—joyful and excited about their ministries, intentionally multi-generational and multi-cultural, networked with each other, shared ministries, and agents of mission and extension.

Thank you for your part in our history and in our future!

In faith,

Jenny Monroe



Photos by Jeni Paquette
April 2009

Fellowship News

Board Briefs

At the April 5th board meeting, we reviewed the plans for the 50th anniversary celebration and our calendar of Sunday services through the annual meeting to be held on June 7th. Discussed upcoming training opportunities at the SLD Annual meeting (April 24-26 in Albany) and Caring committee training (May 16 in Ithaca). We received an update on the cottage meetings, stewardship process, adult book group and learned of the coming-of-age activities with the Sayre congregation. Small group ministry format will again be offered Sundays through the summer. Kevin Deery and the Nominating committee will bring a slate to the next meeting. We were reminded of items from earlier meetings including plans for a capital campaign and five year plan, both needed for a Chalice Lighter's grant in future. Lori offered to host an event April 25th in the evening to get more chairs recovered. We will work outside around the building, Sunday May 24th with projects from a list that Buildings and Grounds committee is preparing.

UUA to Elect a New President

Members of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) will vote for a new president to succeed Rev. William Sinkford on June 27, 2009, during the UUA General Assembly in Salt Lake City. Two ministers, Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman and Rev. Peter Morales, are running for the position. Each term of office is four years and the president is limited to two terms. The UUA president is the public face of our faith. You can learn about the candidates in the current issue of the *World* magazine or by going to www.uua.org/aboutus/governance/elections/president/128768.shtml. UUA will send out ballots for our congregation to fill out and return in May. We will vote at our annual meeting on June 7th.

50 Year Celebration

A big UU Thank You to all who shared their memories and stories at the April 12 service. Following that was a gorgeous cake and a fabulous feast. Special thanks to Dave & Diane Muffley for all their work.



**Sunday May 3rd
1 – 3 PM
UU Fellowship of Big Flats**

“For Pete’s Sake, Sing!”

Folk singing legend Pete Seeger turns 90 on Sunday May 3rd, and celebrations are planned to occur around the world. Locally, the Friends of the Chemung River Watershed and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Big Flats will host a hootenanny from 1 PM to 3 PM on Sunday May 3rd, at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Big Flats. The Fellowship is located at 48 Hibbard Rd. Ext. in Big Flats. The event will be outside, or in the Fellowship building if the weather is inclement. Please bring a lawn chair if the weather is nice. There is no admission charge.

Community members of all ages and talent are invited to bring their voices and/or instruments, and come sing in celebration of Pete Seeger's lifelong contribution to peace and social justice in our world. The hootenanny will allow anyone to share a song, while we all sing along. In the spirit of Pete Seeger's passion for clean rivers and water, information about the Friends of the Chemung River Watershed will be available at the event.

Local singer song writer **Danny Maloney**, has written a song in tribute to Pete, and will share it at the gathering. The song will be included in a collection of songs that have been written for Pete Seeger by musicians from around the world, and will be published in the near future by the **Committee to Nominate Pete Seeger for the Nobel Peace Prize**, which is based in Berkeley, CA.

Contact Kevin Deery at 732-1427 or Dan Maloney at 733-2716 for more information.

The Elmira Small Group Ministry met on April 21 to celebrate National Poetry Month by reciting our own or the favorite poetry of better-known poets. And then we dove in and conducted a poetry round robin—circulating seven sheets of paper, each with its own title. Each person contributed a line or two before passing their sheet on. For your edification and amusement, here are the seven poems we collectively wrote. Enjoy! Leslie

Waiting for a Rainbow

I never tire of waiting for the sight
Of a glorious rainbow after the thrill of a spring storm,
As if I could reach out and grasp the glorious light,
I wait for the rainbow to light my way.
True colors to make a brighter day.

I marvel at the beauty and wonder whence it came;
I know that there will never be a moment quite the same.
They tell me there is an elf with a pot of gold
Where it touches the ground;
The ends can never be touched by foot or hand,
But as my soul reaches out a connection is found.

The Moon on Tuesday

The moon on Tuesday shone so bright
I didn't need my flashlight,
So bravely I walked to the pond,
And light so beautifully reflected.
The ripples of the water shone so bright
That silver doves rose from the water
And became stars in the night.
May we all be entranced by the moon on Tuesday.

Fragments of a Broken Flower Pot

Terror Cotta smashed and broken like our love,
The light that promises to glow above,
The fragments on the ground reflect the sky of hope.
Together we will take the pieces to form a new whole;
We'll make an object of beauty to remind us,
To forget the brokenness
And remember only love.
And plant it full of flowers.

On Finding a Dollar in a Rummage Sale Coat Pocket

I found a dollar in a pocket of an old gray coat,
Bought for just a dime.
What to do with this outrageous profit?
Where has it been and who left it there?
How can I be just and fair?
I put it in the collection plate
The coat warms my body and the other warms my soul,
But I still wonder how dear the giver needed this,
What could have been their goal?

What Does Peace Look Like?

A juicy orange, bright blue sky,
Bird call and soft breeze,
A lovely meadow and river flowing,
A sleeping baby, an old man knowing.
Wish it were contagious—it's not so outrageous
But most surely spreads with stages.
Time can only tell what peace will be.

A Pattern of Illegal Mischief

...Is the best fun of all, which leads me here,
A path of capriciousness that makes the world smile
--and frown; who decides what's right?
Who is to judge, and when to be judged?
I'll allow you, if you'll allow me.

Peach is Arguably the Best of All Possible Flavors

Both tangy and sweet—a lovely blend,
Perfect for both beginning and end.
Be sure to eat the fuzzy skin;
Wash it 'cause you don't know where it's been!
But wait—can raspberries not compete?
Only in ice cream, an unbeatable treat!

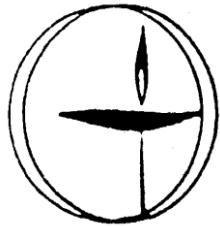
Community Events	
Wednesday, May 6th Beecher Hall Park Church 208 West Gray Street, Elmira	Meaningful Movie: The Business of Being Born 6:00 Bring a dish to pass dinner 7:00 Movie Please use side entrance by driveway. Event is free and all are welcome. You'll be both touched and surprised by this investigative documentary into the current state of the American maternity care system. Inspired to explore the subject after the birth of her first child, actress Ricki Lake recruits filmmaker Abby Epstein to chronicle the history, politics and economic aspects of giving birth. Epstein finds out she is pregnant during the making of the film and uses her own experience to shed light on the delivery of maternity care, the systematic narrowing of women's choices and the myriad emotions involved in the journey.
Sunday, May 17 2:30 PM Steele Memorial Library	Meaningful Movie: The Syrian Bride This film by Israeli director Eran Riklis digs into the Middle East conflict with the tale of a Druze woman who lives with her family in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. Her family makes plans for her to marry a Syrian television star from Damascus, but the wedding must take place at the border, and once she marries and crosses into Syria, she'll never be able to return home. It's in Hebrew with English subtitles, free and open.

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
May 3	Wosinski, L&J Potter, Mann
May 10	Spicer, Deery, Scopelliti
May 17	Monroe, McCall, Edwards
May 24	Stevenson, Swarthout, Cowles
May 31	Martin/Glen, Muffley, Brenner
June 7	Allen, Dodson/Miller, Young
June 14	Summer – no hosting
June 21	Summer – no hosting

Board Members		
President	Jenny Monroe	607-524-8439
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Uni-Verse is published monthly at \$6.00 for one year (12 issues) by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Big Flats. 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.

Address correction requested



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