



Uni-Verse

January 2010

“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

607-562-3017 www.uuonline.net

<p>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.</p> <p>All are welcome for coffee and conversation following the service.</p> <p>Children's Religious Education Classes: 10:45 a.m. Sunday mornings, September through June.</p>	Sunday Service Schedule	
	January 3	“Every Day” with Reverend Darcey Laine. We tend to think of big turning points in our lives as the powerful moments - a wedding, a new job, a cross-country move. But our ordinary days also have a tremendous amount of power- though it is often hard to see. As we emerge from the holidays into a new year, we turn our attention to the transformative potential of the everyday.
	January 10	Edward Dougherty , creative writing instructor at Corning Community College, returns with an update of his writing and peaceful journey. In addition, stay for a brunch at noon, co-hosted by UUFBF and the Friends (Quaker meeting) who also worship in our building on Sunday afternoons. Everyone please bring a dish to pass.
	January 17	“My Transgender Journey” with Angela Radka. In order that others might better understand what a transgendered life is like, Angela will speak about her personal journey. While sometimes difficult, her choices to live her life fully and openly have also brought her opportunities to feel proud, support others and to advocate for gender equality. On this MLK weekend, we can relearn how social justice work sometimes expands both the mind and the heart.
	January 24	Congregational Meeting. Time to meet and have time to discuss topics generic to our growth and capacity to serve each other and the world.
	January 31	“Creativity - Just Following My Muse” with Jenny Monroe. Today we'll build community by getting to know each other better by sharing things we have written, made or dreamed about. Come prepared to share what creatively nourishes you.

President's Ponderings

Dear Fellowship,

I propose the following: God=Love. Yes, I am trying to pull in you atheists. If we can all agree on this equation then I think we can address the strife between the world's religions. The core of it all is in embracing the light of love. Until you can do that you will hold in your heart discrimination, racism, and hate for yourself that you reflect on others.

Was Jesus Christ a great moral teacher of his time? Yes! Was he treated any differently than the others who committed crimes against the state? No! Too bad his birthday is not really December 25th; he was a man worthy of such a joyous holiday. I suppose I can pretend as the rest of the world does.

This Christmas I will try to focus on the light of love. I hope you can as well.

Moving forward with the light,

Tamara

Fellowship News

Welcome new members!

Elizabeth and John Shook and Jen and Charles Peck joined the fellowship on December 6th. The 2009/2010 UUFBF Directories have been updated and are available at the Fellowship.

Dine out Sunday for January 3rd will be at Old Country Buffet at Noon. They are offering us a group rate of 12.50 per adult and .55 per year for children. This includes all you can eat, drink, dessert and gratuity! RSVP to Tamara that morning. Join us for great food and Fellowship.

Corning Vicinity Faith Communities Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 31, 4 PM at the Painted Post Presbyterian/Methodist Church
201 N. Hamilton Street

Naeem Inayatullah, a political scientist from Ithaca College, will be the speaker at the Annual Meeting. Mr. Inayatullah will speak about his personal faith journey. He was born and raised a Muslim by a devout mother who weekly lectured on the Quran, and his father, a believer in science. Currently he is interested in the strains of mysticism found in major religions and how various religions negotiate their posture towards human "desire." *How I Got Here: My Spiritual Journey from Birth to 2010* will be a personal exploration of what one can be faithful about.

Adult Religious Ed.

We continue our film series with "Pay It Forward", on Tuesday, January 12th, 7:00 PM, at the Big Flats Community Center. We will then discuss the film on Sunday, January 17th, 9:30 AM at UUFBF. All are welcome!

New Sign!

A new sign was recently installed, thanks to Diane & Dave Muffley. It's so beautiful the editor added it to the newsletter banner. May it bring new visitors and members for years to come!

December In Our Town

What a wonderful Christmas gift we received on 12/20 when our youth performed this play! We appreciate the hard work of all the children, and especially Elizabeth Brown-Shook and Anna Deery.

The Wisdom of Thanks: Table Graces from Our Sources

From UU World Magazine, Winter 2009 edition

Thank you, Great Spirit, for the roof over our heads, for being together, for all the food we eat.
—UU blessing inspired by *Earth-centered traditions*

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, for love and friends,
For everything your goodness sends,
Thank you!
—Adapted from a grace of *Ralph Waldo Emerson* by the *Rev. Phil Lund*, sung to the tune of “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Hamotzi lechem
min ha’aretz,
we give thanks
to God for bread.
—*Jewish blessing*

For seeds—that, like memories and minds, keep in themselves the recollection of what they were and the power to become something more than they are...
—From “*Gratitude for the Garden*” by the *Rev. Max Coots*

Loving spirit be our guest.
Dine with us, share our bread
That our table might be blessed
And our souls be fed.
—By the *Rev. Gary Kowalski*, sung to the tune of “*Mary Had a Little Lamb*”

We receive this food in gratitude to all beings
Who have helped to bring it to our table,
And vow to respond in turn to those in need
With wisdom and compassion.
—*Buddhist mealtime blessing*

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
Jan 03	Spicer, Deery, Scopellitti
Jan 10	Monroe, McCall, Edwards
Jan 17	Stevenson, Swarthout, Cowles
Jan 24	Martin/Glen, Muffley, Brenner
Jan 31	Allen, Dodson/Miller, Reynolds
Feb 07	Halm/Maloney, Divens-Bruffey, Wilson
Feb 14	Wosinski, L&J Potter, Mann
Feb 21	Spicer, Deery, Scopellitti

Board Members		
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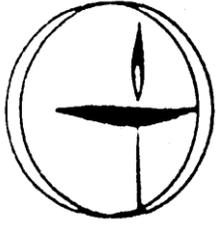
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Nursery Volunteers	
Jan 03	Deery family
Jan 10	Lydia Bruffey
Jan 17	Tamara Miller
Jan 24	Alta Stevenson
Jan 31	Carolyn Scopellitti
Feb 07	Terri Divens-Bruffey
Feb 14	Diane Mufflev

Now there are more overweight people in America than average-weight people. So overweight people are now average. Which means you've met your New Year's resolution.

Jay Leno

Address correction requested



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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Big Flats, NY 14814

Please check here _____ and return if you no longer wish to receive this mailing. Thank You