



Uni-Verse

February 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

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.	February 7 "A Rabbi, Priest, and Minister Walked into a Bar" Ron Owens returns with a message linking theology and humor. "Why is it that we all love jokes and humor, including those aimed at religion, yet it is most often avoided in sermons and theology, and the bible itself is almost totally lacking in humor-- unless you consider many outlandish myths throughout? Is it they are afraid it will hint at the <i>truth</i> of the matter?"
Children's Religious Education Classes: 10:45 a.m. Sunday mornings, September through June.	February 14 "Standing on the Side of Love" Rev. Darcey Laine Unitarian Universalists have long been at the forefront of equal rights, and have been a particularly strong voice for marriage equality and the right to non-discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. The conflict over what marriage is and who gets to decide is filled with passion on all sides, and the laws change year to year and state to state. In honor of Valentine's day we join with UUs from around the country to Stand on the Side of Love.
	February 21 "The Life and Legacy of Norbert Capek" Corey McCall Norbert Capek's name is familiar to many of us. Come learn about the man behind the name! Join us as we learn about his life, his ideas, and his hopeful Unitarian faith which he maintained even in the darkest of times.
	February 28 To be announced.

The great enemy of the truth is very often not the lie -- deliberate, contrived and dishonest, but the myth, persistent, persuasive, and unrealistic. Belief in myths allows the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought.

John F. Kennedy

35th president of US 1961-1963 (1917 - 1963)

President's Ponderings

Dear fellowship,

The tragedy in Haiti is yet another eye-opener to me. Not only to how privileged a nation we are, but also to our reactionary habits. Experts have long warned of the potential situation in Haiti, as well as numerous other areas of concern throughout the world, including our own California.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers knew that the levees in New Orleans were not capable of handling a hurricane the strength of Katrina. And yet, when the tragedy occurred, the government had only a reactionary plan. We were not proactive in updating the levees in the first place. I wonder how much of our infrastructure is inadequate. Then again, I probably do not want to know.

Meanwhile, there is this huge outpouring of aid to a country that struggles to provide the basic needs to an over-populated country. I am glad to see it, but the world could have come together earlier to help that nation construct better buildings, assist with population control, and to work the land more efficiently.

I do not mean to be a downer. I am sad, and wish the best for the Haitian people, and for our own awareness of just how vulnerable we really are.

Moving forward on shaky ground,

Tamara

Fellowship News

Dine-out Sunday is the first Sunday in February (Feb. 7). We will again be at Garcia's Mexican Restaurant in Elmira. They are offering us 10 % off again. Please join us and let Tamara know if you are interested that morning.

Religious Ed News

The pre-K to fourth graders are finishing with the Faithful Journeys Curriculum this month and will start on the UUA Moral Tales Program. In Moral Tales each session has a central story in which participants meet real and fictional heroes and heroines who have displayed moral courage and spiritual greatness. They will hear about characters who have struggled, but who have chosen justice, goodness, and love. It's going to fun. Caroline

Religious Ed News

The middle school RE youth have been exploring different paths to spiritual feeling. They are looking at ways of creating true spiritual moments in the midst of busy lives. They have been discussing the nature of spirituality, concepts of the soul and conscious, and how it relates to individuals deciding right and wrong. This has been done through stories, plays, music, personal reflection, and discussing moral dilemmas. Kevin Deery

Youth Group News

The youth group has begun meeting and is preparing to teach the elementary group. They are planning a series of lessons related to evolution and natural selection. The lessons are adapted from the book *Darwin and Evolution for Kids: His Life and Ideas with 21 Activities* by Kristan Lawson. Renata Brenner

Social Justice Committee meeting

Friends and members of UUFBF who wish the fellowship to become more involved in social justice and environmental issues may want to attend the next meeting of the Social Justice Committee. We'll get together at the fellowship (in the office) before the regular meeting on **Sunday, Jan. 31 at 9:30 AM.**

If you want to be included in future meetings and/or whatever activities we pursue but cannot attend this meeting, please let Leslie Potter know (lesliepotter@hotmail.com).

Thanks to all who attended fellowship on January 24 and participated on the various committees!

Adult Re Movie Series

We continue our movie series with "Idiocracy" on Tuesday, February 9, 7:00 PM at the Big Flats Community Center. Discussion will follow on Sunday, Feb. 14th, 9:30 AM at the UUFBF. All are welcome!

Guest at your table boxes/money need to be turned in to Kevin Deery by Sunday February 7th

February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7-9 GLBTQ Coffeehouse Park Church	3 Friends of Chemung River 7-8:30, Clemens Center	4	5	6
⁷ Dine-out Sunday, Noon, Garcia's, Elmira Guest at Your table boxes due 1:30 Friends Mtg.	8	9 Adult RE Movie Idocracy 7 PM Big Flats Comm.Ctr	10 Meaningful Movies 7 PM Park Church	11	12	13
¹⁴ Discuss Idiocracy 9:30 AM UUFBF 1:30 Friends Mtg.	15	16	17	18	19	20 Dish, Texas (Gas drilling) 9:30 AM Park Church
21 1:30 Friends Mtg.	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 1:30 Friends Mtg.						

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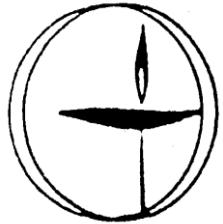
Community Events	
Tuesday, Feb. 2 7-9 PM Park Church Elmira	First Monthly GLBTQ CoffeeHouse This month's gathering hosted by Gar and Dan, with music by Elmira's Danny Maloney (with special guest) , and an "Open Mic" for YOUR talent (music, poetry, etc.) Coffee and assorted non-alcoholic beverages provided. Donations are appreciated, but not necessary. Please enter at rear of church (Gray St) to Beecher Hall. Coffeehouse to be held the first Tuesday of each month!
Wednesday, Feb. 3 7-8:30 PM Clemens Center Elmira	Friends of the Chemung River Watershed, Inc. As many of you may know, The City of Elmira and Cornell University's DesignConnect student organization are developing a revitalization plan for Mark Twain Riverfront Park in downtown Elmira. The plan includes extending the park trail east, into a multi-use river trail running to the old railroad tracks near Kennedy Valve. River Friends long-term plans include converting that old rail line into a river nature trail that runs all the way to the Susquehanna River in Athens, Pa. On February 3rd there will be an interactive public design meeting. I would like to invite you all to participate in "designing the park" and help shape the future of Elmira. For this second meeting, DesignConnect students will create 3D park models, allowing you to move park components around. This is your opportunity to voice design preferences and actually see how the park could look. Finally, at the last meeting in March, DesignConnect will present to all of us a park plan based on what they have gathered at the two previous meetings. Please email me or DesignConnect students (DesignConnectCornell@gmail.com) if you have any questions. I look forward to seeing you at the Clemens Center Jim Pfiffer
Wednesday, Feb. 10 7:00 PM Park Church Elmira	Meaningful Movies at Park Church <i>Beyond Our Differences</i> , and Karen Armstrong and <i>The Charter of Compassion</i> . Those interested in interfaith education will enjoy these two offerings.
Saturday, Feb. 20 9:30 a.m. Park Church Elmira	Mayor Calvin Tillman of Dish, Texas will speak about his small town's story of the effects of drilling and fracking on their lives, health and community. After years of suffering from unpleasant odors downwind of compressor stations and having neither the industry nor the state doing anything about them, the small town of Dish paid for an air quality study and found high levels of carcinogens and neurotoxins in the air. The health department is now doing blood and urine tests on their residents. Mayor Tillman is eager to tell this shocking story and was invited by various local groups to do so. Come early, 8:30 - 9:15 a.m. for breakfast. Find out more at this link http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2F3DLECH8LE

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 31	Allen, Dodson/Miller, Reynolds
Feb 07	Halm/Maloney, Divens-Bruffey, Wilson
Feb 14	Wosinski, L&J Potter, Mann
Feb 21	Spicer, Deery, Scopellitti
Feb 28	Monroe, McCall, Edwards
Mar 07	Stevenson, Swarthout, Cowles
Mar 14	Martin/Glen, Muffleay, Brenner
Mar 21	Allen, Dodson/Miller, Reynolds

Board Members		
President	Tamara Miller	607-483-8699
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Nursery Volunteers	
Jan 31	Carolyn Scopellitti
Feb 07	Terri Divens-Bruffey
Feb 14	Diane Muffleay
Feb 21	Deery family
Feb 28	Lydia Bruffey
Mar 07	Jeni Paquette
Mar 14	Alta Stevenson

Address correction requested



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