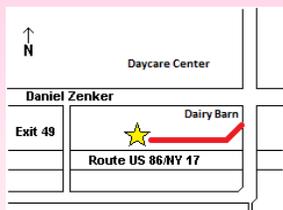


Welcome to the
Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Big Flats.

We are an intentionally
inclusive congregation,
welcoming all!

UU of Big Flats, NY
48 Hibbard Road Extension
Big Flats, NY 14814
<http://www.bigflatsuu.org/index.php>



UUFBF Chairs

President
Carolyn Scapellati

Vice President
Cathleen Deery

Secretary
Karen Reynolds

Treasurer
Leslie Potter

Trustees
Corey McCall
Elizabeth Brown-Shook

Programs
Joni Paquette & Friends

Religious Education (RE) Chairs:

Colleen McCall
Elizabeth Brown-Shook

Newsletter
Chris Telford

Accompanist/Choir
Elizabeth Brown-Shook

Building Committee
Karen Reynolds



Formal Services are held
September through mid-June
Sunday mornings
10:30-11:30
with a casual coffee hour
following.

Informal Summer Services
are held mid-June through
the beginning of September.

No matter what time
of year...
Please join us!

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Big Flats, NY

May 2013 Uni-Verse



May Service Schedule

May 5: Welcome **Meredith Tiftt, Spiritual Coordinator for CareFirst**, formerly known as Hospice, www.CareFirstNY.org. She will give an overview of their organization and services provided. *Service leader:* Alta Stevenson

May 12: **The Other Sacred Text, Rev. Darcey Laine**
One of the fundamentals of earth-centered traditions is the understanding that the places we know and love can also be our teachers. This understanding is challenging to those of us who were raised in different places from that which our ancestors knew, raised in a religion born somewhere else again. How might it challenge Unitarian Universalism, a tradition which draws from “Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature” and how are we called to respond to that challenge?

May 19: Local retired educator, **Marilyn Abbey**, will give a presentation based on her research and two trips taken to visit the **New Zealand primary schools**. Her slide presentation and talk examines the outstanding differences between their primary school teaching methods and ours. “The trip to New Zealand and the experience with the NZ kids, teachers and parents was beyond my expectations.” *Service leader:* Sonia Gilabert-Vikin.

May 26: **What I've learned as a UU.** Join us as member Elizabeth Brown-Shook leads us in a discussion of this always interesting topic! *Service leader:* Elizabeth!

Carolyn's Column

Leslie and I went to District Assembly in Niagara Falls, NY. It is a convention of leaders from congregations far and wide. By 'leaders,' I simply mean people; they had no special characteristic. Quite a few of them were teenagers. By 'far and wide,' I mean driving distance; there were UUs from Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania, as well as New Yorkers from most corners of the state. NYC is in another district. I learned that some of West Virginia is closer to Niagara Falls than parts of New York State!



I learned stuff that will make a positive difference in our board meetings. I learned that Leslie does snore, but not loudly. But mostly, I sat wishing for a better experience, kind of like that feeling some people express by saying "there must be more to life than this." As the assembly progressed, I tried to solidify my thinking. Although the specific talk at the specific session may have felt pointless to me, I concluded this - **Unitarian Universalism is important!**

Our Fellowship is important. You should attend. Although, I appreciate it when people serve in all the ways necessary and beneficial to this volunteer community, you contribute by just being there. 'Pew sitters' are okay. Please, feel free to be part of our Fellowship just by being present.

Moving on, I want to thank all of you who have made pledges for the coming fiscal year, and to gently nudge those of you who haven't pledged yet. Ask Leslie if you need a pledge form.

~ Carolyn, President

A Few Words From Reverend Darcey Laine

RSVP for Youth trip to Ropes Course

When we held our Religious Education brainstorm, what the teens most wanted was a trip to the Nature Center in Ithaca to try the Ropes Course. Aileen Fitzke has determined that June 15 is available.

We can schedule the course any time between 10:30 and 5:00. We need at least 6 people to have a course. The cost is \$7/child/hour (they recommend a 3-4 hour session) plus a \$60/hour course cost (so the more kids we have the better deal it is). Children must be at least 10 years old. Please Contact Aileen by May 10 if you would like to participate: aileen@aileenfitzke.com or 607-379-2265

Coming of Age Reunion

Several Coming of Age graduates have expressed an interest in having a Coming of Age Reunion, perhaps a dinner or dessert before the end of the school year. Three of our coming-of-agers are graduating this year (Lydia, Anna and Katie) and it would be nice to honor them in their transition.

Please contact Rev. Laine at minister@athensuuc.org by May 10 if you are interested in participating in such an event. Possible dates include Wednesday night like June 5 or May 29 or a Friday evening like June 21, or a Saturday afternoon or evening like June 15 (after the proposed Ropes Course event).

Sermon Transcripts

Transcripts of all Rev. Laine's sermons delivered at Big Flats UU Fellowship are available online <http://bigflatsuu.blogspot.com/>



A Few Words from Leslie...



First, some UU related comments:

Thanks to Tom and Karen Reynolds for their work on getting the main meeting area painted at the end of April. Also to John Shook, Frank Potter and the Reynolds' son, Ben, for their help painting. And to Melanie and Mark Shook for being so well-behaved while their dad painted!

And best wishes to Karen as she undergoes knee replacement surgery this month.

In other thoughts...

For those in our fellowship who don't already know this, the Horseheads Free Library (for which I work and choose the films), shows a new documentary every week on Tuesday at noon.

In May, the schedule is as follows:

May 7 - Scenic Musical Journeys: Seville and Granada, Spain (no dialogue, but recognizable classic music with video clips of the featured cities).

May 14 - Eine Kleine Käserei (a little cheese factory). A visit to a domestic--Wisconsin, of course--heirloom cheese factory.

May 21 - The Ganges, the Divine River.

May 28 - America's National Parks: New Orleans Jazz & Acadian Culture.

In addition to film and company, the library offers free treats: coffee or tea, cookies, and--of course--popcorn! It's fun, it's free, and you always learn something new...

~ *Leslie*, Treasurer

Fellowship Hosting Schedule

Hosting is a service we provide one another. If you are unable to host on the day that you've been assigned, please make arrangements for someone else to take your place.

Date	Hosts
May 5	Wilson, Scopelliti
May 12	Divens-Bruffey, Wosinsky
May 19	Telford, Stevenson
May 26	McCalls, Deery
June 2	Glenn/Martin, Maloney/Halm
June 9	Reynolds and Brenner
June 16	Paquette and Spicer
June 23	SMALL GROUP MINISTRY



Hello All! We've have settled down in Lafayette, LA. It's sunny, and there are always lots of festivals, arts and music things to go to. The food is great and there **really are** drive-thru daiquiri shacks where

you can buy gallon-sized drinks made with

Everclear! Lafayette is a flat city and we cycle pretty much everywhere. The picture was taken during Mardi Gras when it was raining. Ramona is graduating from Brandeis' social policy PhD program in May, and I'm working hard on my doctorate at University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Ramona's mom Grayce moved into Founders' Pavilion in May of last year. She is doing ok and still enjoys listening to music. We'll be in NY over the Memorial Day weekend, and are looking forward to dropping by the Fellowship. ~ *Brent & Ramona*



Want to include something in future newsletters?

Easy!

Email Chris (by the 15th of the month before) at ceemarie1971@verizon.net

A Note from Karen

The ceiling in the main room was painted by Tom Reynolds, John Shook, Frank Potter and Ben Reynolds. Thanks so much to them for a job well done. Maybe this summer, a crew could volunteer to wash the walls in the main room and then paint them. This is a much easier job than the ceiling! Let me know if you have the time and desire.

~ Karen, Bldgs & Grounds



Calendar & Community Happenings and Events

- May 2-May 4, **Thur-Sat:** East Corning Neighborhood Rummage Sales
- May 4, **Sat:** [The HOOT: 5K Trail Run](#), Spencer Crest Nature Center, Corning
- May 5, **Sun:** Cinco de Mayo
- May 6, **Mon:** National Nurses Day
- May 11 [& May 25], **Sat 11a-3p:** Corning Winter Farmers' Mkt, Information Center, Centerway Square (inside)
- May 12, **Sun:** Mother's Day
- May 14-15, **Tue-Wed 7:30pm:** [Dreamgirls](#), Clemens Center
- May 18, **Sat:** [Halcyon Herb Festival](#), Campbell, NY
- May 23, **Thurs:** [GlassFest Bead Extravaganza](#), 2300 CMOG
- May 23-26, **Thur-Sun:** [4th Annual GlassFest](#), Corning
- May 27, **Mon:** Memorial Day (Corning Parade: 5pm, Elmira Parade: 9:30am)

Want to Add an Event to the Online Calendar?

Anyone can!

Go to <http://www.bigflatsuu.org>
Click on "Calendar"
Click on the small "Google Calendar" logo in the lower right corner.

Log in using email: calendar@bigflatsuu.org
password: bigflats
Create/change events!

REMINDER

All members are welcome to attend board meetings, which normally take place the second Sunday of the month prior to the service (9:30, unless you hear otherwise.)



Join our Facebook Page!

Search for "[Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Big Flats](#)" and click 'LIKE'

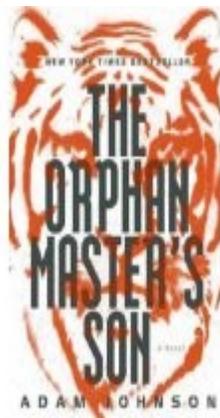


Karen's Korner



[Jump right in, everyone - we can name this corner for YOU TOO!!!]

The Orphan Master's Son by Adam Johnson, the winner of this year's Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.



Johnson spent 3 years researching life in North Korea, "the most glorious nation on earth" and it shows in his description of the people, the prison systems and the ruler of North Korea, Kim Jong Il. It is a frightening narrative of living life under a totalitarian rule, a government that controls everything a person thinks or does. Do not read this before bed as it may keep you awake all night. There are so many twists and turns to the plot - it is a real thriller. I have gained a whole new appreciation for life in the good old USA.