

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>



## Service Schedule

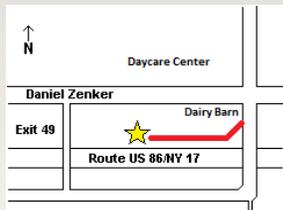
December 1 - *Bread Communion* ~ Join us as we break and pass around the different breads we bring in to share this Thanksgiving season. We'll reflect on gratitude, sharing and being together in community. *Service Leader:* Colleen McCall

December 8 - *Language and Reverence: Prayer* ~ Reverend Darcey Laine. Prayer can be a 'sticky' word for UUs. Can an agnostic pray? What about an atheist? Is prayer a word that Unitarian Universalism can reclaim with integrity and authenticity?

December 15 - *Small Steps to a Better Environment* ~ Jim Pfiffer, Director of the [Friends of the Chemung River Watershed](#), will use a tree along a river to tell a story of how small actions, like picking up one piece of litter a day, can improve our environment. *Service Leader:* Jackie Wilson

December 22 - *A Holiday Celebration!* ~ Elizabeth will either provide a holiday solo mini-recital or will lead a holiday hymn sing-a-long. Either way, a good time will be had by all!

December 29 - *Picking and Scrapping: The Art of Getting By* ~ Connie Sullivan-Blum returns again to discuss how the poor in our area use innovative approaches to get by including "picking" and "scrapping." Connie came to understand this grey market economy by getting to know an outsider artist. *Service Leader:* Jackie Wilson



### UUFBF Chairs

President  
*Carolyn Scopelliti*

Vice President  
*Jackie Wilson*

Secretary  
*Karen Reynolds*

Treasurer  
*Leslie Potter*

Trustees  
*Corey McCall*  
*Elizabeth Brown-Shook*

Programs  
*The Board!*

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!*

## A CHEMICAL UNITARIAN



Joseph Priestley (1733 – 1804) introduced Unitarianism into the US, a place he arrived at the invitation of Benjamin Franklin, after the former’s house had been burned because he favored the French Revolution. Priestley, who had been a Presbyterian, converted to Unitarianism. He arrived in the US in 1794, residing the rest of his life in Northum-

berland, PA where he continued his scientific experiments. His house, now a museum, contains his chemical laboratory. His theological writings include a “History of the Corruption of Christianity.” Priestley characterized Franklin as an “unbeliever in Christianity.” The founder of the Unitarian movement in the US is listed on p. 885 of “Who’s Who in Hell.” (NY: Barricade Books, 2000).

~ Joe Vikin

### 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
Dec 1	Wilson, Divens-Bruffey, Wosinski
Dec 8	McCall, Stevenson
Dec 15	Telford, Coppola
Dec 22	Glenn/Martin, Maloney/Halm
Dec 29	Reynolds, Scopelliti
Jan 5	Brenner, Paquette
Jan 12	Vikin, Mann
Jan 19	Potter, Allen



On 11/17/13 we had a wonderful speaker come talk to us about micro-lending. One of the organizations that was discussed was Kiva, and I have the opportunity as a Kiva member to invite people to join and make one free loan. This is possible because some people with a lot of money donated to Kiva to help them recruit. Here is the link so you can make your first free loan: <http://www.kiva.org/invitedby/thisisnotcarmen7725> PS: For every person that accepts the invite, I also get a free loan. Double the loans, double the good!! ~ Carmen

We have an new link on our web page - “[Archive](#)”. When you go to [www.bigflatsuu.org](http://www.bigflatsuu.org), you can click on [Archive](#) and see a very interesting history of our Fellowship from its inception until the turn of the century. As of this writing, there is only one document available there, but think of the possibilities!! This is just the beginning!! If you have photos or papers that should be added, send them to our webmaster at [pscopell@stny.rr.com](mailto:pscopell@stny.rr.com).

## Elmira Small Group Ministry

meets the third Monday of each month at Alta’s house, 417 Euclid Ave in Elmira at 7pm. This month, we are meeting on Dec 16.



# About Our Minister ~ Reverend Darcey Laine

"I grew up in Pennsylvania in a family of musicians. Our old Victorian house was being used as a ballet studio when my parents bought it and converted it into a music studio. There were children practicing scales from most rooms in our house most days after school; I myself played violin, oboe, harp, flute and piano before settling on voice. I spent my high school years acting in school plays and listening to Renata Tebaldi, dreaming of one day becoming an opera singer. I was also a die-hard member of our UU youth group, and signed the membership book as soon as I turned 16.

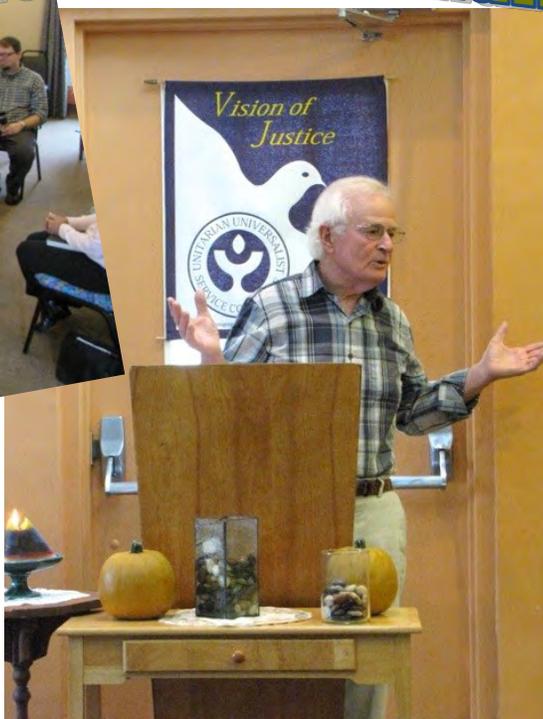


I went to college at Indiana University (Bloomington) where I majored in Voice Performance, and took a class in "feminist hermeneutics" that blew my mind. Subsequently I moved to Baltimore, Maryland to begin a Master of Music degree at the Peabody Conservatory. Unfortunately, it became increasingly clear that becoming an opera singer was not the right path for me. After a time of soul searching, my husband, Eric, and I moved to California so I could attend Starr King School for the Ministry and pursue a path toward the Unitarian Universalist Ministry.

After I graduated and was ordained I served as a youth minister in the Central Valley, and as Director of Religious Education at the UU church in Stockton. In 2000 I was called to serve as Minister of Religious Education at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, and shortly after became a mother to my son Nick. I spent the next seven years as minister and mother in that community, working to create "intimacy and Justice" with the 5 generations of people who came together in that church.

Right after school ended in the summer of 2007 my family and I moved to Ithaca New York to lead a more family-centered life. We spent our first year enjoying living downtown after so many years of living in suburbia, and introducing our son to the joys of snow and a warm home on a cold day. I served for one year as a housing caseworker for low income families, before being called to serve as Parish Minister of this congregation."

## November 10 with Robert Duckmanton





# Meaningful Movies at Park Church

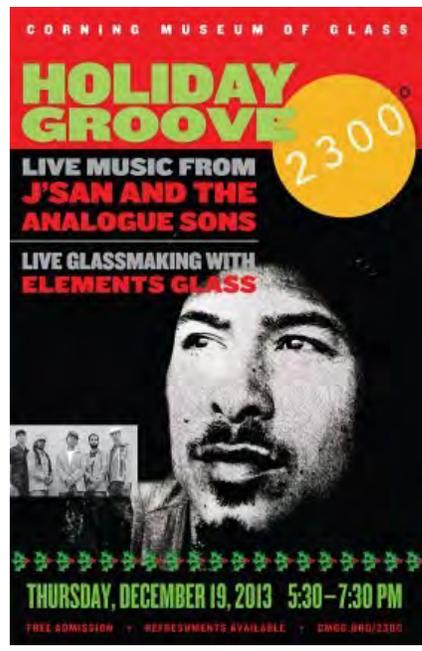
Wednesday, December 11, 2013, "Dive."

Curious about how much of our food goes straight to the land fill? Watch filmmaker Jeremy Seifert and friends as they dumpster dive in the back alleys and gated garbage receptacles of Los Angeles' super-markets. In the process, they salvage thousands of dollars' worth of good, edible food and produce an entertaining documentary, especially relevant in light of new warnings that we misinterpret the "warning" dates stamped on our food items.



## Community Events and Happenings...

- Dec 6 Fri, 6p-8:30p: Bath's Spirit of Christmas, Pulteney Square
- Dec 7 Sat, 5p-9p: Corning's 39th Annual Sparkle! Christmas
- Dec 8 Sun, 3p: Women's Chorale of 171 Cedar, Drake House Studio, FREE!
- Dec 14 Sat, 12p-2p: Addison's Christmas in the Park
- Dec 14 Sat, 4p-8p: Hammondsport's Christmas in the Park
- Dec 15 Sun, 4p: Baroque Holiday Concert, Clemens Center (OSFL)
- Dec 19 Sat, 5:30p-7:30p: 2300: Holiday Groove (click on the pic)
- Dec 22 Sun, 1p-10p: Christmas Wonderland on Ice, Corning



Want to include something in future newsletters?

Easy!

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

## A Few Words from Leslie...



I'm stepping away from the role of Treasurer to discuss a couple of things...

1. SPARKLE! Corning and the Gaffer District sponsor this INSANE street fair the length of Market Street on the first Saturday in December. (Whoever dreamed up winter tabling events should serve time in Antarctica!) That aside, it's really a LOT of fun, and if we get enough volunteers, no one has to stick around the UUFBF booth more than a half-hour. Sparkle runs from 5 to 9 PM on Saturday, December 7 this year. Sign up at the fellowship or call/email Leslie or Frank Potter, 607-301-4006, [lesliepotter@Hotmail.com](mailto:lesliepotter@Hotmail.com). The Potters will set up and tear down; all you have to

do is show up and freeze your tush off as you promote the values of Unitarian Universalism!

2. Bell-ringing at Minier's, the Big Flats grocery store. UUFBF traditionally takes part in this largest fundraiser of the year for the Big Flats Food Bank. This year, we've been assigned Monday, December 23, with half-hour stints between noon and 6 PM. If it's not too cold, the collection kettle will be between the double doors at Minier's. If it's freezing, it will be inside the store. Sign-up sheets are at the fellowship, or call/email Leslie at 301-4006, [lesliepotter@Hotmail.com](mailto:lesliepotter@Hotmail.com). This is the only thing we do as a fellowship to give back to our home community. Let's show them we're a part of Big Flats, even if we're on the awkward

## A Few Words from Karen

Now that the entryway and the sanctuary are painted, the next step was to order a new entry door to replace the old door which was about one inch too short, allowing little creatures and cold air to make their way in. Sorry mice!! The door is set to arrive the first week of December. I hope to have the inside part of the door painted before it is installed that week. On another note, there is paint left over and there are lots of rooms that could stand a coat of paint. I am hoping there are some volunteers who could do this painting by springtime. ~ Merry Christmas! ~ *Karen, Building & Grounds Committee*



### REMINDER

All members are welcome to attend board meetings, which normally take place the third Sunday of the month after the service (~11:45, unless you hear otherwise.)



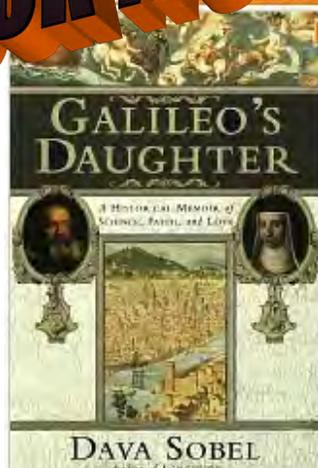
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## BOOK NOOK



[Jump right in, everyone - Read a book recently you want to recommend? SEND!]



Karen says: "Alta showed me a book she was very excited about called Galileo's Daughter by Dava Sobel. It is a biography of Galileo based on the surviving letters of one of his daughters who was a cloistered nun."