

Fellowship News



February 2010

Letter From the Minister

Dear friends,

This is what the fellowship is all about... a wise person once told me that a community is a group of people who understand their interdependency.

That wise observation was stated in an email from someone in response to a “thank you” note I had sent for the caring ministry this person and others had extended to our members who needed support.

Wise indeed. And this little comment reminded me anew how important our Fellowship is and the work we do together. It goes without saying that if we truly believe in the *interdependent web of all existence*, our faith must begin with how we relate and care for one another within our own community. In fact, I believe a caring community will be a *transforming* community, i.e., our lives will change for the better. Otherwise, why be in a faith community?

All of our work as a Fellowship should be transforming work. In some way, dramatically or quietly, your affiliation with UUBCO should change your life. As your minister, my goal is to help make that possible. In other words, if you choose to become a member, and choose to support this community in every way you can through service, leadership and financial commitment, you should ***expect*** that *your life will change in a deep and profound way*. Is that expecting too much? I hope not.

This change, however, doesn't happen by the mere act of becoming a member, but rather happens as a result of the energy and effort you *will put into changing your world*. Unitarian Universalists at our best do not believe in cheap “salvation”—saving ourselves and our world from meaninglessness. Wholeness and meaning only come from doing the deep and difficult soul work of transformation.

So let me remind you of the actions you can take at the Fellowship that will help us change our world and change ourselves:

- Worship with us regularly—worship helps us to center ourselves, to challenge our assumptions, to realize that we can make a difference, and to connect us to something larger than ourselves.
- Do something to change the world—join our Social Action Committee and take part in our social outreach ministries or social action endeavors. Or help create new outreach ministries. I'm not the only minister. We are all ministers.



A Welcoming Congregation

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From the Minister (continued from page 1)

- Do something for someone else—there are many opportunities for pastoral outreach in our shared ministry. Again, we are all ministers.
- Do something for someone else who is *not connected* to our Fellowship—people are hurting in our world and our community. Kindness and generosity are gifts that are always needed.
- Do something for yourself—take part in one or more of our spiritual or intellectual activities here in our Fellowship. Join a Community Circle group or a book group, adult RE and other activities that offer wonderful opportunities to do something for yourself.

The bottom line is this: by living your faith (your values, the UU principles), you will discover that you have become changed in the process. *By changing your world, you will become changed for the better.* Authenticity, integrity, generosity and kindness are the gifts that you will receive in living out of the fullness of your character and your faith. That's how transformation happens and wisdom is learned and the interdependent web of existence is nurtured. See you at the Fellowship. *Jim Covington*

Sermon topics:

February 7: Jim Covington—Sermon TBD

***Spirits in Harmony*—9:00 a.m.**

***Keith Harris and Terri Huntington duet*—11:00 a.m.**



February 14: Visiting Minister Robin Tanner will present "***The Choice***" at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. (*See page 6.*)

February 21: Jim Covington—Sermon TBD

Second Collection to benefit **The Sienna Project**. (*See page 11.*)

***Fellowship Choir: As Clay in Your Hands*—9:00 a.m.**

***Keith Harris*—11:00 a.m.**

February 28: Speaker: Manna Jo Greene, Environmental Director, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc. will present "***Environmental Justice***" at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. (*See page 4.*)

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Jim Covington, Minister

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Letter From the President

Dear Members and Friends,

Did you attend the “leadership” training on January 9? Well, about 35 (!) members did and it was a fantastic insight into the obvious: change is inevitable . . . and, get this: this congregation will change! That may sound sophomoric and even self-evident, but when stated by an “outsider,” schooled and trained in congregational development, the statement takes on added meaning. Doug Zelinski was the UUA representative that came to speak with us on January 9 and guide us through various discussions about growth and realizing our potential, including a discussion of the various congregational models, i.e., family, pastoral, program and corporate. Each model has its inherent attributes. The close-knit community and government-by-consensus typical of small family, or pastoral, congregations are, for example, simply not possible in a larger congregation. A larger, “program” size congregation, such as ours, cannot function on consensus alone—the issues are too large and the implications (policy, finance) for the organization are too broad to poll everyone on every issue. One interesting fact that Doug used to illustrate the need to amend the governance model to fit the size of the congregation is the inherent complexity of communication; the options for communication increase *geometrically* (as opposed to arithmetically) with an increase in size—meaning simply that for a larger group to function efficiently, the pathways of communication (i.e., organizational structure) must be formalized, institutionalized and constantly re-enforced. Does “formal” and “institution” sound . . . unpleasant? Well, it need not be. Set aside all pre-conceived notions of “bureaucracy” and “institutions” and remember we, as an organization, are committed to the democratic process (note the word “process,” which is too frequently omitted) and be assured you will have many opportunities to participate in the process of change if you make an effort to do so.

What does all this mean? How will a change in governance begin? Well, the process has begun. Many in the congregation have read *The Almost Church, Revisited* by Michael Durall and found his analysis inspiring. The Adult Religious Education (ARE) class is digging into the text in a group-effort to digest all its implications—join in! In addition, a group of congregants is now engaged in studying the principles of “healthy congregations” that will help us (both members and leaders) make better choices in the future. And as President, I want you to know that your Board is deeply committed to implementing a structure that will facilitate, nurture and promote dialogue, spiritual growth and positive social action. So what should a concerned, committed member do? GET INVOLVED. Don’t sit on the sidelines and expect the conversation to come to you. Participation is easy: engage your fellow congregants and Board members in dialogue; seek out the groups that are discussing Durall’s book; reach out to members studying the attributes of healthy congregations and ask questions. In short, the responsibility to participate in congregational life is a choice.

Did I say the process of change has begun? On January 24, 2010, the Board convened our second “mid-year” corporate meeting to solicit member opinions on various issues. The group discussed many issues including whether to publish our Handbook/ Directory on line next year (at considerable savings) and if so, how to best protect personal information, such as home addresses and telephone numbers. An ad hoc committee (Des Fitzpatrick, Bethany Swanson and Patrick Varekamp) will study the security issues and present the Board with a report listing the alternatives and proposing a recommendation. We also discussed whether

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Letter From the President (continued from page 3)

the Fellowship is ready to vote on changing the name of our congregation. You may recall that an ad hoc committee to consider a name change was formed in 2008 and recommended that our name be changed to the “Unitarian Fellowship at Croton-on-Hudson.” The motion to change the name was tabled at the 2009 annual meeting to give members more time to think about the name and discuss its merits. The congregation voted to continue this discussion on **March 7, 2010** at 12:30 p.m. If you are interested in this issue, please attend and participate in the discussion. And, although the congregation deferred action on changing the name of RE, our RE Director, Peggy Clarke, will address members on March 7 and discuss the rationale for changing the name of the RE Committee to the Committee on “Lifespan Faith Development.” Some “official” corporate business was also conducted at our mid-year meeting; the congregation voted overwhelmingly to reduce the size of the board to seven. A seven member board will, in theory, promote more focused discussion on the big issues—a small, but significant change in our evolution and governance.

I would also like to announce the formation of the 2010 Nomination Committee. I have appointed Patrick Varekamp, Eddie Fried and Bethany Swanson to serve as the Nominating committee in anticipation of our annual elections in June. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please talk to them and make your interest known.

Rick Turner, President
Board of Trustees



Sunday, February 28, 2010 Service

Speaker **Manna Jo Greene**, Environmental Director, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc. presents “**Environmental Justice**” at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services.

Green Sanctuary certification requires evidence of successful participation in an environmental justice project that involves outreach of our congregation to the larger community. An excellent opportunity has come to our attention involving Clearwater and a Peekskill community-based environmental justice group. More information will be released and your participation will be solicited as exploratory meetings are held and plans emerge and receive approval.

But, wait, you ask, just what do you mean when you say “Environmental Justice”? Manna Jo Greene, Environmental Director for Clearwater, will help us to understand the concept of Environmental Justice as an ethical question for humankind. And she will share with us some specifics of the project in Peekskill that she is overseeing. This service will focus on our seventh principle: “Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.”

Manna Jo Greene has been a lifelong environmental professional and community activist who supports collaborative land use planning and problem solving. Working to promote sustainable agriculture and green building and landscaping practices, she teaches communities how to integrate environmental preservation, economic prosperity and social equity using effective communication. Environmental Director for Hudson River Sloop Clearwater and founder of the Hudson Valley Sustainable Communities Network (HVSCN),

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By Any Other Name...

By Peggy Clarke, DRE

Lifespan Faith Development. Try saying it three times fast. No, faster. I'll wait.

It's a mouthful and not just because there are too many syllables. There are all kinds of implications both in a decision to make a change of any kind and also in this particular change. I mean- why bother? It's worked this long. And, really, who do I think I am, adding the word "Lifespan"? Isn't it enough to try to squeeze the religious development of almost 50 children into one ¼ time position? And if we're going to change it, do we have to use the word "faith"? That's really pushing it.

There are plenty of reasons not to bother with this whole name change issue, but I'd like to suggest that there are at least an equal number of reasons to make this change. For instance:

- * We're already a Lifespan program. The name is a reflection of what already is, not a change in approach.
- * We're part of a larger movement of Unitarian Universalists who have made or are making this change both at the UUA and across the nation.
- * The term Religious Education connotes a classroom/curriculum based model while our approach is about building culture and community and learning to live in covenant.
- * As comfortable or uncomfortable as it makes us, Unitarian Universalism is a faith tradition. We're a religious community.
- * Our work with both children and adults is grounded in an exploration of truth and values and meaning in our lives as individuals and as a community. That's faith development!

The name change is a reflection of what already exists, not the creation of something new. This year our little two, three and four year olds explored the entire Fellowship listening to the sounds of congregational life. Our kindergarteners, first and second graders baked pies for the homeless men of the Salvation Army after explaining to me that we do this because we want to be good citizens and we want people to be fed and cared for. Our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are asking how they can translate ancient questions of posed by Hebrew Scripture into their contemporary lives and our Jr. Youth have been wrestling with the incorporation of our Principles into the way they live. The Sr. Youth have been connecting with and building relationships with teens in the tri-state area who share their liberal values and struggle to stay true to who they are. Our adults are asking questions about covenant and how we can be a healthy congregation and how we can live gently on this fragile planet.

Is there education going on? Absolutely. Are we probing deep questions of existence? No question. Are we developing our faith lives? I hope so. Should we name our program to reflect who we are? That seems reasonable to me.

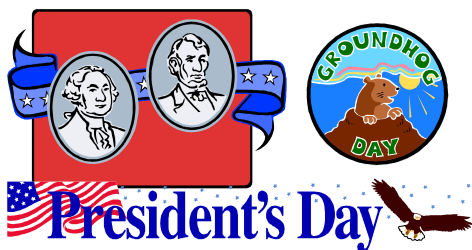
We've out grown "Religious Education" as have many UU congregations. Let's keep up with the times and use a name that reflects the multi-dimensional and multi-age program we are. And remember, "That which we call a rose, by any other name, would smell as sweet."



GREEN TIP

Don't speed. Not only is it safer, but gas mileage decreases at speeds above 60 miles per hour. It is also like paying an extra \$0.24 per gallon for each 5 miles over the 60 m.p.h.

(www.fueleconomy.gov)



February Meetings & Events

February 4, 11, 18, 25— Fellowship Choir Rehearsal from **7:30 p.m.** to **8:30 p.m.** at the Fellowship. **The Fellowship Choir** meets every Thursday evening from **7:30 to 8:30 p.m.** and is open to musicians of all levels from Jr. High to adult. Babysitting is available ~ please contact Tracy Breneman-Pennas at 914-862-2367 or brenemanpennas@gmail.com.

February 7—Green Sanctuary Committee meeting on **Sunday** at **10:15 a.m.** at the Fellowship.

February 7—Program Committee meeting on **Sunday** at **12:20 p.m.** in the Sanctuary.

February 7—Music Committee meeting on **Sunday** at **12:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship office.

February 9—B&G Committee meeting **Monday** at **7:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship office.

February 13—The Church Revitalization Group meeting on **Wednesday** at **7:00 p.m.**—location TBD. Please RSVP to Brian Kahn at bjkahn71@verizon.net.

February 14—Social Events Committee meeting **Sunday** at **10:15 a.m.** at the Fellowship.

February 14—Fundraising Committee meeting **Sunday** at **12:20 p.m.** in Fellowship office.

February 15—Membership Committee meeting **Monday** at **7:30 p.m.** in Fellowship office.

February 16—Adult Religious Education Committee meeting **Tuesday**.

February 17—Fellowship Board meeting **Wednesday** at **7:30 p.m.** at the Fellowship.

February 20—Children's Religious Education Committee meeting **Saturday** from **9:00 to 10:30 a.m.** at the Fellowship.

February 23—Men's Community Circle Group meeting **Tuesday** at **6:45 p.m.** at the Fellowship.

February 26—Book Discussion Group meeting **Friday** at **7:30 p.m.** at Nnette Kress's.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday evening, March 27, 2010,

Pledge Dinner at the Fellowship.

Sunday, February 14, 2010 Service



On this Valentine's Day, Reverent Tanner reminds us, *"Our future is fragile and uncertain. Every day we are presented with countless chances to be anxious and fearful, or to walk in the ways of love. This Sunday, February 14, we'll spend some time considering the power of love in the midst of anxious times."*

Reverent Robin Tanner currently serves as a Resident Chaplain at Presbyterian Hospital in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Originally from Upstate New York, Robin is a graduate of Harvard Divinity School.

Please join us in welcoming Reverent Robin Tanner to our pulpit.

Religious Education Calendar

FEBRUARY 2010



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7:

Nursery/Pre-K: Susan Cuccinello + Helping Hand Needed
 K/1st/2nd Grade: Tina Meyer, Teacher + Sally Simon, Helping Hand
 3rd/4th/5th Grade: Margie Kemper, Teacher + Shara Shisheboran, Helping Hand
 Jr. Youth Group: Tracy Breneman-Pennas, Teacher + Kimberly Patterson, Helping Hand

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10:

Church Revitalization Book Group
 Contact Chair Emily Cunningham or
 DRE Peggy Clarke for information

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14:

Children's Worship

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16:

Adult Religious Education Committee Meeting

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20:

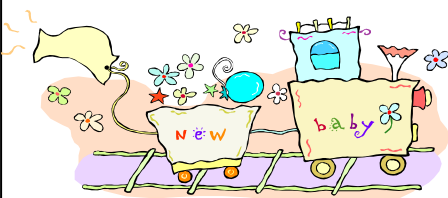
Children's Religious Education Committee Meeting

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21:

Nursery/Pre-K: Susan Cuccinello + Helping Hand Still Needed
 K/1st/2nd Grade: Marge Grimm, Teacher + Helping Hand Still Needed
 3rd/4th/5th Grade: Margie Kemper, Teacher + Patrick Varekamp, Helping Hand

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28:

Nursery/Pre-K: Susan Cuccinello + Anne Pearl, Helping Hand
 K/1st/2nd Grade: Tina Meyer, Teacher + Jessica M., Helping Hand
 3rd/4th/5th Grade: Margie Kemper, Teacher + Dawn Norris, Helping Hand
 Jr. Youth Group: Gerry Peet, Teacher + Teri Lukin, Helping Hand



Congratulations Peggy & Graham Clarke!!!

Congratulations to Peggy and Graham on the adoption of their newborn son, Zachary Thomas.

Zach was born on Friday, January 22, and arrived home on Sunday to join the entire family.

The Fellowship wishes them the very best and can't wait to meet Zach!



The Adult Religious Education Reading Group met Wednesday, January 13 to discuss *The Almost Church Revitalized* by Michael Durall. It's hard to describe the effect that reading this thought-provoking little book can have. The upshot for the eight of us who showed up on Wednesday was that we discussed *The Almost Church* for 3 ½ hours, then, renamed the Reading Group. It is now called the **Church Revitalization Group**. We anticipate reading other books about how congregations grow and evolve, particularly those that deal with transformation to a more “public” or outwardly-focused fellowship.

We decided that a discussion of *The Almost Church Revitalized* needed to be offered again, not only because we believe it is important for as many UUFBCO members & friends as possible to read the book, but because many of us did not feel that we were done discussing its' potential implications for our Fellowship.

To that end, please join us for a discussion of this book on **Wednesday, February 10, at 7:00 p.m.** at a central location—TBD. Please RSVP to Brian Kahn at bjkahn71@verizon.net. This is important, as the number of RSVPs will determine the location (if the group gets quite large, we will host this at the Fellowship).

Most of us agreed to increase volunteer involvement, or confirmed already substantial volunteer involvement in the Fellowship. Some of us are still processing! Please join us for the next discussion.

While numerous copies of the book are in circulation at our Fellowship, you can order your own copy online from the UUA bookstore. To order, or simply get a description of the book, visit: <http://www.uuabookstore.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=1050>.

Emily Cunningham (poulesportive@gmail.com)



Green Sanctuary - Survey Feedback on Food Choices

The movie *Food Inc.* lifts the veil on our nation's food industry. It may have fascinated/terrified you or infuriated/disheartened you. In either case it provided information that most of us would prefer to ignore but probably shouldn't.

According to the movie, apparently our food supply is now controlled by a handful of large corporations that put profit ahead of consumer health, livelihood of the American farmer, safety of workers and our environment and certainly the humane treatment of the animals they process.

Yet we have cheap tender beef, plumper chicken, cheap eggs and perfect pork chops and plentiful farmed salmon. We also have an alarming number of outbreaks of e-coli, reports of the Chesapeake Bay becoming a dead sea because of uncontrolled chicken farm run-off and the huge water consumption and greenhouse gas production of our vast beef and hog factory farms, together with warnings about hormone and antibiotic use.

What are we to do? Our life is complicated enough as it is. Do we have to take action on every issue? Well, of course not, this is a country of freedom of choice but many questions were asked about meat and fish purchase in the Fellowship's September environment survey and we promised to try and provide some answers.

The first thing we want you to know is that there is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization created to improve the lives of farm animals by certifying their humane treatment. The standards include nutritious diet without antibiotics or hormones, shelter, rest areas and space to engage in natural behavior. Look for the “Certified Humane Raised and Handled” label and ask your supermarket for it they don't already provide such products.

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Green Sanctuary - Survey Feedback on Food Choices *(continued from page 8)*



Go to <http://www.certifiedhumane.org> for an enlightening and encouraging read about ways of bringing meat to the market that addresses many of the concerns outlined in the opening paragraph of this article.

You can find out where you can buy products that are certified humane by clicking on “Consumers” in the site directory. Local towns listed for New York include Chappaqua, Hastings, Katonah, Mahopac, Mt. Kisco, Ossining, Pleasantville, Tarrytown, and Yorktown. Mrs. Greens and Stop and Shop seem to be the most frequently listed.

You may be disappointed by the limited number of locations and products available, but it is a start and it can only get better through the informed customer (you) asking for the products you want.

The second service we want you to know about is from Monterey Bay Aquarium, called Seafood WATCH. In 2003, the Pew Oceans Commission warned that the world’s oceans are in a state of silent collapse with as much as 90% of swordfish and cod having been removed. The Aquarium provides a pocket guide, by US Region, on what seafood to buy. It tells you what are the “Best Choices”, “Good Alternatives” and “What to Avoid.” Some species listed on the “Avoid” column are caught or farmed in ways that harm other marine life or the environment. You can find this service at <http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/>. Click on Seafood Recommendations and select from the map of the USA, the region in which you reside. By purchasing fish caught or farmed with environmentally friendly practices, you are supporting healthy abundant oceans.

A third topic is Hudson River fish. The Pisces Report, a recent study commissioned by Riverkeeper, found that only three species—striped bass, bluefish and spottail shiner—are currently thriving in the Hudson, while 10 others, including shad and catfish, are in serious long-term decline and are at risk of collapse.

Of further interest is a 2009 New York State Dept. of Health advisory that states that fish from Corinth to the Battery contain levels of chemicals (PCBs) that might be harmful to your health. The Advisory divides the Hudson into three sections. To the North, the rule is Take No Fish, Eat No Fish. In the Mid-Hudson section, only women beyond child-bearing years or men, can eat 4 species, no more than 1 time a month. In the Southeastern section, which includes us, women beyond childbearing years and men can eat 11 species once per month and blue crabs six per week. For more details and a map go to <http://www.nyhealth.gov/hudsonriverfish> and click on Advice on Eating Hudson River Fish.

The Green Sanctuary committee is looking into partnering with Clearwater to interview local fisherman, who rely on Hudson River fish to supplement family diets, to find out how often they eat fish and to provide them with health information.

The final area of information we have for you relates to community markets. By now all of you have read of the importance of supporting local agriculture, strengthening local communities and making seasonally fresh and organic produce available. Community markets also provide places to come together, share news and gossip, and share ideas while improving nutrition. The website <http://www.communitymarkets.biz> provides detailed information about the vendors at your local markets, what they sell and which of them are organic.

Well, that's it for February. Lots of information here; talk it over with your family—it's their future that we are concerned about. If you have any questions or feedback, please contact Peter Callaway at thecallaways@att.net or 845-265-3078.

PLEASE JOIN US!

Fundraising Committee Presents: Music for You at the UU!



Saturday, February 27, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Featuring chamber music, jazz, Spirits in Harmony and more!

Musicians will include the Chamber Players of Croton comprised of our own Greg Kullberg and Erika Schenker, as well as other Croton locals, who together with a variety of instruments, will produce lively and engaging chamber music, both classical and jazz. Keith Harris will be performing two solos.

Spirits in Harmony will debut an original piece composed by Roberta Kosse, Choral Director of Spirits in Harmony. Roberta's piece, written for women's chorus, is set to a Robert Frost poem and will be accompanied by piano, flute, clarinet and oboe. More songs by Spirits as well.

The concert will be followed by wine and special dessert reception including raffle and live auction.

Tickets available January 31, 2010 thru February 21, 2010 after both services during coffee hour.

\$30/\$25 for Seniors (65 yrs.) and students.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS SPECIAL CONCERT!



Sunday, February 28, 2010 Service (cont'd from page 4)



Manna has an long history of leadership in areas ranging from civil rights, activities in support of world peace, and community development of green practices.

Manna is committed to the beliefs that humans can live in harmony with each other and the Earth, and that if your cause is just and you are persistent, you will eventually triumph. Her presentation on February 28 will help us to understand the concept of Environmental Justice, a cause in which she is taken a leadership role in our region. She will provide some examples of how we can participate in local environmental justice projects.

Please join us in welcoming our guest speaker, Manna Jo Greene.

Fellowship Choir Schedule Winter/Spring 2009-2010

Sunday morning rehearsals for both choirs start 30 minutes before the service.

The Fellowship Choir meets every Thursday evening from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and is open to musicians of all levels from Jr. high through adult.

Babysitting is available ~ please contact Tracy Breneman-Pennas 914-862-2367 or brenemanpennas@gmail.com.

Spirits in Harmony is a female chorus. Membership is by audition only.

February 7: 9:00 a.m.—Spirits in Harmony

February 21: 9:00 a.m.—Fellowship Choir

March 7: 11:00 a.m.—Spirits in Harmony (Open House)

March 14: 11:00 a.m.—Fellowship Choir: *A Change is Gonna Come*

March 21: 11:00 a.m.—Spirits in Harmony

April 4: Easter/Passover

9:00 a.m.—Fellowship Choir: *The Smallest Things*

11:00 a.m.—Spirits in Harmony

April 18: 9:00 a.m.—Fellowship Choir: *Will You Be There*

11:00 a.m.—Keith Harris

May 2: 11:00 a.m.—Spirits in Harmony

May 16: 11:00 a.m.—Spirits in Harmony

May 23: 9:00 a.m.—Keith Harris

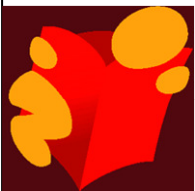
11:00 a.m.—Fellowship Choir: *Alleluia*

June 13: 9:00 a.m.—Spirits in Harmony

11:00 a.m.—Fellowship Choir



February 21, 2010 Second Collection to Benefit The Sienna Project



The Second Collection on February 21 will benefit *The Sienna Project*. This project is intended as a living memorial to Sienna Lavanhar, the daughter of the Reverend Marlin and Anitra Lavanhar of All Souls in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Sienna died suddenly and unexpectedly three days after her third birthday. The Project is building schools in small indigenous mountain villages (cantons) in the Highlands of Guatemala, where there may not be enough classrooms or no classrooms at all. The national government pays teacher salaries, but does not provide funds for school buildings. In many indigenous villages children never go to school.

The first school building was erected in Agua Viva, Guatemala during February 2007. With help, it is hoped at least one school will be built each year through 2011.

Ginny Stillman, a member of our Fellowship has traveled to Guatemala to help build schools and intends to journey there again this February.

Read more about this project at <http://siennaproject.com/>.

Announcing Sondra Treadwell as our new lay representative for PAPA, effective March 2010! Beginning in March, please direct all questions about PAPA programs to Sondra.

Thank you, Emily Cunningham

A note from Sondra:

I have been a member of UUBCO for 2 years, having transferred from Trinity-Boscobel United Methodist Church in Buchanan. I have been involved in PAPA projects since its inception and have represented my former church when the pastor was unable to attend meetings. Unitarians are vital, active people looking for ways to direct their energies. PAPA provides many opportunities for us to enact our Principles. Emily has kept us aware of these opportunities so that we could not only be of service to our community, but also let the community know that UUBCO is a willing and able participant. Those of you who know me through committees to which I belong: Buildings & Grounds and Caring & Sharing realize my favorite word is "volunteer". I look forward to presenting you with lots of chances to volunteer. Sondra Treadwell

Items Needed for Bedford Hills Correctional

Michael Schwartz is collecting books, magazines, greeting cards, and **calendars** (no spiral) for the female inmates at **Bedford Hills Correctional**. Please remove name and address labels. Drop them off at the Fellowship in cardboard boxes. *Thank you.*

Cortlandt/Croton Food Bank Support

The Cortlandt Emergency Food Bank, located in the basement of the Asbury United Methodist Church at 19 Old Post Road, South, Croton-on-Hudson, is an independent, not-for-profit, non-denominational organization that provides non-perishable groceries to people who need food. It was started in 1983 with a grant from the second Harry Chapin Run Against Hunger. It is managed by nearly 50 volunteers from the surrounding communities. The telephone number is 914-271-3150. It is open every Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon and by appointment during the week for emergencies. Cortlandt Emergency Food Bank clients are people who live in Northern Westchester and have short-term or chronic food shortages. Over half of them are children! Clients can receive food from the Food Bank with a referral from a government social agency, religious organization, or health care provider. Those in need receive at least three days worth of basic groceries.

In addition, turkeys and holiday dinner trimmings are given to registered clients the Saturdays before Thanksgiving and Christmas. The majority of the food and funding comes from individuals and community organizations. The Food Bank receives federal and state grants. The Food Bank purchases most of its food from FoodPATCH (People Allied to Combat Hunger), a warehouse operation located in Millwood that delivers free and low-cost food.

For over 20 years, our Fellowship has supported the Food Bank with weekly collections of food and other items. It all started as a Girl Scout project by Lauren Croft in 1989 and then carried on by SAC ever since.

In 2009, our Fellowship contributed over \$745.00 worth of food. The UUFBCO has also supported the Food Bank through a Second Collection. Thank you for your continued support of this vital community resource. *Bearni Croft and Bob Hudson*



Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

- Travel and stay in homes of people who share your ideals
- Learn about hosting people in your home to earn extra money

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) offers a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and are happy to open their home to like-minded people. Travel to different cities and stay in reasonably priced accommodations or become a host and enjoy meeting new friends.



www.UUreHome.com
43 Vermont Court
Asheville, NC 28806
828-281-3253

For more information, visit
www.UUreHome.com
or write to
info@uurehome.com

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) can fulfill your dream.

For 31 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people. You can also become a host and be listed in the directory.

If you are interested in either hosting or accessing the web site to find other UU B&B homes around the country and the world, please contact Ginny Stillman at Stillman@computer.net.



February Volunteers

Flower Volunteers: 02/07 Matt & Christine Clayton, 02/14 Jessica Franklin,
02/21 Eddy & Clare Fried, 02/28 Bethany Swanson

Greeters

02/07: First Service: Herb and Bobbe Lipton

Second Service: Kathy Williams, Bethany Swanson , **Need One more Volunteer**

02/14: First Service: Sondra Treadwell, Marge Grimm

Second Service: Chuck Morrissey, Jeanette Gould, **Need One more Volunteer**

02/21: First Service: Carl Grimm, **Need One more Volunteer**

Second Service: Gary Simon, Kathy Williams, Anne Sumers

02/28: First Service: Deanna Reeves, **Need One more Volunteer**

Second Service: Anne Sumers, **Need Two More Volunteers**

Thank you to all of our Volunteers!



IMPORTANT REMINDER FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

The new Fellowship Administrator email address is: uucroton@gmail.com.

All Fellowship listservs addresses have changed to the following:

Fellowship Business: fellowshipbusiness@lists.uucroton.org

Fellowship Non-Business: nonfellowshipbusiness@lists.uucroton.org

Leadership Council: leadershipcouncil@lists.uucroton.org

Parents of Young Children: uupyc@lists.uucroton.org,

Social Action Committee: uusac@lists.uucroton.org

BCO Briefs



The Book Discussion Group

Our fifth meeting of the year is on **Friday, February 26 at 7:30 p.m.** at the home of Nenette Kress. RSVP to Nenette at nkress@segalco.com.

PREDICTABLY IRRATIONAL: The Hidden Forces That Shape Our Decisions-Dan Ariely

PREDICTABLY IRRATIONAL is an intriguing, witty and utterly original look at why we all make illogical decisions. If an item is "free" it must be a bargain, right? How do our expectations influence our actual opinions and decisions? This book is full of experiments with real people, testing decisions about beer, sex, spending, procrastination, honesty, and desire. Why do smart people make irrational decisions every day? The answers will surprise you. In this astounding book, behavioral economist Dan Ariely cuts to the heart of our strange behavior, demonstrating how irrationality often supplants rational thought and that the reason for this is embedded in the very structure of our minds. This book brilliantly blends everyday experiences with a series of illuminating and often surprising experiments, that will change your understanding of human behavior. And, by recognizing these patterns, Ariely shows that we can make better decisions in business, in matters of collective welfare, and in our everyday lives from drinking coffee to losing weight, buying a car to choosing a romantic partner.



February Birthdays

2/01 Greg Kullberg; 2/03 Geoffrey Golson; 2/18 Daria Wells;
2/19 Miles Newman; 2/21 Paul Tarricone; 2/23 Samuel Morkal-
Williams, John Zaleski ; 2/26 Joseph Wright; 2/27 Michael
Schwartz, Karen Witting.



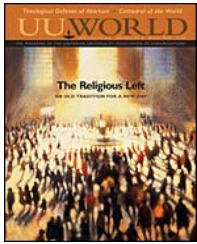
UUBCO Gallery at www.uucroton.org

Go to our excellent website (www.uucroton.org) to find a great deal of important information. In addition, there is always a photo on the site inviting you to Visit the Gallery. Go for a tour to view a terrific photographic record of many of our past activities. You will be amazed to find over 20 albums, each holding numerous photos of different events. Click on the album picture and you will see all the photos for that one event. Click on any picture and it will enlarge. Then follow the white arrows to see all in that one album.

After viewing one album click *Previous* or *Next* on the top right-hand side. Seek and you may be surprised to find a photo of our children, our family, our friends and ourselves giving service, having fun, and being involved in myriad activities.

Continue to check out all of the albums to uncover over 350 photos. Keep returning to the Gallery to watch it grow as we continue our joyous activities, services and programs.





When you have finished your *UU Worlds*, please put them in Susan Peet's mailbox. The Membership Committee will put them into wonderful reusable visitor bags to welcome our visitors! *Thank you.*



The Fellowship continues to have an e-recycling program. Please drop your empty inkjet cartridges in the recycling box located on the table in the Fellowship entry foyer. *Thank you for your contributions.*

NOTICE. In preparation for the annual meeting and election, I have appointed Eddie Fried, Patrick Varekamp and Bethany Swanson to serve as the 2010 Nomination Committee. There will be three seats up for election. If you are interested in serving on the Board I urge you to make your interest known to the committee who will recommend a slate of proposed candidates. *Rick Turner, President*

OUR FELLOWSHIP'S MISSION STATEMENT

adopted by the Congregation in 2005

We are an open, inclusive religious Fellowship, striving to build a beloved community that fosters the search for personal truth, social justice, and spiritual growth;

We are committed to nurturing the connections that draw us together;

We are committed to a liberal religious education based on the respectful exchange of ideas;

And we are committed to reaching out to help build a more just and compassionate world.

PRINCIPLES OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

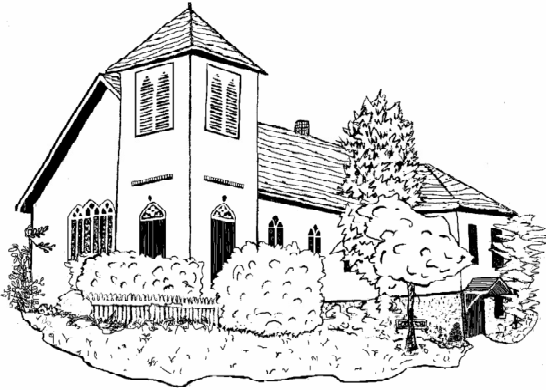
We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Croton Montessori School, an authentic Montessori school, established in 1968, currently has openings. The Croton Montessori School offers Individualized Learning, Self Actualization, Independent Thinking and Joys of Learning for ages two through six. Spanish, Mandarin, art, music and yoga are included in the curriculum. For further information, call Elizabeth ter Poorten at 914-271-4503. ***All enrollments as a result of Fellowship referrals will result in a \$100 donation to the Fellowship.***

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of
BRIARCLIFF – CROTON – OSSINING, INC.

2021 Albany Post Road, Croton-on-Hudson, 10520
914-271-4283



James Covington, Minister, 212-799-1157, jimcoving1@aol.com
Rick Turner, President, 914-271-0714, fwtturner@optonline.net
Nenette Kress, Vice-President, 914-762-4049, nkress@optonline.net
Dan Jewett, Webmaster; Fellowship Website: <http://www.uucroton.org>
Rita Ruotolo, Administrator, 914-271-4283, uucroton@gmail.com

Programs for February 2010

February 7: Minister Jim Covington

Spirits in Harmony—9:00 a.m.

Keith Harris and Terri Huntington duet—11:00 a.m.

February 14: "The Choice"—Minister Robin Tanner

at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services.

February 21: Minister Jim Covington

Fellowship Choir: As Clay in Your Hands—9:00 a.m.

Keith Harris—11:00 a.m.

Second Collection to Benefit The Sienna Project

February 28: "Environmental Justice"—Speaker:

Manna Jo Greene

at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services.

