

# Fellowship News



## *Letter From the Minister*

June 2009

As we approach the annual meeting date (June 7) and begin to wind down for the summer months, as always I wonder to myself: what do I most want to convey in this *Newsletter* space? The sentiment that keeps arising is “gratitude.” I want to say “thank you.” That’s it! In the past I have emphasized how important it is to foster a *culture of appreciation*. I have also often referred to *gratitude* as the defining essence of our religious faith. It is our theological grounding. Gratitude is partly a feeling of awe that derives from appreciating how utterly dependent we are on the people and world around us for everything that matters. Of course I could elaborate on that definition forever. But let me just bring it down to this space and make it personal: I remain in awe of all the work, dedication, service and ministry that so many of you bring to the Fellowship and the larger community. I truly do!



Because of my role, I am privileged to communicate with many of you during the week and I remain utterly awed by your service and dedication, whether it be serving on our very active and committed Board of Trustees, teaching in Religious Education, serving on a committee, cleaning up grounds of the Fellowship, singing in the choir/Spirits in Harmony, attending various activities and meetings, our youth attending OWL and contributing to Junior Art Show, leading a worship service, or visiting the sick, on and on! I am and remain utterly inspired, deeply so! Yes, I know, we have our miscommunications and disagreements. We remain human. We often spend a lot of time talking and complaining about what needs to be done or about what is wrong and needs to be fixed and, of course, there is always more that can be done and will be done! Our “What’s Next” committee has brilliantly outlined for us what is right and what strategically needs to be focused on in our near future.

However, at the moment, I prefer to focus on the question: “What does this Fellowship do well?” And my answer is that we do a lot well! Let us not forget all the positive change, love, commitment, dedication, building, caring, celebrating, learning, laughing, singing, crying, discovery, inspiration, conversations, and connections we have experienced. The Fellowship has truly been a nurturing, inspiring environment for me and I believe for most of us. I fear that sometimes we don’t fully acknowledge the good work that people are doing. We don’t intentionally overlook what others are doing. Life moves on so quickly! So I am taking this opportunity now to thank you all for creating a vital ministry and a loving community.

In closing, at this time of year, I often think of one of my favorite quotes, this one by Henry David Thoreau: *I wish to begin this summer well, to do something in it worthy of it and of me; to transcend my daily routine; to have my immortality now in the quality of my daily life!* I love that quote. Many Fellowship activities will continue for the

### ***From the Minister (continued from page 1)***

summer, not the least of which will be our Sunday lay-led services that many of you have already volunteered to lead. I will remain available throughout the summer. Please call or email if you need to talk with me. Many of us will also be traveling, gardening, swimming, and hiking. And working! But may you also find a way, as I hope to do, to transcend your daily routine, ***to have your immortality now...*** in the daily connections and solitude of your life. I love you all. *Jim Covington*

### **Sermon topics:**

**June 7 – 9:00 a.m.** Minister Jim Covington

**11:00 a.m.** Fellowship Annual Meeting

**June 14 –** Minister Jim Covington—A Spring/Summer celebration of worship, singing, and rejoicing (Fellowship Choir and Spirits in Harmony will sing at both services) followed by our annual picnic.

**June 21 – No Service.** (Fellowship reserved for recital.)

**June 28 - Summer Lay-Led Services Begin**—"Exploring Your Spiritual Journey and Articulating Your UU Faith"—hosted by Tracy Breneman Pennas. (See page 5 for listing of summer services.)



### ***June Meetings & Events***

**June 14—Annual Fellowship Picnic at Senasqua Park—right after the 11:00 a.m. Sunday service. Rain or shine—the pavilion is ours for the day! Beverages, paper goods and charcoal are on us... Bring your favorite picnic delights! Social Events Committee**



**June 16—Men's Community Circle Group** meeting at **6:45 p.m.** at the Fellowship.

**Notice:** Please take notice that pursuant to Section 5.4 of the bylaws of the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Briarcliff-Croton-Ossining, Inc., the annual meeting of the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Briarcliff-Croton-Ossining, Inc. will be held on **June 7, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.** at 2021 Albany Post Road, Croton, New York. The purpose of this meeting is to adopt a budget for 2009/10, hold an election for trustees to the board, and to conduct such other, additional business as may be necessary. Members of the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Briarcliff-Croton-Ossining, Inc. are invited to attend and be heard.

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## *Letter From the President*



Dear Members and Friends,

Is it possible that this Fellowship year is coming to a close? Well, the annual meeting is soon, **June 7**, and after that there is only one more regular service on June 14 and then the summer services begin on June 28. The annual meeting marks the end of one year and the beginning of the next. In preparation of the annual meeting, the Board held a forum on the proposed 2009/10 budget on May 17. Attendance was sparse, but those present heard a comprehensive presentation and summary of the recent fund drive and, in addition, a discussion on the proposed budget for next year. As a result of a lot of hard work by all concerned, and especially pledge chair Nenette Kress, we were able to raise \$138,000 in pledges for next year—not bad, given the extreme economic climate that we all labor in. Each Board member agreed to increase his/her pledge by at least 10% and many members paid their UU association dues separately, apart from the annual pledge—this is a big help and almost offsets the loss of income due to Ward Morehouse (a founder of this Fellowship) ending his book storage in our basement.

The final budget will be distributed in advance of the annual meeting, but the final draft presented to members on June 7 should look very much like the draft the Board presented at the May 17 budget meeting. Given the prevailing economic climate, difficult decisions had to be made, including holding all salaries at the current 2008/09 level. The UUA, our governing body, is similarly holding all salaries static for the immediate future while the economic detritus settles. This was a very difficult decision for everyone and we all look forward to a better economic climate in the future.

In addition to the proposed 2009/10 budget, there will be several other items of interest on the annual meeting agenda. We will be electing four trustees to the Board. Anne Pearl, Shahan Islam and myself are each standing for re-election. Regrettably, Eddy Fried will not stand for re-election, but I am very confident he will channel his energy (and his love for this Fellowship and Unitarian-Universalism) into new projects and endeavors! Eddy's many, many contributions are too long to list; always an evangelist for UUism with so much passion for UU principles. I succeed Eddy as President and his commitment to ensuring the integrity of the decision-making process is a benchmark for the Board; thanks Eddy. If you are interested in running for election to the Board, contact any member of the Election Committee (Gary Simon, Shannon Varekamp & Susan Cuccinello).

Also on the annual meeting agenda will be several proposed changes to the bylaws, specifically a clarification of the role of the Election Committee and a fuller description of the Committee on Ministry. And what about changing the name of the UUBCO, Inc. to something, ah, easier? Well, the ad hoc committee charged with investigating changing the name of our Fellowship looked at the issue and, by unanimous vote, recommended that the name be changed to the "Unitarian Fellowship at Croton-on-Hudson." Many thanks to Anne Summers for taking the time to chair this committee and guide it to a specific recommendation. What do you think? Re-naming our Fellowship is no small change—it's literally who

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## ***Letter From the President (cont'd from page 3)***

we are. The Board wants a potential name change to be given a full airing and so, although this item will be on the agenda, the Board is asking the membership to table the issue for one year. This will give us time to discuss the name change more fully and also ensure it is on the agenda for next year.

In addition, you may all be aware that the annual UUA "GA" (General Assembly) is coming up soon. UUBCO is eligible to send three delegates to the UUA GA to be held **June 24 - 28** in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Board has asked Marge Grimm to please represent us and we are looking for two additional representatives. Are you interested in being our delegate to the GA? Members will designate the delegates at the annual meeting and if more than two members want to attend, we will elect two members to represent us. And as you may be aware, this is a very special GA: this year the UUA membership will be electing a new president. Have you followed the two principal candidates, the Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman and the Rev. Peter Morales? I know some members have made a point of learning about the candidates and at the annual meeting we will also be voting on which candidate to support. The official statement of each candidate is printed on page 7 and 8 in this newsletter and you can find more information on the candidates on the UUA.org website.

Rick Turner, President  
Board of Trustees

## ***RE Corner...***



As we prepare for the arrival of summer and a break from our usual services, I'd like to thank those of you who have given your support to the RE program this year, and to those of you who have offered it for the coming year; some of you have some great ideas for next year! It means a great deal; we couldn't have an RE program without you. And for those of you who haven't had a chance to fill out an RE pledge card yet, it's not too late! We'd love to have you on board! We will have those pledge cards available for you at coffee hour. Come see me, Tracy, or an RE Committee member.

We have our last multi-age RE program coming up on June 7. It will be an opportunity for the children to reflect on their beliefs and put them down on paper, modeled on NPR's terrific program, *This I Believe*.

As Isabel Allende has said, you only have what you give. May we all find great joy in giving freely to our brothers and sisters... and always include the youngest and oldest among them.

See you all at the picnic!

*Stacey Hunter*



## SUMMER LAY-LED SERVICE SCHEDULE INFORMATION

There will be no service on June 21. Lay-led summer services will begin on June 28 at 9:30 a.m. Child care will be available.

The Program Committee is responsible for coordinating the Summer Sunday programs—summer is different—one service at 9:30 a.m. It is lay-led and far more informal than services during the rest of the year. Services usually involve lots of discussion and interaction among the attendees—size varies, anywhere from five or six to twenty. If you are a new member you may find this a good way to remain connected during the summer. Baby-sitting/child supervision is provided.

Topics are selected by the leader. Examples of past topics include “The Celtic Tradition of Soul Friend,” “Heated Passion Sunday,” “The Shakers,” “Quaker meeting,” “What is the Committee on Ministry?,” “Meditation,” “Buddhism.” But it could be any topic the leader chooses. A list of topics and dates will be posted on the web site as this information is available.

We need more leaders – please volunteer to lead a service. Services last one hour. Except for lighting the chalice, sharing of joys and milestones and concerns, and an offering, the leader determines program content. Guidelines are provided. The schedule below shows open dates. Contact Phyllis Tortora ([apptora@AOL.com](mailto:apptora@AOL.com)) or Laird Kelly ([i1OQ@AOL.com](mailto:i1OQ@AOL.com)) to volunteer.

There is no coffee hour afterward, but often some of those attending head for a nearby coffee shop to continue the conversation. This year an adult R.E. class led by Tracy Breneman-Pennas, described on page 6 of this newsletter, will be held on selected Sundays following the service.

The following is the schedule to date. Please consider volunteering to lead a service on the dates that don't have a leader assigned. We need three more volunteers. Thank you.

*Phyllis Tortora ([apptora@aol.com](mailto:apptora@aol.com))*

### Summer schedule 2009

June 21—no service.

June 28—Tracy Breneman Pennas: "Exploring Your Spiritual Journey and Articulating Your UU Faith."

July 5—Amalia Connolly: "Engage Your Peaceful Mind Through Meditation"

July 12—Marge Grimm: Report on this year's UU General Assembly

July 19—**OPEN**

July 26—Lydia Rivaud: topic: "Miguel Servet, Spanish Unitarian"

August 2—**OPEN**

August 9—Peter Gallagher: topic: Bucket List

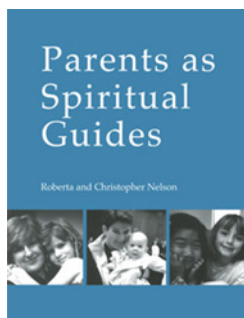
August 16—Patrick Varekamp: topic: Session focusing on the work of the “What’s Next” ad hoc committee

August 23—Laird Kelly

August 30—Phyllis Tortora

September 6—**OPEN**

Church year begins September 13



Please join us for our  
 Summer 2009 UUBCO Adult RE course:  
*Parents as Spiritual Guides*

*Parents as Spiritual Guides* is a six-session course for parents, teachers and mentors of UU children and youth. The authors note in the preface:

Ram Dass in *The Only Dance There Is* writes, "The only thing we have to offer another human being ever is our own state of being." We cannot take these ideas lightly, but we must not be overwhelmed by them. We believe that most parents [and mentors] can be excellent spiritual guides if they take some time to honor their own yearnings, wonderings, and reflections and share them with their children and others. Unitarian Universalists have many definitions and interpretations of the word *spiritual*, as you will discover in the first session of this program. We urge you to honor yours, and in the company of seekers, to enrich and enhance your own spiritual growth.

As Rev. Covington noted in his sermon on May 5<sup>th</sup>, we come to the Fellowship to be reminded about what we value. Many of us seek the "God beyond God," that is, to understand what is most precious to us and what we want to guide our lives. It is a treasured opportunity to then share that understanding with a youth, and to appreciate a child's less cluttered perspective.

The first goal the authors of this curriculum list for participants is "to explore one's own spiritual journey"; another is "to companion one another on the pilgrimage." We are fortunate in our Fellowship to have such interesting people to join us on our journeys, and this course promises to be a rich experience! **We hope you will participate!**

During the **lay-led service on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> (9:30-10:30)** we will begin a conversation around basic questions such as "How do I define *spirituality*?" "How does my faith/religion inspire me?" and "How do I answer some of life's hard questions based on my unique beliefs?" We will draw on additional prompts for our discussion during the service from another UU adult RE course, *Articulating Your UU Faith*. **All are welcome!**

Those of us participating in the adult RE course, *Parents as Spiritual Guides*, will continue the conversation in the first course session, which will immediately follow the Sunday service:

**Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> 10:45 – 12:15**

The second course session will be:

**Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup> 10:45 – 12:15**

(immediately following the lay-led service)

We will schedule the remaining four sessions as a group.

The course book is available on-line through the UUA bookstore (<http://www.uuabookstore.org>).

**RSVP:** Babysitting will be provided. Please let Tracy Breneman-Pennas know if you plan to attend the course and if you will bring children for babysitting so we can plan accordingly ([brenemanpennas@gmail.com](mailto:brenemanpennas@gmail.com) or 862-2367).

## Unitarian Universalist Association Elections: President

As chief executive officer, the President of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA), is responsible to the UUA Board of Trustees for the administrative policies and programs of the Association and is the chief spokesperson for the UUA.

The UUA President election will be held at the UU General Assembly in Salt Lake City in June and the Fellowship will vote on a candidate at our June 7 annual meeting. Following are the "official" statements of each candidate for President of UUA.

### **The Rev. Peter Morales**

Jefferson Unit. Church, Golden, Colorado

Peter Morales is senior minister at Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, Colorado. He is the UUA's former director of district services. Peter served on the UUA Board as the trustee from the Mountain Desert District. He also served on the UUMA Executive Committee as the first person to carry the new anti-racism, anti-oppression, multiculturalism portfolio. Before entering the ministry he owned and published community newspapers in Oregon. He was a Knight International Press Fellow in Peru and is a former Fulbright Lecturer in American Studies in Spain. Peter and Phyllis Widrem Morales have been married 41 years.

**Our situation:** We can be the religion for our time. Hundreds of thousands of people are seeking a religious home where they can grow spiritually, form deep relationships and join hands with others to heal our world. Sadly, we have failed to realize the potential of our faith. We are the same size we were when Unitarians and Universalists merged in 1961, yet the American population has grown by almost 70 percent. We are a much smaller part of American religious life now, and our place is declining steadily.

This is also a time of great challenge. We live in the midst of a historic demographic shift. American society is rapidly becoming multicultural and racially diverse. Whites will be in the minority in a generation. The current economic crisis will force us to change at all levels.

### **Changing times demand we change ourselves:**

We must grow our faith. This is a moral imperative, the moral equivalent of feeding the hungry and housing the homeless. Together we can grow our faith one relationship at a time, one Sunday at a time, in every single congregation.

We must do more with less. Our Association will face budget cuts projected at 20 percent. We have to focus on what is essential and what will prepare us to minister to the new America emerging all around us.

We must continue to be a prophetic voice for justice, peace, environmental responsibility, tolerance and human rights.

We must prepare to minister to a new multicultural America. We need a comprehensive plan to recruit, train, place, mentor and develop a new ministry.

### **Why Peter Morales is the leader we need now:**

**Growth:** Peter has not only led one of our fastest growing congregations, he has been a national leader in growth efforts that are practical, effective, and congregationally based. He and members of his congregation produced the "Ideas for Growth" training DVD used all over the country. He proposed the conference of ministers of growing churches that led to the "Listening to Experience" DVD. He has led workshops all over the country.

**Management:** The UUA is a not a church; it is a national religious organization with a \$26 million budget and 200 staff across the country. In addition to his parish ministry, Peter has broad and deep management experience in complex organizations. He has worked as a regional manager in

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### ***UUA Elections: President (continued from page 7)***

California state government, taught graduate courses in public administration, worked for a large media corporation, and was the UUA's director of district services.

Public witness: Peter brings more than 20 years of experience in speaking truth to power. He is a former newspaper editor and publisher. As a minister, he has stood at the steps of the Colorado Capitol with the governor and religious leaders speaking out on immigration policy.

Ministry to the new America: Peter is bilingual and bicultural. He has lived in Mexico, Peru, Spain, and Canada. He brings a deep understanding of and commitment to multiculturalism, anti-racism and anti-oppression.

**[www.moralesforuapresident.org](http://www.moralesforuapresident.org)**

### **The Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman**

First Unit. Church, Dallas

I am proud to be a candidate for president of the UUA because I have enormous faith in Unitarian Universalism and its transformative future. Our faith must undertake three major tasks as we face this new century. First, we must expand our message, so that more people of every age, race, and class are welcomed, nurtured, and empowered to lead faithful lives. Second, we must renew and restore the ranks of our professional leadership, encouraging the very best, brightest, and most enthusiastic women and men to become ministers and religious educators. Third, we must ensure the financial health of our Association at a time of great financial uncertainty, caring for the generous gifts of our people and inspiring them to even greater generosity.

These are tasks that we can achieve, and I am the candidate most capable of helping us achieve them together. My years of interfaith and community organizing work have prepared me to lead us into an era of greater diversity and greater effectiveness. I know how to help people of differing backgrounds and histories find the common ground of our free faith, and I know how to effect lasting social change through the power of organized communities of faith. My years of experience at every level of congregational life—from church administrator to religious educator to congregational minister to community leader—have given me the deep knowledge of what our congregations need to grow and to flourish. I know how to empower people to use their gifts in the service of religious community, to work in solidarity with others for social justice, and to joyfully answer the call to professional religious life. My years as a primary fundraiser and steward have given me the opportunity to help others develop an attitude of abundance. I know how to encourage people and congregations to help us build a solid financial foundation for our progressive faith.

In seeking the presidency of our Association, I continue to be inspired by three qualities that have been the foundation of my life's work: engaged spirituality—a sense of the Holy that demands action for justice in our world; covenantal relationships—connections with others, within and outside our movement, grounded in the promises we make; and faithful stewardship—care and attention to the resources that fuel the work of our movement.

As I ask for your vote at our next General Assembly, I promise that, as your president, I will always be listening to you as I lead our movement. I promise to add your experience and wisdom to my own. Most of all, I promise that I will always remember that we are first and foremost a religion, an association of congregations bound together by covenant. I promise that I will be faithful, not only to who we are today, but to who we must be tomorrow—a broad, inclusive religious faith that calls all of us to depth and meaning each day of our lives.

**[www.hallmanforuapresident.com](http://www.hallmanforuapresident.com)**

## From the Fellowship Election Committee

Running for re-election this year are Rick Turner, Shahan Islam, and Anne Pearl. Joining them and running for her first term is Nennette Kress. Following are the biographies on all four candidates. Thank you! *Susan Cuccinello, Gary Simon, and Shannon Varekamp*

### Shahan Islam

Shahan lives in Croton with his daughter Ariel (from June on) and has been a member of the Fellowship for about six years. He has been chair of the Social Concerns Committee and has been extensively involved in RE at the Fellowship from pre-school to the Junior and Senior Youth groups. With the youth groups, Shahan has been extensively involved with serving food for the needy and homeless at the Peekskill Salvation Army food pantry, the Midnight Run program (taking food and clothing directly to the homeless on NYC streets) and has hopefully helped broaden the horizons of our youth by organizing trips to Boston and Philadelphia to examine art, historical sites and UU history and roots. In 2008, Shahan founded a youth exchange program connecting UU youth and families, on each side of the Atlantic, to experience and learn about foreign cultures and connect to UU families internationally.

Shahan has been working for the last six years at Pfizer, where he is responsible for intellectual property enforcement and IP-related lobbying in Africa, Middle East & Asia. Prior to this he was in private law practice in New York City and was partner at Roseman & Colin and Anderson Kill and Olick. In 2008 Shahan was granted special recognition by the New York family court system for his pro bono work in helping guide families in domestic disputes who were otherwise unable to afford legal counsel.

Shahan has degrees in Mineral Engineering and German Literature from Columbia University, a law degree from Tulane University and speaks German, Bengali, and Japanese.

### Anne Pearl

Anne Pearl has been a member of this Fellowship since 1993 and a board member for the past two years. She also previously served on our board of trustees, as vice-president, from 2000 to 2004. Anne has been an extremely active member of this Fellowship since joining with her three, now mostly grown, sons. In addition to serving on the board, Anne has been an RE teacher and has served on the RE committee. She has been our Fellowship's chalice lighter coordinator for the past nine years. Anne is a long-standing member of the Program Committee and has served as both sole and co-chair. Anne periodically leads Sunday worship services, particularly the ever-popular Drama Sundays. One of Anne's primary motivations in joining our Fellowship was to find a liberal religious education program for her children. All three of her sons are graduates of the RE program and OWL. Anne's youngest son, Nick, has also been a member of both the junior and senior youth groups and has completed the coming of age program. Last summer, he participated in the youth exchange program and spent two weeks with a Unitarian family in Germany. Later in the summer, Anne's family hosted the oldest daughter of the family that Nick had stayed with.

In addition to fellowship activities, Anne is the administrative vice-president of YCP Theaterworks, a non-profit community theater based in Mohegan Lake. Anne has been active in local community theater, primarily as an actor and director, since moving to Cortlandt Manor with her husband, Bruce, 25 years ago. Anne (along with fellow thespian and UUBCO member, Gary Simon) is also the co-artistic director of the annual, award-winning, Hand-to-Mouth Players' Playwright/Director's Workshop in Buchanan. As many of you know, Anne works as an optical assistant for Croton Vision Center where she has been employed for the past 10 years.

When Anne found a religious home for her children, she also happily found one for herself. She is passionate about this Fellowship and looks forward with great anticipation to continuing her work with our dynamic and dedicated board.

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***From the Fellowship Election Committee (continued from page 9)***

**Nennete Kress**

Three years ago, Nennete Kress noticed a bulletin board flyer in her apartment lobby for new member Sunday at UUBCO. She sought and found a religious connection with like-minded people and embarked on a spiritual and intellectual journey that continues every day. She is chairperson of the Social Events Committee, has just chaired the 2009-2010 pledge drive, serves with the What's Next group, is a member of the book club, and is delighted to sing a song at services when asked. She believes that she can make a contribution to the Fellowship, through service on the board, by lending her skills and experience to help continue the spiritual and fiscal health established by its members over the years.

Nennete is a senior vice president and principal with The Segal Company, where she leads a national communications practice. Her experience includes partnerships at Kwasha Lipton, Coopers & Lybrand and PricewaterhouseCoopers where she led both national and global practices with annual revenues ranging from \$10M to \$38M and staff management oversight of anywhere from 30 to 165 employees at any given time. Nennete is a graduate of Marymount College with a degree in Marketing Management. She serves on the advisory board of the Rockland Family Shelter.

She is a proud single mother of two grown daughters, Lauren and Adrienne and a grandmother to Liam and Kiera. She lives in Scarborough.

**Rick Turner**

Rick practices law in Tarrytown, New York, where he specializes in land use (planning and zoning), municipal and environmental law. He is the former Town Attorney of the Town of Greenburgh (1992-2000), served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Environmental Protection Bureau of the NYS Attorney General's office (1986-92) where he prosecuted environmental crimes, and worked as an attorney with the Legal Aid Society (1983-86) and the City of New York (1980-83).

Rick grew up in the Finger Lakes area of upstate New York where his father was a Methodist minister and his mother taught Latin in the public schools. Rick was active in the anti-war movement in college and worked for the Berrigan Brothers Legal Defense team (the Harrisburg 7) during college and after college worked for the Attica Brothers legal defense in Buffalo, N.Y.

Rick was first elected to the Board in 2007 and served as Board Secretary 2007/ 08 and presently serves as Board President. Before joining the Board, Rick was an active member of the B&G committee. He has used his legal skills on behalf of the Fellowship to help with various issues, including drafting and reviewing various contracts and agreements. He organized the purchase of the parking lot from the County (formerly an old road bed) and continues to coordinate various parking issues with N.Y.S. Department of Transportation. Rick is a board member of the Federated Conservationists of Westchester County (FCWC), and a member of the village Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) where his primary focus is protection to the Croton River.

**Statement**

I am profoundly grateful that our family found a home at U.U.B.C.O. I care deeply about our Fellowship and I would like to continue my service at this critical time in our history. As a member of the board, I hope to promote the community and fellowship that we have each found here and also use my professional skills to address the practical issues that we face as a growing Fellowship. As Board President I am committed to continuing to search for ways to open our government processes and promote greater service. As part of this process I am pleased that this year the Board hosted the first ever mid-year "open forum" in January. In addition, with the aid and assistance of the Treasurer and the entire Board I am pleased to report that the proposed budget was released in draft well in advance of the annual meeting. During our family's time here as members, I have seen the Fellowship evolve, change and grow dramatically and I believe I can make a contribution to this dynamic process.

## BCO Briefs

### The Book Discussion Group



**The next meeting is on Friday, June 19, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Nenette Kress. RSVP required to Jan (voxmom@optonline.net).**

#### The Maytrees by Annie Dillard

Pulitzer Prize winner Annie Dillard meditates on the mysteries of marriage and the nature of forgiveness in her second novel. Toby Maytree is a Provincetown native, an educated poet of thirty. As he courts Lou, her stillness draws him. In spare, elegant prose, Dillard traces the Maytrees' decades of loving and longing. Toby Maytree cherishes the beach shack his coast guard father built, which is where he takes beautiful and meditative Lou, launching an epic love. They live cheaply among the nonconformist artists and writers that the bare tip of Cape Cod attracts. When their son Petie appears, their innocent Bohemian friend Deary, a nomadic beachcomer, helps care for him. But years later it is Deary who causes the town to talk. In this moving novel, Dillard intimately depicts willed bonds of loyalty, friendship, and abiding love. In this transfixing tale, Dillard wryly questions notions of love, exalts in life's metamorphoses, and celebrates goodness. As she casts a spell, sensuous and metaphysical, Dillard covertly bids us to emulate May trees--the resilient hawthorn--the tree of joy, of spring, of the heart.

### ***A Quiz: Should a UU join a CC?***

If you are part of our UU Fellowship, take the quiz below and find out if you would enjoy participating in a Community Circle group.

Do you want to meet people and make new friends?

Do you want to join an intimate community of eight to ten people whose purpose is to foster a deepening relationship with each other?

Are you interested in listening to others and sharing your life story?

Do you like thinking about and discussing thought provoking topics?

Is it about time you did something positive for yourself?

Do you like the idea of having your own little UU neighborhood?

Do you want an opportunity to contribute to the larger UU community?

Are you willing to make a commitment to group attendance?

**Archbishop Desmond Tutu said, "We are made for togetherness, to live in a delicate network of interdependence." Do you believe that is true?**

If you answered 'yes' to all the questions please speak to me or Jim Covington for more information. We are planning for the fall and would appreciate your response asap.

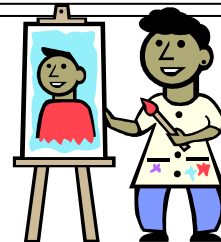
*Linda Griffin, facilitator*

## June Second Collection to benefit the Jan Peek Homeless Shelter

The Social Action Committee's second collection on June 14 will benefit the Jan Peek Homeless Shelter of Peekskill. The Jan Peek house provides shelter and case management services to homeless single adult women and men of Westchester County. The Fellowship has provided sweatshirts and socks for these adults at holiday time for the past ten-plus years. Thank you, *Bearni Croft*

## Fabulous Junior Art Show

There's still time to enjoy the artwork by the Fellowship youth that graces the Sanctuary, and a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who participated.



## FACILITATORS NEEDED FOR COMMUNITY CIRCLES

Five years ago we initiated a dynamic new program for the Fellowship. In the UUA, the program is referred to as Small Group Ministry. As you know we call our program **Community Circles**. The program has been a wonderful success. We have been running 7 to 8 groups with a total membership running between 60 to 70 participants. In the fall, we hope to start new registration and possibly new groups. If you need more information about Community Circles I urge to read the description on our web site at <http://www.uucroton.org/community-circles/>.

In the meantime, we are looking for new facilitators. If you have experience leading groups or have been interested in facilitating a CC group, let me tell you why facilitating a CC group can be a great opportunity for you.

- **As a facilitator, you can be a part of offering an important ministry to our Fellowship.** You can help provide important new avenues for the growth and spiritual development of both our individual members and for our congregational community overall!
- **You get to meet with the minister and with other facilitators** in a dynamic supportive learning environment on a monthly basis.

**You will have the opportunity to learn how to lead groups.**

**Facilitators need to meet certain criteria including being a member of the congregation, being self-aware and willing to learn, being a good listener, being receptive and unprejudiced, and being comfortable in a group setting.** Facilitators will be expected to help set a tone of acceptance and respect for all members, to follow the established group format, to encourage each member to participate as they are willing, to intervene if the group needs redirection, and to coordinate or delegate the coordination of the business aspects of the group.

**You're interested?** If you have questions call or contact Jim Covington or Linda Griffin asap.



## June Birthdays

06/01 Samuel Denler; 06/02 Erika Schenker;  
06/08 Kathleen Williams; 06/09 Linda Griffin;  
06/14 Carl Grimm; 06/15 Brianna Dayer, Kyla Dayer;  
06/19 Sarah Marshall; 06/22 Marco Sammon;  
06/24 Dick Joseph, Linda LoGiudici, Karen Quinn-Panzer;  
06/27 Michael Pearl.



## July Birthdays

07/01 Carole Czujko; 07/03 Mark Golson; 07/05 Elijah R.L. Lewis; 07/06 Paige Varekamp; 07/12 Marjie Kemper, Elizabeth ter Poorten; 07/13 Ian Swanson, Wendy Tarricone; 07/14 Betsy Turner; 07/19 Amadea Newman; 07/20 Sam Kemper; 07/21 Tom Lalicki; 07/26 Nancy Thomas; 07/27 Eric Fried; 07/28 Logan Breneman-Pennas; 07/31 Stacey Hunter.



## August Birthdays

08/01 Emily Clayton; 08/02 Daniel Jewett; 08/04 Audrey Guarino; 08/06 Alissa Peters;  
08/10 Karin Slatem; 08/12 Maya Kumaran; 08/14 Peter Gallagher;  
08/15 Isabella Perez, Daniel Schwartz; 08/16 Bobbe Lipton; 08/21 Beth Gregg;  
08/22 Amalia Connolly; 08/25 Susan Sammon, 08/27 Michael Kullberg;  
08/29 Margaret Mary Gillespie; 08/30 Eddy Fried; 08/31 Jan Ruotolo.

## June Volunteers



### Greeters:

#### June 7

First service: Herb Lipton and Bobbe Lipton  
Second service: Jean Brigleb

#### June 14

First service: Marge Grimm, Al Raymond  
Second service: **Open**

### Flower Volunteers:

6/07 Christine & Matt Clayton

6/14 Jan Ruotolo

### RE Snacks:

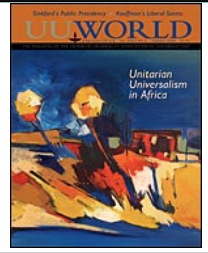
6/07 Wendy and Paul Tarricone

6/14 Anaka and Eric Scuccimarra



**Star Island available!** If you've been intrigued by the beauty and beautiful experiences of Star Island, we can report that there is room at nearly every conference for registrants. First timers are especially welcome and if you are interested, contact Laird Kelly or Gerry Peet and we may be able to arrange a discount for you. And, many conferences have scholarship money available to help those in need. Learn more at [www.starisland.org](http://www.starisland.org).

Please bring your *UU Worlds* that you are finished with, and the Membership Committee will put them into wonderful reusable visitor bags to welcome our visitors! Please put them in Anne Sumers' mailbox. *Thank you.*



The nurses at **Bedford Hills Correctional** have asked that anyone with **extra calendars** donate them to the prisoners. There are always new customers arriving who need calendars and it means so much to them. We cannot accept calendars with spiral metal bindings. They particularly like calendars with pictures of animals or flowers. Michael Schwartz will collect them at the Fellowship. Leave them by the entrance on the table. *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.*

## 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.

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## 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.

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of  
**BRIARCLIFF, CROTON AND OSSINING**

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



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**Teri Lukin, Vice-President**, 914-271-2098, [teriandollie@aol.com](mailto:teriandollie@aol.com)  
**Dan Jewett, Webmaster; Fellowship Website**: <http://www.uucroton.org>  
**Rita Ruotolo, Administrator**, 914-271-4283, [administrator@uucroton.org](mailto:administrator@uucroton.org)

## **Programs for June 2009**

**June 7** — 9:00 a.m. Minister Jim Covington  
11:00 a.m. Fellowship Annual Meeting

**June 14** — Minister Jim Covington—A Spring/Summer celebration of worship, singing, and rejoicing (Fellowship Choir and Spirits in Harmony will sing at both services) followed by our annual picnic.

**June 21** — No Service.

**June 28** — **Summer Lay-Led Services Begin**—"Exploring Your Spiritual Journey and Articulating Your UU Faith"—hosted by Tracy Breneman Pennas.

