



July 2008

Volume 53, No. 7

## News

Reaching In . . .  
Reaching Out

### From the Minister . . .

OUR YOUTH AND OUR ADVISORS have shared with me that through their efforts to build a home for Habitat for Humanity in Sumter, South Carolina, they ultimately build their youth group. The pilgrimage, the worships, the sweat and hard work, and the feeling of putting our faith values into action create many of the threads through which we weave community with one another.



This is one reason why I was so excited when the idea of a local interfaith build for Habitat came up in the clergy council meetings two years ago. The clergy council agreed to back this project and 17 congregations from Cedar Knolls, Dover, Mendham, Morristown, Morris Township, Mountain Lakes, Parsippany and Rockaway joined together in common purpose to build a duplex home on Rowe Street in Morristown to put our respective principles into action working side by side.

We succeeded! In the month of June, the Lopez and Linares families cut the ribbon on their new homes. As I listened to the words of these families and the words of the volunteers at the double home dedication ceremony, it was clear to me that we had constructed more than two homes. We had built relationships across congregations, friendships between members of different faiths, and a feeling that we can make a difference in our neighbors' lives and that we can bring our values to bear on the vital issue of affordable housing, and so much more.



So many of our youth, adults and staff at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship joined in this effort in both minor and major ways. I want to thank all of you who labored with sweat and your time and all of you who gave generously of your financial resources to make this happen. Just check out the fruits of our common endeavor and see the beautiful home that you have helped to make a concrete reality.

There are three individuals whose sweat equity I would like to take the time to lift up to the whole congregation: Keith Sagers, Toby Tyler, and Joe Uhrhane. They were

honored at the dedication ceremony with a rare award of the "golden hammer" for things like their tireless and constant level of support and their bighearted attitudes on the worksite. These three men and so many others of you have been ambassadors to the greater community of what our congregation and Unitarian Universalism stands for, including deeds not creeds and working across disparate theological beliefs.

"The interfaith build for Habitat was a natural fit for my interests and abilities," said Keith Sagers. "It has been a personally rewarding experience to help provide a home for two deserving local families as part of the IFCC Habitat build. I expect to continue working with Habitat in the future."

"I got involved with the Interfaith project," said Toby Tyler, "because the lack of decent affordable housing is one of the major inhibitors to breaking the stranglehold of living in poverty in Morris County...."

"I believe in Habitat founder Millard Fuller's original philosophy of 'giving a hand up, not a hand out.' I am so proud of the contributions of MUF members to this project; other volunteers frequently commented to me on the heavy participation from MUF.

"As a member of MUF, I've come to expect that we always participate well beyond our numbers in Morris County social action issues. I come out of this knowing I helped neighbors obtain a DECENT house, knowing that two

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### Morristown Unitarian Fellowship

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Morristown, New Jersey 07960-4611  
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Sunday Services: 10 a.m.  
Religious Education Classes: 10 a.m.

Summer Office Hours:  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Wednesday: 1-7 p.m.  
Friday: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Tel: 973-540-1177, ext. 201  
Fax: 973-539-8218

[www.mUuf.org](http://www.mUuf.org)

### Mission and Covenant Statement

**WE**, the members of the **Morristown Unitarian Fellowship**, mindful of the rich diversity and essential oneness of human experience, covenant to weave the fabric of community from the strands of our separate lives. This is our pledge:

- To create for ourselves and our children a spiritual home which will nurture, challenge and offer us renewal.
- To seek what is true even as we celebrate the mystery of existence.
- To reach out to all who share our liberal religious values and participate in the broader Unitarian-Universalist movement.
- To work for social justice and the well-being of our planet Earth.

**Please E-Mail All NEWSLETTER Articles**  
—both print and online versions—

to editor **PAT BAXTER** at  
[melodylingers@verizon.net](mailto:melodylingers@verizon.net)

by the **15th** of the month  
preceding the one in which they will appear.

Thank you!

### Deeds Well Done

The Fellowship Board commends **Franklin Heller** for all he did in leading the Annual Budget Drive; his sunny personality made the work a pleasure.

We thank **Nina McCormack** for producing the beautiful tri-fold brochure for the campaign; we will continue to use this summary of who we are for some time to come.

The Board also holds in esteem all the volunteers who worked on the Interfaith Habitat for Humanity Build (see the minister's column for more information). We are truly *Here for Each Other... Here for the World... and Here for the Future.*

### Interfaith Build Completes Morristown Duplex

(continued from page 1)

more families will now have a better opportunity to have an improved quality of life, and having made friends from many other religious faiths.”

I am inspired by what we can create when we set our minds together, and I hope we will keep up this valuable interfaith work in our county. (One current project is the workers' center initiative that meets over at Neighborhood House.) May all our projects at their conclusion feel as rewarding and constructive as the Habitat Interfaith Build.

In fellowship,



### Upcoming Board and Network Meetings

Meetings are at 7 p.m. and open to all Fellowship members. This month's meetings are scheduled on:

Board of Trustees	July 9
Administrative/Program Networks	July 16

### Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the most recent meetings have been approved and are posted on the bulletin board in Room 100 and on the website in the Members section.

*Be a knowledgeable member of your Fellowship!*

## The President's Corner

When I think back to my childhood, summer was always my favorite season. I'd lie around in the hammock slowly swinging back and forth. School was a distant memory and dreams of going to the shore, playing with friends, and reading books was foremost on my mind.

As an educator, I have the summer off and see this time of the year as one of renewal and rejuvenation. I am recovering from high school graduations and college orientations. My personal summer plans are to laze in my garden, play with my girls, and read some books. Some things never change.

Summer is also a time of renewal at MUF. The Board, networks, many committees and councils will continue to work through the summer months. It may be a period of discovery as new members come into our groups and old members leave us. Many of us will covenant in our groups so we can work together in a respectful and mutually agreeable manner.

This is also a good time for us to appreciate all that we have accomplished this year. Maybe a project fizzled or is taking longer than we had planned. I find comfort

in the fact that if I am not successful in everything I do here, many hands will be extended to help me up and encourage me to try again. Sometimes we can get bogged down in what we didn't do and forget about the good that we did. We are an amazing group of people with a variety of complementary talents. Magical things happen when we work together towards a common goal. Let's take the time to applaud our many achievements.

It is important for all of us to take this time to renew ourselves: to play, read, garden or whatever works for you. Then we will return to our Fellowship and our committees this fall ready to work hard to continue our great works. We can build on our future together as we explore our greatest possibilities for our spiritual home.

In fellowship,

*Mary*

Mary Hodgson, President

## Our Financial Health

Account Name	May 2008	July 07-May 08	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
<b>Income</b>				
Pledge Income	\$24,909.17	\$349,856.73	\$400,000.00	\$56,326.07
Rental Income	\$4,460.00	\$32,415.00	\$43,500.00	\$11,085.00
Fundraisers	\$973.25	\$9,035.02	\$30,000.00	\$20,964.98
Other Income	\$1,508.01	\$8,973.82	\$9,500.00	\$526.18
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$32,946.43</b>	<b>\$411,229.82</b>	<b>\$493,500.00</b>	<b>\$88,452.98</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
PAYROLL	\$36,240.93	\$314,220.27	\$343,411.00	\$29,232.63
Debt Services	\$1,944.09	\$19,476.12	\$30,000.00	\$12,259.37
BLDG MTCE & UTIL	\$2,303.65	\$58,697.17	\$62,969.00	\$4,271.83
ADMINISTRATION	\$4,635.64	\$58,707.08	\$71,632.00	\$13,401.92
COMMITTEES	\$1,017.74	\$14,529.67	\$26,275.00	\$11,745.33
Religious Education	\$5,071.51	\$9,601.24	\$14,200.00	\$4,598.76
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$51,213.56</b>	<b>\$475,231.55</b>	<b>\$548,487.00</b>	<b>\$75,509.84</b>
Difference	(\$18,267.13)	(\$64,001.73)	(\$54,987.00)	

### PLEDGES

Dear Fellow MUF Members and Friends,

We need those of you who have not fulfilled your 2007-2008 pledges to do so as soon as possible. In addition, it is very important that those of you who have not yet made a financial commitment for the 2008-2009 fiscal year to get your cards in. Please do contact me or Frank Heller with any questions.

Tony Rutigliano, Treasurer

## Upcoming Events



### ***Pete Seeger: The Power of Song***

**Saturday, July 19, 8 p.m. (doors open 7:30)**

Spend a delightful summer's evening watching an uplifting film biography of the life and career of folk music icon Pete Seeger - musician, singer, songwriter, labor activist, environmentalist, peace advocate. Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen and Bonnie Raitt are among the artists interviewed. This film will get you humming, and will be followed by a real sing-along with some of your favorite local folk musicians leading the way! \$5 donation suggested.

Info: Jo Sippie-Gora at  
[seedsofpeacemuf@optonline.net](mailto:seedsofpeacemuf@optonline.net)

Directions: [www.muuf.org/directions.html](http://www.muuf.org/directions.html)



### ***First Monday Book Group***

**Monday, September 8, 7 p.m.**

The Group will not be meeting in July and August, but we will be reading! Our book for September, *Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides, is a lengthy but interesting book which was recommended by a number of keen readers. We should also be reading other books to choose for the year's reading. Used copies of *Middlesex* can be ordered inexpensively from Amazon. Since the first Monday in September is Labor Day we will meet September 8 in Room 208.

Have a wonderful summer! Everyone is welcome to join us in the autumn to discuss your favorite books. Contact Nancy Lee McLure at [nlmclure@msn.com](mailto:nlmclure@msn.com).

### ***A/V Committee: Leadership Change, Volunteers Needed***

Venkat Puranapanda is taking over as chairperson of the Audio/Visual Committee. Please address A/V requests to him at [puranapanda@yahoo.com](mailto:puranapanda@yahoo.com).

The roster of A/V volunteers needs replenishing. Please join the MUF A/V volunteers to help support our high-quality Sunday programs with video recording, operating the sound system, and projection. We provide the (simple) training required. Anyone can do it. It's a fun and low-intensity way to provide a valuable service to MUF, particularly recommended for new members. Scheduling is online or via e-mail and phone calls.

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### ***Looking for a Friendly Face?***

Joining a community that is entirely new to you can sometimes be an awkward experience, particularly when attending large functions such as social activities, concerts, etc. We would like to offer you the opportunity to attend an event at MUF with one or more of our friendly members.

If this interests you, please let us know when you sign up for an event at the Box Office, or call Laurie MacGeorge or e-mail her at [dlmacg10@aol.com](mailto:dlmacg10@aol.com). She will arrange for a member to meet you, sit with you and introduce you to some of our other friendly faces.

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### ***The Fresh Air Fund Needs YOU!***

The Fresh Air Fund needs families like yours to open their hearts and homes to New York City children. First-time visitors are six to 12 years old and stay for two weeks. With your help a child will get to experience the freedom of playing outdoors and life outside the city streets.

Trip dates for Northern New Jersey are July 9-23, July 16-30 or August 11-21. To become a Fresh Air Fund host family, call Donna Perch or visit the website [www.freshair.org](http://www.freshair.org).

Save money and energy (CO<sub>2</sub> footprint)!  
Use compact fluorescent bulbs.  
Sundays, Room 100, or call Fred Mayer.  
Large selection, discount prices.

### *Wendy Pantoja Serves as Summer Minister*

The Reverend Wendy Pantoja is a newly ordained minister in our denomination. A recent graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School, Wendy has served as student minister of the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield and as intern minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair.

When not at MUF this summer, Wendy may be found working on her fixer-upper Westfield home, visiting with friends and family, indulging in needlecrafts, or reading, among many pastimes.

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### *MUFers Name Economy, Environment, Health Leading Issues in UULMNJ Survey*

Thanks to the work of Jo Sippie-Gora, 43 of us filled out the UU Legislative Ministry of New Jersey survey asking what issue areas were most important for this new organization to work on at the state level. UULMNJ is a newly formed collaboration of all 21 UU congregations of New Jersey which will join together to form a strong united voice for action in New Jersey.

The Steering Committee will choose three issues from those thought to be important from all congregations reporting. MUF members voted the following as most important: Economic justice named by 34; Environment named by 29; Health named by 29.

Over the next several months we'll be collaborating with other UUs around the state to voice our views.

It's not too late to get involved. Thanks to the 17 people who already listed their name as being interested in receiving more information and/or helping out. Others who are interested in meeting UUs from around the state and working on state issues can contact me to get involved.

~Toby Tyler, [wtyler3@optonline.net](mailto:wtyler3@optonline.net)

### *Pledges to Date Total \$400,000 Plus*

In chairing a budget drive you get to ask a lot of people to give...not just of their financial resources but also of their time and talent. My sales instinct tells me about the health of an organization by the number of people who say yes when asked to help.

Over 25 people contributed (see the list in Room 100):

- 1 Members trained and participated as Visiting Stewards,
- 2 Helped communicate our vision by drafting and editing letters, revising pledge materials, giving testimonials, updating our web page and creating a promotional brochure,
- 3 Hosted a party or helped in creating Celebration Sunday,
- 4 Volunteered to analyze financial trends of the Fellowship, and
- 5 Made follow-up telephone calls to keep us on track.

The other way we judge our health as a spiritual community is by the financial support you have made to fund our operations. We have received over \$400,000 in pledges to date. Many members have significantly increased their pledges this year. We had a 12 percent increase in amount pledged from people who also pledged last year. Our average pledge to date is over \$1740. We do have to make up for people who move or leave the Fellowship, so every pledge is important. There are still some outstanding pledges that we are counting on to get closer to our goals.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who has made a pledge for their generosity. For those of you who are planning to make a pledge or donation or by contributing financially, I cannot stress how important that is for the Fellowship. Counting you along with those who have already pledged will allow us to do more than just dream big.

*Franklin Heller*  
Annual Budget Drive

## *Social Justice Council - July 2008 Update* *Spiritual Practices Put into Action*



### Special July Social Justice Events

#### ***WOW...what will MUF's 2008 Peace Festival on September 21 be like—for kids & adults?***

In this time of war and significant social injustice just below the surface in Morristown, regionally, in New Jersey, the U.S. and the world, what should MUF members - adults and children - be acting upon to help make our world more peaceful?

We think that the chance initiates a significant MUF Peace agenda for 2008-2009 at our ***MUF Annual Peace Festival***, which is planned for ***Sunday, September 21*** - coincidental with the UN Day of Peace 2008. (As you know we are continuing the UUA's four-year Study Action Issue on "Peacemaking," so the issue of peacemaking is "ours" for the doing.)

We have already sent feelers out to our neighboring Morristown faith communities to join with us and create September 21 as a "Morristown Peace Day." The working concept is that each faith community will build in Peace-related activities for their own congregations on Sunday morning and then join in post-service for a joint event. We love that idea! So, if this idea intrigues you, join us...be a "MUF Peace Festival Planning Team Member." We next meet on Wednesday, July 9, at 7:30 p.m. to get very "intentional" ...be a voice and an asset to help MUF put our very best foot forward. Just show up.... on July 9...at MUF at 7:30, to be a part of the challenge. Contact [karenburns@casaessex.org](mailto:karenburns@casaessex.org) or 973-648-3308 to share comments and interests.

***Eric Johnson House - Biweekly Dinner - Wednesdays, July 2 and July 23 - 5:45-7 p.m.*** Be a part of the MUF contingent who makes home-cooked dinners and/or serves & converses over dinner with 10 friendly Morristown homeless neighbors living with HIV/AIDS. Contact: [sespencer@optonline.net](mailto:sespencer@optonline.net) to help. (Thanks also to Matt & Sarahjane Rath who provide dinner themselves (!) first Mondays.)

***Morris Homeless Solutions Monthly Dinner - Saturday, July 12 - 4:45-7 p.m.*** (still time for your own weekend plans!) - Help is needed to cook and serve homeless shelter residents their monthly MUF cheeseburger & birthday cake dinner. Contact [judyoneil@optonline.net](mailto:judyoneil@optonline.net) to volunteer.

***Morristown Soup Kitchen - Help is needed for Tuesday, July 8*** - Summer still equals hunger for far too many Morristown neighbors. We have moved to needing **soups, cold casseroles and hot dogs/beans, etc.**, to feed at least 150 on "second Tuesdays" each month. Drop off prepared-in-advance foods to MUF freezer or put in refrigerator after July 6 - mark "For CSK." Contact Coordinator: [mbkunz@gmail.com](mailto:mbkunz@gmail.com). THANKS!!

***Social Justice Council Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, July 9 - 7:30-9:00*** -(room to be posted). Join the Social Justice Council and help extend MUF's caring!



# Sharing Our Joys & Concerns

To assure the privacy of our members and friends, we have removed all other “Joys and Concerns” and personal telephone numbers from the online newsletter. A copy of the Newsletter in the Members Only section of our website includes the complete information.

## *Tell Us Your Joys & Concerns*

*Be sure to send your Joys and Concerns to [melodylingers@verizon.net](mailto:melodylingers@verizon.net) so they will reach all members of the Fellowship.*

*Contributions to the Endowment Fund, the Memorial Garden Fund, or the Celebration of Life Fund are special ways of honoring family and friends. Your gifts will be acknowledged and appreciated.*

**Morristown  
Unitarian Fellowship**  
21 Normandy Heights Road  
Morristown, New Jersey 07960-4611



**TO ASSURE PRIVACY** of our members and friends, all "Joys and Concerns," personal telephone numbers and home addresses are removed from this *public* online newsletter. The Members Only copy includes the full information.

## July 2008

Volume 53, No. 7



Dated Material – Posted June 27, 2008  
Deadline for the AUGUST issue is

**JULY 15**

## Sunday Services

Services at 10 a.m. only



### July 6 **We Take No Followers**

We will explore what it means to engage in a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

*Presented by Rev. Wendy Pantoja*

### July 13 **Open Mouth – Words Pour Out; Poetry in Our Lives**

We will hear original poetry from MUF poets and from sages in other times. Join us to see the power poetry can have on our lives.

*Coordinated by Jane Shivas*

### July 20 **On Being Good for Nothing**

Although a creedless religious movement, Unitarian Universalism is grounded in an ethic of relationality. What does this mean in our daily living?

*Presented by Rev. Wendy Pantoja*

### July 27 **Stargazing into Eternity**

Humans through the ages have perceived divinity's hand in the heavens. Do we have anything in common with the ancients who studied astrology and aligned their temples with the skies? Is there still a link for us today between astronomy and spirituality?

*Coordinated by Danelle Simonelli*



## Summer Pastimes

### *Process Painting*

Four Sessions – dates and times to be determined by participants

Scheduling Session: Sunday, July 13, 11:15 a.m. in the MUF Library (bring your calendar)

Facilitated by Elizabeth Bain



Pick up a brush; load it with color; move the color onto a piece of paper. Paint something that is recognizable – or not. Only you will know the depth of the experiences you put on paper. You will paint for three hours. Oh, yes, this sounds like a long time..... But, if you allow it, you will become deeply engrossed in the process of painting! You will express yourself nonverbally, adding something new to the universe and perhaps getting in touch with a part of yourself that may up to now have been unexpressed. Be open to inspiration; enjoy this time of exploration. *Deadline for registration is Thursday, July 10. Minimum of six participants required, with maximum of eight. \$10.00 materials fee.*

**For more information:** Contact Elizabeth Bain at [elizabethbain@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethbain@hotmail.com).

### *An Evensong Sampler*

Three Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. – July 17, August 7 & 21

Facilitated by Rev. Wendy Pantoja, MUF Summer Minister

You are warmly invited to explore personal beliefs and possibilities and to get to know a great group of people as we sample sessions from our denomination's Evensong 1 and 2 curricula. Let us explore together an alternative style of worship in which we sing, share readings, and let our lives be our "sermon." There are no "right answers," only personal and evolving ones. For our first gathering, please bring an object, memento, photograph or drawing that reminds you of a truth you knew as a child that has served you well through life – a truth, a knowing, for which you are grateful. Try to think of a deep understanding you knew as a child even if your childhood was difficult. Was there strength that, as a child, you found in yourself?

**For more information:** Contact Rev. Wendy Pantoja at [wpantoja@uuma.org](mailto:wpantoja@uuma.org).

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### *"Turning Points" Summer Service Participants Invited*

The theme for the lay-led Sunday service on August 3 will be "Turning Points." If you would like to contribute to the service by way of a story from your life, a poem, music or other element, please contact Carol Titus at [carol.titus@yahoo.com](mailto:carol.titus@yahoo.com).