



## March 2008

Volume 53, No. 3

# News

Reaching In . . .  
Reaching Out

## From the Minister . . .

**WHAT DO YOU THINK** when you hear the words congregation, fellowship, church, temple or mosque? Many people may think of a building. I do not. I think of the people inside the building. It is not the bricks, but the folks who make a congregation.



Now don't get me wrong. The building can be important, beautiful, green and historic and have many other positive attributes, but only so long as it serves the vision of the members and friends does it matter. It is my sincere hope that we will continue the wonderful dialogues that have begun with members like Walter Kanzler about our building and Bianca Wright about grounds. Our building is the vessel that contains and inspires our community in its common endeavor of bringing more love, justice and connection into a bruised and hurting world.

However, I have traveled around our country and Europe and seen many a congregational building with architecture that soars to innovative heights and plumbs the depths as well. Some of these have been empty, and only a hollow echo bounces off the walls of their chambers. They have been beautiful buildings indeed, but they are not congregations.

A congregation, in my mind, is the collection of people who have decided to cast their lot together in a spiritual search for truth, for meaning, for right relations and for the beloved. It is when I have witnessed one of you holding another's hand in a time of duress or loss that our chandeliers sparkle a little brighter. It is when one of you has shown a movie or hosted a panel to bring awareness to the consequences of war that our Meeting Room's heights are touched. It is when a teacher shares the history of our forebears' struggle for religious freedom or the truths held in the various world religions that our windows seem to let in the most light. It is when we gather together for prayer or for meditation that the mortar and bricks of our building have the fewest cracks.

You get the point. The call of Unitarian Universalism and the call of our particular community echoes through the chambers on 21 Normandy Heights Road, and we are there to respond. It is this quality which makes us a congregation.

So to all of you who have responded and made us more than a beautiful building but also a spiritual home, I thank you. Without you, we would not be a congregation. We need you who shine our floors, who care for one another's hearts, who bring more justice, compassion and equity in human relations... and you who welcome the newcomer, who give generously of your time and your finances, who make us what we are... a congregation.

And to all of you, who are visitors or newcomers and are trying to figure out whether or not to join our congregation, let me say this. It is by casting your lot with a group like ours that you can unlock a door to a quality of connection, commitment, caring and creativity that can change your life for the better, and you can also change others' lives for the better. So, whether it is here or in another building that becomes a home for you, I wish you the courage to turn the key.

In fellowship,

*Alison's office hours are Tuesday-Friday by appointment.*

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**Morristown Unitarian Fellowship**

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Morristown, New Jersey 07960-4611

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***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!

***From the Board of Trustees***

***Deeds Well Done***

The Board wishes to recognize the following persons for their contributions to the Fellowship:

Thanks to **Karen Burns Rutigliano** for her work on the first Peace Soup gathering. Among other things Karen cooked and outlined our work on the UU Peacemaking Congregational Study Action Program.

**Garry Hodgson** and **Ken Nemeth** stepped right up to the work of Senior High Advisors when **Alyse Kalas** was no longer able to continue in this capacity. We so value Alyse's work over the last two years and are happy that Garry and Ken could jump into the gap in this important role for our youth.

**Joe Uhrhane** has donated a much-needed secretary to be used in the Fellowship library for a public reading area, which will house documents such as Fellowship policies and agendas and minutes for Board meetings.

A white tornado swirled through MUF one Saturday morning – in the form of the 2nd Annual Midwinter Cleanup Day. Among the tasks accomplished were cleaning and organizing the kitchen, cleaning and rearranging the Office, dusting and vacuuming the 2nd and 3rd floor hallways and classrooms, patching the meeting room ceiling, scrubbing the bathrooms, polishing the library woodwork, and cleaning the skylights. Thanks to volunteers **Kathy Burgess, Linda Clark, Linda DeLap, Tina DeMottie, Nina and young James McCormick, Jude & Miriam Pfister, Chris Reynolds, Lisa Schmitt (with Amanda & Lena), Geri Silk and Mark Wright (with Lina)** for joining MUF staffers **Maggie Chilton, Bill Forsyth and Ryszard Gliniak**, and B&PC members **Lauralee Arnold, Bruce Daggy, Arlyne Dalman, Matt Rath, Steve Rice and Bianca Wright** in making this event a great success. Any covenant circles interested in taking on a project, indoors or out, please contact a member of B&PC.

***Upcoming Board and Network Meetings***

Meetings are open to all Fellowship members. The meeting time is 7 p.m. This month's meetings are scheduled on:

Board of Trustees	March 12
Administrative/Program Networks	March 19

***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

The last page in the *Oprah* magazine is always an editorial piece by her entitled "What I Know for Sure." I love that! It's a short piece and goes right to what's really important. With all of the clutter in our lives, the more we can go straight to what's essential, the more sane and meaningful our lives will be.

I arrived on the scene at MUF in 1996 - three years after our current Missio and Covenant Statement was adopted by the congregation. How has the DNA of the Fellowship changed in the last 15 years? How does the changing makeup of our membership and the world in which we live affect our vision for the future? Take a minute next Sunday to read our Mission Statement on the back of the Order of the Service. Do these words inspire you? Do they make you proud to be part of this community? What would you change? What would you add?

I don't have the data to show how many of us were here to participate in the visioning process that led to the Mission Statement of 1993, but my guess is that a significant percentage of us were not. Although our values remain the same, the way we want to express them may have changed.

A shared community vision - a collective statement of what the ideal future looks like - provides focus, purpose and direction. Our Mission and Covenant Statement is how we intend to make that

vision a reality. Both mission and vision are alive; both evolve, both reinvent, both grow as we grow. They are a catalyst for action!

It's clear to me that a part of our shared vision is growth – not only growth in numbers, but in the depth of our spirituality and in the ways we express our faith in the world. I get all tingly when we talk about spreading the good news of Unitarian Universalism. As Board member Tony Rutigliano has said on a number of occasions, "I believe that Unitarian Universalism is the best hope for our world." What does that mean in terms of what I/we do here at MUF?

As we launch our visioning process in the coming month (**April 19**) with a half-day congregation-wide gathering, I urge you to identify what you "know for sure" and to participate as together we set the course for our future.

*Without shared values, we have no common vision.*

*Without a vision, we have no basis for our mission.*

*Without a mission, our goals are fragmented and our actions random.*

*Without goals and actions in alignment, we have no impact.*

On the path,

Carol

Carol Todd, President

## Peace and Conflict Friday, March 7

*Action Alert from the UUA Washington Office for Advocacy*

**The Olivebranch Interfaith Peace Partnership** is hosting an **Interfaith Peace Witness** in Washington, DC, **2-4:30 p.m.** Presenters will include UUA President Rev. William G. Sinkford.

**Please join us.** Reserve your bus seat (leaving out of the Somerville UU) by contacting Jo Sippie-Gora, chair, Seeds of Peace Committee, **no later than Sunday, March 2:** e-mail [josippie@optonline.net](mailto:josippie@optonline.net).

*The UUA is a member of the Olivebranch Interfaith Peace Partnership, a coalition of over a dozen progressive, spiritual organizations.*

## Candidates Sought

The Nominating Committee seeks your input for the slate of candidates to be presented at the Annual Meeting **June 1**. Please contact a member of the Nominating Committee with suggested names of MUF members for the following positions. All terms run July–June.

### Board of Trustees:

- President-Elect: One-year term (2008-2009) followed by one-year term as President (2009-2010).
- Secretary: Two-year term (2008-2010)
- Vice President–Program: Two-year term (2008-2010)

**Endowment Committee:** Two members, each for a three-year term (2008-2011)

**Nominating Committee:** Three-year term (2008-2011)

*The Leadership Development & Nominating Committee: Elizabeth Bain, Helene Ferm, Steve Parker, Joe Uhrhane, Jerry Weinstein. For more information contact Helene Ferm at [fermsmph@optonline.net](mailto:fermsmph@optonline.net).*

## Faith Developments

### I'VE BEEN GETTING

a lot of questions recently about where I am going next year and why I can't stay here at MUF as DRE. So I thought I'd take a moment to talk a bit about the transition that is coming.



I arrived in the fall of 2006 as your Interim DRE. My task was to guide the congregation through a Religious Education Interim Process. This process would examine the history of the program, define the mission and vision of the program, clarify the systems and structure of the program, reconnect with denominational support and complete a successful DRE search - all while running a stupendous RE program.

Interim DREs are what is jokingly called "pre-fired" in that they are not candidates for the permanent position. Their job ends when the new DRE starts. This allows Interim DREs to be honest about where they see problems and to be able to make change without worrying about whether or not they will lose their job - they're already fired!

The members, volunteers and leaders of this congregation have been committed to completing the Interim DRE process, and you've done a lot of hard work! And because you wanted to do it right, the RE Council recommended and the board agreed in the spring of 2007 to extend the process and my contract for another year. This was time well spent as the congregation is now actively in search for a permanent DRE. Assuming a successful search, your new DRE will be hired this spring and start in July. At the moment, my last day at MUF is June 30.

With every transition comes the unknown. At the moment you don't know who your new DRE will be. That is both frightening and exciting! Over the past year and a half we've gotten comfortable with each other and here is yet more change. The good news is that you're ready for someone who can take you to the next level, someone who can grow with you and implement your vision for RE at MUF. The search committee is a great group, and I am confident in their ability to choose the right DRE for MUF.

At the moment, my own transition is facing the unknown. I do not know what I will be doing next year.

This is both frightening and exciting! I've gotten to know and love you all and now I am preparing to leave. The good news is that whether you feel it right now or not, you are ready for me to leave. As I know more about where I am headed, I will be happy to share that news with you.

You should be proud of the work that you have done and the position you are in. Your DRE will be the embodiment of all that you have accomplished, and I must leave in order for to bring completion to that process. This is truly something to celebrate!

In Faith,

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### DRE Search Committee Update

We have put together an exciting job description for the new DRE position. The enticing advertisements have been sent to all UU congregations, newsletter editors, Metro NY district leaders, lay leaders, curriculum and research developers, Northeast district DRE and associated websites, etc. You can find a link to the DRE job opening from the [www.muuf.org](http://www.muuf.org) home web page.

Follow the links to information about the congregation and surrounding area. If you know of anyone who might be interested in the DRE position, please pass this along. Here is the job description:

**\*DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION\*** The Morristown (NJ) Unitarian Fellowship, located 35 miles west of New York City, is a vibrant, creative and growing congregation of 300-plus adults and 140 children and youth. We are seeking a full-time DRE who has excellent team-building, communications and organizational skills. In addition to working with the youth program, the DRE will collaborate with a dynamic Adult Programs Committee....

Partners in Religious Education Ministry include a part-time assistant, our Minister, and the children's, youth and adult Religious Education Councils. The Fellowship follows UUA guidelines on salary and offers a competitive benefits package including professional development and training opportunities.

Please send resume, letter of interest and a statement of religious education philosophy to [dre-search@muuf.org](mailto:dre-search@muuf.org) or DRE Search, 21 Normandy Heights Road, Morristown, NJ 07960. Preferred start date July 15. Phone contact David Palmer.

## ***Final Two Peace Luncheons to Be Held This Month***



**Just Peace Through Non-Violent Means!!** Our MUF SJ Peace Team goes into high gear in preparation for revising the UUA PEACEMAKING resolution on Sunday, April 27, at a Fellowship meeting. Personal, inter-personal, national and international events on our agenda are designed to stimulate our thinking:

- **March 2 - Bob Moore Speaks: “Peace Through the Lens of National and International Issues”** Rev. Bob Moore is the Executive Director of the NJ Coalition for Peace Action and a Congregational minister. He is the ideal spokesman for peace in our time. He has led many groups to Washington to lobby members of Congress on behalf of disarmament and conversion of resources from military purposes to urgent human needs. Donation \$5 for this special opportunity.
- **March 9 – Allen Wells, UU minister, facilitates this workshop: “Peace Is Not the Absence of Conflict”** Can we be peaceful in our dealing with conflict situations? How can we build a bridge between making peace and being a peace-maker?

A Peace Soup or Sandwich Luncheon will be served each day at 12:15 – Donation \$3. Discussions and workshops are scheduled for 1:15. Thus we will be well on our way toward rewording our UUA SAI on April 27.

**Please note an amazing invitation offered by our UU-United Nations Office (the UU-UNO) for increasing our experience with peace, “PICKING UP THE PIECES, Building a Culture of Peace,”** held at the Church Center, UN Plaza, NY, from April 3-5. (See Room 100 Bulletin Board for details.) Please call Eleanor Mason, MUF SJ Peace Team Secretary, for further information.

## ***Give, Host, Bid, Buy: The 2008 Service Auction!***

Our highly anticipated, always popular **Service Auction** will be held on Saturday, March 29, and Sundays, March 30 & April 6. There are three ways you can be involved in this fun community activity:

**Provide a service:** Can you cook a dinner for a group, lead a tour, teach others how to bake pies or play chess? Tell us. When will you conduct this activity? How many people are you willing to do it for? What is your suggestion about a minimum price? Be creative, and be a part of the action.

**Come to the Service Auction Dinner Kickoff on Saturday, March 29** - live entertainment, food, drink and live auctioneer! Enjoy dinner 6:30–9ish–wine bar, light hors d’oeuvres, salad, gourmet pastas and gourmet chili with cornbread, tempting desserts/coffee (lovingly prepared by Service Auction Committee members). This is your chance to bid on choosing the topic for one of Alison’s services, and other highly-sought-after prize items/services.

**Be generous and “buy” lots of donated services/ fun** from MUF members during the auction evening and in the Terrace Room Bidding Gallery between and after Sunday Services on March 30 & April 6.

**For more information, to donate an item or service, or just to help out with the auction itself, contact:** Tony Rutigliano at [arutigl@optonline.net](mailto:arutigl@optonline.net). Dinner tickets available at Box Office – \$10 per person in advance/\$20 at door.

## ***Film and Discussion on Pakistan Saturday, March 8, at 7:30 p.m.***



If Pakistan is a long-time ally of the U.S., then why are Pakistan communities in the U.S. under attack? Why was Bhutto assassinated? Why is Pakistan a key link in the Middle East? How do deportations of Pakistanis after 9/11 affect us all? How have UU been involved?

These and other questions will be discussed at a program co-hosted by MUF’s *Seeds of Peace* Committee and the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex County. See the 45-min. film, *Point of Attack*.

**The free program will be held at the First UU of Essex County, 35 Cleveland Street, Orange.** Info: Jo Sippie-Gora at [jo@josippie.com](mailto:jo@josippie.com).

## ***Congregation-Wide Visioning***

**Saturday, April 19, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.**  
(Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.)

***Everyone is urged to attend***

This event is designed to help our congregation clarify its vision and mission. It is a highly participative process, designed to incorporate as many members of the congregation as possible through small group sessions. The day’s events will be lively and designed to make the process of clarifying vision and mission not only painless, but actually fun. Be sure to attend and have your voice heard!!

## Upcoming Events

### **First Monday Book Group**

**Monday, March 3, 7 p.m.**

The First Monday Book Group is reading *Tortilla Curtain*, by T. Coraghessen Boyle. Books scheduled for the rest of the season are the following: April 7, *Death of Innocents*, Sister Helen Prejean; May 5, your choice of a book by Joyce Carol Oates that looks interesting to you; June 2, *An Open Heart Practicing Compassion in Everyday Life*, The Dalai Lama. Contact Nancy Lee McLure at [nlmclure@msn.com](mailto:nlmclure@msn.com). *Registration not required.*

### **Normandy Chorale Concert**

**Sunday, March 9, 1:15 p.m.**

The Chorale will perform Faure's *Cantique*, Randall Thompson's *Alleluia*, Berlioz's *Thou Must Leave Thy Lowly Dwelling*, along with a selection of *Spirituals*. Normandy Chorale is a participating chorus in the *Song of Peace* project ([www.songofpeace.org](http://www.songofpeace.org)), and will also perform the *Agnus Dei* from Mozart's *Missa Brevis*, in support of that effort.

Donation at the door is \$8 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. The Chorale is directed by Bruce Sidelnik and accompanied by pianist Beth Wilson.

### **"The Story of Stuff": a 20-Minute Film**

**Sunday, March 16, 10:20 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. in the Dining Room**

It may not be long on plot or character development, but this 20-minute film, presented by Green Earth Ministry (GEM), has the goods on the stuff in our lives. Watch as Annie Leonard, producer, narrator and *raised a UU*, guides us from resource extraction to landfill expansion. This fast-paced, provocative and funny—yes, funny!—tour of the underside of our consumer-driven culture will make you think, and just maybe change the way you look at all your stuff.

### **Creation Series: A Painting Course**

**Begins Sunday, March 16, in Room 100 after first service with a short scheduling meeting**

**Facilitator: Elizabeth Bain, [elizabethbain@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethbain@hotmail.com)**  
*Six three-hour sessions*

This course in painting is designed to reveal in a nonverbal way the deep creative place that is in your soul. Whether or not you have ever painted, this series will be a rich experience, delving into areas that may never before have been expressed. You will need to buy a masonite board 23" x 26". All other materials will be

provided; with a fee of \$20 for the entire course. Maximum eight people. Register with [chris@muuf.org](mailto:chris@muuf.org).

### **West African Drum and Dance for All Levels** **Wednesdays, March 19, April 16 and May 21** **6:30 (drumming), 7:45 (dancing)**

*Presented by Marafanyi Percussion, featuring Lara Gonzalez & Yael Shacham*

A holistic approach to drum and dance that is fun, encouraging and accessible, exploring traditional African music and movement. All skill levels are welcome, from teens to seniors. Dress comfortably for movement. *\$15 per drum or dance class, \$25 combo price for both. \$5 drum rentals available with pre-registration only.* For more information, visit [www.MySpace.com/MarafanyiPercussion](http://www.MySpace.com/MarafanyiPercussion).

### **Peace Within/Peace Without** **Wednesday, March 19, 7:30 p.m.** **Facilitated by Paul Snellgrove**



This book and discussion group continues on the third Wednesday of every month to study how conflict and violence play out in our personal, interpersonal, community and international relations. Anyone can join at anytime. *No registration required.* Contact Paul at [paulsnellgrove@gmail.com](mailto:paulsnellgrove@gmail.com).

### **Drum with Ghanaian Master Drummer** **Sunday, April 6**

**1-1:30 p.m., introduction for beginners. \$ 5**  
**1:30-3:30 p.m., workshop for all levels. \$ 20**

Experience the joy and healing of African drumming! **Maxwell Kofi Donkor** will be back to teach the traditional multi-part rhythms of his native land. Born and educated in Ghana, steeped in its culture and a former member of its Folklore Ensemble, he has been spreading his love of drumming throughout NY, NJ and PA for over 20 years.

Drums to borrow at no cost - reserve when you register. If you have your own djembe, please bring it.

Pre-registration strongly encouraged! Write your check to Maxwell Kofi Donkor and mail it to MUF or leave it at the Box Office between services. A \$5 donation to MUF will be asked of nonpledgers when you arrive. Questions? E-mail [miriamcongdon@att.net](mailto:miriamcongdon@att.net).

**Pianist Paul Zeigler Returns to MUF**  
**Saturday, March 15, 7:30 p.m.**



Award-winning pianist and MUF favorite Paul Zeigler will perform Beethoven's three most famous sonatas: the *Pathetique*, *Moonlight* and *Appassionata*, on his own nine-foot Steinway grand piano in the third concert of the Music at MUF Series.

**He will present a pre-concert demonstration and discussion at 6:30,** exploring how these remarkable works continue to electrify audiences after more than 200 years.

The following performance will showcase Mr. Zeigler at his most dynamic and Beethoven at his most passionate!

Tickets are available at the Box Office in advance at \$15, at the door at \$20, and \$5 for children 13 or younger. For more information, contact Dr. Jim at [music@muuf.org](mailto:music@muuf.org).

**Positive Discipline - Wednesdays, March 12-April 30, at 7 p.m.**

Led by Teresa LaSala, *Certified PD Associate*

Learn successful and creative parenting skills through positive discipline. This workshop will help you discover how disciplining children can be done with respect, firmness and love. Learn how to teach your children, not boss them; learn the reasons behind behavior and the differences between consequences and punishment. *Cost: \$145, includes the book and weekly handouts. Registration and payment in advance is required by March 5. Sign up now - class size is limited!* For more information, contact Kim Mason at 973-540-1177, ext. 205, or [kim@muuf.org](mailto:kim@muuf.org).

**St. Patrick's Day Brunch March 16!**

After the first or second service on Sunday, March 16, come enjoy a family brunch hosted by the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades! Bagels, muffins, homemade quiches and cheese strata, fruit salads, coffee, tea and juice will be served. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$4 for children under 12, at the Box Office.

**Senior High Youth's "Dinner and a Movie"**

An adult movie, *When Harry Met Sally*, and a kid's movie, *Ratatouille*, will be shown on **Saturday, March 8**. At 6 p.m. a delicious Italian dinner will be provided before the movies, and all proceeds will go towards the youth group's Habitat for Humanity trip. Tickets will be on sale at the Box Office at \$15 per person, \$30 per family. If you have any questions, please contact Garry Hodgson.

**Our Financial Health**

	Jan. 2008	Year to Date	Annual Budget	Budget Remaining
Pledge Income	13,768	264,224	400,000	141,959
TOTAL INCOME	15,585	300,476	493,500	199,207
TOTAL EXPENSE	23,457	316,086	548,487	233,405
Difference	-7,872	-15,610	-54,987	

\* Pledge and plate revenues are tracking well. We expect rentals to narrow the gap over the coming months. We have yet to recognize some fundraising income and will have some of our biggest activities in the Spring, particularly the Service Auction.  
 \* Most expenses are tracking quite well. This can help us decrease the amount of deficit this budget produces.

*Social Justice Council - March 2008 Update***♥ Spiritual Practices Put into Action ♥****Special March Social Justice Events:**

***Habitat for Humanity Benefit*** – *MUF Craft Bees*– Calling all “Unitarian Angels” to help make crafts in March – that we will use in April – for the MUF Habitat Benefit Craft Show!

**Saturday, March 1, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Friday, March 14, 7:30-9:30 p.m.**

Create jewelry, fabric crafts and spring wreaths amid great camaraderie. You will have instruction from some of MUF’s expert crafters (each workshop is led by one or more host crafters). You may keep one item that you make – but we need you to make two or three more to sell on **Sundays, April 13 & 20, with all proceeds going to benefit our Senior High Habitat Build in Sumter, SC, this summer!** Last year’s sale raised over \$3,400–let’s do it again! We will have bottomless coffee & teapots and scrumptious foods available. Help our Senior High to build a home in South Carolina while we build community with crafting, conversation and delicious food!

**Cost: \$15 for each workshop date, which includes materials ... a bargain! Saturday includes lunch; on Friday desserts will be served.** Make checks payable to MUF, note “MUF Craft Bee” on the check. Sign up at the Box Office or by calling Chris at the office (973-540-1177).

**Peace Soup Series Workshops**

**Sunday, March 2 – SPECIAL GUEST : Bob Moore , Executive Director, Coalition for Peace Action NJ – Homemade Soup Luncheon 12:15 p.m. (\$3) – Presentation 1:15 (\$5 donation requested)**

***Through National & International Interest Lens - UUA Peace Study Action Issue*** – Hear Bob examine the implementation implications of the Unitarian Universalist Association’s proposed rejection of any and all kinds of violence and war to resolve disputes between peoples. How practical? How possible at this time in human history? Explore/ponder this key issue.

**Sunday, March 9 – Facilitator: Allen Wells, MUF Member, UU Minister, professional counselor– Sandwich Luncheon 12:15 (\$3) - Presentation 1:15 (\$5 donation requested) – *Peace Is Not the Absence of Conflict* – Conflict is a fact of our lives; we need to use it for right communication and personal growth.**

***Eric Johnson House- Bi-weekly Dinner – Wednesdays, March 5 and 26 –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.

***Morris Homeless Solutions Monthly Dinner – Saturday, March 8 – 4:45-7 p.m.*** 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, March 11*** – MUF fed more than 230 hungry people last month . Need at least 25 casseroles and 10 gallons of soup. Drop off prepared-in- advance foods to MUF freezer or put in refrigerator after 3/9; mark “For CSK.” Contact Coordinator: [mbkunz@gmail.com](mailto:mbkunz@gmail.com) with questions. THANKS!!

***Social Justice Council Monthly Meeting – Thursday, March 13 – 7:30-9 p.m. –Dining Room*** – Join the Social Justice Council and help extend MUF’s caring locally, nationally and internationally. Contact co-chairs [karenburns@casaessex.org](mailto:karenburns@casaessex.org) or [mbkunz@gmail.com](mailto:mbkunz@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Getting to Know UU Workshop** Sundays, March 2, 16 & 30, 1 p.m.

This workshop for newcomers and new members will be held as follows:

Track 1: Adults led by Rev. Alison Miller

Track 2: Children led by Kim Mason, Interim Director of Religious Education

Join us for this opportunity to:

- . Learn more about Unitarian Universalism and our religious heritage
- . Find out about our congregation's activities
- . Share some highlights from MUF's history
- . Get to know others who are interested in membership or who have recently joined.

To register, e-mail Chris Dunning at [chris@muuf.org](mailto:chris@muuf.org) or call 973-540-1177, ext 201.



### **Interested in Becoming a Member?**

Now is the time if you're interested in becoming a member. You will be eligible to vote at the annual congregational meeting in June if you sign the Membership Book by May 1. Contact Rev. Alison Miller at 973-540-1177, ext. 204, or [amiller@muuf.org](mailto:amiller@muuf.org) for an appointment.

### **Being a UU in a Non-UU World - Want to Talk About It?**

Is there a time in your life when you have felt left out because you are a UU? In your family or extended family is it all right to be a UU? Have you had a chance to do your UU 'elevator speech'? How did it go? How do you feel your life has been different because of being a UU?

If you have thoughts about these "prompts" that you would like to share with others, you are invited to a series of six discussion groups leading to a Sunday Service on May 25. The group will meet weekly in an April/May timeframe. Betsy Burr will be the group facilitator.

Please contact Carol Titus at [carol.titus@yahoo.com](mailto:carol.titus@yahoo.com) if you are interested in participating.

### **Spring Retreat for MUF Women** Friday-Sunday, April 25-27

It's time again to sign up for the women's spring retreat at Kirkridge retreat and study center, Bangor, PA. A wonderful weekend of spirituality, friendship and joy. Group discussions, reflection, nature and labyrinth walks, and crafts are but a few of the planned activities.

For signup and information, contact Kathy Burgess at [kathyb.41@verizon.net](mailto:kathyb.41@verizon.net), or Zella Geltman at [zellarpg@yahoo.com](mailto:zellarpg@yahoo.com).

ALL MUF women members and friends are welcome. Think spring! Check out the Kirkridge website: [www.kirkridge.org](http://www.kirkridge.org).

### **Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of New Jersey Formed**

The new Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of New Jersey (UULMNJ) resulted from a statewide UU Social Justice Conference held in Princeton January 12 and attended by more than 60 clergy and lay people. Teams of UU congregations from around the state created this organization to focus on affecting social justice and public policy issues in New Jersey through education, advocacy, witness and service.

The conference included discussion on the process for selection and priority of New Jersey public policies and issues, establishing bylaws and forming a statewide Board of Directors. This statewide network of the 21 New Jersey UU congregations will provide a comprehensive structure empowering the moral voice and actions of UU principles and values. A Congregational Involvement Task Force was appointed to develop and submit a proposal to the newly formed Steering Committee for a Congregational Affiliation Agreement.

In the words of Rev. William Sinkford: "We are called to raise our liberal religious voice in the public square. With the creation of the UULMNJ, [our] congregations are now far better prepared to be effective in that arena." In addition to our charitable work - feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless and the like - we now have the vehicle to advocate for systemic change. I am grateful to have been a participant with so many enthusiastic and dedicated UUs on this memorable day.

*Jo Sippie-Gora, Chair, Seeds of Peace Committee*



## Sharing Our Joys & Concerns

To assure the privacy of our members and friends, we have now removed all “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.***

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### **Contributions to the Celebration of Life**

#### **Good News on the Endowment Fund**

More and more MUFers are contributing to our Endowment Fund. The total is now over \$200,000. Our most recent gift is from Sunny Reilly, "in honor of and with gratitude for Susan Oxman, who helped me 24/7 before and after my recent hip operation."

As important as pledging is to support the Fellowship financially each year, so is long-range planning to build MUF's Endowment Fund. As you think about your will, please consider making a bequest to MUF. As part of your annual financial plan, please consider a gift to the Endowment Fund.

Some members pledge a specific amount or a percentage of their estates to MUF. Other folks contribute monthly to the Fund in addition to their

regular pledges. Just imagine what we could do as a congregation if our Endowment was \$10 million!

A gift to our Endowment Fund is a gift of love that lasts forever.

For more information, feel free to contact one of the Endowment Board Trustees: Anne Paust, Astrid Martin, Kelly Schnur, Toby Tyler or Paul Mitchell.

*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.*



## Upcoming Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Details
Saturday, March 1 Friday, March 14	10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. 7:30-9:30 p.m.	Habitat Crafting Bees	p. 4
Sunday, March 2	Luncheon 12:15 p.m. Discussion 1:15 p.m.	Bob Moore, NJ Coalition for Peace Action	p. 5
Sundays, March 2, 16, 30	1:00 p.m.	Getting to Know UU Workshop	p. 9
Sundays, March 2 & April 13	2:00-3:30 p.m.	Caregivers' Time-Out	
Monday, March 3	7:00 p.m.	First Monday Book Group	p. 6
Saturday, March 8	6:00 p.m.	Dinner and a Movie	p. 7
Saturday, March 8	7:30 p.m.	Film and Discussion on Pakistan	p. 5
Sunday, March 9	Luncheon 12:15 p.m. Discussion 1:15 p.m.	Rev. Allen Wells on Conflict Resolution	p. 5
Sunday, March 9	1:15 p.m.	Normandy Chorale Concert	p. 6
Saturday, March 15	7:30 p.m.; pre-concert discussion at 6:30	Pianist Paul Zeigler, playing Beethoven's three most popular sonatas	p. 7
Sunday, March 16	After both services	St. Patrick's Day Brunch	p. 7
Sunday, March 16	10:20 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 12:15 p.m.	The Story of Stuff, 20-minute film, by GEM	p. 6
Sunday, March 16	After first service	Creation Series—scheduling meeting	p. 6
Wednesday, March 19	Drumming 6:30 p.m. Dancing 7:45 p.m.	West African Drum & Dance	p. 6
Wednesday, March 19	7:30 p.m.	Peace Within/Peace Without	p. 6
Saturday, March 29 Sundays, March 30 & April 6	6:30-9:00 p.m. 10-11 a.m., 12-1 p.m.	Service Auction kickoff dinner Bidding continues	p. 5

### 2008 District Annual Meeting – Friday-Saturday, May 2-3

You can register online NOW for this event, to be held at the Marriott Hotel in Stamford, CT. The Rev. Dr. Tracey Robinson-Harris, UUA Director for Congregational Services, will deliver the keynote address. On Friday night, Geoff Kaufman, well-known singer and guitarist, will entertain and inspire. Come experience outstanding workshops, the Metro NY District Choir, the UU Network Mall, worship, fellowship and fun! To Register, Google *UU Metro NY District*. E-mail [ritamorris1@verizon.net](mailto:ritamorris1@verizon.net) if interested in car-pooling from MUF.



**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.

## March 2008

Volume 53, No. 3



Dated Material – Posted February 28, 2008  
Deadline for the APRIL issue is

**MARCH 15**

*See important announcement on congregation-wide visioning on p. 5!*

**The Annual Congregational meeting will take place on Sunday, June 1, at 12:45 p.m.**

### Sunday Services

Services at 9 and 11 a.m.

**March 2**      **TheAlogy**



*Rev. Alison B. Miller*

**March 9**      **Desire and the Quest for the Beloved**

For thousands of years and in cultures throughout the world, the archetypal figure that has symbolized our soulful longing is the Beloved. Religious mystics use the term when speaking of God or Spirit. In Jungian psychology, the magical inner lover is a symbol of the integrated self. For contemporary seekers after meaning, purpose and authenticity, the archetype of the Beloved has particular relevance. Ms. Johnson will present a workshop April 11-13 on this topic.

*Presented by Trebbe Johnson*

**March 16**      **Confronting Mars**

*Rev. Alison B. Miller*

**March 23**      **Easter Morning**

Join us for this special intergenerational service held at both 9 and 11 a.m.

*Rev. Alison B. Miller and Kim Mason, IDRE*

**March 30**      **Behind Our Masks**

*Presented by Gloria Jackson, Interfaith Minister*