



April 2009

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News

Reaching In . . .
Reaching Out

From the Minister . . .

“WE CELEBRATE ALL MARRIAGES”

are the words that hang on a rainbow banner on the gates in front of our congregation. We want all who enter our spiritual home to know that regardless of whether a couple is of the same or different genders, we will honor their relationship. If they wish to have a wedding here, we will also celebrate their love in a ceremony we call a marriage. This is not something new for us. Our ministers officiated at weddings for gay and lesbian couples long before New Jersey saw fit to give them any legal standing with the Civil Union Act that took effect in 2007.



One of my great privileges over the last couple of years has been the opportunity to officiate in ceremonies that bind same-sex couples together in a ceremony with both religious and legal implications. The initial step of recognizing civil unions has had a powerful impact. Unitarian Universalist ministers around our state are finally able to bear both private and public legal witness to the coming together of same-sex couples as best friends, lovers and companions on the journey of life.

Many of the same-sex marriages I have officiated at over the last two years were closer to renewal of vows ceremonies. Two men or two women who have cared for one another in good times and bad, in sickness and in health, with honesty, love and respect for as long as decades have finally been able to receive recognition and benefits similar to what their heterosexual counterparts received on the first day of their marriage vows. These ceremonies have been joyful, tearful, hopeful occasions reaffirming the couples' love and the possibility that our country will ultimately serve and protect liberty for all.

It has always been strange to me that the state has interfered with my religious conviction that two people who are committed to one another as life-partners should have access to the sacred rite and the legal right of marriage. The similar rhetoric in public debates falling from the lips of politicians and religious conservatives as to what constitutes a marriage makes it clear that members of our government are weighing and colluding with a particular religious point of view. My continued inability

as a minister to sign a marriage license on behalf of both different-gender and same-gender couples proves as further evidence that our country's cherished belief in the separation of church and state is not always put into practice.

Two years into the experiment with civil unions in our state, same-sex couples I have married have access to more of the legal rights I enjoy with my new husband, but they are also denied many of them. Separate but equal treatment under the law never leads to true equality. The word “marriage” versus “civil union” makes a difference, and some are using the separate language as an excuse to deny benefits and to denigrate the sanctity of relationships.

We must continue to let New Jersey know that we stand in solidarity with couples whose rights are denied. On Saturday, April 4, there will be a Morris County Marriage Equality Demonstration from 2:00-4:30 p.m. at Drew University in Madison, on 36 Madison Avenue. If you can make it, I hope you will join me there.

In fellowship,

Alison's office hours are Tuesday-Thursday & Sunday by appointment.

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Morristown Unitarian Fellowship

21 Normandy Heights Road
Morristown, New Jersey 07960-4611

President: Mary Hodgson

Minister: Rev. Alison B. Miller

Director of Religious Education: Karen Brown

Music Director: Jim Blanton

Editor, Layout and Graphics Design: Pat Baxter
(melodylingers@verizon.net)

Sunday Services: 9 and 11 a.m.

Religious Education Classes: 9 a.m.

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Wednesday: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Tel: 973-540-1177, ext. 201

Fax: 973-539-8218

www.mUuf.org



Deeds Well Done

The Fellowship board recognizes and thanks the following members and friends for their work at MUF and in the community:

David Buckler for all his work coordinating the Valentine Brunch.

David Snedden for the design of the Time, Talent and Treasure logo.



2009 General Assembly Set for June 24-28

Registration is now open for this event, to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Delegates will vote to accept or reject the Draft Statement of Conscience on Peace-making. **After April 30**, the late registration fee will rise. Contact garegistrar@uua.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

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

Thank you!

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 | April 8 |
| Administrative/Program Networks | April 15 |

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. (Go to the Members Area and scroll down to the "Board of Trustees"; or from the homepage, click on "Congregational Leaders" and then scroll down to the Board and click on "Board Meeting Minutes.")

Be a knowledgeable member of your Fellowship!

The President's Corner

I JUST CAME FROM OUR SUNDAY SERVICE, whose theme was sacred activism. I heard a beautiful testimonial by one of our beloved members on what social activism has meant to her here at MUF. The activism and open hearts of our entire community were reflected in this testimonial. It was nice having the Youth Group and the younger children attend this one, and it got me thinking about our children and the values we want them to grow up with. I was reminded of something I heard at a Board meeting earlier this year. It went something like "Our children are our social justice." This thought has resonated with me ever since.

About 14 years ago, when I was relatively new to MUF, I attended a Habitat for Humanity service presented by our Youth Group. They were incredibly articulate and passionate about their weeklong experience. I listened with awe and utter amazement that teenagers could have such life-changing experiences. Some spoke of it as the first time they were introduced to poverty, and they realized that the affluence surrounding them wasn't the norm. They genuinely cared about the recipients of the house they had helped build. I was the parent of three young children, and I realized that what the media was saying about teenagers did not reflect the teenagers standing in front of me. I knew right then and there that this was what I wanted for my children. I have never forgotten the effect that it had on me.

So my children, and your children, grew up in our RE program, surrounded by warm, caring adults who

taught them the things that matter to us. As they grew up, they learned who they were, and what mattered to them. In the Youth Group they turned their ideals into action, and learned that together, little by little, they could change the world. That's a pretty amazing thing to learn. We produce a lot of amazing young adults.

My daughter, a senior in college, is a social activist. She built upon her MUF social action roots and has just soared into action. She spent her college years as a member and president of her service fraternity, devoting many hours volunteering in the DC area and beyond. She is headed toward a career and life of service and justice. But she is not alone. The children she grew up with are walking similar paths, running their own Habitat for Humanity groups, volunteering at crisis centers, becoming activists in promoting their values. Our values. This religious community grew and nourished their interest in justice, activism and a healthy planet, and made them realize they could do something about those interests.

Our congregation is full of members committed to sacred activism. Our RE and youth programs are creating the next generation of activists. Together we can work toward giving all of us the world we deserve.

In admiration,

Mary

Mary Hodgson, President

Demonstrate for Marriage Equality

Saturday, April 4, at 2 p.m.

The goal of this demonstration is not only to stand up for equality, but also to come together and expose the public to the vast amount of diversity that exists within our community. The rally will feature both leaders and everyday members of New Jersey's community representatives (including professors, teachers, leaders of faith, volunteers, etc.). New Jersey LGBT (and LGBT-friendly) organizations, and MUF and other houses of worship will host tables at the event – providing information on each group and how to get involved. Attend/be welcomed! Join us! The rally will take place on Mead Hall's Front Lawn, Drew University, 36 Madison Ave., Madison.

Our Financial Health

(Figures may not add up exactly due to rounding and/or truncation.)

| | July thru Feb | Annual Budget |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Pledge Income | \$270,686 | \$412,000 |
| Total Income | \$333,491 | \$543,300 |
| Total Expense | \$333,491 | \$536,129 |
| Difference | \$ 4,680 | \$ 7,171 |

Faith Developments

FOR SEVEN MONTHS

I have been here with you at the Fellowship. In some ways it feels like I just arrived. In some ways it feels like I have been here forever. But in all ways it feels good!

I'm still cleaning out closets, restructuring RE administration procedures, and developing good guidelines and policies with the help of the Religious Education Council. I am working with the Adult Religious Education Committee, Rev. Alison, the Board, the Networks and the RE Council, discerning and processing how we manage our growth and defining Lifespan Religious Education. I have also been talking with Alison and the RE Council about our new curricula plans for next year.

We are thinking about a small class of Preschool/Kindergarten children and a class for Grades 1 through 6 at the 11 a.m. service, where the children would be meeting in a worship circle and breaking out into age-appropriate groups for dialogue and activities. New guest families and families with younger children might find this second service RE program appealing.

We will be sending out registration forms soon for next year and we will also be recruiting teachers. Our Fellowship will be following the Cooperative



Parenting model in which all our families will be asked to participate. And we will also be reaching out to members and friends in our congregation who do not have children in the program.

We will be recruiting teachers for the 9 a.m. program to sign up for 8-week sessions, with the opportunity to teach either UU Identity, World Religions, Peace and Justice, Jewish Heritage and Christian Heritage, or a session called "Inter-dependent Web of Existence" - our 7th Principle. We will ask members and friends of our Fellowship if they want the opportunity to be in the classroom as a year-long guide. We will be recruiting a small group of teachers for the 11 a.m. session.

I will be talking with the RE Council about setting up times to meet and talk about RE programming with our families and other interested members and friends for the year 2009/2010. We of course need and want your input as we journey together, growing and designing a Lifespan Religious Education program that meets the needs of everyone in our Fellowship, including our new families. I am delighted to have this opportunity to walk the path with you in the coming years as we grow in faith together.

Karen

News from the Seeds of Peace Committee

Eleanor Mason & Jo Sippie-Gora attended an all-day Peacemaking SAI Forum at the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, NY, where Jo was a featured speaker.

Peacemaking Statement of Conscience - UUA Bylaws require a 25% quorum of congregations to send a Statement of Conscience to General Assembly. We are pleased to report that **a record total of congregations** voted on the question, as well as in favor of sending the Draft to GA (which takes place in June, see p. 9). Make your reservations ASAP if you plan to go!

Insurance Forum - Tuesday, March 31, 7:30 p.m. Learn more about the Single Payer Health Care Insurance bill, H.R. 676, at a speaker forum which will



be presented by Democracy for America and Progressive Democrats of America.

More information from Jo Sippie-Gora, Chair, at jo@sippie.com.

To mark the anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, the UUA Social Justice team is encouraging our UU congregations to participate in the Iraq Memorial To Life or another local action we may feel called to. The Iraq Memorial To Life is asking for plaques made of paper or cloth to recognize a lost life in the war. They will be taking the plaques around the country before finally placing them on the National Mall in May. For more information on how to make a plaque or their tour dates, please visit Iraq Memorial To Life www.oly-wa.us/.

Annual Budget Drive Now Under Way

We want to share some thoughts as you decide on your financial commitment to the fellowship for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

Last year during the Annual Budget Drive, members and friends pledged over \$420,000, an increase of over 5%. The Drive's goal is to fund our operations through pledges. Historically we have had to rely on other fundraisers to accomplish that goal. This year we have created a "Close the Gap" program to avoid having a deficit budget. Thanks to your generous support we are operating in the black.

So as we embark on the Annual Budget Drive we will start by honoring your commitment to fund the Fellowship. A few years back the Fellowship devised and executed an ambitious plan. It started by attracting great talent to our leadership positions. The goal was to energize the existing membership and attract new members.

For the years that followed our Budget Drives celebrated our new minister, our music director, and the transformation of our RE program, including its new director. We also celebrated the myriad of wonderful programs and deeds that many of you were part of.

This year while we continue to honor and celebrate these accomplishments, we must look at the Budget Drive with a heightened sense of urgency, brought about by the macro conditions of our economy. Mindful of these events our Board is envisioning the possibility of a flat budget. Our goal is to prevent that. You may ask why? It is because a flat budget anticipates:

- No salary increase for the staff we have worked hard to attract
- Our fixed expenses will rise
- Items that were funded in this budget may be trimmed for next year's budget.

So it is with a greater sense of urgency that we ask you to be as generous as you can be. We need to continue to be a place where we can dream big. Please take the time to fill out your pledge card and show your support for the Fellowship. We look forward to a successful Drive that will culminate on May 3 with Celebration Sunday.

Franklin Heller & Beat Barblan,
Annual Budget Drive Co-Chairs

Help to Keep the Fellowship's Momentum: Leadership Positions Open for Next Year

We are looking for leaders to take on the following Fellowship positions for the year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 (Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting June 7.):

Board of Trustees: President-Elect, a one-year term, to be followed by a one-year term as President, and Assistant Treasurer, a two-year term, to be followed by a two-year term as Treasurer

Other positions on the Board (Administrative and Program VPs and Secretary) are currently held by members who have another year to serve. Gary Kunz, current President-Elect, will become President for the 2009-2010 term.

Endowment Committee: Two Members, each to serve a three-year term. The three other members on the Committee will not have finished their terms in 2009.

If you would like to apply for any of these important jobs, please see any member of the Nominating Committee: Joe Uhrhane, Janine Torsiello, Jerry Weinstein, Steve Parker or Annette Tyler. We would also welcome suggestions as to members you think would be excellent candidates.

Calling All UU Birders

If you are a birder, or would like to learn about bird-watching in the company of other Unitarians, this announcement is for you. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore is having its 10th annual "Birding B&B," where it provides beds, meals and guided birding tours for its guests. The weekend is May 15-17. There is an abundance of woodland and shore birds in this area. You can get more information from its website, www.uucsjs.org, by e-mail at betsysearight@comcast.net, or by calling 609-645-2869.



MUF Blood Drive

Sunday, May 31, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Donating your pint of blood is lifesaving for recipients and healthy for you, the donor. Sign up with Zella in the Great Hall.

Upcoming Events

***Low Carbon Diet: A 30-Day Program to Lose 5000 Pounds* (book by David Gershon)**

Sunday, April 5, 12:15-1 p.m.

Discussion Group sponsored by Green Earth Ministry

Save money, save energy, save the planet, be part of the global warming solution. Books available for \$6.50 – less than half price! All are welcome, even if you missed the first meeting on March 8. For more information, contact Caroline Gower.

First Monday Book Group

Monday, April 6, 7 p.m.

We will be discussing *Soul Catcher*, by Michael C. White. The books are subject to change according to the wishes of the group. Contact Nancy Lee McLure at nlmclure@msn.com.

Miracles, Anyone?

Wednesdays, April 8 & 22, at 7:30 p.m.

Have you ever had a supernatural experience? A supranatural, paranormal or very unusual spiritual one? Would you be willing to share it at a Sunday service? Join us for a discussion of these very personal events at whichever time is convenient for you. For further info, call Tom McGuinness at tomamor@optonline.net.

Announcement from the Beautification & Preservation Committee:

As the famous song chimes out, OUUR house is a very, very fine house. Let's all help keep OUUR house the very best it can be.

Join us on **Saturdays, April 11 and/or May 2, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon** for ouur annual spring cleanup party. Signup sheets will be in the Great Hall after Sunday services, or contact Bruce Daggy at bpd2011@optonline.net.
See you there!

Crafts Group

Friday, April 17, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

For this evening we invite MUF friends to bring their own projects to work on. If you are involved in scrapbooking, knitting, drawing, cross-stitch or a painting project, bring it along. Please let us know you

are coming by contacting Donna Becker at 973-784-3453 or writeme79@juno.com, or signing up at the Box Office on Sunday mornings.

Jason Ricci and New Blood

Sunday, April 19, 5 p.m.

This annual benefit concert will help to raise funds for our Senior High Habitat for Humanity project. The cutting-edge band plays a mix of blues, jazz and funk. Tickets at \$30 for adults and \$20 for students and seniors are sold at the Box Office or can be reserved by e-mailing habitat@muuf.org.

Knitting Circle

Friday, April 24, 7:30 p.m.

E-mail Cintra Fricke at cintrafricke@gmail.com. (If there is a change in plans we will let you know.)

Movie Night: Behind the Scenes

Saturday, April 25, 7:30 p.m.

Presented by David Landau, Professor of Film, FDU



What is a Best Boy? You'll find out when you come to this behind-the-scenes look at how they make movies. MUF member David Landau, who has worked on feature films, TV shows and commercials, will bring his on-set knowledge to enlighten us with fun facts and fascinating stories, illustrated with film clips from movies you'll know and others you've never heard of.

Refreshments will be provided by MUF chef Gary Kunz. You'll never see movies the same way again. (In true Hollywood tradition, this is a sequel to last year's popular event, but with all-new film clips and stories. If you paid for the event last year, but missed it due to scheduling changes, you may attend this year for free.)
Tickets are available at the door for \$15.

For more information, contact David Landau at david@murdertogo.com.

Transylvania Tidbit

An impromptu csárdás (Hungarian folkdance) lesson at Stephen Spinder's presentation of his photos from Transylvania is at www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Vy9y4aWBdM. See the photos and buy the books at www.spinderartphoto.com/gallery_transylvania.html.

MUF Choral Festival and Composing with Spirit: Creating Music That Inspires Thursday-Sunday, April 2-5



MUF presents this seminar and performance featuring Atlanta composer **Lee Johnson**:

Thursday, April 2, at 7:30 p.m. – an **open rehearsal** of Johnson's masterwork, *Every Matter Under Heaven*, with the composer directing the Morris Consort, MUF Festival Chorus and Chamber Orchestra, followed by a brief question-and-answer session with the composer.

Friday, April 3, at 7:30 p.m. – composer Johnson will lead a **seminar** examining his personal musical journey of composing, with audience interaction.

Saturday, April 4, at 7:30 p.m. – MUF's **first Choral Festival**, a gala performance of *Every Matter Under Heaven* for chorus, orchestra and video montage, based on a famous text from Ecclesiastes, conducted by the composer. The concert will also include new works of area composers **George Aronson, Darrell Courtley and Barbara Stasiak**, and a performance by the MUF Children's Choir.

Sunday, April 5, at 9 and 11 a.m., special services led by the Rev. Alison Miller, with music and a reflection by composer Johnson focusing on creativity and the human spirit.

Lee Johnson has conducted and recorded with the Russian National Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Taliesin Orchestra, American Rock Orchestra and the Cyberlin Philharmonic, among others. He has composed six symphonies, four musicals, two operas, scores for film and ballet and numerous chamber, choral and vocal works.

Some scholarships are available. Tickets for the concert alone are \$20 in advance, \$15 at the door, and \$5 for youth 18 and under. To register, or for more information, contact music@muuf.org or call 845-858-9895.

MUF Women's Spring Retreat

Friday-Sunday, May 1-3



Sign up now for this event at **Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center, Bangor, Pa.**

Our theme this year is "**Renew and Reinvent**," a weekend of spirituality, friendship and joy, with group discussions, reflection, nature and labyrinth walks, and crafts. Room and board included.

This year we'll also be attending, on Saturday afternoon, May 2, the May Day celebration at Kirkridge's next-door neighbor, Columcille, a megalith park (www.Columcille.org).

For signup and information, contact: Kathy Burgess at kathyb.41@verizon.net. All MUF women members and friends are welcome. Think Spring! Check out the Kirkridge website: www.kirkridge.org.

New Members

Please welcome **Barbara and Nick Ford** who deepened their commitment to the Fellowship by signing the membership book in February, and **Carol Jones** who signed the membership book in March..

Freedom from Suffering

Mondays, April 6, 13, 20, 27, from 7-9:30 p.m.

Led by the Rev. Allen Wells

"What makes us happy?" We'll explore this question from the perspective of Buddhist psychology along with some substantiating data from modern neuroscience. We'll take a look at The Buddha's life and discoveries, the history of Buddhism, the Four Noble Truths and the Noble eightfold path.

Pre-registration will be helpful, but is not required. Please do so through Nicole at nicole@muuf.org. If you would like more information or a suggestion for reading, please call Allen.

The Rev. Wells is our MUF Affiliated Community Minister, an Insight Meditation teacher for 20 years, and current aspirant in the Integrated Study Practice Program at the Barre Center for Buddhist Studies, Mass.

Missing Persons Wanted!

If you have noticed the repeated absence of any member or friend who used to attend MUF regularly, please let the Welcoming and Membership Support Committee know, so that we can contact these people to find out how they are doing and why they are no longer attending. Help us find our missing persons! Please contact Susan Oxman at soxman13@verizon.net, or Michelle Kunz at mbkunz@gmail.com.

Social Justice Council - April 2009 Update

Helping Neighbors in Need



Upcoming April Dates/Opportunities to Join in Direct Service to Morristown Neighbors:

“Pathways to Work” debuts March 30 – a Neighborhood House program sponsored by the Clergy Council of Morristown- led by MUF Minister the Rev. Alison Miller! These neighbors in need of work would very much like to help you out as a homeowner with spring cleaning - inside/outside – male and female workers available.

PTW Workers’ Center Hiring Process

The center’s Job Bank is available to receive your job posting; contact Rosa Chilquillo at 973-538-1229, ext.43. This referral service is open every day of the week, for phone job postings and dispatch of workers. Here you can hire skilled or unskilled workers for daily, seasonal or temporary employment. PTW makes translators available to help make communication more comfortable between employers and prospective employees. Our Job Bank contains skilled workers – painters, gardeners, carpenters, masonry workers, etc. This is a current database of people who have told us they have skills and experience. ***How long does it take to hire a worker?*** Less than 3 minutes. ***How much are workers usually paid?*** We suggest paying unskilled workers in the range of \$10-\$12 per hour. Also, we suggest providing lunch if you’re hiring someone for only a day or even a few days. Specialty or skilled workers earn more, depending on the level of experience or knowledge required, or language ability. Housekeepers are available to clean homes and offices.

Morristown Soup Kitchen – Next Hosting: Lunch Tuesday, April 14–Last month, we served a record number of soup kitchen guests – 304! Thank you to all who cooked – the numbers are still very high. Pick up your aluminum trays & soup containers at the Box Office every Sunday. Please consider joining in by preparing a cook-ahead casserole or gallon of soup this month. Or consider making us an “insurance” extra casserole or more servings of soup. Thank you for being a part of this monthly MUF commitment. Contact: Michelle Kunz: mbkunz@gmail.com.

Eric Johnson House – MUF Monthly Dinner Teams – Next Hostings: Wednesdays, April 1 & 22 (5:45-7 p.m.). Join our meal prep rotational schedule and/or join us for warm conversation with great people who work so valiantly to recover from AIDS/HIV and prepare for independence. Contact: karenburns@casaessex.org.

Morris Homeless Solutions Monthly Dinner –Saturday, April 11 – 4:45-7 p.m. – Help prepare an easy meal for the 100+ shelter residents. This is *the* Morris County homeless shelter and they are dependent upon congregations/corporations/civic groups to provide dinner nightly. We have maintained this commitment for more than 10 years- one Saturday night per month. Be a part of the gift! Contact: judyoneil@optonline.net.

Next Social Justice Council Meeting – Quarterly Plate Allocation & Bring Your Social Justice Ideas and Energy! We will meet at MUF Thursday, April 9, at 7:30 for a quarterly allocation of plate gifts for charity. Contact: Chris Reynolds at Reynolds@nac.net or Karen Burns at karenburns@casaessex.org.

MUF Fundraising Report

Two Upcoming Community Fundraising Initiatives – We Need Everyone’s Active Participation! In keeping with our shared promise to collectively help keep MUF’s programs and activities vibrant & varied, we need all MUF members to do their part.

“Our Favorite Businesses” Directory – March/April 2009 – Recruiting “Ads” - We are updating a terrific guide for all of us that features “our favorite businesses” in a handy reference booklet. What restaurants do you love? Which hair salons, which landscape services, which accountants, which music teachers, etc.? Who are the people you patronize that you would like to introduce to us? For a very modest advertisement cost, they can be showcased to our MUF community (in hard copy and on the web)...and we can all try their services. ***You will receive a letter to your home at the end of March, telling you “how to sign up your favorite businesses” for display ads.*** We need every MUF member to help get at least one ad for a great service, store, professional. We are “selling” all through March, and the published directory will be released May 1! Help us gather lots of new ads. (Check out the current “Our Favorite Businesses MUF Directory” on our MUF website at www.muuf.org)

Questions: Contact Ken Nemeth at k.nemeth@yahoo.com or 973-263-2679.

See “MUF Tag Sale - The Big Recycle!” on page 10!

Register NOW for the
***UU United Nations Organization
 2009 Intergenerational Spring Seminar!***

Thursday-Saturday, April 16-18, in NYC

(Sr. Hi Youth program begins on
 the evening of April 15)

***Events held at UU-UNO offices (across from the UN)
 at 44th and 1st Avenue - some at Hunter College at
 68th and Lexington***

**"All in the Name of Faith: Rights, Religion, and
 Responsibility"**



***Join Rev. Chris Buice, from the
 Tennessee Valley Unitarian
 Universalist Church, and other
 Interfaith leaders to explore how
 religious faith supports -- and hinders
 -- the global fight for Human Rights.***

Come to hear excellent speakers (listing at the
 website). Join with other seekers of ways to work for
 human rights in the world in dynamic workshops. Find
 friends and spiritual compatriots in this vital work.

***Leave empowered, with new friends and new tools to
 create substantive change in your communities.***

***[For more information, come to the March 29 Sunday
 program, "Change the World Before Those Other
 Guys Do!" with speaker Bruce Knotts, executive
 director of the UU-UNO (meet him at a reception
 between services). OR***

Contact Shari Loe, MUF's UN Envoy, at
shariloe@att.net. Or visit www.uu-uno.org. ***Register today
 -- space is limited!***

2009 District Annual Meeting

Friday-Saturday, May 1-2

To register NOW to attend this meeting at the
 Hyatt Regency Hotel in Jersey City, NJ, go to
www.uumetrony.org/am09/index.htm for complete
 details. You can register online or through the mail by
 printing the online form. **Online registration ends
 April 24; mailed forms must be postmarked by April
 21. Hotel reservations must be made by April 10 to
 get the discounted rate. Use the group code GUUNY.**

Keynote speaker **Rev. Meg Riley**, UUA Director
 of Advocacy and Witness Programs, will focus on how
 congregations can serve the broader community, a
 powerful way to help members grow spiritually.

A Personal Experience of Traveling with a PeaceWorks Delegation to Nicaragua

Wednesday, April 22, 7:30 p.m.

Presented by Don Preziosi

Don Preziosi will report on his recent two-week
 trip to Nicaragua with an eight-member delegation
 travelling with PeaceWorks, the humanitarian aid
 organization run by MUF's own Jim Burchell. He
 found it a spiritual journey as well as an exciting
 adventure. PeaceWorks works with four Nicaraguan
 NGOs that rescue inner-city street children and assist
 peasant farmers in the northern mountainous regions
 to develop sustainable agriculture practices.

Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the
 Western Hemisphere and has suffered greatly in the last
 100 years, not only from US political policies, but also
 from natural disasters. A PeaceWorks delegation is the
 human connection with the groups that do the work
 and the people that benefit from their efforts. Lots of
 great photos will be part of the discussion.

Taichi Light

Saturdays, May 2, 16 & 30, 10-11:30 a.m.

Taught by Al Chu

A simplified version (taught in the Terrace Room)
 of the traditional Chinese Tai Chi and Qigong
 exercises, Taichi Light is easier to learn, to memorize
 and to practice by people of all ages, but especially for
 people of advanced age or reduced physical mobility.
 Practiced consistently, Taichi Light can help you
 increase your body flexibility and your sense of balance,
 and stimulate your physical and mental vitality.

Attendance at the first session is critical; the third
 date will serve as a makeup session for those who miss
 the second session. A DVD is available to help you
 practice the exercise at home, free to Service Auction
 winners; others can buy it for \$20.

PeaceWork Site

A website dedicated to the peace work of the
 Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
 can be found at www.uupeacemakers.org. It brings news
 from our association and congregations and provides
 resources for congregations to celebrate peace.



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 so they will reach all members of the Fellowship.

MUF Tag Sale - The Big Recycle!

Saturday, May 30

Help create the best sale in town... we all love a bargain, too! We are aiming to create a GIANT, FUN & VERY PROFITABLE tag sale, in keeping with everyone's need to do smart purchasing and actively recycle. **START SAVING YOUR GOOD STUFF!** Please start putting aside good items you would be proud to offer for recycling – high-quality, gently worn seasonal clothes (summer)–men's, women's, children's; kitchen items, small appliances in working order, home/decorative items (lamps, pictures, mirrors, etc.), good-condition bedding, toys, sporting goods, tools. **We want only items you would be proud to re-gift.** (No worn-out, nonseasonal, stained, broken or otherwise unsellable items.) We know we can offer a huge, high-quality “Recycling Event” that MUF can be proud of! **Set aside your goods now (!) to donate to us (instructions to follow).**

We also will need an army of 50-75 helpers, so please plan to be a **TAG SALE TEAMMATE**. Ask your friends, family and neighbors NOW to save and donate items to us too. Have questions (?) or to volunteer contact: Anne Gaynor at foxwood2@optonline.net or karenburns@casaessex.org.

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.

MUF Women: Hold the Date

Saturday, June 6, at 6:30 p.m.

Let's share a potluck supper, make music together and create the wonderful memories that mean so much to us as a community. Contact Elizabeth Bain at elizabethbain@hotmail.com.



Upcoming Events Calendar

| Date | Time | Event | Details |
|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| Thursday-Sunday, April 2-5 | | Choral Festival/Composing w/Spirit | p. 7 |
| Sunday, April 5 | 12:15-1:00 p.m. | Low Carbon Diet | p. 6 |
| Monday, April 6 | 7:00 p.m. | First Monday Book Group | p. 6 |
| Mondays, April 6, 13, 20, 27 | 7:00-9:30 p.m. | Freedom from Suffering | p. 7 |
| Wednesdays, April 8 & 22 | 7:30 p.m. | Miracles, Anyone? | p. 6 |
| Saturdays, April 11 & May 2 | 9 a.m.-12 noon | Spring Cleanup Party | p. 6 |
| Thurs.-Sat., April 16-18. | | UU-UNO Spring Seminar | p. 9 |
| Friday, April 17 | 7:30-9:30 p.m. | Crafts Group | p. 6 |
| Sunday, April 19 | 5:00 p.m. | Jason Ricci and New Blood Concert | p. 6 |
| Wednesday, April 22 | 7:30 p.m. | PeaceWorks Trip to Nicaragua | p. 9 |
| Friday, April 24 | 7:30 p.m. | Knitting Circle | p. 6 |
| Saturday, April 25 | 7:30 p.m. | Movie Night: Behind the Scenes | p. 6 |
| Friday-Saturday, May 1-2 | | District Annual Meeting | p. 9 |
| Friday-Sunday, May 1-3 | | Women's Spring Retreat | p. 7 |
| Saturdays, May 2, 16 & 30 | 10:00-11:30 a.m. | Taichi Light | p. 9 |
| Sunday, May 31 | 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Blood Drive | p. 5 |

MUF Family Passover Seder

Sunday, April 5, from 3:30-4:00 Meet and Greet; 4:00-7:30 p.m. ritual and dinner

The Passover Seder is a ritual retelling of the Passover story. It is a remembrance of the Exodus of the Hebrew slaves from Egypt and a celebration of the struggle for freedom then and now.



Our Seder is a cooperative dinner that includes special foods, customs, songs and a scavenger hunt for the children. You will be asked to bring food and help with setup, serving or cleanup; there is no fee for attending. Recipes or suggestions for purchases will be available.

Using material from the book *300 Ways to ask the*

Four Questions (by Murray Spiegel and Rickey Stein), we will ask the Four Questions in several languages from around the world (ancient/extinct, modern, made-up).

For more information and/or to volunteer to read the Four Questions in your favorite language, contact Gloria Jackson at gloriajcksn@aol.

Reservations are required by March 29.

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.

April 2009

Volume 54, No. 4



Dated Material – Posted March 27, 2009
Deadline for the MAY issue is

APRIL 15

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 7. Don't miss it!

Sunday Services

Services at 9 and 11 a.m. unless specified



April 5

Composing with Spirit

This service will include a reflection by Lee Johnson, our Composer in Residence.

Rev. Alison B. Miller

April 12

Easter Celebration

All adults and children are invited to join us for our holiday services at 9 and 11 a.m. There will also be an Easter Egg Hunt between the services.

Rev. Alison B. Miller



April 19

Common Dreams

Rev. Alison B. Miller

April 26

Youth Sunday

Our youth are presenting this special service with their reflections on building a Habitat home for a family. Come and experience all that they have to offer as they reflect on what it means to live out their UU Principles of social justice.

Coordinated by Matt & Sarahjane Rath