



April 2010

Volume 55, No. 4

News

Reaching In . . .
Reaching Out

From the Minister...

SUSTAINING OUR COMMUNITY,

Vision and Values is the theme of our Annual Budget Drive. Actually, it is more than that. It is a large portion of what we are about all year long.

A congregation is a cooperative enterprise where each and every member and friend is involved in helping to create and support who we are and what we do with one another and in the world. The action of sustaining, supporting and holding up our mission belongs to all of us. It is the work of the board, the minister, the staff, all of our donors, and all of our volunteers -- every participant in our community.

I have asked people to share what they love about the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship and why they choose to sustain it with their time, talents and financial resources, and the following are a few of the statements I received in response.

"I work hard all week in places that complement and compete with my values. Our Sunday services offer me a place of spiritual renewal and grounding that helps me to be centered in my encounters throughout the week."

"I was looking for a place to raise my children in an open-minded atmosphere where they would be exposed to the wisdom of all the world's religions and encouraged to become seekers of justice in the land. I found it. Now I want to be sure it's there for generations to come."

"Many of my dearest and longest-lasting friendships have come out of my experiences at the Fellowship. I have found here people I have enjoyed dinners with, people who I respect and have learned from, and people I have counted on when I have had to move through grief."

"I thought I would never fit into any religious community. Then I found our website online and couldn't believe I actually agreed with most everything I read there. So, I decided to show up on a Sunday, to check out if this place was for real. I have never left this



wonderful community that shares my aspirations and values. I want to help us get our message out. There are so many feeling alone, like I was, who need this congregation."

You may see yourself in some of these statements. I know I resonate with them, and they represent some of the reasons David and I choose to support our congregation with a generous pledge.

The Morristown Unitarian Fellowship is an important place in many of our lives. I cherish the many stories I have heard from you over the years about the role this community has played in your well-being. That is one of the reasons I am so excited that we have been taking the time this year to think strategically and create a five-year plan for how we can sustain our community, vision and values for years to come.

It is also why I am not surprised that ten of us jumped at the chance to help out with this year's budget drive. Please do join us by filling out your pledge card as soon as you can.

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: Gary Kunz
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

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!

Deeds Well Done

- Thanks to **Karen Burns, Elizabeth Bain** and **Elbjorg Berkenkamp** for sewing the new drapes in the Terrace Room, and to **Brad West** for hanging them.
- Congratulations to **Linda DeLap, Caroline Gower** and the **GEM committee** for getting Board approval on the monumental job they did to complete the re-certification application for our Green Sanctuary certification.
- A big thank you to **Joe Uhrhane** for keeping the sound system working on Sunday morning.
- **Avianca Bouchedid** and **Michelle Owings-Christian** for their time of service helping Maggie in the office.



Springtime Women's Retreat

Treat yourself to a beautiful weekend at the scenic Castle in Frost Valley, NY

Renew your spirit with fellow MUF members and friends

"Gathering the Spirit: The Promise of Renewal"

Workshops will include exploration of ourselves and our surroundings, hiking, craft, fun and fellowship

Friday, April 30 – Sunday, May 2

Space is limited. Cost approximately \$250 (for 23 people) includes lodging and meals.

Contact Sharon J. Heller at 973-492-9073 or sharonjeanheller@yahoo.com



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 14
Administrative/Program Networks	April 21

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.")

The President's Corner - Patience



ONE OF THE THINGS

that I have observed as your President is how quickly a year goes by. Already, I am looking to prioritize what the Board can do in what remains of my term. Nine months have zipped by and there are only three months to go. Of course, the majority of the Board will continue onward and Lisa will be stepping up to lead the Board even more as July approaches. But for me, the end of my term is in sight and it feels like it is too soon. There is so much more that I want to help get done at MUF; so much more that I feel I can do. But there is a lesson in all of this - the lesson of patience.

Michelle and I recently took a trip to Key West, Florida, for a one-week vacation. We got to the airport in plenty of time, made it through the Homeland Security Check point in relative ease, and stopped to get a bite to eat before checking in at our gate. Everything was going quickly and easily. While were sitting and waiting at the gate, I got an alert on my cell phone that our flight was delayed one hour. Hmmm, there was no indication at the gate that a change had taken place, and all of the flight information at the airport indicated that everything was on time.

As the normal boarding time came and went, Michelle checked with the gate attendants and found out that our seat assignments had changed, the type of plane we were taking had changed, and yet no announcements were being made. Eventually we boarded, and after much chaos around seat assignments (imagine playing musical chairs on an airplane and you get the idea) the pilot announced that we would be departing "soon" and would "make up much

of the time lost while in the air." Nope - not even close. We got into Fort Lauderdale about 90 minutes late and quickly rushed to get our connecting flight to Key West, which was scheduled to leave in 30 minutes.

When we got to the gate, everything seemed normal, but it soon became apparent that, once again, we were not boarding when we normally should. The gate agent made an announcement that the pilots wanted a maintenance check on the plane before we boarded. I was good with that, seems reasonable to make sure that the plane was airworthy before we took off.

And then we waited. And waited. First the part had to come, then another part, then a test drive/flight. Finally, two hours after originally scheduled, we arrived in Key West. It was one of those trips that can test your patience - or teach you, if you pay attention.

That is how I would describe being President at MUF. If you put too much emphasis on getting everything you want to accomplish done, and done in a timely fashion, you will not be happy. But if you are open to learn about yourself, your community, about volunteer organizations and the wonderful people here at MUF, you are in for an interesting journey.

So this is where I am right now - trying to be patient about what unfolds between now and June; proud of what we have accomplished together; excited about our future as a congregation. May we learn to be patient together.

Have Faith,

Gary

Gary Kunz, President

Slate of Candidates to Be Voted on at the Annual Congregational Meeting June 6

President-Elect: Paul Ferm, 1-yr. term

VP Program: Paul Snellgrove, 2-yr. term

Secretary: Norman Ng, 2-yr. term

Endowment Committee: Don Price, 3-yr. term

Nominating Committee: Beth Hayward, 3-yr. term

Ex-officio: Nominating Cmte: Gary Kunz, 2-yr. term

Faith Developments

OLD FOGIES BY THEIR 20's? This is the headline of a New York Times article in January, 2010. You may have read the article. Rev. Allen Wells left a copy in my mailbox at the Fellowship. The article is compelling and a little bit scary. Allen's note to me went like this: "Karen, challenges our lifespan education approaches, doesn't it?" Yes, Allen, it does. In more ways than any of us can know.



There was a time when our children's worldviews were shaped by parents, families and communities. Now our children's worldviews are being shaped in deliberate ways by technologies. Researchers theorize "that the ever-accelerating pace of technological change may be minting a series of mini-generation gaps, with each group of children uniquely influenced by the tech tools available in their formative stages of development." Children just two or three years apart are experiencing different technologies.

The article goes on to say that the newest generation, unlike their older peers, "will expect an instant response from everyone" and "will not have patience with anything less." Researchers are finding out that children who use sophisticated games find less of a distinction between their online friends and real friends.

My friend Janet told me a story about her daughter, who is in the 10th grade. They were recently in a restaurant together having a bite to eat when her daughter spotted a friend a couple of tables from where they were sitting. She started texting her friend. Janet asked her why she didn't go and say hi in person; her daughter told her she would be too embarrassed to do

that. Janet made her daughter put her cell phone down and go over to speak to her classmate. Her daughter was very reluctant to do so.

Researchers are showing that younger people can multitask in greater numbers. They worry that young people will not be able to focus when they need to. I think about our children who have attention difficulties, children who are on the autism spectrum, and children with learning and processing challenges. How will our children discern complex ideas when they read literature and poetry – when they study religion and art? What about the intuitive and spiritual lives of our children?

As a lifespan educator, I want to help build multigenerational communities. Congregations are one of the last places where people of many ages can be together participating in worship, serving others, learning and playing together.... But if the generations are becoming even more divided by ages due to ever-evolving technologies, how do we do this religious work together?

Studies show that "high-multitaskers" are much less efficient than people who take on one task at a time. Maybe our religious communities can be an antidote to the multitasking and media saturation of the 21st century. Can we create loving communities of conversations, learn how to live simply, slow down and make sustainable living part of our lives? Can we find the Spirit of living life together every Sunday morning an important part of our lives? Is slowing down worthy of our attention? Can we continue to make serving others an important part of our faith? I'm up for the task. What about you?

Karen

Getting to Know UU Series

Three Thursdays, April 22, May 6 and May 20, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Join Rev. Alison Miller for this opportunity to learn about Unitarian Universalist history and ideas, ways to get involved in our congregation, and an opportunity to meet other newcomers and new members in a smaller group. A light meal will be served (i.e., salad and pizza or a hearty soup). When you register, please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions. Childcare will also be provided upon advance request. The class size is limited, so please RSVP by calling 973-540-1177, X204, or emailing amiller@muuf.org.

Sustaining our Community, Vision & Values – April is our Annual Budget Drive Month!

Dear Fellowship Members and Friends,

Our financial health and financial peace lie with all of us collectively. We should be proud of who we are (e.g., great programming) and what we accomplish (e.g., community outreach). Without our collective resources, none of what we do is possible.

As you may know, for the past two years, our pledge income has fallen short of the amount anticipated in the approved annual budget, leading to a “Closing the Gap” campaign in November 2008 and painful budget cuts in the fall of 2009. As we build a strategic plan, and get ready for big things, we strive to be good stewards and apply our collective resources to sustain our community, vision and values.

The budget drive goal for the 2010-2011 fiscal year is \$475,000. We encourage everyone to stretch, not until it hurts, but until it feels good. Any stretch in our giving – no matter how small – makes a difference. We truly appreciate every dollar given!

Please look for the following in this year’s Annual Budget Drive, running from April 1–30:

- 2010-2011 Pledge Cards and information will be mailed and e-mailed to each Member and Friend. Additional e-mails will go out updating you on our campaign’s progress! Please make sure that Maggie has your current e-mail address.
- The “Suggested Fair Share Giving Guide” to help you determine your pledge amount.
- Multiple options for paying your pledge, including direct debit from your checking or

savings account and automatic credit card payments (**new this year**).

- Annual Budget Drive Team members available at a table after each service every Sunday in April to accept completed pledge cards and answer any questions you may have.
- **An opportunity to win Theater Tickets and Dinner for Two in New York City with Round-trip Limousine Service. A drawing will be held with all pledge cards turned in by April 30.**

Please take the time to fill out and return your pledge card. We thank you, as always, for your generosity and continued support of the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship and its mission!

In Faith,

Your Annual Budget Drive Team: *Ron Corey, George Hays, Gary Kunz, Susan Lausell, John Oehler, David Palmer, Venkat Puranapanda, Andy Rosenberg, Lisa Schmitt, Joe Uhrhane*

Peacemaking Statement Set for Vote

“We support international efforts to curtail the vast world trade in armaments and call for the ultimate disarmament of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.”



This view, excerpted from the UUA Peacemaking Statement of Conscience draft to be voted upon at General Assembly (p. 7), reflects the current consensus of UUs nationwide. The *Seeds of Peace* Committee is a member of the Dover-based *August 9 Saving Lives Task Force*, a partnership of faith-based, interfaith and secular organizations that has adopted comparable goals.

In May, representatives of the world’s nations will gather at the UN for the 5-year NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty) Review, widely considered to be a make-it-or-break-it point for the nuclear nonproliferation regime. The Task Force encourages your participation in an April 10 Planning Conference (in Dover), to prepare for our participation in the April 30 International Conference and May 2 Peace Rally at the UN HQ in NYC.

Info: contact Jo Sippie-Gora at *seedsofpeacemuf@optonline.net* or visit the committee’s Peace Table during Sunday Service coffee hours.

Welcome to New Members as of Late 2009

We welcome the following members who joined us from October through December 2009:

Bernice Bailine, David Buckler, Susan Carpenter, Donna Desmond, Bob Erwood, Cintra Fricke, Carolyn Luken, Colin Luken (Jr. Member), Dennis Luken, Erin Luken, Dustin Neiman, Marnie Miller-Keas, Edward Ng, Margaret Ng, Karol Ruiz-Marrero, Michele Sotelo, Connie Stinson, Patrick Stinson

Upcoming Events

Taichi Light Monthly Practice

Saturday, April 3, 9:30 a.m.

Coordinated by Al Chu, Bruce Daggy, Laurie MacGeorge

MUF member Al Chu, the creator of Taichi Light, leads us in practicing this ancient energy work together the first Saturday of each month. For more information, contact Al at alchu888@gmail.com, or Laurie MacGeorge at dlmacg10@aol.com.

Spring Cleanup

Saturday, April 10, 9 a.m.-12 noon

Come help with MUF's Spring Cleaning. Come early for coffee, help the community Spring Clean, and stay for pizza at lunchtime. Sign up for a specific job at coffee hour on April 4, or just show up and see what needs doing! Many hands make light work. Sponsored by the MUF Beautification and Preservation Committee. Contact BPC@muuf.org for more information.

Monday Night Book Group

Monday, April 12, 7 p.m.

We will discuss *Time and Again*, by Jack Finney, facilitated by Nancy Lee McLure. On May 10, we will discuss *The Measure of a Man: a Spiritual Autobiography*, by Sidney Poitier, facilitated by Dee Dasara. We meet on the second Monday **always at 7 p.m.** Newcomers are welcome. It is suggested that you try to read the book but it is not required! Contact Nancy Lee McLure for more information, at nlmclure@msn.com.

Compassionate Communication Practice Group#2

Wednesday, April 14, at 1-2:30 p.m.

Consider joining this new group, meeting on the **second** Wednesday of each month. For more information, contact Brenda Forte at 908-221-0533 or bgforte@verizon.net or Jo Sippie-Gora at 973-838-8576 or josippie@optonline.net. (**Note: Compassionate**

Communication Practice Group #1 continues to meet monthly on Thursdays. For more information & next meeting date: Contact Genie Bane at geniebane@optonline.net.)

Next Womanspace – Women's Spirituality Circle

Sunday, April 18, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Potluck

Sunday, April 18, from 4-7 p.m.

Our Potluck suppers have been great successes so far! Bring something you like to eat and enjoy a great end (or beginning) of your week. Last names starting with A-M bring a salad/appetizer and last names starting with N-Z bring a main course to feed from 6-8 people (BYOB). We will provide dessert and non-alcoholic beverages.

Please drop an email to Michelle Kunz at mbkunz@gmail.com with any suggestions about what you would like to see or do at future potlucks.

Pressed Botanical Art: The Secret to Keeping a Year-round Garden!

Thursday, April 22 (Earth Day!), 7-9 p.m.

Beth Murphy will demonstrate the technique of pressing botanical materials and then will help you create your own piece with the materials she has pressed. Come to learn, create and plan ahead for when your garden is blooming later this spring – it is a wonderful way to enjoy your flowers not only as they blossom but also for long afterward. Just bring your creativity and a small paintbrush! Beth works with pressed flowers, leaves, grasses, etc., to create unique botanical artwork. Contact her at petalart@verizon.net for more information.

Crafting Group

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

This year the MUF crafting group & the knitting group are meeting together. Bring your own project from home, or just join us for a friendly atmosphere with great company and conversation. Please call or email Cintra Fricke at cintrafricke@gmail.com or Tina Demottie at demottie@optonline.net by April 24 if you will be coming.

11th Annual District Anti-Racism Conclave

Saturday, May 15, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

To be held at the Community Church of New York UU (Manhattan). Planners hope to make this event multigenerational, including workshops for children, youth and adults of all ages. More information to come.

Wanderlust: A Theatrical Monologue

Saturday, April 3, 8-9:30 p.m.

Adults \$20, bring a friend for \$30, students \$10

Performed by Martin Dockery, Directed by Jean-Michele Gregory

This is the second in our Storytelling Series. After more than a decade of temping, both at work and in relationships, a man embarks on a solo trip deep into Africa, trekking from the Atlantic to the Sahara. There he demands an Epiphany...any Epiphany....some proof that although we're temporary, we're more than mere temps. A comic, true story.

"Dockery is an insightful and articulate writer and an equally smart and captivating actor.... His remarkable adventures make the heartbeat alternately race and relax. Best of all, there's a subtle but compelling point behind *Wanderlust* that seeps into the consciousness... a call to action." – *nytheatre.com*

Tickets are on sale at the Box Office. For more information, email muf.events@gmail.com or contact Michelle Kunz at mbkunz@gmail.com.

Murder at the Manse--Dinner/Theater Evening

Saturday April 10, from 6-10 p.m.

MUF's own David Landau has written and directed a brilliantly funny, nationally famous "interactive mystery" and is bringing the hilarity to MUF for a fundraiser. Uniquely suited to the "run of the MUF mansion" (think CLUE room by room), the game allows guests to interact with the famous Inspector C. and nine suspects, with bribes and ruses abounding.



This will be fun for singles, couples, friends, older kids. **Dinner included** - BYOB - soft drinks provided. Cost is \$30 per attendee--buy 2, and a non-MUF member comes FREE! Great time to bring friends! Reservations at Box Office or call MUF office, 973-540-1177, to be added to list.

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Registration and Housing Reservations Now Open for June 23-27 GA in Minneapolis

Early-bird registration ends April 30. The opening celebration and banner parade will feature UU singer-songwriter Peter Mayer. The Ware Lecturer will be Winona LaDuke, internationally renowned Native American activist working on sustainable development. For more information, www.uua.org/ga.

UUA President Rev. Peter Morales was among those recently condemning the proposed Ugandan Anti-Homosexuality Act 2009, which would prohibit "any form of sexual relations between persons of the same sex" and inflict punishment ranging from life imprisonment to execution.

Building Healthy Congregations: April 10, First Unitarian Society of Rockland County (Pomona, NY). Long Island Leadership Institute Final Session: April 17, UU Congregation at Shelter Rock (Manhasset NY). Info on both from Doug Zelinski dzelinski@uua.org.

Junior Youth Con: April 17-18, Morristown Unitarian Fellowship. The con is led by senior high youth and adults attend as advisors. For more information, contact Peter Green at drpg@aol.com.

More information on the above can be obtained on the UU Metro NY website: <http://uumetrony.org>. Get news from the district, the UUA's social action of the month, and UU Service Committee news.

Susan Oxman, Denominational Affairs

2010 Metro NY District Annual Meeting April 30-May 1, at the Hyatt Morristown

Online registration will close April 23 or post-marked April 20. Hotel reservations discounted only until April 15. The Rev. Burton Carley, Senior Minister at the First Unitarian Church of Memphis, will be the keynote speaker. He will speak on "What Binds Us Together?," focusing on how we might understand our center as a people of faith and deepen the quality of our spiritual bonds. Olympia's Daughters will be featured guests on Friday, April 30. Our own Maria Manna is a member of this all-woman a capella ensemble. Complete details, including registration and hotel information, are available at www.uumetrony.org/am10/. *Susan Oxman, DA*

B&P Helps Save Entrance Driveway Wall

The Beautification and Preservation (B&P) Committee has completed the first phase of its effort to preserve the wall along the east side of the entrance driveway. At the same time, the committee repaired the capstone on a short column at the end of the "wing wall" to the right of the entrance gate.

Read all about the repair job and see before-and-after photos on page 13 of the online April Newsletter, at www.muuf.org.

Social Justice Council - April 2010 Update

Helping Neighbors in Need



Pathways to Work(ers)! –Spring Clean & Spruce Up!—Call Rosa Chilquillo at Neighborhood House – 973-538-1229, ext. 43, or cell 973-647-8495. Let the PTW registered workers help you get your grounds raked/picked up to greet the Spring and be ready for flower planting. Have them freshen up your garage and basement, cart out rubbish, etc. Skilled and experienced workers are available for other home projects – laborers – men and women (domestic work) are available 24/7. Very reasonable rates!

Successful Interfaith Council for Homeless Families of Morris County (ICHF) - Host Week Thanks MUF Members! Keeping up long-term MUF tradition, we coordinated our volunteers with other area congregations in late March– this time helping to host area homeless families at Morristown Methodist. Great team, great venue, great service. Thanks to Bob Campbell for long-time leadership as our team leader. Next Service Week: June 20-27.

Keep those Grocery Donations for Interfaith Food Pantry of Morris County Flowing in Weekly. Pop a few extra boxes, bags, cans and cartons of food nonperishables in your shopping cart weekly. They can always use peanut butter/jelly, pasta/sauce, tuna, stew, beans, rice, cereal, etc. Put in Food Pantry Box between MUF Kitchen & Room 100. Be a part of the temporary solution to hunger that is very real for hundreds of area families!

Help for Eric Johnson's 12 –member "Family" – MUF members provide dinner and warm conversation for the “on the mend” wonderful “resident family” of the Eric Johnson House – great people recovering from HIV related illness who are working toward a healthy independence. We have openings from MUF members to help occasionally (once every 2-3 months or so) providing some component of the dinner. You can just cook or cook and attend the dinner too! Your flexible help is very much needed and appreciated. Next dates: **Wednesdays, April 7 and 28, 5:45-7:00.** Contact Zella Geltman at zellarpg@yahoo.com to help.

Morristown Soup Kitchen – Help is needed for MUF Wednesday, April 13, Hosting. Some 250+ people were served at our last hosting. We always come through....but if you can be a part of the pre-hosting, cook in your own home/bring to MUF prep of casseroles, soup, chili in advance, much THANKS!! Helpers are needed to serve and shop day before for fresh items. Contact Michelle at mbkunz@gmail.com to help either way.

Morris Homeless Solutions Monthly Dinner –Saturday, April 10, 4:45-7:00 p.m. –Help prepare our monthly MUF cheeseburger & birthday cake dinner for homeless shelter residents. “Table talk” is also where your natural self can be of great friendly help. Contact judyoneil1@verizon.net.

MUF Social Justice Council Monthly Meeting – Thursday, April 8 – Quarterly Allocation of Plate Monies to Charities meeting. Bring your ideas and compassion, we'll help you put them to use. Help us promote social justice at local, regional, national and global levels. Contact Chris at reynolds@nac.net.

RE "Passages" Class Votes to Adopt Service Project

Collect Now to Help Fill the "PeaceWorks" May Container Shipment to Nicaragua

April 24/May 2 dropoff at MUF– We Need Your Help!

The 7th and 8th grade “Passages” class and their Adult Mentors voted to help Jim Burchell fill his PeaceWorks “58th Humanitarian Aid Container Shipment” destined for the very poor people of Nicaragua. All of MUF is invited to help us by collecting the following items, and **asking your neighbors, friends, family, schools, Girl/Boy Scout troops and civic groups to collect them, too:**

School Supplies: notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons, papers, rulers, colored pencils, scissors, watercolor paints and more;
Tools (for agri-projects): shovels, rakes, pitchforks, garden tools, wheelbarrows; ***Bicycles:*** in good shape; ***Summer/Lightweight Clothes:*** men's, women's, boys'/girls', infants: all item types: shirts, pants, skirts, light jackets/sweaters, sneakers; ***Sports Equipment:*** bats, balls, gloves – Nicaraguans love baseball, soccer, basketball, volleyball; ***Computers:*** send only complete computer systems in good working order—Pentium III or newer; ***Office supplies:*** cabinets, folders, paper, desks; ***Medical supplies:*** aspirin, vitamins, first-aid supplies, wheelchairs, crutches. Also air conditioners, fans, toys, household and kitchen items.

Pack clothing in small plastic bags. Write inventory for boxes; keep like items with like. *Scour Garage Sales! This is a wonderful goal for all of us!! Have fun/Do good!*

MUF's Green Tradition to Be Renewed

Did you know that, in 2002, Morristown Unitarian Fellowship was one of the first Unitarian Universalist congregations to be designated a Green Sanctuary? This honor recognized 15 years of environmental programs sponsored by the Eco-Action committee. Last year, the UU Office of Congregational Stewardship Services (OCSS) invited long-standing Green Sanctuary congregations to apply for re-accreditation. After months of collaboration among staff, congregational leaders and committee members, we submitted an application in February.

We are pleased to announce that, on March 12, the OCS formally welcomed our congregation as the first to engage in re-accreditation candidacy, stating that they were "impressed with our plans for continued Earth stewardship." Our action plan, which they characterized as "diverse, well balanced, and exciting," included Alison Miller's excellent Sunday service about the 7th Principle on March 14 and showing of the film *A Chemical Reaction* (about safe lawn care) March 12.

Our action plan also includes development of religious education curricula, tracking and publicizing our building's energy consumption, evaluating and recommending alternative tableware when washing dishes is not feasible, and an environmental justice project (a long-term project that actively promotes justice for those affected by environmental injustices while creating relationships). Your ideas, enthusiasm and involvement are needed!

-from the Green Earth Ministry (GEM)

MUF WEEKEND OF THE ARTS - May 15 & 16 - Mark Your Calendar

Arty Party and Jazz Evening Saturday, May 15 - 5:30-9:30 p.m.

5:30-7:00 Art Reception

7:15-9:30 Dinner & Jazz Concert

A delightful evening will start off with an Art Exhibition in the Terrace Room (and possibly the Terrace!), featuring MUF artists' works and those of members of the Morris County Art Association.

You will meander among the beautiful displays - possibly purchasing one for your home - while listening to live piano music, sipping wine and sampling hors d'oeuvres.

At 7:15 we'll adjourn to the Meeting Room for dinner (Lead Chef: Tony Rutigliano) and we'll be treated to a Jazz Concert by a Jazz Anonymous quartet playing jazz standards/blues.

Tickets are \$ 35 a person...fabulous value for art, gourmet dinner & jazz.

Buy your tickets at the Box Office. For more information, contact Karen L. Burns at karenburns@casaessex.org.

**Tickets/Reservations Box Office or Karen Burns: 973-648-3308 or Avianca: abouchedid@colotraq.com.
Questions About Art Exhibition: Arlyne Dalman at ajdalman@verizon.net or Nina Nemeth at nina.nemeth@yahoo.com.**

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

	Account Name	February	July - Feb	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
INCOME	Pledge Income	\$22,966.25	\$308,332.82	\$433,000.00	\$124,667.18
	Rental Income	\$4,300.00	\$30,680.00	\$49,200.00	\$18,520.00
	Fundraisers	\$6,800.00	\$27,954.00	\$32,500.00	\$4,546.00
	Other Income	\$1,760.50	\$15,151.15	\$15,400.00	\$248.85
	TOTAL INCOME	\$40,051.82	\$469,790.73	\$530,100.00	\$60,309.27
EXPENSE	PAYROLL	\$27,474.60	\$240,717.96	\$360,064.00	\$119,346.04
	Debt Services	\$407.43	\$13,050.55	\$22,000.00	\$8,949.45
	BLDG MTCE & UTIL	\$6,611.09	\$38,889.89	\$62,632.00	\$23,742.11
	ADMINISTRATION	\$8,538.51	\$38,526.15	\$51,936.00	\$13,409.85
	COMMITTEES	\$1,570.92	\$6,199.08	\$15,420.00	\$9,220.92
	Religious Education	\$246.57	\$5,739.74	\$9,716.00	\$3,976.26
	TOTAL EXPENSE	\$54,017.13	\$433,669.74	\$521,768.00	\$88,098.26
Difference	(\$13,965.31)	\$36,120.99	\$8,332.00		



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.

Contributions to the Celebration of Life

The Endowment Fund thanks Mary Reynolds Moser of Summit, a friend of Maggie Chilton, for her gift to honor **Marion Thompson** on her 80th birthday.

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, April 3	9:30 a.m.	Taichi Light Monthly Practice	p. 6
Saturday, April 3	8:00-9:30 p.m.	Wanderlust: A Theatrical Monologue	p. 7
Saturday, April 10	9:00 a.m.-12 noon	Spring Cleaning	p. 6
Saturday, April 10	6:00-10:00 p.m.	Murder at the Manse –Dinner Theater	p. 7
Monday, April 12	7:00 p.m.	Monday Night Book Group	p. 6
Wednesday, April 14	1:00-2:30 p.m.	Compassionate Communication Practice Group #2	p. 6
Sunday, April 18	10:30 a.m.	Women's Spirituality Circle	p. 6
Sunday, April 18	4:00-7:00 p.m.	Potluck Dinner	p. 6
Thursday, April 22	7:00-9:00 p.m.	Pressed Botanical Art	p. 6
Saturday, April 24	2:00-4:00 p.m.	Special Strategic Planning Session	p. 11
April 24-May 2		Dropoff for PeaceWorks to Nicaragua	p. 8
Friday-Saturday, April 30-May 1		Metro NY District Annual Meeting	p. 7
Friday, April 30		Last day to turn pledge cards in for NYC Prize Package Drawing	p. 5
Friday, April 30	7:30 p.m.	Crafting Group	p. 6

Who do we want to be?

What do we want to do?

**IMAGINE
IMAGINE**

What do we need to do it?

Help Develop Our Five-Year Strategic Plan!

Last month you had the opportunity to help shape the future of the Fellowship. We discussed our Vision Statement for the 5-Year Strategic Plan and goals and recommendations in five of the theme areas identified from our Imagination Sessions. This month we will hold a special meeting on one of our challenging areas: Facilities. Please make time in your month to attend this very important congregational meeting to help set priorities for our future.

Special Congregational Strategic Planning Session

**Facilities – Goals and Recommendations
Saturday, April 24, 2–4 p.m.**

**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.

April 2010

Volume 55, No. 4



Don't miss the Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 6! See page 3 for the Slate of Candidates to be voted on.

Dated Material – Posted March 30, 2010
Deadline for the MAY issue is

APRIL 15

Sunday Services

Services at 9 and 11 a.m.



April 4 **The Meaning of Resurrection**

Children, Youth and Adults of all ages are welcome to join us for our annual multigenerational Easter Services. We will explore resurrection from a liberal religious point of view.

Rev. Alison B. Miller and Karen Brown

April 11 **A Faith Without a Creed**

Unitarian Universalism is a non-creedal tradition. What does this mean for us as individuals and as a denomination?

Coordinated by Danelle Simonelli

April 18 **Sustaining our Community, Vision, and Values**

This is the spiritual theme of our annual budget drive. Join us as we reflect together on our role as stewards, sustainers and creators of our beloved community.

Rev. Alison B. Miller

April 25 **First Things First**

The Living in Covenant: Seven Principles series we have been exploring in worship and covenant circles has raised some engaging questions about our first principle, including: Do all people have worth? How do UUs deal with evildoers? Let us take a second look at where the UU covenant begins.

Rev. Alison B. Miller

B&P Committee Works to Preserve Entrance Driveway Wall

The Beautification and Preservation (B&P) Committee has completed the first phase of its effort to preserve the wall along the east side of the entrance driveway. Time and weather had eroded the masonry of the wall's capstones, letting in water and vines, both of which were leading to cracks in, and loosening of, the bricks. The committee's effort involved cleaning the capstones of dirt, moss and mold, removing the vines that had intruded into the joints (and wall), and cleaning the stones thoroughly. Our professional mason then replaced all of the capstones' mortar, sealing the top of the wall for, hopefully, another 100 years.

At the same time, the committee repaired the capstone on a short column at the end of the "wing wall" to the right of the entrance gate. A corner had broken off several years ago and water was also infiltrating into that brickwork. The mason replicated the corner piece and installed it, resealing the column. This work complements the committee's work that restored the low walls on each side of the entrance gate in 2008.

Future preservation work on the wall includes a power-washing of all the brickwork, placing fill dirt on the back side of the wall to redirect groundwater away from the foundation, and patching several major cracks that appeared last year due to the water/ice infiltration and settling of the foundation.

Thanks to **Steve Rice**, who cleaned/prepared the capstones and obtained the mason's proposal, and to **Bill Forsyth**, who oversaw the mason's schedule and work.

Special thanks also to **John Oehler**, who removed and reset three loose floor tiles in the Great Hall across from the fireplace. His effort preserved the tiles, preventing them from cracking and having to be replaced.

Finally, another "Thank you!" goes to **Debbie Rice**, who beautifies our front entrance by selecting and placing the wonderful flowers and decorations each season.

Wall-Before 1	Wall-Before 2	Wall-After
		
Column-Before		Column-After
		