



March 2007

Volume 52, No. 3

News

Reaching In . . .  
Reaching Out

From the Minister . . .

THE MORRISTOWN  
UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP

is a place to nourish your spirit. In fact, we talk about this as one of the four elements of membership. When people walk through our doors for the first time, they frequently say they are seeking a community of inspiration and renewal. When I ask them to explain what they mean by that, here are some of the responses I get:



“I want a congregation that will help my children lead holistic lives that include caring for themselves, caring for others, and caring for the world.”

“I want to make friends who will remind me to slow down and play once in a while in a world where everyone seems to say go faster and who has time to think?”

“My spouse is going through an illness, and I need to find people who can support me while I try my best to support her.”

“I want to find a worship that will remind me of the power of silence and song and give me the inspiration to live fully in the present and in the presence of the holy.”

“I am looking for a place where the words in the service, the lives of the people, and the ideas I encounter in the programs help me get through my challenging week.”

“I just moved here for a new job. My family is far away. I’m looking for a community where I can feel connected, feel at home and feel I matter.”

“I’m searching for people who are excited enough to make a difference in the world. I want to catch their spirit!”

Whether this is your first year with us or your fiftieth year, I invite you to think about the activities that nourish your spirit. You may have noticed that we have been increasing opportunities for reflection, connection and renewal. Our new Adult Programs Committee along with your Minister and interim DRE

have all offered a wide range of programming. Our thriving Covenant Circle program and Children’s Chapel are just two of the new additions. They are not alone in this work. In the spirit of this year’s theme of “Vision Quest,” the Sunday Services Committee just held a retreat where we re-imagined how we come together to create vibrant worship services.

Actually, our Covenant Circles Model works off of the idea that in order to serve others you must first tend to yourself. Every one of our Covenant Circle facilitators also meets together in a Facilitator’s Circle, where they have a chance to be just participants. I facilitate the Facilitator’s Circle, and in turn, I also participate in a Minister’s Covenant Circle with other colleagues.

I hope our congregation will be a place that inspires you to serve each other and the world. There has never been less doubt in my mind about the hunger in society for our liberal religious values and our work for justice. But first things first! In order to serve others wisely and effectively, you must be sure to tend and nourish your own spirit.

In fellowship,

Alison

Alison’s office hours are Tuesday through Friday by appointment.

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### Morristown Unitarian Fellowship

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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*

You may not be aware of it, but we at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship have done an incredible thing over these last two years. After a period of careful study, two years ago we began a gutsy experiment with a new form of governance at MUF. The key elements of our new governance (i.e., system of managing our affairs as an organization) are a smaller, policy-focused Board of Trustees and two Networks, each of which is composed of representatives of the various committees and groups at MUF. This MUF model, based loosely on policy governance models used in other Unitarian Universalist congregations, was designed by board members to meet our specific and unique needs.

A true sign that the experiment has been successful is that we can't imagine now how we operated before the change. The many benefits we've reaped from our new form of governance include:

1. Better and more timely communication with the Board and among committees,
2. Increasing ability to work together across interest groups and committees,
3. More people involved in leadership and the everyday workings of the Fellowship,
4. Greater ability of the Board to focus on the BIG picture (instead of getting caught up in the minutiae of day-to-day governance).

*(continued on page 3)*

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### **Upcoming Board of Trustees and Network Meetings**

Meetings are open to all Fellowship members.

The meeting time is 7 p.m. *It is especially important for committee chairs and members who participate in Fellowship administration and programming to attend and participate in the Network meetings.*

Next month's meetings are scheduled on:

Board of Trustees	March 14
Administrative Network	March 21
Program Network	March 28

### **Meeting Minutes**

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

***Be a knowledgeable member of your Fellowship!***

## Board of Trustees

(continued from page 2)

The other major change that we've undergone is the expansion and restructuring of the Staff. Again, it's hard to remember how we got anything done without our new administrator and support staff.

Slowly, we, the Board, are learning to let go of decisions that are best made by committees through the Networks and the Staff, in order to concentrate on long-term planning, policy setting and the over-all health of MUF's operations. And members of both the Administrative and the Program Network have learned by trial and error how to make the most of a monthly meeting and how to best make decisions among people with varying interests. These are the skills that develop leaders that will lead us successfully as we become an even more vital congregation. During the Board's annual retreat at the beginning of this Fellowship year,

we explored in depth all elements of our vision for MUF. We chose three priorities for the year. Simply stated, they are:

- Welcoming, Integrating and Tracking New Members
- Growing Lifespan RE Program/Faith Development
- Vision--Long-Range Planning

As we flourish and grow as a Unitarian Universalist congregation, these are the things that we feel will support us in achieving our dreams! In the near future, we will post a more in-depth discussion of our current governance model and potential changes that we foresee. Stay tuned! In service of all that we hold dear,

*Joe Uhrhane (President), Carol Todd (President-Elect), Gloria Jackson (VP--Administrative Network), Todd Van Gordon (VP--Program Network), Anne Paust (Treasurer) and Annette Tyler (Secretary)*

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

	Jan. 07	Budget	Variance	Jul. 06-Dec. 07	Budget	Variance	Annual
<b>INCOME</b>							
Pledges	32,736	29,583	3,153	225,455	217,081	8,374	365,000
Building Use	2,635	2,604	31	21,690	18,229	3,461	31,250
Fundraisers	185	6,417	-6,232	-436	15,915	-16,351	26,500
Sunday Morning Contributions	1,323	900	423	6,297	5,500	797	10,000
Other Income	740	1,250	-510	6,844	8,750	-1,906	15,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>37,619</b>	<b>40,754</b>	<b>-3,135</b>	<b>259,850</b>	<b>265,475</b>	<b>-5,626</b>	<b>447,750</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>							
Personnel Expenses	25,116	26,939	-1,822	170,299	181,689	-11,390	318,283
Facilities	8,580	7,688	893	41,240	48,757	-7,517	84,748
Building Improvements	2,400	292	2,108	3,375	2,040	1,335	3,500
Office Expenses	1,622	1,321	301	11,805	10,843	962	17,650
Fellowship Expenses	1,823	3,940	-2,117	22,523	22,647	-124	39,689
Committee Activities	1,351	2,238	-888	10,042	15,028	-4,986	24,420
Religious Education	380	590	-210	5,063	2,950	2,113	6,900
Uncategorized Expenses	0			105			0
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>41,273</b>	<b>43,008</b>	<b>-1,736</b>	<b>264,452</b>	<b>283,954</b>	<b>-19,501</b>	<b>495,190</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>3,653</b>	<b>-2,254</b>	<b>-1,399</b>	<b>-4,603</b>	<b>-18,478</b>	<b>13,876</b>	<b>-47,440</b>

1. We are \$13,876 ahead of budget, but we still show a loss of \$4,603. We had projected a loss of \$18,478 by this time (58% of year.)
2. We are at 58% of income and 53% of expenses.
3. Our reserves are still in good shape.
4. Our pledge income is ahead of expectations for this month and for the year.
5. We are still in search of an Assistant Treasurer.
6. We are on target with our Five-Year Plan; however, major new capital needs are coming to light.
7. Our pledge campaign is about to start; please be generous.
8. Committee, department and capital expense budget proposals were due in the MUF office by Feb. 28.

*Submitted by Anne Paust, Treasurer*

## Faith Developments

### I ALWAYS LOOK

FORWARD to the start of spring. The thawing, the early flowers and the return of the sun make me hopeful. Spring is a time of looking forward, and just as the RE program spent the fall looking backwards, we'll spend the spring looking forward to the future. However, as the Fellowship prepares to do two years of the interim process, it is important to mark the progress made so far. Below you'll find an abbreviated version of the RE Interim Task Report presented to the Board in February. You can get the full version online.



**Task One: History** Much of the work on dealing with history has happened within the context of the RE Council, the Board and the RE program, through an RE Council retreat in August, an RE startup in September and monthly Interim RE meetings. Stakeholder conversations have been happening slowly in a one-on-one basis with the Interim DRE. Building trust is an important part of this step and happens largely through doing good work. The past six months have been focused on running a successful RE program where both families and teachers felt that they had a rewarding experience.

**Task Two: Mission and Vision** This step is vitally important to the future of the RE program and the hiring of the permanent DRE. We have initiated a conversation with the Committee on Ministry to involve them in the process of creation so that we ensure the participation of the entire congregation.

**Task Three: Leadership/Systems/Structures** Much of the fall was spent looking at previous systems and structures and reorganizing the committee with job responsibilities and lines of accountability. In addition to that, the committee has spawned one task force, REmodeling, which is looking at space usage and beautification. Additionally, they began an RE Greeters program to help welcome new families when they visit the Fellowship.

**Interim Task Four: Denominational Connections** This task has been fairly simple so far. The District Program Consultant attended Interim

DRE training with the IDRE and has been kept apprised of the progress of the Interim Process. The IDRE is active in the NJ RE Cluster and both the Metro New York District and continental Liberal Religious Educators Association.

**Task Five: Leadership: The New DRE** We have made no movement on this front since we have not completed the necessary steps to start to shape what the congregation wants in a permanent DRE.

**Task Six: Doing Excellent RE** Much of that has involved clear and frequent communication with teachers and families and fostering a supportive environment for the teaching teams. We have instituted several new programs, including RE Greeters, Parent Volunteers and Class Parents. When we announced the second year of Interim Process to the congregation we also solicited feedback from members of the congregation. The growth in numbers indicates a vibrant and welcoming program - and is the sign of good RE happening.

As we move forward this spring with the next steps of the Interim RE process we are poised to make more change and to move in a positive direction with Religious Education at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship. Our big goals for the spring are in mission and vision and continuing the examination of various systems and structures. This is an exciting time to be involved in RE.

In Faith,

*Kim is in the office Sunday through Thursday.*

### ICHF Hosts Upcoming Week of March 11-18

MUF is co-hosting this week as part of its participation in the Interfaith Council for Homeless Families of Morris County. The physical host is the Church of the Redeemer on South Street. As co-host we share responsibility for various tasks each day for a few hours including setup/orientation, dinner serving, homework/playtime supervision, cleanup and overnight supervision. We need 14 volunteers from MUF to take shifts. We call upon them four times a year when we co-host. If you can help this time, contact Karen Burns at [KarenBurns@casaessex.org](mailto:KarenBurns@casaessex.org).

## *A Message from the President of the Fellowship's Board of Trustees*

I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect briefly on the past three years at the Fellowship.

Three years ago we were in a somewhat shocked state. Our minister of 22 years had resigned. Our membership numbers were drooping. There was a general feeling of disarray, and morale was low. A Search Committee was formed, and its research told us that we could not expect to hire a really good minister if we didn't have proper administrative support, which we did not, at that time. We also needed to hire a music director. All this meant a BIG increase in our annual budget.

So what has happened, and how did we get to where we are now, with a spirit of enthusiasm and commitment everyone can feel?

Stu Sendell from the Search Committee and Brenda Hartmann, then Treasurer on the Board, put together a 5-year plan to show us what we had to do financially. It required the congregation to do a 10% increase in pledges for each of the next three years, plus 5% increases for two years after that. After a lot of communication and publicity within the congregation, this ambitious plan was put before the congregation in May of 2005, and it was approved by their vote.

So far over 75% of the members from that time have been able to keep this promise and are continuing to honor the commitment. Some people even gave the entire 30-plus% increase in their first year. This will be the third consecutive year that my family has done the 10% increase, and we are on a fixed income.

Result: In the past two years we were able to:

- Hire a top-notch minister (our first choice out of 27 applicants)
- Hire a full-time experienced and very capable administrator
- Replace our former office manager with an excellent office assistant
- Hire an experienced and energetic music director (again, a first choice out of more than 20 applicants)
- Make our Sunday services so attractive that we have gotten enthusiastic new members at a rate of about 20-30 per year.
- Make organizational changes that help us to communicate with each other and get things done more quickly.
- Begun to generate a lively new spirit in the congregation.

I, and the rest of the Board, couldn't be more thrilled with what has happened. It has been an absolute pleasure to watch so many good things happen, and to see the spirit of experiment that has allowed us to become a healthy, strong force within our congregation and in the wider community.

You will hear more about our financial situation as the pledge campaign heats up. For now, you should realize that the commitment made by the members in early 2005 was a bit risky. We accepted that at least one and maybe two of the five budget years would be at a deficit, so that we could initiate the great changes we are now benefiting from. We were hoping and counting on the pledges going up and on new people coming in to help shoulder the load.

So, new folks, please look at your own finances and see if you could make a commitment like the one our older members have done for us. Can you raise your current pledge substantially? Can you commit to three years of steady 10% jumps? Please see what you can do.

And to those who have already been doing the increases they said they would do, the whole Fellowship thanks you warmly for your gracious gifts, and hopes you can continue to completion your wonderful commitment.

*Joe Uhrhane*

### ***New Members***

Please welcome Paul Snellgrove, Jan Clare Viehman, and Darlene and Walter Kanzler, who have deepened their commitment to the Fellowship by signing the membership book in February.

### ***Change in E-mail Address***

Zella's e-mail address is incorrect in the MUF Directory. Her correct address is zellarpg@yahoo.com.

## *Upcoming Events*

### *Minstrel Coffeehouse*

**Fridays, 8:30 p.m.**

**March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

More information from [www.folkproject.org](http://www.folkproject.org) or 973-335-9489.

### *First Monday Book Group*

**Monday, March 5, 7 p.m.**

We will be reading *My Sister's Keeper*, by Jodi Piccolt. On April 2, we'll read Charles C. Mann's *1491*. Please feel welcome to join us; then you may suggest future books. Contact Nancy Lee McLure at [nlmclure@msn.com](mailto:nlmclure@msn.com).

### *EVENSONG*

**Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.**

A lay-led small-group service offering an opportunity to explore individual life journeys in an intimate and supportive setting. We will explore the following topics:

**March 7 - Here and Now** - How good are you at living in the moment, being mindfully present right now?

**March 21- Spring** - It's the first day of spring. What does this time of year mean to you?

For more information, contact Danelle Simonelli at [dksimonelli@hotmail.com](mailto:dksimonelli@hotmail.com).

### *Spring Crafting Bees*

**Saturdays, March 10 & 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Enjoy fabulous craft workshops for Jewelry Making, Textile Crafts, Wreath Making. Keep one item you make; make 2-3 more for us to sell on April 15 and 22, with all proceeds to go to benefit our Senior High Habitat Build in Sumter, SC, this summer! Enjoy expert instruction from some of our own craftspeople.

Contact Irene Bush at [ibush@patmedia.net](mailto:ibush@patmedia.net) or [karenburns@casaessex.org](mailto:karenburns@casaessex.org). Cost: \$20 for each Saturday, includes materials and lunch. Make check payable to MUF; note MUF Craft Bee - March 10 and/or 24.

**More on p. 8.**

### *Newcomer Luncheon*

**Sunday, March 11, 12:30 p.m.**

If you've been coming to MUF for awhile and would like to get to know us better and have us get to know you, please come to this luncheon in the Terrace Room after the second service. Childcare will be available. Contact Susan Oxman at [soxman13@verizon.net](mailto:soxman13@verizon.net) by March 4 if you plan to come. You can also sign up at the Welcome Table.

### *Normandy Chorale*

**Sunday, March 11, 1:15 p.m.**

The Chorale will perform Schubert's *Mass in G* and **Selections from *Les Misérables***. The donation at the door is \$8 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. Refreshments will be served. The music will be performed under the direction of Bruce Sidelnik and accompanied by Beth Wilson on the piano.

### *Getting to Know UU Class*

**Sundays, March 18 and April 1 and 15, 1 p.m.**

A workshop for newcomers and new members

Track 1: Adults led by Rev. Alison Miller

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

- Learn more about Unitarian Universalism and our religious heritage.

- Find out about our congregation's activities.

- Share some highlights of MUF's history.

- Get to know others who are interested in membership or who have recently joined.

To register, call 973-540-1177, ext 201, or e-mail Chris Dunning at [chris@muuf.org](mailto:chris@muuf.org), or look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Room 100.

### *West African Drum & Dance*

**Wednesday, March 21**

DRUM 6:30-7:45 p.m. - \$5 drum rentals available w/pre-registration only.

DANCE 7:45-9 p.m. - \$15 per class, \$25 drum/dance combo price. (MUF member discount \$10 per class, \$20 for both.)

All skill levels, teens & seniors welcome! Pre-register at [AdultPrograms@muuf.org](mailto:AdultPrograms@muuf.org). Marafanyi Percussion, featuring Lara Gonzalez & Yael Shacham, has a holistic approach to drum & dance that is fun, encouraging and accessible. Connecting mind, body and spirit, students learn to express themselves through a powerful and lyrical vocabulary of rhythm and dance in a facilitated, supportive environment.



### **Save the Date!**

#### ***MUF Blood Drive***

**Sunday, April 22, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.**

In the Terrace Room. Register with Zella on Sunday mornings, or contact her at [zellarpg@yahoo.com](mailto:zellarpg@yahoo.com).

## Jason Ricci and New Blood Return to MUF for Habitat Benefit Concert

**Saturday, March 10, 7:30 p.m.**

*\$25 Adults, \$15 Students/Seniors*

Jason Ricci and New Blood will perform a benefit concert to help raise funds for this year's Habitat project. This cutting edge band plays a mix of blues, jazz and funk, exciting and delighting audiences with their superb musicianship, intense jamming and tight interplay. Jason Ricci, on harmonica and vocals, is becoming legendary among musicians and fans alike, playing with an intensity and virtuosity that leaves longtime harp players shaking their heads in disbelief.

Think Coltrane on harp. You've never heard anything like this.

Last year's event was a wonderful evening, full of great music, great people and great vibes all around. If you came last year, bring a friend this time. They'll be really glad you did. And if you missed it, come and join us this time. You'll have a great time, and you'll be helping us build a home, and a youth group.

More information and audio samples at <http://muuf.org/habitat>.

*Garry Hodgson*

### *Spring Cleanup*

**Saturdays, March 31 and April 28**

Uncover your rakes and dig out the shovels! The B and P Committee has set these dates aside to wake MUF up from its winter sleep. Please note them on your calendar to help us. We always have a great crowd and we will provide lunch.

*Beautification and Preservation Committee*

### *Global Warming is here. . . . .*

Not the kind that will bring gloom and doom to this beautiful world of ours. Green Earth Ministry (GEM) invites you to join the four-session discussion course, "Global Warming: Changing CO<sub>2</sub>urse" (to begin in mid-March or April), to enable us prevent the first kind. The topics include experiencing the effects of global warming, understanding the science, available strategies and actions, and evoking personal and collective power. Sign up at the GEM table or contact Claire Mayer to register or for more information.

### *... and Thanks to the Cleaner-Uppers*

The Beautification and Preservation Committee would like to thank the following hearty folks who came out on January 20 to help spackle and paint the pillars and various chipped spots in the Great Hall, vacuum the floor heating vents and clean the wrought-iron doors leading to the Meeting Room. A sincere Well Done! to Chris Davitt, Mary Timiras, Steve Gruber, Tony Rutigliano, Kyle Gustafson, and of course the members of the B and P committee themselves, Matt Rath, Bruce Daggy, Steve Rice, Fred Bosbous and Arlyne Dalman.

### *Keys to Leadership: Building Consensus*

**Saturday, March 3**

8:30 a.m. - Coffee & Bagels; 9-12 noon - Workshop

The second installment in the MUF Leadership Development Series, this workshop will help both leaders and committee members get past "right" and "wrong" and move towards consensus, a more effective way of operating.

By better understanding the contributions of all group members, you will learn how to harness the power of that information into actionable items that will move the committee forward.

Through presentation of concepts and hands-on practice, you'll move from "yes" or "no" to synergistic results that will energize both you and your group. Guaranteed to be informative and fun! Please pre-register in Room 100 or by e-mail to [AdultPrograms@muuf.org](mailto:AdultPrograms@muuf.org).

Facilitated by Dan Cohen, MUF Leadership Development Committee

### *Tug Harder, Save Energy*

A semi-precious note from GEM (Global Earth Ministry): You may have noticed that it takes a little more effort to open the outer entrance doors. Would you like to transform minor annoyance to gratitude? Here's how: Tell yourself how much energy is saved by making the doors weather-tight! Steve Gruber's weather-stripping of both sets of doors was just one of the many tasks GEM members have undertaken to help reduce MUF's energy costs. So pull a little harder, thank Steve and SMILE-GEM loves ya (not to mention Mother Earth)!

*Linda Clark*

## Social Justice Council

March 2007 Update -- Helping Neighbors in Need



**Habitat Senior High Fund Raiser (Craft Bees...with a Purpose)...March 10 & 24 - 10 a.m.-2 p.m.** Fantastic, fun opportunity to make crafts that will be sold in April to raise funds for Sumter Habitat Build. \$20 each day covers all materials costs and super lunch. Craft Tables hosted by expert jewelry makers (necklaces & bracelets) and home decorative arts artists – fabric crafts, wood plaques, decorated frames, spring wreaths. Keep your favorite craft and make 2-3 additional that will be sold to fund the Habitat trip. Sign up at Box Office on Sundays or call Maggie/Chris at MUF Office 973-540-1177 and add your name to list! Come on, bring your friends, it will be great fun. And you'll finally learn how to do something you've always admired! **See p. 6 for more information !**

**UUA Priorities Group –Sunday, March 25 –UUA “ Peacemaking” Study Action Issue – Guide for Congregations. Light Lunch/Terrace Room 12:15 p.m. – Topic:** As a faith community we are in covenant with our denomination to advance social justice goals. **At the 2006 UUA General Assembly of Congregations, we voted to study and act over a four-year period on the challenge of “Peacemaking.”** The issue is *“Should the Unitarian Universalist Association reject the use of any and all kinds of violence and war to resolve disputes between peoples and nations and adopt a principle of seeking just peace through non-violent means?”* The UUA has provided us with a Congregational Resource Guide that provides 11 study questions and seven possible actions. Let's jump into our responsibility together. UU congregations across the U.S. are creating congregational discussion groups to consider these key questions of conscience and options for actions by local congregations to have their voices heard. Come to this exploratory luncheon “brainstorming session” hosted by Eleanor Mason and Rita Morris. **The actions that MUF takes will be a coordinated effort between our UUA Priorities Group and Seeds of Peace and our congregation at large! Join us!**

**Morristown Community Soup Kitchen** – Next Hosting Date: **Tuesday, March 13!** Thanks, MUF members, for helping cook great food for the 202 people we served last month. Still need chefs for 30 casseroles and 20 gallons of soup we need this month. Contact Sharon Glickman at [foxwood2@optonline.net](mailto:foxwood2@optonline.net) to let her know if you can help out. Sharon's additional good news for all of us: *“We made a \$1,000 donation in MUF's name to the Community Soup Kitchen. This week they did get a convection oven and it is a beauty! I like to think that our donation helped. We were told that when it is very cold the older people do not come to the soup kitchen and that is why the numbers were less. What a shame!... A heads-up. The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Share the Bounty! Fundraising campaign is your opportunity to support the Community Soup Kitchen in its work aiding the working poor and homeless. You may purchase an ad in the program journal or make a donation that will be recognized in the journal. You can also attend the annual Share the Bounty dinner dance on April 26, 6:30 p.m., at the Madison Hotel. For more information call the Soup Kitchen office at 973-267-0709.”*

**Eric Johnson House Monthly Dinner Teams** – Next host dates are **Wednesdays, March 7 & 21 (5:45 p.m.-7 p.m.)**. What fabulously sweet and courageous people are residents just now! It is such an honor to sit with them and just let them talk and tell you their dreams, and a little bit about what's come before. If you want to be a part of the MUF dinner teams, you would be warmly welcomed!!! Let Susan Spencer know at [sespencer@optonline.net](mailto:sespencer@optonline.net).

**Morristown Homeless Solutions** (shelter) monthly dinner commitment (next hosting, **Saturday, March 10, 4:45 p.m.-7 p.m.**) continues under leadership of Judy O'Neil Goldberg at [judyoneil@optonline.net](mailto:judyoneil@optonline.net). If you are an adult, or a family with Junior High and older children that you can accompany, preparing an easy meal for the shelter residents is a terrific altruistic experience and builds confidence in being able to make a meaningful difference with the work of your hands. Join them. It's fun and appreciated fully by the 100+ shelter residents.

**Morristown Habitat for Humanity Builds –Calling All Handy People!** MUF has signed a agreement of support/participation along with a group of 20 other Morristown Interfaith Council faith-based communities to support our local Morris County Habitat organization this year. Joe Uhrhane is our MUF Coordinator. We will need to “field” three Saturday work parties during the springtime, at a worksite here in Morristown. Be a part of this great work! You don't have to be an expert. Contact Joe at [joeuhr@optonline.net](mailto:joeuhr@optonline.net) if you'd like more information, or want to sign on!

**Next Social Justice Council Meeting – Quarterly Allocation Meeting, Thursday, March 8, 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m.,** in MUF's Dining Room. We will decide on gifts in MUF's name together. New members-at-large are always needed for the SJ Council. We have lots of shared projects and are supportive of 10 MUF Social Action Groups. Help us to serve our neighbors. It's a great way to get to know the MUF community and values.

## *hUumanism Class*

**Thursdays, March 22, April 5 & 19, 7-9 p.m.**

Join Rev. Alison Miller and Dan Byrd in this three-part series where we will read and discuss the writings of various humanist theologians/philosophers and introduce the historical development of humanism with attention to its role within Unitarian Universalism. Contact Dan at [danielbyrd@verizon.net](mailto:danielbyrd@verizon.net) to sign up.

## *MUF Women's Spring Renewal Retreat*

**Friday, March 30-Sunday, April 1**

This event, popular last year, will again be held at Kirkridge Retreat Center. Sign up early; there is room for just 25 women. (Open to MUF members and friends only.) The total cost, including six meals and materials for a craft project, is \$232; checks are payable to MUF, with the notation "Women's Retreat."

To learn more, contact Helen Lippman at [Helenlip1@comcast.net](mailto:Helenlip1@comcast.net), or Diane Koslow at [dpkoslow@optonline.net](mailto:dpkoslow@optonline.net).

## *A History of Our Banners*

Looking at one of our banners on a recent Sunday morning and thinking about its origin, I realized that I am probably one of the few people who know how this work of art came to be. Past and present Fellowship members or friends, including children's RE classes, created many, if not all, of the banners that we use as part of our Sunday services. Creation of the banner (with the Fellowship building on it) that we take to the UU General Assembly each year is an example of how well an ad hoc committee can function.

Please let me know about the history of any banners you had something to do with—did you make it, conceive the idea for it, know anything about how it was dreamed up? This information could be part of the Fellowship archives. We could occasionally have a writeup in the Newsletter or Sunday Bulletin to let people know and honor the human beings who thought enough of us and the Fellowship to share their art with us.

I would also like to keep track of the chalices the Fellowship owns. Some of these were gifts that were made by members' loving hands or bought and donated for special reasons or memorials.

*Annette Tyler*

## *Seeking Memories for Walt Stasiak Memorial*

Last autumn a group of MUF members began meeting to develop a memorial to our friend and fellow Unitarian Universalist Walt Stasiak, who died in March 2005.

Among Walt's many contributions to our Fellowship, he was a diligent champion of our junior high human sexuality curriculum for over 20 years. In January 2007 the OWL teaching team (Our Whole Lives, previously AYS) began working with the current junior high class, for the first time without Walt. This milestone prompted our desire to express our remembrances of Walt.

The Walt Stasiak Memorial Project has two parts:

- An altar table, altar cloth and flaming chalice for the Junior High OWL program. We will be asking current Senior High Youth Group members who did the OWL program with Walt to help make the altar cloth. The table and chalice are being built by students of the Morris County School of Technology, where Barbara and David Stasiak teach.
- A memorial quilt to honor Walt and remember his contributions to our community. The quilt's theme "UU Hero in our midst" will result in a permanent art piece that honors and recognizes both Walt and the UU values he brought to life.

### **You Can Participate**

Realizing that Walt touched the lives of so many people at MUF, we want to offer everyone the opportunity to participate in creating the memorial quilt. First and foremost, we need your remembrances of Walt to help us develop the design and theme of the quilt.

The committee is using a questionnaire to gather your input. It can be downloaded from the [www.muuf.org](http://www.muuf.org) website or you can request one by e-mailing [remeberwalt1@yahoo.com](mailto:remeberwalt1@yahoo.com) or calling Tanya Van Order.

Later this spring, we will form small groups of people who want to work on a quilt square. Experienced art teachers and quilters will provide technical and practical guidance in this process.

*The Walt Stasiak Memorial Committee - Beat Barblan/Tanya Van Order, Kelly Schnur, Carol Drake, Kathy/John Solu, Barbara Stasiak, Janet/Steve Kreha*

# haring 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.

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### *Thanks from Fred Mayer*

“I wish to thank all the people who visited me or sent good wishes while I was in the hospital or rehab. I am glad to be home. Fortunately, I seem to have recovered my faculties and am concentrating now on exercises to recover my strength. I might add that I did not have a ‘Life Line’ or similar means of summoning help and had to rely on a lucky phone call allowing me to ask the caller to contact 911.

“I am taking this opportunity to suggest to any of you getting on in years or known to have a health problem to subscribe to such a service. The window of effectiveness of the relatively new block-buster drug is only three to four hours after suffering a stroke.

“My most sincere thanks to all the well-wishers.”

*Fred Mayer*

### *Upcoming Joys & Concerns*

*If you have a joy or concern that you would like to share with other members of the congregation – whether or not you announce it on Sunday morning – please send it to Newsletter editor Pat Baxter at [melodylingers@verizon.net](mailto:melodylingers@verizon.net).*

*Specify that it is for Joys and Concerns.*

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### *Contributions to the Celebration of Life*

In memory of **Jean Domovs**, from **Kel Domovs**  
In memory of **Aaron Goldberg**, from **Jan and Stu Sendell, Ellis Jacob and Helen Lippman, J T Spruiell, and Stacey Gregg**  
In memory of **Stacy Peszynski**, from **Stacey Gregg**  
In memory of **Walt Stasiak**, from **Stacey Gregg**  
In memory of **Fil-Ame Mitchell**, from **Stacey Gregg**  
In memory of **Jean (Regina) Silk**, from **Linda DeLap**

*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
Fridays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	8:30 p.m.	Minstrel Coffeehouse	p. 6
Saturday, March 3	8:30 - 12 noon	Keys to Leadership: Building Consensus	p. 7
Monday, March 5	7:00 p.m.	First Monday Book Group	p. 6
Wednesdays, March 7 & 21	7:30 p.m.	EVENSONG	p. 6
Saturdays, March 10 & 24	10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	Spring Crafting Bees	p. 6
Saturday, March 10	7:30 p.m.	Jason Ricci Habitat Benefit Concert	p. 7
Sunday, March 11	12:30 p.m.	Newcomers' Luncheon	p. 6
Sunday, March 11	1:15 p.m.	Normandy Chorale Concert	p. 6
Sundays, March 18, April 1 & 15	1:00 p.m.	Getting to Know UU Class	p. 6
Wednesday, March 21	6:30-9:00 p.m.	West African Drum and Dance	p. 6
Friday, March 30-Sunday, April 1		Women's Spring Renewal Retreat	p. 6
Saturday, March 31		Spring Cleanup	p. 7

### Murray Grove Conference : The Tao of Aging

#### Friday-Sunday, March 9-11

Led by Rev. Patricia Hoerdoerfer of the UUA, based on Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi's book *From Age-ing to Sage-ing*. Cost is \$200/person or \$350/couple, including accommodations. Brochure at [murraygrove.org/pdf/TaoOfAgingBrochurefinal.pdf](http://murraygrove.org/pdf/TaoOfAgingBrochurefinal.pdf).

### More on Bob Marcus's March 25 service.....

In 1992 Marilyn Guernsey videotaped Bob Marcus in his studio while he was working on "You and Me" (the beautiful bronze statue that stands outside the western Meeting Room door) and explaining the lost wax method for making bronze sculptures. The tape is now an eight-minute DVD, on sale at the MUF Book Table. All sales proceeds go to MUF.

### Remember the General Assembly 2007 in Portland, Ore.—June 20-24 CHOICES THAT MATTER

Registration and housing reservations open March 1

Access [www.uua.org/ga/ga07](http://www.uua.org/ga/ga07) for  
up-to-date information

Check out list (on bulletin board) of members and friends who have

indicated interest in attending GA.

Look for copies of GA Portland printed materials in Room 100.

*Rita Morris, Denominational Affairs*



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

## March 2007

Volume 52, No. 3



(New article added on p. 7.)

Dated Material – Mailed: February 26, 2007  
Deadline for the APRIL issue is

**MARCH 15**

*Sunday Services* (9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.)



**March 4**      **Edge of Night**

*Rev. Alison B. Miller*

**March 11**     **Worth Shapers**

*Rev. Alison B. Miller*

**March 18**     **Divine Dimensions**

*Rev. Alison B. Miller*

**March 25**     **Creativity as a Path to Spirituality**

Humans have an innate potential for developing, expressing and nurturing creativity, which is as much a source of pleasure and spiritual joy in our lives as contemplating a beautiful sunset, listening to music, being with friends or making love. The aim of this service is to generate some insight into human creativity as a path to spirituality. Please join us.

*Coordinated by Bob Marcus*