



November 2006

Volume 51, No. 11

News

Reaching In . . .
Reaching Out

From the Minister . . .

“GRATITUDE is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others.” – Marcus Tullius Cicero



The sources of gratitude and abundance in our lives are usually independent of material wealth. They are the gifts we receive that cannot be bought and have no market value. This remains a simple, but elusive, truth.

There is a Buddhist tale that illustrates this point well. There was once a monk who found a most miraculous jewel. This jewel could grant him any wish, including all the gold and gems he would ever want. The monk wondered what he should do with such a find. He didn't need or want a lot of wealth and wanted to give the jewel away to help a poor person.

Yet how could he figure out amongst all the poor people he came across, which individual to favor? He soon realized this was a conundrum for someone as wise as Buddha Sakyamuni. He traveled to Buddha and explained his dilemma. Buddha suggested that he give the jewel to the king who ruled the area.

The monk traveled to the king's palace and made the offering. Now, as you can imagine, this king was extremely wealthy. Although he gladly accepted such a special jewel to add to his collection, he was curious as to why the monk had brought him the gift. He asked what he had done to deserve the treasure. The monk replied that his initial intention was to give the jewel to a poor person. However, when he asked Buddha which person he should choose, he was directed to the king.

The king was perplexed. On one hand he was delighted to have this jewel that really went so well with all the others, and he didn't have one quite like it yet. On the other hand, it seemed strange when the monk was clearly searching for someone destitute. He traveled to Buddha to find out his logic. “Buddha

Sakyamuni, why did you choose me when your student asked what poor person should receive this wonderful jewel?” Buddha replied that although he was the wealthiest man in the world, he also had the greatest need.

No jewel could plug the hole in the king's life; he operated from a place of fearing that he did not have enough. Just like that country music song says, he was "standing knee-deep in the river dying of thirst." He was surrounded by more possessions than could be used in one hundred lifetimes, but he was focused on what he still lacked.

What are the metaphorical jewels that surround you? Are they precious stones, precious people, precious pursuits, or the mere existence of this precious day? Most precious things are fleeting and somehow, paradoxically, easy to ignore. Remember to cherish them while they are there, rather than after they have gone.

Blessed be,

Alison

IN THIS ISSUE	
From the Minister	1
Board of Trustees	2
Humane Focus on Immigration, Financial Health	3
Re: Faith Developments	4
Adult Programs	5
Upcoming Events, Deeds Well Done	6
Piano Concert December 2, GA Signup	7
Social Justice Council	8-9
Joys and Concerns, Help from COM	10
Events Calendar, Welcome New Members	11
Sunday Services	12

Morristown Unitarian Fellowship

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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.

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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

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

Thank you!

From the Board of Trustees



Recent Developments

Stu Sendell has decided to take a sabbatical and therefore has resigned as Assistant Treasurer and is also giving up his other Fellowship duties. The Board has reluctantly accepted his resignation. Stu has always been willing to share his valuable time and expertise, and we will certainly miss his many contributions.

Alison urges the congregation to sign on to the Morristown Interfaith Habitat building project.

There are 117 children and youth registered for Religious Education.

The basement sprinkler and alarm systems have been approved by Morris Township.

Dan Byrd has plans for a new Black Maria film festival format; he will need lots of help for this exciting change.

Pat McNaught will chair the Service Auction again this year.

The Leadership Retreat will be held November 10-11.

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	November 8
Administrative Network	November 15
Program Network	November 29

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the September meetings have been approved and are now posted on the bulletin board in Room 100 and on the website in the Members Only section. Reading the minutes will keep you up to date on developments within Fellowship Committees, recommendations made to the Board, and decisions made on behalf of the Fellowship.

Be a knowledgeable member of your Fellowship!

A Humane Focus on Immigration Issues

Join us at MUF on Saturday, November 4, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon for a forum with four nationally renowned speakers. It is free, with registration and breakfast beginning at 9:30 a.m. This forum is being sponsored by the MUF Immigrant Concerns and Support Group and the Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center to help citizens get past the rhetoric and make better informed civil and humane responses to our immigrant neighbors, who fuel so much of our local economies.

Speakers will be Fr. Hernan Arian, Pastor, St. Margaret's of Scotland, R.C. Parish, Morristown; Fernando Garcia, Director, Border Network for Human Rights; Francesco Pacheco, Organizer, National Day Labor Organizing Network, and Parastou Hassouri, Attorney, American Civil Liberties Union of NJ. Cecilia Cosca will serve as moderator. They will offer educated alternatives to harsh attitudes that drown out constructive dialogue.

For information call Karen Burns at karenburns@casaessex.org, or go to www.windofthespirit.net.

Be informed ...All are welcome... Join us!



See Our Website (Members Only) for Reminder on Pledging/Financial Support

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

	Sept 06	Budget	Variance	TOTAL Jul-Aug 06	Budget	Variance	Annual
INCOME							
41 - Pledges	20,729.00	32,916.00	-12,187.00	87,534.52	98,749.00	-11,214.48	365,000
45 - Building Use	2,800.00	2,604.16	195.84	9,022.50	7,812.56	1,209.94	31,250
46 - Fund Raisers	-1,786.55	1,417.00	-3,203.55	-1,431.55	2,247.00	-3,678.55	26,500
47 - Sunday Morning Contributions	1,046.50	900.00	-146.50	1,932.00	1,900.00	32.00	10,000
49 - Other Income	849.93	1,250.00	400.07	3,910.40	3,750.00	160.40	15,000
TOTAL INCOME	23,638.88	39,087.16	-15,448.28	100,967.80	114,458.50	-13,490.69	447,750
5461 - Misc. Fundraising Expense	106.50			156.50			0
EXPENSES							
51 - Personnel Expenses	23,348.10	26,438.82	-3,090.72	62,699.20	74,333.62	-11,634.42	318,283
52 - Facilities	4,527.98	7,158.67	-2,630.69	15,917.48	20,663.97	-4,746.49	84,748
529 - Building Improvements	0	292.00	-292.00	0	872.00	-872.00	3,500
53 - Office Expense	1,036.36	1,321.45	-285.09	5,188.46	5,553.95	-365.49	17,650
54 - Fellowship Expenses	3,688.94	3,860.00	-171.06	11,614.99	8,540.00	3,074.99	39,689
55 - Committee Activities	1,207.16	2,238.33	-1,031.17	2,595.07	6,075.03	-3,479.96	24,420
58 - Religious Education	979.01	590.00	389.01	1,498.81	590.00	908.81	6,900
6999 - Uncategorized	0			105.35			0
TOTAL EXPENSES	34,894.05	41,899.27	-7,005.22	99,775.86	116,628.50	-16,852.71	495,190
NET INCOME	11,255.17	-2,812.11	-8,443.06	1,192.01	-2,170.01	3,362.02	-47,440

- NOTES**
1. We have a net profit for the first quarter of \$1,192.
 2. We are somewhat behind in pledge income; remember that you may pay your pledge on a monthly basis.
 3. Our reserves are \$80,213; we are a little short of projections.
 4. We have a lead on a large new rental contract.

Respectfully submitted, Anne Paust, Treasurer

Faith Developments

VISION QUEST. The name conjures up images of epic searches for meaning and direction. Days spent in a sweat lodge, weeks or even months spent on walkabout. It seems daunting. Can we really do that? Yes, we can.



When Alison first told me the theme for the year, I was excited. Vision Quest! That's what we're doing this year with RE! At this year's Leadership Retreat (November 10-11), we're going to start talking about our vision for this Fellowship. One part of that is religious education.

One of the tasks of an Interim DRE is a mission and vision process. You examine questions about mission, like: What are we trying to accomplish? What is our goal? Why are we doing this? And questions about vision, such as: Who are we serving? Who do we want to serve? How are we doing that? How can we do it better? What would our dream RE program look like?

Why do we need to do this, you ask? There are a couple reasons. First, it is very easy to get wrapped up in the details of doing what has to be done, of working and not having a chance to look at the big picture. When you do that, it is very easy to lose sight of your goals and get off track. This is your opportunity to assess where things are and look holistically at the program.

Second, you're going to hire a permanent person to the position of Director of Religious Education. You need to have a very clear idea of where you want to go as a congregation and in the children's RE program before you hire this person. Who you look at and ultimately hire will be directly influenced by what you express as your goals and dreams. If you don't know what you want then you increase the chances of getting a DRE who is not a good fit with the congregation.

Because the children's RE program is integral to so many parts of our congregation and affects so many members, this is a conversation that the entire Fellowship is going to have in multiple formats. But you don't have a vision, you say? Or you don't have

kids in the children's RE program? Nonsense. When you come on Sunday and think, "I wish _____ happened in RE," that's a vision moment. When you're sitting in Time for All Ages and think "_____ should happen with the children," that's a vision moment.

We all have opinions about how things are run and what an ideal RE program for the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship would be like. So start thinking big – really big – because now is your chance to make change!

In faith,

Kim

Kim is in the office Sunday through Thursday.

A New/Old GEM in Our Midst

We think the Green Sanctuary Committee has always been a gem, but now it's official: Green Sanctuary Committee is now Green Earth Ministry, or GEM for short. Watch us continue to shine!

Linda Clark

Continuing Adult Programs at the Fellowship

Insight Meditation for UUs

Four Sundays at 7:30 p.m.

October 29, November 5, 12 & 19

Facilitated by Rev. Allen Wells, UU minister, psycho-therapist, member of MUF who has taught Vipassana meditation for 15 years. For MUFers who would like to begin a meditation practice based on the UU value of searching for truth, and for those already practicing Insight Meditation.

For more information: Contact Allen Wells at awsukkha@yahoo.com.

Dying Well - Part II

Thursday, November 2, 7:30 p.m.

Led by Tom McGuinness

We try to live well. How about dying well? We will do a "near-death" exercise and then consider what we'd each like as our epitaph, as well as what songs we'd like sung at our memorial service or funeral.

For more information: Contact Tom McGuinness at tomamor@optonline.net.

Building Your Own Theology

1st & 3d Thursdays beginning November 2, 7:00 p.m.

10-Session Series led by Rev. Alison Miller & Greg Van Nest

"Theology is endlessly fascinating. Why? Because it has to do with the stuff of human experience, the meaning of being and becoming," writes the author of this curriculum, Rev. Richard Gilbert.

Pre-registration required. Space is limited.

For more information: Contact Rev. Alison Miller at 973-540-1177, X204, or amiller@muuf.org.



Tai Chi Light

Saturdays, November 4 & 11, 12:00 noon

Led by Al Chu

This class introduces participants to a new form of simplified meditative Tai Chi exercise that is easy to learn and easy to maintain in consistent practice, especially for the elderly and the busy professional. Given in two hour-long sessions.

For more information: Contact Al Chu at a.chu3@verizon.net.

Women in Early Christianity: Rediscovering the Divine Feminine

Three Sundays, November 5, 12 & 19, 1:00 p.m.

Coordinated by Claire Dixon

Did this summer's Sunday service on "The Da Vinci Code" make you wonder about the role of women and the divine feminine in early Christianity? Through readings and discussion, we will explore what scholars have discovered about this lost aspect of Christian history.

For more information: Contact Claire Dixon at pennamehome@earthlink.net.

Look for the Adult Program brochures at MUF or on our website. You must register by signing up in Room 100, e-mailing us at AdultPrograms@muuf.org, or contacting the MUF Office at 973-540-1177. Be sure to include your phone number and e-mail address. **All classes have limited enrollment, and signing up is a requirement!!!!**



Getting to Know UU

Three Sundays, November 5 & 19, Dec. 3, 1:00 p.m.

Track 1: Adults led by Rev. Alison Miller

Track 2: Children led by Kim Mason, Interim DRE

Are you a newcomer or new member at the Fellowship? Join us to learn more about Unitarian Universalism.

For more information: Contact Rev. Alison Miller at 973-540-1177, X204, or amiller@muuf.org, or Kim Mason at 973-540-1177, X205, or kim@muuf.org.

Voluntary Simplicity

Introduction & seven sessions – dates and times TBA

Coordinated by Claire Mayer

Ever wonder "where did all this stuff come from?" Many people, stressed out from too little time and too much stuff, are turning to simplicity as a way of life in this complex, consumptive society. \$20 book fee.

For more information: Introductory gathering Sunday, November 5, includes session on decluttering. Contact Claire Mayer at clairemayer@optonline.net.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Womanspace—Women's Gathering

Third Sunday of Every Month, 10:30 a.m.

Coordinated by Gloria Jackson

We meet informally for ritual, discussion and sharing of personal experiences. Open to all women, both adults and teens.

For more information: Contact Gloria Jackson at gloriajcksn@aol.com.

UUs for Jewish Awareness (UUJA)

First Friday of Every Month

Conversation/relaxation 7:00 p.m., meeting 7:30 p.m.

Coordinated by Gloria Jackson

We discuss a topic that the group selects. Many meetings focus on major Jewish holidays as they relate to our current beliefs, discuss books and share music, poetry and personal life stories. *No registration required.*

For more information: Contact Gloria Jackson, ajcksn@aol.com.

Upcoming Events

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. Through readings, music, quiet reflection and sharing of experiences, we will explore the following topics:

November 1 Criticism

What role does criticism serve for you?

November 15 Thanksgiving

What does this holiday mean to you?

For further information please see the MUF website or call Drew Hayes at 973-().

Minstrel Coffeehouse

Fridays, 8:30 p.m.

November 3, 10, 17, 24

More information from 973-335-9489 or www.folkproject.org/fp_minstopen.html.

First Monday Book Group

Monday, November 6, 7 p.m.

We will read *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, by Tracy Kidder. On December 4, we'll read *Peace Like a River*, by Leif Enger, and on January 8, *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother*, by James McBride. We meet in Room 208, and we welcome new members. If you have read a great book you would suggest for the future, or just want company to discuss a great book, please join us. Contact Nancy Lee McLure at nlmclure@msn.com for more details.

Fall Cleanup and Poker Tournament

Saturday, November 18, 9 a.m.

(December 2: rain/snow date)

Spend a few hours helping to clean up our beautiful grounds. We need as many people as we can get. With many hands to do the work, our grounds can look better and the spring cleanup will be easier. Folks of all ages are welcome. Yes, the children can come too; there are many jobs they can do.

Also: Second Annual Flaming Chalice Poker Tournament! Immediately following the Fall Cleanup and lunch, from 1-4 p.m. A point-based

series of poker rounds with second-chance bracket. Winner receives the much-heralded Flaming Chalice Poker Trophy; the runner-up receives a CD of the "Positively Fifth Street" book. Tournament "buy-in" of only four hours of Fall Cleanup Day participation. Shuffle up and deal!

Beautification and Preservation Committee

Deeds Well Done

The Board acknowledges and gratefully thanks the following members for their service to the Fellowship:



Pat de la Fuente for coordinating summer Sunday services,

Carol Todd for leading the Adult Program Task Force, its handoff to Adult Programming Committee, and the start of Covenanting Circles, and

Youth Group Habitat Advisors **Garry Hodgson, Alyse Kalas, Ken Nemeth, Cintra Fricke** and **Kris Johnson**.

A/V Volunteers Needed for New Equipment

The Audio/Visual Committee still needs volunteers to operate its new digital camcorder and DVD recorder. If you've videotaped before, you will need to be retrained on the new equipment. It's easy and fun, but different. We also need volunteers to run the sound system, and sometimes to operate the video projector.

Please contact Gabor Kiss at muf-av@gaborkiss.com to indicate your interest in being a volunteer for any of these jobs. Or contact Joe Uhrhane directly for training on the sound system.

SECS
 26 years

Angela Jia Kim, Piano

Saturday, December 2



Back by popular request, Angela is known for her lyrical eloquence and colorful palette.

"An imaginative interpreter...
 beguiling us with fine shadings...
 a limpid tone, exquisite balances...
 painting the music in pastel hues."

—*Fanfare Magazine*

Tickets are \$15 until NOVEMBER 25 ONLY, then \$20

Contact Pat Baxter at [973-627-3282](tel:973-627-3282) or melodylingers@verizon.net



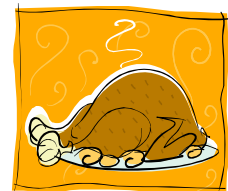
Ready for Next Year's GA?

UUA's General Assembly (GA) 2007 will be in Portland, Oregon! Several members of MUF have professed an interest in attending General Assembly at one of our country's greatest attractions. GA dates are Wednesday, June 20, through Sunday, June 24. Plan to extend your stay to combine the stimulating experience of attending GA with the invigorating wonders of Portland. Check out the website www.uua.org/ga/ga07 for details.

The UUA typically blocks out hundreds of rooms a few months before GA (near the convention center) at which time discount hotel rooms will be available. Current airfares on the internet reflect prices around \$400 round-trip. Please e-mail Rita Morris of your interest, at ritamorris1@verizon.net. A list of interested GA attendees will be posted on our bulletin board.

Social Justice Council

November 2006 Update -- Helping Neighbors in Need



MUF Thanksgiving "Sharing Our Bounty" Two Ways For You/Your Family to Reach Out

1. Thanksgiving Baskets for the Community Soup Kitchen
2. Holiday Presents for Needy Native American Children on the Pine Ridge SD Reservation

1. This is easy and not too expensive! **By Sunday, November 12,** bring the fixings for this CSK-Style Thanksgiving Basket—packed in a Brown Bag(s) (decorated or not). **Let's see how many of the 150 "baskets needed" MUF members can assemble!** Each "basket" contains:

2 Cans of Vegetables	1 Box Instant Mashed Potatoes	2 Boxes Muffin or Biscuit Mix
2 Cans of Soup	1 Box Macaroni & Cheese	2 Cans Cranberry Jelly
1 Pkg. Brownie or Cake Mix	2 Cans of Fruit	1 Can Sweet Potatoes/Yams
1 Box Stove-Top Stuffing	2 Pkgs. Jell-O or Pudding Mix	2 Ready-Made Gravy Jars/Cans/Mix
1 Box Cereal/Oatmeal		Packets

*and...*anything else you want to include, but at least these items. NO TURKEYS, NO PERISHABLE ITEMS. Social Justice Council members will deliver by deadline Nov. 15 ... just bring to Room 100! Mark "From Morristown Unitarian Fellowship."

2. "Christmas on the Rez"—coordinated by Debbie Rice, make this your first holiday gifting. (See article on page 9.)

MUF Immigrant Concerns & Support Group ...and The Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center
Presents ...Forum & Q&A in MUF/Meeting Room

"A Humane Focus on Immigration Issues"

Saturday, November 4, 10 a.m. -12 noon

Speakers: Fr. Hernan Arian, Pastor, St. Margaret's of Scotland, R.C. Parish, Morristown; Fernando Garcia, Director, Border Network for Human Rights; Francesco Pacheco, Organizer, National Day Labor Organizing Network; Parastou Hassouri, Attorney, American Civil Liberties Union of NJ – Moderator: Cecilia Cosca

Free/registration/breakfast: 9:30 a.m. Be informed ...All are welcome.... Join us! See p. 3.

NOW! Two (2) Eric Johnson House Monthly Dinners – Wednesdays, November 1 and November 15, 5:45-7:15 – MUF is meeting two monthly commitments to this great Morristown community of recovering AIDS/HIV neighbors. Your friendly self ...and/or your good cooking needed. Contact Susan Spencer at sespencer@optonline.net to receive your "assignment"; you'll be added to the rotation.

Morristown Soup Kitchen – Help is needed for Tuesday, November 14 serving. We need casseroles, soup, chili, hot dogs and beans. More cooks are needed to prepare food in advance to serve 200 people. Helpers are needed to shop day before for fresh items. Please step up...Contact Sharon Glickman at foxwood1@optonline.net to let her know you are cooking or able to shop! (See note from Sharon on page 9.)

Morris Homeless Solutions Monthly Dinner – Saturday, November 11, 4:45-7 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: judyoneil@optonline.net.

MUF Social Justice Council Monthly Meeting – Thursday, November 16 - 7:30-9 p.m.—Room TBA. You are always welcome to join the Social Justice Council and help us promote social justice at MUF in three ways: supporting MUF Social Action Groups and two Study/Action Groups, planning MUF- wide seasonal/ad hoc activities, and allocating our plate donations to charities in the MUF congregation's name. Contact karenburns@casaessex.org or Michele Kunz at mbkunz@gmail.com for more information.

Looking Forward ... a Place to Shop for "Gifts of Conscience"

The Social Justice Council is planning the 3^d Annual MUF Alternative Holiday Gift Fair...to run December 3 and 9-10. Featuring large selection of crafts/handmade items from third-world artisans offered by "Ten Thousand Villages"! ...Heifer International's income-producing animals/gift shares.... lots of tables for local charities support – gift certificates and symbolic items.

This is a unique MUF holiday activity that shows our Unitarian values and our commitment to making the world a better place! Make Your Gift List! WE WILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP US RUN THE FAIR! Contact karenburns@casaessex.org if you'd like to help out.

Christmas on the Rez 2006



When spreading good will this holiday season, we ask you to remember Native American children living on US reservations. At best, some are gathered by social services to receive a charity meal and Christmas gift of perhaps an orange or apple, or maybe some candy or nuts. On the **Pine Ridge Reservation**, in particular, even these items are prohibitively expensive and aren't always available. However, you can make a difference!

Send a NEW gift in its original packaging, unwrapped, along with a sufficient amount of wrapping paper, ribbon, tags, bows, etc., to support the **Kyle Community Action Program (CAP) Christmas Party**, which serves Native American children of all ages. Monetary gifts are also accepted (make checks payable to "Kyle C.A.P.") and will be used to purchase gifts that are lacking and/or food for the holiday meal. Gifts should be postmarked no later than December 15 to be received in time. **Mail your gifts directly to:**

**Kyle CAP Christmas Party
Charlotte Kills Straight
P.O. Box 496 — South Allen Road
Kyle, SD 57752**

The target number of gifts needed is about 1800 new items. The age group is for babies through 18 years of age, so don't forget the teens. All new toys, winter clothing, personal items, etc., are appropriate (send batteries if needed). Thank you for helping the children.

Let's make 2006 their best Christmas ever!

Any questions, contact Debbie Rice at
sda3rice@optonline.net.

Please feel free to pass this message on to your friends and local community groups!

More Food Needed for Community Soup Kitchen

We need many more casseroles and a lot more soup for MUF's effort for the Community Soup Kitchen. The projected increase to possibly 300 guests during the winter months is a reality, unfortunately. We do need more people to bring food. We have a huge freezer to fill with casseroles and soup. (We are responsible for providing food on the second Tuesday of each month.) Please call me for more information.

Thanks,

Sharon Glickman, foxwood2@optonline.net

Sharing Our Joys & Concerns

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

Are Your Meetings Working?

When people gather as a community we have certain guidelines and expectations for behavior. In our spiritual home our expectations are at an even higher moral and ethical level. It is so rewarding on Sunday mornings in the Great Hall to hear others inquiring about our week, our families and our community. To see the caring when someone finds out about another in crisis, or to watch members come up with a plan to help those in need, is to see us at our best. We are a caring community.

There are times, though, when we may feel unsafe in our spiritual home. As Unitarian Universalists we are very passionate about our ideals and at times we may come in conflict with each other. After all, we are only human. Conflict can be healthy but without right relations in our community an unsafe space is created.

Have you ever been to a meeting when the following scenarios have occurred?

- one person dominates the meeting
- the quiet voices are excluded from the conversation
- someone's opinion is dismissed or ignored
- people interrupt or talk over one another
- anger invades the space

A meeting like this is not working. Even if it accomplishes things, if members are left feeling angry or frustrated, it is not serving the needs of the community. Often these problems arise from a lack of shared understandings about how the group will operate.



Creating a covenant can be both empowering and add to the team-building experience of your meeting space. It creates mutual respect and ownership of the behavioral expectations of all those attending.

We cannot accept behavior that diminishes any of us. If disrespectful, abusive or rude behavior occurs and is ignored, then it is condoned. If it is condoned, then the behavior will be repeated. We have the right and the moral obligation to respectfully remind others of right speech and right behavior. It is our duty to keep us all in a safe space, safe coffee hour, safe meeting, and ultimately a safe and healthy congregation.

The Committee on Ministry (COM) monitors the health of the overall ministry. If the individual parts aren't working, then the whole is not working. One of our roles is to foster right relations so that all of us can live up to our mission and covenant. If something is not working in your part of the Fellowship, we would like to hear about it.

We would also love to hear what you feel is going right.

COM: Ron Corey, Pat de la Fuente, Beth Hayward, Mary Hodgson, Don Preziosi and Toby Tyler

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. Specify that it is for Joys and Concerns.

Thanks!

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
Wednesday, November 1 & 15	7:30 p.m.	EVENSONG	p. 6
Fridays, November 3, 10, 17, 24	8:30 p.m.	Minstrel Coffeehouse	p. 6
Saturday, November 4	10:00-12 noon	A Humane Focus on Immigration Issues	p. 3
Monday, November 6	7:00 p.m.	First Monday Book Group	p. 6
Saturday, November 18	9:00 a.m.	Fall Cleanup and Poker Tournament	p. 6
Saturday, December 2	8:00 p.m.	Concert by Pianist Angela Jia Kim	p. 7
Sunday, December 3 Sat.-Sun., December 9-10		Third Annual Alternative Holiday Gift Fair	p. 9

See page 5 for Continuing Adult Programs schedule!

New Members

Please welcome the following new members who deepened their commitment to the Fellowship by signing the membership book during the last few months:

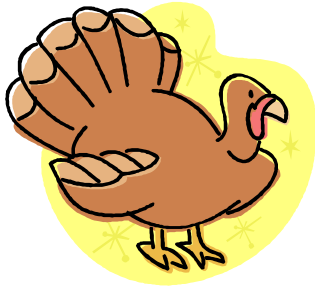
- Lauralee Arnold
- Bruce Daggy
- Teresa Guyton
- Sharon and Frank Heller
- Alyse Kalas
- Elizabeth and Andrew Steinberg



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.

November 2006

Volume 51, No. 11



Dated Material – Mailed: October 30, 2006
Deadline for the DECEMBER issue is

NOVEMBER 15

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



November 5 Radical Religious Callings

Rev. Alison B. Miller

November 12 Vision Quest

Rev. Alison B. Miller

November 19 In the Center, We Meet as One

How can we transcend differences in the meaning of language we use at MUF, such as differences between theists and humanists? Let's transform these contrasts into opportunities to tear down barriers and focus on the core values that unite us.

Coordinated by Pat de la Fuente, Glenn Kendall and Danelle Simonelli

November 26 Thanksgiving Sunday

Rev. Alison B. Miller