



October 2006

Volume 51, No. 10

News

Reaching In . . .
Reaching Out

From the Minister . . .

“WISDOM FROM THE WORLD’S RELIGIONS

which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life” is the third source that Unitarian Universalists draw upon for guidance as religious people. Many of you have expressed a desire to learn more about the history, culture and religion of Islam. In the holiest



month of the Islamic calendar, the month of Ramadan, we are delighted to have Dr. Christopher Taylor, Chair of Drew University’s Department of Religion, as guest lecturer for a series titled “How Well Do We Know Our Global Neighbors?” The series will be held on three consecutive Tuesdays beginning on October 10.

It is in the ninth lunar month of the Muslim calendar, Ramadan, that Muhammad is believed to have received his initial revelation from God and, 10 years later, made his historic move from Mecca to Medina. The first episode is the quest of a pure-hearted man to be closer to God. In that quest, he was drawn to the outskirts of Mecca, to a cave on Mount Hira, where he found both solitude and inspiration.

Around the year 610, in that very cave, the Angel Jibreel is said to have appeared to Muhammad and recited the first revelation of the sacred scripture of Islam: “Proclaim in the name of your Lord who created! Created man from a clot of blood. Proclaim: Your Lord is most generous, who teaches by the pen; teaches man what he knew not” (Qu’ran 96:1-3). The second episode describes the journey of Muhammad from ordinary man to prophet and statesman, as he accepts the invitation from the people of Yathrib (now Medina) to move to their land and to serve as their political and spiritual leader.

Muslims commemorate these two pivotal events by adhering to the fourth pillar of Islam, which is to observe Ramadan and to refrain from eating, drinking, smoking and sexual activity from dawn to sunset for the entire month. According to the Qu’ran, individuals may eat and drink “until you can plainly distinguish a white thread from a black thread by the daylight: then keep the fast until night.” The fast is broken each evening with a special

meal called the iftar, after which it is customary to visit with family and friends. Other observances associated with this holiday are praying five times a day at the appointed times, attending special evening prayers (*tarawih*) at a mosque, and reading the Qu’ran.

Ramadan is meant to be a time of worship and contemplation, a time centered on faith rather than the daily grind. Purity in thought and deed are emphasized. Muslims are expected to make every effort during this month to refrain from attitudes and actions of violence, anger, greed, lies and gossip, as these behaviors will negate the benefits of a month of spiritual practices.

Huston Smith, renowned world religions scholar, describes three spiritual goals of Ramadan: to teach self-discipline, to evoke an awareness of creaturely dependence, and to cultivate deeper compassion for others. In this season of Ramadan, may we remember to act in ways that center our minds and hearts, to appreciate all we have been given, and to reach out in kindness to our circle of family and friends and to all those whom we would relegate to the outside of that circle.

In faith,
Alison

IN THIS ISSUE	
From the Minister	1
Board of Trustees	2
Our Favorite Business Directory, Financial Health	3
Re: Faith Developments, Facing Our Fears	4
Adult Programs	5
Upcoming Events	6
Piano Concert October 21, Covenant Circles	7
Social Justice Council	8
COM, Help Wanted, Audiovisual Volunteers Needed, Photo Directory on Sale	9
Joys and Concerns, Contribution	10
Events Calendar, Dance Group, Yom Kippur Service, Fall Cleanup	11
Sunday Services	12

Morristown Unitarian Fellowship

21 Normandy Heights Road
Morristown, New Jersey 07960-4611
President: Joe Uhrhane

Minister: Rev. Alison B. Miller

Interim Director of Religious Education: Kim Mason

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!

From the Board of Trustees

Recent Developments

We welcomed our Interim Director of Religious Education, Kim Mason.

There were 300 people in attendance at the first September Sunday services.

The Fellowship calendar and room reservations are now listed in the Church Windows database. A single-page (refrigerator art!) calendar is available on the website. The big reservation book has been replaced by a little notebook.

The Board approved the revised Building Use Policy and rate guidelines. Maggie is in the process of creating a new rental brochure that includes frequently asked questions.

We are in good financial health.

Stu Sendell agreed to fill the position of Leadership Leaves Representative.

The Leadership Retreat will be held in November.

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	October 11
Administrative Network	October 18
Program Network	October 25

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the August 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!

***Our Favorite Businesses (OFB)–The Directory Has Arrived!
Difficult Delivery Despite Weighing only 2.2 ounces!***



Remember the new edition conceived last February? It took nine months for this baby to be born. Labor was intense, not brief. And there were NO PAINKILLERS!

You can finally get a joyful look at the new arrival, all dressed in blue, measuring 8½ inches in length, and \$8,000+ in profits. All pledging MUF members and friends can pick up their copies of the new 2006-2008 guide to recommended local businesses on Sundays at the Book Table in the Library. Additional copies will be on sale for \$2 each to cover the cost of future printings. OFB will be posted on our website for two years as well.

Many thanks to all those who gave leads and testimonials for businesses, and to those who purchased, sold and followed up on ads. Kathleen Caccavale did a great job designing the booklet. Pat McNaught helped tons in organization. Gabor Kiss helped proofread those thorny indexes. Sunny Reilly bought and sold every ad on front and back covers—and bunches more.

You'll find the book a valuable reference. Don't forget to let advertisers know where you learned about them. Thank them for supporting the Fellowship too!

Christine Frederick, OFB Veteran

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.)

	Aug 06	Budget	Variance	TOTAL Jul - Aug 06	Budget	Variance	Annual
INCOME							
41 - Pledges	17,516	32,916	-15,400	66,806	65,833	973	365,000
45 - Building Use	4,403	2,604	1,798	6,223	5,208	1,014	31,250
46 - Fund Raisers	-50	417	-467	305	830	-525	26,500
47 - Sunday Morning Contributions	485	500	-16	886	1,000	-115	10,000
49 - Other Income	1,805	1,250	555	3,060	2,500	560	15,000
TOTAL INCOME	24,159	37,687	-13,529	77,279	75,371	1,908	447,750
EXPENSES							
51 - Personnel Expenses	18,767	25,402	-6,635	39,351	47,895	-8,544	318,287
52 - Facilities	5,158	6,808	-1,650	11,390	13,505	-2,116	84,748
529 - Building Improvements	0	292	-292	0	580	-580	3,500
53 - Office Expense	1,961	1,287	674	4,152	4,233	-80	17,650
54 - Fellowship Expenses	4,413	2,276	2,137	7,926	4,680	3,246	37,889
55 - Committee Activities	886	1,869	-983	1,668	3,837	-2,169	26,220
58 - Religious Education	165	0	165	605	0	605	6,900
6999 - Uncategorized	0			20			0
TOTAL EXPENSES	31,350	37,933	-6,583	65,112	74,729	-9,617	495,194
NET INCOME	-7,192	-246	-6,946	12,167	642	11,525	-47,444

- NOTES**
- Over the last two months our profit was \$12,157; this month we spent \$7,192 more than we brought in.
 - Stewardship has sent out statements in hopes of collecting about \$10,000 in last year's pledges. We will be reaching out to RE families in our pledging campaign efforts.
 - We now have on board our part-time Music Director and our Interim RE Director. Salaries account for 71% of our budget.
 - We expect that our congregation will grow in numbers as a result of our increased community, energy and activity.

Respectfully submitted, Anne Paust, Treasurer

Faith Developments

HISTORY. We all have it. When we like it, we call it Tradition. When we don't like it, we call it Baggage. People have it. Places have it. Organizations have it. This congregation has over 50 years of it!



Part of the work of the Interim DRE process is looking at the history of Religious Education at the Fellowship. It is all around us. It is the curricula that have "traditionally" been used. It is the choice of furniture in certain rooms. It is the way things have "always" been done. There are some pieces of history we need to let go of. And some we should keep.

Sometimes it's hard to know which to keep and which to get rid of. The interim process takes all of those pieces of history and acknowledges the role they have played in creating the current situation—good and bad. Then it examines what is still beneficial and what is standing in the way of moving forward. Those things that stand in the way of moving forward are the very pieces of history that we have to let go of. That may mean changing curricula. That may mean modifying a tradition. It may mean getting rid of that worn-out piece of furniture. And sometimes things that we thought were bad, or in our way, looked at in another light may still have some purpose and function.

When I was first announced as the new Interim DRE for Morristown at a religious educator's training, one of my colleagues took me aside and said, "You should really get rid of that couch in the upstairs hallway." I thanked her for her opinion and reminded myself to check out the couch in the upstairs hallway.

Once here I walked upstairs and saw immediately a rather dingy looking couch just outside the RE office door. "Yes," I thought, "that couch probably needs to go." But when I looked at it a little closer I saw that what appeared to be the original upholstery was in fact a slipcover! Underneath the slipcover was a still serviceable piece of furniture. And when I talked to some people

about the couch they told me how members often sat and had conversations there. It was a gathering spot, and a place of connection and community.

So when you come upstairs you will see a blue couch outside the RE Office. It's not the most attractive couch and should probably be in line for replacement at some point in the future, but right now we still have a use for it—it serves a purpose and has a function.

Not every piece of our RE history will find new life under an old slipcover and not all changes will happen overnight. Our first step is to gather and honor the Religious Education history this congregation has.

One of the ways that we are doing that is through our "RE Scrapbook." Upstairs in the second floor hallway is a large bulletin board that says RE Memories. On it I have been putting things I have found that relate to RE here at MUF. But I need your help! I need you to bring in your handouts and class projects and pictures of past RE events to share. You can even write up your memories and post them on the board. We have a deep and rich history of Religious Education here and this is one way to recognize that. So please bring in your pieces of history to share. I look forward to learning about your RE memories.

In faith,

Kim

"Facing Our Fears," an October 29 Service

Betsy Burr is looking for members and friends interested in helping create an intergenerational service exploring the deeper meaning of Halloween. Are there fears which you have successfully faced? We'd like to have your sharing be part of this Sunday morning experience. Unsure if you qualify? You do! Just contact Betsy at burrs@att.net.

Parents take note: We're hoping your kids will come in costume and take part in a procession!

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, as well as for those already practicing Insight Meditation who like the support of a group.

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 & 3rd 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.

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.

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.



Tai Chi

Two sessions – dates and times TBA

Led by Al Chu

An introduction to the Chinese practice of meditative movement.

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

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. Introductory gathering includes session on decluttering.

For more information: Contact Claire Mayer at clairemayer@optonline.net.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Womanspace—Women's Gathering

Third Sunday of Every Month, 10:30 a.m., beginning September 17

Coordinated by Gloria Jackson

We meet each month for an informal gathering that includes 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 – beginning October 6

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.

Look for the Adult Program brochures at the Fellowship or on our website, or contact caroltodd@att.net.

Upcoming Events

First Monday Book Group **Monday, October 2, 7 p.m.**

We will read *American Pastoral*, by Philip Roth. New members are always welcome! Contact Nancy Lee McLure at 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. Through readings, music, quiet reflection and sharing of experiences, we will explore the following topics:

October 4 Poetry

Janine Torsiello, a resident MUF poet, will be the guest leader for this service.

October 18 Communicating

How well do you communicate with others? For further information please see the MUF website or e-mail drwhayes@netscape.net.

An Inconvenient Truth

Saturday, October 7, 7 p.m.

Al Gore's acclaimed film about global warming will be shown at MUF, followed by a discussion and a practical how-to presentation. No admission charge (donations accepted). Sponsored by the Global Warming/Green Sanctuary Committee. Contact Claire Mayer at clairemayer@optonline.net.



Minstrel Coffeehouse

Fridays, 8:30 p.m.

October 13 (Open Stage), 20, 27

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

Getting to Know Our Global Neighbors

Tuesdays, October 10, 17, 24, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

This Middle East Forum will be presented at the Fellowship by Social Responsibilities' Common Ground and the UU-UN Envoy. It will cover Islamic History (October 10), Islamic Culture and Society (October 17) and Islamic Religion (October 24).

It will be led by Dr. Christopher Taylor, Chair of the Drew University Department of Religion, followed by a question-and-answer period. It will

seek to answer questions such as these: What are the origins of people who live in the Middle East? What do we know about the Islamic religion within everyday family and community life? Is "Islamic terrorist" an oxymoron? May we come to an acceptance of differences, thus forming a firm basis for "right relations" across the world?



Next spring, after this solid basis has been laid for understanding, Drew political science professor Douglas Simon will lead discussions on an analysis of the Middle East political and economic problems.

Tickets are \$20 for the series, \$8 for single sessions. "Two-fers" will be available at \$5 for young people who bring along a friend from outside the Fellowship. Contact eleanormason@att.com for details.

Fear of Singing (The Living Tradition)

Mondays, October 16 and 23, 7 p.m.

Designed for those who like to sing, and especially for those who are hesitant to sing, or who feel they have less than pleasing voices, these fun, "hands-on" sessions led by Jim Blanton in the Terrace Room are designed to build enjoyment and confidence in singing for congregants of all levels of vocal prowess. Learn some basic techniques of singing and uncover some of the mysteries of musical notation through familiar songs from our hymnals/songbooks, as well as learning a few new songs. Pre-registration is requested. See Jim, or e-mail him at music@muuf.org.

Newcomer Luncheon

Sunday, October 22, 12:30 p.m.

If you've been coming to MUF for awhile and would like to get to know us better and for us to get to know you, please come to this luncheon after the second service. Childcare will be available. Please contact Susan Oxman at soxman13@verizon.net by October 15 if you plan to come. You can also sign up at the Welcome Table.

Dinners at 8 Groups Starting

Do you like good food and good company? Sign up for our "Dinners at 8" dining groups on the Room 100 signup sheet, or call/email Judy Oehler at judithoehler@att.net, or Kathy Burgess at kathyb.41@verizon.net.



The Year of the Piano



Saturday, October 21 – Paul Zeigler, Piano

With duo-pianist Mitchell Vines, music director of the Summit UU Church
 Selections by Mozart, Debussy, Ravel, Poulenc, Zeigler
 Baritone David McFerrin will perform Zeigler's
Peace: An Anti-War Song Cycle on Five Poems by Langston Hughes

Saturday, December 2 – Angela Jia Kim, Piano

With violinist TBA

Saturday, April 28 – Duo Internationale

Icelandic pianist **Vikingur Olafsson** and Armenian-Canadian cellist **Karen Ouzounian**

We also hope to present several concerts by our talented students later in the year.

Season tickets are \$40; individual tickets are \$15 until the week before each concert, then \$20.

Contact Pat Baxter at melodylingers@verizon.net

or 973-627-3282

Covenant Circles Kick-Off Dinner

Sunday, October 15, 5:30-8 p.m.

Be a part of MUF's new small-group ministry initiative! A Covenant Circle is a group of people who meet regularly to explore spiritual questions, with each circle built around a particular interest, topic or affinity. Circle members agree to meet at least once a month for ten months, from October through July. They also agree to a covenant – a commitment – about how they will treat one another to create a safe space within the group. Discussion is based on sharing, rather than debating, and is facilitated by trained MUF members.



The circle's work also includes a service project for the Fellowship or the larger community. Covenant Circles offer a chance, as the Fellowship grows larger, to make deeper connections with a small group of people and, ultimately, with our congregation as a whole.

For more information, pick up a brochure and

registration form at MUF, check out the website at www.muuf.org/AdultPrograms or contact caroltodd@att.net. **Registration should be mailed by Wednesday, October 11**, to AdultPrograms@muuf.org or submitted to the MUF Office, Attn: Adult Programs, 21 Normandy Heights Rd., Morristown, NJ 07960.

Transylvania Tidbits

1. Stephen Colbert has won a contest to have a new bridge over the Danube named after him. There is only one slight snag ... see for yourself on Youtube www.youtube.com/watch?v=lmxKhyEPMFg.
2. The Partner Church Committee has been invited to present a program about the Partner Church program and our experiences, at the Rockland County UU Church in Pomona, NY, on October 15.

Social Justice Council

October Update -- Helping Neighbors in Need



***Formerly known as the Social Responsibilities Committee...we are now your Social Justice Council
...we have the same mission:***

1. Help people in our community to *serve humanity* – their own and that of our neighbors;
2. Affirm and *support* the human service *action* taken by our members;
3. Create or *select venues* in which MUF members can live our UU values and “do the right thing”;
4. Encourage an awareness of the spirituality of setting UU values into action.

Adopted by resolution 3/9/06

We serve as an umbrella group to support our 10 Social Action Groups and Study/Action Groups....and we also conduct special/seasonal social action activities during the year (e.g., Peace Festival, Alternative Holiday Gift Fair, Food Pantry Drives, Northwest NJ Community Action Program (NORWESCAP) – Sponsor-a-Family, and other initiatives). We also meet monthly to allocate MUF’s 50% plate collections to charity. You too can join the Social Justice Council...or become active in any of the 10 MUF social action groups which maintain their own activities, priorities and memberships/supporters, including;

- Green Sanctuary
- Seeds of Peace
- Interfaith Council for Homeless Families of Morris County (ICHF)
- Soup Kitchen Committee
- Eric Johnson House Committee
- Prison Ministry Team
- Homeless Solutions Dinner Team
- Immigrant Concerns & Support Study Action Group
- UUA Priorities Study/Action Group
- SCAN Concert Committee

There’s a Role for You in Social Justice at MUF! For information consult contacts listed in our Membership Directory or write karenburns@casassex.org.

The next meeting of the Social Justice Council is Thursday, October 19, 7:30 p.m. We will be planning Thanksgiving and Holiday projects for the Fellowship.

Eric Johnson House Family-Style Dinner—October 4 & 18, 5:45 p.m.-7 p.m. – Break bread with and have a simple conversation with the residents of the Eric Johnson House, who are all recovering from homelessness and AID/HIV major setbacks. Contact Susan Spencer at senspencer@optonline.net and you will be added to the rotation to help out with meal preparation and/or hosting.

Morristown Soup Kitchen –Tuesday, October 10 – Cook-in-Your-Own-Kitchen chefs always needed. Need at least 16 casseroles and 6 gallons of soup to serve 200 neighbors on our day. Store casseroles and soup in MUF freezer prior to October 8; thereafter in fridge. Clearly mark for Community Soup Kitchen. Sharon Glickman (foxwood2@optonline.net) thanks you.

Morris Homeless Solutions Monthly Dinner – Saturday, October 14, 4:45-7 p.m. – Serve up some fun and brighten the evening for the 60+ adult and child residents. MUF monthly cheeseburger & birthday cake dinner. Meet at Homeless Solutions Shelter: West Hanover Avenue County Complex. Contact judyoneil@optonline.net.

NORWESCAP – “Support-a-Family” – Our Dover family had a tragic flood in their apartment last month and they need lots of basics again—bedding, clothing, household items. Michelle Kunz has a list and you can also donate gift cards from supermarkets, Target, etc. They lost so much of the precious little they have—family is single working/studying mom, three teen boys and young girl. Thanks!

Immigrant Concerns & Support Group – Looking forward...on Saturday, November 4, to a MUF/ Wind of the Spirit-hosted forum ***“A Humane Look at Immigrant Issues.”*** We will have several guest panellists to brief us on both local and a national policy perspective...get accurate info and debunk myths about immigrants. Focus on humane solutions at MUF – 9:30 a.m. breakfast, 10 a.m.-12 noon forum.

How Goes the Spirit of the Fellowship?

The Committee on Ministry (or COM) is a group of six Fellowship members elected by the congregation to work with its members and the professional ministry to promote and support all that we are doing in our congregational life. Our mission is to deal with conflicts and issues of human relations in the Fellowship, so they don't detract from the important work within. "How goes the spirit of the Fellowship?" is our watchword and guiding vision.

- COM takes a high-level view of the congregation and its ministry; it stands apart from individual or group agendas.
- COM works with individuals or groups when they have a problem or complaint by encouraging direct and constructive communication among members of the congregation, the professional ministry and staff.
- COM responds with positive communication when there are misunderstandings or grievances raised by members or the minister or both.
- COM may organize "town meetings" to provide a format for all members to discuss a particular issue that concerns the Fellowship and to listen to each other.
- COM makes recommendations to the committees and the Board when there may be gaps or deficiencies in our ministry.

COM has no authority to decide anything or carry out a specific action. Our role is to provide conflict resolution, foster right relations, and make recommendations on how we can live up to our mission and covenant. We welcome your thoughts and observations. All members and friends of MUF are encouraged to speak to any member of COM to discuss anything that affects the health and well-being of our Fellowship.

The 2006-2007 COM members are Ron Corey, Pat de la Fuente, Beth Hayward, Mary Hodgson, Don Preziosi and Toby Tyler.

Help Wanted!

Finance Committee



The Finance Committee is streamlining our financial reports in response to suggestions from an accountant. We will be running the proposed format parallel to the old format to make sure nothing is lost. We need volunteer data-entry people since all data will have to be re-entered to the new system. Experienced volunteers are needed near the end of September and October. Contact Anne Paust at annedes@att.net, or Stu Sendell at sdsendell@aol.com.

Aid for Nicaragua

Help PeaceWorks collect aid for its 50th humanitarian aid shipment to Nicaragua. Sports equipment, school materials, computer equipment (Pentium II or newer), household items, office equipment and supplies, summer clothing and medical supplies can be brought to Room 100 on Sundays, October 8 and 15. But please, no bicycles this time. Call Jim Burchell with any questions.

A/V Volunteers Needed for New Equipment

The Audio/Visual Committee has purchased a new digital camcorder and DVD recorder. The quality of our recordings will be much better starting in September, both picture and sound. Those who have been doing the videotaping will need to be retrained on the new equipment. It's easy and fun, but different.

New volunteers are needed for Sunday programs: for videotaping, running the sound system, and sometimes operating the video projector. Please contact Gabor Kiss at 908-850-5535 or muf-av@gaborkiss.com to indicate your interest in being a volunteer for any of these jobs, for training and for scheduling. Or contact Joe Uhrhane at 973-538-1445 directly for training on the sound system.

Photo Directory on Sale

Photo Directories are on sale at the Book Table for \$10 each. About 15 people who are entitled to free copies have not yet picked theirs up. Please contact Gabor Kiss at gabor@gaborkiss.com.



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.

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 Celebration of Life

To the Endowment Fund, from **Vince and Dena Peszynski**

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.

Toward Inclusive Language at MUF: Nov. 19

We're looking for participants to help plan a lay-led service on November 19 about the language we use at MUF. Do you want more “God talk” at the Fellowship? Or maybe more “humanist talk”? How can we work toward a more inclusive use of language, so that people feel free to use words that have meaning to them, while allowing others to do the same? No prior experience in Sunday services needed—just bring your ideas and views on this topic. Please contact Pat de la Fuente at karasr@optonline.net or Danelle Simonelli at dksimonelli@hotmail.com.



Upcoming Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Details
Monday, October 2	7:00 p.m.	First Monday Book Group	p. 6
Wednesday, October 4	7:30 p.m.	EVENSONG	p. 6
Saturday, October 7	7:00 p.m.	Al Gore's <i>An Inconvenient Truth</i>	p. 6
Tuesdays, October 10,17,24	7:30-9:30 p.m.	A Middle Eastern Forum Series	p. 6
Fridays, October 13,20,27	8:30 p.m.	Minstrel Coffeehouse	p. 6
Sunday, October 15	5:30-8:00 p.m.	Covenant Circles Kick-Off Dinner	p. 7
Mondays, October 16 & 23	7:00 p.m.	Fear of Singing	p. 6
Saturday, October 21	8:00 p.m.	Paul Zeigler Concert, includes <i>Peace: An Anti-war Song Cycle on Langston Hughes' Poems</i>	p. 7
Sunday, October 22	12:30 p.m.	Newcomer Luncheon	p. 6

See page 5 for Continuing Adult Programs schedule!

Special Service

A Free Faith Observance of **Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)** will be held **Sunday, October 1, at 7 p.m.** Contact Gloria Jackson at gloriajcksn@aol.com for details.

Creative Dance Group **Thursdays, 7:30-9 p.m.**

Our professional leader is Elizabeth Mozer, who has danced in several Broadway shows, taught in New York for 15 years and is Artistic Director of the movement theater company called Theater of the Flesh. She works cooperatively with her dancers in developing dance pieces. Come try us out for great fun and exercise. Your first night is free. Contact Astrid Martin for more information.

Fall cleanup and poker tournament **Saturday, November 18** **(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 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 "Positively Fifth Street" book. Tournament "buy-in" of only four hours of Fall Cleanup Day participation. Shuffle up and deal! *B and P Committee*



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.

October 2006

Volume 51, No. 10



Dated Material – Posted: September 20, 2006
Deadline for the NOVEMBER issue is

OCTOBER 15

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



October 1 We Begin Again in Love

We will explore the theme of forgiveness in honor of the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur, which begins this evening at sunset.

Rev. Alison B. Miller

October 8 Doorway to the Sacred

Rev. Alison B. Miller

October 15 Changing Lenses

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

October 22 Abraham's Legacy

Rev. Alison B. Miller

October 29 Facing Our Fears

At Halloween time we are reminded of fears real and imagined. In this service, we will recall some of our childhood fears and how we have coped with them. Many adult fears are helped in the same ways, so listen up!

Both 9 and 11 a.m. services are designed for all ages. Parents and children, please consider coming to the second session—we want the children's participation! A COSTUME PARADE will lead off each service, so young and old are invited to come in costume. Those lacking a costume but loving parades, we invite you to help us make and decorate masks during coffee hour on October 15 and 22.

Coordinated by Betsy Burr and Carol Titus