



September 2006

Volume 51, No. 9

News

Reaching In . . .
Reaching Out

From the Minister . . .

“Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?”

- Mary Oliver, UUA General Assembly Ware Lecturer, 2006



I AM DELIGHTED to welcome all of you to our second year as partners in ministry at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship. Our dynamic fall schedule begins on Sunday, September 10, but as any of you who have been in our building of late can attest, there are numerous developments already underway.

“Vision Quest” is our overarching theme for the year. What is your purpose and potential in this one life? What is our purpose and potential as one incredible bunch of people who have cast our lot together? We will metaphorically journey with one another in worship and in learning and in leadership opportunities for all ages as we seek to articulate our deeper sense of call and vocation as individual human beings and as a congregation.

There are several developments in the area of lifelong, holistic learning. Kim Mason started this August as our new Interim Director of Religious Education. Very much in line with our theme for this year, Kim will collaborate with teachers, parents, children, youth and other leaders to help us to clarify our vision, to build on existing strengths, and to address areas of growth. A big thank-you to the members who served with me on the Interim DRE Search: David Palmer, Joe Uhrhane and Diana West.

On the adult front, don't miss out on our new Covenant Circle groups. The facilitators have been meeting in the first Covenant Circle this summer, and they are eager to launch new ones on October 15 with as many of you as are interested. The commitment is to meet with your fellow group members once a month for the year. As I learned during my internship year, the return on this commitment can be quite palpal.

One woman found new friends in a congregation when she was seeking connection. One man found people who would listen as he sought to find a spiritual practice to help center himself after a divorce. One family discovered it was their covenant group friends who were first on the scene after their house burned down.

Our music ministry will take off in new directions this fall. Jim Blanton, our new Music Director, begins his tenure with us in September. To all of you who have been waiting to sing more often in a choir, and to all of you who have musical musings about our future, I think you will be very pleased. A song of praise for the members who served with me on the Music Director Search Committee: Irene Bush, Paul Ferm (co-chair), Steve Parker, Ken Piascik (co-chair), and David Stasiak.

This also means that it is time for all of us to celebrate and honor the four years of volunteer service that Beth Wilson has donated between paid Music Directors. Please, join with me in our special recognition of her on Sunday, September 17.

In faith,
Allison

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Morristown Unitarian Fellowship

21 Normandy Heights Road
Morristown, New Jersey 07960-4611

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Minister: Rev. Alison B. Miller

Interim Director of Religious Education: Kim Mason

Music Director: Jim Blanton

Editor, Layout and Graphics Design: Pat Baxter
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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.

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

Deeds Well Done

The Board wishes to acknowledge and gratefully thank the following members for their service to the Fellowship:

Rita Morris for organizing a large Fellowship contingency to attend the UUA General Assembly.

The Music Director Search Committee, **Paul Ferm, Ken Piascik, Irene Bush, Steve Parker, Dave Stasiak, Beth Wilson, and Rev. Alison Miller**, for their many hours and dedicated energy to screen, interview and audition candidates.

Gabor Kiss for selecting a new camera, which is already in use.

Jo Sippie-Gora for organizing the Seeds of Peace presentation of “A Call for Honest Elections: How Computerized Voting Threatens Democracy and What We Can Do About It” with author Mark Crispin Miller; she also coordinated a public forum on Iraq, featuring U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez at MUF.

Michelle Kunz for her fundraising efforts during 2005-2006.

Recent Developments

Sunday attendance has been fabulous, with new people coming every week.

We have received a \$13,400 Historic Preservation grant, thanks to Steve Rice, that will enable us to draw up a 10-year Master Plan.

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	September 13
Administrative Network	September 20
Program Network	September 27

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the July 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!

UUA General Assembly (GA) Delegates Have News for Us

MUF delegates to this year's GA held in St. Louis are eager to share their "astounding" experience with our larger Fellowship. You will recognize the GA delegates, who will be proudly wearing their GA badges which sport ribbons and pins honoring the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship's UU good works. From our minister Alison Miller, president Joe Uhrhane, Tony and Karen Rutigliano, Linda Clark, Ruth Vogler, Rita Morris to our GA expert Eleanor Mason, all are ready and eager to share their "astounding" GA story. Ask them.....

Rita Morris, Denominational Affairs Delegate

Jim Blanton Joins MUF as Music Director

Jim Blanton will begin his new job as our Music Director on September 10, playing for the first service of the new year by the Rev. Alison Miller. Holder of a Doctorate in Musical Arts from Florida State University, he has extensive performance experience as a pianist, organist and singer, as well as an accompanist for chamber and choral groups. He is the creator and producer of *Kids Classics*, an educationally based series of children's and family performances.



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.)

	July 06 Actual	July 06 Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget	Annual Budget	
INCOME	41 - Pledges	49,289	32,917	16,372	150%	365,000
	45 - Building Use	1,820	2,604	-784	70%	31,250
	46 - Fundraisers	355	413	-58	86%	26,500
	47 - Sunday Morning Contributions	401	500	-99	80%	10,000
	49 - Other	41	1,250	-1,209	3%	15,000
	TOTAL INCOME	51,906	37,684	14,222	138%	447,750
EXPENSES	51 - Personnel Expenses	20,584	22,785	-2,201	90%	318,287
	52 - Facilities	6,232	6,698	-466	93%	84,748
	529 - Building Improvements	0	288	-288	0%	3,500
	53 - Office Expenses	1,856	2,946	-1,090	63%	17,650
	54 - Fellowship Expenses	2,473	2,404	69	103%	37,889
	55 - Committee Activities	782	1,967	-1,185	40%	26,220
	58 - Religious Education	440	0	0	0%	6,900
		TOTAL EXPENSES	32,366	37,088	-4,722	87%
	NET INCOME	19,540	596	18,944	3278%	-47,444

NOTES

1. This month we have a profit of over \$19,000, which almost exactly equals the prepaid pledges which we reserved until the current fiscal year.
2. Our available reserves at the end of July were \$99,711. This includes the required 10% reserves of \$49,519.
3. We have hired a part-time Music Director and a full-time Interim Director of Religious Education.
4. The Finance Committee will continue meeting to discuss our accounting practices, including moving many of the trust accounts to line items or Endowment.
5. Our budget is a deficit this year (as it was last year) but will be covered by our healthy reserves.
6. Our pledges for the current fiscal year total more than \$350,000 at this time, and we expect more.

Faith Developments

GREETINGS! I

haven't met very many of you yet, so I'd like to take this first Newsletter column as an opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Kim Mason, and I am the new Interim Director of Religious Education.



What is an Interim DRE, you say? An Interim DRE is a specially trained religious professional who comes to a congregation during a period of transition in religious education leadership. In the coming year at Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, we will be looking at the history of religious education, exploring your vision for religious education, and preparing for a new religious education professional. And of course, doing excellent religious education!

I come to Morristown from Baltimore, Maryland. It is an amazing city with a tremendous amount of history and culture – and a troubled past. If you have visited Baltimore in the past year, you will have noticed signs, billboards, bumper stickers and T-shirts that say BELIEVE. The Baltimore Believe campaign is an anti-drug campaign aimed at creating a future for the children of Baltimore. But to many people it has come to represent a commitment to many other aspects of being a part of the Baltimore community.

When I think about the work that we will be doing this year at MUF, I am reminded of the Baltimore Believe campaign. We are committing to being in community and to working together to build a future for our Unitarian Universalist children. The Baltimore Believe campaign has three major themes. If I were to translate them for the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship they would be (1) supporting the children of the Fellowship and rebuilding the future of religious education; (2) believing that it can be done, must be done and will be done, and (3) recognizing that everyone has a role to play and that we are on this journey together.

I BELIEVE in religious education at Morristown Unitarian Fellowship. The people that I have met so far are dedicated to a program that

nurtures our children and youth and provides a home for them in Unitarian Universalism. There is a tremendous amount of energy around supporting religious education, and not just from parents. As we move forward through this year I will be in touch with many different constituencies in the Fellowship because religious education is a vital part of the ministry of this congregation, and each and every one of you has a voice to be heard, a perspective to share and a role to play.

I will be setting up conversations with individuals, small groups and large groups in the Fellowship. And I will be in touch with each of the RE families as the fall starts. I look forward to meeting you all, parents and non-parents, and if you have thoughts, concerns, ideas, or just want to share your experience with religious education at MUF, give me a call, send me an e-mail or stop by my office. I welcome the opportunity to hear from you.

We have a lot of work to do. I look forward to your company as we dig in and get our hands dirty.

In faith,

Kim

Kim Mason, an experienced religious professional, comes to Morristown Unitarian Fellowship from the Joseph Priestley District, where she was the Young Adult and Campus Ministry Director. During her tenure, the program grew from a half-time campus-only focus to a full-time position encompassing both young adult and campus ministry. A native of no particular state, Kim calls Raleigh, NC, where her parents live, home, and is looking forward to being closer to her brother and sister-in-law who recently moved to New York City.

Kim has a Master's degree in Journalism and has worked as a research analyst for a newspaper chain and as a legislative fellow for a member of Congress. A trained young adult and campus ministry consultant and workshop leader for the UUA, Kim has spent much of her career doing congregational assessments and mission and vision work with local, district and continental groups. Her volunteer experiences include serving as a covenant group facilitator and singing in the Jubilee Singers at All Souls DC.

How Well Do We Know Our Global Neighbors?

Tuesdays in October 7:30-9:30 p.m.

A Forum on the Middle East will be presented at the Fellowship by Social Responsibilities' "Common Ground."

The schedule will be:

October 10 - Islamic History

October 17 - Islamic Culture and Society

October 24 - Islamic Religion



Dr. Christopher Taylor, Chair of the Drew University Department of Religion, will speak, followed by a question-and-answer period. Refreshments will be served at 9 p.m.

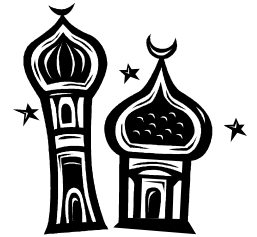
There are many questions. What are the origins of people who live in the Middle East? Were they nomadic or settled cultures? Do we actually know much about the Islamic religion within everyday family and community life? Is "Islamic terrorist" an oxymoron? May we come to an acceptance of differences, 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.

Please find registration flyers on your return to the Fellowship in September. The Box Office will open on September 10. Tickets are \$20 for the series, \$8 for single sessions.

Please write checks to Morristown Unitarian Fellowship with "Forum" on the memo line. "Two-fers" will be available for young people who bring along a friend from outside the Fellowship at \$5. All tickets will be held at the door. (See flyer for details.)

Eleanor Mason



Personnel Policy

The Personnel Committee was established in 2003 as a task force to help evaluate and respond to numerous staff changes and issues. There was a need to help the Fellowship handle employee benefits, job descriptions, evaluations and transitions more effectively.

As work in these areas was systematically undertaken, it became clear that this committee should articulate their work as a revised and improved personnel policy. Starting with a policy from the 1990's, the policy was revised with input from many sources and approved by the Board of Trustees in March 2006. The purpose of the policy is to help ensure that all employees are treated fairly and appropriately, to create a mutual understanding of expectations and to be in compliance with employment laws.

The personnel policy includes a list of employee benefits for full and part-time employees and job descriptions for all MUF employees. Procedures have been established for hiring, pay adjustments, performance appraisals and terminations, and include a complaint/grievance process.

This past year has been an exciting one for MUF. As we hire new staff, including a minister, administrator, administrative assistant, music director and religious educators, the policy is helping our staff, candidates and search committees act in a balanced and informed manner. The Personnel Committee consists of Paul Ferm (chair), Lorelei Harris and Claire Dixon. The policy is available in the office for review.

Missing Persons Wanted!

If you have noticed that any member or friend who used to attend MUF regularly is no longer coming, we would like to know about it. The Welcoming and Membership Support Committee would like to contact these people to find out how they are doing and why they are no longer attending. Help us find our missing persons! Please contact Susan Oxman at soxman13@verizon.net.

Upcoming Events

Minstrel Coffeehouse Fridays, 8:30 p.m.

September 1, 8 (Open Stage), 15, 22, 29
More information from 973-335-9489 or
www.folkproject.org/fp_minstopen.html.

First Monday Book Group Monday, September 11, 7 p.m.

The group will read *Beloved*, by Toni Morrison.
Contact Nancy Lee McLure at nlmclure@msn.com.

Department of Peace Walkathon Saturday, September 16

Help raise awareness and funds to make the Department of Peace a reality! Participate in the North Jersey Walkathon in Morristown. Meet at Church of the Redeemer; registration 9:30 a.m., walk starts at 10 a.m. For more information e-mail Tricia at PFressIdrobo@hotmail.com. From Rita Morris, Denominational Affairs.

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 topic:

September 20 Prayer and Spiritual Practice

For further information please contact Drew Hayes at drwhayes@netscape.net or Danelle Simonelli at dksimonelli@hotmail.com.

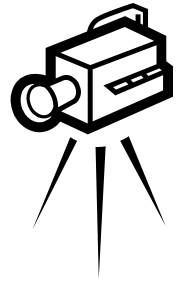
Circle Dinner Saturday, September 30, 7 p.m.

Join, dine and socialize with other MUFers at one of the small dinner parties (approx. 6-8 people) on this date. All are welcome!

Circle Dinners are an excellent way to meet new people and get to know familiar faces a little better. Volunteer hosts are always encouraged and appreciated. (Separate signups will be done for future dinners, scheduled for February 10 and April 14.) Contact Diane Martin at jkdldmartin1@aol.com.

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.



SECS SATURDAY EVENING CONCERT SERIES



The Year of the Piano Saturday Evening Concert Series

Saturday, October 21 – Paul Zeigler, Piano
With duo-pianist Mitchell Vines, of the Summit UU Church, and David McFerrin, performing 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.

Dinners at 8 Groups Starting

Do you like good food and good company? Well, if so, don't be left out!! Now is the time to sign up for MUF's "Dinners at 8" dining groups. Check Room 100 for the signup sheet, or call/email Judy Oehler at judithoehler@att.net, or Kathy Burgess at kathyb.41@verizon.net.

MUF, in solidarity with the UN call for an International Day of Peace on September 21, invites all its members to our own...

MUF
“2006 UN One Day of Peace”
Family Festival, Picnic & Concert
Sunday, September 24
10:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m.

Kids Crafts...Picnic Lunch for Everyone
Family Peace Concert hosted by the Minstrel
Coffeehouse!!



In keeping with the UN spirit of incorporating Day of Peace reflections in our daily lives, the MUF Social Responsibilities Committee is hosting a super-fun day with practical acts of Peace for our MUF family, including.....

KIDS' PEACE CRAFT WORKSHOPS: (after Religious Education classes and during second service) :

- Host Susan Berkowitz, visionary behind “All Peoples Day,” will host two workshops for our children:
 10:30 a.m.- 12:00 noon – Craft Dough People – a narrated lesson about “Lies of Prejudice” and hands-on creation of very cool dough people – kids aged 4-11.
 12:00-1:00 p.m.– Peace Cranes – Origami folded peace cranes against the child-appropriate legend of Hiroshima child and nuclear non-proliferation–Kids aged 8-14.
 (Parents: Please preview [www: allpeoplesday.com](http://www.allpeoplesday.com).)
- Carol Titus -Storytelling Workshop – 10:30 a.m.-12:00 for older kids ages 8-14,
- Two Peace-Banner-Making Workshops – kids/adults of all ages 10:30-12:00 and 12:00-1:00 p.m. – inspired felt banners to take home,
- Homer's Magic –twice for little ones ages 3-8 at 10:30-12:00 and 12:00-1:00–astonishing cuttings delight ...and entertain.

FANTASTIC PICNIC LUNCH FOR EVERYONE! –12 noon-1 p.m. \$5 Adults, \$3 Children, \$15 max/Family. Gourmet catered sandwiches, lemonade, iced tea, watermelon, cookies!

MUF “FAMILY PEACE CONCERT” – Hosted by the Minstrel Coffeehouse Folk Musicians– Artists to be announced...coordinated by performer Sandie Reilly! Look for updated artist confirmations...1:00-2:15 p.m.! Peace themes abound!

Social Responsibilities Monthly Meeting – **Thursday, September 14-7:30-9** –Room TBA. You are always welcome to join the Social Responsibilities Committee 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 at casaessex.org or Michele Kunz at mbkunz@gmail.com for more information.

Social Responsibilities Committee
September Update -- Helping Neighbors in Need



Fall Food Drive for the Interfaith Pantry of Morris County

Every member can pitch in! All Sundays in September – Room 100 – Mark bags “Food Drive”

...Rosemary Gilmartin, Director, has written with this plea... “We are serving 1300 families and currently distribute 5 tons of food every week...we need to supplement what is donated by buying milk, bread, fruit & vegetables and occasionally meat & poultry. Our donations are down, * our rent of \$30M annually for all our facilities must be paid, our utilities are up...and we can use your additional help.” Here’s what we can do!

1. They need staples of **coffee, prepared spaghetti sauce, dry beans, canned vegetables, fruit & tuna, laundry detergent and cleaning products, toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner, canned stew, corned beef, 1-lb. hams, jelly and peanut butter, baby diapers (especially size 4,5,6 and pull-ups), adult diapers, side dishes like hamburger helper and 1 & 2-pound bags of rice.**

2. They need volunteers for specific jobs: home deliveries to shut-ins in Netcong, Spanish-speaking volunteers to interview and interpret-Wed./Thurs. a.m. and Thursday p.m., to work at the pantry on Thurs. p.m. at 190 Speedwell, and to help restock shelves Mon./Tues. 12-2 and Wed. 11:30-2 - lifting required at 190 Speedwell. Call 973-538-8049.

3. If you have the means to make a donation, they need it: Mail to: 540a West Hanover Ave., Morristown, NJ 07960.

**(MUF actually gave \$250 in August to the Food Pantry in the Congregation’s name from our collection plate)*

Study Action Group – “Immigrant Concerns & Support”

This group’s next meeting: **Sunday, September 16, 10:45 a.m.-12 noon, Room 209.** Activities tied to advocacy through Wind of the Spirit (WOTS) and education regarding national immigration reform, local immigration challenges and needed services/support for those hundreds of Morristown neighbors who work on our behalf across the county! We are planning a MUF/WOTS Friendship Walk in October and on November 4, 9:30 a.m.-12, MUF will host a special “Immigration Reform & Support Forum” with Special Guest Speakers (watch for details). In the meantime, add your energy and voice to help achieve relevant and dignified immigration policy reform-both locally and nationally. Please join us. To ask questions, and/or receive an initial packet of reading materials, contact Sarahjane Rath at srath@umdnj.org.

NOW! Two (2) Eric Johnson House Monthly Dinners – September 6 and September 20 – 5:45-7:15 – Wow ...

thanks to everyone’s generosity and hospitality spirit, MUF is meeting two monthly commitments to this great Morristown community of recovering AIDS/HIV neighbors. Bring your friendly self ...and/or your good cooking to brighten the week of these residents who are so in need of moral support. Contact Susan Spencer at sspencer@optonline.net to receive your “assignment”; you’ll be added to the rotation.

Morristown Soup Kitchen – Help is needed for September 12 serving. We need soup, chili, hot dogs and beans, cold casseroles and cold meats. We always need people to set up/serve on day of, 10:30-2:00. Contact Sharon Glickman at foxwood1@optonline.net to let her know you are cooking or able to help.

Morris Homeless Solutions Monthly Dinner –Saturday, September 9, 4:45-7 p.m. – A small dedicated crew helps to cook and serve homeless shelter residents their monthly MUF cheeseburger & birthday cake dinner. They can use help in shopping, cooking and serving on a rotation basis. The “table talk” is also where your natural self can be of great friendly help to these people down on their luck and hoping for a better future. Contact Judy Goldberg O’Neil at judyoneil@optonline.net

Dover NORWESCAP (Northwest NJ Community Action Program)–MUF’s “Supported Family” thanks their MUF congregational sponsor for the purchase of all the school supplies and sneakers for the family of 3 boy teens and a 7-year-old girl. They can use new clothes now... contact Michelle Kunz at mbkunz@gmail.com.

Interfaith Council for Homeless Families of Morris County – MUF’s co-hosting during week of August 27–Sept. 3 went well, thanks to dozens of MUF volunteers! Coordinator Lee Wuenn thanks everyone who helped and hopes we’ll keep open to the four host weeks coming in FY ’07. We make a difference for these families on the way to independence.

The Ground Truth

Monday, September 11, 7:30 p.m.

Hailed as "powerful" and "quietly unflinching," this searing, 78-minute documentary feature includes exclusive footage that will stir you. The terrible conflict in Iraq, depicted with ferocious honesty in the film, is a prelude for the even more challenging battles fought by the soldiers returning home – with personal demons, an uncomprehending public and an indifferent government. As these battles take shape, each soldier becomes a new kind of hero, bearing witness and giving support to other veterans, and learning to fearlessly wield the most powerful weapon of all – the truth.

(Local veterans of the Iraq conflict may participate.)
Donations appreciated.

For information/directions for both these events,
e-mail jo@josippie.com.

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How to Talk About Peace and Security Now

Saturday, September 16, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

An American Framing Workshop offered by...

The Metaphor Project: Framing Our Message for Americans

Participants in this workshop will learn effective ways to frame their messages for mainstream American audiences. Familiar American sayings, images or ideas like "the clean air generation," "real patriots pay their fair share (of taxes)," "keep space open space" and "play fair" evoke our best shared national values. We will combine these with our own messages to produce powerful new sound bites--the kind of language that creates common ground, opens up dialogue and helps *change minds*. Learn to use some ideas and language drawn from the world of advertising, because advertisers were among the first to do serious research on what actually works to persuade people in the modern communications media.

Limited seating, call for reservations. Suggested donation \$12 (scholarships available).

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.

Director and dramatic readers!

The Global Warming/Green Sanctuary Committee is eager to present a 20-minute dramatic reading based on the book *Ishmael* by Daniel Quinn this fall (date and format as yet undetermined). The reading will be followed by a discussion of the philosophical and spiritual issues it raises. This is not a big-time commitment (you don't need to learn the script by heart) but will be fun to perform! For information on the book, check out the website www.ishmael.com/Origins/Ishmael/Annals/. Please contact Caroline Gower at carolineharris@excite.com for more information.

"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 e-mail Betsy at burr@att.net. **Parents take note: We're hoping your kids will come in costume and take part in a procession!**

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 to indicate your interest in being a volunteer for any of these jobs, for training and for scheduling. Or contact Joe Uhrhane directly for training on the sound system.

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.

Contributions to the Celebration of Life

In memory of **Susan's Oxman's** mother, from her Women's Spirituality Group - "Nova."

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 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!



Upcoming Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Details
Fridays, Sept. 1,8,15,22,29	8:30 p.m.	Minstrel Coffeehouse	p. 6
Monday, September 11	7:00 p.m.	First Monday Book Group	p. 6
Monday, September 11	7:30 p.m.	The Ground Truth	p. 9
Saturday, September 16	Register 9:30 a.m., walk begins 10:00	Department of Peace Walkathon	p. 9
Saturday, September 16	10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	The Metaphor Project: Framing Our Message for Americans	p. 9
Wednesday, September 20	7:30 p.m.	EVENSONG	p. 6
Sunday, September 24	10:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m.	Family Peace Festival	p. 7
Saturday, September 30	7:30 p.m.	Circle dinner	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. 5
Saturday, October 21	8:00 p.m.	Paul Zeigler Concert, <i>Peace: An Anti-war Song Cycle on Langston Hughes' Poems</i>	p. 6



Rosh Hashanah

A Free Faith Observance of the beginning of the Jewish High Holidays will be held **Friday, Sept. 22, at 7 p.m.**, followed by honey, challah and other goodies.

Normandy Chorale Seeking Singers

This group of approximately 25 mixed voices sings a variety of music, both with accompaniment and a cappella. They rehearse at MUF on Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9:45 p.m. Rehearsals will begin September 19. The first of its three 2006-07 concerts is scheduled for Sunday, December 10. Singers in all parts are welcome; no formal audition is required. Please contact director Bruce Sidelnik.

Fall Cleanup and Poker Tournament

Saturday, November 18

(December 2: rain/snow date)

We need as many people as we can get. Last fall we had many hands to do the work, and as a result our grounds looked better and, happily - thanks to so many of you who volunteered - the spring cleanup easier. Folks of all ages are welcome. Yes, the children can come too; there are many jobs they can do.

Beautification and Preservation Committee

To sponsor a coffee hour after one of our Sunday morning services, contact Dan Cohen at danielcohen@optonline.net.



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.

September 2006

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Deadline for the OCTOBER issue is

SEPTEMBER 15

Sunday Services (At 10 a.m. only on September 3; the remaining Sundays will have two services, at 9 and 11 a.m.)



September 3 **It's Time to Say Yes**

Over the course of the past few decades, the religious right has undertaken a highly effective campaign to raise its profile and influence public policy. How should religious liberals respond to these developments? What does /our/ faith affirm as liberating, transformative and good, and what could we be doing to be a more visible and effective presence in our world?

September 10 **Homecoming Sunday—Another Dawn**

Rev. Alison B. Miller

September 17 **Egy az Isten** (Transylvanian Unitarian Expression)

Rev. Alison B. Miller

September 24 **Toward Right Relations**

In 1995 the UUA passed a resolution “toward safe congregations and right relations.” This year’s General Assembly carried this theme, acknowledging that we are far from journey’s end. This service will explore what it means to be in right relations with one another, with our congregation, with our community and with our planet.?

Coordinated by Tony Rutigliano, Jane Baldwin, Kathi Caccavale and Gary Kunz

Thank You for Summer Sundays

Pat de la Fuente would like to thank everyone who made “Summer Sundays” happen, the dozens of MUF members and friends who shared their talents and stories to create memorable, meaningful services.