



## December 2008

Volume 53, No. 12

# News

Reaching In . . .  
Reaching Out

## From the Minister . . .

**D**ECEMBER BRINGS THE LONGEST NIGHTS of the year. It is a time when many of our holidays are focused on celebrating the light, life and warmth we humans or the divine can create to counteract our surroundings, which are dark, dormant, and cold. This year I wish my celebration to include not rebelling against but relishing the gifts that come in the dark.



It is in the dark that I learn the importance of a vision that does not depend on sight. The light has a way of limiting our perspective. We fail to understand there may be possibilities that extend beyond our ability to see. Since childhood, we have been given permission to dream at night and to be open to the insights that come to us. We do not require that they be practical, based on fact, or even memorable. If we are lucky enough to remember them, we are grateful for the traces of insight and the truths beheld in our fantasy.

We can allow ourselves to create a world in which to move that is not held back by the way things are now. Dreams painted on the blank canvas of the dark night remind us to open ourselves to new possibilities. It may take longer than it takes us to drift into the REM phase of our sleep, but we can imagine and ultimately fashion a new environment in our waking world. Our recent Dream into Action Design Competition is about just that.

There are so many in the Morris area that are thirsting to join a liberal religious community – one that is open to the wisdom in its Christian roots, all the major world religions, human life experiences, scientific enquiry, and mystical moments. We can make room for more people. I know this because we already have succeeded in some measure over the last few years. We can design, redesign, or find facilities that help us achieve this purpose whether we remain on 21 Normandy Heights Road or whether we choose to depart from our current location.

We can also live more deeply into our cherished covenant, our seven principles which call us forth on a journey of the spirit and of justice-making. Our seventh principle asks us to “respect the interdependent web of all

existence of which we are a part.” We can design, redesign, or find facilities that help us to care for our families and steward our corner of the earth in a way that is mindful of nourishing the generations of Unitarian Universalists yet to come. This can be part of our legacy.

In some ways, the economic trials we face also bring with them a kind of darkness, in the sense of an uncertainty and difficulty seeing what comes next. In a way, this too creates an atmosphere where dreaming is appropriate. There have been certain economic times in the past, but we had not done the dreaming necessary to be able to translate our treasure into a plan to open our doors to more people or our hearts to environmental principles. Let us use this time wisely so that when the economy becomes more certain we will know how to translate our dreams into concrete directions.

In this season of darkness, let us allow our dreams to speak to us of possibilities we may not have thought of, done before, or be prepared for yet. May these dreams call to us of worthy aspirations for our time, our talents, our training and our treasure.

In fellowship,

*Alison's office hours are Tuesday-Friday by appointment.*

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### Morristown Unitarian Fellowship

21 Normandy Heights Road  
Morristown, New Jersey 07960-4611  
President: Mary Hodgson  
Minister: Rev. Alison B. Miller  
Director of Religious Education: Karen Brown  
Music Director: Jim Blanton  
Editor, Layout and Graphics Design: Pat Baxter  
(melodylingers@verizon.net)



Sunday Services: 9 and 11 a.m.  
Religious Education Classes: 9 a.m.

#### Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Wednesday: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Friday: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Tel: 973-540-1177, ext. 201  
Fax: 973-539-8218

www.mUUf.org

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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!

### *Deeds Well Done*

The Fellowship board recognizes and thanks the following members and friends for their work at MUF and in the community:

**Diana and Brad West**, who raised money through extra tomato sales for B&P.

**Karen Dinsmore** for staffing the Box Office.

The **Social Justice Committee** for their work on the Peace Festival.

**Carol Todd, Karen Burns Rutigliano** and team for the fabulous job on Alison and David's wedding reception planning and coordination.

**Karen Burns Rutigliano** for coordinating the Harvest Fair with lots of help from **Christine Reynolds, Donna Becker, Nan Perigo, Donna & Tom Perch, Kathy Burgess, Darlene Kantzler, Tracy Hompesch** and **Monica & Hayley O'Donnell**.

**Joe Uhrhane** and Nominating Committee for putting together the Strategic Planning Task Force.

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### **Upcoming Board and Network Meetings**

Meetings are at 7 p.m. and open to all Fellowship members. This month's meetings are scheduled on:

Board of Trustees	December 10
Administrative/Program Networks	December 17

### **Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the most recent meetings have been approved and are posted on the bulletin board in Room 100 and on the website. (Go to the Members Area and scroll down to the "Board of Trustees"; or from the homepage, click on "Congregational Leaders" and then scroll down to the Board and click on "Board Meeting Minutes.")

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

## The President's Corner

When I walk into our Fellowship on Sunday morning, I am elevated to such a warm, wonderful place. I watch people hugging, listening and talking to each other. I see people giving comfort to those in need and I watch laughter among friends. As my teenage daughter would say, "It's all good."

For me, the Fellowship is a place where groups of people gather together to get things done. Some groups are social advocates for our children, some for Mother Earth, some for the homeless, for peace, or for our Sunday morning experience. For some it is about keeping our spiritual home continuing to be a place where we can gather.

There is so much positive that happens within these walls. And lately I feel a renewed energy, a willingness for people to apply their individual talents to make things happen.

This was never more clear to me than at our recent congregational meeting. We had 25% more people attend our meeting than was required for a quorum. We were respectful, engaged, hungry for answers and willing to be part of the process. People were asking how they could become more involved. It was exciting, and I am thankful and grateful to be part of such a vibrant, important organization.

When everyone is willing to pitch in, it makes it easier for our leadership. Personally, I cannot know

everything there is to know as a leader of this Fellowship. But that's okay, because I know that where I am not strong, someone else can help me because I am a part of the MUF team.

For instance, I do not have a knowledge of parliamentary procedures, but others of you do. I am thankful that some of you felt comfortable helping me with this part of the meeting. At our next congregational meeting, I will have a parliamentary person sitting with me in the front row to help as the need arises.

It is very empowering to know as a leader that I do not have to excel at everything. Instead, I can rely on the expertise and wisdom of others to guide me, and ultimately this guides the congregation.

I am excited about us as a congregation. We've always had the ability to get things done. It feels to me like we are doing it in a supportive and positive manner. That we are in this together, we are here for the great works we do and we are here for each other.

This is a magical place with magical people. I am honored to serve this year as president and am honored to serve alongside all of you. It's all good.

## Mary

Mary Hodgson, President

## Our Financial Health

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

Account Name	Oct 08	July thru Oct	2008-09 Budget	Budget Remaining
<b>Income</b>				
Pledge Income	\$47,082.50	\$141,448.15	\$419,000.00	\$277,551.85
Rental Income	\$4,860.00	\$16,375.00	\$40,500.00	\$24,125.00
Fundraisers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$66,000.00	\$66,000.00
Other Income	\$157.78	\$1,811.99	\$12,800.00	\$10,988.01
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$53,166.78</b>	<b>\$163,157.27</b>	<b>\$550,300.00</b>	<b>\$387,142.73</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
PAYROLL	\$40,362.47	\$107,733.91	\$351,289.00	\$244,400.08
Debt Services	\$1,907.80	\$7,791.97	\$22,000.00	\$14,208.03
BLDG MTCE & UTIL	\$3,888.07	\$14,800.19	\$69,124.00	\$54,323.81
ADMINISTRATION	\$2,639.74	\$16,287.48	\$65,144.00	\$49,106.52
COMMITTEES	\$956.69	\$2,715.02	\$14,892.00	\$12,696.98
Religious Education	\$1,138.49	\$2,624.80	\$13,680.00	\$11,055.20
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$50,893.26</b>	<b>\$151,953.37</b>	<b>\$536,129.00</b>	<b>\$385,790.62</b>
Difference	\$2,273.52	\$11,203.90	\$14,171.00	

## Faith Developments

### I WAS STROLLING

down one of the aisles at Trader Joe's a couple of weeks ago and encountered a young mom and her daughter shopping. Mom had a large cart, and her daughter pushed a small cart manufactured for small children. Mom was in a hurry like most of us these days. But her daughter was fixated on getting just the right food item. Somewhat impatiently, but not in a mean way, the mom said to her daughter, "Hey girlfriend, I've got to teach you how to multi-task."



It was at that moment that I fully realized what a different world we are in compared with when I was a child. Back in the "good old days" multi-tasking was probably not in the dictionary. This is a modern notion. I remember when electric typewriters came on the scene. Now that was modern technology. How do you make a product better than that! But we did get better, and now our challenge is how to keep all our fabulous technology from taking over our lives.

I am particularly thinking about this notion of "too much to do" as we head into the Holiday Season. I "unplugged the Christmas Tree" over a decade ago when I moved to Indianapolis. The whole month of December was spent buying presents – mostly for my relatives whom I left behind. Did they need more things? Most certainly not! And I remember it costing me \$300 in postal fees. A family struggling in Indianapolis to make ends meet could have probably used that \$300.

So I did the unthinkable. I called up all my relatives and my husband's relatives scattered all over the United States. I asked them, "Do you mind if I stop buying you Christmas presents? I'll take you out to a nice lunch or we can do something special together when I see you next." A Winter Holiday in July! (I have taken family members to a museum. We have picnicked together on the beach. I have taken children to their favorite bookstore or to the zoo.)

All my relatives loved the idea and I was met with a sigh of relief. I concentrate on thoughtful presents for my immediate family and for special friends who live close by. Now the Holiday Season is more meaningful. I get to enjoy the music, lights and special rituals that holidays bring. And I have time to

visit my friends. I now enjoy setting up my tree while listening to holiday music and displaying all the special holiday decorations I have collected throughout the years.

The winter holidays are filled with meaning. I experience the month of December as a time to reflect on every new birth as being a holy birth. I reflect on Hanukkah and the eternal flame of the menorah, the winter Solstice, and all the many rituals being celebrated during the darkest month of the year. So please find a way in your family to enjoy the holidays. I will include helpful ways of scaling down this Holiday Season in the Parent Email. Some of the information will be about staying "green."

Please consider the following holiday pledge that I found as part of a packet that my last congregation made available to members and friends: "Believing in the true spirit of the holidays I commit myself to ... Remember those people who truly need my gifts. Express love in more direct ways than gifts. Examine my holiday activities in the light of my deepest values. Be a peacemaker within my circle of family and friends. Rededicate myself to my spiritual growth."

Have a wonderful Holiday Season,

Karen



## Christmas on the Rez



Once again this year, the Community Action Program (CAP) for the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota will hold a Christmas Party for the poverty-stricken children in their care.

Pine Ridge is the poorest area in the United States, with the majority of residents living below the poverty line. This makes for a bleak Christmas, but you and your family can help.

Send a NEW gift in its original packaging, unwrapped, along with a sufficient amount of wrapping paper, ribbon, tags, bows, etc. (even Scotch tape) to:

**Kyle CAP Christmas Party**  
**C/O Charlotte Kills Straight - Treasurer**  
**Medicine Route District Service Center**  
**P.O. Box 496 – South Allen Road**  
**Kyle, SD 57752**  
**(605) 455-2448, 2304 (Mountain Time)**

The age group is babies through 18 years of age, so don't forget the teens.

Your gifts should arrive at the CAP office no later than December 10.

Monetary gifts are also accepted (make checks payable to "Kyle CAP") and will be used to purchase gifts that are lacking and/or food for the holiday meal.

You'll also have an opportunity to make donations at our Alternative Gift Fair, where you can receive a donor card for your own gift giving.

**Mitakuye Oyasin**

**(Lakota Sioux – meaning we are all related)**

### *Third Annual MUF Holiday Party and Hanging of the Greens!*

**Sunday, December 7, 3-6 p.m.**

Come to our Fellowship home to help the Board and staff deck our halls for the Holidays! Enjoy fun activities for children and adults, goodies to eat and drink, a cookie swap and sing, sing, sing! All members and friends are welcome.



For the cookie swap, bring your homemade cookies in plastic bags of a dozen each, to swap with other bakers at the end of the evening. Two categories: family favorites (easy-bake or no-bake) and "epicure" (include the recipe in the bag). Bring an extra dozen to share at the table.

### *Transylvanian Photo Exhibit Comes to MUF* **Sunday, December 21 & Monday, December 22**

Photographer and raconteur Stephen Spinder lives in Budapest, Hungary. Since 1991 he has travelled the fabled folk landscape of Transylvania and is currently on a USA tour, coming to Morristown after the second service December 21 and at 7:30 p.m. the next day. He will present his photographs of Transylvania and anecdotes about his experiences taking them.

You can see his work at [www.spinderartphoto.com](http://www.spinderartphoto.com). He will also describe a UUA/PCC initiative for a fine art photo guide to Unitarian churches in Transylvania. Hosted by the Partner Church Committee. Contact Gabor at [gabor@gaborkiss.com](mailto:gabor@gaborkiss.com).

### *Transylvania Tidbit*

If you come to the Holiday Party on Sunday, December 7, be sure to stop at the Partner Church Committee's table to make Incredible Edible Christmas Tree Ornaments (Szaloncukorkészítés). You can read about this Hungarian (and now MUF) tradition at [muuf.org/partnerchurch.html](http://muuf.org/partnerchurch.html).

## *Upcoming Events*

### ***First Monday Book Group***

**Monday, December 1, 7 p.m.**

We will be discussing *The Pillars of the Earth*, by Ken Follett. New members and visitors are always welcome. Contact Nancy Lee McLure at [nlmclure@msn.com](mailto:nlmclure@msn.com).

### ***Film & Discussion: "Soldiers of Conscience"***

**Wednesday, December 3, 7 p.m.**

This 1½-hour film, sponsored by Seeds of Peace, tells a story about human nature and war, which is suitable for adults and high school students. Eight American soldiers wrestle with the morality of killing in war. Discussion follows, facilitated by MUF member Allen Wells, peacemaker, UU minister and psychotherapist. *No registration required.* For more information, contact Jo Sippie-Gora at [jo@josippie.com](mailto:jo@josippie.com).

### ***Fall Cleanup Day***

**December 6, 9 a.m.-12 noon**

The Beautification and Preservation Committee will sponsor this second event. Pizza will be provided for lunch! If we can get the grounds cleaned up with volunteer efforts, we'll save \$1,500 from the operating budget! Contact the committee ([BandP@muuf.org](mailto:BandP@muuf.org)) or see Bruce Daggy, Matt Rath, Steve Rice, Bianca Wright, Lauralee Arnold, Anna Masker, Diana West or Walt Kanzler if you have questions.

B & P would like to thank all the brave souls who came out to clean up the MUF yard on November 22. It was cold! But we got a huge amount done! Thanks to Lauralee Arnold, Steve Gruber, Anna Masker, Dan Byrd, Bob Campbell, Kathy Burgess, Dennis, Carolyn, Erin and Colin Luken (special thanks to the Luken family for bringing the big gas-powered blower!!!), Stuart Sydenstricker, Bianca, Lois and Lina Wright.

### ***Holiday Tree Festival at the Morris Museum***

**Sunday, December 7, 12:30 p.m.**

**Coordinated by Geri Silk**

Children and adults are invited to come on a field trip to this wonderful holiday event at our neighbor, the Morris Museum – also known as Twin Oaks. We'll meet in the MUF dining room over a bag lunch to hear an introduction to this lovely mansion and then leave

for the museum at 1 p.m. – an easy five-minute walk. Twin Oaks, built in 1913, belonged to Peter Hood Ballantine Frelinghuysen, president of Ballantine and Sons Brewery, who also turned part of his 150-acre estate into the Twin Oaks Dairy Farm. Twin Oaks today is transformed into a winter wonderland as trees, wreaths, garlands and gift items are imaginatively decorated.



The display includes seven-foot community trees that are sponsored by local corporations and donated to charities at the end of the festival. There is entertainment and a Holiday Café offering soups, salads, quiche, and desserts – a marvelous way to start your holiday season.

Many of the museum's regular displays are open as well, including a live demonstration at 2 p.m. of the Guinness Collection of music boxes. We can then return to the Fellowship for MUF's own holiday party at 3 p.m. No charge. *Please bring a bag lunch if desired—or eat at the museum. No registration required. This is the first of three field trips to neighboring mansions to be held in the next two months.* For more information, contact Geri Silk at [gerisilk@yahoo.com](mailto:gerisilk@yahoo.com).

### ***Crafts Group at MUF***

**Friday, December 12, 7:30-9:30 p.m.**

**Facilitated by Donna Becker, Karen Burns et al.**

Experience the satisfaction of making something creative with your own hands, while you enjoy the company of other MUF members. At the December session we'll learn how to do rubber stamping as we create our own gift tags and one-of-a-kind holiday ornaments. *Please bring fruit, cheese or dessert to share. Pre-registration is required by Monday, December 8. A modest materials fee will be charged.* For more information, contact Karen Burns at [karenburns@casaessex.org](mailto:karenburns@casaessex.org).

## HOLIDAY GIFT FAIR AT THE MORRISTOWN UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP

*Where your shopping goes far, locally and globally*

Sunday, December 7, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Saturday, December 13, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Sunday, December 14, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

*Double or Triple the value of your gift giving! Here's how:*



Courtesy of Ten Thousand Villages

### HUNDREDS OF AFFORDABLE, HAND-CRAFTED GIFTS FROM 10,000 VILLAGES

- bangles, boxes and bags from Bangkok
- tantalizing toys from Tanzania
- practical things for the home, etc., etc., etc.

**MANY NEW ITEMS!**

Purchases through Ten Thousand Villages, a free trade organization, enable artisans in third world countries to improve the quality of their lives and communities.

### HOLIDAY CHOCOLATES

Triple value:  
The chocolate is fair trade.  
Proceeds go to the Senior High Youth Group's Habitat for Humanity project.  
And someone you love gets great chocolate!



Dustin Wolfe, member of Sr. High Youth Group



Courtesy of Heifer Project International

### A FLOCK OF DUCKS!

Triple value: \$20 to Heifer International means a flock of ducklings that offers a secure future to a family in China (or bee hives, llamas, goats, pigs, rabbits or tree seedlings).  
You get a stuffed animal for under the tree or a gift certificate for someone you want to honor. And, it's tax-deductible!

### CHOOSE OTHER GIFTS OF CONSCIENCE FROM:

Prison Ministry	Peaceworks	Grupo Cajola
Wind of the Spirit	Seeds of Peace	Green Earth Ministry
Community Soup Kitchen	Native Am. Children in Pine Ridge	Eric Johnson House

**Every gift purchased at MUF's Alternative Holiday Gift Fair  
"gives back" to a local charity or a global village by helping to  
build a house,  
provide a living wage, or  
spread a message of hope.**

## *Social Justice Council - December 2008 Update*

### *Helping Neighbors in Need*



***Holiday Hope...How to Help People – Local and Afar -- Who Need a “Hand Up”***

***MUF Holiday Gift Fair – December 7, 13 & 14 – Give gifts that provide life!***

***“MUF Giving Tree”*** A Holiday tree adorned with “Gift Tags” will go up November 30 in the Great Hall. Take tags and ***return wrapped presents by December 14 & 21***

**Take gift tags for 3 purposes:**

- ***Gifts for disadvantaged Morristown Middle School kids*** (to be distributed by school social worker) (Buy Gift Cards to 3 recommended stores in walking distance)
- ***Gifts for disadvantaged elementary/younger children*** (Buy books, games & puzzles for kids 3-11)
- ***Gifts for poor laborers*** – (Buy warm outerwear – sweaters, sweatshirts, vests, caps, scarves, gloves- Men’s S, M, L)

### ***Big November Thank-You’s!***

***For ....MUF Harvest Day '08. We donated more than 80 boxes & bags of food!!***

Thanks to all who brought in food and to all the wonderful children and adults who decorated turkey boxes, picked, packed, and hauled all the crucially needed food supplies to the Interfaith Food Pantry of Morris County.

***For.... The Interfaith Hospitality Host Week*** – at Redeemer Church on South Street where MUF co-hosted our second of four host weeks this year and created a home for five homeless families, giving them companionship, shelter, safety and good meals. Be a part of it next time. Volunteer for a very meaningful task of love...and hold a baby or two!

***For .....Additional Plate Allocation Opportunity for another \$1,200*** (added to the \$1,585 last month)....these are part of the 50% of the Sunday collection from the first fiscal quarter (July through September), spent as follows:

Neighborhood House – “Pathways to Work” – Workers Center Fund	\$ 250
Interfaith Food Pantry of Morris County Operations Gift	\$ 200
NORWESCAP – Support-A- Family ( Northwest NJ Community Action Program)- Holiday Gift for Family of 4	\$ 100
Morristown Community Soup Kitchen – For Services other than Food	\$ 250
Peaceworks – Fedicamp Reforestation in rural Nicaragua	\$ 200
Jersey Battered Women’s Shelter	\$ 200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1200</b>
<b>Previously Allocated Gifts</b>	<b>\$1585</b>
<b>Total gifts sent by MUF for July-September</b>	<b>\$2785</b>

*(continued)*

## *Social Justice Council* (continued)

### *Upcoming Dates*

***Morristown Community Soup Kitchen*** – Next hosting date: Tuesday, December 9! Thanks, MUF members, for helping cook great soups and casseroles. The lines are long and the people are hungry. Contact: Michelle Kunz at [mbkunz@gmail.com](mailto:mbkunz@gmail.com) to let her know if you can help out.

***Eric Johnson House MUF Monthly Dinner Teams*** – Next Hostings: Wednesdays, December 3 & 24 (5:45-7 p.m.). Join other MUF members/friends in hosting family-style dinner for 10-14 current residents – plus aftercare alumni of AIDS/HIV restorative home. Join in conversation/hosting and/or helping prepare part of the meal to share. To help: [sespencer@optonline.net](mailto:sespencer@optonline.net)

***Morristown Homeless Solutions*** (Shelter) monthly dinner commitment (next hosting: Saturday, December 13 (4:45-7 p.m.). If you are an adult, or a family with Jr. High and older children that you can accompany, help prepare an easy meal for the 100+ shelter residents. Contact: [judyoneil@optonline.net](mailto:judyoneil@optonline.net)

***Next Meeting Social Justice Council – Thursday, January 8, 7:30-9 p.m.*** – MUF Dining Room. Join other MUF members to make a difference in our community and afar. This will be a Quarterly Plate Allocation meeting. Contact: Christine Reynolds at [reynolds@nac.net](mailto:reynolds@nac.net)... or [karenburns@casaessex.org](mailto:karenburns@casaessex.org) if you have questions.

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### *The Green Economy: Partnering Our Money with Our Values & Making and Saving the Green Stuff as Well!*

For those of our members and friends who missed viewing of this extraordinary film on Sunday, November 16, here's a chance to see it on your own computer monitor!

Green Economy activist and author Van Jones, who gave the 2008 Ware lecture at GA in June, is a compelling speaker. He comes into his own especially when he adopts some of the language, rhetoric and body language of the great preachers (e.g., Martin Luther King, Jr.). The repeat of his inspiring 58-minute talk was sponsored by Green Earth Ministry (GEM), and included presentations by invited panelists and a discussion of green business and green jobs.

The whole wonderful talk is available via "streaming video" from the UUA website. The link is <http://media.uua.org:8080/asxgen/ga2008/4061.wmv>. This calls up the Windows Media Player. If you prefer the "Real" Media Player, use this link: <http://media.uua.org:8080/ramgen/ga2008/4061.rm>.

### *Check Out Our Peace Ministry*

Got Peace? Take a look. The UU Peace Ministry Network link ([www.uupeacemakers.org](http://www.uupeacemakers.org)) is dedicated to the peace work of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. The link provides news from our association and congregations, and resources for congregations to celebrate peace.



# Sharing Our Joys & Concerns

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

## *Tell Us Your Joys & Concerns*

*Be sure to send your Joys and Concerns to [melodylingers@verizon.net](mailto:melodylingers@verizon.net) so they will reach all members of the Fellowship.*

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## *Contributions to the Celebration of Life*

The Endowment Committee thanks **Anne Paust** for a donation in memory of **Bonnie Franklin**.

*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
Monday, December 1	7:00 p.m.	First Monday Book Group	p. 6
Wednesday, December 3	7:00 p.m.	<i>Soldiers of Conscience</i> , film & discussion	p. 6 
Saturday, December 6	9:00 a.m.-12 noon	Fall Cleanup Day	p. 6
Sunday, December 7	10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Holiday Gift Fair	p. 7
Sunday, December 7	12:30 p.m.	Holiday Tree Festival, Morris Museum	p. 6
Sunday, December 7	3:00-6:00 p.m.	Holiday Party/Hanging of the Greens	p. 5
Friday, December 12	7:30-9:30 p.m.	Crafts Group	p. 6
Saturday, December 13	9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	Holiday Gift Fair	p. 7
Sunday, December 14	10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.		
Sunday, December 21	12:15 p.m.	Transylvanian Photo Exhibit	p. 5
Monday, December 22	7:30 p.m.		
Saturday, January 24		Annual Service Auction	
Sundays, January 25 & February 1			

## HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS AT MUF

Deck the halls, carol through the neighborhood and celebrate the season with the many holiday festivities at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship!

**Sunday, December 7, 3-6 p.m.** Help decorate the historic Fellowship mansion for the holidays, go caroling around the neighborhood, swap cookies with other bakers, join in holiday cookie decorating and crafts, and enjoy festive refreshments for the whole family.

**Friday, December 19, 7:30 p.m.** Winter Solstice family celebration. Songs, drumming, ritual and activities that honor earth-based spirituality, for the whole family.

**Sunday, December 21, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.** Special family worship services, led by Rev. Alison Miller. From the festival of Hanukkah to Christmas and other faith celebrations, the mystery and life-giving force of light has touched the human spirit.

**Wednesday, December 24, 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.** Christmas Eve celebration, featuring the MUF Children's Choir (5 p.m.) and Adult Choir (9 p.m.), with the singing of carols and a candlelight service.

Join in the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship's observance of this joyful season by a congregation that values social equality and the freedom of individual spiritual beliefs, and honors a wide diversity of beliefs and traditions. For more information, contact [office@muuf.org](mailto:office@muuf.org) or 973-54-1177.



**Morristown**  
**Unitarian Fellowship**  
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**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.

## December 2008

Volume 53, No. 12



Dated Material – Posted November 26, 2008  
Deadline for the JANUARY issue is

**DECEMBER 15**

### Sunday Services

Services at 9 and 11 a.m. unless specified

**December 7** **Going to Mecca**



*Rev. Alison B. Miller*

**December 14** **For Give and For Get**

*Rev. Alison B. Miller*

**December 21** **Let There Be Light**

Children, youth and adults of all ages are encouraged to join us for this special intergenerational service celebrating the winter holidays.

*Karen Brown & Rev. Alison B. Miller*

**December 24** **Christmas Eve**

**5:00 p.m.** Family Candlelight Service, featuring the Children's Choir

**9:00 p.m.** Traditional Candlelight Service, featuring the Adult Choir

**December 28** **A UU Take on Faith & Miracles – one service at 10 a.m.**

Certain words trigger emotional responses related to a listener's spiritual journey. This service in word and song, presented by Melanie Davis, M. Ed., illustrates how two hot-button words can become more relevant to the lives and beliefs of religious liberals. A lifelong Unitarian Universalist and a founding member of the UU Congregation of Somerset Hills, Melanie has delivered sermons to UU congregations in NJ, NY, PA and WA.

*Coordinated by Marjorie Wormser*