



May 2008

Volume 53, No. 5

## News

Reaching In . . .  
Reaching Out

### From the Minister . . .

**WE CANNOT AFFORD TO BE SILENT.** As Unitarian Universalists, we need to effectively share our liberal religious voice on the pressing issues of our time. The religious right has dominated the public conversation around issues of faith and family values for too long.



I do not criticize the religious right for sharing what they believe, that is, when religious conservatives honor the truth that people of faith hold a diversity of beliefs on issues like marriage, war and education. However, too often organizations on the religious right do claim to speak for all religious people. This is compounded by a news media that relies heavily on sound bites, and we are frequently left with the impression that the Christian conservatives are the normative religious perspective.

I cringe whenever newscasters treat the religious voters as a block. It is possible to be religious and pro-gay marriage, pro-environmentalism, pro-sex education, and pro-separation of church and state. I fear from what I have heard that religious liberals prefer to be identified as secular rather than confused with the religious right. Religion is not a monolithic endeavor. I hope we at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship will lay claim to being religious and also name when we are in disagreement with viewpoints identified as religious opinions that contradict our cherished principles.

It must be said that there are many issues where we have considerable overlap with religious conservatives. The teachings of all the world religions include exhortations to care for and empower humans suffering from poverty. It also must be said that Unitarian Universalists are religious liberals and not political liberals. Some of us feel increasing taxes is a good thing and others of us feel lowering taxes is a good thing. UUs disagree with one another on several issues.

Yet we share a covenant that guides us to similar places on certain values-based issues. Unitarian Universalists affirm the inherent worth and dignity of all individuals and therefore affirm all loving marriages no matter the genders of the individuals involved in the relationship. I am disappointed that none of the

presidential candidates has had the wisdom to stand up for this civil right, and offended every time it is said they do this to appease the religious voice.

I have exciting news! Unitarian Universalists around New Jersey are joining together to form a new statewide network that will lobby and educate legislators and key decision-makers on the issues that are important to us. The Morristown Unitarian Fellowship has the potential to join with the voices of the 21 UU congregations in our state and grow our influence.

The new Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of New Jersey will limit their efforts to three issues in order to be an effective agent of change. The leaderships hopes to select one issue in which we bring a unique and needed viewpoint, one where we can collaborate with people of other faiths, and a third about which we are also passionate.

What can you do? First, please fill out the survey that is circulating throughout the month of May and share your thoughts on which issues should be chosen. Second, check out the website at [www.uulmnj.org](http://www.uulmnj.org). Third, speak to me or Jo Sippie-Gora, our congregation's current contact, if you would like to get more involved.

In faith and fellowship,

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

| IN THIS ISSUE  |    |
|--|----|
| From the Minister  | 1  |
| Legislative Ministry Survey, Financial Health                  | 2  |
| President's Corner, Congregational Visioning, Nominating Slate | 3  |
| RE: Faith Developments   | 4  |
| Habitat Benefit Concert, Dream Into Action project             | 5  |
| Upcoming Events  | 6  |
| Jazz on the Terrace, New Members                               | 7  |
| Free Film, Fresh Air Fund, N.O.                                | 9  |
| Joys and Concerns  | 10 |
| Upcoming Events Calendar                                       | 11 |
| Sunday Services  | 12 |

**Morristown Unitarian Fellowship**

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Religious Education Classes: 9 a.m.

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Wednesday: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.  
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***Mission and Covenant Statement***

**WE**, the members of the **Morristown Unitarian Fellowship**, mindful of the rich diversity and essential oneness of human experience, covenant to weave the fabric of community from the strands of our separate lives.

This is our pledge:

- To create for ourselves and our children a spiritual home which will nurture, challenge and offer us renewal.
- To seek what is true even as we celebrate the mystery of existence.
- To reach out to all who share our liberal religious values and participate in the broader Unitarian-Universalist movement.
- To work for social justice and the well-being of our planet Earth.

***Please E-Mail All NEWSLETTER Articles  
—both print and online versions—***

to editor **PAT BAXTER** at  
**melodylingers@verizon.net**

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

Thank you!

***Legislative Ministry Survey***

Dear Members,

The newly formed Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of New Jersey needs your input to help determine the three issue areas that it will focus on, at the state level, in the coming year. Recently, individual UUs and congregations have had impact on major state legislative issues, including the death penalty repeal and marriage equality. The Steering Committee hopes this survey process will further help build their beginning relationship between congregations and UULMNJ so they can start advocacy actions in the fall.

The UULMNJ is requesting all 21 NJ congregations to participate in a short survey that will be distributed at MUF on May 4. (The survey will be made available in several locations, including the hallway racks and on the MUF website.) Three issues will be chosen by the Steering Committee using the survey results. These three issues will be the focus of the UULMNJ advocacy work for the first year or two. This is a chance to express our Principles and Purposes and make our voices heard, so please participate!

***Please Return the Survey to Jo Sippie-Gora, the Seeds of Peace mail slot or the UULMNJ-labeled Box by June 1. Thank you.***

***Our Financial Health,  
Year-to-date March 2008***

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Pledge Income:          | \$284,578  |
| Total Income:           | \$337,370  |
| Total Expenses:         | \$381,077  |
| Net:                    | (\$43,707) |
| Projected Year End Net: | (\$38,881) |

***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               | May 14 |
| Administrative/Program Networks | May 21 |

***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 in the Members section.

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

## The President's Corner

The visioning day on April 19 was exciting and fun, as promised! We had about 50 members who came together to dream about the future of the Fellowship. As is always true at MUF, responses to the questions posed were creative and rooted in our strong tradition.

We began the day by appreciating our history and all those throughout the 50-plus years who dared to put their dreams into action. All of us have stories to tell about a time when the Fellowship became more than just a place to come on Sunday mornings, about those people who reached out to us or our children in a way we will never forget; about the spiritual experience of a Sunday service in which we participated. So many heart-warming stories!

And the day became even more uplifting as we began to talk about our dreams for the years to come – how we would be with each other and in the world, the connections we'd make, the influence we'd have, the spiritual growth we'd experience. I'll always

remember the discussions, the laughter, the poetry, the pictures and the faces of all of you, my family.

We ended the day with what for me was the most challenging – identifying our mission. Given the vision that we have for our future, what actions must we take to achieve it? What is our mission as the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship?

Obviously, it takes more than one morning to chart our course and to determine our future, but we are on our way! There will be another opportunity on May 10 to continue the work next fall as we solidify our mission and move into creating our 5-year strategic plan. I hope that we will all continue to tell our stories of MUF Past and to share our dreams of MUF Future as we continue the journey together.

On the path,

Carol

Carol Todd, President

### Congregation-Wide Visioning

**Second Chance: Saturday, May 10, 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.**

(Breakfast at 9:00 a.m.)

This event is designed to help our congregation clarify its vision and mission. Led by Alison and the MUF Board, it will be a highly participative process, designed to incorporate as many members of the congregation as possible through both small and large group sessions. All those who attend will have the opportunity to contribute their views about our future – our congregation, our facilities and our ministries.

The outcome of the session will be a clear sense of what we're about so that we can guide the future. The morning's events will be lively and designed to make the process of clarifying vision and mission fun. Be sure to join us to have your voice heard in determining the future of the Fellowship. For more information or to help with the event, contact Carol Todd at [catodd@verizon.net](mailto:catodd@verizon.net).

**Annual Meeting of the  
Congregation  
Sunday, June 1, at 12:45 p.m.**

All members as of May 2, 2008, are eligible to vote.

### Our Nominating Slate for June 1

**President-Elect:** Gary Kunz

**VP Program:** Rita Morris

**Secretary:** David Palmer

**Endowment Committee:** John Oehler & Steve Rice

**Nominating Committee:**

Ex-officio, 2-yr term: Annette Tyler

3-yr term: Janine Torsiello

**COM:** Lisa Schmitt & Dan Byrd

## *Faith Developments*

We thought we'd give Kim a break this month and put together a column on Religious Education at MUF from our perspective as Chairs of the Religious Education Council here at the Fellowship. For those of you who may not know who we are or what we do, the Religious Education Council is made up of a dedicated group of volunteers who work together to advocate for and support our DRE and our RE program.



Currently John and Jami serve as Co-Chairs, and our members are Shari Loe, Janine Torsiello, David Palmer, Diana West, Steve Parker, Tanya Van Order and Nina McCormick. We can't say enough good things about this dedicated group, who spend countless hours working individually and as a team to pursue our goal of excellence in RE.

Shari, our Vice Chair, works hard in her role as liaison between the REC, the networks and the Board. Nina is our PR guru, creating marketing tools for us to use in our search for our permanent DRE as well as promoting MUF. Tanya VanOrder is our OWL champion, as well as a driving force behind our movement toward becoming a Safe Congregation.

Steve is our Teacher Advocate, the guiding light behind our Children's Chapel, and has also stepped forward to help with our RE presence on the website. Diana West & David Palmer have spearheaded our REModeling team, resulting in freshly painted classrooms and the Children's Chapel renovation, with more improvements in the works for next year. And each month they all come together to work with Kim to make sure that our program is running smoothly.

Since our interim period began with Kim Mason at the helm, our mission has been to prepare for the arrival of a permanent DRE. We've spent lots of time and energy improving our physical space, working to create an environment that meets the needs of our children and is aesthetically pleasing as well. Recently we've reached out to our Green Sanctuary team, to collaborate with them as we continue to improve our physical space on the 2<sup>d</sup> and 3<sup>d</sup> floors.

We made a special effort to engage our RE families in a discussion to learn more about what they are looking for when they bring their children to MUF. Their feedback has helped inform our decision-making as well as contributing to the DRE search process. Kim and the REC have examined curriculum, discipline policies and

procedures, and all of the "behind the scenes" components of RE, in an effort to get ready for a permanent DRE.

This past July we decided that our focus would be our teachers. As Frederick May Eliot wrote in 1936, "Unless the teachers in a school of religion find their own lives enriched by what goes on there, unless they find that their own spiritual insight and awareness are continually growing as a result of what happens in the school, there is practically no chance that the pupils will be getting much that is valuable for their religious lives. I should say that the personal enrichment of the teachers is the first test of value of any institution that is carried on in the name of religious education."

Kim and REC have worked hard this year to support our teachers, to provide them with the tools they need to be successful in the classroom, and to enrich their experience with teacher trainings and opportunities for their own spiritual growth.

We can't speak for the teachers, but we see what's been happening in our RE classrooms, and we think we're on the right track. Our children are experiencing quality religious education. They gather each Sunday morning in classrooms under the guidance of teachers who are respectful and caring of all. And all of our children are being encouraged to explore religion, values, and the history and traditions of Unitarian Universalism.

So, just like a family that has been busy preparing for an honored guest to arrive, we are ready to welcome our permanent Director of Religious Education. The DRE Search Team is hard at work. With fingers crossed, we await their recommendation. However, we must also prepare to say thank you and farewell to our IDRE, Kim Mason.

When Kim joined us almost two years ago, we were in desperate need of someone who could restore order and stability to our Religious Education program. With a quiet, capable hand Kim put her administrative skills to work and soon had RE running smoothly. She has given us the gift of time to examine ourselves, and worked with us to determine who we want to be here in RE at MUF. Just like the years with our Interim Ministers, Kim has helped us prepare for the future.

But before our future arrives, we'd like to say thank you to Kim, and to wish her all the best. We know that whatever the future has in store for her she will continue to make the world around her a better place. She leaves behind a standard of excellence that will be hard to match!

*Jami Thall & John Franklin*

REC Co-Chairs

## *MUF Wine-Tasting Contest*

Originally scheduled for Saturday, May 3, has been postponed until the fall



### *Looking for a Friendly Face?*

Joining a community that is entirely new to you can sometimes be an awkward experience, particularly when attending large functions such as social activities, concerts, etc. We would like to offer you the opportunity to attend an event at MUF with one or more of our friendly members.

If this interests you, please let us know when you sign up for an event at the Box Office, or contact Laurie MacGeorge at [dlmacg10@aol.com](mailto:dlmacg10@aol.com). She will arrange for a member to meet you, sit with you and introduce you to some of our other friendly faces.

## *Youth Group Habitat Benefit Concert* Saturday May 31, 7:30 p.m.

\$30 Adults, \$20 Students/Seniors

The MUF Senior High Youth Group is happy to announce that our good friends Jason Ricci and New Blood will perform another benefit concert to help us raise funds for this year's Habitat project. This cutting-edge band plays a mix of blues, jazz and funk, exciting and delighting audiences with their superb musicianship, intense jamming and tight interplay. Jason Ricci, on harmonica and vocals, is becoming legendary among musicians and fans alike, playing with an intensity and virtuosity that leaves longtime harp players shaking their heads in disbelief. Think Coltrane on harp. You've never heard anything like this.

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

More information and audio samples at [www.muuf.org/habitat](http://www.muuf.org/habitat).

## *Dream into Action: Leading the Way to a More Sustainable Future*

During our discussions of roof replacement/repair last fall and related reflections on our future in relationship to the current building, MUF member Walter Kanzler stepped forward with an intriguing idea. Based on extensive experience in the field and his own commitment to sustainable practices, he proposed that we investigate the possibilities of marrying our desire to preserve the Victorian mansion with new construction developed according to sustainable and energy-efficient design strategies such that we achieve a neutral carbon footprint. Thus was born the "Dream into Action" project!

The "Dream into Action" Design Competition challenges senior graduate architectural students at NJIT to submit sustainable and energy-efficient designs which fulfill our projected needs for a growing congregation in harmony with preservation of our historic property. The competition will happen during June and July.

Sustainability is not only an approach to designing the buildings we inhabit in a more environmentally responsible way, but is a way of life. Many of the values that we share as Unitarian Universalists in Morristown and throughout the U.S. and the world are consistent with the current trend towards sustainable building design.

Although this project does not represent a commitment by members of the Fellowship to choose such an alternative for the future of our congregation, it is an exciting way to explore all of our facility options for the future.

## *Upcoming Events*

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### ***Blood Drive***

**Sunday, May 4, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Sign up with Zella in the Great Hall or call her.

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

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

The First Monday Book Group is reading whatever books by Joyce Carol Oates that look interesting to them, and on June 2, *An Open Heart Practicing Compassion in Everyday Life*, by The Dalai Lama. Contact Nancy Lee McLure at [nmclure@msn.com](mailto:nmclure@msn.com).

### ***New Banner Making***

**Friday, May 9, 7:30 p.m.**

Crafters at this month's Craft Bee Night will begin work on two designs for new Meeting Room banners. The first design is by David Snedden; the second will come from Homer Hansen. Sign up with Chris in the office, or at the Box Office. For questions, contact Karen Burns at [karenburns@casaessex.org](mailto:karenburns@casaessex.org).

### ***Menu for the Future: A Discussion Course***

**Wednesdays, May 14-June 18, at 7:30 p.m.**

A course from the Garden State Earth Institute. GEM is the sponsoring committee. Explore the history and characteristics of today's industrial food systems; assess how they impact our culture, society, health, and ecology; gain insight into agricultural and individual practices that promote personal and ecological well-being; and consider ways to create and support sustainable and just food systems. Buy the book, \$21, from Claire Mayer at [clairemayer@optonline.net](mailto:clairemayer@optonline.net) before the first session.

### ***Racism in Popular Culture: A History of Academy Award Winning Movies***

**Thursdays, May 15 and June 19, 7 p.m.**

A monthly movie and discussion series exploring race and racism in academy award-winning films:

**May 15:** *In the Heat of the Night*, 1968 Best Picture, explores civil rights era racism in the Deep South.

**June 19:** *Crash*, 2005 Best Picture, explores modern-day racism and prejudice in Los Angeles.

### ***West African Drum and Dance for All Levels***

**Wednesday, May 21, 6:30 (drum), 7:45 (dance)**

*Presented by Marafanyi Percussion, featuring Lara Gonzalez & Yael Shacham*

A continuing holistic approach to drum and dance exploring traditional African music and movement.

*\$15 per drum or dance class, \$25 combo price for both. \$5 drum rentals available with pre-registration only. For more information, visit [www.MySpace.com/MarafanyiPercussion](http://www.MySpace.com/MarafanyiPercussion).*

### ***Peace Within/Peace Without***

**Wednesday, May 21, 7:30 p.m.**

**Facilitated by Paul Snellgrove**



This book and discussion group, open to anyone, continues to study how conflict and violence play out in our personal, interpersonal, community and international relations. We will discuss William Ury's *The Third Side: Why We Fight and How We Can Stop*. Contact Paul Snellgrove at [paulsnellgrove@gmail.com](mailto:paulsnellgrove@gmail.com).

### ***Ghanaian Drumming with Kofi***

**One session in late May or early June – DTBA**

**Presented by Maxwell Kofi Donkor,**

*Ghanaian Master Drummer*

Experience the joy and healing of African drumming! \$5 for introduction, \$20 for main workshop. Check the website for the date. For more information, visit Kofi's website at [www.bak2roots.com](http://www.bak2roots.com) or contact Miriam Congdon at [miriamcongdon@att.net](mailto:miriamcongdon@att.net).



### ***Thanks to Banner Crafters***

Thank you, thank you to the people who helped with the banner repair workshop, our latest Crafting Bee. Big hugs go to Donna Becker, Karen Rutigliano, George Aronson, Elizabeth Bain, Susan Oxman, Linda Delap and Judy Oehler. We were able to glue and sew and enjoy good company. There is still work to be done, but we accomplished a great deal in a short time. We are still looking for themes and craftspeople to create new banners, as well as keep the old ones in good repair. So if you have any ideas please contact Donna Becker or me.

*Annette Tyler*

## *Jazz on the Terrace Is the Next Attraction on Music At MUF* Sunday, May 18, at 3 p.m.

Jazz Players Anonymous, a driving 16-piece big band, will perform swing, blues and bebop in the tradition of Count Basie and Buddy Rich, on the MUF Terrace.

The band includes longtime MUF member Darrell Courtley, and is the final performance of the Music At MUF Concert Series for this season. Come early and bring a picnic lunch, blanket and the whole family to enjoy the beautiful MUF grounds.

Watermelon and drinks will be served after the program. In case of rain, the program will be in the Meeting Room (amid flowers and plants!). Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door and \$5 for children 13 or younger. For more information, call Dr. Jim at 845-858-9895.



### *Claire Dixon to Aid Cancer Patients*

The American Cancer Society has initiated a program to educate and train Faith-Based Patient Navigators, volunteers from local faith-based organizations whose goal is to establish an ongoing relationship between the oncology resources of the Society's Quality of Life agencies in our local communities and cancer patients. The Patient Navigators' goals are to empower the individual to take action, to ensure that initial psychological, physical and financial needs are identified and fulfilled.

Claire Dixon has been trained and certified as the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship's Patient Navigator. If you or a loved one is dealing with a cancer diagnosis and would benefit from sharing that experience and finding assistance, please call her.

### *New Members*

Welcome to Fred Blanken, Gloria Dyer, Anne Gaynor, John and Stephanie Giaquinto, Anna and Craig Masker, Kris Moran, and Anne Piascik, who deepened their commitment to the Fellowship by signing the membership book in March and April.

### *Ladies Spring Fling and White Elephant Swap*

**Saturday, June 14, 7-9 p.m. at MUF**



We all have them, ladies—the bottle of liquor from the holidays that we will never drink, that piece of jewelry we'll never wear, or perhaps a piece of art we no longer have room for. When spring cleaning this season, pick one of your like new items and wrap it up (swaps are anonymous) and bring it on over to MUF on June 14, along with your favorite appetizer, entrée or dessert! At \$10 per person, we will provide beverages and all the necessities.

**Please RSVP by May 21** (so we know how many to shop for) by mailing your \$10 cash or check made payable to MUF to:

Debbie Rice  
48 Riverside Drive  
Florham Park, NJ 07932-2417



For more information, e-mail Debbie at [sda3rice@optonline.net](mailto:sda3rice@optonline.net). Ladies 21 and over please.

***Come have some fun and get your spring cleaning done, too!***

*Social Justice Council - May 2008 Update*  
**Setting Our Values Into Action**



***Two Ways MUF is Helping to Alleviate Homelessness...***

**1) Thank you! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!**

To all of the patrons of MUF's 2008 Habitat Benefit Craft Sales, which were extremely successful, raising **a net profit of \$4,000 ++ (a 20% increase over last year)**. These funds will be used by our MUF Senior High Youth Group towards the cost of the transportation and materials to build a Habitat For Humanity home in Sumter SC this summer!

Thanks to all participants & leaders at the 4 Craft Bees (who made the offerings for the Craft Fair), thanks to all the helpers for the 2 Craft Sale Days, thanks to Peggy Karr & Tim Seitz for their generous donation of 50 glass plates, and thanks to our expert vendors (*Special thanks to: Diane Koslow, Nina & Ken Nemeth, Beverly Hays, Tina Mottie, Barbara Pecca, Katharina Pietraszek, Nancy McLure, Arlyne Shapiro, Donna & Bill Becker, Elizabeth Bain, Chris Reynolds, Jackie Mulcey, Judy Oehler, and Dan Byrd.*)

**2) MUF Responsible for Hosting 6-8 Homeless Families:**

**Week of May 25-June 1** – As part of our commitment to the ICHF of Morris County (Interfaith Council for Homeless Families), MUF is coordinating the hospitality that will be provided on-site at the Church of the Redeemer (South Street) for 7 days. We need caring people to serve in several roles: "Dinner Hosts" (not chefs!) who will sit with guests and help serve/clean-up (5:30-7:00); "Child Care Givers" (7:00pm-9:00pm) who will play/read with guest children; "Overnight Hosts" (9:00pm-7:00am). We also need a Grocery Shopper (5/24) and 2 Clean-Up Helpers (Sunday 6/1). To sign on to help (and we do need 15-20 MUF members!) please contact Bob Campbell [wrobc@earthlink.net](mailto:wrobc@earthlink.net) or Karen Burns at [karenburns@casaessex.org](mailto:karenburns@casaessex.org).

**Wind of the Spirit –Morristown Immigrant Resource Center – will hold its Annual Dinner – Saturday, May 31st** More details to come...will be held at St. Margaret's of Scotland/Sussex Turnpike/Speedwell at 6:30-9:00pm. Contact: Maria Eugenia Vargas - [www.windofthespirit.net](http://www.windofthespirit.net). MUF friends of WOTS usually have an attend/have a table/place supporter ads in journal. If you'd like to be help coordinate /be part of our support, contact [karenburns@casaessex.org](mailto:karenburns@casaessex.org).

**MUF Peace Team Feedback to the UUA** – Thanks for giving us your opinions on the MUF Peace Survey and the Peace Luncheon Series. At the April 27<sup>th</sup> luncheon, we hammered out a fine set of comments to forward to the UUA for their consideration as they expand the Study Action Issue language around the topic of "just war." The Seeds of Peace/UUA Peace Team will meet on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 to plan summer/early fall Peace activities for the congregation...hoping to create Fall interfaith Morristown event. "Peace Book Club", led by MUF member Paul Snellgrove continues. **Next Meeting: Wed. May 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:30pm at MUF on: "The Third Way"/William Urey.** Even if you haven't read the book, enjoy the discussion!

**Eric Johnson House AIDs/HIV Recovery Residence –**

**Morristown AIDS Walk a Thon – 5 K– Sunday May 4th – Registration 12:00 pm just before walk @**

**Church of the Redeemer, Morris Street.** Have fun/ serve great cause! MUF \$\$ Sponsors *for your walk* available: contact [karenburns@casaessex.org](mailto:karenburns@casaessex.org)

**Regular MUF Commitments:** Family-style dinner, Wednesdays, May 7<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> –Share your hospitality and/or kitchen skills by participating in hosting our two MUF monthly dinners for the residents of EJH. Contact MUF Coordinator, Susan Spencer at [senspencer@optonline.net](mailto:senspencer@optonline.net) to receive your "assignment" – you'll be added to the rotation.

*(continued on next page)*

**Morristown Community Soup Kitchen** – MUF contingent celebrated CSK Annual Awards Evening 4/17 – energetic and effective CSK organization serves the needs of so many...so well! Next MUF hosting: **Tuesday, May 13th** - Thank you everyone who is already planning to make soup or casseroles. If you'd like to help prepare a meal in advance we store casseroles in MUF freezer prior to May 11th, thereafter, in fridge. Clearly mark for Community Soup Kitchen. Contact Michelle at [mbkunz@gmail.com](mailto:mbkunz@gmail.com) to confirm help. More captains are needed and we express deep thanks our great crew!

**Homeless Solutions – MUF Monthly Commitment – Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> – 4:45-7:00 pm** – Led by Judy O'Neil Goldberg and family, you can join in and help prepare monthly “Cheeseburger & Birthday Cake” celebration evening for 80 homeless residents. Contact [judyoneil@optonline.net](mailto:judyoneil@optonline.net)

**Next Social Justice Council Meeting – Tuesday, May 20th, 7:30pm-9:00pm- @ MUF Room TBD.** Be involved in one of the most vital of MUF's activity centers. If you have questions contact: Michelle Kunz at [mbkunz@gmail.com](mailto:mbkunz@gmail.com) or [karenburns@casaessex.org](mailto:karenburns@casaessex.org).

Save money and energy (CO<sub>2</sub> footprint)!  
Use compact fluorescent bulbs.  
Sundays, Room 100, or call Fred Mayer.  
Large selection, discount prices.

### *Surviving Peak Oil: A Free Film*

**Sunday, May 25**

Staying in town on Memorial Day weekend? Join Green Earth Ministry for a light lunch (\$4) at 12:15 and a free film and discussion at 1:00, *The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil*.

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1990, Cuba, an isolated island nation, lost its source of cheap oil and was forced to rebuild its economy and agriculture. This fascinating, empowering film shows how communities pulled together, created solutions, and ultimately thrived without depending on imported energy.

### *Songs of Storm and Hope*

*A Benefit Recital for the Resurrection Project  
Furniture Bank in New Orleans—a UUA/UUSC  
Program Partner*

**Friday, May 9, at 8 p.m.**

Sanctuary, All Souls Church, 1157 Lexington  
Avenue at 80<sup>th</sup> Street, New York City

Featuring works by Barber, Ives, Schubert,  
Debussy and more!

Suggested ticket price donation is \$15 in advance,  
\$20 at the door; 100% of your ticket donation is  
tax deductible and goes to

The Resurrection Project Furniture Bank.

To reserve in advance, please contact

Kim Calder at: [Kcalder@nyc.rr.com](mailto:Kcalder@nyc.rr.com). This event is  
sponsored by the All Souls New Orleans Initiative at  
All Souls Church, New York City.

### *The Fresh Air Fund Needs YOU!*

The Fresh Air Fund needs families like yours to open their hearts and homes to New York City children. First-time visitors are six to 12 years old and stay for two weeks. With your help a child will get to experience the freedom of playing outdoors and life outside the city streets.

Trip dates for Northern New Jersey are July 9-23, July 16-30 or August 11-21. To become a Fresh Air Fund host family, call Donna Perch or visit the website [www.freshair.org](http://www.freshair.org).

# haring Our Joys & Concerns

A celebration of the life of **Sue Lee “Suzy” Larrison** will take place at MUF on Saturday, May 17, at 11 a.m. Suzy died on September 28, 2007, at the age of 54, from a recurrence of breast cancer. Suzy’s mother, **Ruth Lawrenson**, served as MUF secretary from 1964 to 1989, and remained a faithful member until her death in 2001. All are invited to share this springtime remembrance of Suzy.



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.***

*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.*

***Homer’s Birthday Party!***  
**Saturday, June 21**  
We’re celebrating Homer Hansen’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Saturday, June 21, at 5 p.m. with a potluck supper at the Fellowship. Everyone is invited, and a good time is planned for all.  
Judy Oehler is putting together a birthday booklet about Homer and asks anyone who wishes to share a memory, poem, tribute, picture, etc., to submit it to her or to the office.



## *Upcoming Events Calendar*

| <b>Date</b>                   | <b>Time</b>          | <b>Event</b>                               | <b>Details</b> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|--|----------------|
| Friday, Saturday, May 2-3     |                      | Metro NY District Annual Meeting           |                |
| Saturday, May 4               | 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Blood Drive                                | p. 5           |
| Monday, May 5                 | 7:00 p.m.            | First Monday Book Group                    | p. 6           |
| Friday, May 9                 | 7:30 p.m.            | Craft Bee Night                            | p. 6           |
| Saturday, May 10              | 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  | Second Chance: Congregation Visioning      | p. 3           |
| Thursdays, May 15 and June 19 | 7:00 p.m.            | Racism in Popular Culture, Film Series     | p. 6           |
| Saturday, May 18              | 3:00 p.m.            | Jazz on the Terrace                        | p. 7           |
| Wednesday, May 21             | 6:30 p.m.            | West African Drum and Dance                | p. 6           |
| Wednesday, May 21             | 7:30 p.m.            | Peace Within/Peace Without                 | p. 6           |
| Sunday, May 25                | 12:15 p.m.           | Lunch & <i>The Power of Community</i> film | p. 5           |
| Saturday, May 31              | 7:30 p.m.            | Jason Ricci and New Blood Concert          | p. 5           |
| Sunday, June 1                | 12:45 p.m.           | Annual Meeting of the Congregation         | p. 3           |
| Sunday, June 1                |                      | Last Sunday for two services               |                |

### *Help Wanted: Chairperson for A/V Committee*

The AudioVisual Committee will be in need of a chairperson starting in September. This committee helps to make the Sunday experience meaningful and accessible to everyone by providing microphones, video recording, hearing assist, and projection support for Sunday services. The scheduling infrastructure is easy to learn and use.

Please contact Gabor Kiss at [gabor@gaborkiss.com](mailto:gabor@gaborkiss.com).

### *Letter from Partner Church*

A letter sent to us on January 31 by our Partner Church minister, Rev. Dénes Pálfi, and translated by Gabor Kiss, is available on the Partner Church Committee page of the MUF website: [www.muuf.org/partnerchurch.html](http://www.muuf.org/partnerchurch.html)



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## *May 2008*

*Volume 53, No. 5*



Dated Material – Mailed April 30, 2008  
Deadline for the JUNE issue is

**MAY 15**

**The Annual Congregational meeting will  
take place on Sunday, June 1, at 12:45 p.m.**

## *Sunday Services*

Services at 9 and 11 a.m.



- May 4**      **Coming of Age 2008: Mojimmery**  
Traditional Youth Sunday, created by Junior High youth. The youth are introduced by their adult mentors, share their first credo statements as UUs and receive gifts from the congregation. Celebration in the Dining Room to follow both services!  
*Presented by the Junior High Youth*
- May 11**      **In the House of Tomorrow**  
Celebration Sunday, the culmination of our annual budget drive, plus a baby dedication. The Creative Dance Group will perform.  
*Rev. Alison B. Miller*
- May 18**      **On Hold**  
*Rev. Alison B. Miller*
- May 25**      **Being UUs in a Non-UU World**  
We UUs are few and far between in this wide world. How do we cope with our differences when we come up against them, in the workplace, in family circles, among friends? How do you express your UUism to others in 30 seconds? A participatory service.  
*Led by Betsy Burr and Carol Titus*