



December 2007

Volume 52, No. 12

News

Reaching In . . .
Reaching Out

From the Minister . . .

HOLIDAYS FALL

throughout the year, but December is often the month that comes to mind when we hear the words "The Holiday Season." During the next few weeks Hanukkah, Bodhi Day, the Hajj, Winter Solstice, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and other special days will be greeted with prayers, singing, feasts, candlelight and the extolling of prophets and seasons. Just when it seems that literal or metaphorical darkness threatens to reign over our lives, the holidays arrive as a reminder that joy, hope and light will come to those who are patient, determined and faithful.



Several auspicious events are believed to have occurred during this sacred month. Jews celebrate the Maccabean revolt, which won them the right to worship according to their beliefs, and the miraculous turn of events did not end there. When they rededicated the temple in Jerusalem, there was only enough oil to burn one night but somehow the lamplight lasted eight dazzling nights.

Buddhists celebrate Siddartha Gautama's experience of enlightenment after 49 days of meditation under a pipal tree and became the Buddha, the Awakened One. Muslims observe a pilgrimage to Mecca, where they circle the Ka'aba, a stone building thought to have been constructed by Abraham and Ishmael.

The winter solstice has been celebrated as a holiday under many different names and in many different cultures with a vast number of stories associated with it. Several traditions include ceremonies to lure the light back and celebrate the lengthening daylight, which they view as the returning of the sun god or goddess. In Japan she was named Amaterasu, in Germany she was named Hertha, and in Finland she was named Beiwe.

Christians remember that a teenager named Miriam gave birth to a son in the middle of a stable. The boy grew up to be the prophet Jesus, who possessed the courage, wisdom and spiritual mettle to lead an unlikely band of followers towards a religious fervor for peace, equality and healing for all people on earth.

The most recent of the December holidays is Kwanzaa,

created by Ron Karenga in order to reclaim the community values that African-Americans have inherited from African traditions, including Unity, Self-Determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, and Faith.

December provides the opportunity to gather with family, friends and fellow congregation members to commemorate and celebrate, whether through time-honored traditions or innovations. There are as many ways of observing the holidays as the human mind is capable of imagining. If we can let go of the measure of expectations that seems to accompany the measure of joy of these holidays, we can best appreciate the day before us.

There is no "one way to do it," contrary to whoever says that in your life. You can spend a holiday alone nestled up to a cup of hot chocolate, or you can spend the day with a whole gaggle of friends and family. You can spend the day in silent meditation and thanksgiving, or you can sing your heart out in raucous caroling. The secret to holidays is the secret to all days. If we learn to let go of the prison of expectations of how things are supposed to be, we can free ourselves and enjoy the day that is before us, the one that no doubt has quirks, is precious and meaningful, and may even turn out to be merry.

In fellowship,

Alison

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Morristown Unitarian Fellowship

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Religious Education Classes: 9 a.m.

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wednesday: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
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www.mUUf.org



*The deadline for the
January Newsletter
will be December 12—
to allow the editor some
holiday vacation time.*

Thank you!

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 **12th** of the month
preceding the one in which they will appear.

Thank you!

Upcoming Board 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.*

This month's meetings are scheduled on:

Board of Trustees	December 12
Administrative & Program Networks (tentative)	December 19

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

One of the most exciting developments of the Board's investigations related to the Historic Preservation Grant and the future expansion of MUF's facilities is the "Dream into Action" Design Competition. Once again, unforeseen talent has emerged from our midst. Walter Kanzler, a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Accredited Professional architect specializing in sustainable and energy-efficient designs, came to the Board with a proposal.

With the Board's enthusiastic approval, Walt has launched an architectural competition for advanced graduate students at the New Jersey School of Architecture (NJIT) to design a new facility for MUF that marries the old with the new.

The "Dream into Action" Design Competition seeks to create the development of sustainable and energy-efficient design strategies in harmony with the preservation of an existing nationally registered historic property that is currently the home of the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship...The preservation of the ornate beauty and composition of the existing building and the addition of a new structure or structures that complement the original building and site is paramount...

As we look 5, 15 and many more years into the future, we face the challenge of expanding our current facilities to provide growth while supporting our

mission and expressing the vision and values of our congregation. As we struggle with the challenges of preserving our 100-year-old Georgian mansion and meeting MUF's current and future needs, we strive to find a solution that is not a compromise but an exciting path to the bright future before us.

Sustainability is not only an approach to designing buildings in a more environmentally responsible way, but is a way of life consistent with many of the values shared by UUs throughout the U.S. and the world. As the first UU congregation to obtain Green Sanctuary status in 2002 and through the ongoing efforts of our Green Earth Ministry, we've demonstrated our commitment to the environment and to our 7th principle, which states that we share responsibility for taking care of our green earth. What better way to take that commitment to the next step than through a project such as this?

On the path,

Carol

Carol Todd, President

Note: The Request for Proposals presented to NJIT architectural students can be found both in the Library and on our website, www.muuf.org.

Voices of a Liberal Faith DVD

The Welcoming & Membership Support Committee and the Public Relations Committee are buying copies of this new DVD from the UUA. If you know someone who may be a UU but doesn't know it yet, please pick up a copy at the Welcome Table or Book Table and provide them with it. Please contact Susan Oxman at soxman13@verizon.net with any questions.



New Members

Please welcome Nicole Luland and Jackie Mulcey, who have deepened their commitment to the Fellowship by signing the membership book in November.

Help Wanted: A/V Volunteers Needed

Please join the MUF audiovisual (A/V) volunteers to help support our high-quality Sunday programs. We need people to run the sound board so that all can hear, and to do video recording so we can make DVDs available for people who missed the program. Sometimes a program requires projection of photos or video.

Occasionally we are asked to support additional programs held at MUF. We provide the (simple) training required. It's a fun and low-intensity way to provide a valuable service to MUF, particularly recommended for new members. Scheduling is online or via e-mail and phone calls. Contact Gabor Kiss at muf-av@gaborkiss.com.

Faith Developments

THINGS AROUND

the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship are busy. You've been spending a lot of your time this fall thinking about who you are as a congregation and where you're headed. The ongoing process about the building is really only one piece of a holistic question. Another piece of it is the vision for Religious Education.



As part of the Leadership Retreat that happened in October, I asked participants to answer two questions: How can we manage growth in RE? and, What can the congregation do to support growth in RE? There were lots of ideas.

To the first question, here are several of the suggestions:

- Go to two sessions
- Have more RE space
- Budget more money for RE
- Recruit more teachers
- Recruit teachers who don't have children
- Make teaching easier
- Have smaller class sizes
- Divide the grades
- Keep the combined grades model

To the second questions, there were additional ideas:

- Make REC a nominated position
- Market RE throughout MUF
- Make RE Lifespan (nursery through adult)
- Pay attention to parents' needs
- Hire a youth advisor
- Build RE into the work of all committees
- Create intergenerational covenants
- Consult with the Youth Group
- Bring back mid-week small group worship
- Charge a fee for RE
- Hire paid RE teachers

- Change the nature of the experience for teachers
- Prioritize the outcomes you want

Now some of these contradict each other, but overall, I am hearing a lot of the same things when people have conversations about RE here at the Fellowship. The Dialogues in RE went very well in November and in the next month several key groups, including the RE Council, the Youth Adult Committee and the Adult Programs Committee, will come together to share their thoughts on RE.

As you prepare to hire your permanent DRE, you will have a clear vision of what excellent RE here at MUF will look like thanks to the input from a wide range of MUF members.

Thank you for your participation in this very important process!

In Faith,



UUA President Sinkford Delivers Petitions for Peace

Portions of October 10, 2007 UUA Article

A delegation of clergy from the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) and the United Church of Christ (UCC) delivered a combined total of more than 73,000 signed petitions for peace to Congressional leaders. Rev. William Sinkford, President of the UUA, presented the 13,006 signatures gathered by the UUA's Washington Office for Advocacy.

The cover letter accompanying the petitions read in part, "I urge you, together with these thousands, to end the war in Iraq. The time has come for the US, in the words of our Petition, 'to acknowledge failure and error....accept the futility of our current path...and seek new paths of peacemaking in the Middle East, through regional engagement and true multinational policy.' It is time to change the mission."

In Faith,
William G. Sinkford, President

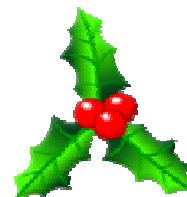
"This petition may not end the war, but by bringing our candles together, they certainly grow brighter. As I see that light growing, I pray for a rebirth of hope."

The full article can be accessed at the uua.org website.

– Rita Morris, Denominational Affairs

Short-Term Tax Law for IRA Withdrawals About to Expire

If you are 70½ and are having to take more from your IRA than you would like, take note that an opportunity is about to expire. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 has made it possible for owners of an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to request distributions totaling up to \$100,000 to be made directly to qualified charities such as the Fellowship. MUF has already received donations as a result of this law, which will expire **at the end of December**.



Making a charitable distribution from an IRA rather than from other assets is especially appropriate if you:

Do not itemize deductions;

Are already at the deduction limit for 2007;

May lose some of your itemized deductions because of your income level, or

Are required to take distributions, but do not need them for living expenses.

To make this happen, do not take the distribution yourself because that would add to taxable income. Instead, notify your IRA administrator to make the gift directly to the Fellowship (or other charity). This distribution does not qualify as a tax deduction.

NOTE: Only funds in traditional and Roth IRAs are eligible. The rules do not apply to funds in 401(k)s or other qualified retirement plans.

–Maggie Chilton

Upcoming Events

A Peaceful World begins with a Peaceful Heart **Saturday, December 1, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.**

At the Empty Bowl Zendo (2d floor of the Parish House, Church of the Redeemer, 36 South St., Morristown.

A daylong workshop on Nonviolent CommunicationSM; learn how to develop greater empathy and compassion for yourself and others, understand more deeply what's motivating your own and others' words and actions, communicate your feelings and needs in a way that brings you closer to others, build greater trust, connection and inter-dependence in all your relationships.

Trainer: Dian Killian, PhD, Certified Trainer, Center for Nonviolent Communication. Cosponsored by Seeds of Peace.

Cost: \$100* per person (*sliding scale -scholarships available: Call Genie Bane); more info at

www.emptybowlzendo.org.



First Monday Book Group

Monday, December 3, 7 p.m.

The First Monday Book Group is reading *The Clash Within*, by Martha Nussbaum. They have chosen these books for the remainder of the year: January 7, *The Stick Game*, by Peter Bowen, and February 4, *Sister Carrie*, by Theodore Dreiser. Any questions, contact Nancy Lee McLure at nlmclure@msn.com.

West African Drum and Dance – for All Levels

Wednesdays, December 5 and 12

Drum at 6:30 p.m. • Dance at 7:45 p.m.

Presented by Marafanyi Percussion, featuring Lara Gonzalez & Yael Shacham

A holistic approach to drum and dance that is fun, encouraging and accessible, exploring traditional African music and movement. All skill levels are welcome, from teens to seniors. Dress comfortably for movement. *\$15 per drum or dance class, \$25 combo price for both. \$5 drum rentals available with pre-registration only.* For more information, visit the Marafanyi Percussion website at www.MySpace.com/MarafanyiPercussion.

Normandy Chorale Concert

Sunday, December 9, 1:15 p.m.

The Normandy Chorale will perform selections from Handel's *Messiah* and *Songs of the Season*. The donation at the door is \$8 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. Refreshments will be served. The music will be performed under the direction of Bruce Sidelnik and accompanied by Beth Wilson on the piano.

December Craft Night

Friday, December 14, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Calling all knitters & knitter-wanna-bees! Come join us at MUF and learn to knit with Sue Essig as our instructor. Make something cozy to keep you warm this winter. Sign up at the box office on Sundays or by calling Chris at the MUF office (973-540-1177). Plan to bring yarn and needles appropriate to the yarn thickness (see yarn label for needle size recommended). Bring a potluck dessert to share.

Circle Dinner

Saturday, January 12; deadline January 5

Beat the post-holidays blues with a dinner with friends old and new. Sign up for a great evening at someone's home. It is a perfect time to visit with people you see here at MUF and get to know them better. The signup sheet will be posted in Room 101. Please mark your new calendars and come—sign up before January 5. You can also e-mail Carol Drake at taffydrake@yahoo.com. Hope to add your name to our list!!!



Second Annual MUF Holiday Party and Hanging of the Greens!

Sunday, December 2, from 3:30-6 p.m.



Members and friends of all ages are invited to a holiday party hosted by the Board and our Staff. There will be fun activities for children and adults, goodies to eat and drink, carol-singing, and hall-decking. Make your favorite holiday treat to share with other at the cookie swap – bagged by the dozen to trade with other bakers in two categories: Family Favorites and Martha-Stuart-w-Wannabees (for serious bakers; include the recipe). Bring an extra dozen to share with everyone.

Our Financial Health

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

	November 07	YTD July-Nov	Annual Budget	Budget Remaining	
INCOME	Pledge Income	\$34,806	\$134,607	\$400,000	\$271,576
	Rental Income	\$4,300	\$12,230	\$43,500	\$31,270
	Fundraisers	\$150	\$150	\$30,000	\$29,850
	Other Income	\$432	\$1,847	\$9,500	\$7,653
	TOTAL INCOME	\$41,117	\$152,067	\$493,500	\$347,616
EXPENSES	Salaries	\$23,406	\$82,515	\$264,632	\$182,117
	Benefits & Prof. Exp.	\$5,045	\$20,058	\$61,301	\$41,285
	Payroll Taxes & Fees	\$1,371	\$5,798	\$17,478	\$11,680
	PAYROLL	\$29,821	\$108,371	\$343,411	\$235,082
	Debt Services	\$1,715	\$6,178	\$30,000	\$23,822
	Utilities	\$905	\$4,387	\$25,809	\$21,422
	Bldg & Grounds Mntc.	\$3,899	\$8,785	\$37,160	\$28,375
	BLDG MNTC & UTIL	\$4,803	\$13,172	\$62,969	\$49,797
	Office Expense	\$1,706	\$6,903	\$19,530	\$12,627
	Business Expense	\$38	\$762	\$3,922	\$3,350
	Risk Management	(\$151)	\$2,435	\$10,330	\$7,896
	UUA Obligations	\$7,223	\$9,830	\$25,750	\$15,920
	Fellowship	\$1,623	\$1,858	\$12,100	\$10,242
	ADMINISTRATION	\$10,439	\$21,788	\$71,632	\$50,034
	Admin Committees	\$36	\$978	\$6,050	\$5,072
	Program Committees	\$1,753	\$2,688	\$14,175	\$11,487
	Social Justice	\$746	\$2,748	\$6,050	\$3,302
	COMMITTEES	\$2,534	\$6,414	\$26,275	\$19,861
	Religious Education	\$1,362	\$3,539	\$14,200	\$10,661
	TOTAL EXPENSE	\$50,675	\$159,462	\$548,487	\$389,256
Difference	(\$9,558)	(\$7,395)	(\$54,987)		

Respectfully submitted by Tony Rutigliano, Treasurer

Social Justice Council
December 2007 Update -- Helping Neighbors in Need



MUF- Gifts of Conscience - Alternative Holiday Gift Fair – at MUF
December 8, 9 & 16

Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. & Sundays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. – All Invited

Ten Thousand Villages Artisan Gifts & Heifer International Project plus 9 Other Alternative Holiday Gift Tables That Express UU Values! -While we enter another holiday whirl, stop and think that your gift choices can change the world, one person at a time—either a local impoverished person or one a world away. Please come by and choose among beautiful gifts and thoughtful message-rich, symbolic gifts for your family and friends. Add a gift of conscience to what you are already giving ! Choices include actual hand-crafted items and items that are ecologically sensitive and peace-spreading to donations/gift cards for the Community Soup Kitchen, Native American Children in Pine Ridge SD, gift donations for prisoners' needs, for English language lessons for immigrants, Habitat for Humanity, etc. Shop with a message for the world in mind!

Mark Your Calendar – UUA Peace Team - Hosting MLK Sunday (January 20) – Kickoff to “Peace Soup” Series of Luncheons- 12:15-2 p.m. Terrace & Meeting Room.

Special Guest: Stacey Patton, author of “That Mean Old Yesterday,” will share her story as a survivor of abandonment and abuse with a message that you can't denigrate the human spirit. She tells us how by confronting the past, forgiving and moving forward, you can reclaim your life and have a positive impact on the lives of others. We will share a delicious soup luncheon before her talk and be transported by Stacey's very special message that will touch each person's heart in a unique way.

Morristown Community Soup Kitchen – Next Hosting Date: Tuesday , December 11. We need wonderful people to step up as crew members and captains who will plan the details three times a year for our hostings. We also need twice as many cooks each month in the winter months, who will prepare soups, chilis and casseroles to feed 200-plus people once the winter cold sets in. Contact Michelle Kunz to confirm that you are cooking (bring your soup to MUF freezer/kitchen in advance)...and/or that you want to be a part of the crew/captains team at mbkunz@gmail.com.

Eric Johnson House MUF Monthly Dinner Teams – Next host dates are December 5 and 19 and we're taking on December 26 as a bonus day (5:45 p.m.-7 p.m.). A funny, lively and very warmly receptive group of 10 residents. Join other MUF members/friends in hosting responsibilities. Let Susan Spencer know at sespencer@optonline.net if you want to be a part of this very special outreach to formerly homeless people who are recuperating from the toll that AIDS/HIV takes on their bodies and spirits.

Morristown Homeless Solutions (shelter) monthly dinner commitment (next hosting, December 8, 4:45-7 p.m.) continues under leadership of Judy O'Neil Goldberg. If you are an adult, or a family with Jr. High and older children that you can accompany, prepare an easy meal for the 100+ shelter residents.

Hospitality Needed!

One way we can ensure a social as well as religious experience on Sundays is to have a hosted Coffee Hour. You, your family, your friends or committee czn volunteer to select one Sunday and bring food to share with our member and guest congregants. It is easy to do and does not need to be a costly venture. We have many open Sundays and it really makes a difference when you volunteer. For more information contact Dan Cohen at danielcohen@optonline.net.



Winter Is Here

Request from the Community Soup Kitchen of Morristown - Holiday Gift Wish List

Yes, Winter **IS** here. And along with the snow and the cold comes the need for things to help protect some of our neighbors from the harsh elements.

The Community Soup Kitchen of Morristown is asking its member congregations to collect items from their Guest Wish List (see list below). We will be collecting these items in Room 100 on the following days: November 25, December 2, December 9, December 16.

Wish List: Men's Work Gloves; Insulated Underwear Sizes L, XL, XXL; Knit Hats - Men's, Women's, Boys', Girls'; Knit Scarves- All kinds; Warm Socks - Men's, Women's, Boys', Girls'; Blankets; Sleeping Bags; Full-Size Toiletries - Shampoo, Conditioner, Soap, Deodorant; Toothpaste, Toothbrushes; Disposable Razors, Shaving Cream; Phone Cards; Backpacks or Carry Bags.

If you have any questions, please e-mail Michelle Kunz at mbkunz@gmail.com. Thank you so much for your gift of caring.

MUF Social Justice Council

The Giving Tree is Back!

Help us give the gift of fun to needy children in our communities! Bring new, unwrapped gifts for the Giving Tree — Jigsaw Puzzles; Story Books; Board Games; Coloring Books; Crayons; Hand Puppets; Stuffed Animals, as well as items for the Community Soup Kitchen wish list (see the article above).



Christmas on the Rez

If you're looking for some quality time with family and friends this season, why not warm a few hearts along with the cider! Once again this year, the Community Action Program for the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota will hold a Christmas

Party for the poverty-stricken children in their care—a perfect opportunity to come together in the spirit of the holidays.

You may recall from recent articles that Pine Ridge is the poorest area in the United States, with the majority of residents living below the poverty line. The children, if they're lucky, are gathered by the social services to receive a charity meal and gift of perhaps an orange or apple, or maybe some candy or nuts. And sometimes even these items are prohibitively expensive and not available. This makes for a bleak Christmas, but you and your family can help...and have fun while doing so!

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 C.A.P. Christmas Party
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 for babies through 18 years of age, so don't forget the teens.

*Your gifts should arrive at the C.A.P. office
 no later than December 10.*

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

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.

Tell Us Your Joys & Concerns

Remember—the joys and concerns you write on our “Milestones and Passages” cards to be read on Sunday mornings do not reach other members of the congregation unless you specifically authorize their listing in this newsletter by checking the “Newsletter” box or by sending them to melodylingers@verizon.net.

Contributions to the Celebration of Life

The Endowment Committee thanks Lena and Will Kenan for their donation in memory of Henry J. (Hank) Luer.

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
Saturday, December 1	10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.	Peaceful World Begins with a Peaceful Heart	p. 6 
Sunday, December 2	3:30-6:00 p.m.	Annual Holiday Party/Hanging of the Greens	p. 7
Monday, December 3	7:00 p.m.	First Monday Book Group	p. 6
Wednesdays, December 5 & 12	6:30 & 7:45 p.m.	West African Drum and Dance	p. 6
Saturday, December 8, Sundays, December 9 & 16	10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Alternative Holiday Gift Fair	p. 8
Sunday, December 9	1:15 p.m.	Normandy Chorale Concert	p. 6
Friday, December 14	7:30-9:30 p.m.	New Crafts: Knitting	p. 6

Christmas Eve Services – Monday, December 24 – Rev. Alison B. Miller

5:00 p.m. - Family Candle Lighting Service, featuring the Children's Choir

9:00 p.m. - Traditional Candle Lighting Service, featuring the Adult Choir



Make Your New Year's Eve Plans at the Fellowship

Monday, December 31, 8:30 p.m. to Whenever – New Year's Eve Party at MUF!

Join the fun at the “**Big Easy**” New Year's Bash at MUF. Hosted by your MUF Board of Trustees as a fundraiser and friend raiser for MUF, this event has been planned as an incredibly fun evening for you. We've booked the very exciting entertainers A.J. Bodnar (affectionately known as Arpy to us) & Liza DiSavino, both of whom are amazingly talented jazz and folk musicians who will regale us all evening with song and humor.

You will enjoy a New Orleans-style feast from hors d'oeuvres to a sumptuous dinner buffet with wines and dessert. So, now you **know** what you can do for New Year's ...“ring it in” with all your MUF friends and bring your other friends too (everyone is welcome!).

Tickets are available at the MUF Box Office on Sundays or call the office (973-540-1177, ext. 201) to be added to the list. Tickets are \$60 per person, and it will be totally worth it! You can reserve tables for 8 or ask to be seated with friends. Don't miss out on the fun!



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 2007

Volume 52, No. 12



Dated Material – Mailed: November 30, 2007
Deadline for the JANUARY issue is

DECEMBER 12

Sunday Services

Services at 9 and 11 a.m., unless otherwise noted



December 2 Don't Let the Lights Go Out

Rev. Alison B. Miller

December 9 Splish-Splash

Rev. Alison B. Miller

December 16 Back to Basics: A Winter Solstice Celebration

The origins of our most treasured symbols and traditions at this time of year can be traced back to Earth-based celebrations of Winter Solstice and Yuletide. Come celebrate and immerse yourself in these ancient observances.

Coordinated by Marjorie Wormser and Lauralee Arnold

December 23 A Christmas Ghost Story

10 a.m. only

Join us for a special intergenerational Sunday service based on Charles Dicken's book *A Christmas Carol*.

Rev. Alison B. Miller & Kim Mason, IDRE

December 24 Christmas Eve See page 11.

December 30 A Fine Balance Between Hello & Goodbye

10 a.m. only

Let's spend the last Sunday of 2007 looking at ways to determine endings and beginnings. How do we engage/celebrate/honor our hellos and goodbyes?

Rev. Linda Goonewardene