



December 2009

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News

Reaching In . . .
Reaching Out

From the Minister...

A QUESTION THAT I HAVE OFTEN RECEIVED is, "Why do Unitarian Universalists celebrate Christmas, if we don't believe that Jesus is God?" While it is true that many Christians equate Jesus with God, there have always been Christians and people from other faith perspectives who acknowledge that a person named Jesus once lived and inspired many to follow his path.



The short answer to the question might be, "We believe that Jesus was a great teacher and prophet, so we celebrate his birthday and the ways in which he made a difference."

We celebrate Jesus, the man, whom we encounter in the stories of the Bible and through what we have learned about his social and historical context. We celebrate the ways he upset our expectations, invited us into a relationship with the holy, and asked us to set our minds on peace.

We celebrate a woman named Mary, who was unwed, poor and young, and yet found the courage to raise her son and have confidence in his future. We celebrate the way Joseph stood by her and raised this child as his own. Yes, there is much to celebrate in the story, whether you believe Jesus is God or believe Jesus represents the divine capabilities in men and women.

Unitarian religious educator Sophia Lyon Fahs wrote, "Each night a child is born is a holy night." This captures the essence of why we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We believe that every newborn has the possibility of becoming one more redeemer, and the life of Jesus inspires us to believe that this is true.

He is not the only one. Siddhartha Gautama, who later became the Buddha, is another example. There are women too, like the prophet Miriam for whom mother Mary was named. There are contemporary prophets as well. Two examples might be Muhammad Yunus, the banker from Bangladesh who helped launch the microcredit movement, and Leymah Gbowee, a woman

who led her fellow countrywomen to fight for and win peace in Liberia.

The Christmas story reminds us of a miracle that can happen at any time past, present and future. This very day a child could be born who will help us to put an end to a war, to global warming, to cancer, to racism, to many of the scourges we now face.

The Christmas story also reminds us that we are a part of the story. In our own way, each one of us is a child of hope, whose life can intersect with the events of history and help to bring about a positive change. None of us is let off the hook. After all, if a child born with meager means managed to lead a spiritual revolution, then everyone has the possibility of doing something even when the circumstances look bleak.

At life's beginning, this truth may oft be whispered in our ear, but as we age we sometimes forget. This season calls to us through its carols, stories and celebrations and asks us to remember the promise that was held in our birth.

Merry Christmas!

Alison's office hours are Tuesday-Thursday & Sunday by appointment.

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Morristown Unitarian Fellowship

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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:

Jo Sippie-Gora for organizing and bringing the NVC workshop to MUF.

The stars of the Comedy Night: **Jim Blanton, Charley Carroll, Christine Frederick, Drew Hayes, David Landau, Maria Manna, Venkat Purananpanda.**

Paul Snellgrove for a wonderful job of painting the Terrace Room.

Elizabeth Bain for donating her Service Auction win of Paul's time for the painting of the Terrace Room.

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 9
Administrative/Program Networks	No meeting in December

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 - Stewardship



THREE RECENT, SEEMINGLY UNRELATED EVENTS came into alignment for me as I was raking leaves at MUF during the Fall Cleanup day. All three of these events are related to the theme of Stewardship and our view of Stewardship as comprising the three gifts of Treasure, Talent and Time.

Treasure - As many of you know, we recently came very close to having to declare a Financial Emergency. We had a cash flow crunch that was precipitated by expenses occurring at a faster rate than our receipts of pledges and income. The Board was made aware of the problem and quickly took steps to deal with the emerging crisis. We deferred the payment of UUA and Metro dues, we suspended the splitting of the offertory between the Operating Budget and Social Justice, and we made a direct appeal to you, our congregation, to take steps to get your pledge payments either up to date or paid in full.

In order to alleviate this problem from reoccurring, we need everyone to realize that good pledge Stewardship involves a few basic steps:

- Please pay your pledge in a timely fashion. I encourage everyone to use the monthly automatic payment method available this year. I know that when Michelle and I relied on being at MUF, writing out a check and placing it in the offertory basket, we often fell behind in the Stewardship covenant of keeping our pledge paid on time. That is no longer a problem as the payment is debited from our account every month.
- If your personal financial situation changes, let either Stewardship or Alison know. We all know and understand that life is a wonderfully unpredictable process. This can lead to both positive and negative outcomes. If life has dealt you a setback and you cannot stay current with your pledge, please let someone know. It helps MUF plan for our future income and expenses in a way that helps mitigate a possible crisis. This is also an aspect of good stewardship.

Talent – I find painting interior spaces to be a talent, one that I sorely lack. Recently, we have had three major areas of the Fellowship painted. The

Sanctuary, the Terrace Room and most of the RE spaces have all been painted in the last year. Two of these efforts were volunteer efforts with a wide variety of people helping paint the “West” wing of MUF (RE spaces), one determined man painting the Terrace Room (Paul Snellgrove), and the Sanctuary (Meeting Room) being painted by paid professionals. I included the Sanctuary in this list as a comparison. It helps to put the contribution of the volunteer effort in perspective when you realize that the painting of the Sanctuary cost over \$2,000, and the other, much larger efforts, were done by our talented volunteers. By virtue of their Stewardship, MUF was able to save many thousands of dollars.

Time - There are so many ways in which people give their time to MUF as part of their Stewardship of our community. On Saturday, November 21, I joined a group of volunteers for our annual Fall Cleanup day. It was a wonderful, multi-generational event. There were members, newcomers, friends, kids and teenagers, all coming together to share in a common work effort. Some people worked on the inside of the building, cleaning, wiping down walls and other activities, while a larger contingent raked, blew, cut, pulled and carried the mountains of leaves, weeds and vines that grace our lovely property. In the past, when we have had to hire people to do this, it has cost upwards of \$2,000. By giving generously of their Time, MUF gained financially and aesthetically, the spirit and ties within our community were strengthened, and a lot of leaves were given a better place to spend their winter.

As we continue to meet the demands of Time, Talent and Treasure that a community our size requires, we will continue to rely on each one of you to give what you can. I cannot express enough the gratitude I have towards each and every one in this beloved community for their gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure.

Thank you,

Gary

Gary Kunz, President

Faith Developments

NOVEMBER WAS GRATITUDE MONTH – the month of Thanksgiving. As Unitarian Universalists, we have a long history of ancestors we are grateful for. Our Coming of Age youth learned about our Unitarian Universalist Martyrs in November; you can soon find the posters they created on the bulletin board upstairs on the 2^d floor. It is important to know whose shoulders we stand on. I invite you to learn more about the following UU Martyrs:



Katherine Vogel (1459-1539) - Katherine lived in Poland. She thought God was a unity, not a trinity, and that Jesus was human. She was the first person we know of to be killed (burned at the stake) for her Unitarian beliefs.

Michael Servetus (1511–1553) - Michael (a noted doctor), like Katherine, couldn't find the trinity in the Bible. He wrote a book called "On the Errors of the Trinity." Servetus (and his book) were burned at the stake in Geneva at the time John Calvin was leading the Reformation there.

Faustus Socinus (1539–1604) - Faustus was the spiritual leader of the Polish Brethren Unitarians in Poland. University students burned his treasured books. They almost burned Socinus in the fire, but a university professor found a way to get him out of harm's reach. He moved to a community of 300 Unitarian families and died six years later. He was buried in a Unitarian cemetery.

George de Benneville (1703–1793) - George thought he was the worst sinner when he had a vision of Jesus who told him he was forgiven. This conversion experience made de Benneville a Universalist. He went to France to preach, but he was arrested and condemned to death. His life was spared by a quick reprieve from the King of France. Because of his heretical views, he moved to Pennsylvania in America. Here he practiced his medicine and his preaching.

Joseph Priestly, March 24, 1733–February 6, 1804 - Joseph grew up in a family full of dissenters. Priestly became a dissenting minister, but he is most known as the founder of modern chemistry. He escaped a mob that burned down his home and laboratory. He moved to the United States – to central Pennsylvania. He founded the first Unitarian church.

Norbert Capek (1870–1942) - Thinking for yourself was not politically correct in the Austrian Empire. Capek took so much political heat that he ended up taking his family to the United States. He was a Baptist minister, but soon converted to Unitarianism because his children liked going to a place where they could explore their beliefs. He left America in 1921 and started a Unitarian congregation of 3200 members in Prague. He was arrested by the Gestapo and lost his life in a concentration camp.

James H. Barrett, August 9, 1919–July 29, 1994 – James Barrett and his wife escorted women who needed abortions into clinics. A pro-life protester shot James Barrett and a doctor and wounded Mrs. Barrett. Barrett was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors on the eve of his 75th birthday.

Viola Liuzzo, April 11, 1925–March 25, 1965 - Viola Liuzzo also answered Martin Luther King's call. She was a member of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit, Michigan. Viola was shot by the Ku Klux Klan.

Rev. James Reeb, January 1, 1927–March 11, 1965 - Reeb's chaplaincy job in a hospital introduced him to the inequity of living conditions for African Americans. He decided to devote his life to promoting justice and compassion for all people. When Martin Luther King called people of all faiths to support his cause, Reeb answered the call. James Reeb was clubbed to death in support of his beliefs.

In this month of December, let's be grateful for Unitarian Universalism and the men and women who made our faith and freedom possible. I hope you find blessings during the holidays.

Karen

Transylvania Tidbit

The Partner Church Committee will be hosting another ever-popular Incredible Edible Decorations-making at the **Holiday Party on December 6** <http://muuf.org/committees/documents/szaloncukor.doc>. Join us in this charming, fun and tasty Hungarian tradition, and also pick up an "Egy Az Isten" embroidered bookmark for a stocking-stuffer (\$10, supports our Partner Church in Sinfalva). Contact Gabor Kiss at gabor@gaborkiss.com.

COME ONE, COME ALL! - - - - 4th ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

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

Come to our Fellowship home to help the Board and staff deck our halls for the Holiday! Enjoy crafts, games, music, performances, and caroling in the neighborhood. Eat, drink and be merry! Please bring your favorite holiday food – appetizer, veggies, main dish, fruit or sweets to share!

Please also bring a gift for someone in need:

- *A wrapped children's book with age/gender on the tag for the Neighborhood House
- *Children's wrapped pajamas with gender/age on the tag for the Division of Youth and Family Services
- *White crew socks, woman's sports bra (no wire) and/or men's white briefs, toothpaste and toothbrushes, shampoo, lotion (no pump), deodorant, home-baked cookies for inmates

The gifts for inmates will be wrapped at Grace Lutheran Church in Mendham.

HOLIDAY FUN FOR ONE AND ALL!



Thanks for Supporting Marriage Equality

Thanks to all who signed a letter to their state legislator in support of marriage equality, sponsored by the Legislative Ministry of New Jersey. We sent 292 letters to legislators in six districts, and hand-delivered 86 of those letters to Assemblymen Michael Carroll, Alex DeCroce and Jay Webber to give them added impact.

Thanks to Anita Young from the Legislative Ministry, a number of congregations sent similar letters expressing their support for marriage equality in New Jersey.

In other news, Legislative Ministry member Nancy Griffiths visited Congressman Leonard Lance's office to discuss health care. Lance represents parts of Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset and Union counties.

"Legislators do like to hear from their constituents," said Nancy. "When I didn't hear back after I first called Lance's office, I called again and eventually got a call from the Congressman himself, and we talked for half an hour. Later a group of 10 of us met with an aide for almost two hours to present our views. So the process does work."

Saving Energy and Money

What does the Energy Star green certification label mean?

Energy Star is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U. S. Department of Energy. It was created in 1992 to help us all save money and protect the environment through energy-efficient products and practices.

IN THE HOME energy-efficient choices can save families about a third on their energy bill as well as reducing greenhouse gas emissions by a third.

IN BUSINESS energy management can produce twice the savings. The joint program offers energy management strategies that help in measuring current energy performance, setting goals and tracking savings.

Energy Star-labeled items use about 20 to 30 percent less energy than the average.

Gloria Dyer for the Green Earth Ministry (GEM)

Save the date! The 2010 Metro NY District Annual Meeting will be held April 30-May 1, 2010, at the Hyatt Morristown (NJ). More information coming soon.

Upcoming Events

Monday Night Book Group

Monday, December 14, 7 p.m.

We will discuss *Freakonomics* by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner. Our selection for January 11 is *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. Please note that we will meet in Room 205 on the SECOND Monday until further notice. More information from Nancy Lee McLure at nlmclure@msn.com.

Crafting Group CANCELLED IN DECEMBER

Native American Spirituality in Everyday Life

Seven consecutive Wednesdays starting January 20 {1/20, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24, 3/3}

Minimum Age: 16 with Parental Consent {in writing if the parent is not also attending the series}

Presented by MUF members Michelle Owings-Christian and Fred Blanken, who have been studying Native American Spiritual Traditions for 18 and 37 years respectively. They are Elders in the Sankey Tribe, a church based on Native American principles. This series will present a "Big Picture" view of such topics as definitions of medicine, tribal structure, daily spiritual practices, the Medicine Pipe/Wotai, and the Medicine Wheel. Participants are not "required" to come to every class – however, each class will likely touch on topics from previous classes, and we may not have time to backtrack for you if you've missed some of them.

There is NO FEE for this series. Registration in advance is requested so we will know what we need in terms of materials. Participants may bring refreshments to share.

For more information, please contact Michelle Owings-Christian at mroccedar@gmail.com OR Fred Blanken at manysilverwolf1@gmail.com.

Peace Begins Deep Within...

The seeds of a new practice group for beginners have sprouted from the recently held Saturday workshop on Nonviolent Communication. The new practice group will begin to meet in January, using the classic book *Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life*, by Marshall B. Rosenberg, Ph.D., and the skill-sharpening exercises in the companion workbook.

For more information, including their specific

meeting dates and times, contact Brenda Forte at bgforte@verizon.net, or Jo Sippie-Gora at josippie@optonline.net.

Last Chance to Help Fashion Next Year's SOC

This will be YOUR last opportunity to participate in creating a UUA Statement of Conscience (SOC) for 2010 on the subject of Peace. This document will represent where our association of congregations stands on peace, the historical and theological context for its stand, and what actions we are called to.

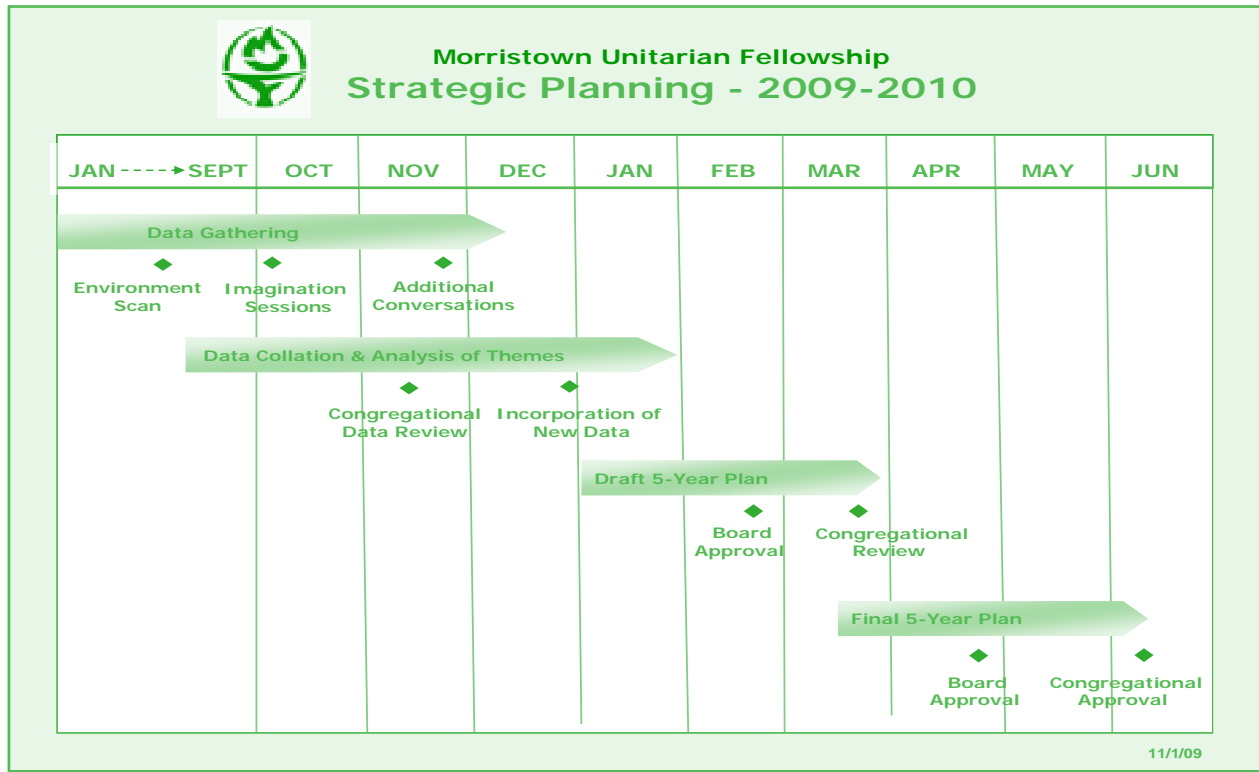
What Can You Do? After four years of congregational study and several revisions, the latest draft of the Peacemaking Statement of Conscience is ready for your review. Hard copies (comment forms attached) have been placed on the turnstiles in the Great Hall, and are available at the Seeds of Peace display table. If you prefer to read the Draft online, see www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/peacemaking/121606.shtml and obtain the comment form from the MUF website.

What's the deadline? January 10, 2010. Please drop off your comments in the Seeds of Peace mail slot (outside the copy room), give them directly to Jo Sippie-Gora, or email them to seedsofpeacemuf@optonline.net.

What Will Happen to My Comments? A task force will compile all member feedback, and the Denominational Affairs Committee will submit our vote in the Congregational Poll on behalf of the MUF congregation. UUA bylaws require that at least 25% of all certified congregations vote to put the Draft SOC on the final agenda for the 2010 General Assembly in June.

Questions? Email Jo Sippie-Gora: josippie@optonline.net.

Thursday Office Help – Can you commit to a weekly three-hour gig in the office? The Thursday assistant will produce the What's Happening insert, refresh the bulletin board and literature racks, mail outgoing checks, and check enrollments for upcoming programs 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Thursday. You will need to know MS Word at an intermediate level, and MS Excel basics. If you're willing to take on this behind-the-scenes task, contact Maggie at 973-540-1177 X203 or Maggie@muuf.org.



The website may be accessed to view strategic planning data and updates as they occur. Strategic Planning updates are kept in a binder available in the Library.

Christmas on the Rez

REMEMBERING THE CHILDREN OF PINE RIDGE RESERVATION

Once again, the Medicine Root Service Center (aka Community Action Program, CAP, office) asks for our support to bring holiday warmth and light to the many needy families in their care. Serving the Oglala and Lakota Sioux of the Pine Ridge Reservation, they seek our gifts and donations for their annual children’s holiday party. These families have been documented as the poorest people in the US, which makes for a bleak Christmas.

How can you help?

Please consider sending a new gift, several gifts or a check in any amount to support this wonderful project. The age group is babies through 18 years of age, so don’t forget the teens. Send NEW gifts in original packaging, unwrapped, along with a sufficient amount of wrapping paper, ribbon, tags, bows, etc., to:

Kyle C.A.P. Christmas Party
C/O Noreen Two Bulls, Manager
Medicine Route District Service Center
P.O. Box 496 – South Allen Road
Kyle, SD 57752
 605-455-2448, or 455-2304 (Mountain Time)



Your gifts should arrive at the CAP office as early in December as possible (no later than **December 10**), for sorting and wrapping. Make checks payable to “Kyle CAP.”

Important: This outreach will NOT be represented at the Alternative Gift Fair this year, so please give generously and with an open heart, and pass this information along to others, if appropriate. If you wish your gift to be acknowledged, consider including a note with a self-addressed, stamped postcard for return to you. Email Debbie Rice (sda3rice@optonline.net) with questions.

Mitakuye Oyasin

(Lakota Sioux – meaning “we are all related”)

Social Justice Council - December 2009 Update Helping Neighbors in Need



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

Come One, Come All— MUF’s Annual “Gifts of Conscience” Holiday Fair

...Let this year’s gift giving lift the lives of others!

Friday, December 4, 6-9:30 p.m. * Saturday, December 5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. * Sunday, December 6, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Exercise your UU Values and shop from an extensive inventory of value-priced jewelry, toys, and decorative home items created by third-world artisans.

Choose “meaningful” gifts for those hard-to-shop-for people on your list:

- *Ten Thousand Villages* – offers quality items from many nations-supporting artisans receiving fair trade value–enchanting selection/varied prices.
- Donations to the *Heifer Project* provide income-producing animals, bees, tree seedlings to rural families around the world to improve their lives. (Symbolic stuffed animals and gift card acknowledgement of donation.)
- *Peaceworks* donations provide support for women, street children, reforestation and education in Nicaragua.
- *Seeds of Peace* purchases support local peace-building activities.
- *Green Earth Ministry* gifts are environmentally friendly.
- *Grupo Cajola* handmade items sustain the Women’s Coop in Cajola, Guatemala.
- *Wind of the Spirit, Morristown* - donations provide services for local immigrants.
- *Amani Kids!* – donations for Tanzanian orphanage rescuing AIDS orphans.
- Gift donations to Morristown Unitarian Fellowship’s social justice projects include: *Eric Johnson House*, Senior High Youth Group’s *Habitat for Humanity* Project in South Carolina, Interfaith Council for Homeless Families of Morris County.

“MUF Giving Tree” -- A Holiday tree adorned with “Gift Tags” will go up November 29 in MUF Great Hall.

Take tags and ***return wrapped presents under the tree by Dec. 6, 13 & 20 – To be delivered week of Dec. 21***

Take gift tags for 3 purposes:

Gifts for disadvantaged Morristown Middle School kids (Distributed by school social worker). Gift Cards needed to 3 recommended stores in walking distance.

Gifts for disadvantaged elementary/younger children For Morristown Neighborhood House after-school program students/sibs - Buy books, games, & puzzles for kids 3-11.

Gifts for poor Laborers – For Wind of The Spirit and “Pathways To Work” immigrant networks here in Morristown (Buy warm outerwear – sweaters, sweat-shirts, vests, caps, scarves, gloves- Men’s S, M, L)

Big November Thank You! ForMUF Harvest Day '09. We donated more than 60 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.

Morristown Community Soup Kitchen – Next Hosting Date: December 8! Thanks, MUF members, for helping cook great soups and casseroles. The lines are long and the people are hungry. Contact: Michelle Kunz @mbkunz@gmail.com to let her know if you can help out.

Eric Johnson House MUF Monthly Dinner Teams – Next Hostings: December 2 & 23 (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: zellarbg@yahoo.com.

Morristown Homeless Solutions (Shelter) monthly dinner commitment (next Hosting: December 12 (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.

Next Meeting Social Justice Council – Thursday, January 14, 7:30–9 p.m. Help us plan to make a difference in our community and afar. This will be a Quarterly Plate Allocation meeting. Contact: Christine Reynolds at Reynolds@nac.net.

Special Congregational Meeting Set for Sunday, December 13

We will hold a special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 13, to vote on the revised budget.

At the end of October our cash was very low, and we were close to dipping into our reserves. At that point we were 1/3 through our fiscal year, we had expensed 1/3 of our budgeted expenses, but had only collected 1/5 of our pledge payments. Many thanks to all of you who brought your pledge payments up to date. We are no longer in imminent danger of needing to spend reserve cash.

Let us remain vigilant going forward so that we can avert a cash flow crisis in the spring, as we have had for the last two years, and which according to our

Photos Sought for Welcome Video

If you see George Aronson lurking around MUF these days with his still or video camera, he's probably collecting material for the upcoming welcome video that's being created to put on our website. He's leading a small group of folks seeking to portray the many facets of our Fellowship—service excerpts, RE classes, youth groups, choirs, dancers, committee work, building and grounds, community work, habitat, labyrinth walking, covenant groups, etc. Please submit good quality photos or videos for consideration. Any ideas for things to include are welcome as well. You can reach George at gmaronson@aol.com.

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

Account Name	October	July to Oct	Annual Budget	Budget Remaining
Pledge Income	\$29,992.08	\$127,086.25	\$448,000.00	\$320,913.75
Rental Income	\$4,085.00	\$13,295.00	\$49,200.00	\$35,905.00
Fundraisers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$32,500.00	\$32,500.00
Other Income	\$988.18	\$4,451.68	\$16,140.00	\$11,734.32
TOTAL INCOME	\$35,065.26	\$144,832.93	\$545,840.00	\$401,053.07
PAYROLL	\$39,454.57	\$127,813.33	\$361,948.00	\$235,109.67
Debt Services	\$1,762.80	\$7,274.41	\$19,000.00	\$12,676.21
BLDG MTCE & UTIL	\$4,472.51	\$15,858.36	\$65,932.00	\$50,073.64
ADMIN	\$2,531.33	\$11,830.39	\$60,072.00	\$49,624.63
COMMITTEES	\$309.00	\$2,312.85	\$15,420.00	\$13,777.15
Religious Education	\$1,111.50	\$3,806.25	\$9,716.00	\$5,909.75
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$49,641.71	\$168,895.59	\$532,088.00	\$367,171.05
Difference	(\$14,576.45)	(\$24,062.66)	\$13,752.00	

cash flow projections could happen again if we're not proactive.

Keeping pledge payments current is important to our cash flow. Making your pledge payments (period) is important to our fiscal solvency. To illustrate this, last spring we borrowed \$20,000 to avert a cash flow crisis. We have paid back \$10,000 so far. It will not be easy to repay the other \$10,000.

At the same time, we have uncollected pledges from last year. It is difficult to fulfill financial plans based on pledge commitments that are not kept. If we had collected all the pledges we based our budget on (excluding hardship cases), we could have already repaid the remaining \$10,000 of the loan.

So, going forward:

- 1) Pledge generously and realistically.
- 2) Keep your pledge payments up to date.
- 3) If, due to hardship, your pledge amount becomes unrealistic, please let Alison know.
- 4) Preferably, sign up for direct debit, which will ensure us a steady stream of cash.

Our collective contributions provide the infrastructure upon which we all make magic together here at MUF. And magic we do make!

Susan Lausell, Treasurer

Metro NY Minute – Upcoming Meetings and Workshops and Action Alerts

More than 1,500 people marched under the Standing on the Side of Love banner at the National Equality March on October 11 in Washington DC.

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) works on a number of social justice issues at any given time. Currently, the top priorities are Comprehensive immigration reform; Equal rights for bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgender people; Environmental justice; Reproductive justice with a focus on comprehensive sex education.

More information about these social justice issues can be obtained on the UUA website: www.uua.org/socialjustice/index.shtml.

More information on the above can be obtained on the UU Metro NY website: <http://uumetrony.org>. From this link you can get news from the district, the UUA's social action of the month, and UU Service Committee news.

Susan Oxman, Denominational Affairs

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 so they will reach all members of the Fellowship.

Fall Cleanup a Success

Many thanks to the many hands who helped with the MUF Fall Cleanup! We had a gorgeous fall day to rake what seemed like several tons of leaves, prune brambles and branches, work on stump removal, clean off the labyrinth, clear out some weeds, and start remulching the playground, as well as getting some indoor polishing and touchup work done. We couldn't have done it without your help, folks - and we saved the congregation over \$1,500 in leaf removal costs. Well done, all!

MUF Beautification and Preservation Committee

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 5	9:30 a.m.	Taichi Light Monthly Practice	Nov. NL
Sunday, December 6	3:00-6:00 p.m.	Annual Holiday Party	p. 5
Monday, December 14	7:00 p.m.	Monday Night Book Group	p. 6
Sunday, December 20	4:00 p.m.	Winter Solstice Celebration	p. 11
Sunday, January 10	10:00-11:00 a.m.	Nonagenarians' Coffee Hour	p. 11
Wednesdays, January 20-March 3		Native American Spirituality in Everyday Life	p. 6



***FUN**draining Come-Meet-Me*

The Fundraising Committee raises operational funds for our spiritual home. As many of you know, the Fellowship could really use your help. This committee is for you if you:

- « Want to raise money for the Fellowship through community-building events
- « Are social and enjoy planning parties
- « Are not particularly social and prefer to be “behind the scenes” of an exciting event
- « Do not have a lot of time to volunteer but would like to do so in a meaningful way (e.g., setting up or cleaning up for just one event)
- « Can spearhead just one event or lend a hand for several events
- « Would like to see MUF continue to flourish as a religious community that values social equality, the freedom of individual spiritual beliefs, and the importance of social responsibility.

If you're interested, contact Avianca Bouchédid, Chair, at abouchédid@colotraq.com.

Winter Solstice Celebration **Sunday, December 20, 4:00 p.m.**

Help call back the winter sun in this celebration of Earth-based spirituality – featuring songs, drumming, dance and ritual in which the whole family can participate.

Coordinated by Danelle Simonelli and Pat de la Fuente



Watch for a Special Coffee Hour January 10

..... to celebrate MUF's nonagenarians! Look for details in flyers, *What's Happening* and weekly reminders.

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 2009

Volume 54, No. 12



Dated Material – Posted November 25, 2009
Deadline for the JANUARY issue is

DECEMBER 15

**Special Congregational Meeting
Scheduled for Sunday, December 13
for an Important Vote on
the Revised Budget!
Be there!!!**

Sunday Services

Services at 9 and 11 a.m.



December 6 **The Dawning Future**

The fourth service in our *Living in Covenant: 7 Principles Series* will focus on a core UU precept: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
Rev. Alison B. Miller

December 13 **The Light of Hanukkah**

Rev. Alison B. Miller

December 20 **The Polar Express**

Children, youth and adults are encouraged to join us for this multigenerational service based on the story by Chris Van Allsburg.
Rev. Miller, Karen Brown, and Players

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

Rev. Alison B. Miller

December 27 **Leave 'em Laughing**

A look at laughter and its effect on our lives. Participants include George Aronson, Betsy Burr, Kathleen Caccavale, Miriam Congdon, Kelvin Domovs, Christine Frederick, Stephen Humphreys, Zella Geltman, Dennis Luken, Marjorie Wormser.
Coordinated by Kathleen Caccavale