



February 2007

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News

Reaching In . . .  
Reaching Out

From the Minister . . .

DR. CARTER G.

WOODSON founded Black History month in February of 1926. He was appalled to discover during the course of his studies, including a doctorate in history from Harvard, just how absent African-Americans were from the nation's history.



As a fairly recent graduate of Harvard's Divinity School, I would say that while things have improved, we still have a long way to go. Why is it that so many years later it is still difficult to gain an accurate understanding of African-Americans' contributions to history or theology and so forth in the "regular" or, even, "required" American History or Intro to Theology class? Black history, culture and scholarship remain at the margins, and many schools, universities, congregations and museums are complicit.

I would like to take the time to honor Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, an African-American woman who pushed open the boundaries of both the American and the Unitarian boxes. Frances Harper was a teacher, writer, lecturer and political activist. She was born in 1825 in Baltimore, Maryland, to free parents. Her mother passed away before Frances was three years old, and she was sent to live with her aunt and uncle. Her uncle, William J. Watkins, was an abolitionist who taught at the school she attended, the Academy for Negro Youth. He had a profound impact on her and her writings.

She published her first book of poetry, *Forest Leaves*, in 1845. Frances Harper became the first woman to teach at Union Seminary in Ohio in 1850. She took another teaching position in Pennsylvania in 1852, where she lived in an Underground Railroad station and helped slaves escape to freedom. New slavery laws were passed in 1854 stating that even free black people could be sold into slavery in her home state of Maryland. These experiences launched her vocation as a lifelong activist. Frances Harper delivered anti-slavery speeches on tours throughout the northern United States and Canada.

Frances had the courage to tackle racism, classism and sexism in her writing, and even addressed interracial love. In 1859, she became the first African-American to publish a short story, *The Two Offers*. The tale is fictional, but in it she

persuades readers that a young woman needs more than romance and marriage as a goal.

Her writing career continued to progress, and she donated most of the proceeds to the Underground Railroad. Her voice was a powerful cry for justice. After a rousing speech to the National Women's Rights Convention, she was elected Vice-President of the National Association of Colored Women in 1897.

Frances met Unitarians through her work with the Underground Railroad and found kindred theological spirits. Frances Harper believed that Jesus was not a "distant God," but rather a "role model" that all human beings could emulate. She eventually joined the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia in 1870, and also kept her membership in the African Methodist Episcopal congregation. Until very recently, most of us were largely ignorant about Frances Harper's vital contributions to democracy and freedom.

Let us be inspired by her story to agitate when our educational systems are falling short of presenting the whole truth. This is work for all twelve months a year.

In fellowship,

*Alison*

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

IN THIS ISSUE	
From the Minister	1
Board of Trustees, Deeds Well Done	2
Charitable Deductions Law, Financial Health	3
Re: Faith Developments	4
Foreign Policy Forum, Sustainability Symposium	5
Upcoming Events, Women's Spring Retreat	6
Effective E-mail, GA Endorses Peace Declaration	7
Social Justice Council, Adult RE Classes	8
Crafting Bees, Walt Stasiak Memorial	9
Joys and Concerns, Contributions	10
Events Calendar, Murray Grove Conference	11
Sunday Services	12

## Morristown Unitarian Fellowship

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Friday: 10 a.m.-2 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](mailto:melodylingers@verizon.net)

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

Thank you!

## *From the Board of Trustees*

### Deeds Well Done

The Board thanks **Sylvia and Bill Hall** for their thoughtful and generous donation, which enabled us to have the much-needed railings purchased and installed in the Meeting Room. This is just one more good deed that the Halls have done for the Fellowship members and friends over the years.

The Board and the Fellowship Administrator are grateful to MUF's Prime Movers: **Joe Uhrhane, Todd Van Gordon, David Snedden** and **Brad West** for picking up and delivering the wall unit which they installed in the cold room. This item will be a big help in the reorganization of this storage room.

### Recent Developments

Our Administrator has become a scavenger extraordinaire, thanks in part to the computer program Craig's List. When Maggie finds an item we need, she asks the owners if they would consider making a charitable contribution to the Fellowship.

Kim Mason, Interim Director of Religious Education, has hired an assistant. Kim will continue with a second interim year, focusing on mission and visioning, as recommended by the RE Council and resolved by the Fellowship Board.

We are blessed with volunteers to run our pledge campaign, and Karen Dinsmore will coordinate the Box Office.

We will soon hang a marriage equality banner.

### Upcoming Board of Trustees and Network Meetings

Meetings are open to all Fellowship members. The meeting time is 7 p.m. *It is especially important for committee chairs and members who participate in Fellowship administration and programming to attend and participate in the Network meetings.*

Next month's meetings are scheduled on:

Board of Trustees	February 14
Administrative Network	February 21
Program Network	February 28

### Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the December meetings have been approved and are now posted on the bulletin board in Room 100 and on the website in the Members Only section.

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

## *New Law on Charitable Deductions from IRAs Requires Record-Keeping*

In December we reported that the Pension Protection Act of 2006 allowed for charitable deductions from an Individual Retirement Account. It turns out there's more to it than that. Under the new law, taxpayers must keep records of all cash donations. You will not be able to claim the cash you drop into the Sunday collection plate as a tax deduction (canceled checks are still acceptable to the IRS).

If you want MUF to acknowledge your cash donation, just put the bills into an envelope and write your name on the outside. This will be processed the same as checks - recorded in the contribution data base and acknowledged on quarterly statements. These statements need to be saved in the event of an IRS audit.

The new law also toughens the rules for non-cash donations. Donated items, such as cars, clothing and household goods, must be in good condition. Note that MUF cannot record non-cash contributions in our database (unless you purchased something for MUF and have receipts). We can, however, give you a letter acknowledging the donation ("in good condition"); it is then up to you to set a value on it. [By the way, we're looking for a DVD/VCR combo player.]

**Maggie**

*See Our Website (Members Only) for Reminder on Pledging/Financial Support*

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

	Dec. 06	Budget	Variance	Jul.-Dec. 06	Budget	Variance	Annual	Percent
<b>INCOME</b>								
Pledges	43,594	29,583	14,011	192,719	187,498	5,221	365,000	53%
Building Use	2,390	2,604	-214	19,056	15,624	3,432	31,250	61%
Fundraisers	860	5,417	-4,557	-465	9,498	-9,963	26,500	-2%
Sunday Morning Contributions	896	900	-4	4,975	4,600	375	10,000	50%
Other Income	500	1,250	-750	5,944	7,500	-1,556	15,000	40%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>48,240</b>	<b>39,754</b>	<b>8,486</b>	<b>222,229</b>	<b>224,720</b>	<b>-2,491</b>	<b>447,750</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>								
Misc. Fundraising Expense	0			157			0	
Personnel Expenses	33,472	26,739	6,733	145,518	154,751	-9,233	318,283	46%
Facilities	6,262	6,790	-528	32,660	41,071	-8,411	84,748	39%
Building Improvements	0	292	-292	975	1,748	-773	3,500	28%
Office Expenses	1,233	1,324	-91	10,173	9,520	653	17,650	58%
Fellowship Expenses	3,076	3,791	-715	20,660	18,707	1,953	39,689	52%
Committee Activities	1,532	2,238	-706	8,692	12,788	-4,096	24,420	36%
Religious Education	1,518	590	928	4,681	2,360	2,321	6,900	68%
Other	0			105			0	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>47,093</b>	<b>41,764</b>	<b>5,329</b>	<b>223,621</b>	<b>240,945</b>	<b>-17,324</b>	<b>495,190</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>1,147</b>	<b>-2,010</b>	<b>3,157</b>	<b>-1,392</b>	<b>-16,225</b>	<b>14,833</b>	<b>-47,440</b>	<b>3%</b>

**NOTES**

1. We are \$14,833 ahead of budget. We had budgeted to show a net loss of \$16,225, but instead our net loss is only \$1,392.
2. Our reserves are in good shape.
3. Our pledge income is ahead of target.
4. The Finance Committee plans to have a two-hour budgeting reminder on Sunday, January 28 (see p. 6). Please be sure to send a committee representative.
5. A preliminary examination of our finances with respect to the Five Year Plan indicates we are on target.

*Submitted by Anne Paust, Treasurer*



## **Forum on U.S. Foreign Policy Slated for Tuesdays, February 20 and 27**

Our favorite Drew University political science professor, Douglas Simon, Ph.D., will present this forum on United States Foreign Policy, 2007, at MUF at 7:30-9:30 p.m. on the following topics:

**February 20 – The United States and the Promotion of Democracy.** This presentation will explore the motives for and methods used to encourage democracy in the world and ultimately address the following questions: “Can democracy be exported to other countries? Can democracy be imposed from outside?”

**February 27 – The Changing Nature of National Security.** Dr. Simon writes, “The traditional notions of national security focus on the need to counter military threats to the U.S. or other regions of the world considered strategically important. In a fast-changing world, is this definition sufficient? --- But what about other looming problems such as global warming, cyber warfare, trade imbalances and the national debt? What other problems should be included in the national security apparatus of the U.S.? Are we placing far too

much emphasis on military means of addressing national security problems?”

As we present this Forum, we are mindful of the initiatives taken by our Unitarian Universalist Association on peacemaking. We reflect on our deeply felt UU principles: the need for a free and responsible search for truth and the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.

We find it more important than ever to cast a critical eye on world events as they unfold, so we call on Professor Simon, a specialist in international affairs, U.S. foreign policy, international organization and national security, to help us examine these two critical forum issues.

Tickets go on sale at the MUF Box Office every Sunday during Coffee Hour, beginning January 28—\$15 for two sessions and \$8 per single session. You are cordially invited to come and bring your friends. Sponsored by Common Ground of MUF’s Social Justice Council  
Forum Chair: Eleanor Mason

## ***Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream – A Symposium on Sustainability*** **Saturday, February 24, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**

You are invited to join in an all-day, thought-provoking exploration of the possibility of creating an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, socially just human presence on the planet.

Activities included in this exploration will be short films of some of the world's most respected thinkers, leading-edge information, and the wisdom of the indigenous peoples who have lived in harmony with nature for millennia. See [www.pachamama.org](http://www.pachamama.org) for a detailed description of this international program.

A suggested contribution of \$20 includes healthy snacks, lunch and beverages (scholarships available). Hosted by Chatham-Summit Friends Meeting, Green Earth Ministry and Seeds of Peace.



To RSVP (by February 20), contact Jo at [jo@josippie.com](mailto:jo@josippie.com) and/or send checks payable to MUF, c/o Jackie Wiegand, 72 Canterbury Rd., Chatham NJ 07928.

## ***Coffee Hour Sponsors Wanted!***

Here is an easy, one-time commitment opportunity to provide for a little extra social atmosphere during our Sunday services. Why not team up with another member or family to host a single coffee hour this winter or spring? Two can set up cookies faster than one, split the expenses and it doesn't require much time commitment!



Or consider sponsoring a coffee hour in memory of a loved one, to celebrate a birthday or as a service to the MUF congregation. For more information, contact Dan Cohen at [danielcohen@optonline.net](mailto:danielcohen@optonline.net). If you are single and would like to be assigned a partner to host a coffee, call Dan and he'll match you up with another single member to co-host with.

## ***A/V Volunteers Needed***

Volunteers are needed for videotaping, running the sound system, and operating the video projector. Please contact Gabor Kiss at [muf-av@gaborkiss.com](mailto:muf-av@gaborkiss.com) to volunteer for any of these jobs, for training, and for scheduling. Help with making the scheduling phone calls would be appreciated.

## *Upcoming Events*

### *Vision Quest: Budgeting* Sunday, January 28, 12:30 p.m.



This Finance Update Session will help us prepare budget requests for the next fiscal year, 2007-2008. They are due to the Finance Committee by February 28, so that the budgeting process may begin.

This session is a short reprise and reminder of last year's successful workshop, "Building the Center: Finances." Tony Rutigliano will instruct us on how to dream for our committees, how to connect our vision to the vision of the Fellowship as a whole, and how to budget for what we want to do. Each committee attending will receive a report of its finances for the current fiscal year to date.

A light lunch will be served. Please plan to have a committee representative attend. You will need to discuss your plans at your February meetings, in order to meet the deadline.

Reservations should be made with the MUF office at 973-540-1177, X 203 (Maggie) or 201 (Chris).

### *Minstrel Coffeehouse* Fridays, 8:30 p.m.

February 2, 9, 16, 23 (Liza DiSavino & AJ Bodnar)  
More information from 973-335-9489 or  
[www.folkproject.org/fp\\_minstopen.html](http://www.folkproject.org/fp_minstopen.html).

### *First Monday Book Group* Monday, February 5, 7 p.m.

We have chosen our books for the next three months. Some are quite long, so we want you to have plenty of time. Please feel welcome to join us and then you may suggest future books.

February 5, Barack Obama's *Dreams from My Father*;  
March 5, *My Sister's Keeper*, by Jodi Piccolt; April 2,  
Charles C. Mann's *1491*. Will we see you there?  
Contact Nancy Lee McLure at [nlmclure@msn.com](mailto:nlmclure@msn.com).

### *EVENSONG* Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.

A lay-led small-group service offering an opportunity to explore individual life journeys in an intimate and supportive setting. Through readings, song, quiet reflection and sharing of experiences, we will explore the following topics:

### February 7 Quiet Time

Nature spends the winter storing up energy for spring. How do we humans find quiet time to rest and regroup?

### February 21 Doing Without

It's Ash Wednesday, when many people give up something for Lent. How good are you at self-control?

For more information please contact Danelle Simonelli at [dksimonelli@hotmail.com](mailto:dksimonelli@hotmail.com).

### *Circle Dinners*

#### Saturday, February 17, 7 p.m. (Sign up by February 11)

All are welcome to join one of the Fellowship-wide potlucks to be held in the homes of MUF hosts. Meet, dine and socialize with a group of 6-8 people from the Fellowship. Circle Dinners are an excellent way to meet new people and get to know familiar faces a little better. Volunteer hosts are always encouraged and appreciated. Contact Diane Martin at [jkdlmartin1@aol.com](mailto:jkdlmartin1@aol.com).

### *MUF Women's Spring Renewal Retreat* Friday, March 30-Sunday, April 1

This event, popular last year, will again be held at Kirkridge Retreat Center. The many activities planned focus on spirituality, creativity, exploration and just plain fun.

Be sure to sign up early; there is room for just 25 women. (Open to MUF members and friends only.) The total cost for the retreat, including six meals and materials for a craft project, is \$232; checks are payable to MUF, with the notation "Women's Retreat."

To learn more, contact Helen Lippman at [Helenlip1@comcast.net](mailto:Helenlip1@comcast.net) or Diane Koslow at [dpkoslow@optonline.net](mailto:dpkoslow@optonline.net).

### **Save the Date!**

#### *MUF Blood Drive*

**Sunday, April 22, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.**

In the Terrace Room. Register with Zella on Sunday mornings or call her.

## Making Your E-mail Effective



Have you ever gotten an e-mail that makes you shudder? Worse yet, have you ever sent an e-mail that evoked an angry response from one of the recipients, to your surprise?

When we are having a conversation with someone, we generally check our speech so that it is not offensive. We are relaying our message with a certain tone and can tell by the other person's body language if they are taking offense. If so, then we have the opportunity to change our speech so the conversation does not end disagreeably.

Even with a phone call we can change our tone and have the chance to correct misunderstandings. With e-mail we do not have the opportunity to change our tone or correct speech that may be interpreted differently than what we intended. Sometimes we feel we are giving a helpful suggestion, yet others are insulted.

Here are some suggestions to help practice right relations with our e-mail:

Don't send an e-mail when you are angry. If you do, think carefully about what you want that e-mail to accomplish. Venting your anger might feel good at the time, but will it really help the situation? Reread the e-mail, cool off and, if you still need to reply, make a phone call or meet in person.

If you're not sure whether your e-mail will be interpreted correctly, have someone else read it first. Better yet, replace the e-mail with a phone call.

If you feel your e-mail can be negatively interpreted, then don't send it. To quote the *Four Agreements*, by Don Miguel Ruiz: "Be impeccable with your word."

Be intentional with "Reply All" vs. "Reply." Is it really necessary for everyone to see your reply, or just the sender? It may not be, if your response is private or of the "Okay by me" variety.

Acknowledge when people send you something. A quick "Thank you" reply will let them know you received their message. Many of us have had problems with our e-mail; this lets us know that it got there and was not missed.

Remember that once you send an e-mail it has the potential to be seen by everyone and it can stay around forever. Sending something personal or confidential through the mail is a risk. So think before you send it, and consider whether your mail might embarrass you or the receiver if it were seen by others.

Don't forward personal mail to others without the sender's approval. Sharing a private communication with a larger group could be uncomfortable for the sender. When in doubt, ask.

For many of us, e-mail is a relatively new thing. It may take a while to figure out how to use it effectively, without unforeseen consequences. In the meantime, a little thought and care can help us all communicate.

*Committee on Ministry*

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## Unitarian Universalist 2006 General Assembly Endorses the Declaration of Peace

The Declaration of Peace is a nationwide campaign to establish a concrete and rapid plan for peace in Iraq. The Action of Immediate Witness embraces the Department of Peace plan of bringing an end to the war. Go to Rev. William Sinkford's January 11 open letter to President Bush, which questions his decision to increase the U.S. military forces in Iraq: "Your decision to increase the U.S. military forces in Iraq by 21,500 additional troops stunningly disregards the wishes of the American people, the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group."

Further, in light of President Bush's plan to send more troops into Iraq, the Win Without War coalition is banding together and launching a campaign with the simple message, "NO!" The UUA would like to encourage and support your efforts to join together with your fellow Americans and speak out against the President's plan to send more troops into Iraq. Go to [www.AmericaSaysNo.org](http://www.AmericaSaysNo.org).

**Breaking news!** "Just days after the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. national holiday, the Newark City Council voted unanimously to support the U.S. Department of Peace initiative. Newark joins Chicago, Atlanta, Oakland, Berkeley, San Jose, Palo Alto and Santa Cruz, Minneapolis, Cleveland, Detroit, Cambridge and other cities across the nation representing more than 6.5 million people to endorse and urge formation of a U.S. Department of Peace (DOP). Go to [www.dopcampaing.org](http://www.dopcampaing.org) for more information.

*Rita Morris, Denominational Affairs*

## *Social Justice Council*

*February 2007 Update -- Helping Neighbors in Need*



***Morristown Community Soup Kitchen*** – Next Hosting Date: Tuesday, February 13! Thanks, MUF members, for helping cook the 30 casseroles and 20 gallons of soup we needed last month! It's certainly very cold now and this meal is needed and appreciated by nearly 300 poorer neighbors here in Morristown. And we have a new additional, energy-efficient downstairs freezer to help handle the overflow for storing your fine cooking if you can do it in advance. Just put it in the upstairs freezer when you drop it off in the containers prior to Sunday, February 10. Contact Sharon Glickman to let her know you are cooking. (she worries over the details of whether we'll have enough, so ease her mind!) at foxwood2@optonline.net. Thanks in advance!!

***Eric Johnson House Monthly Dinner Teams*** are out in force now twice monthly bearing great food and warm conversation to these valiant people who need and value our friendship. Next hostings: Wednesdays, February 7 and 21 5:30-7 p.m. If you'd like to join us, either for the conversational gift...or the cooking gifts....let Susan Spencer know at sspencer@optonline.net.

***Morristown Homeless Solutions*** (shelter) monthly dinner commitment (next hosting Saturday, February 10, 4:45-7 p.m.) continues under leadership of Judy O'Neil Goldberg at judyoneil@optonline.net. If you are an adult, or a family with Junior High and older children that you can accompany, preparing an easy meal for the shelter residents is a terrific altruistic experience and builds confidence in being able to make a meaningful difference with the work of your hands. Join them. It's fun and appreciated fully by the 100+ shelter residents.

***Morristown Habitat for Humanity Builds – Calling All Handy People!*** MUF has signed an agreement of support/participation along with a group of 20 other Morristown Interfaith Council faith-based communities to support our local Morris County Habitat organization this year. (This is an additional "build" commitment to that which our Senior High Youth Group makes to support Habitat work for Sumter, SC.) Joe Uhrhane is our MUF Coordinator. We will need to "field" three Saturday work parties during the springtime—at a Morris County location. And we must also raise a \$2,000-\$3,000 support fee as part of this commitment fee. Be a part of this great work! Contact Joe at joeuhr@optonline.net if you'd like more information, or want to sign on!

***Next Social Justice Council Meeting – Thursday, February 22, 7:30 p.m.*** In the Dining Room. Contact Karen Burns Rutigliano at karenburns@casassex.org or Michele Kunz at mbkunz@gmail.com.

### ***Adult RE Classes Resume in February***

**Keys to Leadership: Making Meetings Work!**

8:30 a.m. - Coffee & Bagels

**Saturday, February 3**

9 a.m.–12 noon – Workshop

Do you hate going to meetings? Do the meetings you attend lack focus and purpose? Do they go on forever? This first installment in the Leadership Development Series will help you make the meetings you lead and those you attend more effective. First Saturday morning of each month. Pre-register in Room 100 or e-mail [adultprograms@muuf.org](mailto:adultprograms@muuf.org). Contact Dan Cohen ([danielcohen@optonline.net](mailto:danielcohen@optonline.net)) for info. Facilitated by Tony Rutigliano, Leadership Development.

### **Meditation**

**Mondays, February 12, 19, 26 and March 5**

**7:30–9:15 p.m.**

Instructor, Rev. Allen Wells

All are welcome, but we will focus mainly on Insight Meditation, derived from the Buddhist tradition and popularly used for stress reduction. It is particularly suitable for UUs. To register, sign up in Room 100 or e-mail [adultprograms@muuf.org](mailto:adultprograms@muuf.org). Questions? Contact Allen at 973-539-0301, ext. 2, or [awsukkha@yhahoo.com](mailto:awsukkha@yhahoo.com).

*Rev. Allen Wells has been a Vipassana (Insight) meditation teacher for 20 years. He is a UU minister, psychotherapist and member of MUF.*

## West African Drum & Dance for Beginners w/Marafanyi Percussion Wednesdays, February 21 and March 21

DRUM 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. - \$5 drum rentals available w/pre-registration only

DANCE 7:45-9 p.m. - \$15 per class, \$25 drum/dance combo price

All skill levels, teens & seniors welcome! Pre-register at 973-540-1177 or e-mail [AdultPrograms@muuf.org](mailto:AdultPrograms@muuf.org).

Marafanyi Percussion, featuring Lara Gonzalez & Yael Shacham, has a holistic approach to drum & dance that is fun, encouraging and accessible. Connecting mind, body & spirit, students learn to express themselves through a powerful & lyrical vocabulary of rhythm & dance in a facilitated, supportive environment, using Africa as backdrop. Yael & Lara have been studying and teaching West African drum, dance & song for over a decade, and travel frequently to Guinea to study and collaborate with master artists in the region. For more info about their adventures visit [www.RootsHeartPulse.com](http://www.RootsHeartPulse.com).



## Spring Crafting Bees Set for March 10 and 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

All women, men and teens are invited for the first-ever MUF "Crafting Bees" ...with a purpose! Enjoy relaxing, fabulous craft workshops for **Jewelry Making, Textile Crafts, Wreath Making**, etc. **You can keep one item** that you make...but the trick is that **we need you to make 2-3 more** that we will sell on two Sundays in April with **all proceeds to go to benefit our Senior High Habitat Build in Sumter, SC, this summer!**

So we are taking a very **pleasurable tradition** at

MUF, our affinity for fine crafts...but giving it a new spin! Be part of the fun. The goal is two-fold:

**1. You will have enjoyable, expert instruction** from Marti Weinstein, Barbara Pecca, Beverly Hays and Diane Koslow on jewelry-making and from Beth Wilson on textile crafts (and from other craft table hosts TBA). Get to know the other crafters in attendance as you let your creative juices flow!

There will be several craft tables...and you can move among them...with the goal of being productive and making lots of good "stuff." Guaranteed to be a delightful way to unwind, and enjoy a simple pleasure.

**2. Our Senior High Youth and Habitat will benefit from your "craftiness" when we sell our craft "treasures" on April 15 & 22 at MUF.** (You can even buy your own crafts back!) Our goal is to raise \$2,000 for our commitment for the Sumter Habitat Build and have lots of great fun doing it!

So mark your calendar...**and plan on coming both days. We'll have bottomless coffee & tea pots and scrumptious lunches. Learn from all the crafters** over the two-Saturday time span. So enjoy, and help build our beloved community and the way that we serve the world. We know this is a win, win, win!

Questions? Contact Irene Bush at [ibush@patmedia.net](mailto:ibush@patmedia.net) or [karenburns@casaessex.org](mailto:karenburns@casaessex.org). Cost: \$20 for each Saturday, includes materials and lunch .....a bargain!

**Make check payable to MUF; note MUF Craft Bee - March 10 and/or March 24. Maggie will keep a list for us!**

## Walt Stasiak Memorial Planned



"A UU Hero Among Us" is the theme of a project that a group of MUF friends have been working on to honor the life and memory of Walter Stasiak, who died in March 2005.

Walt worked for 20 years serving the youth of the Fellowship as teacher and mentor. An altar table, cloth and chalice will be made and presented to the Junior High program. A quilted banner will be designed and created by all those who wish to share in the effort. We hope to present these to the Fellowship in late spring.

We are looking for design input: inspirational quotes, bits of poetry, images that speak of Walt's dedication to children and youth; and to his living out our UU values in every aspect of his life. Check out [rememberwalt1@yahoo.com](mailto:rememberwalt1@yahoo.com) for more information. Look for ways to get involved.

*Kathy Solu for the Walt Stasiak Memorial Project*



# Sharing 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.

## *Upcoming Joys & Concerns*

*If you have a joy or concern that you would like to share with other members of the congregation – whether or not you announce it on Sunday morning – please send it to Newsletter editor Pat Baxter at [melodylingers@verizon.net](mailto:melodylingers@verizon.net).*

*Specify that it is for Joys and Concerns.*

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## *Contributions to the Celebration of Life*

From **Miriam Congdon**, "to thank my computer guru – you know who you are."

*To the Endowment Fund:*

From **John and Irene Bush**

From Barent and Geraldine Johnson, in honor of their daughter, **Kathi Caccavale**

From Robert and Marta Jo Miller, in honor of Marta's mother, **Astrid Martin**

*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*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
Sunday, January 28	12:30 p.m.	Vision Quest: Budgeting	p. 6
Fridays, February 2, 9, 16, 23	8:30 p.m.	Minstrel Coffeehouse	p. 6
Monday, February 5	7:00 p.m.	First Monday Book Group	p. 6
Wednesdays, February 7 & 21	7:30 p.m.	EVENSONG	p. 6
Saturday, February 10	5 p.m. & 8 p.m.	Black Maria Film and Video Festival	p. 11
Sunday, February 11	10:15-11:00 a.m. 12:15-1:00 p.m.	Valentine's Brunch	p. 4
Saturday, February 17	7:00 p.m.	Circle Dinners (Sign up by February 11)	p. 6
Tuesdays, February 20 & 27	7:30-9:30 p.m.	U.S. Foreign Policy Forum	p. 5
Saturday, February 24	9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream—A Symposium on Sustainability	p. 5 
Friday, March 30-Sunday, April 1		Women's Spring Renewal Retreat	p. 6

### **Black Maria Film and Video Festival** Saturday, February 10, two different programs, at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Cost of this 26th annual event is a \$10 donation for either program, and \$20 for a special combo package which includes sandwiches, snacks, wine and soda between programs.

Tickets can be purchased from Dan Byrd or the Box Office.

### ***Murray Grove Conference : The Tao of Aging***

Rev. Patricia Hoerdoerfer of the UUA will lead a conference based on Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi's book *From Age-ing to Sage-ing* at Murray Grove the weekend of March 9-11. Cost is \$200/person or \$350/couple, including accommodations at Murray Grove.

The brochure is available at [www.murraygrove.org/pdf/TaoOfAgingBrochurefinal.pdf](http://www.murraygrove.org/pdf/TaoOfAgingBrochurefinal.pdf).

### ***Transylvania Tidbit***

From an article January 3, 2007, "Fighting Over Gold in the Land of Dracula" ([select.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=F20C14FA3C540C708CDDA80894DF404482](http://select.nytimes.com/gst/abstract.html?res=F20C14FA3C540C708CDDA80894DF404482)):

The New York *Times* reports that Eugene David is fighting against the construction of a large open-pit gold mine in the Transylvanian town of Rosia Montana [Verespatak in Hungarian], with the support of George Soros, among others. The town is about 50 miles from Sinfalva.

Perhaps Eugene David is a descendant of Francis David, founder of Unitarianism?

**Remember the General Assembly 2007  
in Portland, Ore.—June 20-24.**

Access [www.uua.org/ga/ga07](http://www.uua.org/ga/ga07) for  
up-to-date information.



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## *February 2007*

*Volume 52, No. 2*



Dated Material – Mailed: January 29, 2007  
Deadline for the MARCH issue is

**FEBRUARY 15**

*Sunday Services* (9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.)



**February 4 Learning to Fall**

*Rev. Alison B. Miller*

**February 11 Love and Marriage: One Without the Other?**

*Rev. Alison B. Miller*

**February 18 Stony the Road We Trod**

*Rev. Alison B. Miller*

**February 25 Faith of Our Founding Fathers**

Many diverse religious groups - including Unitarian Universalists - invoke the names of the Founding Fathers in support of their views. So what did America's founders really believe about religion? What can we learn from their approach today?

*Coordinated by Danelle Simonelli*