



February 2010

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News

Reaching In . . .
Reaching Out

From the Minister...

HOW DO WE MAKE SENSE OF HAITI, a country riddled with poverty and its consequences, bearing the additional burden of a devastating earthquake? How do we reconcile the loss of well over 100,000 lives, many of them children, with any notion that God is loving, or life on the whole is hopeful or fair?



These are theological questions, which fall under the realm of theodicy. Theodicy is the search to answer how God, or a faith in love and justice as powerful, can be reconciled with the existence of suffering and evil in the world.

Many people have been wrestling with these questions of late. I heard one minister proclaim evidence of the devil's hand in the destruction, and another state that this is the result of human sin or error. Others say their belief in an all-powerful, all-loving God has not been shaken, and that there must be good reasons for this event that we don't understand yet. Some have stated that God has limited powers, or doesn't exist, or doesn't work by intervening in or creating natural disasters.

Personally, my concept of God does not include a being which is selecting certain segments of humanity for the experiences of peace and prosperity while selecting others for the experiences of chaos and destruction. I do not see the hand of providence at work in this disaster, and I do not believe that disasters happen to teach us lessons or to guide us to a particular place.

Suffering and devastation are part and parcel of a human life. Sometimes pain arrives and we can see causes clearly. Other times, as with the earthquake and its aftermath in Haiti, pain arrives with no just cause and no reason. The shifting of continental plates is beyond our control, and I would not ascribe it to supernatural tinkering.

I find that a disaster like the one we just witnessed in Haiti shows me more about the will of the human spirit than it does about the will of God (whatever the definition). It is humbling to realize how much human beings can suffer and still show one another compassion. It is inspiring to witness the lengths to which we will go to possibly save another life. It is hopeful to see time and again that in the aftermath of pain and sorrow, many people eventually emerge to a place of possibility and transform the situation. It is awe-inspiring to see people move from utter hopelessness to hope,

especially because we know that this is not always possible and doesn't always happen.

When this transformation happens, it is often because human beings are in relationship with other human beings. The love of a parent leads them to turn over that thousandth stone in order to pull their child out of the rubble to bring them to a hospital or to honor their life in a burial. A doctor remains in the midst of destruction at risk of his own life because he understands the purpose of his skills is saving others.

Congregations raise funds knowing that our possessions are meant to be used so that the whole human family has what it needs to survive, thrive and in turn care for others.

Alongside of sorrow, we encounter countless stories of the love, compassion and grace we offer one another. While there are no reasons for the suffering we have just witnessed, there are many for believing in what humans strive for when we live out of the promises born of relationship.

In fellowship,

*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.

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Upcoming Board and Network Meetings

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

Board of Trustees	February 10
Administrative/Program Networks	February 17

Meeting Minutes

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

Be a knowledgeable member of your Fellowship!

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!

The President's Corner - Reflections on Social Justice



The recent terrible earthquake that has devastated Haiti has brought forth a tremendous response from almost everyone. Our denomination, the Unitarian Universalist Association, has joined with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) to raise funds totaling \$425,512 as of

January 22. Our own congregation has contributed \$5,425 as of January 25 to the UUSC. As always, the members and friends of the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship have responded with generosity and sincere concern.

We do a lot at MUF to promote and advance Social Justice and Social Action. We regularly support such groups as the Interfaith Council for Homeless Families of Morris County, the Morris Shelter for the Homeless, the Soup Kitchen, the Eric Johnson House, PeaceWorks, Wind of the Spirit, Grupo Cajola, Habitat for Humanity, Children on the Green, Pathways to Work and many others. Some of these groups we have been supporting for years, some for a shorter period of time.

We also support other groups within our community that support socially conscious and important causes such as the Green Earth Ministry, Seeds of Peace, the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of New Jersey and the Service Committee Action Network (SCAN). On a denominational level, we have a long history of supporting the UUSC, the UU-UNO office, various UUA sponsored antiracism initiatives and the recently launched Standing on the Side of Love campaign.

I recently asked someone that knows both MUF and other congregations to reflect on what Social Justice means. The reply was the following:

"I personally think MUF does SJ extremely well... I know some Social Justice Committees in UU congregations are clearinghouses – giving their members lots of information about how they can help out in the community instead of 'doing social justice in-house.' I don't know the percentage of congregations who do this – probably smaller congregations with not many volunteers.

"Some larger congregations pick one project during the year and the programming for that year revolves around this one 'issue.' ...

"Churches that are large and do a lot of social justice probably have the Social Justice Chair or Coordinator on a Leadership Team so the projects are well integrated with all else that is going on in the congregation."

We Are in a Generous Place

In this year when we are engaged in a strategic planning effort that asks us to look both at the past and to the future, I guess I am often left wondering "How did we get to this place of such generosity" and "Is it possible to do it any better?" I know that I am still pondering those questions and I hope you spend some time thinking about this as well.

I am very thankful to be part of a congregation and community that is constantly reaching out to those in need. I am thankful to be a member and leader of a church that supports and encourages people to reach out a helping hand to others when they need it most. Thank you all for your continued generosity.

Blessed Be

Gary

Gary Kunz, President

There Are Many Ways to Make Your Pledge Payments

Dropping cash into the basket on Sunday mornings is just one of the many ways you can pay your pledge. A comprehensive listing of the possibilities is available in the ONLINE version of this Newsletter, on page 14. The list was too long to include in this print version,

Just go to www.muuf.org and click on the February Newsletter—either members or public—on the lower right side of the home page.

Faith Developments

IN MIDDLE OF JANUARY at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, our grades 1 through 6 children were studying World Religions. I was writing and editing lessons for grades 1 and 2 from a curriculum called *Picture Book World Religions*, by Kate Tweedie Covey, and a grades 5 and 6 World Religions curriculum, written by Rachel Brown from the First Unitarian Society in Minneapolis in response to 9/11.



Three consecutive lessons from Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam completed the unit. Beth Murphy was updating the old but fabulous *Holidays and Holy Days* for grades 3 and 4. These lessons celebrate the Holy Days and Holidays around the world.

A delightful picture book starts the grade 1 and 2 children thinking about how other people pray, worship, live and delight in their culture. *Holidays and Holy Days* for grades 3 and 4 is fun and experiential. Here the children do appropriate ritual and experience for themselves what it might be like to live in another faith tradition.

Grades 5 and 6 children learn about the Middle Way, the Eightfold Path, and the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism, the Five Pillars of Islam including the prophets, and the gods and goddesses of Hinduism,

with some emphasis on their sacred texts. Teachers draw our seven UU Principles into the classroom discussion and compare them to the ideas and doctrines of other faith traditions.

I took classes in World Religions and Religious Pluralism at the Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. Unitarian Universalists are not the only ones studying world religions. But I wonder how many faith traditions offer world religions in their standardized programming curriculum.

Why do we offer world religions to our children? Here are a few of my thoughts: 1) We don't know all the answers and we want our children on the search for their own truth. 2) Our children benefit and grow spiritually from the ideas and the religious convictions of other people. We open up their world. 3) Our planet Earth becomes a better place to live when acceptance is the norm.

Learning to understand people who are different from us is the first step toward loving-kindness and peace. It's simple really. Unitarian Universalism allows our children doctrinal freedom to explore and build their own authentic faith in a caring community based on the principle of love. What could be better than that!

Karen

Connecting Peace to Global Warming

by Jo Sippie-Gora, member of Seeds of Peace & Green Earth Ministry

Building peace on Earth and protecting the environment go hand in hand. Environmental degradation can be a major cause of poverty, suffering and violence - and warfare damages the environment. For example:

Climate change leads to conflict such as that in Darfur.

Without peace, we lose our forests. Global deforestation contributes to about a quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions.

Nuclear weapons are putting the planet at risk. A "small" nuclear war would cause a nuclear winter across the globe, blocking out sunlight, opening up holes in the ozone layer, and causing unprecedented climate change and suffering everywhere.

Military spending diverts resources and funds from addressing global warming. The US spends more than half its budget on the military, and is the single largest consumer of petroleum and energy.

We hope the connection is clear. We can't save the environment if we don't act on peace. We can't have peace if we don't act on the environment.

Resource: *Culture of Peace*



SCAN Concert Falls on New Date
Saturday, February 20, 7:30 p.m.

The 24th Annual Benefit Concert for Humanitarian Aid for Central America—known as SCAN (for the *Service Committee Action Network*) will feature the indie music band *The Smooth Maria* and an outstanding addition to our cabaret, *Jason Liebman*.

Back by popular demand, these popular musicians help provide continued support of the many organizations which deliver aid to Central American countries. This year we will also be donating a portion of the proceeds to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee in support of their Haitian Earthquake Relief efforts.

The Smooth Maria (with Matt Kanelos, Ben Gallina, Conor Meehan and Kyle Sanna) is an exciting and distinct voice in New York City's indie music scene, hailed by critics: "Kanelos crafts tunes that sneak up on listeners – that begin harmlessly but ultimately overwhelm with the weight of their poignancy, sorrow and joy." (NPR)

Jason Liebman, a mainstay in the New York City music scene, has played with a number of internationally touring artists, including Warner Bros. recording artist Rachael Yamagata, rocker/actor Val Emmich and NYC indie pop rock quintet The Orion Experience.

The doors will open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Light refreshments and non-alcoholic beverages (BYOB) are included. Tickets can be purchased at the Box Office on Sunday mornings, or by contacting Michelle Kunz at mbkunz@gmail.com.

Return of the Sunday Potluck
Sunday, February 14, from 4-7 p.m.

Our second Potluck dinner, sponsored by the Membership Committee, is renewing an old tradition, offering activities for young and old on the second Sunday of each month. Last names starting with A-M should bring a main course; those whose last names start with N-Z a salad/appetizer to feed from 6-8 people. The committee will provide dessert and drinks. The next potluck will be on **March 14**.

For more information, contact Lilli Keating at lillikeating@hotmail.com or Michelle Kunz at mbkunz@gmail.com.

Hello from the COM!

The Committee on Ministry (COM) consists of six members and Rev. Alison Miller. Current members are Elbjorg Berkenkamp, Dan Byrd, Paul Ferm (chair), Gloria Jackson, Ken Nemeth and Jane Shivas.

We are honored and excited about our committee work: Looking after the health of the various ministries of the Fellowship.

To this end, we have several guidelines. We meet at an offsite location to ensure a confidential and neutral venue. We rotate membership over three years. We elect members that have been at the Fellowship for several years and who have Committee and/or Board experience. We meet with the Board, the various Committees, and the Staff as neutral observers to listen to their experiences and see them in action.

We act as a sounding board for the Minister. We meet with members who may need a neutral party to talk through a difficult issue regarding a Committee or other Fellowship ministry. We hold all such discussions with the greatest confidentiality. Our goal is not to "solve" problems, but rather to establish an atmosphere of Right Relations and encourage members to enter into discussions that resolve the issue at hand.

There is a lot to learn and contribute while a member of COM. Looking back over the years, we are impressed at the number of topics we touch on and feel gratified that this work makes a difference.

Please say hello and ask questions. (Our nametags identify us as COM members). We look forward to meeting or talking with you at a coffee hour that the COM will host soon or any time we can be of help.

How to Publicize Your Programs

Are you planning a program, event or activity at the Fellowship? Do you know how to get the word out to publicize it?

A comprehensive listing of the procedures to follow is available in the ONLINE version of this Newsletter, on page 13. There was no room available in this print version.

Just go to www.muuf.org and click on the February Newsletter—either members or public—on the lower right side of the home page.

Upcoming Events

Creative Dance Group

Most Thursdays, February 4,11,18,25, 7:30-9 p.m.

Led by Elizabeth Moser

Looking for a fun way to get moving? Join the Dance Group! Our teacher is a professional actress and dancer with a wonderful personality, who seems content to teach us at the beginner level. Each 1½-hour session starts with stretches and ends with the group performing a simple dance together. It's lots of fun and very relaxed, with a good time had by all. Come to one session or become a regular participant. Wear clothing of your choice that allows you to move freely. *No registration required.* For more information, contact Joan Clifford at cliffjoans@yahoo.com.

Taichi Light Monthly Practice

Saturday, February 6, 9:30 a.m.

Coordinated by Al Chu, Bruce Daggy, Laurie MacGeorge

MUF member Al Chu, the creator of Taichi Light, leads us in practicing this ancient energy work together the first Saturday of each month. A great way to get in shape, get healthy and learn to relax, Taichi Light is easier to learn, memorize and practice by people of all ages, especially those of advanced age or reduced physical agility. *No registration required.* For more information, contact Al at alchu888@gmail.com, or Laurie MacGeorge at dlmacg10@aol.com.

Monday Night Book Group

Monday, February 8, 7 p.m.

We will discuss *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, by Stieg Larsson, facilitated by Jean Craft. On March 8, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, by Annie Dillard, facilitated by Susan Oxman; on April 12, *The Measure of a Man: a Spiritual Autobiography*, by Sidney Poitier, facilitated by Dee Dasara; May 10, *Time and Again*, by Jack Finney, facilitated by Nancy Lee McLure and Jackie Mulcey.

We meet on the second Monday ALWAYS AT 7 p.m. Newcomers are welcome. It is suggested that you try to read the book but it is not required! Contact Nancy Lee McLure for more information, at nlmclure@msn.com.

New Practice Group #2 Kicks off

Wednesday, February 10, at 1-2:30 p.m.

Now that you've opened your calendar for the new year, consider joining the new Compassionate Com-

munication Practice Group. They will meet on the *second* Wednesday of each month in the Library. For more information, contact Brenda Forte at bgforte@verizon.net or Jo Sippie-Gora at josippie@optonline.net.

(Note: Compassionate Communication Practice Group #1 continues to meet monthly on Thursdays.

For more information & next meeting date: Contact Genie Bane at geniebane@optonline.net.)

Womanspace – Women's Spirituality Circle

Sunday, February 21, 10:30 a.m.

Meets third Sunday of every month

Coordinated by Gloria Jackson

Womanspace meets each month for an informal circle gathering that includes ritual, discussion and sharing of personal experiences. Open to all women, both adults and teens. *No registration required.* More information from Gloria Jackson at gloriajcksn@aol.com.

Crafting Group

Friday, February 26, 7:30 p.m.

This year the MUF crafting group & the knitting group are meeting together. bring your own knitting or crafting project from home. If you aren't working on anything but would enjoy a friendly atmosphere with great company, conversation and lots of laughing, please come join us! Please call or email Cintra Fricke at cintrafricke@gmail.com, or Tina Demottie at demottie@optonline.net, by February 24 if you will be coming. Next meeting date: March 26.

CHANGE in date!
Writing Room
Connecting Creatively with Yourself
and Others
A Writing Workshop with Ellen Schmidt
Saturday, March 20 • 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Snow date, March 27
More information from Kate McAteer at
katemcateer@hotmail.com

Storytelling Series: You CAN Get There From Here

Saturday, February 6, 8:00-9:30 p.m.

Presented by Kristin Ace

“Look out, there are man-eating pygmies in those woods!” With a warning like that from her older brothers when she was 7, coupled with being directionally challenged, it’s no wonder Kristin Ace fears getting lost. In this storytelling session for adults, we’ll see that getting from here to there rarely follows a straight line. But then, as Kristin explains through her journey of one hilarious mishap after another, guidance comes from unlikely and unexpected sources. So that even when you are lost on a wooded mountain at night, with pygmies possibly lurking behind every tree, you will always be able to get there from here. Coffee and dessert will follow the show. Another adult storytelling session will be held on Saturday, April 3, starring Martin Dockery, and a third show, for children, is planned for some time in June. This series is one of MUF’s fundraisers that support the operating budget.

Tickets cost \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Reserve your ticket by calling sending a check to the office, made out to MUF, so that it arrives by Wednesday, February 3.

Black Maria Film + Video Festival

Saturday, February 27, 8:00 p.m.

Coordinated at MUF by Dan Byrd

This annual event, founded in 1981, takes its name from the world’s first motion picture studio built by Thomas Edison in 1893. It features an international exhibition and juried competition among 50 or more short independent films and videos, shown at more than 65 institutions across the United States. While we don’t yet know which works will be featured at MUF this year, they are sure to be bold, inventive and cutting-edge. *Tickets cost \$15 and are available from Dan Byrd at danielbyrd@verizon.net.*

Metro NY Minute – Upcoming Meetings and Workshops and Action Alerts

***Presidents Roundtable** – Saturday, February 20, location TBA. Presidents, vice presidents and ministers are welcome to attend. For more information: Contact Andrea Lerner at alerner@uua.org.

***The 11th Annual District Anti-Racism Conclave** will be held May 15 at the Community Church of New York UU (Manhattan) from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Planners hope to make this event multigenerational, including workshops for children, youth and adults of all ages. More information to come soon. Save the date!

***The top social justice issues** that the UUA is working on are: Comprehensive immigration reform, Equal rights for bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgender people, Environmental justice, Reproductive justice with a focus on comprehensive sex education. For more information (listed under issue priorities) – www.uua.org/socialjustice/index.shtml.

***Reminders** – The Sixth Annual Winter Retreat of the District Young Adult Community will be held February 12-15 at the Frost Valley YMCA in Claryville, NY. Contact Ryan Novosielski at ya-chair@uumetrony.org.

Valentine’s Day is being re-imagined by the Standing on the Side of Love campaign. February 14 will be

National Standing on the Side of Love Day, and congregations are invited to participate in a day of worship, faith outreach, and partnership with community organizations.

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 social action of the month of the UUA, and UU Service Committee news.

Susan Oxman, Denominational Affairs

State Senate Rejects Marriage Equality

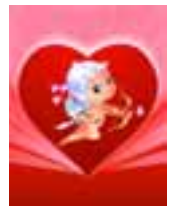
Recently the New Jersey State Senate refused to approve marriage equality by a vote of 14-20.

Let your state senator know what you think of his/her vote. Add your name to a petition of constituents expressing your opinion and say that you will keep the vote on marriage equality in mind in the next election.

Click the following link: http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/njmarriage_yes/?r_by=7336-812077-DdgNi5x&rc=mailto1

Contact Toby Tyler at wtyler3@optonline.net with any questions.

Social Justice Council - February 2010 Update Helping Neighbors in Need



Making Systemic Societal Changes! MUF Aligning with UU Legislative Priorities - Toby Tyler serves as our MUF Liaison to the UU Legislative Ministry of NJ. On January 30, the Ministry held its Plenary 2010. Alison has asked the Social Justice Council to consider how to bring a greater emphasis of support within MUF to help affect policy and legal changes that matter most. At the upcoming Social Justice meeting of February 11 (7:30 p.m. at MUF) we will be joined by Toby Tyler to pool our ideas ...and brainstorm about new ways to energize MUF's legislative support efforts. Join us that evening ...and look for updates on how you can be involved in this meaningful work.

Pathways to Work – Winter Message! Don't let the snow slow you down, hire our registered participants to shovel snow and clean your yard. PTW also has highly skilled and experienced workers for other home projects. PTW labourers, men and women (domestic work), are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. ***For more information call Rosa Chilquillo***, Pathways to Work, Project Manager Morristown Neighborhood House, 12 Flagler Place – **Office phone 973- 538-1229, ext. 43, or work cell 973- 647-8495.** Website: www.pathwaystoworkers.org.

MUF Permanent Food Collection – For Interfaith Food Pantry of Morris County – Place in box in MUF Kitchen Hallway- Last week we dropped off 100 pounds of MUF members' contributions – wonderful....but ***we need an overflowing box again, and again.*** Please pick up extra food staple items when you go grocery shopping this week. Help your kids (and yourselves) see the connection between our good fortune and our capacity to alleviate the hunger of people who are unemployed and underemployed or homebound. ***What a great Valentine in the truest sense!***

Mark Your Calendar – Annual SCAN Concert- Saturday, February 20, at MUF (SCAN stands for UU Service Committee Action Network) - Enjoy yourselves and bring your friends to a fabulous concert given by Matt Kanelos and Smooth Maria and Jason Liebman. (See related story on p. 5.) Proceeds go for Central American relief including major gift for Haitian Relief to be designated through our UU Service Action Network denomination HQ in Boston. Keep up the 20 year + tradition of MUF generosity & fun!

Open House/Dinner/Tour – Mark Your Calendar – Wednesday, February 3 – 6 p.m. - You are Invited to an Eric Johnson House Open House–44 South Street, Morristown - Executive Director Laurie Litt Robbins invites the members/friends of MUF to dinner and a program/tour when MUF hosts dinner for residents (or at 7 p.m. for dessert & tour). She and the residents want to thank MUF and introduce new/existing MUF friends to their community of 12 residents who are recovering from the effects of AIDs/HIV illness and homelessness on the journey to wellbeing and hope. Join us and meet the gang...and hear about how the House guides these folk to believe in themselves and their future. Be there and be warmed by their spirit of life and hope.

February Eric Johnson House Hostings: February 3 and 24 – 5:45 warm up food/6 dinner served. To volunteer to help prepare part of a wholesome meal ahead of time in your kitchen for EJ family for 12 and/or add your friendly self to their family-style dinner, contact Zella Geltman.

Community Soup Kitchen – Tuesday, February 9 - Prepare ahead - Casseroles and soup are needed to serve lunch for at least 200+ hungry people. Helpers are needed to serve and shop day before for fresh items. Please step up... Contact Michelle Kunz at mbkunz@gmail.com to let her know you are cooking or willing to help!

Morris Homeless Solutions Monthly Dinner –Saturday, February 13, 4:45-7 p.m. –Help prepare our monthly MUF cheeseburger & birthday cake dinner for homeless shelter residents. “Table talk” is also where your natural self can be of great friendly help Contact judyoneil1@verizon.net.

MUF Social Justice Council Monthly Meeting– Thursday, February 11 – 7:30-9. Please join our Social Justice team and help us promote social justice – through planning congregation-wide charitable/justice projects. Contact Chris Reynolds at reynolds@nac.net.

**IMAGINE
IMAGINE**

Who do we want to be?

What do we want to do?

What do we need to do it?

Strategic Planning Work Continues

**Community, Caring Connection
Leadership and Stewardship
Sharing our Values in the Community**

**Facilities
Spiritual Growth and Exploration
Life Span Religious Education**

The Strategic Planning Task Force is meeting with members of the staff and committees to gather specific information on what is needed to accomplish what we want to do in the next five years.

External stakeholders are also being surveyed on their perceptions and expectations of the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship.

*****Watch out for an on-line survey: Share your specific ideas on how we get to where we want to be.*****

For those without on-line access, a hard copy version will be available.

The Strategic Planning Task Force will meet in an all-day retreat in February to develop its Draft Strategic Action Plan. Feel free to talk to any member of the Strategic Planning Task Force!

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

	December	July to December	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
INCOME				
Pledge Income	\$55,684.20	\$267,302.74	\$433,000.00	\$165,697.26
Rental Income	\$3,735.00	\$21,555.00	\$49,200.00	\$27,645.00
Fundraisers	\$10,000.00	\$21,154.00	\$32,500.00	\$11,346.00
Other Income	\$3,782.10	\$11,682.96	\$15,400.00	\$3,717.04
TOTAL INCOME	\$96,775.57	\$396,787.46	\$530,100.00	\$133,312.54
EXPENSE				
Salaries	\$21,697.34	\$137,352.46	\$266,618.00	\$129,265.54
Benefits and Prof. Exp.	\$4,987.51	\$40,523.04	\$72,417.00	\$31,893.96
Payroll Taxes and Fees	\$1,202.81	\$8,767.58	\$21,029.00	\$12,261.42
PAYROLL	\$27,887.66	\$186,643.08	\$360,064.00	\$173,420.92
Debt Services	\$1,750.91	\$10,840.50	\$22,000.00	\$11,159.50
Utilities	\$4,961.98	\$10,075.03	\$27,950.00	\$17,874.97
Building/Grounds Mtce	\$2,636.35	\$17,320.76	\$34,682.00	\$17,361.24
BLDG MTCE & UTIL	\$7,598.33	\$27,395.79	\$62,632.00	\$35,236.21
Office Expense	\$1,533.14	\$9,032.19	\$18,300.00	\$9,267.81
Business Expense	\$199.00	\$602.83	\$1,680.00	\$1,077.17
Risk Management	\$0.00	\$7,082.03	\$9,980.00	\$2,897.97
UUA Obligations	\$4,351.50	\$9,203.00	\$19,726.00	\$10,523.00
Fellowship	\$46.94	\$1,781.10	\$2,250.00	\$468.90
ADMINISTRATION	\$6,130.58	\$27,701.15	\$51,936.00	\$24,234.85
Admin Committees	\$0.00	\$370.12	\$2,760.00	\$2,389.88
Program Committees	\$50.55	\$1,440.55	\$6,760.00	\$5,319.45
Social Justice	\$10.99	\$810.99	\$5,900.00	\$5,089.01
COMMITTEES	\$61.54	\$2,621.66	\$15,420.00	\$12,798.34
Religious Education	(-\$115.64)	\$4,332.84	\$9,716.00	\$5,383.16
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$61,369.08	\$334,593.54	\$521,768.00	\$187,174.46
Difference	\$35,406.49	\$62,193.92	\$8,332.00	

The annual budget column shows the revised budget approved at the December 10, 2009, congregational meeting.



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.



Contributions to the Celebration of Life

The Endowment Fund thanks **Susan Oxman, George and Beverly Hays** and **Anne Paust** for their contributions in honor of **Eleanor Mason's** 90th birthday.

Rochelle Kelman's family requests that contributions in her memory go to the Rochelle Kelman Scholarship Fund at Children on the Green.

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
Thursdays, February 4,11,18,25	7:30-9:00 p.m.	Creative Dance Group	p. 6
Saturday, February 6	9:30 a.m.	Taichi Light Monthly Practice	p. 6
Saturday, February 6	8:00-9:30 p.m.	"You Can't Get There from Here" – Storytelling Series Begins	p. 7
Monday, February 8	7:00 p.m.	Monday Night Book Group	p. 6
Wednesday, February 10	1:00-2:30 p.m.	Compassionate Communication Practice Group #2	p. 6
Sunday, February 14	4:00-7:00 p.m.	Fellowship Potluck Dinner	p. 5
Saturday, February 20	7:30 p.m.	SCAN Concert	p. 5
Sunday, February 21	10:30 a.m.	Women's Spirituality Circle	p. 6
Friday, February 26	7:30 p.m.	Crafting Group	p. 6
Saturday, February 27	8:00 p.m.	Black Maria Film + Video Festival	p. 7

"Let There Be Peace on Earth and Let It Begin with Me"

We wish to extend a deep and grateful thank you to those MUF members who contributed comments on the latest draft of a Peacemaking UUA Statement of Conscience (SOC). The MUF Peace Team that has been facilitating this Study/Action Issue since 2006 has voted to put a final draft of the SOC on the agenda of

the UUA General Assembly in June, where we will vote whether or not to accept it.

What does this mean? A Statement of Conscience on Peace will represent our UU stand on peace, as an association of congregations, and clarify the actions we are called to make in living our religion fully, in reverence for all life.

*Jo Sippie-Gora, Chair
The Peace Ministry Team*

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, April 30, to Sunday, May 2

SPRINGTIME WOMEN'S RETREAT

at "The Castle" in Frost Valley.

For more information, contact Sharon Heller
at sharonjeanheller@yahoo.com.

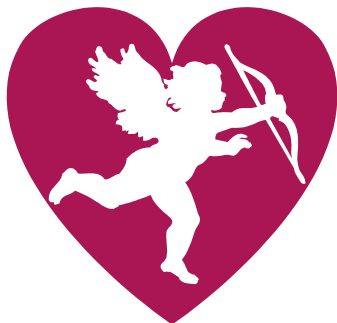
Save the date! The 2010 Metro NY District Annual Meeting will be held Friday-Saturday, April 30-May 1, at the Hyatt Morristown (NJ). More information later.

Morristown
Unitarian Fellowship
21 Normandy Heights Road
Morristown, New Jersey 07960-4611

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February 2010

Volume 55, No. 2



Correction to date of Writing Room workshop on page 6;
New copy on Leadership Nominations on page 13

Dated Material – Mailed January 29, 2010
Deadline for the MARCH issue is

FEBRUARY 15

Sunday Services

Services at 9 and 11 a.m.



February 7 Consumed!

We explore the phenomenon of consumerism: how it started, what it is doing to our planet and to our souls, and how we might reduce some of its harmful effects. Accompanied by special music and visuals.

Presented by George Aronson, with Gloria Dyer and Danelle Simonelli

February 14 Love Is ...

Join us for this multigenerational valentine's service where we will explore different kinds of love and how we express these in our lives.

Rev. Alison B. Miller, Karen Brown, and Families

February 21 We Would Be One

This is number six in our Seven UU Principles series where we will focus on: "The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all."

Rev. Alison B. Miller

February 28 Playing Marbles

In our connection with others we find joy, hope and meaning. At times, we also find sorrow, conflict and separation. Let us explore navigating relationships, a core part of the human experience. Our Committee on Ministry will assist in the service.

Rev. Alison B. Miller

How to Publicize Your Programs!

Are you planning a program, event or activity at the Fellowship? Do you know how to get the word out to publicize it?

Here's what you should do:

To request a room: Fill out a room reservation form and submit it to MUF Administrator Maggie Chilton at office@muuf.org or by placing a hard copy in her mailbox at the Fellowship. The form is available in the Members Only section of the Fellowship's website at www.muuf.org or on paper in the copier room at MUF. *No program should be publicized until you have confirmed the room reservation first.*

To get an item in the monthly newsletter: Submit it to Pat Baxter at melodylingers@verizon.net by the 15th of the month for the following month's edition (e.g., by February 15 for the March newsletter).

To get an item in the bimonthly *Lifespan Learning* brochure: Submit it to Danelle Simonelli at dksimonelli@hotmail.com. The deadline is also the 15th of the month, but for the following *two* months (e.g., by February 15 for the March-April brochure), so please think ahead.

To get an item in *What's Happening* in the Sunday Bulletin: Submit it to Maggie Chilton at office@muuf.org by 5 p.m. on Wednesday for the following Sunday (e.g., by February 3 for the February 7

Bulletin). Note that *What's Happening* blurbs should be as brief as possible – don't submit the same long description as you would for the newsletter, but edit it down to the bare bones.

To have an announcement made verbally on Sunday morning: Submit it to Maggie Chilton at office@muuf.org by 5 p.m. on Wednesday for the following Sunday. *We try to limit announcements to the most urgent items only, so please use this method sparingly.*

To have an item included in the weekly email blast: Activities listed in *What's Happening* will normally be included in the email blast. To add something not in that publication or to make a change, submit it to Maggie Chilton at office@muuf.org by 10 a.m. on Wednesday for inclusion in that day's email.

To get an item posted on the MUF website: Normally our webmaster transfers information from the newsletter, brochure, and *What's Happening* onto the website. To add something not in those publications or to make a change, submit it to Hazel Bell at webmaster@muuf.org.

Please keep this reference list handy and mark the deadlines on your calendar. We want to publicize all MUF programs, but can only do so if you tell us about them!

NEW COPY

Help to Keep the Fellowship's Momentum: Leadership Positions Open for Next Year

We are now looking for leaders to take on the following Fellowship positions for the year July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011:

Board of Trustees:

President-Elect, a one-year term, to be followed by a one-year term as President
VP-Program, a two-year term
Secretary, a two-year term

The other position on the Board (VP Administrative) is currently held by Arlyne Dalman, who has another year to serve. In addition, the current President-Elect, Lisa Schmitt, will become President for the 2010-2011 term.

Endowment Board of Trustees:

One Member, three-year term.

There are five members on the Committee, but the four other members will not have finished their terms in 2010.

Nominating Committee

One member, three-year term.

If you would like to apply for any of these important jobs, please see (or call) any member of the Nominating Committee: Mary Hodgson, Don Preziosi, Janine Torsiello, Annette Tyler or Jerry Weinstein. We would also welcome suggestions as to members you think would be excellent candidates.

Detailed information specifically about board job roles can be found on the MUF website.

www.muuf.org/documents/BoardOfficerRoles.rtf

What Are the Ways I Can Make My Pledge Payments?

Your pledge dollars go in their entirety towards our Annual Operating Budget, which supports our facilities, our staff, lifespan RE, worship, social justice, community building activities and more. You can pay your pledge for the current congregational year (July 1–June 30) weekly, monthly, quarterly, or in one lump sum, whichever works best for your finances. Please let us know your intention about this on your pledge card.

Pledge payments can be made in several ways. Please remember to mark “pledge” in the memo line of your personal or electronic check.

- U.S. Mail
- In Person – drop off at the office, or in the drop box in the copy room (be sure to turn the crank)
- Electronic Payment – sign up for our new automatic debiting process by contacting our administrator, Maggie Chilton, at Maggie@muuf.org, or your bank’s online bill payment system
- Sunday Offering – mark “pledge” in the memo line

How does the Sunday Offering work?

On a Regular Sunday: The collection of non-pledge checks and cash is split 50% - 50% between the Operating Fund and the Social Justice Fund. The 50% towards the Operating Fund is added to pledges, rental income, and other donations to meet our Annual Operating Budget. The 50% towards the Social Justice Fund helps us support worthy justice and service oriented organizations beyond our walls. The social justice council holds open meetings four times a year to decide how to divvy up these funds. You are welcome to attend these meetings and participate in this decision.

On a Special Collection Sunday: Up to five times a year, 100% of the collection goes to support one organization that helps us to express the values of Unitarian Universalism. Some examples of organizations we might support are the Community Soup Kitchen, UU Legislative Ministry of NJ, victims of a recent disaster, and UU Chalice Lighters.

Giving checks in the offering basket

Checks placed in the offering basket will be included in the offering total for the day. Please fill in the memo line to indicate “offering.” “pledge” or a split; for example, “pledge \$80 and offering \$20.”

All checks given to the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, whether for pledge, offering or something else, will be included in your giving statement. We want to be sure to credit you your generosity.

Giving cash in the offering basket

In order to include your cash donation on your giving statement, place it in one of the envelopes in the offering basket and indicate on it “pledge.” “offering.” or a split; for example, “pledge \$80 and offering \$20.”

If you don’t want us to track your cash gifts, just place them in the offering basket. If your giving statement has any errors, please be sure to call the office at 973-540-1177 so mistakes can be corrected.

Susan Lausell, Treasurer