



March 2009

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News

Reaching In . . .
Reaching Out

From the Minister . . .

WHAT IS OUR CONGREGATION? One answer to this question can be summed up with one word: **US**. Another way to respond is “our congregation is what we make of it.” We share our time, talents and treasure with one another, and by doing so, we literally create our congregation.



Time, Talent and Treasure is the theme of this year’s annual canvass. We are celebrating not only an *annual budget drive* this year, but are taking it one step further to celebrate an *annual resource drive*. This campaign models our vision of what it means to be an active member, and what we know to be the key ingredients in making this a vibrant, meaningful, justice-centered community. The four elements of active membership include 1) Nourish Your Spirit, 2) Share Your Time and Talent, 3) Share Your Treasure and 4) Live Our Values Out Loud.

In March and April we will be focusing on elements 2 and 3 from the list above. This year when you fill out the pledge card for July 2009–June 2010, you will see that there is space to indicate your annual financial contribution and a new line has been added: “What area(s) of the fellowship would you like to contribute your time and talent to?” We want to honor and record a holistic picture of the contributions that our members offer to one another and to our religious home.

Congregations are one of those magical mathematical entities in the world where the sum of the whole turns out to be far greater than the sum of the individual parts. People of varying financial abilities pool their generous financial pledges and this turns into staff, facilities, support for just causes, lifespan religious education supplies and other assets. People with varying skills and various amounts of free time pool together their generous volunteer pledges and this turns into worship, spiritual quests, mentors, circles of friends, community projects, a cared-for sanctuary indoors and outdoors, and so much more.

We begin with a collection of open-minded and caring individuals, and together we transform into a community of inspiration and aspiration that changes

lives and leads to partnerships of healing in a broken world. Yes, it is because of all of us and you (whether this is your first year here or your fifty-fourth year) that this happens... this daily, weekly and yearly act of the creation and re-creation of a particular kind of community known as a congregation. Your financial pledges and your volunteer pledges and your fulfillment of both give us this name.

Last year our Board developed a set of financial giving guidelines with a consultant, the Rev. Tricia Hart, and we ask you to look these over once again to help with your financial contribution for 2009 - 2010. This year, for the first time, we also ask you to reflect on your volunteer contribution. Please don’t hesitate to be in touch with me, Karen Brown, or our Network VPs, Arlyne Dalman and Rita Morris, to help you find opportunities that fit into your schedule.

Thank you in advance for sharing your gifts... we would not be “us” without them.

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

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Morristown Unitarian Fellowship

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Deeds Well Done

The Fellowship board recognizes and thanks the following members and friends for their work at MUF and in the community:

Janine Torsiello and **Don Preziosi** for their thoughtful work on the MUF mission statement.

For the "Dinner and a Movie" fundraiser: **Ken Nemeth** for preparing the food, **Matt Rath** for organizing the event, and **David Landau** for his excellent presentation of the film for the adults.

The **Nominating Committee** for taking on the new task of filling the Strategic Planning Task Force.

All those who worked on the Alternative Gift Fair. **David Buckler** for his work on the UU Beginnings Valentine's Day brunch.

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!

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	March 11
Administrative/Program Networks	March 18

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

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! The Service Auction was a huge success, and it is all because of you.

The Board has talked a lot this year about the three components of stewardship: Time, Talent and Treasure. Your stewardship was in action during our live and silent auction last month. The Board had a lofty goal for our Service Auction of \$20,000, and we made it. Our Fundraising Committee, with the help and efforts of many of you, worked tirelessly to put it on and make it a success. As always, I am grateful for those of you who shared your time and talent to make the Service Auction a wonderful event.

This was the first year that I attended the live Service Auction. It was emceed by our Treasurer and he, as always, did a beautiful job. It's been a long time since I've heard so many UU jokes. Since I never remember a joke, they were all new and funny to me. It was a fun evening that I spent in my MUF community sharing good food and good times.

To me, the Service Auction is filled with wonderful opportunities. It raises money for the Fellowship and it provides community building for us as a group. Many of the Silent Auction items were dinners. The people providing the dinners share their time and talent by preparing, cooking and hosting a meal for a group of people. Those of us who purchase

the dinners are sharing our treasure with our Fellowship. More importantly, our hosts are providing an opportunity to build community. There are some of you who will share the meal with long-time friends and others will make new connections while having a great time. Some of you will generously offer to provide your talents next year as you have done previous years. This is stewardship and community building in action.

Another important aspect of the Service Auction is that it affords us the opportunity and the occasion to have fun. We are an extremely generous, caring and hard-working group of people and it is important for us to nourish ourselves, support each other and have many laughs.

I've known from the first day I stepped through the doors of MUF that this was a special place, and it is special because of all of you. As president, I have had many experiences that have reinforced and broadened my insight into how amazing and wonderful all of you are. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

In gratitude,

Mary

Mary Hodgson, President

Our Financial Health

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

	July to Jan	Annual Budget
Pledge Income	\$251,156	\$412,000
Total Income	\$308,085	\$543,300
Total Expense	\$283,435	\$536,129

Again, it is comforting to report that both pledge income and expenses are tracking well against the annual budget.

While we have not recognized the income on our statements yet, it is exciting to report that our income from the Annual Service Auction was about \$21,000. Thanks for the generous donations of services -- we had more offerings than ever -- and your bids. We still have some major fundraising projects to come, such as the Tag Sale, and we hope for your continued support.

Tony Rutigliano, Treasurer

Faith Developments

I JUST FINISHED

READING the new report of the Unitarian Universalist Commission on Appraisal on the mandated review of Article II of the UUA Bylaws. I went to this document because the Commission completed its report in December 2008 on changes made to Article II containing the UU Principles and Purposes. Our Principles, Purposes and Sources are the rock upon which our ministry and curricula rest and I have been waiting eagerly to read what the Commission had to say.



The Commission members wrote that the revisions were a “challenge and learning experience” and it helped them “reconnect to their faith in ways they could not anticipate.” I was challenged by reading the report with the recommendations that many congregational members sent in and the subsequent revisions the Commission made.

If you are interested in reading the report, go to UUA.org and search for *Report of the UU Commission on Appraisal* – mandated review of Article II of the UUA Bylaws.

The real reason I am writing my article on the report and revisions of Article II is because of something I read in the rationale portion of the report. Under the covenant section, the Commission reported it “encountered substantial commentary in favor of reinforcing the idea that we are covenantal rather than creedal.” Even though the current wording was of “covenant,” members still felt the need to reinforce the idea.

And then the next sentence hit me hard: “Some expressed dismay that the children’s version of the Principles begins with the following language: “We believe.” I ask myself why many Unitarian Universalists have a hard time with the word “believe.” I remember being very impressed with the words of Rev. Tony Larson, who said that we had better teach our children what we believe. If we don’t, there is a world waiting for them out there that WILL tell them what to believe. And it isn’t necessarily our values.

When I look at our Principles, I am still impressed with the beauty of the words. If everyone were to live by our Principles, we of course would have

a kinder, gentler, safer and more loving world. And that is something to believe in.

The new proposed principles are as follows: “We covenant to honor and uphold: The inherent worth and dignity of every person; Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; Acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth; A free and responsible search for truth and meaning; The right of conscience and the use of democratic processes; The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; Reverence for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.”

There are some slight changes but I think for the good. I love being a Unitarian Universalist. I am more than delighted that our Principles are something our children can believe in.

Karen

Late-Breaking News

Getting to Know UU

Sundays, March 22, April 5 and April 19, 1 p.m.

Led by Rev. Alison Miller

A workshop for newcomers and new members

Join us for this opportunity to:

- learn more about Unitarian Universalism and our religious heritage.
- find out about our congregation’s activities.
- share some highlights from MUF’s history.
- get to know others who are interested in membership or who have recently joined.

To register, e-mail Nicole Luland at nicole@muuf.org or call 973-540-1177, ext 201.

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, 2009 to June 31, 2010:

Board of Trustees:

President-Elect, a one-year term, to be followed by a one-year term as President

Assistant Treasurer, a two-year term, to be followed by a two-year term as Treasurer

The other positions on the Board (VPs Administrative and Program, and Secretary) are currently held by members who have another year to serve. In addition the current President-Elect, Gary Kunz, will become President for the 2009-2010 term.

Endowment Committee:

Two Members, each to serve a three-year term. There are five members on the Committee, but the three other members will not have finished their terms in 2009.

If you would like to apply for any of these important jobs, please see any member of the Nominating Committee: Joe Uhrhane, Janine Torsiello, Jerry Weinstein, Steve Parker or Annette Tyler. We would also welcome suggestions as to members you think would be excellent candidates.

Time for Coffee with a Fellowship Friend

During the month of February we were planning this year's Annual Budget Drive. It will once again include Steward visits. Our Stewards will reach out to 60 members to share what we love about MUF, learn what you feel about MUF and discuss your financial commitment to our hopes and dreams. The Visiting Steward Program will take place throughout the month of March.

So if a friend from MUF calls and asks to meet for a cup of coffee, we hope you will say yes.



MUF Blood Drive

Sunday, May 31, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Donating your pint of blood is lifesaving for recipients and healthy for you, the donor. Sign up with Zella in the Great Hall or call her. If you are donating elsewhere, you must donate before **April 4** to be eligible for the MUF Blood Drive.

Proposed District Logo Due by March 15

If you'd like to enter an idea for a new logo for the UU District of Metropolitan New York contest, send it **by March 15** to Laurie Golson at ls.golson@verizon.net. Entries must be sent by attachment as commonly used art formats of at least 300 dpi. PDF files are preferred.

Participants at the District Annual Meeting May 1-2 will vote to select the winning design from among the top four finalists, and the new logo will be incorporated into a new District banner to be unveiled at the 2009 General Assembly in Salt Lake City June 24-28. It will also be used on the District's website and in many other ways.

The top four finalists will each receive a \$50 gift certificate to use at the bookstore at the District Annual Meeting or, if they aren't attending, to use for items available from the UUA Bookstore. The creator of the chosen design will receive a \$200 award by check and will be highlighted in the May issue of the District's newsletter, the Metro NY Minute.

News from the Seeds of Peace Committee

Our two Adult RE programs continue to meet monthly, and welcome new participants. The book group (focusing on David Korten's understanding of the epic choice we humans now face, as written in his *The Great Turning*), meets at **7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month (March 4)**, and the *Compassionate Communication (NVC)* practice group meets monthly on a **Thursday at 7 p.m.** (call for next date).



The committee is excited and grateful that the 2006 *Congregational Peacemaking Study Action Issue* has been placed on the Agenda for the UUA General Assembly to consider in June. This means that an updated Statement of Conscience, which will arise from the member comments our UU congregations recently submitted, will be considered for discussion and a vote. The heart of peacemaking is seeking to find solutions that encompass all truths and take action on them.

For timely peacemaking announcements and literature, as well as to borrow films and books, stop by at the *Seeds of Peace* table after Sunday services. We welcome your comments, ideas and suggestions.

More information from Jo Sippie-Gora, Chair, at jo@sippie.com.

Upcoming Events

Kilowatt Ours: A Plan to Re-Energize America **Sunday, March 1, 1-2:30 p.m.**

This 55-minute award-winning documentary is part of a national movement to promote energy conservation, efficiency and renewable energy. Learn simple, practical, affordable ways to save electricity and money. You can also find out about mountaintop-removal coal mining, a devastating practice that a 2006 UU Action of Immediate Witness sought to end.

Enjoy a low-cost lunch offered by Green Earth Ministry (GEM) in the dining room after the second service. After the film (free admission, donation appreciated), stay for a half hour of discussion. More information: Visit www.kilowattours.org or call Caroline or Jo.

First Monday Book Group **Monday, March 2, 7 p.m.**

We will be discussing *The Book Thief*, by Markus Zusak, and in April our selection is *Soul Catcher*, by Michael C. White. The books are subject to change according to the wishes of the group. Contact Nancy Lee McLure at nlmclure@msn.com.

Miracles, Anyone?

Wednesday, March 4, 1:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m.

Have you ever had a supernatural experience? A supranatural, paranormal or very unusual spiritual one? Would you be willing to share it at a Sunday service? Join us for a discussion of these very personal events at whichever time is convenient for you. For further info, call Tom McGuinness at tomamor@optonline.net.

Writing Room – Connecting Creatively with Yourself and Others

Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (Snow date Saturday, March 14)

This workshop (lunch included) is an opportunity to connect with personal and creative ideas, to relax and “write from the heart” in a safe and supportive environment. It will be facilitated by Ellen Schmidt, with whom many of us have had deep and enriching experiences on Star Island.

This is a day of guided writing and sharing through structured exercises and personal expression. Connect with your own voice and listen to others. An experi-

enced writer and facilitator, Ellen creates writing circles at Cornell University and in private practice at her home in Ithaca, NY. Cost: \$40 per person (20-person limit). Registration required by **March 2** with MUF office.

To learn more about Ellen’s work go to her website at www.writingroomworkshops.com, or contact Kate McAteer at katemcateer@hotmail.com or 973-359-8661. Please register for classes by signing up in Room 100, e-mailing us at office@muuf.org or contacting the office at 973-540-1177. Be sure to include your phone number and e-mail address.

Galapagos Islands Slide Show **Sunday, March 8, after second service**

Lee Wuenn will present a digital slide show of her trip to the Galapagos Islands last Fall. The program will last about 45 minutes and will be shown in the Meeting Room.



Lee spent two weeks in the islands and invites you all to share her experience. She has won awards for her images from the New Jersey Federation of Camera Clubs, the New England Camera Conference and the Photographic Society of America.

Crafts Group

Friday, March 13, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Feel free to bring a snack to share if you wish. Please let us know you are coming by e-mailing Donna Becker (writeme79@juno.com) or signing up at the Box Office on Sunday mornings.

Knitting Circle

Friday, March 27, 7:30 p.m.

Please e-mail Cintra Fricke at cintrafricke@gmail.com. (If there is a change in plans we will let you know.)

MUF Women’s Spring Retreat

Friday-Sunday, May 1-3

SAVE THE DATES!

Time again to sign up for the Women’s Spring Retreat at **Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center, Bangor, Pa.** For signup and information, contact Kathy Burgess at kathyb.41@verizon.net. All MUF women members and friends welcome. Check out the Kirkridge website: www.kirkridge.org.

MUF Choral Festival and Composing with Spirit: Creating Music That Inspires **Thursday-Sunday, April 2-5, 7:30 p.m.**

MUF presents this seminar and performance featuring Atlanta composer Lee Johnson. The event begins **Thursday, April 2, at 7:30 p.m. with an open rehearsal** of Johnson's masterwork, *Every Matter Under Heaven*, with the composer directing the Morris Consort, MUF Festival Chorus and Chamber Orchestra. Following will be a brief question-and-answer session with the composer. On **Friday, April 3, at 7:30 p.m.**, composer Johnson will lead a **seminar** examining his personal musical journey of composing in a striking array of idioms and styles. Audience interaction will be encouraged.



Saturday, April 4, at 7:30 p.m., will feature MUF's first **Choral Festival**, a gala performance of *Every Matter Under Heaven* for chorus, orchestra and video montage, based on a famous text from Ecclesiastes, conducted by the composer. The concert will also include new works of area composers George Aronson, Darrell Courtley and Barbara Stasiak, plus a performance by the MUF Children's Choir. The four-day event will conclude with special services on **Sunday, April 5, at 9 and 11 a.m.**, led by the **Rev. Alison Miller**, with music and a spoken reflection by composer Johnson focusing on creativity and the human spirit.

Lee Johnson has conducted and recorded with the Russian National Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Taliesin Orchestra, American Rock Orchestra and the Cyberlin Philharmonic, among others. He has composed six symphonies, four musicals, two operas, scores for film and ballet and numerous chamber works, choral works and vocal pieces. His many achievements include an Emmy Award, Georgia Artist of the Year and being charted on *Billboard*. A pioneer in the fields of multimedia and interactive techniques, Johnson is a frequent lecturer and panelist at universities and cultural institutions internationally.

The \$35 fee for participation in all evening events is due by March 20. It includes concert admission and a professional recording of *Every Matter Under Heaven*.

Some scholarships are available. Tickets for the concert alone are \$20 in advance, \$15 at the door, and \$5 for youth 18 and under. To register, or for more information, contact music@muuf.org or call 845-858-9895.

Freedom from Suffering

Mondays, April 6, 13, 20, 27, from 7–9:30 p.m.

Led by the Rev. Allen Wells

The question that most interests me is: "What makes us happy?" These evenings, we'll explore this question from the perspective of Buddhist psychology along with some substantiating data from modern neuroscience.

First we'll take a look at The Buddha's life and discoveries, the history of Buddhism, the Four Noble Truths and the Noble eightfold path. The following week, we'll consider the doctrine of impermanence, or *anicca*, a characteristic of all existence and doorway to enlightenment.

The third evening, we'll examine the doctrine of suffering, or *dukkha*, a second characteristic of existence and another door for awakening. In the fourth evening, we'll explore the one unique teaching of The Buddha – the frequently misunderstood notion of nonself or *anatta*, which is a third characteristic of existence and the third doorway for awakening.

We'll begin each evening with a 10-minute

meditation, and in the middle of each class include a 10-minute walking meditation.

Though it is not required, you will get much more out of these discussions by attending all four. Pre-registration will be helpful, but is not required. Please do so through Nicole at nicole@muuf.org. If you would like more information or a suggestion for pre-reading please call Allen.

(The Rev. Allen Wells is our MUF Affiliated Community Minister, an Insight Meditation teacher for 20 years, and current aspirant in the Integrated Study Practice Program at the Barre Center for Buddhist Studies, Mass.)

New Members

Please welcome **Joan Alevras, Jennifer Bagnall, Jerry DeVera and Jerry Gross**, who deepened their commitment to the Fellowship by signing the membership book in January and February.

Social Justice Council - March 2009 Update

Helping Neighbors in Need



Thanks So Much!

Thank you for your generosity in Sunday Collections! In January, the Social Justice Council allocated **\$3150** to charity as a result of your generosity in the 2nd quarter (Oct-Dec 2008.) The beneficiaries of gifts in the name of MUF's membership were:

Morristown Children on the Green	\$200	Morristown Neighborhood House	\$200
Wind of the Spirit	\$300	Morristown Pathways to Work	\$250
NORWESCAP	\$350	Interfaith Food Pantry	\$400
Peaceworks	\$500	Asociacion Grupo Cajola en Cajola, Guatemala	\$300
UU-UNO Ghanian Orphans	\$200	UU- UNO support	\$450

In addition, an operations gift of \$600 was sent to the Interfaith Council for Homeless Families of Morris County from MUF's budget.

Thank you, also, for your food donations during the February "MUF Love Your Neighbor Food Drive" which were delivered to the Interfaith Food Pantry of Morris County in MUF's name. ***The Social Justice Council is happy to receive a continuous donation stream of food bags for the pantry and deliver them to the food pantry. Just drop your donated food/bags off in Room 100 near the fireplace!***

Upcoming March Dates/Opportunities to Join in Direct Service to Morristown Neighbors:

Homeless Relief - Next "Hosting Week" March 1-8 - Come and see what it's all about! - MUF collaborates with two other area congregations, Redeemer Episcopal and Calvary Baptist in Interfaith Council for Homeless Families. We "host" (take care of five or six area homeless families at Redeemer Episcopal (South Street, Morristown) four times each year. Join other MUF members in helping neighbors who have no home of their own. If you have a few hours to share, you can: read to a child or play a game; be the "responsible MUF person" on location, help with homework, help with a dinner hosting, sleep overnight on a cot and "mind the fort," help with the cleanup (strip linens, roll cots to pickup point, vacuum, clean kitchen). Contact: Bob Campbell at wrobc@earthlink.net. Or get in the lineup for our hosting duties in May!

Morristown Soup Kitchen - Next Hosting: Lunch Tuesday, March 10 - Last month we served a record number of MUF soup kitchen guests-287! Thank you to all who cooked-and there was enough! But we can only anticipate that the trend will continue so that we must be prepared to a swelling crowd each month. You can pick up aluminium trays & soup containers at the Box Office every Sunday. Please consider joining in, by preparing a cook-ahead casserole or gallon of soup this month. If you are already one of the crew, consider making an "insurance" extra casserole or more servings of soup. YOU ARE ALL WONDERFUL! Thank you for being a part of this monthly MUF commitment. Contact: Michelle Kunz: mbkunz@gmail.com.

Eric Johnson House - MUF Monthly Dinner Teams - Next Hostings: Wednesdays, March 4 and March 25 (5:45-7:00 p.m.). Join other MUF members as we serve and host a cozy family-style dinner for 12 at the residence. We can always use a few extra hands in the preparation of simple nutritious meals - in a rotational schedule - to cover this very appreciated gift that we give twice monthly to these wonderful people who are recovering from illness related to AIDS/HIV. They enjoy our dinners and your conversation and caring can add to MUF's presence. Contact: karenburns@casaessex.org.

Morris Homeless Solutions Monthly Dinner -Saturday, March 14 - 4:45-7 p.m. - If you are an adult, or a family with Jr. High or older children that you can accompany, help prepare an easy meal for the 100+ shelter residents. This is the Morris County homeless shelter and they are dependent upon congregations/corporations/civic groups to provide dinner nightly. We have maintained this commitment for more than 10 years- one Saturday night per month. Be a part of the gift! Contact: judyoneil@optonline.net.

Next Social Justice Council Meeting - We skip March and will meet April 9 at MUF at 7:30 in the Dining Room for a quarterly allocation of plate gifts for charity. Contact: Chris Reynolds at Reynolds@nac.net or Karen Burns at karenburns@casaessex.org.

Upcoming Denominational Meetings

2009 District Annual Meeting

Friday-Saturday, May 1-2

To register NOW to attend this meeting at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Jersey City, NJ, go to www.uumetrony.org/am09/ for complete details. You can register online or through the mail by printing the online form.

The Rev. Meg Riley, UUA Director of Advocacy and Witness Programs, will be the keynote speaker. On Friday night, "Exit 43," four talented musicians from the Unitarian Church in Westport (CT), will entertain and inspire. The theme is "Turning Outward in Faith," focusing on how congregations can serve the broader community, a powerful way to help members grow spiritually.

Online registration ends April 24; if mailed, they must be postmarked by **April 21**. **Hotel reservations must be made by April 10** to get the discounted rate. Use the group code GUUNY.

2009 General Assembly

June 24-28

To be held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Delegates will vote to accept or reject the Draft Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking.

Registration opens Monday, March 2. After April 30, the fee for late registration will be higher. Contact garegistrar@uua.org.

Light a Chalice

Sunday, March 22

Half of the MUF collection on this day will be for this year's Spring Chalice Lighter Call. The money we raise will go to support the UU Legislative Ministry of NJ. This ministry, supported by 21 UU congregations in New Jersey, will support a statewide advocacy and education network to witness for UU values in public policy deliberations. Funds raised will help in hiring a part-time advocate to begin work in June.

For more information, contact Bob Scott at bobwscott@aol.com, especially if you cannot be present on March 22 and wish to support this worthy effort.

A Personal Experience of Traveling with a PeaceWorks Delegation to Nicaragua

Wednesday, April 22, 7:30 p.m.

Presented by Don Preziosi

In January Don Preziosi joined an eight-member delegation that travelled to Nicaragua for two weeks with PeaceWorks, the humanitarian aid organization run by MUF's own Jim Burchell. For Don it was a spiritual journey as well as an exciting adventure. PeaceWorks works with four Nicaraguan NGOs that do everything from aiding and rescuing inner-city street children to assisting peasant farmers in the northern mountainous regions to develop sustainable agriculture practices.

Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and has suffered greatly in the last 100 years, not only from US political policies, but also from natural disasters. A PeaceWorks delegation is the human connection with the groups that do the work and the people that benefit from their efforts. Lots of great photos will be part of the discussion.

Taichi Light

Saturdays, May 2, 16 & 30, 10-11:30 a.m.

in the Terrace Room

Taught by Al Chu

A simplified version of the traditional Chinese Taichi (Tai Chi) and Qigong exercises, Taichi Light is easier to learn, to memorize and to practice by people of all ages, but especially for people of advanced age or reduced physical mobility.

Its 18 simple movements, accompanied by uninterrupted deep breathing and mental imagery, can be done in 15 to 20 minutes. Practiced consistently, Taichi Light can help you increase your body flexibility and your sense of balance, and stimulate your physical and mental vitality.

The first session is critical (all must attend); the third date will serve as a makeup session for those who miss the second session. A DVD is available to help you practice the exercise at home. These dates are for both winners of the Service Auction offer and for all others who want to learn at no cost. Service Auction winners will receive the DVD free; others can buy it for \$20. Wear comfortable clothing and soft shoes (slippers are good).

For those who will be going to either LOASI or LOAS II at Star Island, Al will be teaching Taichi Light there all week.

haring 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 Committee thanks **Dick and Marilyn Guernsey** for a donation in memory of **David C. Morris**.

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
Sunday, March 1	1:00-2:30 p.m.	Film – <i>Kilowatt Ours: A Plan to Re-Energize America</i>	p. 6
Monday, March 2	7:00 p.m.	First Monday Book Group	p. 6
Wednesday, March 4	1:30 & 7:30 p.m.	Miracles, Anyone?	p. 6
Wednesday, March 4	7:00 p.m.	The Great Turning Discussion	p. 5
Saturday, March 7	10 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Writing Room	p. 6
Sunday, March 8	12:15 p.m.	Galapagos Islands Slide Show	p. 6
Friday, March 13	7:30-9:30 p.m.	Crafts Group	p. 6
Friday, March 27	7:30 p.m.	Knitting Circle	p. 6
Thursday-Sunday, April 2-5		Choral Festival/Composing w/Spirit	p. 7
Mondays, April 6, 13, 20, 27	7:00-9:30 p.m.	Freedom from Suffering	p. 7
Wednesday, April 22	7:30 p.m.	Traveling with PeaceWorks to Nicaragua	p. 9
Friday-Sunday, May 1-3		Women's Spring Retreat	p. 6
Saturdays, May 2, 16 & 30	10:00-11:30 a.m.	Taichi Light	p. 9
Sunday, May 31	8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Blood Drive	p. 5

MUF Family Passover Seder

Sunday, April 5, 3:30-7:30 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Passover Seder is a ritual retelling of the Passover story. It is a remembrance of the Exodus of the Hebrew slaves from Egypt and a celebration of the struggle for freedom then and now.

Our Seder is a cooperative dinner that includes special foods, customs and songs. For more information, contact Gloria Jackson at gloriajcksn@aol.com.

Update from the Strategic Planning Task Force

The Strategic Planning Task Force is reviewing historic documents that demonstrate MUF's progress to date in defining Who We Are and Who We Want To Be. We are considering ways to update the conversation and gather additional information for strategic planning. Feel free to reach out to the members of the SPTF!

*Karen Dinsmore, Co-Chair, Norman Ng, Co-Chair
Steve Parker, Kelly Schnur, Tanya Van Order, Beth Wilson*

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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.

March 2009

Volume 54, No. 3



Dated Material – Mailed February 26, 2009
Deadline for the APRIL issue is

MARCH 15

Sunday Services

Services at 9 and 11 a.m. unless specified



- March 1** **Faithful Living at the Edge of Doom**
Let's face it; times are tough. What if the experts who predict that the crises of the world will worsen are correct? Can we accept such a possibility? Can we live with meaning and compassion, and continue to work for justice and care for our environment? How shall we prepare our children? If we have a clear faith, we surely can.
Presented by the Rev. Allen Wells
- March 8** **Priestley Purpose** *Rev. Alison B. Miller*
- March 15** **Time, Talent and Treasure** *Rev. Alison B. Miller*
- March 22** **Sacred Activism** *Rev. Alison B. Miller*
- March 29** **Change the World Before Those Other Guys Do**
Bruce Knotts, executive director of the UU-UNO, will explain why and how to get involved internationally to help the world change according to UU principles of compassion and justice. Otherwise, the world will be changed by others—and we may find we don't like those renovations.
Coordinated by UU-UN Envoy Shari Loe

New copy 3/4/09

MUF Fundraising Report

MUF 2009 Service Auction – Huge Success! – Thank you to all who offered service items to our community in the MUF Service Auction. We are proud to report that we have raised more than \$20,000 together for MUF’s needs....and how much fun we are going to have over the coming year in redeeming all the wonderful services we have “gifted” to each other and our beloved community. To receive your “auction statements” please stop by Box Office or contact Toby Tyler at wtyler3@optonline.net.

Two Upcoming MUF Community Fundraising Initiatives – We Need Everyone’s Active Participation! In keeping with our shared promise to collectively help to keep MUF’s programs and activities vibrant & varied, we need all MUF members to do their part.

“Our Favorite Businesses” Directory – March 2009 – Recruiting “Ads” - We are updating a terrific guide for all of us that features “our favorite businesses” in a handy reference booklet. What restaurants do you love? Which hair salons, which landscape services, which accountants, which music teachers, etc.? Who are the people you patronize that you would like to introduce to us? For a very modest advertisement cost, they can be showcased to our MUF community (in hard copy and on the web)....and we can all try their services.

You will receive a letter to your home in March, telling you “how to sign up your favorite businesses” for display ads. We need every MUF member to help get at least one ad for a great service, store, professional. We are “selling” all through March, and the published directory will be released May 1! Help us gather lots of new ads. (Check out the current “Our Favorite Businesses MUF Directory” on our MUF website at www.muuf.org.) Questions: Contact Ken Nemeth at k.nemeth@yahoo.com or 973/263-2679.

“The MUF Tag Sale - The Big Recycle!” – Saturday, May 30 at MUF! Help create the best sale in town... we all love a bargain, too! We are aiming to create a GIANT, FUN & VERY PROFITABLE tag sale, in keeping with everyone’s need to do smart purchasing and actively recycle. ***START SAVING YOUR GOOD STUFF!*** Please start putting aside good items you would be proud to offer for recycling – we want the MUF Tag Sale to offer high-quality, gently worn seasonal clothes (summer)–men’s, women’s, children’s; we want kitchen items, small appliances in working order, home/decorative items (lamps, pictures, mirrors, etc.), great condition bedding items, toys, sporting goods, tools.

WE WANT ONLY ITEMS YOU WOULD BE PROUD TO RE-GIFT. (We can’t use worn-out, nonseasonal, stained/disrepaired, broken or otherwise, unsellable items.) We know we can offer a huge high-quality “Recycling Event” that MUF can be proud of! **Collect and set aside your goods now (!) to donate to us nearer to the event (instructions to follow).** We also will need an army of 50-75 helpers, so please plan to be a ***MUF TAG SALE TEAMMATE.*** Help make “MUF’s Tag Sale - “The Big Recycle” - a huge Morris County draw! Ask your friends, family and neighbors NOW to save and donate items to us too. Have Questions (?) or to volunteer, contact Anne Gaynor at foxwood2@optonline.net or karenburns@casassex.org.

