



From our Minister

The first part of my split sabbatical is coming to an end, and I want to thank every member of our congregation for this cherished time you offer your Minister and Director of RE. In particular, I want to thank the many volunteers and staff team members who stepped up and increased their support of our various ministries while I was away. It is because of you that I had a chance to have a true extended Sabbath, and I am deeply appreciative of your gift.

Abraham Joshua Heschel writes, “The meaning of the Sabbath is to celebrate time rather than space,” and “The Sabbath itself is a sanctuary, which we build – *a sanctuary in time.*” This concept resonated deeply for me as I thought about what intention I would bring to this journey in time. I thought of each day of my sabbatical as a building block of the Sanctuary in Time and about what they might stand for – family, relationships, celebration, grief, spiritual practices, learning, renewal, fun, and so on.

While it would be impossible to share everything, I do want to share a few of the highlights. The building blocks of learning included taking a course at Meadville Lombard Theological School a Unitarian Universalist seminary in Chicago called “Oral Traditions: Uses of Storytelling and Folklore in Ministry” and a seminar called “Social Ethics for Social Justice” in Monterey with Professor Garry Dorrien. The building blocks of spiritual practices included participating in a retreat with Julia Cameron (author of *The Artist’s Way*) and attending worships in both UU and other contexts. The building blocks of family included the joy of some consecutive worry-free and fun weekends with my husband, and some precious time to grieve for the loss of my mother and to sort through family photos, stories, and belongings.

I know that many of you also have much to report to me about the last three months in your lives and in our congregation. I am excited to hear from the Sacred Space Taskforce on my first Sunday back with you on April 3rd. This taskforce will be leading both services

that Sunday and sharing with us what they have learned so far about the possibilities for the future of the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship’s facilities. This is another group that has my deep gratitude for undertaking a big and important task in our congregation over the last few months.

While the time away has been precious, I have missed all of you very much. I return with enthusiasm for our shared ministries and the vital role we play in one another’s lives and the world. If you would like to make an appointment with me to share anything that is on your mind or happening in your life, just call or email Deneise Murad (admin@muuf.org) and she’ll put you in my calendar.

In fellowship,

- Rev. Alison Miller
Minister, MUF



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Morristown Unitarian Fellowship

21 Normandy Heights Road
Morristown, New Jersey 07960-4611

President: Lisa Schmitt

Minister: Rev. Alison B. Miller

Affiliated Minister: Rev. Allen Wells

Director of Religious Education: Karen Brown

Ministries Admin. / Executive Assistant: Deneise Murad

Music Director: Jim Blanton

Ministerial Intern: Barnaby Feder

Acting RE Assistant: Donna Becker

Newsletter Editor: Pratik Mamtora

(E-mail: pratikmamtora@yahoo.co.uk)

Sunday Services: 9 am & 11 am (More info on last page)

Religious Education Classes: 9 am



Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 10am—5pm

Thursday & Saturday: Closed

Sunday: 8am—1pm

Tel: (973) 540-1177, ext. 203

Fax: (973) 539-8218

E-mail: admin@muuf.org

www.muuf.org

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.

Who Do I Talk To?

(if I want to get involved)

Any of the ministers and staff would be delighted to speak with you.

Our Five-Year Plan coaches, Karen Dinsmore and Gary Kunz, can help you connect your passion with one of our goals.

Volunteer Leaders in the various Program Areas would be more than happy to let you know how you can make a difference in their area of the Fellowship.

Sunday Services

Marjorie Wormser and Carol Titus

Religious Education

Nina McCormack, Children's RE Council

Matt and Sarahjane Rath, Youth Advisors

Danelle Simonelli, Life Span Programs Committee

Social Justice

Karen Burns Rutigliano and Chris Reynolds

Community Connections

Michelle Kunz, Welcoming Committee

Laurie MacGeorge and Catherine Corey, Caring Committee

Hazel Bell, Website

Facilities

Steve Parker, Sacred Space Task Force

Diana West and Nan Perigo, Building & Grounds

Dan Byrd, Memorial Garden

Finance

George Hays and Susan Lausell, Finance Committee

Governance

Lisa Schmitt and Paul Ferm, Board

Pick up a copy of the new Morristown Unitarian Fellowship Directory (green cover), or link to it on the members section of our website, for updated contact information for everyone listed above. If you are a newcomer, Ministries Admin., Deneise Murad, can help you get in touch with the above. E-mail her at admin@muuf.org or call 973-540-1177 x203.

You are also invited to pick up a complete list of the current committees and programs along with descriptions and contact information to help you gain a greater understanding of what is offered.

President's Corner

I have been thinking a lot lately about volunteerism. As regularly as I am approached by leaders in the MUF community exhaustedly seeking more volunteers, I am also approached with creative new ideas for events and activities by people ready to lead the charge. It is possible that, as a congregation, we are simply trying to do too much. However, it might also be of value to step back and look at what motivates volunteerism.

What drives you to volunteer? Is there a cause about which you are deeply passionate, or are you fulfilling an expected obligation, as with a "co-op," for example? Are you helping those who are less fortunate because you feel blessed? Do you find honor, personal fulfillment and satisfaction in serving as a volunteer?

My mother – having recently moved to Williamsburg, VA after over thirty years in Tennessee – is volunteering a lot her free time in retirement as a way to get involved in her new community and to get to know people with whom she is likely to have things in common. She would probably answer, "yes" to some of the questions above as well.

What makes a volunteer position appealing is also worth examining. Are you an "idea person" who likes to be part of the planning, or do you prefer to join an already organized effort? Do you enjoy working alone, or serving alongside others (e.g. preparing a meal for the Soup Kitchen versus serving there)? Does the time commitment need to be flexible, as is the case with researching and creating a policy manual? Or does your schedule require a more finite project such as the recent MUF Spring Clean Up?

For years I have served as the Transportation Committee Chair for my daughter's school. The title is misleading as it is a committee

of one with one specific obligation that occurs on the first two days of school. This one obligation requires two weeks of light work during the summer, leading up to a few time-consuming days, and then I am done for the year. This role appeals to me: I know the requirements. I serve primarily on my schedule. I get to meet the excited parents of incoming kindergarteners, often serving as their first point of contact for the school.

We have welcomed many newcomers this Fellowship Year. How well do we communicate our opportunities to volunteer? How might a visitor or new member find out where they are needed most, or where they may have a particular expertise or interest? What is the best way to communicate in this world of seemingly endless options (pulpit, Newsletter, Networks, E-mail, telephone, Facebook, etc.)?

As you can tell, I have more questions than answers. Like other congregations, the Fellowship is completely dependent upon volunteers serving with our great staff members. So if you are a friend seeking help or a friend offering it, please share your ideas, time, and talent with our beloved MUF community!

In Fellowship,

Lisa

- Lisa Schmitt,
MUF President



Milestones and Passages

Submitted by Janine Torsiello

Drew Hayes and Janine Torsiello would like to thank the congregation for your prayers and good wishes for Drew's success this past week for minor surgery for skin cancer.

Submitted by Janine Torsiello

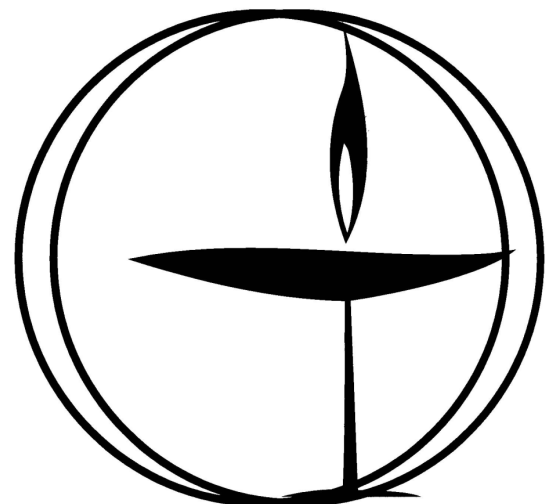
Friday, April 1 would have been my mom's 82nd birthday and the first one since her passing. It was always a happy day and this year it will not be so happy as we miss her terribly.

Submitted by Jo Sippie-Gora

My son Jason, and Aya, have chosen to remain in Tokyo for the time being. As you hold the Japanese people in your hearts at this tragic time, please send caring thoughts to my Jason and his family.

Submitted by Karol Ruiz

Please join me in wishing my son, Elijah Marrero, a happy birthday. He turned 12 this past Wednesday, 3/23/2011. Time has gone so fast since his birth and every moment in his presence is a blessing.



Chalice Seekers

Last year I facilitated a course called *The Spiritual Activist*. I fashioned the course from the book of the same title by Claudia Horwitz. Threaded throughout the book is the idea that if we want to manifest good work in the world, we must be spiritual warriors grounded in a peaceful Spirit. The beginning chapters are filled with spiritual practices and wonderful narratives about men and women and their own journeys of the Spirit.

Our children in grades 1 through 6 are now in their 3rd 10-week Unit called Peace and Justice. Like the lessons in the book *The Spiritual Activist* they learn that peace begins in their own hearts and minds. This is really the only way one can bring peace into the world. Laurie MacGeorge worked with our grades 1 - 4 children on March 20th and March 27th finding ways to resolve conflict by way of non-violent means. Jim Burchell went into the classroom on March 20th and talked to the 5th and 6th grade children about his organization called PeaceWorks – serving the Nicaraguan people.

There are many opportunities to participate in peace and justice activities at the Fellowship this spring. Grades 1 and 2 children will be selling impatiens during the Coffee Hour on Mother's Day to help an organization that gives school supplies to children in New York City. The children will go to Staples and buy supplies for children who might not otherwise be able to afford what they need for school. Thanks to Jennifer Bagnall for introducing us to this great organization. Grades 3 and 4 children will bring joy to your palates at the Strawberry Fest on May 15th after Youth Sunday. The children will decide what organization to give

to. Grades 5 and 6 youth will be collecting supplies for Nicaragua on April 17 and May 1 from 9:00 – noon at the garage in the MUF parking lot. A list of all the things we are collecting can be found in *What's Happening* and in the *Newsletter*. Parents can find information about the collection in the Parent Email Newsletter – *Chalice Seekers*.

As part of the Gilbert and Sullivan Choral this year (May 15 and May 21), MUF members and friends will have an opportunity to make Cranes for Peace as a symbol of hope for a peaceful world. Our goal is 1,000 cranes. Consider reading the book *One Thousand Cranes* to your children and learn how to make a peace crane together. Be part of our Earth Day celebration on April 16 where children will learn about peace and love for our Mother Earth.

One of my favorite advocates for peace is the Peace Pilgrim. If you don't know about this amazing woman, go to the internet and find out about her work. She walked for 28 years and stopped counting miles walked after 25,000. She owned only the clothing on her back and a tunic with a few things tucked into the folds. She gave out the following words to anyone who might stop to talk with her: *This is the way of peace: Overcome evil with good, falsehood with truth, and hatred with love!* Have a peaceful spring and see you at the Fellowship!

Karen

- **Karen Brown,**
Director of Religious Education



MUF Joining the EARTH DAY 2011 Sacred Waters Challenge!

UU Ministry for Earth is challenging congregations to **celebrate the sacred waters that sustain us all** and commit to 40 days of individual actions related to our use and protection of water. If 40 or more members of the congregation join this call, MUF will be included as a participating congregation. Members of GEM will be reaching out to you in the following weeks to kick off this challenge.

Deeds Well Done

- Thanks to the Thursdays Men's Consciousness Group for replacing the Broken Clock in the Library. Check it out—It is much easier to see. And thanks to Ken Drake it has lithium batteries that last for years.
- *Don Price*
- Beth Murphy and Nina McCormack for organizing MUF's First Annual Student Art Show, which took place on February 14.
- "Thanks to our small but enthusiastic crew for Spring Cleanup on March 26th - you folks are amazing!" - *Nan Perigo*



**SAVE THE DATE:
JADE—MUF Jazz Art & Dinner Event**

Saturday, May 7

5:30pm- 6:45pm Art Reception

6:45pm- 9:30pm- Dinner & Jazz Concert

A delightful evening will start off with an Art Exhibition in the Terrace Room (and possibly the Terrace), featuring MUF artists' works and those of members of the Morris County Art Association.

You will meander among the beautiful displays – possibly purchasing one for your home – while listening to live piano music, sampling hors d'ouvres and sipping wine. At 6:45ish we'll adjourn to the Meeting Room for dinner (Lead chef: Ken Nemeth) and we'll be treated to a Jazz Concert by "Jazz Anonymous" quartet playing jazz standards. Tickets are \$ 35 per person. A fabulous value for art, dinner & concert. Tickets at the MUF Box Office. Art Questions:

***Pirates, Japanese Maidens
& Emily Dickinson***

Pirates, Japanese Maidens and Emily Dickinson will storm the stage in MUF's third annual Choral Festival on Sunday, May 15 at 3 PM and Saturday, May 21 at 7 PM. The Morris Consort, MUF Choir, Youth and Children's Choirs and Chamber Ensemble will combine to perform music from "The Mikado" and "The Pirates of Penzance" by Gilbert and Sullivan, the premiere of "Two Views of Emily Dickinson" by NYC composer George Boziwick and other diverse repertoire. Admission is \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door and \$5 for youth 18 and under.

Relating to "The Mikado," which is set in Japan, and out of concern for the recent tragedies in Japan, MUF congregants and friends will construct 1,000 paper cranes to be displayed at the concerts. In Japanese tradition, the crane represents peace and hope, and recalls a Japanese girl who survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and, before her death from cancer at age 12, strove to construct 1,000 paper cranes for world peace and the end of suffering from such bombs.

- Dr. Jim Blanton, MUF Music Director

***Compassionate Communication:
Engaging and Connecting at the Need Level***

Saturday, May 21, 2011, 10:00am - Noon

Facilitated by Brenda Forte, LCSW & Tricia Armstrong

Is setting limits at work an ongoing challenge? Are you looking for ways to reduce the amount of anger and frustration you experience in your day to day interactions? Do you want to forge a more respectful and harmonious relationship with your partner and kids?

Join us to explore what Compassion Communication is and to discover ways to apply it in everyday life situations. We'll share communication "technology" that can help you:

- avoid being triggered in difficult situations
- make requests that increase the likelihood that you'll get your needs met
- maintain peace of mind when you hear a "No."

This Morristown Unitarian Fellowship Lifespan workshop is sponsored by Seeds of Peace and the Network of Spiritual Progressives - Morris County (Northern NJ)

For further information and to reserve your spot please contact Tricia at Tricia.Armstrong@verizon.net or 973-377-2646

Upcoming Events

LIVING FULLY IN TROUBLED TIMES

Saturday, April 2nd, 9:30am-3:30pm.

Led by Rev. Allen Wells and Others- This FREE workshop is directed toward members (and non-members) who feel depressed about the state of our world and their ability to help effect change, those who are feeling disappointed in the performance of our elected officials, and those who find themselves feeling anxious because they are doing all that they can, but "things just seem to be getting worse". For further information contact Rev. Allen Wells, awells@uuma.org or (973) 539-0301 x 2 or Jo Sippie-Gora, seedsofpeacemuf@optonline.net or (973) 838-8576. This event is sponsored by: The Green Earth Ministry, Seeds of Peace, the Network of Spiritual Progressives - Morris County (Northern NJ) and of Central New Jersey, and New Jersey Peace Action. RSVP is not required, but appreciated.

WRITE YOUR LIFE STORIES

Saturday, April 9th, 10:15am – 12noon.

Facilitated by writer and teacher Zella R.P. Gelman. Do you have a lifetime of stories to share? If so, join this creative group. Writing expertise is not required and sharing is optional. The group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month. Zella♥ can be reached at 973-669-1181.

MEN'S CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING GROUP

Thursday's, 7:30pm

This group will be holding open sessions for prospective new members on **Thursday, April 7**. We share personal joys and issues in a non judgemental setting where feelings are important to express. Call Victor Sperber 973-895-5360 or Don Price 973-347-5515 for more information.

EARTH DAY PARTY

Celebrating Our Precious Earth. There's Only One!!

Saturday, April 16, 3-5 p.m.

A Multigenerational Event for the entire Fellowship Family. Sponsored by the Fundraising Committee in Cooperation with Green Earth Ministry

From 3 to 4 p.m. - Eco crafts and eco games for all ages. Make an eggstrordinary planter and help build a humongous recycle monster. Try your hand at the Dirt Quiz. Nibble a variety of good snacks.

4 p.m. to 5 p.m. - Enjoy the songs and stories of singer/songwriter Ken Galipeau. Join in the Planet Rap and spin with "The Little Blue Top" {that's the Earth}.

Entertainment for all ages.

Tickets available at the Box Office starting March 13. \$10 adult, \$5 child.

Questions or to volunteer help or food - Carol Titus 973 625 8548 or carol.titus@yahoo.com

CORDIAL CONVERSATIONS AND CHOW

Fourth Wednesday of Every Month, April 27,

10:30am-1pm - bring a boxed lunch

Our *Cordial Conversations* will continue on the 4th Wednesdays of the month in the Library – go green, bring your own plates and utensils. Conversational topics are created from the groups that attend and they will be as varied as poetry to the latest scientific research. Our circle of participants decides on the topics. Coordinator – Gloria Dyer 973-543-7883 or Gloria.dyer@verizon.net and Karen Brown at 862-432-0173 or uudrek@gmail.com. We hope you join us in community.

MONTHLY KNITTING & CRAFT GROUP

Last Friday of the Month, April 29, 7-9pm

Would you like to spend a couple of relaxing hours clicking needles or crafting with fellow MUFers? Beginning knitters are welcome - bring your knitting and you are sure to bring home a few tips from the evening. If you are not knitter, just bring your own favorite craft - crocheting, felting, scrapbooking, jewelry making, origami, etc. Enjoy some peaceful crafting. *For more information contact: Maureen Dempsey mkdemp@verizon.net*

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Friday-Sunday, June 3-5

Two nights and six scrumptious meals for only \$184 (*plus tax*) at the very majestic Turning Point lodge at Kirkridge. The lodge Sleeps 23 (minimum 16), so sign up soon. The meeting rooms are air conditioned and the lodge has a magnificent view of the Lehigh Valley and lake. This is a perfect time for new comers to get involved and have a fun and meaningful weekend. If you'd like to help organize or run an activity/workshop this is a great opportunity to stretch your imagination and creativity. For more information about the lodge visit www.Kirkridge.com. If you are ready to reserve your spot, have further questions or would like to offer a workshop, please RSVP to Geri Silk 973-539-2854 or gerisilk@yahoo.com or to Sharon Heller 973-492-9073 or SharonJeanHeller@yahoo.com.

UU District of Metro NY 2011—Annual Meeting

When: May 6-7, 2011 **Where:** Hyatt Morristown, Morristown NJ

Highlights

- * *Keynote Address* by the **Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed** (*pictured*), author, lecture, and Affiliated Faculty member at Meadville Lombard Theological School
- * *On Friday night*, **Peter Mayer** in concert. * *Outstanding workshop and caucusing opportunities.*
- * *The UU Network Mall.* * *Awards and scholarships presentation.*
- * *Election* of the District President, Trustees at Large, members of the District Nominating Committee, and the District UUA Trustee

Complete details, including registration and hotel information, are available at <http://www.uumetrony.org/am11/>

Endowment News

The Endowment Board has recently received a donation from William and Annette Tyler. Donations in the memory of John Vogler were also received from the following: Carol Lancaster, Gerald and Ann Williams, Margaret Carroll, and Joan Rafter.

The Endowment Board has published a new brochure “Pathways for Your Legacy” which is available in the Great Hall kiosks, and on the MUUF website under “Committees.” The brochure provides information on pathways to provide gifts to the Endowment Fund, both now and in the future. Gifts can include a donation in honor or in loving memory of family members and friends, or to celebrate special occasions. Future gifts can include charitable bequests, life income trusts, or life insurance.

If you have any questions about the Endowment Fund, contact any of the board members below:

John Oehler, Steve Rice, Carolyn Evans, John Solu or Don Price

30 Hour Famine

A group of M.U.F. Senior Youth joined counterparts from the Presbyterian Church in Morristown on March 18 and 19 to participate in the 30-Hour Famine, a nationwide youth program that raises funds to support faith-based hunger programs around the world. The youth, who are shown here cooking tuna casseroles for the Community Soup Kitchen and Outreach Center, also visited an exhibit in Madison on daily life in African villages without clean water and participated in a scavenger hunt at Shop-Rite while going without food from Friday morning to Saturday morning. The M.U.F. participants included August and Maggie Tenbroeck, Hannah Goldberg-O'Neil, Alex West, Arjun Puranapanda, and Delia Ramseyer. They were accompanied by Intern Minister Barnaby Feder and Mollie Collison Wise, a friend of Barnaby's from his high school days who grew up U.U.!

Way to go... Great job !!

Social Justice Council Update

MUF Blood Drive – Sunday April 3rd – 8:30am-1:00PM. Drop In or make appointment to donate. A special way to give life saving help to someone. Questions? Contact Zella Geltman @ 973-669-1181.

Two (2) Eric Johnson House Monthly Dinners – Wednesdays April 6th and April 20th 5:45-7:15 – MUF is meeting two monthly commitments to this great Morristown community of recovering AIDS/HIV neighbors. Your friendly self &/or your good cooking needed. Contact Zella Geltman @ 973-669-1181.

Morristown Community Soup Kitchen – Fund Raiser – Wednesday April 13th – 6:00- 9:00pm Attend with MUF group of supporters, Rod's in Madison. Abundant Hors D'oeuvres, Auction, all for wonderful cause. Contact Michelle Kunz at mbkunz@gmail.com for details.

Morristown Community Soup Kitchen – Help is needed for April 12th serving. We need casseroles, soup, chilli, hot dogs and beans. More cooks are needed to prepare food in advance to serve hundreds of hungry people. Helpers are needed to serve and shop day before for fresh items. Please Contact Michelle Kunz at mbkunz@gmail.com let her know you are cooking or willing to help!

Morris Homeless Solutions Monthly Dinner –Saturday, April 9th 5:45-7:00pm –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_judyoneill@verizon.net

Contact “Pathways to Work”–for your special Spring Clean Up assistance! The Pathways to Work Network of registered and experienced laborers is ready and able to help you with your spring labor needs. Contact Rosa Chilquillo at 973-538-1229 ext 43 or at cell: 973-647-8495 to arrange for workers.

Blue Sky Gallery- Social Justice Day

MUF “Blue Sky Gallery”

Designing a Signature Social Justice Project Together for 2011-2012

Sunday April 10th – Terrace Room

For Adults- during both coffee hours and

For Children/Families - 10:30am (after Religious Education Classes)

Join us in “dreaming a blue sky plan” as a MUF team – adults and children – for social justice activities that will involve *all MUF members* next year – young, old and middle ages. We’ve designed some great new ideas, and we want your input. We’ve focused on some small yet meaningful activities for all of us, kids and adults, related to Hunger & Homelessness because these problems are present in our own Morristown community and greater Morris County. Want to work in a Community Garden, bake bread, gather furniture for people who have none?

Dream big...Dream and get ready to act together. On Sunday April 10th, we’ll convert the Terrace Room into a “Blue Sky Gallery” set with project depictions, descriptions and easel Boards. You’ll be able to browse among the project tables, and add your ideas...and even pin your name on “clouds”. We’ll have a story time gathering for younger children in the library after R.E. ...and activities for elementary age children to “dream special ideas” about helping kids/folks who need us. Families are welcome to explore together... Light refreshments/treats provided. Walk among our clouds!

Monday Book Group

The Monday Book Group meets the first Monday of the month. We meet in **The Dining Room at 7:00 pm**. Upcoming books are:
 March 7th- *O Pioneers* by Willa Cather—led by Eleanor Mason

April 4th- *Half the Sky* by Nicholas Kristoff and Sheryl Wu Dunn—led by Frank Siwec

May 2nd- *Olive Kitteridge* by Kathryn Straut—led by Susan Oxman

June 6th- *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austin—led by Sharon Glickman

For more information, please contact Nancy Lee McLure at nlmclure@msn.com or by phone at (908-204-9572). We welcome new members! All opinions are respected. Since weather may vary considerably between members' homes, please call if weather is doubtful. - *Nancy Lee McLure*



Minstrel Folk Project Concerts

4-1-2011 - April Fool's Night at The Minstrel starring Folk Project members

**4-3-2011 – Folk Project Special Concert - 7:30 pm–
 Craobh Rua from Northern Ireland (\$20 in advance/\$25 at the door)**

4-8-2011 - Open Stage

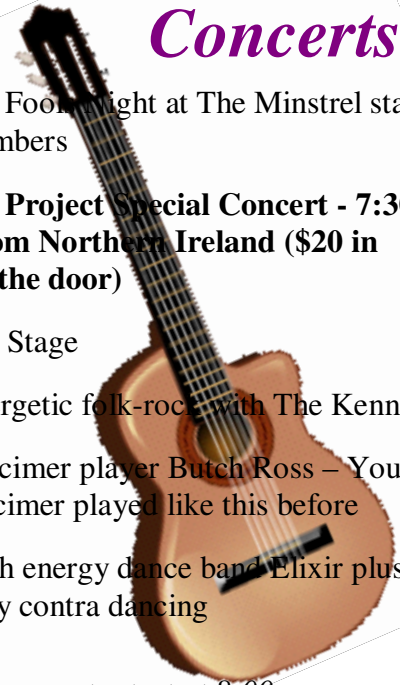
4-15-2011 – Energetic folk-rock with The Kennedys

4-22-2011 – Dulcimer player Butch Ross – You've never seen a dulcimer played like this before

4-29-2011 – High energy dance band Elixir plus an opportunity to try contra dancing

All concerts start at 8:00pm.

For more information visit www.folkproject.org



SEEKING POETRY SUBMISSIONS

At the service A Fellowship of Poets on Feb 26, we announced that we are going to be publishing a book of poems by fellowship poets, including but not limited to those whose poems were in that morning's service. If you are a fellowship poet over the age of 18 and would like to have your poetry included in this book please e-mail one or two of your best poems to janinetorsiello@gmail.com (Use ONLY this e-mail address). This book will be published this spring and will be on sale as a fellowship fundraiser. Space is a limited so please limit submissions to under 40 lines total. All submissions must be received by April 30. Late submissions WILL NOT be accepted. Please send any submissions via e-mail or some other electronic file so we don't have to worry about getting your poem wrong in retyping it. (If you don't have a way to do this please find a friend or family member who does as we will ONLY ACCEPT electronic files). For any questions or further information, please contact Janine Torsiello at janinetorsiello@gmail.com or (973) 299-2789 or Betsy Burr at Burrs@att.net or (973) 267-0137.

The Surprise—Fundraiser Saturday, April 9th, 8pm

Tickets: \$20 New York storyteller Martin Dockery comes back to the Storytelling Series with this award-winning theatrical monologue that takes us through the ruins of Angkor Wat and the chaos of bustling Saigon. Startling revelations force him to question what it means to be a family, and what remains when foundations crumble. The Surprise is the true and comic story of an uncertain girlfriend, an enigmatic father, and a most epic game of emotional chicken. Told with equal parts humor and heart, it is the tale of a family life with secrets, and clueless as to how to reveal them. Outstanding Short Play Nominee - New York Innovative Theater Awards, Sept, 2009; Best Solo Performance - San Francisco Fringe Festival, Sept 2009.

Tickets available at the box office or by calling Michelle Kunz, (973)945-5174 or email muf.events@gmail.com.

Green Earth Ministry - Timely Environmental News for You.

Welcome Nature to Your Part of New Jersey This Spring

As sunshine and warmer days return, we think of spending time outside appreciating nature. To see spring wildflowers, walk the Rockaway Valley Garden Club's wildflower trail in The Tourne Park in Boonton. You may be inspired to plant your own wildflowers and other native plants. Native plants are adapted to our region's climate and soil and will add a "sense of place" and variety as their appearance changes throughout the growing season. In addition, native plants provide biodiversity for a healthy ecosystem, feeding and sheltering birds and (if you do not use pesticides) the nourishing insects their nestlings need. If you like butterflies, how about feeding their children?

Caterpillars need native plants. On May 7 beginning at 8:00 am, the Rockaway Valley Garden Club is selling native plants and offering advice at 91 Powerville Road, Boonton, NJ Audubon (908 766-5787) will have plant sale in Bernardsville on June 6, (preceded by a class on May 13. Wildflowers are available by mail order from Toadshade Wildflower Farm (908 996-7500) and other companies.

Lunch and Learn Film: "Tapped"

Sunday, May 1, 1:00 PM

For your sustenance and enjoyment before the movie, a delicious soup, salad, and bread luncheon will be provided for \$4 immediately after second service.

Is clean drinking water a basic human right or a commodity? On Sunday, May 1, at 1:15 at MUF, watch the award-winning, 76-minute documentary Tapped. Critically acclaimed as "eye-opening, informative, and incredibly important for you to see," this movie from the producers of Who Killed the Electric Car has style, verve, and righteous anger. In accordance with the UUMinistry for Earth (UUMFE) theme for Earth Day of "Sacred Waters" we will also introduce possible actions for 40 days regarding respect for the resource of water and water justice. Your older children may enjoy this film very much – so ask them if they are interested.

-Submitted by Linda DeLap

Denominational Affairs

Metro NY Minute -- Upcoming Meetings and Workshops and Action Alerts

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2011 - General Assembly this year will be held from June 22-26 in Charlotte, NC. Reservations for housing began March 1st. For information go to <http://www.uua.org/ga/index.shtml>. From that link you can get information about housing, a summary of the schedule, registration and everything you need to know about General Assembly. Karen Armstrong will be giving the Ware Lecture this year.

2011 DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING - The Reverend Mark Morrison-Reed will be the keynote speaker at the 2011 District Annual Meeting, May 6-7, at the Morristown Hyatt. Reverend Morrison-Reed is a prominent African-American scholar and author of Black Pioneers in a White Denomination and In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby. On Friday night, Peter Mayer, singer-songwriter well known for Blue Boat Home will perform. Registration began 2/15/11.

Go to <http://uumetrony.org/am11/index.htm> for more information.

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.

- Submitted by Susan Oxman, Denominational Affairs

Upcoming April Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Details
Sat, April 2	9:30am—3:30pm @ Meeting Room	Living Fully in Troubled Times	P. 6
Mon, April 4	7pm @ Dining Room	Monday Book Group	P. 9
Wed, April 6 & 20	5pm—7pm @ Meeting Room	Show More Drama	
Wed, April 6 & 20	7:30pm—9:15pm @ MUF Meditation Room	Insight Meditation Group	
Sat, April 9	10:15am—12noon @ MUF	Write Your Life Stores	P. 6
Sat, April 9	8pm @ Meeting Room	The Surprise—Martin Dockery Fundraiser	P. 9
Sun, April 10	10:30am @ Terrace Room	Blue Sky Gallery—Social Justice Day	P. 8
Sat, April 16	3pm—5pm @MUF	Earth Day Party	P. 6
Thurs, April 7	7:30pm Library	Men's Group Consciousness Raising	P. 6
Fri, April 29	7—9pm @ Room 205	Knitting and Craft Group	P. 6
Wed, April 27	10:30am—1pm @Dining Room & Library	Cordial Conversations and Chow	P. 6

UU Legislative Ministry Plenary to be Held April 2

The 3rd Annual Plenary of the UU Legislative Ministry of New Jersey (UULMNJ) will be held April 2 at the Central Unitarian Church in Paramus. The business of the session will be to focus on State legislative issues, elect members of the board, and adopt an operating budget for the year. Representatives from at least 15 of the UU churches will be sending participants to decide together on a course of action for the coming year.

The keynote address will be delivered by Nancy Banks, Executive Director of MassAction, a similar statewide UU legislative organization in Massachusetts. She will be discussing what is happening there and how the NJ and Massachusetts groups are working together with other statewide UU groups throughout the country.

We will meet in task forces to discuss and shape policy around last year's issues of Economic Justice, Environmental Justice, Health Care, and Immigration. A new Issues Survey will be released that will be distributed to assess members preferences over the next couple of months.

Following the Plenary, a Champagne Reception will be held to honor two strategic partners in the legislative activities over the last year and to raise funds for this year's actions. Those being honored are Senator Loretta Weinberg who championed the legislation for Marriage Equality and Rev. Bruce Davidson who is recently retired from long service as the Director of the Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Rohn Hein at rohn@netzero.net.



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

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Deadline for the MAY issue is

APRIL 15

"The next open meeting of the Sacred Space Task Force will be April 11 at 7 p.m. in the M.U.F. Meeting Room. The agenda will be included in the Announcements at the Sunday Service the SSTF will be presenting April 3."

April 3 ***“Exploring Sacred Space.” - 2 Services @ 9:00 am & 11:00 am***

After the Board and the Strategic Planning Committee concluded last year that our fellowship cannot meet its needs and goals in our deteriorating mansion as it exists, a task force was appointed to investigate the costs of three options: renovating and expanding our current home; finding and retrofitting another building, and buying raw land on which a new home could be built. Join members of the task force as they reflect on their work to date, the questions still to be answered and the feelings about the spiritual side of their assignment.

April 10 ***“Tell Me A Story”- 2 Services @ 9:00 am & 11:00 am***

Human beings are story-tellers. Narrative, myth, folklore, tales and anecdotes all work to shape our theologies, our worldview and our possibilities. Is it time for a new story?

- Led by Rev. Alison Miller

April 17 ***“A Taste of Freedom”- 2 Services @ 9:00 am & 11:00 am***

Passover begins at sunset tomorrow (Monday). In this service we will explore the meaning of the greatest exodus story ever told.

- Led by Rev. Alison Miller

April 24 ***“Easter Sunday Celebration” - 2 Services @ 9:00 am & 11:00 am***

Members and friends, children and adults are invited to join us for our Annual and Multigenerational Easter Celebration

- Led by Rev. Alison Miller & Karen Brown