

JUNE 2009

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Co-Ministers: Wade Wheelock and Anne Marsh
Director of Religious Education: Jan Hutslar
Deadline for next newsletter: Friday, June 19.

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

Worship services and children's religious education begin at 10:30 a.m.

June 7:
"Possible Worlds" - Wade Wheelock and Anne Marsh

The Rachel Somers Grant Social Action Award will be presented to Anne and Wade, and they will reflect on some of the people and experiences that inspire and challenge them -- and all of us -- in our work to build a more just and compassionate world. You're invited to bring a contribution of non-perishables for our food pantry collection.

Greeters: David & Sally Vrooman
Dave Weissbard & Karen Wells

Social Hour: Maggie Hockett
Jamie Haro
Helen & Roger Hutchinson

June 14:
"All Our Relations" - Jan Hutslar and the Religious Education Committee

It's Religious Education Sunday! Our children will lead much of the service and share some of what they've learned this year as they've explored their connections with nature and with each other. We'll also recognize all our RE volunteers. After church, a picnic and retirement party at Bend in the River Park.

Greeters: Cliff & Janice Westerling
Theresa Witmer & Carol Strome

Social Hour: Church Picnic

June 21:
"Making Tracks" - Anne Marsh and Wade Wheelock

We combine our last full-length sermon as your ministers with a recognition ceremony for our high school seniors. They and we are "making tracks" in both senses of the phrase -- heading off in new directions, and leaving footprints behind.

Greeters: Eric & Jean Williams-Bergen
Pete & Kathy Wyckoff

Social Hour: Valerie Ingram
Adam & Eileen Jarrett

June 28:
"Walk Us to the Corner" - The Worship Committee
In Anne and Wade's final Sunday as our ministers, we'll honor them with reflections on their years of service and consideration (especially for the children) of what it means to retire. Wade and Anne will respond, and we'll sing some of their favorite hymns. It's also Flower Communion Sunday, a wonderful way to symbolize our religious community. Everyone is invited to bring flowers from garden, roadside, or market to adorn the altar, and we'll each take home a flower different from the one(s) we brought. Gardeners: If you can, please bring extras for visitors and those who forget.

Greeters: Dick & Donna Kimball
Dick & Peggy Mooers

Social Hour: Kelly Johnson-Eilola
Boris & Kim Jukic

IN PARTNERSHIP

A recently reported survey on American religious habits by the highly respected Pew Forum found that over half of all Americans have, at some point in their lives, changed to a religion different from the one in which they were raised. That's a lot of spiritual churning and yearning. We UUs should benefit from that kind of openness to new religious identities. As an adult convert myself, I am someone who contributed to that statistic. I think we have a very persuasive case for why Unitarian

Universalism is, as we say on our web site (using a phrase I coined), “a religious community for today’s world.” We look for insight and inspiration in all the spiritual high places around the world, including the wisdom from science, nature, and the arts. We refer to our minds, hearts, and consciences, not just past traditions, to decide the best way to live in the world. How else should religion ground itself in the modern era?

I gain a sense of optimism for the prospect of liberal religion when I look into our own congregation and see some of the global diversity there. We have representatives from Asia, Europe, and Latin America who have found and chosen UUism as a spiritual home. Perhaps a harder divide to bridge is generational. Our own children can find our religious perspectives, even as UUs, harder to penetrate than do those people from a foreign country. Our commitments to a religious institution, along with its forms of worship, often strike the youth we have tried to raise as UUs as especially peculiar. But this time of passage into early adulthood is particularly crucial. As the survey points out, the vast majority of people decide by the age of 24 to either take up a new or leave behind their old religious affiliation. Which will it be for our youth?

If we believe Unitarian Universalism has a worthwhile message and creates meaningful, supportive religious communities, we should spread the world. The world is waiting eagerly. But we shouldn’t neglect those nearby, nor those who follow us in time. The Pew poll, and common sense, suggest that the best way to attract people and keep them coming back is to live up to our values. May we continue to find ways to do that in our religious life together. *-Wade*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Interim Minister Task Force (Kim Bouchard, Robin Collen, and myself), I am delighted to announce that we have called the Rev. Myron Andes to be our interim minister! Myron is currently serving as consulting interim minister to the Sugarloaf Congregation of Unitarian Universalists in Germantown, Maryland, where he has been for the past two years. Prior to that, he served as consulting interim minister in Evansville, Indiana. After a successful career managing bookstores and running his own computer business, Myron decided to enter the UU ministry in mid-life, and he received his M.Div. from Starr King School for the Ministry in 2006.

Myron’s engaging personality, his experience with organizations and transitions, and his skills as a minister make him a good fit for our congregation, and we feel he is highly qualified to help guide us through the next phase of our journey. We will be working out the details of our agreement with Myron over the next few weeks.

Let me take a step back and explain a little about what the Interim Minister Task Force has been up to the last month. At the end of April we were given four names from the UUA Transitions Office of ministers in the market who were deemed to be good matches for our congregation. Based on review of their ministerial records, we narrowed the pool to three, held conference call interviews, and checked references. One of these individuals was clearly the first choice and was offered the position, but during the three days between the phone interview and offer she had made the decision to remain in her current position and remove herself from consideration. We moved on to our second choice who had subsequently decided on another placement as did the third ranked individual.

So, despite being having our application into the Transitions Office weeks before the deadline, we were on to “round two” and were sent three additional names. The candidate we chose and who has accepted was clearly our top choice from this group. All of us feel this is a person of substance, depth, and deep commitment to Unitarian Universalism. The references we spoke with used phrases such as steadfast, stable, respectful of a variety of religious traditions, principled, an excellent facilitator, and having a good sense of humor! I look forward to being able to introduce our new interim minister in greater depth in the near future!

In other Church Council business for this month, we welcomed Carol Gable to her first meeting as a Trustee, and I am happy to announce that Council has approved the appointment of Walt Conley as a Trustee to fill the seat vacated by John Marson. Welcome Walt!! We also voted to approve a website policy that was distilled from the comprehensive and thorough work of the ad hoc subcommittee on website issues. With this policy we have identified guidelines for the website content, a process for posting information, and established the Website Resolution Committee (composed of the President, Minister, Chair or designee of Outreach and the Webmaster), which will regularly meet to address concerns and resolve any issues. Council understands that this policy is a starting point, but agreed to give it a test drive. We will review its effectiveness and adapt as needed in the future.

Finally, Council is once again planning to host the rainbow sherbet give-away at the Dairy Princess Parade on the first Saturday in June. If you would like to help scoop, please let me know!

--Margaret Harloe

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

I will be brief this month, so you can be out in your garden or walking by the river rather than reading a long newsletter article. It is important to know that the Religious Education program is preparing for

RE Sunday, which is June 14. This service will be Anne and Wade's last children-led service and we want to make it the best. So, we need you all to participate.

How? Please plan to come to both RE Sunday rehearsals during church on May 31 and June 7. We will be casting roles for the story and for other interactive parts of the worship service and rehearsing them. There may be a children's choir also to participate in. If you (children and youth) want to participate and cannot attend both rehearsals, please let me know.

On RE Sunday, we also honor the volunteers who helped in the Religious Education program during the year, so please come to support those folks.

Thank you! -- Jan

JOYS AND SORROWS

- We hold in our hearts *Kay Thompson* and family on the death of husband *Bill* after a long struggle with cancer.
- Loving condolences to *Bryan Thompson, Gary Berk, Isaac, and Julia*, on the death of Bryan's mother, Sally Thompson, on May 10.
- We were saddened to hear of the death of former church member *Ned Sudborough* in Santa Fe, and our thoughts are with his daughter *Susannah*.
- And some happy news: Congratulations to new grandparents *Pam and Bill Short* and great-grandma *Peggy Sperling* on the birth of Grady Lawrence McCann on April 27.
- Kudos to *Duncan and Lois Cutter* on winning the Adirondack Mountain Club Laurentian Chapter's Distinguished Volunteer Award.
- Also winning recognition were *Peter and Kathy Wyckoff*, recipients of the Canton Community Fund's annual award.
- And *Walt Conley* was presented with a SUNY Potsdam President's Award for Excellence.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!!

- Thanks to *Charlotte Ramsay* for donating Max's posthole digger to the church, and to *Brian Coots* for suggesting the idea.
- Thanks to *Anne Richey* for a generous donation to UShare for the shed at Cecilie Garden.
- Thanks to St. Lawrence Health Initiative for a \$500 grant to help build the Cecilie Garden shed, and to BOCES students for the labor.
- Thanks to *Stefan, Sebastian, and Felix Grimberg* for raking Kay Thompson's yard.
- Thank you to all the people involved in creating a wonderful first Canton Youth Con-- to *Kelly Johnson-Eilola*, who spent the entire weekend at church and to *Carol Gable*, who practically did; to the overnight chaperones; those who made food; the people who offered wonderful workshops; and most of all to the youth group members who all worked hard and did an excellent job! Thank you all!

- Thank you to *Maria Corse* for serving as project coordinator for the 7th/8th grade Falls Island project, and to *Carol Pynchon* for helping the youth produce a high quality brochure. Thanks to *Mike Corse, Peter Wyckoff and Wil Rivers* for their extra help in pulling it all together. Thanks to the many members and friends who joined the 7th and 8th graders on their tour of Falls Island. And especially to the 7th and 8th graders who spent many hours on the island, and their great job sharing it with us! Well done!

PICNIC AND PARTY IN THE PARK

The annual church picnic will serve double duty this year as our traditional spring get-together and as a retirement party for Anne and Wade. Please plan to join us for food, fun, and fellowship at Canton's Bend in the River Park on June 14, after the RE Sunday Service. We'll head down to the park after church and fire up the grills. The church will provide hamburgers, hotdogs and veggie burgers as well as chips and drinks.

What to bring:

- If your last name begins with A – J bring a salad to share
- If your last name begins with K – Z bring a dessert to share
- Your own table service (we'll have back-up if you forget)
- Outdoor games, sports equipment, Frisbees, etc.
- Lawn chairs

Come along, even if you don't have anything to bring. We'll have plenty! Directions to the park will be available at church. In case of rain we'll picnic in the Social Room but we'll hope for a warm, early summer day with lots of sunshine. Contact Kathy Wyckoff or Tedra Cobb if you have questions.

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

Dave Weissbard has been charged by the Outreach Committee with arranging for photo coverage of all church events and collecting photos for a church activity file. If you are willing to be in a photographic pool to be called upon on occasion or if you already have photos of church events, please email Dave (Rockbard@aol.com) or call him (386-4905).

DAIRY PRINCESS FESTIVAL

Once again, our church will participate in two events at Canton's Dairy Princess Festival on Saturday, June 6:

- **March with PFLAG:** The Executive Board of the St. Lawrence County PFLAG Chapter extends an invitation to all church members and friends (along with kids and friendly dogs) to join us for the Dairy Princess Parade. Meet in the Social Services parking lot on Judson Street behind the church by 12:45 pm for a 1 pm parade start. Come out and show your

support for our GLBT families and friends!!

- **Rainbow Sherbet:** We'll also celebrate diversity by serving free rainbow sherbet on the front lawn of the church at noon. Margaret Harloe is coordinating, and she needs help with set-up and serving.

JOURNEY TO COMMITMENT

I vividly remember the first day I visited this Church. It was very different and the activities were more structured. Hindu temple-visits are more like plug-and-play modules and more personalized. There are plenty of Gods and Goddesses (different forms of a single God) to choose from and you get to pick the ones you are interested in. Hindu temples offer more mysticism rather than a direct connection to one another. It is often your responsibility to seek and understand the underlying purpose and meaning of each and every activity that goes on in the temple. You tend to witness a lot that does not make any sense right away. To say it in the language of web-designing, What You See Is NOT What You Get!

It is interesting to me who has come from that kind of background to see a style of service that I can readily relate to my own daily activities. Every Sunday service leaves me a message that I can connect with. Though the styles are different, what is strikingly similar and what attracted me towards this church is that both the styles strive to evolve and both are inclusive. Both do not offer or even attempt to offer a simple definition or a trivial solution to what constitutes God or who is God for that matter. Yes! We worship trees (if not cows).

To use some of Obama's words, it is beyond anyone's pay grade to define certain things. It is for you to feel and figure it out. *It is your own little light and only you can make it shine.* That's exactly what these faiths promote. They talk about the *responsible search for truth and meaning.* I perceive Hinduism to be strong but complex and Unitarian Universalism to be simple yet direct. Week after week, I come back to this Church for two reasons – 1) as it gives me the very same feeling of being in a temple, surrounded by people with a single thought of progressing spiritually and 2) more and more coffee (Yes! The blue mug is the key to this central thought).

Sometimes I think - what makes these churches and temples possible? Also, I wonder about the people who raised those temples and churches that stand for centuries with a single selfless purpose to help people understand the faith that is so close to their hearts and souls. I am sure that their faith enriched their souls; otherwise they would not have chosen to give back to their faith or to this world for that matter, a glimpse of what they cherished. It humbles me and makes me feel that I should give whatever possible (be it my time, talent(?*#) or money) to this church, to Unitarian Universalism, the faith that

I embrace today, the faith that has given me so much without expecting anything in return. It has become an irreplaceable thread in my spiritual fabric and it will always be that way.

– Saravanan

USHARE NOTES

Call for Garden Adopters

The UShare crew has been busy preparing the gardens for another productive year. We've extended our volunteer base to include several community members as well as many students from SUNY Potsdam, Seaway Tech, St. Lawrence and Clarkson Universities. Seaway Tech students are constructing a new storage shed for the Cecilie Garden. Financial assistance for the shed came from the St. Lawrence Health Initiative's Eat Well Play Hard Community Project, a grant funded by the NYS Department of Health. Students from SLU, under direction of Margaret Harloe, started several of the seedlings for our gardens this year. With all this help, we hope to grow and deliver a substantial summer harvest for our local food pantries and neighborhood centers.

Once the gardens are planted, we rely on Garden Adopters to tend the gardens over the summer months. ***A Garden Adopter takes care of the garden for one week during the summer,*** visiting the garden 2 or 3 times to tend to specific needs that might include watering, weeding, or harvesting. We try to schedule two adopters each week, to lighten the load and make the chores more fun. If you have not adopted before, we try to pair you up with a returning volunteer for guidance. Consider signing up to become a garden adopter! Look for sign up sheets in the social room after church, or contact Duncan and Lois Cutter to schedule your week (328-4675, dcutter1@twcny.rr.com).

There will be a brief ***Garden Adopters' Orientation after church on Sunday, June 7*** at the Priest Field Garden behind the church. If you can't attend, or if you have questions about adopting the Cecilie Garden (Potsdam) or the Priest Field Garden, contact Duncan and Lois Cutter, David Bradford (265-3426, dbradfor@twcny.rr.com), or Jan DeWaters (265-2234, jdewaters1@twcny.rr.com).

JUNE SHARED OFFERING

The Social Action Shared Offering on June 21st will go to GardenShare for their CSA Farm Express project. The CSA Farm Express is a new GardenShare project designed to share the benefits of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) with limited-income households that might not otherwise be able to afford a CSA membership. In a typical CSA, households buy a membership in a nearby farm at the beginning of the growing season. Then each week they go to a designated site to pick up their box of wholesome farm produce, hand-picked by their farmer partner.

In GardenShare's CSA Farm Express, limited-income households don't have to pay the membership fee up front. Instead, they pay each week when they pick up their box. And the fee is about half the usual amount, thanks to sponsors who help share the cost. This year's pilot project is partnering fifteen limited-income households with four CSA farms in the Canton area. Our contribution to GardenShare will help sponsor these households. We'll also support GardenShare at a June 20 concert with Ivory and Gold (see below). -- *Tedra Cobb, Social Action Chair*

**BENEFIT CONCERT:
IVORY AND GOLD**

Don't miss this one! Our church will host the first-ever North Country performance by the internationally-known trio Ivory and Gold on *Saturday, June 20, at 7:00 p.m.* Ivory and Gold is Anne Barnhart on flute, and Jeff Barnhart on piano and vocals, and Danny Coots on drums and percussion. These superb musicians have played to packed houses on five continents (and will head to their sixth, Australia, in November!) and have made several recordings. The music of Ivory and Gold celebrates great examples of the American jazz, ragtime, Broadway, and gospel -- yet played like you've never heard them played before. Joplin, Waller, Gershwin, Porter, and Berlin will be featured, along with many surprises!

Danny Coots first brought the Barnharts to Canton several years ago on a trip to visit his dad Max. They did a few practice sessions in our Sanctuary and loved the acoustics so much that they offered to come back for a full concert. Ivory and Gold has very generously offered to donate half of the proceeds to a charity of the church's choosing. The Social Action Committee has named GardenShare the beneficiary. Suggested donation is \$5 per person. Please come and bring lots of friends!

**WATT METER ADDED
TO LIBRARY OFFERINGS**

We have a new addition to the Coots Library shelves, and it's not a book! It's a little gadget called a "Kill A Watt," and it will provide information about the amount of electricity your electric appliances are using. The Kill A Watt™ plugs into an ordinary wall socket, and it's ready for use. When you plug your appliance into the Kill A Watt™ you can get a direct reading that tells you the Volts your appliance is drawing (usually 120 here in the U.S.), the Amps of current being delivered, the Watts it is using at the present time, and the accumulated Kilowatt Hours the appliance uses for the time it's plugged into the device. The Kilowatt Hours (kW-h) is the number most interesting, because that's the amount of energy we pay for when we pay our electric bill.

Some ideas for using the Kill A Watt™ Plug in different appliances during use to determine which

use the most power.

- Calculate the kW-h used by your major appliances, like your refrigerator or washing machine (remember, Watts or kilowatts is the power used at any given time; total electricity used is equal to kW-h, or the kilowatts multiplied by the time (hours) the appliance is turned on).
- Leave your home computer plugged in for a few days – note how much electricity you save by turning off your computer when it's not in use!
- Leave some of your electronics plugged in and note how much electricity they consume, even when they are turned off. You might want to start using a power strip and using that switch to turn off your TV or stereo!

The information you get can help you make important energy-saving decisions. For example, at our house we are using a Kill A Watt™ to figure out how much we pay to freeze our food. We purchased a chest freezer so we can store our own berries and vegetables, and we buy and freeze local meat in bulk quantities. This always seemed like a smart financial move for "city folk" like us, but we're now measuring the amount of electricity we use (and pay for) to store that food, and discovering that it's quite a bit! Is it worth while? Not sure yet – ask me in a month or so if you're interested.

Meanwhile, consider checking out the Kill A Watt™ from the Coots Library. Bring it home and have some fun finding new ways you can save electricity, and money, in your household.

- Jan DeWaters

CALL FOR DISTRICT CHALICE LIGHTERS

It's the time of year when we invite members of the congregation to join the St. Lawrence District's Chalice Lighter program. The goal of the program is to extend Unitarian Universalist principles and faith by promoting the growth of congregations in our UUA district. This is accomplished by providing grants to congregations to take on growth and renewal projects that are a stretch for them. Funds may be used to help new congregations get started, to secure professional religious leadership, or for programs that promote membership growth.

Twice a year the district awards Chalice Lighter grants totaling about \$10,000. To fund these grants, the district puts out a call to Chalice Lighters across the district who have pledged to respond to these twice-a-year calls with donations of \$20 or more.

When we renovated our building and added the new space in the rear of the church several years ago, we received a Chalice Lighter grant of nearly \$5000 to fund our elevator, which makes our building accessible to all. Our friends in Saranac

Lake also received Chalice Lighter support to help get their congregation going.

Please join the members of our church who are already faithful Chalice Lighters. To learn more visit the Social Action table and pick up a brochure that describes the Chalice Lighter program. You can also learn more or download a form at www.sld.uua.org/conggrowth/chalichelighters.html.

2009 SOCIAL ACTION AWARD

Each year our church recognizes a person or people who are making a difference in our community with an award established in memory of Rachel Somers Grant. The Social Action Committee is pleased to announce that the 2009 Rachel Somers Grant Social Action Award will be presented on Sunday, June 7, to our retiring co-ministers Anne and Wade.

The social action award “honors a person who works to make ours a more humane and progressive community.” During the 16 years of their ministry with this congregation, Anne and Wade have helped make our congregation and our community more humane and progressive. They have helped us be better organized in our congregational social justice efforts and have encouraged and supported the development of a strong, working Social Action Committee. They have led and encouraged us to social action by their own example in many areas of local, national, and global life.

Please join us on Sunday, June 7, to recognize Anne’s and Wade’s contributions and commitment to the social justice activities of our congregation and community.

EXPLORING CHRISTIANITY

On Sunday, June 7, from 12-2, Exploring Christianity will view and discuss the film “God on Trial.” In this powerful play, Jewish prisoners in a Nazi concentration camp debate the existence and nature of God in the context of the evil that surrounds them. In so doing, they raise questions with which all of us wrestle, whether we consider ourselves Christian or not. All are welcome. Bring a snack to share, or just come on along.

FREE WILL DINNER

It’s our turn once again to serve at the Free Will Dinner hosted by Canton’s United Methodist Church. We do this as a congregation twice each year, though many of you volunteer at other times as well. Our date is coming up *Wednesday, June 10*. We’ll need a couple of people to come around 2:30 to help prepare food, 6-8 people to come by 4:15 to serve, and 2-3 people to come by 4:45 to wash dishes and clean up. The food is provided, and experienced Methodist folks supervise. The dinners are a way to serve the needy in our area, but even more important, they provide an opportunity for community for all who attend.

Families with children age 10 and up are welcome to work together; Health Department rules don’t allow younger kids to serve. Sign up on the kiosk if you’d like to help. Thank you!

CHALICE CIRCLES

As part of our ongoing efforts to provide more opportunities for members and friends to gather in small groups, the church formed five Chalice Circles this year. If you haven’t participated, Chalice Circles are groups of 8-10 people who meet monthly to share their ideas and experiences around topics meaningful to them. What kind of topics? The possibilities are practically endless -- grief, forgiveness, spirituality in nature, ideas of God or the sacred, legacies from our families, beloved poetry or music, living our values, and more. Chalice Circles differ from other kinds of small groups in that each has a facilitator (or co-facilitators) and each follows a simple format that is designed to enable everyone to participate equally. The focus is on listening to each other, not on debate. The goal is to deepen our relationships, foster respect and caring, and provide an avenue to exploration of spiritual and ethical issues.

Most of our Chalice Circles will not meet over the summer, but in the fall, we’ll have at least four groups starting up again, many of which will have space for new members. Tentatively, groups will meet once a month on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. We will add others if demand is sufficient. If you are already in a group and want to continue, let your facilitator know. If you are new to Chalice Circles and would like to join a group, fill out a Chalice Circle registration form at the back of the Sanctuary, or contact Anne or Wade for more information. Please do so by July 15, if at all possible, so that we can see if we need to form additional groups.

COFFEE AND GREETERS: FIRST NOTICE

If you’re new to our church, you may wonder how we get all those friendly Greeters and Social Hour Hosts each Sunday. The answer is that it’s long been our tradition to assign each church member and regularly-attending friend one Sunday between September - June to be a Greeter and one to be a Social Hour Host. This is a great way to share these tasks and involve us all in the life of the church.

The assignment lists will go out with the September newsletter, so if for whatever reason you are NOT able to take a turn as a Greeter and/or Social Hour Host, please call (386-2498) or email (uucanton@verizon.net) the church office by **July 10**. Please note that this deadline is a month earlier than usual, as we want to get the lists prepared before our interim minister arrives, to relieve him of the task. If you have already notified us in previous years, you do not need to do so again. If, on the other hand, you are willing

to be called on to do an extra shift when the person scheduled is unavailable, please let us know that, too. Thanks!

SPEAKING OF GREETERS...

...and Social Hour Hosts as well, volunteers are needed for Sundays in July and August and for Labor Day weekend. Greeters hand out orders of service and take the offering. Social Hour Hosts put out juice and snacks (which the church provides). Making coffee is optional during the summer. The tasks are simple, but important. Summer services generally have a smaller attendance than those during the school year, but our line-up of summer services looks great this year, and we strive to be a welcoming church all year 'round. Please pick a Sunday or two and sign up on the kiosk. Thanks so much.

WATER, STONES, SHELLS

For some, summer is a time to travel. For some, it's a time to relax at home. And for some, the work schedule continues without a break. However and wherever you spend your summer, near or far, you're invited to collect a sample of water or a stone or a shell. Kids, too! Then at our Homecoming service for all ages in September, you can join others in placing your water, stone, or shell on the altar. It's not a contest to see who traveled to the most exotic locale, but rather a way to symbolize coming together in a diverse and loving community.

FROM THE COOTS LIBRARY

At the meeting earlier this month with all the church committee chairs, I reported on our completed library collection policy, our increased circulation (and decreased lost books!), more browsers in the library before and after church and at the library table during coffee hour, and more use of the library by the children and young adults a good sign for our future.

Four new books have been bought for the library: *The Scandalous Gospel of Jesus: What's So Good About the Good Book*; *Darwin's Sacred Cause: How a Hatred of Slavery Shaped Darwin*; *Welcome: A Unitarian Universalist Primer*; and *Be the Change: Prayers, Poems and Meditations for*

Peacemakers and Justice Seekers. Look these and other books over, check out one or two, add them to your pile of to-read books, and let us know how you liked them, either in a review or just a comment or two in passing.

And if you've checked out books, don't forget to bring them back!
— Joan Kepes

LOST & FOUND

Are you missing coats, shoes, dishes, pots, or pans? You might take a look at the items that have been left at the church. There are several coats and shoes on the coat rack near the old side entrance, and many dishes, pots and pans in the kitchen by the refrigerator. Please take yours home and help us keep the church clutter-free.

Perhaps you haven't left anything at the church, but do you have several rainbow pins on your dresser or in your car? If so, please return them to the basket by the name tag board. We'd also be grateful for the return of any hymnals you may have borrowed. Many thanks.

"MELODIES IN THE AIR"

Renowned fiddler Donald Woodcock will perform on Saturday, June 13, 2009, 7 p.m., at the Old Meetinghouse Museum, East De Kalb (off US Route 11 adjacent to Hermon De Kalb Central School). A lifetime resident of the Kendrew neighborhood of the town of De Kalb, Don grew up in a musical family, first playing piano then, as a teenager, playing fiddle with his father at Grange dances. Thrice the NYS Fiddling Champion, Don is widely recognized for having one of the greatest repertoires of traditional fiddling tunes in NYS. He learned many of these tunes as a child growing up in De Kalb. This evening program will consist of the tunes that Don learned from family and friends in the town of De Kalb. An evening of traditional tunes not to be missed! For more info, contact Bryan Thompson.

THE WIDER UU WORLD

There's a lot going on out in UU Land this summer! Check the materials at the back of the Sanctuary to learn more about camps and conferences for all ages.

MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

The Ministerial Search Committee has continued to meet at least weekly and will continue to do so through the summer. If you've been checking in with the bulletin board in the social room, some of this may be repetitive, but let me summarize how we've been spending our time together and where our focus has been. We've met six times since the last newsletter report—four times as a search committee during our regular Thursday meeting time and twice with other groups.

We were pleased that seventeen members of our congregation, representing the Search Committee, Church Council, and the Budget & Finance, Staff Relations and Stewardship Committees, turned out on May 2 to meet with Jim Peterson, the UUA Compensation Consultant. Jim reviewed with us the UUA guidelines for fair compensation and explained the nuances of constructing a financial package that will make the best use of our resources while presenting a fair and attractive package to potential ministerial candidates. Good

questions were asked, and it's fair to say we are in a pretty good shape in terms of the resources we have allocated to compensation for the minister's position and all of our staff members. Nevertheless, as in other areas, we discovered that there's always more to learn.

Jim was chair of the ministerial search committee at his own church in Marblehead, Massachusetts. He was impressed with our church, the turnout and participation at the compensation meeting, and where we are in our search. This reinforced for us that we have a solid church base and are well-positioned for a successful search. His careful questions and thoughtful comments also reminded us of the seriousness and commitment with which we need to approach the task ahead. We are fortunate to have made this contact, and it is clear Jim will be another great resource for us as we move forward.

We also met with five members of the last search committee after church on May 3. They shared some of their wisdom and experiences in both the art and science of searching for a new minister. What struck us was that fifteen (give or take) years later, most of those people are still with us as members, still excited about the church, still benefitting from the personal lessons they learned in that process, and still friends! Best of all, they let us know they have confidence in us and our church and will support us in whatever ways they can. Thank you to Betsy Kelly, Stevie Michaelson, Betsy Northrop, Peter Van de Water, and Kathy Wyckoff, who met with us that day, and to Jim Arvidson and Bob Briggs, who could not be there on May 3 but expressed the same sentiments.

We have also spent time planning for the survey, the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop, and meetings with various constituencies in the church. We continue to work on the Congregational Record—in essence, our detailed position “advertisement” that will announce our opening to ministerial candidates and be their first introduction to our church. In upcoming meetings we will be refining the survey and working more on process. This Thursday, April 21, we will be talking with Anne and Wade to gather some of their thoughts on the search process and ruminate on the strengths of our church as well as areas that might be of concern to prospective candidates, among other topics. As many of you know, Anne has served as a ministerial search consultant, so she has insights to offer above and beyond her intimate knowledge of this church.

Finally, what's ahead?

.... Watch for information about the congregational survey. We will be asking you to participate in this over the summer, and our hope is for an unheard-of **100% participation!**

.... Search Committee members will begin meeting with staff, committees, and other constituencies to gather their input about their hopes and dreams for the future of our religious community.

.... We will complete the Congregational Record, and many of you can expect to be called upon for your knowledge and expertise in specific areas of church life or numbers that we know you have in your head!

.... We will begin work on the fall Listening Circles (small group meetings).

.... Laura Foster will be spearheading the creation of the informational packet we will send to candidates interested in our church.

Keep watching the bulletin board in the social room for current information on the state of the search. It's still relatively early in the process, but the ball is rolling and gaining momentum. As always, if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact one of the search committee members. We are:

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