



COMMENT

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury, 24 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, CT 06811 * 203-798-1994
Rev. Linda Hansen, Minister

MARCH 2008

Letter from Linda



One of the things I will miss about life in southwestern Connecticut is the fact that you have a much fuller season of Spring than we do in Wisconsin or Minnesota. Each of my previous four years here I have thrilled to see the forsythia bloom, and this year will be no exception.

I hope you won't mind if I share with you one last time a favorite passage from Archibald MacLeish's *J.B.*, his play based on the Hebrew book of *Job*. (Your new minister will surely have different favorite literary sources!) J.B. and his wife, Sarah, have lost everything, including their children; their city is in ruins. Sarah leaves intending to commit suicide, but suddenly returns, stopped by the forsythia she found "growing in the ashes,/ Gold as though it did not know . . ." And the sight of the forsythia leads Sarah to realize that, though there may be no justice, there is still the possibility of love.

Mary Collins and I plan to use a lovely hymn (#344) in our Spring/Easter Intergenerational Service titled "A Promise through the Ages Rings" that includes these lines:

A promise through the ages rings,
that always, always, something sings.
Not just in May, in finch-filled bower,
but in December's coldest hour,
a note of hope sustains us all.

. . .

For something always, always sings.
This is the message Easter brings:
from deep despair and perished things
a green shoot always, always springs,
and something always, always sings.

Whether it is the forsythia or other signs of Spring, whether it is the love you experience in your family and community, may you be reminded that there are green shoots always ready to spring and something always ready to sing. May our congregation be one of the places you find love and hope – and singing!

With love,
Linda

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Sexton	Don Cassel	798-1994 (O)
Nursery	Allyson Tozzoli	798-1994 (O)
Website	www.uudanbury.org	

The Church Office is typically open on Tuesday from 8:45 - 10:45 and Thursday and Friday from 9:00 - 2:00. Please call ahead for office hours and/or appointments with Rev. Linda Hansen, Rev. Peggy Block or DRE Mary Collins.

Comment is the newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury, 24 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, CT 06811, (203) 798-1994. Articles (**250 words or less**) may be emailed to Sherry at secretary@uudanbury.org or dropped off at the church office.

Deadline for the April Comment - Friday, March 21st.

Intergenerational Retreat

The date is now reserved from Friday, May 30th to Sunday, June 1st at Camp Jewell for the **Intergenerational Retreat**. All congregants are welcome. If you plan on attending, please contact Nancy Tramontana, Carl Tichler, or Suzanne Perry. Please send in a deposit of \$20 (per person).



UUCD Cancellation Policy – During very inclement weather, Sunday Services, Religious Education and any other meetings and/or events will be cancelled. To learn of a cancellation, please check one of the following:

1. Channel 3, WFSB-TV, Hartford, or www.wfsb.com;
2. WLAD 800 AM or WDAQ 98.3 FM Radio (if we can reach them);
3. The outgoing message on the church office phone, (203) 798-1994;
4. The UUCD website, www.uudanbury.org (if Carl Tichler is available).

Men Out to Breakfast

Men Out to Breakfast is an organization of men seeking fellowship and spirituality and meeting for breakfast and discussion on the first and third Saturdays of each month, at the Windmill Diner, Mill Plain Road in Danbury, convenient to exits two and four. Meeting time: 9:00 a.m. All are welcome. March dates are the 1st and 15th. Rev. Linda Hansen has been invited to join the group on March 1st.



Women out to Breakfast

Women out to Breakfast will meet on Saturday, March 8th and Saturday, March 22nd at Elmer's Diner on Padanaram Road across from the North Street Shopping Center (exit 6 from I-84W, turn right; exit 5 from I-85E, go straight 2-3 miles.) Please notify **Karen Gillotti** via email if you plan to attend.



President's Letter

By Carl Tichler, President

I am looking forward to the upcoming spring, and not just for the warmer weather. **This May 16th is our Annual Meeting**, which will have a busy agenda, in addition to the usual reports, budget vote and election of new Board trustees. **This year we will also be having our vote on the New Sanctuary Movement, our new Mission Statement, and also electing the Ministerial Search Committee.** I hope as many of you as possible can attend this important meeting.

The Board has started the process of applying for an interim minister, with a subcommittee of the Board working on this, and we have had several people approach us about serving on the search committee for our settled minister. As I mentioned last month, this is a significant commitment, and also very rewarding. We are looking for a few more candidates, so please contact me or another Board member if you are interested in this important role.

I had the opportunity to attend another "President's Workshop" sponsored by our UU Metro-New York District, organized by District Executive Andrea Lerner, and I had a great time speaking with other District Board Presidents and lay leaders, and exchanging stories about our different excitements and challenges. The theme of the workshop was "Radical Hospitality," which prompted many thoughts on how to truly welcome and engage newcomers, and several reflections on how our congregations could better incorporate these ideas into our services and programming. One of the ways we thought about this was to ask ourselves what brought us to Unitarian Universalism. I found it interesting to hear both similarities and variations in the answers that were shared, as I do when hearing the welcomes at our own UUCD services. I hope that as we continue to keep our several different threads of congregational activity moving forward, we will continue to welcome and engage new visitors to our congregation.

Carl

Save the Date for our Annual Meeting with Family Potluck! Friday, May 16th

Once we began continuing two services into June, having our Annual Meeting on a Sunday in mid-May meant we lost the participation of many of our 9 a.m. service attendees. So this year we're trying something different in hopes of getting the best attendance possible—a Friday evening meeting preceded by a family potluck. There will, of course, be childcare during the meeting itself. Please save the date and plan to be there!

Welcome to a New Member

Welcome to new member, Barbara Love! To introduce herself, Barbara writes, “I grew up in Ridgewood, New Jersey, and went to the Presbyterian Church as a child, but being a Presbyterian is not right for me. I love the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury. I particularly like the progressive community, the open-mindedness and friendliness of its members. The fact that so many people of different faiths and experiences come together is very attractive. The fact that I am a lesbian and a feminist does not seem to matter. I can be myself and feel welcome; that is a big plus. I look forward to getting to know more members—what an interesting and well-educated group of people! It will be a pleasure to see more of them more often. A recent get-together at the home of Pat Coulston and attended by Linda Hansen, which Donna Smith, my partner, and I attended was an inspiration and provided the boost that I needed to make a commitment.”



**Treasurer's
\$\$ Report \$\$**

The summary statistics for November through January of the 2007-08 year are recorded below.

	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>
% Annual Canvass pledge return	36.3%	52.2%	54.9%
Operating Income Year-to-date	\$89,194	\$124,386	\$134,070
Operating Expenses Year-to-date	\$90,240	\$114,177	\$135,413
Operating Income – Expense YT	<u>-\$ 1,046</u>	<u>\$ 11,231</u>	<u>-\$ 1,343</u>

Analysis for current year:

The “Operating Income – Expense, Year-to-date” (-\$1,343) has turned negative meaning that we are beginning to eat into our reserves. This is due primarily to pledge payment rates that have been as high as 67.1% last year and 70.4% the year before compared with this year’s 54.9% for the first seven months. For the last six years the pledge rates for the January month ranged from a low of 2.67% to a high of 14.26% with an average of 7.76%. We are fortunate that both the fundraising and our rentals have exceeded expectations by over \$8,000. We wish to thank all the helping members.

The short-term note to cover the remaining Capital Campaign expenses came due this February. This will reduce our reserves by over \$12,000. Combining the reduction in our reserves to pay for this note with the very low pledge returns in January means that UUCD needs to keep the pledge payments flowing.

Bruce Buzby, Finance Committee Chair
Marie Dupree, Treasurer

Religious Education Update

by Mary B. Collins, Director of Religious Exploration (DRE)

Curricula choices being made...

Curricula are being chosen by the Religious Education Committee NOW for the 2008-2009 church year. The theme is **Jewish and Christian Heritage**. Knowing the stories and themes from these religions is crucial cultural literacy for our youth but we know there are lots of ideas and feelings about these two religions. If you would like to review the curricula or offer a suggestion as to how we structure the program (at 11:00 a.m. for instance), the **next RE Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 13th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

Year-End Options

The RE committee has voted to base the year-end chapels (in May and June) on a curriculum called *In Our Hands: A Peace and Social Justice Program* by Samuel Goldenberg, Eleanor Hunting, and Mary Thomson.

In this program, children explore peace and fairness through stories, discussions, and activities. Participants learn constructive ways of resolving conflict and promoting peace in their own lives. They learn to see their connections to the larger community, to the natural world, and to the Unitarian Universalist peace and justice heritage.

There is the *option* of continuing this program through the **summer** (July 4th weekend through Labor Day weekend) or keeping it light with stories and art/puppets? If YOU are interested in keeping our doors open this summer for children, please contact the DRE today.

Coming of Age (both COA) groups

- **COA Boys' and Girls' Retreats** have been rescheduled for *APRIL 5th-6th* (NOT in March). Please contact the DRE with your plans to attend or not for planning purposes.
- Seeking assistance for COA youth year-end activities.

Saturday, May 10th - Credo Presentation Dinner for family and friends. Please contact the DRE with your plans to attend or not for planning purposes. **Pam Stevens** has volunteered to help plan this event. Will you join her?

Darlene Anderson Alexander has volunteered to assist the youth in planning their COA Services.

Contact **Mary Collins**, Director of Religious Ed, at the office # 203-798-1994, if you will help or have further questions.

Junior High Youth Group Events (6th-8th graders)

Friday, March 7th - JHY meeting 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. –Group discussion of “Bullying” + Charades, Pictionary.

Saturday, March 8th - JHY event TBD - May have to do with painting chairs...Contact **Jurinha Fallon** if you will be coming.

Friday, March 21st - JHY meeting - **Veronica Swain**, media manipulation – Crazy Paint Night! Wear old clothes!



UUCD JUNIOR CHORUS

Rehearsals begin on March 9th!

The NEW **UUCD JUNIOR CHORUS** will be performing "What a Wonderful World" (a la Louis Armstrong!) as the Prelude for the Service on May 4th - a Social Action Committee Service on local immigration issues through the eyes of the children. Hurry all of you young singers - there's still time to join! **THANK YOU** to all of the adults who have offered to help at rehearsals in March. We still need some spots filled for April. Please see the clipboard in the back of the Fellowship Hall if you are interested.

Who?

Children ages 4 years old - 5th grade (younger singers welcome with a parent)

Where?

"Piano" conference room

When?



Rehearsals will be from **10:35 - 10:55 a.m.** on March 9, 16, 23, and 30, and April 6, 13, 20, and 27 with the performance on May 4th at both the 9:00 and 11:00 services. There are only 8 rehearsals and singers **MUST** attend five out of eight of those in order to perform. A CD and lyrics will be available for "practice" at home.

For more information, please contact **Darlene Anderson-Alexander**.



The Sunday Services Committee Hears You!

by Darlene Anderson-Alexander, Sunday Services Committee Chair

We have received several suggestions in the “suggestions” box in the foyer as well as in person from many of you. We want you to know that we do consider all suggestions carefully and discuss them as a committee. We have decided that the best way to respond to the congregation – especially to suggestions made anonymously – is via a monthly column here in the Comment. Suggestions are in bold italics followed by responses in regular print.

In addition to verbally thanking the chimes ringer and chalice lighter, we should thank the greeters.

Since so many people contribute to our Services, to thank individuals from the pulpit could become cumbersome and we would undoubtedly leave deserving people out. At this point, we will continue to verbally thank just our chimes ringers and chalice lighters – who tend to be young children who feel very special when they hear their names – but we plan to incorporate “thank yous” to all of our volunteers during a Service this Spring.

The Children’s Focus should be engaging to young children, interesting to adults, and no longer than five minutes.

Sometimes easier said than done! We appreciate all of the adults who volunteer to spend time with our children during Services and always welcome new volunteers. We encourage volunteers to adhere to the guidelines that we provide which speak directly to content, delivery, and length.

We seemed to have several “Christmas-related” Services this past December ... is this appropriate in a non-Christian congregation?

We will take note of this as we plan next year’s service calendar.

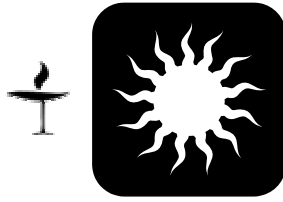
Youth should feel part of Intergenerational Services – as they did at the musical service on 12/23.

We will try to incorporate more children and youth in meaningful ways in future intergenerational services.

Do we experience the “Jewish” part of our “Jewish and Christian heritages” as fully as possible during Services? Some of our members who consider themselves “Jewish UU’s” don’t always feel that we do. Have our services become “too Christian” in style?

These issues will be part of an on-going discussion. We would like to bring an awareness of all of our “sources” to our services. We believe that, oftentimes, the underlying themes of holidays and holy days can be incorporated into timely services without our having to celebrate each and every holiday per se’. We also feel the need to explore and honor our “Unitarian Universalist Identity” in the scope of that. We would love to have “representatives” from the many spiritual paths that enlighten us join our Committee so that we make sure we are truly an inclusive congregation. Please see the invitation elsewhere in this Comment.

Thank you! We hope that you will continue to offer feedback to our Committee as we all strive to experience meaningful Sunday mornings at the UUCD!



Won't You Consider Leading a Sunday Service this Summer?

While we at the UUCD have the utmost respect for our professional ministry, we also believe that all members of our Community should have the opportunity to share their journey with the congregation. As has been our custom for many years, this summer we will be providing nine lay-led Services during July and August. We hope that you will consider lending your voice and ideas to our Services.

Please contact any member of the Sunday Services Committee to pursue leading a Service this summer. We are: **Geri Boggs, Bob Bollinger, Bruce Buzby, Ross Fenster, Barbara Searing, Mike Searing, Nancy Tramontana, and Darlene Anderson-Alexander** (Chair). Remember that two or more people can collaborate on a Service as well. We hope that you will consider this wonderful opportunity to foster the spirituality of our congregation.



The Sunday Services Committee

As the *Sunday Services Committee* strives to be more inclusive, we strongly encourage members and friends to attend our monthly meetings. One of our goals is to build awareness in our congregation of all of our individual spiritual histories and paths. Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 5th. Meetings begin at 7:30 with on-going Committee business first on the agenda. Discussions regarding the scope of future services begin at approximately 8:30 and we adjourn at 9:30. All are welcome.

Meditation Sessions

Alternating Wednesday evening Meditation Sessions continue in March and April. Please join **Gina Cassetta** or **Evan Smith** on March 5th and 19th and April 2nd and 16th for various forms of meditation intended for beginners and long-time practitioners alike. The sessions take place in the Fellowship Hall from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Building Your Own Theology, Part III: Ethics

Jane Leff and **Jean Renjilian** will be offering the third part in the "Building Your Own Theology" series for eight Monday evenings, March 17 – May 5. Using Richard Gilbert's third book in the series, this eight-week course examines many dimensions of ethical behavior. Each session discusses a particular aspect of ethical decision-making, including responsibility, intention, and relationships, and the hope is that the exercises and discussions will expand and enrich our understanding of the subject. It is not necessary to have taken BYOT I or II.

Reigistration is not required, but the book must be purchased ahead of time from the UUA bookstore at <http://www.uua.org/bookstore>.



You are Invited to Attend!!
the
UUCD Annual Goods & Services Auction
Saturday, March 29, 6:00 – 10:00 pm

Tickets (\$10.00 per person, \$5.00 per guest)
include
hearty appetizers, desserts, jazz,
fun, laughter,
and

**Spectacular
DOOR PRIZES**

- Nintendo Wii Game Console
- Tom Tom One XL Car GPS
- Canon Powershot S5 IS Digital Camera

*Door prizes are drawn as the auction ends. You **must** be present to win.

Bid on wonderful dinners, events, art, antiques, services and stuff you didn't know you needed

Auctioneers: Dan Brodax & Jeremy Stein

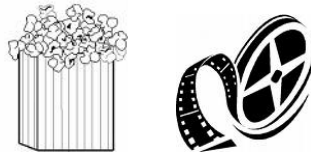
child care provided by reservation *
*(call church secretary 3 days ahead)

24 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, CT 06811

First Friday Film and Discussion

The Film Discussion Committee presents the following film:

March 14th – “The Three Faiths”; Mike Searing, Discussion Leader; Topic: Examining common threads among Christianity, Judaism and Islam.



Movies with a Message – Fourth Friday Film Series

by Keith Dupree

The Laughing Club of India: This 36-minute documentary was made by celebrated Indian director Mira Nair. In India, groups of people meet to laugh together each week. Can laughter be induced from within, or does it need to be derived from external amusement? Does one need to be happy to laugh? Nair traces the roots of the Laughing Clubs by following some members home, revealing challenging lives much in need of the therapeutic benefits of laughter. With laughing clubs spreading worldwide, what will your response be when your neighbor invites you to the next meeting of the local Laughing Club?

Knights of the South Bronx: Sometimes fulfillment comes in unexpected ways. This film is based on the true story of Richard Mason (Ted Danson). When Richard is forced from his corporate job and accepts a temporary position as substitute teacher for a 4th-grade class in an inner city school in the Bronx, he finds himself in a different world. On the verge of despair, Richard discovers that his virtuosity in the game of chess is a beacon through which his students learn important truths about race, wealth, hard work, sportsmanship, and intelligence, and Richard finds the ability to live a life worth living!

On the fourth Friday, March 28th, come to the UUCD Conference Room and be prepared to discuss and enjoy, We'll begin *The Laughing Club of India* at 7:00 p.m., with the main feature *Knights of the South Bronx* (90 minutes) following at 7:45. Bring a beverage to share; chip in for pizza if you wish. Popcorn optional!

Big Happenings in our District and in GA News from the Denominational Affairs Committee

by Mike Searing, Denominational Affairs Committee

(1) First Notice: General Assembly Convenes in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida in June!!

General Assembly 2008, “A Meeting of Congregations,” is being held between June 25 and 29, Wednesday through Sunday. *This year’s GA is centered on the theme of the “Common Threads”* that weave together the fabric of our Unitarian Universalist faith and community.

Among the *things to look forward to* are: a unique and uplifting *Opening Worship* on Wednesday evening, *an opportunity for lay and ordained congregational leaders* to gather with the *Board of Trustees* to discuss, offer insights, and help set priorities for our Association, and a growing array of *workshops and programs* brought together by our own congregations. To *help parents with young children*, all Plenary sessions (official business sessions) will be conducted during the daytime hours when childcare is open.

All this and the *march of banners, plenary (business) sessions, and a plethora of workshops* promise a stimulating and exciting time for attendees. For our *Youth*, there is a separate Youth Caucus, including a new all-GA contemporary worship service on Friday night. This will be led by youth and young adults and the Planning Committee, and encompasses the *Bridging Ceremony* and a *Soulful Sundown* worship experience.

All who have attended GA in the past have thoroughly enjoyed this uplifting experience – a combination of worship, exciting theme speakers, and discussing and voting on current social action issues for our denomination. Barbara and I have enjoyed the very rich General Assembly experience in the last two years, at St. Louis and at Portland, OR.

I urge all UUs to consider traveling to this beautiful city. We will be soliciting our three delegates during March and all others should consider this adventure in liberal religion! There are some monies available to partially defray delegate expenses. *Early registration begins March 3 and ends April 30* for bargain hunters (and who isn’t as prices go up more than 10% on May 1).

For information about programs, the city, the convention center, registration, housing and transportation, please go to <http://www.uua.org/ga>. I will make further information available as it is announced.

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(2) Second Notice:

Much nearer at hand, our **New York Metro District Annual Meeting** will take place in Stamford Connecticut’s Marriott Hotel, Friday night, **May 2** and Saturday, **May 3**. I hope we can field a large gathering of UUCDeers for this invigorating get-together.

Highlights

Keynote address by the Rev. Dr. Tracey Robinson-Harris, UUA Director for Congregational Services

- Friday night, folksinger Geoff Kaufmann in concert
- The Metro District Choir, open to all
- Outstanding workshop opportunities
- The UU Network Mall

We can sponsor an exhibit at the UU Network Mall, participate in the Metro-NY District Choir, or simply enjoy the fellowship of old and new UU friends.

Registration is open now! Complete details, including registration and hotel information, are available at www.uumetrony.org/am08/.

(3) Third Notice: Unitarian Universalist conference on Universal Health Care in Connecticut, Saturday, March 29th.

The **Unitarian Society of New Haven in Hamden, CT** will host this *UU conference* featuring noted health care experts, UU ministers, and elected representatives of our state.

Hamden is about forty to fifty minutes away from the UUCD and we can *carpool* starting from our parking lot at the Ridge around 8:00 am. *Speakers* include a registered nurse, a medical social care worker, and a Universal Health Care in CT staff specialist on the topic “understanding the options for Connecticut.” The dynamic young minister who inspired 7,000 UUs last summer in the GA final Worship Service, *Rev. Josh Pawelek*, will talk on the theme “*Why Health Care is a Moral and Religious Issue.*” Following a catered lunch, *Juan A. Figueroas, Esq.*, will deliver the *Keynote Address*. He is a former state legislator and Assistant Attorney General who has guided the Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut since 2003.

Registration must be completed *by March 15, 2008* and costs only *\$15!* Following a Panel Response and a collaborative session, and benediction, we can depart Hamden and return home in plenty of time for this year’s UUCD Goods and Services Auction!

For *further information on events occurring in our district*, please go to the *District website* at www.uumetrony.org. You can also scan the district calendar on the information table in the rear of the sanctuary on the Ridge. Please leave this “desk copy” for others to peruse, after making any notes you wish! There also you will find *pamphlets* highlighting the *UU Health Care conference*.

* * * * *

Soup Kitchen Corner

by Lynn Taborsak, Soup Kitchen Coordinator

On Saturday, March 1st, Gary Winn will be leading Team #1 at the Soup Kitchen with team members Melody Levy, Charley Stark, Donna Lawrence, Craig Mitchell, Darcy Smith, Margaret Rizzuto-Smith, Tom Miglietta, Michael Stavola and Chris Halfar. Winter is officially here so our hot meal and hospitality are really appreciated. In January, Lisa Austin-Smith served up knockwurst, onions and potatoes. It was so good that they ran out of food after serving 110 dinners and had to make a tuna casserole for latecomers.

We are working with a new way to schedule our Soup Kitchen volunteers to match the work flow at the kitchen. When your team leader calls to remind you about volunteering this month, please tell him which “tasks” you are available to do. Maybe you can come in at 11:00 am to prepare the food and side dishes. Maybe you come in at 1:30 pm to set up the dinning room, wrap silverware, make bag lunches and set up dessert trays. If you are a highly skilled waiter or waitress, you can come in at 3:00 to serve our guests and stay for clean up duties. We want to be flexible enough to give everyone in the congregation an opportunity to participate in this long-standing project of the Social Action Committee. Our congregation has sponsored soup kitchen and shelter teams for 25 years, each and every month.

If you are not a soup kitchen volunteer please consider serving as an occasional alternate when extra hands are needed. You can also help us feed our neighbors by donating a gift card in any amount from any local grocery store in the collection plate on Sunday. Finally, you can continue to bring in donations of non-perishable food items every week to replenish our local food pantries. There is a large basket for these items at the entrance to our Fellowship Hall.

Conversations about Immigration at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury

from the Social Action Committee

In the absence of comprehensive immigration reform, how can towns and cities provide for the accommodation, acceptance and inclusion of new immigrants at the local level? How can community leaders stop the practice of making illegal immigrants the scapegoat for every social ill? Are there other ways to respond to community concerns that produce positive results? Should community leaders stand up to claims that the immigrants among us are criminals or terrorists? Are we more secure in our community by driving immigrants into the shadows? Does every community have an obligation to set the bar for basic human rights? Do community leaders have an obligation to set the bar as high as possible?

The Politics of Immigration in the U.S.: 2:00 -3:30 pm A panel discussion including Mount Kisco Mayor J. Michael Cindrich, Carina Bandhauer, Associate Professor of Sociology at WCSU, former Danbury Mayor Gene Eriquez , and former Danbury Mayor James Dyer.

Join us for a thoughtful conversation about this very complex and compelling issue on **Sunday, March 16th** following the 11:00 a.m. service. This is the first in a 3-part series on immigration, leading up to a vote to join the New Sanctuary Movement at our annual meeting. Please join us and get informed! A light lunch will be served by the Social Action Committee at 1:00 p.m. and childcare will be available. Please sign up in advance for lunch, childcare and the stimulating panel discussion.

Interested in famous Unitarian Universalists or UU history?

If you go to your computer and type **DUUB** into Google, you will enter the **DICTIONARY OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST BIOGRAPHY**. This twenty-first century achievement of the Unitarian Universalist Historical Society is an amazing miracle of cooperative community uniting our researchers, writers, and editors. Already hundreds of several-pages-each biographies of greater and lesser-known religious liberals are ready for you. In this series you will find not puffs of UU hagiography but true tales of our heroines and heroes with strength and weakness disclosed.

FREE ONLINE — UU BIBLIOGRAPHY: Conrad Wright's excellent bibliography of major and minor works of Unitarian Universalist history—1946-1995—is available without charge online. Just go to Google to reach **UU HISTORICAL SOCIETY** and then click on Conrad Wright's Bibliography of UU History. This literary service is made possible by The Journal of Unitarian Universalist History published by the Unitarian Universalist Society.



The **Nonfiction Book Discussion Group** meets on the second Thursday of each month from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. All are welcome. Please contact **Bruce Buzby** if you have any questions

The discussion-meetings schedule for March, April, May and June follows (on the second Thursday of the month):

March 13, 2008 - Topic: Iraq and how it came to be; Facilitator – To be determined. Source: “A Shattered Peace: Versailles 1919 and the Price we Pay” by D. Andelman, 2007, 336 pages, \$17.13. “The peace settlements that followed World War I have recently come back into focus as one of the dominant factors shaping the modern world. The Balkans, the Middle East, Iraq, Turkey and parts of Africa all owe their present-day problems, in part, to these negotiations. David Andelman brings it all back to life – the lofty ideals, the ugly compromises, the larger-than-life personalities who came to Paris in 1919. And he links that far-away diplomatic dance to present-day problems that illuminate our troubled times. A tremendous addition to this vitally important subject.”—Ambassador Richard Holbrooke.

April 10, 2008 - Topic: Can we forecasting the Future? Facilitator – To be determined. Source: “Microtrends: The Small Forces Behind Tomorrow’s Big Changes” by Mark J. Penn, 2007, 448 pages, \$17.15. Relying on some of the best data available, Penn identifies more than 70 microtrends in religion, leisure, politics, and family life that are changing the way we live. Among them: People are retiring but continuing to work.

May 8, 2008 - Topic: How Geography influences History; Facilitator – To be determined. Source: “The Discovery of France: A Historical Geography From the Revolution to the First World War” by Graham Robb, 2007, 400 pages, \$18.45. The notion of ‘the French’ as one nation is relatively recent and – historically speaking – quite misleading; in order to discover the ‘real’ past of France it’s not only necessary to go back in time, but also to go at a slower pace than modern life generally allows, this book is the result of 14,000 miles covered by bicycle.

June 12, 2008 - Topic: What should we be looking for in our next President? Facilitator – To be determined. Source: “Command of Office: How War, Secrecy, and Deception Transformed the Presidency, from Theodore Roosevelt to George W. Bush” by Steven Graubard, 2006, 722 pages, \$13.55. With access to former members of both Republican and Democratic administrations, Graubard has written a masterful history of presidential power – one that anyone concerned with American politics will need to read.

UUCD Girl Scout Sunday: Calling all Girl Scouts!

On Sunday, March 9th, we will be recognizing our UU Girl Scouts as part of Girl Scout Week 2008. Girl Scout Week is celebrated each March, starting with Girl Scout Sunday and ending with Girl Scout Sabbath on a Saturday. It always includes the Girl Scout Birthday, March 12th. Girl Scout Sunday and Girl Scout Sabbath give girls an opportunity to attend their place of worship and be recognized as a Girl Scout.

All Girl Scouts, past and present, are invited to take place in our programs at the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. Girls will assist in passing out programs and greeting our congregation. Then, we will lead the Children's Focus at each service. Girls may participate in one or both services. Of course, we will proudly wear our uniforms and share some of our traditions (and cookies!) with the congregation.

A short planning session will take place following the March 2nd service in the RE area. We will assign the kapers for girls who are interested then. Please contact **Heather Smith** to RSVP for the planning session and GS Sunday program. Thank You!



Wheel of Life

Congratulations to

- **Kurt Roscoe**, son of **Donna and Brad Roscoe**, on being accepted into the college of his choice!

Our concern to

- **Scot Fritz** as he recovers from recent illness.
- **Darice Peruch**, a long-time former member who moved with her family to California, but is back to help care for her brother who is hospitalized with a serious head injury.
- **Susan Shaner**, who thankfully survived without major injury a serious automobile accident.

Our sympathy to

- **Doris Henderson** on the recent death of a good friend of 52 years.
- **Dara O'Toole** and her children, **Matthew and Emily**, whose beloved great-aunt recently died at age 94.

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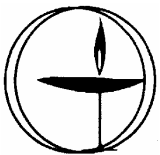
Sunday Services at 9 and 11 a.m.

March 2, 2008. **Happily Ever After?** One of Linda Hansen's favorite musicals is Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods*, which explores what happens *after* the fairy tale characters get their fondest wishes. How do we deal with the reality that "happily ever after" is a myth? Might the ambiguity of real life be a richer place to live? Service led by Rev. Hansen.

March 9, 2008. **Saints, UU Heroes, and Ordinary People.** Some of our congregation's Girl Scouts will be helping out at this morning's services on this Girl Scout Sunday. Who are the models we offer our children and youth? Who are the models who inspire us adults? Service led by Rev. Linda Hansen.

March 16, 2008. **This World Is Enough: Atheism and Spirituality.** Among our congregants are several who consider themselves atheist, and of course there are versions of some Eastern religions, such as Buddhism, that do not involve belief in god(s). We'll explore the meaning and history of atheism and, with the help of a new book by Andre Comte-Sponville, what an atheist spirituality might look like. Service led by Rev. Linda Hansen.

March 23, 2008. **Seeds of Hope: Intergenerational Spring/Easter Service.** Aware that this is a difficult time in the lives of many individuals and families in our congregation, and certainly in our larger world—not to mention a time of transition—DRE Mary Collins and Rev. Linda Hansen will invite our children, youth, and adults to create "seeds" of hope, share them if you wish, and "plant" them for our future. The service will include stories and special music, and a conversation with Scot Fritz and Cathy Pings and Scot's puppets. (Please note that Passover occurs in April this year, and there will be a separate service devoted to Passover then.)



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