



COMMENT

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury, 24 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, CT 06811 * 203-798-1994

FEBRUARY 2009

For the Time Being

Notes from your Interim Minister

At Canvass time, each of us makes a highly personal decision about our financial commitment to UUCD. I thought you might like to know what passes through my mind as I consider my own pledge.

Over the years, as part of a process of spiritual reorientation, I've given a lot of thought to my relationship with money, which is really a form of "life energy." This has led to an ongoing critique of my spending patterns - the ways in which I was squandering my life energy, instead of channeling it in life-giving ways. Congregational pledge drives have been an instrument in the process.

As a student, and then as a new minister, I tended to make token pledges, ones that didn't challenge me very much. They came from the periphery of my budget, from what I had left over. Then, one year, I became much more involved in the campaign than usual. At that point, my focus shifted. I realized that if I were going to ask people to give generously, I'd better be prepared to do the same! And so, my pledge to the congregation moved to the center of my budget. It moved into the same category as the rent, the lights, and the car - essential, not discretionary.

Speaking in numerical terms, I decided to pledge 5% of my pre-tax income - salary and housing - to whatever congregation I was serving. This represents half of a tithe. For our current fiscal year, it has meant a pledge to UUCD of \$3,100.00. For next year, assuming I'm still your Interim Minister, I will raise that amount by the 15 per cent the Canvass Committee is requesting.

This is an amount that I *notice*. It forces me to budget more stringently in other areas. But it turns out to be very satisfying. I have the satisfaction of acknowledging that my spiritual community is as important as the rent, the car, and the lights. I'm giving, not "till it hurts," but until it feels good!

My life goal is to work up to a full tithe: to give away a tenth of my income, half to my congregation, the other half to causes I believe in. Even so, my pledge falls in a different category from other charitable giving. In fact, "giving" is a misleading word to use in connection with congregational stewardship. When we pledge to the congregation, we're not "giving" to a charity - we're offering our support to the community that sustains us. I give to a variety of organizations in whose work I believe. But I don't need them in the same way as I need my spiritual community. More important, they don't need *me* in the same way! Other organizations turn for support to a large base of contributors - while UUCD has only its members and friends.

All of us have our own unique circumstances to consider, of course. When you receive a call from your canvasser in the next few weeks, I invite you to consider what this congregation means to you. And not only that - please also think about what UUCD *could* mean - to so many more people, and to the wider community. Just think of the ministries that are possible here, if all UUCD members and friends open their hands in generosity!

I invite you to consider these things, in light of your circumstances - and then make the most generous pledge that you can. I can almost guarantee you: it *will* feel good!!

Blessings,

Sue

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 SherryUUCD@gmail.com or dropped off at the church office.

Deadline for the March Comment -
Friday, February 20th.



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. Call the Cancellation Line of the UUCD's office phone:
(203) 798-1994, press 1#.
2. Access the UUCD's website at www.uudanbury.org.
3. Channel 3, WFSB-TV
4. WLAD 800 AM or WDAQ 98.3 FM Radio

Welcome to New Members

We joyfully welcome these new members to our congregation: **Holly Murtha, Donna Roscoe, Joel and Karen Romanelli, and Jennifer Leavitt-Wipf.** Biographical information about them will appear in the next issue of the *Comment*.

Help wanted

- The **Even Month Scrub Club** will convene Saturday, February 7th at 2:00 p.m. to make the UUCD shine ... **ADDITIONAL MEMBERS NEEDED** for this "fun and cleansing" experience!
- Join the Sunday Services Committee and coordinate services about every 4-6 weeks.
- Join the Religious Education (R.E.) Committee – an exciting time as plans are made for 2009-10 and **BEYOND!!!**
- Help the Finance Committee with clerical tasks that can be done from home.
- Join the Buildings & Grounds Committee and work on projects as needed.
- Help during R.E. or with preparation – sign up for the time commitment that works for you.
- Organize R.E. supplies & resources.
- Distribute flyers to local libraries, etc. in towns **OTHER** than New Fairfield, Bethel, and Newtown.

**FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO VOLUNTEER, PLEASE
CONTACT DARLENE ANDERSON-ALEXANDER**

Canvass Corner

by Canvass co-chairs Ross Fenster and Bruce Buzby

Our Leadership Canvass is almost completed. So far we've received 56 pledges totaling \$94,861. Our goal is to raise \$196,000; we are approaching 50% of our goal. The balance of our Canvass will start the week of February 2nd. Please take the time to speak to your canvasser when they telephone. Your input on our Canvass questions is important. Our Board of Trustees would like your input on two questions which are: What do you value most about our congregation?; If you could change one or two things about our congregation what would they be? If you have a children in RE your canvasser will ask you a third question which is: What parts of the RE program do you value most, and how would you change the program, if at all?

The issue of confidentiality has been raised. Be assured that the confidentiality of the amount people pledge, within the confines of being able to run a legitimate Canvass is appreciated. On an ongoing basis during the congregational year only the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer have access to who pledges what. During the Canvass itself only the Canvass Co-Chairs and your specific canvasser have access to your information. Also be aware that no meetings ever take place where individual pledges are discussed and targets set. We set our Canvass targets in aggregate not on an individual basis. Thanks you for your generous spirits.

A Reminder from Buildings and Grounds

Fire Codes:

- All electrical panels need clear access
- All fire extinguishers need clear access
- All fire pull stations must be visible
- Both fire panels near entrances to Fellowship Hall and the Ridge House need clear access
- Coat closet in Fellowship Hall needs to be clear of items, with the exception of wheel chair and walker

Safety Issues:

During winter months, salt buckets and shakers are at everyone's disposal at each entrance to the Ridge House and Fellowship Hall. If you attend a function at the Ridge and notice icing, please use supplies to salt pathways or icy areas of parking lot.

**B
&
G**



President's Letter

By Carl Tichler, President

I had the opportunity to give the Welcome for the service on January 25th, where the theme of the service was about money, and in particular our annual Canvass Campaign. I spoke of the personal growth that I have received from my work on the Board of Trustees, and earlier on the Social Action Committee. I wanted to emphasize that this experience has changed my thought process in deciding my pledge. I now think of my pledge and my work for the congregation as a gift to both the congregation and myself, and not an obligation. I have not forgotten that my work on the Board and pledge are commitments that I have made, but in thinking of them I have found that they are fundamentally different than other charitable contributions or work that I do. For both my pledge and the work that I do on the Board, the investment of money and time is a personal investment, affecting me through the support of our UUCD community in general, and also in the unique growth and satisfaction that I receive.

I have emphasized in past letters that the gifts that each of us bring to the congregation, financial and otherwise, are highly valued and appreciated by all of us on the board. I hope that those of you who give generously also experience personal growth and inner rewards as I have, and perhaps also a sense of the abundance of blessings that we share in our time together.

An Expression of Gratitude from Joanne Davidson

I can't adequately express my gratitude for all the love and care expressed by so many at the UUCD. It has been so uplifting for us to know that we are so cared for.

*Sincerely,
Joanne,
Elizabeth & Katharine*

Denominational Affairs News

by Mary Alice Kimball

Save the Date – Now that our Nation has had our day of celebration, we can turn our attention to the next election! We are pleased to announce the UUA Presidential Candidates, Peter Morales and Laurel Hallman, will be joining the Community Unitarian Church at White Plains on Saturday, February 14th at 2:30 p.m. We do ask that you register for these FREE events so that we can plan appropriately. Please email Mary Alice Kimball if you would like to attend. We will coordinate car pools to White Plains.

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

The summary statistics for September, October, November and December 2007-08 fiscal year are recorded below:

	September	October	November	December
% Annual Canvass pledge return	28.2%	34.5%	42.9%	60.4
Operating Income Year-to-date	\$51,718	\$63,337	\$80,126	\$115,309
Operating Expenses Year-to-date	\$56,040	\$75,542	\$93,282	\$114,332
Operating Income – Expense YTD	<u>\$ -4,322</u>	<u>\$ -12,205</u>	<u>\$ -13,156</u>	<u>\$ 977</u>

Analysis for October:

The Pledge returns to date (60.4%) is excellent. Over the last 7 years the average and maximum pledge returns were 53% and 63%. Thank you. This achievement helped avoid the normal large bulge in the use of reserves during November and early December. The Operating income YTD (\$115,309) just exceeds the Operating Expenses YTD (\$114,332) eliminating the use of reserve funds year to date. The Operating Income normally falls behind the Operating Expenses during January and February so the need for reserves will continue. So please continue sending your pledge payments as early as possible. Both the Operating Income YTD and the Operating Expense YTD are essentially on target.

The annual Canvass process has begun. Last month we displayed the UUCD expense profile. The table below outlines the income profile.

2008-09 Income Budget

<u>Categories</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Pledges	166,000	69.17%
Collections	8,000	3.33%
Interest + Dividends	14,000	5.83%
Fund Raising	25,000	10.42%
Rental Income	9,000	3.75%
Other (gifts etc.)	5,000	2.08%
Draw down of Reserves	13,000	5.42%
Total Income Budget	240,000	100.00%

Bruce Buzby, Finance Committee Chair
Marie Dupree, Treasurer

FIVE to THRIVE!



On-line NOW - the UUCD Interest and Talents Survey: An exciting opportunity for you to connect with the UUCD! The goal of this survey is to collect information from congregational members and friends about how they would prefer to contribute their time and talent in support of the congregation. The information collected will be used on a continuing basis to help connect congregants with volunteer opportunities. Here's how to access the survey:

- 4 Access our website: www.uudanbury.org
- 4 Select the **Member Log On** menu item on the left
- 4 Enter the Username:
- 4 Enter the Password
- 4 Select the **Log in** button
- 4 Select the **Member's Page** menu item that now appears on the left
- 4 Select the **Interests and Talents Survey** link to the survey

Take the survey TODAY and say "Yes!" to being an active part of the UUCD! Paper copies of the survey are also available on the back table in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Darlene Anderson-Alexander, Volunteer Committee Chair, if you need additional information. THANK YOU!



Women's Retreat Update

We are so excited about the Retreat. We have plenty of folks registered and have a waiting list available for those who would still like to attend. A letter will be sent out asking for rooming preferences, and since we have so many who would like to attend we are asking for those who are willing to share rooms or even a king size bed to let us know. When you receive the letter please respond to **Marie Dupree** as soon as possible.

The second deposit of \$100.00 was due at the end of January so if you have not already sent it in, please do so. We are now looking for the third and final deposit of \$60.00 by the end of February. Please put your checks in the collection plate with "Women's Retreat" on the memo line or send your check to **Marie Dupree**. If you are in need of a partial scholarship, please contact **Sue Spencer, Marie Dupree, or Sue Tarshis**.

Our program planning has begun and we encourage anyone who has ideas or who would like to participate in the programming or the planning to please get in touch with Sue Tarshis, Judy Lacker, or Dara O'Toole.

Religious Education Update

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

Please contact Director of Religious Education, **Mary Collins**, if you have an idea, comment or can help in one of the following ways:

- **Caring People Needed at 11:00 a.m.**

Our current crop of Religious Educators need back up. Adults or youth are needed to join 11:00 a.m. groups for conversation, community building and fun activities. One or two Sundays a month (or more if you'd like) with either 2nd grade and under, 3rd-5th graders, 6th-8th graders, or as a floater where needed (you may go to the service if we have enough coverage for the number of children/youth in attendance).

Bonus? You get to talk about your reaction and the UU perspective on: Rules to Live By, Different Types of Prayer, Who you might Invite to Dinner (famous figures dead or alive), Women of the Bible, Leadership, Courage, Humility, Betrayal Happens, Forgiveness, Heart Stopping Change, Utopian Community, or Spirit and Practice.

- February is the month of love according to Hallmark cards, but I grew up with an Italian grandma and the notion that Love = Food. So I'm throwing a **"Love and Appreciation Lunch"** for those involved in Religious Education at 12:00 noon on Saturday, February 7th. (I've already been asked to make my minestrone soup.) I expect a crowd at my house, and if you would also like to show your appreciation by offering a dish or assist in the preparations in some way, please contact Mary Collins. Note: Board of Trustees members have also been invited so they can share their love in person.

Senior High Con in February – Note there is a youth conference "CONic Book" from February 20th at 7:00 p.m. through February 22nd at 8:15 a.m. at the UU Society of Ridgewood, NJ. The cost is \$32.00. Please register on-line at www.metroyac.org and contact **Randy Smith** or **Chansoda Roewn** to work out car pooling if you plan on attending. Note: the DRE's confirmation e-mail address is mary.collins.dre@gmail.com.

Update on Religious Education Committee Meeting on January 8th, 2009

The following ideas were discussed. Your input would make our final decisions informed and responsive to UUCD families, youth, and children!

- **Would like to shift our curriculum mapping from a 3-year cycle** (of Jewish and Christian Heritage, then the following year World Religions, then UU Identity) **to every year covering all topics** (seven principles and six sources: social action projects and stories from World Religions, Jewish, Christian Heritage, prophetic men and women, etc in one year – *possibly in a semester or trimester format.*)
- **Continue successful OWL** (Our Whole Lives Sexuality and Values) and **Neighboring Faiths programs.**
- Adapt **Coming of Age** to partial year program? And if so, offer more often?

- **Youth Groups** - Need further discussion about what and when to offer. (Youth and their families' input needed!)
 - **Curricula options for 2009-2010:**
 1. **Review "Tapestry of Faith" curricula** for next meeting at <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/107218.shtml> and how it might be utilized here. Several programs are available for all ages: children, youth and adults!
- AND/ OR
2. **Small Group Ministry Model for all groups?** We have available a year-long program for children/youth through 8th grade written by Gail Forsyth-Vail (currently UUA's Lifespan Faith Development Adult Programs Director and former Director of Religious Education at North Parish, Andover, MA). To meet the needs of our children – either the DRE, RE Committee or group leaders might add some movement, art, and social action projects that are local and that our youth are interested in. The stories, songs, questions and "Take home your faith" are all listed. We can choose her material or create our own using the model. (This model has all the elements in the multiple curricula we already use - see below.) It would help us conserve supplies and support needed by using the same main message/story and give us the ability to easily reset each room for a second session of RE at 11:00 a.m.
 - Beginning with a communal short worship/ritual (music, chalice lighting, message) in one location;
 - Split into small groups to discuss questions designed to promote sharing of ideas, feelings, interests as well as the religious content (plus joys and concerns);
 - Follow-up activities to reinforce the message or have fun together;
 - Take home challenge (social action or further thinking or reading).

Planning Choices will be made at the Religious Education Committee meeting on Thursday, February 5th, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the second floor Conference Room.



A Return Engagement for the UUCD JUNIOR CHORUS?

Anyone who is interested in bringing back the UUCD Junior Chorus for another performance this spring, please contact Darlene Anderson-Alexander.

Trying something new can be fun!

A Food Offering as part of our weekly Order of Service



Through discussions with our Interim Minister Sue Spencer and Scot Fritz the Sunday Services Committee has decided, on a trial basis in February and March, to include a food offering as part of our weekly order of service. The offering will take place at the start of our Children's Focus. During the time the children come to the front of the sanctuary, children and adults if they wish, can bring a food offering to the front and put them into baskets near the pulpit.

The items donated will be distributed by the UUCD Social Action Committee to local shelters and soup kitchens. Appropriate items to donate are:

Canned food: coffee, condiments, fruits, juices, peanut butter and jelly, sardines, soups, stew, tomato/spaghetti sauce, tuna, vegetables, etc.

Non-canned food: whole grain rice, cereals, cookies, corn flour, crackers, dry beans, oatmeal, mashed potatoes, corn or soybean oil, tea, sugar, salt & pepper.

Also Non-food items: baby wipes, bar soap, deodorant, diapers, dish detergent, laundry detergent, sanitary napkins, paper towels, shampoo & conditioner, toilet tissue, toothpaste, toothbrushes.

We, of course, would like your feedback as we see how this fits into our weekly order of service. Trying new things can be invigorating and as **Scot Fritz** said "Seeing our congregation offering food to those in need is a moment of both community and commitment in action."

Building and Grounds Corner

by Cynthia Clark, Facilities Manager

Buildings and Grounds has been faced with financial hurdles this year. Volunteers have come forward to assist with the challenges created by the budget cuts needed for UUCD. I see this as an opportunity to bring attention to our UU values. The Buildings and Grounds Committee needs your continued support. Please volunteer today. Let's find enjoyment and satisfaction working together for our congregation.

I am grateful to **Anne Krieg** for taking on the role as Building and Grounds cleaning volunteer coordinator. Thank you to the following volunteers of the "Odd Squad," who started the first week of January: **Jan Galloway, Carol Huckabee, Leslie LaCroce, Pamela Mitchell, Barbara Myers, Greg Pings and Donna Roscoe.**

The Even Month Scrub Club will convene Saturday, February 7th at 2:00 p.m. Please join us! If we get plenty of volunteers in February, work will be speedier and merrier - and we may be able to change our groups to once every three months. For more information contact **Anne Krieg.**

The teams are following procedures to adhere to Danbury Health codes. These procedures need to be followed by all who are using our facilities and are posted in both kitchens.

Greetings from the Social Action Committee

by Jean Hislop, Chair

It's been an exciting past two months for the Social Action Committee, full of things to celebrate, such as the inauguration of our nation's 44th President, whose inauguration also coincided with the celebrations of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday. Social Action Committee members attended the Martin Luther King remembrance ceremony at Western Connecticut State University. The next day, two of our members boarded a bus with New Hope Baptist Church, to journey to Washington, DC to witness the historic inauguration, first hand.

In other news, the Social Action Committee has continued to circulate petitions for various bills that would support immigrants' rights. If you have not signed these petitions, please do so, as members of the Social Action Committee will be meeting with Senator Joseph Lieberman, and Congressional Representative Jim Himes, and would like to be able to present these petitions at that time.

In the next two weeks, letters to various area congregations regarding the New Sanctuary Movement will be sent. Two types of letters will be being mailed. One letter will go to churches with large immigrant populations, requesting their assistance in locating the family who we will sponsor. Another letter will be sent to congregations to let them know how they may be of assistance, and partner with us in the New Sanctuary Movement.

We have also begun to reach out to area organizations such as the NAACP and Roots and Shoots to discuss ways in which we may work together toward common goals, as community partners.

We will also be beginning outreach to area organizations, including WCSU campus groups, who may be interested in partnering with us in the public showing of a movie produced by another immigrant rights group entitled "Hutto: Families in Prison".

The "Green Team" is still in the process of assessing the needs of our church and the potential that our church has toward becoming a Green Sanctuary. Please see **Anne Krieg** if you would like to become involved.

In addition, I personally would like to thank all of you who have reached out to our local community with your donations in January following the horrible fire on New Street. The generosity of our Congregation is a wonderful way in which we demonstrate our UU values to the Greater Danbury Community, and a way in which we contribute toward creating and affirming a more compassionate world.

The "Power of Now"

Come and join us for our second ten-week study session on Eckhart Tolle's enlightening and riveting book, the "Power of Now". The author offers readers intense and compelling guidance in redirecting attitudes to better understand fear, self-absorption, drama and our damaging egoic thinking. We will meet Monday nights beginning February 9th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. If you would like to participate in this group, please call **Joe Gillotti** no later than February 4th to sign up or ask questions.

Comedy Nite at the Ridge!
February 21st at 7:30 p.m.

Wine and Cheese!
 Tapas by Hannah!
 Laugh at your friends!

\$10 per person.
 All profits go to the UUCD.
 Contact **Scot Fritz** if you want to participate
 in ANY WAY.
 (Kitchen... Performance... Clean Up...)



**Spring is coming and with it the
 UUCD social event of the season.....**

The **Goods and Services Auction** is right around the corner. Following the gift-giving holidays and during the cold weather months, it's an excellent time to be stuck in your house and ponder what might be your contribution. Big or small, all goods and services are appreciated. However, probably the most important questions on your mind are: what will you wear? who will you see? and, what treasures await you? The auction has been a fun-filled evening every year and there is always interesting fare for your bidding. So.... Please set aside March 28th, at 7:00 p.m. to attend our Masquerade Ball. Dress to impress and don't be late. Contact **Christine Bonansinga** or **Lynda Dayley** for more information. If you already have a donation in mind, look for the donation form in this newsletter.



Green Team

Our next Green Team meeting will be Sunday, February 8th, at 2:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. Don't forget to bring your coffee mug plus one for a newcomer, or anyone who doesn't have one, to the Sunday Service! For more information, please contact **Anne Krieg**.

Candlemas Potluck

Friday, February 6th at 6:00 p.m.

Everyone bring your favorite wintery comfort foods... and a (enclosed flame) candle. We'll be eating to candlelight, this month!

Contact **Scot Fritz** for more info.

Ministerial Search Committee

The Ministerial Search Committee is looking for members willing to host a Cottage Meeting for a couple of hours on an evening or afternoon during the month of February and the first part of March. These meetings would involve about eight people and are being held to help the Search Committee build a profile of our congregation for the Ministerial Search Process. Please call **Gale Alexander** if you are willing to help the Committee by offering the use of your home. We don't need a castle, just a living room.



UUCD Conversations (formerly the Nonfiction Book Discussion Group)

UUCD Conversations 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 schedule for February and March follow:

February 12, 2009: Social History. Facilitator: Jan Galloway. Source: *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812* by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich. This book is a model of social history at its best. An exegesis of Ballard's diary, it recounts the life and times of this obscure Maine housewife and midwife. Using passages from the diary as a starting point for each chapter division, Ulrich, a professor at the University of New Hampshire, demonstrates how the seemingly trivial details of Ballard's daily life reflect and relate to prominent themes in the history of the early republic: the role of women in the economic life of the community, the nature of marriage and sexual relations, the scope of medical knowledge and practice.

March 12, 2009: The Rise and Fall of Empires. Facilitator: Bill McWilliams. Source: *Evil Genes: Why Rome Fell, Hitler Rose, Enron Failed, and My Sister Stole My Mother's Boyfriend* by Barbara Oakley, 2008, 473 pages, \$12.91. A highly-readable, entertaining, ground-breaking, must-read study with notable insights on the rise and fall of empires; but more importantly, it offers, perhaps for the first time, a distinctly plausible mechanism for explaining the origin and persistence of social inequality.

Movies with a Message – Friday the 13th (The Second Friday in February)

by Keith Dupree



The title of our feature for February suggests that we have chosen a film appropriately ghoulish for Friday the 13th, but sorry! We are too addicted to humor, romance, and optimism to change tracts now. Aside from the title of our feature, there is nothing particularly macabre about our films this month.

Feature film – *After Life* (7:15 – 9:15): Written and directed by Hirokazu Koreeda. In a big sort-of-Ellis-Island-in-the-sky, a team of counselors meet with people who have just died. About to enter a new and unknown realm, the recently deceased have three days to make a decision: What one memory will they choose to take with them for all eternity. Add some spice, a touch of romance, and you've got yourself an imaginative and engaging movie!

Selected short – *Speed of Life* (7:00 – 7:10): Remember Amy Purdy, the young double-amputee who played the love interest in our August feature *What's Bugging Seth?* This brief film is her story, that of a courageous woman who accepted life's challenges, used them to inspire others, and got on with the fun of living.

Our objective each month is to present a movie of substance in a living room setting and to provide an opportunity to discuss with friends. Please join us on **Friday, February 13th, at 7:00 p.m.** in the UUCD conference room. As usual, all are welcome. Pizza is provided for the famished. Bring your own beverage. Popcorn optional!

Contributions gratefully accepted, all of which will go to the UUCD.

Soup Kitchen Corner

by Lynn Taborsak, Coordinator

On Saturday, February 7th, **Lisa Austin-Smith** will be leading Team #4 at the Soup Kitchen with team members: **Randy and Tucker Smith, Joanne Davidson, Debbie Musumeci, Cathie Billings, Jackie Alexander, Jane Leff, Darrin and Haley Perlow, Jan Galloway and Irene Llevanos**. Old Man Winter is officially here so our hot meal and hospitality are appreciated even more than usual.

Please plan to arrive at 1:30 p.m. unless you are asked to come in early to prepare the meal and side dishes. Lisa will put you to work setting up the dining room, wrapping silverware, making bag lunches and setting up dessert trays. You can try out your skills as a waiter or waitress at 3:00 and serve our guests a delicious meal. We have been serving between 90 to 120 meals every day for the past 3 months. Our congregation has provided 4 teams for more than 25 years at the Dorothy Day House of Hospitality on the 1st Saturday of the month, each and every month.

If you are not a soup kitchen volunteer, please consider serving as an occasional alternate when extra hands are needed or 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, during these tough economic times, please bring in donations of non-perishable food items, diapers and detergent every week to replenish our local food pantries. If you are unable to serve on your scheduled date, please find a substitute from the alternate list or switch with someone from another team. Wind, rain, sleet or snow...the show must go on!

Men out to Breakfast

Men Out to Breakfast is an organization of men seeking fellowship and spirituality and meets 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 2 and 4. Meeting time: 9:00 a.m. February dates are the 7th and 21st. All are welcome. Please notify **Mike Searing** if you plan to attend.



Women out to Breakfast

Women out to Breakfast meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month at 9:00 a.m. for informal coffee and conversation at Elmer's Diner. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to attend, please contact **Karen Gillotti**. February dates are the 14th and 28th.

Services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

February 1, 2009: **A Sense of Mission.** Church consultants say that a strong sense of mission is the key to congregational vitality. What might this mean in a Unitarian Universalist context? Service led by Interim Minister Sue Spencer.

February 8, 2009: **Lincoln at 200.** Who is Lincoln for us today? As we approach the 200th anniversary of our 16th president's birth, it's appropriate to consider his significance for our time. Service led by Interim Minister Sue Spencer.

February 15, 2009: **In Celebration of Charles Darwin.** One hundred and fifty years since the publication of *On the Origin of Species* and the controversy continues. This Sunday we celebrate the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth and explore what he taught us about "the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Service led by UUCD congregant Dr. Bob Wallace.

February 22, 2009: **Let's Celebrate! Appreciation Sunday.** Today we celebrate the close of the 2009 Canvass "Mardi Gras style" - with a Jazz Quintet, and a lot of appreciation for the people who make UUCD the great place it is. Service led by Sue Spencer, Mary Collins, Ross Fenster, Charlie Schott, and others.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury

Goods and Services Auction Contract 2009



Please fill out and return ASAP!! (deadline March 8, 2009)

Mop A Floor

Paint A Door

Cook A Feast

Walk A Beast

Have A Party

On Your Boat

Embroider A Rainbow

On A Coat

Repair A Crack

Massage A Back

Shop For Cars

Chart The Stars

Wash A Window

Till It Shines

Share Your Cottage

In The Pines

Bake Bread

Make A Bed

Share Your Tickets

Whitewash Pickets

Giggle With Babies

Gossip With Ladies

Feed The Fish

Grant A Wish

Design A Room

Build A Loom

Cater A Dinner

Photo The Winner

Teach A Dance

Or Alter Pants

What an opportunity!!! To Serve Others AND Raise Money

This year's Goods and Services Auction will be a success thanks to all members, yes, ALL members, assisting. Take a moment to ponder what wonderful talents you have to share and how you can donate them to the auction.

To help the committee we ask that you provide us with a full description so that we may best showcase your goods and/or services. Also, we ask that you fill out one contract for each item.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

I, _____, agree to donate to the Unitarian
Donor's Signature ↑

Universalist Congregation of Danbury the following Good or Service.

Estimated Value: \$ _____

Please return before March 8.

Completed forms can be given to Lynda Dayley or Christine Bonansinga or mailed to the office.