



COMMENT

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

APRIL 2009

For the Time Being

Notes from your Interim Minister

The only helpful way I've ever found to deal with New England winters is to surrender. During January and February, I try to let go of every shred of longing for spring, and live in the present as much as possible. This makes for a certain surprised delight when spring actually rolls around, whether it comes in mid-March or mid-April. "Oh! So we've really come through another winter!"

Over the past month, I've watched the bulbs emerge in the garden plots outside Founders' House, wondering if a late winter storm would come along and clobber them. Now they seem well enough established to survive whatever weather may be in store for us, even an April Fool snowstorm. This weekend, when I saw that the daffodil blooms had become visible, I thought of a line from a contemporary Passover Seder: "These flowers rise up against winter, just as our ancestors rose against Pharaoh!"

This year, both Passover and Easter fall within the first half of April. We'll celebrate each of them, at our Sunday services on April 5 (Passover) and 12 (Easter), in ways consistent with Unitarian Universalist traditions. If you'd be interested in creating a special "altar" for either of these Sundays, please let me know.

There will be two different Easter services on April 12th. The 9 o'clock service will be intergenerational, and appropriate for all ages. The service at 11 will include a sermon; everyone is welcome at this service, but it will be oriented more toward adults and youth.

I've received only regrets to various requests for volunteers to organize a Passover seder here at UUCD, so it looks as though we'll have to forego it for 2009. I note this with regret, for I have many fond memories of Passover seders, some at the homes of Jewish friends, others at UU congregations. One vivid memory is of making 200 matzo balls in the kitchen of Arlington Street Church in Boston. Maybe next year!

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So far, no one at UUCD has expressed interest in being a delegate to the 2009 UUA General Assembly from June 24-28. General Assemblies are always exciting, and this year's is in Salt Lake, a breathtakingly beautiful city between two mountain ranges, where Unitarian Universalists have important ministries. If you're interested, please speak to Mary Alice Kimball or to me as soon as possible. There are funds available to defray some expenses.

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This winter has been difficult for many people. During the past month or two, we've heard from quite a few UUCD members who've had deaths in their families, and from others who've lost jobs. I'm wondering about the possibilities of coming together for mutual support and/or networking. If you fall into either category, and would be interested in getting together with other UUCD members, please let me know.

Love and 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 May Comment - Friday, April 17th.



Help wanted

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED FOR THE "SCRUB CLUBS" (A.K.A. CLEANING TEAMS)! REMEMBER THAT "MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK"

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

New to UUCD?
Come to a "Coffee Connection"
on Sunday, April 5th
after the 11 a.m. service.

UUCD Buildout!!

Would you like to be involved in planning the build-out of our basement area? If so, please be in touch with Carl Tichler.

Canvass Corner

by Canvass co-chairs Ross Fenster and Bruce Buzby

The Canvass is over except for the finalization of 6 pledges which we are projecting in the following numbers. We will end with a pledge base of 118 pledges totaling \$165,000.00. This equals an average pledge of \$1398.00. Although we've fallen short of our Canvass goal of \$196,000.00, people have given generously in the current economic climate. Additionally the input we've received on our Canvass questions has been rich with meaning. The Canvass Committee wants to thank everyone for their input and pledges and a big thank you to our hard working, diligent canvassers: **Bob Bollinger Carol Huckabee, Anne Kreig, Donna Lawrence John Miglietta, Nancy Tramontana, and Art Warren.** Thank you.

Share the Plate Sunday

Congratulations UUCD! Our first Share the Plate Sunday was a rousing success. On March 1st the non-pledge portion of the collection was a whopping \$693.50, which was shared 50-50 between the UUCD and the non-profit of the month, Escape to the Arts on Main Street in Danbury.

We will be having Share the Plate Sunday the first Sunday of each month. Watch for it on April 5th and bring your checkbook!



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

The summary statistics for November, December, January, and February 2008-09 fiscal year are recorded below:

	November	December	January	February
% Annual Canvass pledge return	42.9%	60.4%	64.7%	70.5%
Operating Income Year-to-date	\$80,126	\$115,309	\$124,764	\$137,238
Operating Expenses Year-to-date	\$93,282	\$114,332	\$137,341	\$157,290
Operating Income – Expense YTD	<u>\$-14,156</u>	<u>\$ 977</u>	<u>\$ -12,577</u>	<u>\$ -20,052</u>

Analysis for this Month:

The January pledge returns (5.82%) is equal to the average February returns (5.89%.) Due to the earlier strong showing the Total Pledge returns to date (70.5%) is still above average. Over the last 7 years the average and maximum pledge returns to date were 67.17% and 74.35% respectively. Thank you. This achievement has helped contain the large bulge in the use of reserves that normally occurs during January and February. So please keep the pledge returns coming as early as possible.

Both the Operating Income YTD and the Operating Expense YTD are essentially on target.

None-the-less the Operating income YTD (\$137,238) falls short of the Operating Expenses YTD (\$157,290) causing the use of reserve funds (\$20,052) to increase. The Operating Income normally falls behind the Operating Expenses during January and February. So please keep sending your pledge payments as early as possible.

Bruce Buzby, Finance Committee Chair
Marie Dupree, Treasurer

A Note from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Dear Friends,

I would like to express my thanks in acknowledgement of your Guest at Your Table gifts of \$776.82, which we received on March 2, 2009.

Since 1939, supporters like you have helped UUSC become a leading voice in advancing human rights worldwide. We pledge to honor your commitment to us through our efforts to defend the human right to water, to restore and protect our civil liberties, to ensure workers' rights, and to preserve the rights of vulnerable people after disasters.

Thank you again for your generous contribution to our work promoting human rights and social justice. Your support will make a real difference in the lives of people in the United States and around the world.

Sincerely,
Charles Clements
President and CEO

Search Committee Update

by Charley Stark

March has been a busy month for the members of your Search Committee. Cottage Meetings are being held all over the area as I write this article. On Sunday, March 15th, the congregation experienced the Beyond Categorical Thinking service and workshop. The services were well attended and about 40 of us gathered for the three-hour workshop. We confronted and discussed our pre-conceived notions of what a minister should be and expanded our horizons. I think most who attended will say it was time well spent.

Why did we have cottage meetings and the BCT? And why is the survey, which will be available this month, so vitally important? The answer is that the results we gather will be made a part of our Congregational Record (CR). The CR goes on-line and is available to any minister seeking or contemplating seeking a new settled ministry.

The prospective new minister will want to know our goals, dreams and aspirations. A vibrant minister will seek a vibrant congregation, one that has members and friends who participate in its life. In order to demonstrate that level of commitment we hope to be able to tell the candidate that we have near 100% participation in our Cottage Meetings and in the survey. Please do not think that because you may have been coming here for a short time you have less to say or to contribute than an "old timer." In fact, your thoughts may be considered more important because we hope that you will be around when some of us old geezers are gone.

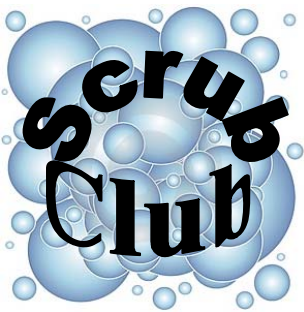
So it is vital that everyone complete the survey, which will be available shortly, on line or on paper.

The Search Committee is committed to keeping the congregation informed, as we progress toward presenting a candidate in the spring of 2010. Stay tuned.

**If you have any questions for the Search Committee,
please email them to search@uudanbury.org.**

Scrub Club

by Anne Krieg



Thank you to the Junior High Youth Group leaders **Greg Pings** and **Veronica Swain** and youth **Madison Alexander** and **Nicki Shaner-Bradford**, for cleaning the R.E. house and **Jan Galloway**, **Carol Huckabee**, **Meredith Spector** and **Pam Mitchell** for cleaning Fellowship Hall on the first Saturday of March.

Please consider joining the volunteers who no doubt would rather be doing most anything but cleaning, but they gather anyway because it needs to be done. Volunteers gather on the first Saturday of the "even" months 1:00 p.m. Please lend your hands this Saturday, April 4th, at 1:00 p.m., or if that's not possible, put May 2nd at 9:00 a.m. on your calendar. The more the merrier, and the less time it takes to sparkle Fellowship Hall and the R.E. house.

Religious Education Update

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

At the last Religious Education Committee Meeting (March 12th 2009):

The RE Committee needs more members at our meeting. We are in the final stages of reviewing the multigenerational Unitarian Universalist Association Lifespan Faith Development curricula, called "*Tapestry of Faith*," that we plan to use from September 2009 - May 2010. IF YOU CAN PARTICIPATE in diversifying the pool of members on the RE committee – we could really have a diversity of perspectives (from youth, young adults, parents, elders, people with no children). Perhaps you might be the "someone" who could help by reviewing just a piece of the curricula (listing for us what materials and possible large space needs are required for a particular age group's activities) or pinch hit as an on-call substitute leader or assistant for some Sundays now or next year...

So come on down and join new RE member, **Derio Rivera**, and our dedicated team on Thursday, April 9th at 7:00 p.m. (current members are: **Sam McCoy**, **Fern Paes**, **David Payne**; we are fortunate to have **Irene Levanos**, **Jurinha Fallon**, **Chris Tozzoli**, and **Sam Brodax** as some of our consistent helper bees, but they aren't available to come to our meetings). Please contact any current member, or DRE, if you can spend one time a month with us (mary.collins.dre@gmail.com). There's a bonus that you get for your time (besides the satisfaction of making a difference in the future of Unitarian Universalism and our amazing children). You get to witness early and shape our programs offering and activities! I'm going to start bringing M & M's to sweeten the deal (thanks to **Gale Alexander** for this idea and memories of long ago RE meetings)!

Kind, Curious, Fun-Loving People Wanted! (and I'd say 100% of our community fits this description)

People interested in being LEADERS can check it out, on-line at:

<http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/107218.shtml>. Note for potential leaders: this is an on-line, interactive curricula, plus it has a great "for the teacher / background" section that will enhance your spiritual journey and the interactions with our children.

The R.E. Committee, with the help of our Volunteer Coordinator, **Darlene Anderson-Alexander**, will begin reaching out for people to be part of Leader teams for next years (September 09 - May 2010) Religious Education. If you want a vibrant program for our children and youth, please participate as you are able! You might:

- **Lead a group 1 x per month** (tell a story, talk about it, facilitate related activities).
- **Assist your co-leader** the following week to provide continuity of leader presence (be a loving, fun presence & extra hands).
- **Attend a leader orientation to meet your team and set a schedule** (9:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 12, 2009) and get your questions answered.

Other options for service:

- **Be a general assistant or substitute** for the DRE, or when the main team may need coverage – could be once a month, or for the number of Sunday's you can help – say you could give us four, five or more Sundays during the year – what a great safety net for staffing the rooms as we grow!

Assisting in a group means:

- Either calling or e-mailing the Leader of the week to find out the theme of the week, and *if* they could use your help in some way to prepare for the session – your take on the subject and perhaps sharing something you have (could be a book, or a spatula...).
- Showing up on Sunday morning at either 9:00 or 11:00 a.m.

DRE Substitute means – you open up, and/or close up, help out if a child or leader needs something – you will get information on how.

- **Shopping Assistant** – to aid DRE/Leaders in occasional shops for materials (you could pick a month to be on call or for the whole year – It depends on the curricula needs and if leaders have a crazy week and need help buying a few items for their session.
- **I wonder if Other Groups/Committee Members** want to share their passions/work with the children/youth? Perhaps you can 1 x next year? (contact DRE for details on how).

Note: We do have a SAFE Congregation policy that Leaders be attending this congregation for at least 4 months and preferably 6 months before being part of a leadership team with our children.

The DRE and RE Committee are seeking input from **current and incoming Junior and Senior High School participants and their families**. We wish to review and make sure our programs are meaningful and fit your schedules. We hope that youth also share their perspective and passions in the greater community (how about joining a committee? Wouldn't that look good on a college resume? There are so many options: RE committee or Leader for younger children? Social Action? & its off-shoot Green team, Sunday services? Buildings & Grounds? etc). Please contact the DRE at mary.collins.dre@gmail.com to discuss things like:

- **Junior High Youth group** – continue once a month on Sundays? How might a time switch to 9 a.m. impact your attendance? (Note: Neighboring Faiths may meet at 9:00 a.m. 3 Sundays a month next year – to allow for travel time and different congregations meeting times).
- **Senior High Youth group** – continue meeting Sunday afternoon from 4:00-5:30 pm or perhaps switch to a “Brunch Bunch” at 12:30 p.m?

For a summary of the topics that are on deck for each group next month check www.uudanbury.org and click [Religious Education] -> [This Month] It is usually updated on Friday mornings.

Thoughts from the Volunteer Committee



THANK YOU to those of you who have taken the on-line **UUCD INTERESTS & TALENTS SURVEY**. If you haven't had a chance to yet, please do so by logging on to uudanbury.org, Member's Page (see This Week emails for how-to's) OR take a hard copy from the back table. This is your **OPPORTUNITY** to say, **“YES! I want to connect and support our congregation in ways that work for me!”**

Next Steps: The Volunteer Committee will be contacting those members and friends who have not taken the survey to conduct in-person or phone interviews. All of the data generated by the survey will be organized and then links will be made between the needs of the UUCD and the availability and interests of congregants. This is a time-consuming process. Please contact **Darlene Anderson-Alexander** if you would be interested in helping. **The sooner these links can be made, the more we will THRIVE as a congregation!**


Arts Sunday
MAY 17th Sermon by Sue Spencer on "Creativity"
Exhibition May 17-24

Wikipedia tells us that creativity has sometimes been attributed to divine intervention or as a gift from one's favorite Muse. It has been associated with genius, personality traits and intuition. Although we popularly associate it with art and literature, for our ARTS SUNDAY on May 17 we accept Wikipedia's "*an alternative conception of creativeness is that it is simply the act of making something new*".

Visual arts and crafts can be of any type in any completely dry material except cat hair. We have standing pegboards and a few easels for visual arts and pedestals for 3-D work but would appreciate the loan of additional easels. Literature (including new recipes) and drama may be delivered orally and/or in printed form that can be examined. 2 years ago our Fellowship Hall accommodated 70 pieces of visual art. Music forms and dance movement will be worked on during April for timing allowances.

Please e-mail **Geri Boggs** @ artssunday@gmail.com, soon with your name and the type of creativity you will share with our congregation. Specifics of the work can be later.

Summer Services



We are excited to report that, at press time, several members or friends of our congregation have stepped forward to create and present two Sunday Services this summer. That means that there are EIGHT additional opportunities available for you ... yes YOU ... to add your voice to our summer of lay-led Services. And, remember, IT'S SUMMER - a time to think out-of-the-box, explore new ideas, re-examine old ones, share art, drama, and music ... it's all up to YOU!

Please contact **Darlene Anderson-Alexander** TODAY to discuss what part YOU would like to play in creating a spiritual experience for all this Summer!

~ The Sunday Services Committee

Social Action – Team Green UU Ministry to Earth Empty Bowls Project

by Mary Alice Kimball

The Social Action - "Team Green" Committee is sponsoring the Empty Bowls Project. This is a Hunger Awareness program. We will be making bowls that symbolize that many people will not be eating that day for their bowls are EMPTY. We will have many opportunities to participate in the making of bowls, the Women's Retreat, the All Congregation Retreat, and during the month of July as it will be incorporated into the summer RE programming for the children, youth and interested adults.

These bowls will be sold within the congregation and within the community at the "Taste of Danbury" annual celebration in September. The monies raised will be donated to local programs that feed the hungry. In addition those who purchase the bowls will have the opportunity to join us at the UUCD for a "Pot Luck" event in October. Here we will join together for a simple meal in community, acknowledging our plenty and in awareness of those who do NOT have food to eat.

Here is a something a Green Team member said about our involvement in the Empty Bowls Project.

"Team Green's interests lie in increasing awareness and availability of organically grown and local foods (March service theme and community garden) and waste reduction (totes and paper cups). Empty Bowls is a creative way to string these themes together, while also drawing attention to hunger, and global abuse and misuse of seemingly abundant resources. It allows us to tie our own efforts for creating a sustainable community to efforts around the globe where groups like ours are doing the same thing. May seem like a stretch for a group charged with considering sustainability efforts of UUCD, but I think it provides an intriguing set of things for people to think about, and become involved in. It also provides us with interactive and intergenerational activities for our youth and adults"

Soup Kitchen Corner

by Lynn Taborsak, Coordinator

On Saturday, April 4th, **Andrew Bloch** will be leading Team #2 at the Soup Kitchen with team members **Carl Tichler, Judy Lacker, Pamela Mitchell, Valerie Cochrane, Stacey Campanella, Tim Gilbert, Mike Searing and Al Taylor**. Spring has finally arrived, but the recession is still casting its gloom on many area residents. Our hot meal and hospitality are needed more than ever.

Please plan to arrive at 1:30 p.m. unless you are asked to come in early to prepare the meal and side dishes. Andrew 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 100 to 160 meals every day for the past four months. The recession is showing us just how great the need is in our local community. Our congregation has been providing meals for 25 years at the Dorothy Day House of Hospitality, in good times and bad times, month after 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 you may continue to bring in non-perishable food items for our local food pantries. Also, please remember that you must find a substitute from the alternate list or switch with someone from another team if you are unable to volunteer on your assigned day.



Our exciting news is that the Board, at their March 18th meeting, gave us the "green" light to proceed with our plan to establish a community garden in downtown Danbury. The site is a piece of property, owned by Joe DaSilva, Jr., located on State Street which runs perpendicular to and between Main Street and Town Hill Avenue. He is donating it for our use and also is donating equipment and manpower to clean it up. Our plan is to have it up and running this Spring.

There will be a lot of information, about the implementation plan and ways in which you can be involved, made available during the next few weeks.

As written by **Ali Zapparo**, who is spearheading this project, our mission is to promote community involvement and solidarity through investment in a grass-roots, place-based gardening system that invests in the physical environment in which participants live. By coordinating volunteerism and sustainable food production and consumption, participants become stakeholders in their own community's growth and cohesion, garner deeper respect for diversity and teamwork, while developing a deeper connection to the earth.

Chalice Circles

Notice for anyone interested in joining a Spring into Summer Chalice Circle. A new Chalice Circle will begin in May with meetings through September. If you haven't had an opportunity to join a Chalice Circle, this may be a great time. Please contact **Sherry Kyriacou** and or **Mary Alice Kimball** with your name and contact information.

The Chalice Circle discussion topic for the month of April will be "Encountering Differences". How do we react and interact with those who are different or those we "perceive to be different" from us?

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. April dates are the 4th and 18th. 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**. April dates are the 11th and 25th.

Weekly Buddhist Meditation Service

On Thursdays, the Middle-Way Meditation Center meets here at 7:00 p.m. for their Buddhist Meditation Services. All are welcome. It is suggested if you are new that you arrive about 6:45 for an introduction to meditation.

Monthly Schedule: 1st Thursday – Traditional Buddhist Meditation service; 2nd Thursday – Sitting and Walking Meditation and Dharma Talk; 3rd Thursday – Learn How to Meditate! Instead of a service, an informal meditation instruction for beginners and others; 4th Thursday – Sitting and Walking Meditation; When there is a 4th Thursday, it will be a Sitting and Walking Meditation. Services are followed by community time – tea and conversation. For more information, please call Rev. Wisdom at 203-791-8611.

Movies with a Message – Friday, April 10th

by Keith Dupree



Anyone care to Tango? How about a little Swing? For both our feature and our short this month, dance is the medium that inspires, remolds futures, and fills life with new meaning. Whether you are a dancer, a toe-tapper like me, or someone who just enjoys a good story, you should find these films thoughtful and entertaining.

Selected short – *Tanghi Argentini* (7:00 – 7:15): “This Academy Award-nominated short film places us in the middle of office politics. Andre is a soft guy, not one for asserting himself – but an upcoming blind date at a tango club forces him to enlist his most arrogant colleague as his tango coach....” (from SSC letter, 2009, Vol 1).

Feature film – *Swing* (7:20 – 9:05): Starring Jacqueline Bisset, Jonathan Winters, Tom Skerritt, and Nel Carter. A young man’s dreams of being a musician are frustrated by his family’s expectations of him, with only his Uncle Bill (Winters) offering any understanding. One night he finds an old dance club suspended in time, where the mysterious and beautiful Christine (Bisset) takes him under her wing. There he learns a bit about musical history and his own need to follow his passion.

An extra short for the short fans – *Passing* (9:20 -- 9:25): For anyone who might wish to linger a bit, a nightcap for the soul, just in case you don’t have enough to ponder on your way home!

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, April 10, at 7:00 p.m.** in the UUCD conference room. As usual, all are welcome. Pizza is provided for your culinary enjoyment. Bring your own beverage. Popcorn optional!

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

Theatre Aficionados

by Keith Dupree

Mark your calendars: Thursday, May 7th, the next “Pay What You Want Night” at Theatreworks, New Milford. The evening’s performance is “The Fourth Wall,” an off-beat comedy by A. R. Gurney.

For more information, go to the website www.theatreworks.us, or call **Keith Dupree**.

As there are no reserved seats for this performance, we will convene at the theater when the doors open at 7:30 p.m. If you call Keith Dupree to say you plan to be there, we will be sure to look for you.

Members, Friends, Friends of Friends – All are welcome. Theatre Aficionado – You can be too!



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 April through July 2009 is:

April 9, 2009: Learning to Read. Facilitator: Roger Bogart. Source: *Proust and the Squid: The Story and Science of the Reading Brain* by Maryanne Wolf, 2008, 336 pages, \$10.17. A professor of child development at Tufts University, integrates psychology and archaeology, linguistics and education, history and neuroscience in a truly path-breaking look at the development of the reading brain—a complicated phenomenon that Wolf seeks to chronicle from both the early history of humanity and the early stages of an individual's development ("unlike its component parts such as vision and speech... reading has no direct genetic program passing it on to future generations")

May 14, 2009: Green Revolution. Facilitator: Brad Greene. Source: *Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution—and How It Can Renew America* by Tom Friedman, 2008, 448 pages, \$18.45. In vivid, entertaining chapters, Friedman makes it clear that the green revolution we need is like no revolution the world has seen. It will be the biggest innovation project in American history; it will be hard, not easy; and it will change everything from what you put into your car to what you see on your electric bill.

June 11, 2009: Ethical Eating. Facilitator: Sue Spencer. Source: *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* by Michael Pollan, 2008, 464 pages, \$9.35. The author examines what he calls "our national eating disorder" (the Atkins craze, the precipitous rise in obesity) in this remarkably clearheaded book. It's a fascinating journey up and down the food chain, one that might change the way you read the label on a frozen dinner, dig into a steak or decide whether to buy organic eggs. Along the way, he is alert to his own emotions and thoughts, to see how they affect what he does and what he eats, to learn more and to explain what he knows. His approach is steeped in honesty and self-awareness. His cause is just, his thinking is clear, and his writing is compelling.

July 9, 2009: The Small Guy Matters. Facilitator: Bob Bollinger. Source: *An Army of Davids: How Markets and Technology Empower Ordinary People to Beat Big Media, Big Government, and Other Goliaths*, by Glenn Reynolds, 2007, 288 pages, \$11.24. In *Army of Davids*, author Glenn Reynolds, the man behind the immensely popular Instapundit.com, provides an in-depth, big-picture point-of-view for a world where the small guys matter more and more. Reynolds explores the birth and growth of the individual's surprisingly strong influence in: arts and entertainment, anti-terrorism, nanotech and space research, and much more.

Denominational Affairs News

by Mary Alice Kimball

Exciting News on the Denominational Affairs Front!

The UUCD will be presenting a workshop at the UU Metro District Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 2, 2009. "The Road to New Sanctuary: How the UU Congregation of Danbury Joined the Movement." The New Sanctuary Movement, endorsed by the UUA, serves to assist and advocate for families being torn apart by the current broken immigration system. We'll describe the whys and hows of joining the Movement, with particular emphasis on achieving consensus and support from the whole congregation. *Facilitators:* Charles Stark, Lynn Taborsak, and Chris Halfar for the Social Action Committee of the UU Congregation of Danbury. So start making plans to attend the District Annual Meeting on May 1st and 2nd at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Jersey City,

NJ. Our workshop will take place at 11:45 a.m. on Saturday, May 2nd. Join us for many outstanding workshops, inspiring worship, the UU Network Mall, music, fun, fellowship and food. **Advanced registration deadline is April 24th** online. See <http://uumetrony.org/am09/index.htm> for additional information.

It's not too early to start thinking if you would like to represent the UU Congregation of Danbury at the **General Assembly in Salt Lake City Utah, June 24th – 28th, 2009**. If you would like any additional information please speak to **Mary Alice Kimball, Mike Searing or Charley Stark** about the experience. Here is the official link: <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly>.

Wanted

Two Delegates to Represent Our Congregation At the UUA General Assembly

Time and Place: Wednesday, June 24 to Sunday, June 28, 2009
Salt Lake City, Utah
Interested? Contact Mary Alice Kimball

Duties and Responsibilities of Delegates to the General Assembly:

- The delegates will attend and participate in the business meetings of the General Assembly during June 24 to 28, 2009. General information can be obtained at: <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/index.shtml>
- 2009 is a UUA Presidential Election Year
- Melissa Harris-Lacewell is the [2009 Ware Lecturer](#).
- This year's Assembly will vote to adopt a new Statement of Conscience, [Peacemaking](#). The Study/Action Issue adopted at the 2006 General Assembly started with the question: "...should the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) reject the use of any and all kinds of violence and war...and adopt a principle of seeking just peace through nonviolent means." There is a wealth of information available on this topic please see <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/peacemaking/index.shtml>.
- Prior to going to the General Assembly, the delegates will participate in discussions with Congregation members regarding the Study/Action Issue and then take those discussions into consideration when voting on the issue.
- The delegates must be willing to consider and vote upon items of Immediate Witness that may be brought to the floor during the General Assembly. The GA may consider up to six Actions of Immediate Witness, items that are time-sensitive and not suitable for the longer study/action process.
- After the General Assembly is over, the delegates will be expected to report back to the Congregation. This may involve participation in a Sunday service and/or a brief written report that will be published in the *Comment*.
- Some funding is available for travel, hotel and registration expenses, but the delegates must be willing to cover a significant portion of the cost for attending the General Assembly.

April 2009						<table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <tr> <th colspan="7">April 2009</th> <th colspan="7">May 2009</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>							April 2009							May 2009							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4						1	2	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30								31						
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Shaded Events are off-site



Call for the Annual Meeting of the UUCD May 8, 2009 7:00 PM

Every May, as specified in the bylaws, we hold the Annual Meeting of the UUCD. The order of business is specified in the bylaws, and includes Reports, Adoption of the Budget, and New Business, as well as Elections. Nominations from the Nominating Committee:

1) To be elected to the Board of Trustees:

President: Jean Bowen	1 year term until June 30, 2010
Secretary: Valerie Cochrane	1 year term until June 30, 2010
Trustee: Barbara Myers	Completing Valerie Cochrane's term until June 30, 2010
Trustee: Pamela Mitchell	Completing Jean Bowen's term until June 30, 2011
Trustee: Mike Searing	3 year term until June 30, 2012
Trustee: Christine Halfar	3 year term until June 30, 2012

Remaining on the Board:

Marie Dupree, Treasurer	2-year term until June 30, 2010
Eva DeFranco	Completing M. Brooker's term until June 30, 2010
Nancy Tramontana	Term ends June 30, 2010

2) To be elected to Nominating Committee:

Nancy Tramontana (Bd. Rep)	1 year term until June 30, 2010
Anne Krieg	2 year term until June 30, 2011
Jeremy Stein	2 year term until June 30, 2011

Remaining on Nominating Committee:

Lana Wallace	2 year term until June 30, 2010
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Roberts Rules of Order prevail at all Congregational Meetings. Our bylaws also state that there must be a quorum of at least 15% of the membership. At an official membership of 146, this means there must be at least 22 members present at the May 8 meeting for the meeting to proceed.

Voting rights extend only to those who have been members for at least 60 days, which, for this year's meeting, means anyone who signed the membership book prior to March 9, 2009.

Absentee ballots are allowed, and will be available in the sanctuary and online by April 24. Absentee ballots are to be turned into Carl Tichler or Barbara Myers by May 7, 2009.

 If, by a majority of those members present and voting, the Congregations so wishes, nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting with the consent of the nominated.

Dear Members,

The Association of Religious Communities (ARC) is preparing for the 6th Annual “**Interfaith Peace Camp,**” coming up for a week in July. The purpose of this camp is to teach children “What Peace Means” – to different world religions.

Children will make friends with children from different backgrounds while “camping” at a different sacred site each day: **Christian Church, Buddhist Temple, Islamic Mosque, Jewish Synagogue, Native American Grounds.**

The cost to ARC for 1 camper is \$400. This covers: all lunches, healthy snacks and refreshments, all supplies for games, crafts and inter-active activities, and staffing. I’m hoping the UUCD can help underwrite \$800 – for 2 children. We can do this:

- With a one-time gift of \$25 – from 16 members of our congregation
- Plus \$50 from 4 members, and \$100 from 2 members

This camp is a unique project – helping young children learn about religions, break down harmful stereotypes and build bridges of friendship and respect in our community. Please use the form below so ARC will promptly receive our gifts and can enroll **2 children.**

Blessings and peace,

Sue Spencer

Interfaith Peace Camp 2009!

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury

Your Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City, State Zip

Email (if you have): _____

Enclosed gift for (check one): \$25 \$50 \$100 Other

Make checks payable to ARC with “Peace Camp” in memo.

Mail to: Rev. Phyllis J. Leopold
ARC
325 Main Street
Danbury, CT 06810

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

April 5, 2009: **Spring Celebrations of Renewal: Passover.** This year, both Passover and Easter fall within the first half of April. Both of them speak powerfully to the human condition – our longing, our hopes and dreams. This Sunday, we'll explore some of the meanings of Passover, the Jewish festival of liberation. Service led by our Interim Minister, Sue Spencer; her sermon title will be "There Shall Be No Poor Among You: the Promise of Passover."

April 12, 2009: **Spring Celebrations of Renewal: Easter.** We will have two different Easter services this year. The 9 a.m. service, led by Mary Collins and Sue Spencer, will be for all ages. The 11 a.m. service, while open to all, will be oriented toward adults and older children.

9:00 a.m. The Journey From Fear to Fearless Service. The Easter message can be seen as a journey of our own thinking, out of a place of fear to one of compassion and fearless service. Jesus and his message helped people become their best selves. So have other spiritual leaders (Buddha, ML King, Jr. to name two). Please wear a pair of fabulous glasses (rhinestone, funny, colorful, or sunglasses/everyday) and be ready for movement (as you are able). Nursery care will be available, and parents of very young children may cross the path with their children into the House if they need to make more noise than we do celebrating this energy filled Easter! Service led by Mary B. Collins, Director of Religious Education and Rev. Sue Spencer.



Easter Egg Hunt in between services for our youngest children (older children and youth are invited to help a younger friend).

11:00 a.m. Unitarian Universalists often struggle with Easter. So perhaps it's a comfort to know that we're not the only ones. One Christian writer suggests that we stop thinking of Resurrection in terms of doctrinal conformity, and start thinking of it in terms of hope. Service led by our Interim Minister, Sue Spencer, whose sermon title is "Practice Resurrection!"

April 19, 2009: **Creating Prosperity Consciousness – Rising Above the Fear.** Wealth begins with our thoughts and feelings. Learn the spiritual laws regarding the right thoughts, the right words, and the right actions that are needed to be a millionaire; a person living with abundance and happiness. Service led by Interfaith Minister and UUCD Member, The Rev. Karen S. Judd, LCSW

April 26, 2009: **Come and Be Surprised!** Topic to be announced. This service will be led by our Senior High Youth Group and advisors, Randy Smith and Chansoda Roemun.