



# COMMENT

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

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JULY/AUGUST 2009



Excitement is building at the UUCD as we embark on another summer of lay-led Services! As has been our custom for many years, members and friends of our congregation will be providing ten lay-led Services while Sue Spencer is away from the pulpit. Together we will explore our relationships with one another and the Divine, examine broad social concepts within a UU perspective, and celebrate together as Unitarian Universalists. MANY THANKS to **Gale Alexander, Scot Fritz, Inge Hill, Uwe Koepke, Charlie Schott, Michael Searing, Susan Shaner, Jeremy Stein, Carl Tichler**, and a group of UUCD Women for offering to share part of their story in this faith community.

July 5, 2009. **How to Use Your Imagination.** UUers are known for their creativity and their open-mindedness ... both great indications that we are an IMAGINATIVE people! But are we using that faculty to promote and encourage ourselves and others? Or are we using it to scare the living daylights out of ourselves? Come join **Scot Fritz** and have an imaginative time looking at how the imagination can be our greatest tool.

July 12, 2009. **We Sing of Life.** Come join **Gale Alexander** in a service dedicated to music and the hymns we sing, join in old favorites and some new ones. Rob Catalano will be accompanying us as we join voices to make a joyful noise.

July 19, 2009. **What gets under your skin - How do you live in your skin?** Skin to skin we can live together. Join **Susan Shaner** as she explores how we all experience being different and how we can keep ourselves honest with honoring and validating our differences. The promise is a richer and more meaningful life.

July 26, 2009. **The Goddess ... In All Places, In All Things, In All People.** This morning, **several UUCD women** will share how they experience the Goddess and how it impacts their lives. Join them on their exploration through music, art, and prose.

August 2, 2009. **Reflections: What I Now Believe.** **Charlie Schott** will explore his beliefs, philosophical and theological, and the search for meaning in our lives. A jazz combo will provide the music for today's service.

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August 9, 2009. **Ethical Culture and Me.** Ethical Culture is a humanistic religion. It was founded by Felix Adler in 1876, and there are Ethical Societies in many cities. What is an Ethical Society? And did you ever hear "Elicit the best in others and thereby oneself"? What does that mean? **Inge Hill** was a member of the Ethical Society in Washington DC for many years, and will share some of her experiences.

August 16, 2009. **A Culture of Make Believe - Civilization and Discontent.** The title of this sermon comes from the book "The Culture of Make Believe" by author and environmental activist Derrick Jensen. **Carl Tichler** will explore the links Jensen has made in his work between the climate crisis, industrial civilization, and modern culture, and identify questions and possible responses. Carl hopes to look at these issues from both a historical perspective as well as identifying the importance of a personal and spiritual response.

August 23, 2009. **Justice.** **Uwe Koepke** will discuss this formidable subject UU-style.

August 30, 2009. **The Secret Life of People.** What do we really know about one another? How much do you know about your neighbors, your co-workers, your grandparents or even your significant other? **Jeremy Stein** will explore the phenomena that people oftentimes work, worship, and may even live with people without truly "knowing" them. What does it mean to be acquainted with someone? Do things like Facebook, MySpace and Twitter enhance or hinder our interpersonal relationships and our community?

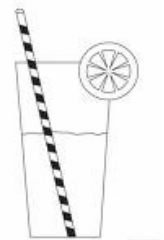
September 6, 2009. **Now is the Time: Nurture Your Soul, Help Heal the World.** Longtime member **Michael Searing** will reflect this morning on why he is a Unitarian Universalist and why you ought to consider joining our religious movement. He will ponder the demands on his life, and will share what "UU" has meant to him, and, more importantly, what it can mean to YOU. Bring a friend and help spread The Word!



Please don't forget to bring water from your travels near and far, for inclusion in our Intergenerational Water Communion Service on September 13<sup>th</sup>!

### Refreshments for Summer Services

Please sign up to host "light coffee hour" after Services this summer. This might mean lemonade and popcorn, juice and bagels, coffee and fruit salad ... anything appropriate to gathering in the summer. Look for a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary and pick a day to bring snacks and drinks to the UUCD. Remember – if you don't do it, who will?!



*Our Mission Statement:*

*The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury is an open religious community that welcomes a diversity of people, ideas and beliefs.*

*We celebrate together that which is good in life, and offer comfort and care in times of need.*

*With others, we work to create a just society and a sustainable Earth.*

*We stand as a beacon for independent thought, and encourage lifelong spiritual and intellectual exploration.*

*Adopted by this congregation May 16, 2008*

**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](mailto:SherryUUCD@gmail.com) or dropped off at the church office.

### Share the Plate Sunday

Thanks to all you have given so generously in our last three Share the Plate Sunday 50-50 collections. The City of Danbury is cutting back on support for local non-profits and we at UUCD are pleased to do our part to help. The next Share the Plate Sundays are July 5<sup>th</sup> and August 2<sup>nd</sup>.



### **Deadline for the September Comment - Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>.**



Just a reminder that we now take a weekly Food Offering during the Children's Focus of our Sunday service for distribution by our Social Action Committee to local soup kitchens and agencies. A list of appropriate foods appears in our Sunday Order of Service, **Dried beans and whole grain rice are especially needed.** It is easy to forget to bring your donation so when you think of it stick it in your car.

**New to UUCD?  
Come to a "Coffee Connection"  
on Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup>  
after the service.**



## President's Letter

by Jean N. Bowen, President

This community has provided us with a spiritual home and friendship. Like many of you, I came to this congregation with a longing. It is reassuring and often inspiring to have you on this same journey.

Last year as I began my first term on the Board of Trustees I never imagined that you would ask me to serve as President. I am honored to do so and enthusiastic about this opportunity. I deeply admire the members of the Board for their conscientiousness and seriousness about their obligations and fiscal responsibilities to UUCD. Thank you may not be enough to extend to **Carl Tichler, Anne Kreig and Andrew Bloch** for their service to our community.

This fiscal year we have a unique challenge and opportunity; economic hardship requires re-examination of assumptions including how the Board and Committees function and communications across the Congregation.

For the past 3 years our operating budget included the use of reserves. Our reserves and restricted funds have shrunk along with the economy and the investments we placed in the market. There are few reserves at this point. The Board and I will be vigilant this year in maintaining a balanced budget.

At the June meeting of the Board of Trustees I presented goals and objectives for implementation over the next 12 months. They will focus on four major areas:

### Fund Development

- Sponsor a lecture series in winter 2009 and spring 2010 to bring prominent speakers to the Danbury community and UUCD.
- Identify UUA and faith based grants for ministries and grounds.
- Meet with donors to cultivate gifts and opportunities for bequests and planned giving.
- Improve website to link with community and develop member on-line purchasing.
- Members to expand small event fundraising for fun and community participation.

### “Ministries is Growth”

- Membership hospitality, welcome and follow-up will be strong.
- Expand promotion in the community utilizing effective publicity and website.
- Develop a vision and plan to expand music ministry.

### Leadership and Administration

- Establish working Executive Committee to develop Board agenda.
- Past Presidents Advisory Group will meet in September and February to advise President on goals and special project concerns.
- Council will utilize standard agenda format in quarterly meetings.
- Regularly update members on Board decisions.
- Shift daily staff supervision from Board to Minister.

### Buildings and Grounds

- Implement carpet installation.
- Research and develop a plan for signage on the property.
- Encourage donations of plants and volunteers for landscaping.
- Coordinate group of leaders to research build-out of lower level to include a current needs assessment for our use as well as current market analysis for outside tenants.

All of these areas require your participation and leadership, please give me a call. I welcome your comments and input; kindly email me or call on my cell phone.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee will be meeting on:

Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> - from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> - Summer Meeting to plan for the 2009-2010 year -- 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Dupree home.

Any member of the UUCD community is welcome. If you would like to attend, please contact Keith Dupree for more information or for possible last minute change of time or location.

# Welcome to New Members

We joyfully welcome these new members to our congregation: **Matthew & Jennifer McPartlin, Tom Nerney, Joanne Dumas, Laurie Weinstein, Mike Packer, Benjamin & Monica Kim Roberts, Claudia Durrell, Inge Hill, and Shawn Sweeney.**

## UUCD RIGHT TO FLOURISH NETWORK will start again in the Fall

**WHAT IS IT?** The Right to Flourish Network includes congregants who live or will be living alone in the near future and seek **SOCIAL, PRACTICAL, PERSONAL** support, says former moderator, Jean Bowen.

Programs are generally presented quarterly following the 11:00 a.m. service and **BYO lunch** is encouraged. A core committee will meet for planning.

**PRIOR PROGRAMS:** Medicare gaps and limitations, legal planning and long term care insurance concerns, living safely at home **PRACTICAL OUTCOMES:** difference noted between this group and Caring Committee, established a buddy system phone and emergency contact network, identified intermittent tasks looking for volunteers (air conditioner placement, difficult light bulb replacement).

**WHAT'S NEXT?** Continuing members and new congregants can look forward to topics such as: Long Distance Care Giving, Medicare Pharmacy Programs, and a Mystery Guest. We welcome your suggestions!

**Please contact Meredith Spector** with your interest, suggestions, changes to buddy list, topics to explore!

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

The summary statistics for February, March, April and May of the 2008-09 fiscal years are recorded below.

	<b>February</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>
% Annual Canvass pledge return	70.5%	76.7%	81%	88.3%
Operating Income Year-to-date	\$137,238	\$167,684	\$180,686	\$204,018
Operating Expenses Year-to-date	\$157,290	\$179,472	\$200,423	\$217,544
Operating Income – Expense YTD	<b><u>\$ -20,052</u></b>	<b><u>\$ -11,788</u></b>	<b><u>\$ -19,737</u></b>	<b><u>\$ -13,496</u></b>
Unrestricted Funds	\$ 499	\$ 8,177	\$ 1,051	\$ 7,255

**Analysis for this Month:**

The May pledge returns (7.27%) is at the Top of average May returns (4.7% to 7.5 %.) Due to the strong May pledge returns the Total Pledge returns to date (88.3%) are above average. Over the last 7 years the average and maximum pledge returns to date were 86% and 91% respectively. Thank you. For those of you that have a remaining balance on your pledge please try to complete this years pledge by June 30 when UUCD closes its books.

The Operating Income YTD is about \$4,000 above its 11 month projected value and the Operating Expense YTD is right on target for its 11 month projected value. This reverses the trend noted last month from a negative \$6,000 to a positive \$4,000, very good news. UUCD has the opportunity of ending the year with a deficit that is somewhat less then the expected \$19,000. We need as much cushion as possible to protect next year’s balanced budget from uncertain events such as lost renters, required emergency repairs to our facilities, increased fuel costs, etc.

It is very gratifying to report that the congregation has responded to the call for a Supplemental pledge by committing (to date) \$16,953 to be added to our annual pledge that is now at the level \$167,741 for a total 2009-10 pledge of \$184,694. It is expected that the goal of \$18,000 will be achieved by the time all members that can commit to a supplemental pledge have had a chance to notify us of their intentions.

While the pledging of our Congregation members is very gratifying it still will require careful management of our other sources of income and expenses to achieve the goal of a balanced budget. This is a year when not only are we programmed to respond to our current members but also we are searching for a new settled minister and seeking to extend our reach into the local community.

Bruce Buzby, Finance Committee Chair  
Marie Dupree, Treasurer

**Supplemental Canvass Final Update**

By Bruce Buzby & Ross Fenster, Canvass Co-Chairs

The final tally for our Supplemental Canvass is 69 pledges totaling \$ 16,953.00. This is a bit short of our \$18,000 goal but we've also received some generous pledges to our annual canvass form new UUCD Members and Friends. We want to thank everyone who gave with a loving spirit and generous heart to either or both our regular annual Canvass or our supplemental Canvass.

## Religious Education Update

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

As I head off to visit my family and then to Ferry Beach this July, I realize how many people there are that I wish to publicly thank:

### Thanks to:

- **Religious Education Committee Chair: Samantha McCoy, and Committee Members: Fern Paes, Suzanne Perry, David Payne, Derio Rivera, and Greg Pings**, who came to our two last meetings and had helpful comments. I am amazed at the work the RE Committee did this past year, given the size of the Committee, and all the jobs we juggled! Please consider joining the Religious Education Committee. Our next meeting is Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. There are many ways, large and small, that you can support religious education as UUCD works on the start up of our 2009-'10 Tapestry of Faith curricula.
- **Mary Burnham, Jack Bestor and Brad Greene, members of the DRE Relations Committee** who really helped develop a professional and more formal process to help the DRE create goals and assess them. They worked on: revising the DRE's job description, employment contract and implemented our first DRE Evaluation Survey (*thanks to those of you who provided feedback*). Brad will be stepping down after two years serving in this capacity.
- **the volunteers who helped make the Spirituality and the Arts Church Year-End programming so much fun:** At the *Comment* deadline they were: **Stacey Campanella, Conor Collins** (on two occasions), **Cynthia Clark, Maddie Alexander** (on two occasions), **Brenna Prather, Dawn Welburn, Chris Tozzoli, Jennifer Leavitt-Wipf, Leslie LaCroce** (who saw the crowd and just came over saying "It looks like you need help!"), **Cathie Billings, Valerie Cochrane, and Jeff Shaffer** for offering to help answer my very ignorant questions on what's needed in order to refurbish metal chairs and how to run a sprayer? And for helping complete the job. **Melody Levy** for donating fabric for our chair pads.
- **the folks doing the Empty Bowls project** for our children (see separate article.)

### Summer Programming is On

**Suzanne Perry** just needs TWO volunteers for the Labor Day Weekend, September 6<sup>th</sup>. If you can help please contact her.

### Senior High Youth Group

**Chansoda Roewn and Derio Rivera** may be planning a Summer get together for the Senior High Youth. Youth and families – please contact Chan about it; also let her know if **11:00 a.m.** would be a good time for the Senior High Youth Group to meet this fall. This group met at 11:00 a.m. several years ago. Also, if any of our Senior High Youth wish to **staff the Junior Youth retreat**, please see below and contact **Conor Collins** if interested.

### Junior High Youth Group

Junior High Youth Group advisors will be **Greg Pings** and **Sam McCoy**. Starting in the Fall they will meet on the second Sunday of each month at 11:00 a.m. Just a note for families with youth from 6<sup>th</sup> –8<sup>th</sup> grade - **The 2009 Fall Junior Youth Retreat is scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>** at Camp Ma-Kee-Ya, Harriman State Park, NY. Youth and adults from across the district attend (no they are not the only UU's around here). The retreat is staffed and run by high school UU's, with religious education teachers and parents attending as additional staff and advisors. The youth-adult ratio is about 5:1. Contact Greg if your youth is interested in going. From past years I know this can fill up as we head into the school year and that September weekends are busy! For more detailed information and on-line registration, go to:

<http://uumetrony.org/events/events.htm>.

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**Fall 2009**

We are still organizing the leader teams for next year. Please check out at the Tapestry of Faith curricula at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org). Our plans are to offer Tapestry curricula: *Wonderful Welcome*, *Moral Tales*, *Toolbox of Faith*. 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders will be offered *Neighboring Faiths* beginning in October at 9:00 a.m.

**LEADER ORIENTATION is Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>** for all RE Leaders and advisors to run through the 2009-'10 calendar and create a tentative schedule. New leaders will have their questions answered before the first Sunday or RE groups on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Empty Bowls Project

by Mary Alice Kimball

We have some exciting **Summer Programming** scheduled for this year. **Team Green** is sponsoring the "Empty Bowls Project".

The basic idea for Empty Bowls is simple. Participants create ceramic bowls, and then we will serve a simple meal of soup and bread. Guests choose a bowl to use that day and to keep as a reminder that there are always Empty Bowls in the world.

All Members of the UUCD will have an opportunity to create a bowl. During the month of July we will be working with the younger members of the congregation in creating their bowls.

Sundays, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and August 2<sup>nd</sup> alternative summer programming for children and youth will be occurring at the Founders House, starting at 10:00 a.m.

We will be talking about **Team Green's** interests in increasing awareness and availability of organically grown and local foods and waste reduction. 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.

*The sale of our bowls and project will be promoted at the*

*Annual Taste of Danbury celebration to be held the weekend of September 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009.*

We will be hosting a simple meal on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, World Hunger Day. This meal will be open to all participants of the Empty Bowls Project.

Contact **Mary Alice Kimball** or **Suzanne Perry** if you are interested working with our youth or if you want to create your own bowls this summer. We will schedule additional opportunities for this fabulous project. For additional information regarding the Empty Bowls Project go to <http://www.emptybowls.net/EmptyBowlsProject.htm>.

## Yoga is back on the Ridge!

Every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in UUCD Fellowship Hall, Harnam Singh (Tony Zatzick) is teaching weekly Kundalini Yoga Class. Any and all are welcome to join the class. It will be open to both members of UUCD, and members of the community. Each class has a fee of \$15.00 (half of which will be donated to UUCD) and will last about one and one half hours. Some mats will be available, but if you have your own please bring it with you. If you have any questions please contact **Shawn Sweeney**.

**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. July dates are the 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, August dates are the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome. Please notify **Mike Searing** if you plan to attend.

**Women out to Breakfast** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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**. July dates are the 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, August dates are the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Search Committee Corner

by Charley Stark

The members of the Search Committee hope that you are having a great summer. While we like a good barbeque or day at the beach as much as the next guy, we are also busy this summer moving the search process along toward a successful conclusion next spring.

What are we up to during the dog days? We will be preparing a report to you as to the results of the survey and cottage meetings that will be ready when you come back in September. In the meantime look for snippets of information, or “Survey Snapshots”, which we will be sharing. These will be “factoids” of interest emanating from what you had to say in the survey.

We will be preparing the two major recruitment tools that are specified in the UUA Settlement Handbook for congregations in ministerial search. These are the Congregational Record (CR) and Information Packet.

The CR is a very detailed on-line document that provides to a prospective ministerial candidate a wealth of information about our congregation. It goes into our history (and I have learned a lot doing the research), our membership and attendance figures going back a number of years, our budget and pledge numbers and other quantifiable data. It also gives us space to do self-evaluation about what we have been successful at and what challenges remain. It will incorporate a lot of information that you provided in the survey and cottage meetings.

The CR is a confidential, password-protected document that will only be available to ministers who have registered with the Transitions Office of the UUA.

The Packet is a less formal document. Think of it as sort of a travel brochure for a minister looking for a place to settle. It has pictures, descriptions and information about us and our Greater Danbury area. In the past it took a loose-leaf form and had to be mailed back and forth to candidates. In our digital age it will now be on-line and viewable on our web site. It will have links to other pages and will contain much of the same information in a different form as on the CR. And you can check it out.

Both the CR and the Information Packet will be completed for viewing by prospective ministerial candidates this fall.

After that we will anxiously await responses, including one from the person we hope to present as our candidate to be your next minister.

See you in September!

**If you have any questions for the Search Committee,  
please email them to [search@uudanbury.org](mailto:search@uudanbury.org).**

## This Time in History

by Douglas Parkhurst



In 1945 the American Unitarian Association began to encourage the formation of home-grown, lay-led groups of Unitarians living in geographic areas lacking an established Unitarian church. This was the "Fellowship Movement," a thirty-year effort by post-World War II Unitarians to add members and create a presence in unserved or underserved areas of the United States. A Unitarian Fellowship was defined as "a resident, adult group of ten or more religious liberals who have formulated a set of by-laws (including a purpose), have expressed their approval or general sympathy with the purpose of the American Unitarian Association, have sent an application to the Secretary of the Association-together with a contribution....So long as a Fellowship shall continue to make an annual contribution, it shall be a member of the Association and be entitled to voting privileges." A more informal early description of a fellowship was "a group from ten to fifty people, having no church building, no salaried leader, functioning much like a church."

In the spring of 1964, forty-five years ago, a notice appeared in the *Ridgefield Press* inviting Unitarians and interested others to a get-together to discuss the possibility of forming a local Unitarian fellowship. This notice, placed by George (Bird) and June Volckhausen, long-time Unitarians living in North Salem, NY, attracted two dozen or more people and within a short time the Unitarian Fellowship of Ridgefield was born. It met first in the Ridgefield Community Center at 316 Main St., then in the Odd Fellows Hall on King Lane, and later in a building next door which had been converted from an old kennel. The original membership book of the Ridgefield Fellowship survives in the archives of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury. Sixty-two people, the majority of whom were Ridgefield residents, signed the book between June 4, 1964, and June 12, 1966.

The Unitarian Fellowship of Ridgefield lived for just two years before merging in 1966 with the First Universalist-Unitarian Church of Danbury, the merged group becoming the Unitarian Universalist Society of Northern Fairfield County. Yet the influence of the Ridgefield Fellowship lived on. Many of its members continued with the UUSNFC; Bird and June Volckhausen were Society stalwarts for years to come. Effective lay-leadership was a key to the success of any local fellowship, including Ridgefield, as was the idea of shared ministry by an energetic and committed membership. Diversity in forms of worship, an emphasis on the intellectual and rational aspects of the Sunday morning experience, small-group informality, even "talkbacks" as a reflection of the Sunday sermon are all characteristic of the Fellowship legacy. And all of these became part of what we know today as the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury.

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Karen and Joel Romanelli have their home for sale. If someone ultimately buys the home who was referred by UUCD they will donate to UUCD 2% of the selling price. The buyer would have to go to them without a buyer's broker since we are only giving 2% to either a buyer's broker or the nonprofit organization.

## Soup Kitchen Corner

by Lynn Taborsak, Coordinator

UUCD members and friends will have four opportunities this summer to help stamp out hunger! On **Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>**, **Gary Winn** and **John Miglietta** will lead Team #1 at the Soup Kitchen with the assistance of **Charley Stark, Donna Lawrence, Craig Mitchell, Chris Halfar, Bruni or Mike Edwards, Matt McPartlin, Lynda Williams** and **Connor Greenbaum**.

Then on **Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>** and **Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>** we will be helping a new team from Trinity Church in Newtown learn the ropes. They are taking over the Tuesday meal in September and want the help of experienced volunteers this summer. You can sign up for either of these extra shifts on the sign-up sheets in the back of the sanctuary.

On **Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>**, **Andrew Bloch** will be leading Team #2 with the help of **Carl Tichler, Judy Lacker, Val Cochrane, Stacey Campanella, Tim Gilbert, Pam Mitchell, Mike Searing** and **Al Taylor**.

Please plan to arrive at the Soup Kitchen at 1:30 pm unless your team leader asks you to come in early to prepare the meal and side dishes. You can help set up the dining room, wrap silverware, make bag lunches, mix lemonade and get dessert trays ready. 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 120 meals a day for the past 6 months. The economy is showing us just how much hunger there is in our local community. The UUCD has been helping fight hunger for 25 years at the Soup Kitchen in good times and bad times, month after month, and year after year.

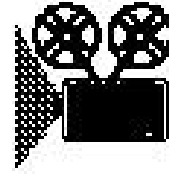
If you are not a soup kitchen volunteer, please consider serving as an occasional alternate when extra hands are needed or help us feed our neighbors by donating a gift card in any amount from any local grocery store in the collection plate on Sunday. Finally please continue to bring in non-perishable food items for our food offering each Sunday. Please remember that it is YOUR JOB to find a substitute from the alternate list if you are unable to volunteer on your assigned day.

## Theatre Aficionados

by Keith Dupree

**Mark your calendars:** Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, is the next "Pay What You Want Night" at Theatreworks in New Milford. The evening's performance is "DOUBT: A Parable." You may have seen it on Broadway; you may have seen it in the movie with Meryl Streep. Now see the performance at Theatreworks. For more information, go to the website [www.theatreworks.us](http://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 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!



## Movies with a Message

by Keith Dupree

**We believe that good experiences are even more fulfilling when shared with others.**

To this end, our objective each month is to present films of substance in a living room setting and to provide an opportunity to discuss with friends. Please join us on **Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup> and Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.** in the UUCD conference room. As usual, all are welcome. Pizza is provided for your culinary enjoyment. Bring your own beverage. Popcorn optional! As usual, pizza will be provided and all are welcome. Contributions will be gratefully accepted and all proceeds turned over to the UUCD to encourage continuation of UUCD programs.

### Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup>

Have you ever found yourself following a path which really did not make you happy? In each of our films this month, spurred by a person or an event, our main character awakes to his situation but each reacts in a different way.

7:00 p.m. – *Help Wanted* – “Ramon has fallen into a daily routine with his business, his home, his wife, and his child. He takes for granted the things that he worked so hard to achieve and lives as though life owes him something, but he doesn’t quite remember what that is....” (from the Spiritual Cinema Circle newsletter, 2009 – Volume 4).

7:20 p.m. - *Taos* – John Wahlberg is a corporate lawyer in great demand, a fellow about to give his girlfriend a ring, and a guy standing beside a broken-down rental car on a deserted section of highway outside of Taos, New Mexico. This is a terrible situation for someone who has deadlines to meet, people to please, career expectations to fulfill. He is on his way to Aspen to meet his fiancée’s family. This is not a convenient time for introspection!

8:50 p.m. - SCC Discussion with the writer and director of *Taos* (16 min) – The story behind the making of *Taos* is so compelling and illustrative of what Spiritual Circle Cinema tries to do, that we will forgo our second short until the next “short night” later this year. Instead, SCC regular Stephen Simon interviews Brandon Schmid, “corporate lawyer by profession, filmmaker by passion.” For those of you who can stay a little past 9:00, I think this short clip will be an interesting addition to our regular discussion.

### Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>

As August notices for *Comment* were required early, our selections are subject to change. But tentatively, we announce our selections to be:

7:00 p.m. – *It Ain’t Over ‘Til It’s Over* – This short documentary features a retirement home for Hollywood legends. This is another creative production from the Elevate Film Festival.

7:20 p.m. – *Elsa & Fred* – This film provides a tender and whimsical answer to the question, “What is the meaning of life?”



*(For more information about Movies with a Message, check the bulletin board near the hymnal bookcase. Our film selections are chosen from those offered by Spiritual Cinema Circle. For more information about Spiritual Cinema Circle, go to [www.SpiritualCinemaCircle.com](http://www.SpiritualCinemaCircle.com))*

July 2009					July 2009							August 2009						
					S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	3	4										
					5	6	7	8	9	10	11							
					12	13	14	15	16	17	18							
					19	20	21	22	23	24	25							
					26	27	28	29	30	31								
												2	3	4	5	6	7	8
												9	10	11	12	13	14	15
												16	17	18	19	20	21	22
												23	24	25	26	27	28	29
												30	31					

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
		July 1 7:30pm Chalice Circle (FH)	2	3	4 9:00am Men's Breakfast
					5 Sunday Services
6	7	8	9	10	11 9:00am Women's Breakfast
	10:00am Knitting Ministry (2 Conf) 6:00pm Yoga (FH) 7:30pm Membership Comm (Conf)	7:00pm Sunday Services (Conf)	7:30pm Book Grp (Conf)	7:00pm Movies w/a Msg (Conf)	12 Sunday Services 11:00am Coffee Connection (FH)
13	14	15	16	17	18 9:00am Men's Breakfast
	6:00pm Yoga (FH) 7:30pm Social Action Comm (Conf)	7:00pm Bd of Trustees (Conf) 7:30pm Chalice Circle (FH)			19 Sunday Services
20	21	22	23	24	25 9:00am Women's Breakfast
	10:00am Knitting Ministry (2 Conf) 6:00pm Yoga (FH)		7:30pm Search Comm (Conf)		26 Sunday Services
27	28	29	30	31	
	10:00am Caring Comm (Conf) 6:00pm Yoga (FH)	7:30pm Chalice Circle (Conf)			

Shaded Events are off-site

# August 2009

August 2009							September 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
30	31												

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
					August 1 9:00am Men's Breakfast
					2 Sunday Services
3		4	5	6	7
	10:00am Knitting Ministry (2 Conf) 6:00pm Yoga (FH)				8 9:00am Women's Breakfast 2:00pm Membership Comm
					9 Sunday Services 11:00am Coffee Conn. (FH)
10		11	12	13	14
	6:00pm Yoga (FH) 7:30pm Social Action Comm (Conf)	4:00pm Board Retreat (Off-site) 7:00pm Sunday Services (2 Conf) 7:30pm Chalice Circle (Conf)	7:00pm RE Comm (2 Conf) 7:30pm Book Grp (Conf)	7:00pm Movies w/a Msg (Conf)	15 9:00am Men's Breakfast
					16 Sunday Services
17		18	19	20	21
	10:00am Knitting Ministry (2 Conf) 6:00pm Yoga (FH)			Comment Deadline	22 9:00am Women's Breakfast
					23 Sunday Services
24		25	26	27	28
	10:00am Caring Comm (Conf) 6:00pm Yoga (FH)	7:30pm Chalice Circle (Conf)	7:30pm Search Comm (Conf)		29
					30 Sunday Services
31					

Shaded Events are off-site



## 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 July through November is:

**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.

**August 13, 2009, September 10, 2009, October 8, 2009:** Undetermined

**November 12, 2009: Science Biography.** Facilitator: Ross Fenster. Source: *The Invention of Air* by Steven Johnson, 2008, 216 pages, \$16.34. A story of science, faith, revolution, and the birth of America. It is a story of sweeping historical transformation, of genius and friendship, violence and world-changing ideas that boldly recasts our understanding of the most significant events in our history.