



COMMENT

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

NOVEMBER 2009

For the Time Being

Notes from your Interim Minister

The “UUCD History Wall” will soon be taken down from the Fellowship Hall. Before it goes, I invite you to take the time to read the entries people have posted, representing memories as far back as the 1960s. Thanks to everyone who took time to post on The Wall! We’re all part of this congregation’s history, dating back to those twelve intrepid souls who met in 1822, to found the Universalist Society of Danbury.

Thanks especially to the folk who joined us for the History Workshop on Sunday afternoon, September 27. This event gave old-timers and newcomers an opportunity for conversation, with each person sharing UUCD stories, including how they first came to the congregation.

One of the workshop’s exercises dealt with what I call “hanging affect” – unresolved feelings left over from past events. These were written on bright pink stickies and placed on the wall, and were taken down, for the sake of privacy, at the end of the afternoon. This part of the workshop was included because I wanted to get a sense of what conflicts might be lurking here, whether recent or of long duration. Better to surface and deal with them now, than to leave them to ambush the new minister!

I know from personal experience how unresolved conflict can cripple a ministry. In one of my settled positions, the previous minister had left after a protracted congregational fight, in which the congregation had divided into warring camps. A one-year interim ministry, even with an accredited and competent colleague, could not begin to address the wounds, let alone heal them. Throughout that ministry, I felt as though I were stepping on landmines. Looking back, it’s a miracle that I stayed as long as I did.

Nothing of this magnitude, I’m happy to say, came up during the History Workshop. In fact, there was nothing even close! And although plenty of bright pink squares appeared on the wall that afternoon, they didn’t seem to cluster around any particular event. Three stickies was the most that any event received, and they went back a quarter century, to a minister’s departure.

Nevertheless, please do yourselves and your new minister a favor. If something is gnawing at you, or if you have lingering feelings about some aspect of the congregation’s life together, I encourage you to deal with it now, during the interim period, rather than letting it fester. I invite you to consider mending that quarrel, or reaching out to a person you may have offended, or forgiving someone who’s offended you. If I can help, please let me know. At the very least, I can listen – and in some situations I might be able to facilitate conversation.

Love and blessings,
Sue

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 or dropped off at the church office.

Deadline for the December Comment -
Friday, November 20th.

Canvass Corner

Don't tell me it is that time again!

Our annual UUCD Congregational Canvass for the congregational year that runs from July 2010 through June 2011 will begin the first week of January 2010. As in the past we will start with our Leadership Canvass, so our UUCD leadership (Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, etc.) can lead by example. Our plan is to finish the complete Canvass by mid-March, in time for the arrival of our Ministerial Candidate. Please start thinking about how much our UUCD community means to you and plan your pledge accordingly.

Our next congregational year from July 2010 through June 2011 promises to be an exciting and meaningful one for our congregation. We will welcome our new minister in September. We will continue to build our impact and re-establish our roots in the Danbury community. The many new faces we see on Sunday will continue to increase - attracted by our new minister, our RE program and of course our Welcoming UU Community. Many of the things that define our UU Community come from the huge amount of volunteer work and time we collectively put into it. Many things also cost us money. We need to pay a monthly mortgage, our new Minister has to be offered an attractive compensation package and our Director of Religious Education and Office Manager expect fair compensation also. Everyone's pledge is important, so when the time comes please give generously and thank you in advance for your generous spirits.

Canvass Co-Chairs, Bruce Buzby & Ross Fenster



President's Letter

by Jean N. Bowen, President

The planning and accomplishments that take place in this congregation amaze me. Your commitment to UU Principles is illustrated by the many activities and events that spring from your personal and professional lives to enrich this community.

Promoting and publicizing our activities and programs in the wider community is a priority for us. **Shawn Sweeney** is our Project Manager for Promotion and will implement a plan to publicize UUCD special events and on-going programs. You are encouraged to contact Shawn and discuss ideas to highlight your event. Shawn is a professional in marketing and promotion and we are fortunate to have his expertise.

Some of you have already shared ideas for fundraising or new programs for UUCD. All of your recent suggestions will or have been referred to the right committee for evaluation and feedback. I welcome your input and hope you will be patient while our committee leaders sort out your suggestions. There is an application for you to complete and provide to our office and the appropriate committee. This will be available on the website, in the office and on the Fellowship Hall information table. This will help us sort out the challenge of juggling the demands on our space and volunteers.

The work of the Social Action Committee may rival the outcomes of some social service organizations in our community. Their work on The Empty Bowls Project, immigration reform, outreach in Danbury, the community garden which will be expanded next season and the planning to certify us green is a lengthy list of change.

I am proud of your efforts and am often humbled by the responsibility of leadership you have asked of me. Your support and counsel is welcome and appreciated.

On Sunday, November 1, 2009 at 12:45 there will be opportunity to discuss the proposed changes with the By-laws Committee. Come hear more of the rationale and reasoning behind the proposals and to ask questions.

A Note from Gale Alexander

Childhood memories strike at the most unexpected moments. I've been serving on a regular basis as an usher, at least passing the collection plate, for our congregation since our arrival at Clapboard Ridge. A few weeks ago, I suddenly found myself flooded with memories of sitting in church as a child and my mother or dad giving me a dime or a quarter to put into the collection plate. We were given this contribution to make, even when the children gathered for their regular separate Sunday service before Sunday school. This got me thinking.

First, let me say that we have a wonderfully generous congregation and many people prefer the convenience of sending in their pledge by monthly check, or handling it by credit card. But, what occurred to me is that we may be sending a message we don't intend. When we contribute by mail or credit card, we do so invisibly. I'm not suggesting that we try to make a show out of what we are individually giving, but I am wondering what impression our habits are having on our children and visitors.

My parents had us put money into the collection plate and did so themselves, to teach us the habit of giving and to show us that the church has value to us. I was wondering what message our children are receiving? What impression are our visitors getting on those occasions when they are passed an almost empty plate?

I know that I will be trying a new habit, putting something into the plate each week, even if it is only a few dollars. I may still continue to send most of my pledge as a monthly check, but I will be putting something into the plate to demonstrate to our children and our visitors the value of giving, and that I value our church community.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

by Bob Bollinger, Chair

The three legs of UUCD's financial stool are: operating funds, capital reserves, and endowment funds. All depend on contributions from Members and Friends, yet there are significant differences in their purpose and sources of funding. The annual Canvass is the primary source of operating funds. Periodic capital campaigns support major capital projects (like building our facilities on Clapboard Ridge Road).

Endowment funds exist to help secure, strengthen, and extend the long-term well-being and mission of Unitarian Universalism and the UUCD. The Endowment Program is long term, a work with a beginning but no end, and offers an opportunity to create a lasting, personal legacy. UUCD currently has about \$85,000 in Endowment Funds.

Some Endowment gifts are for a specific purpose. An example is the fund for the long-term support of our music program as specified in the will of Adelaide Grabert, the organist at the Danbury Universalist Church for 64 years! Other gifts are unrestricted. You may help fund our endowment through donations, planned giving such as a bequest in a will, or a variety of annuities or life income plans.

Consider the importance of UUCD and Unitarian Universalism in your life, and consider making a place for it in your estate plans. A bequest of any size can shape the future of our congregation and ensure its vitality for generations to come. Please contact any member of the Endowment Committee for additional information. Committee members are: Bob Bollinger, Bruce Buzby, Marie Dupree, Mike Searing, and Pete Simon.

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

The summary statistics for June, of the 2008-09 fiscal year plus July, August and September are recorded below.

	June	July	August	September
% Annual Canvass pledge return	96.6%	16.44%	23.6%	30.57%
Operating Income Year-to-date	\$222,174	\$31,538	\$47,174	\$62,853
Operating Expenses Year-to-date	\$239,330	\$14,837	\$33,826	\$54,223
Operating Income – Expense YTD	<u>\$-17,156</u>	<u>\$16,701</u>	<u>\$13,348</u>	<u>\$ 8,630</u>
Unrestricted Funds	\$ -2,774	\$12,072	\$ 8,722	\$ 3,971

Analysis for August:

The September pledge returns (6.99%) reached the excellent cumulative level (30.57%). Over the last 7 years the average and maximum pledge returns to date were 21.4% & 27.88% respectively. Thank you for your earlier payments especially the Supplementary Pledges.

The Year-to-date Operating Income is above expected levels and the Expenses are somewhat below their expected levels (both are good.) None the less it is projected that the October and November income shortfalls will be \$3,654 and \$5,986 respectively. Over the summer and fall, the value of the Unrestricted Funds (cushion for the variations in income and expense month to month) has fallen from its high in July of \$12,072 to the current level of \$3,971. The Unrestricted Funds needed to cover the continuing projected income shortfalls will exceed \$5,000 by the end of November. That is why it is so important to continue to pay our pledges as early as is possible. Thank you.

Bruce Buzby, Finance Committee Chair
Marie Dupree, Treasurer

We've Done It!

A big **thank you** to everyone who contributed to our Fellowship Hall carpeting fund over the last few years. Our most current fundraiser put us over the top and the carpeting has been ordered. When the final numbers are tallied we will have exceeded our goal and these additional monies will be set aside in a fund, that when large enough, will be used to buy our much needed UUCD sign on Clapboard Ridge Road. Thank you again for your generous, giving spirits.



Douglas Buchanan Comes to the Ridge – Sunday, November 8th

Please join UUCD as we welcome **Douglas Buchanan, award winning composer and pianist to the Ridge on November 8, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. to perform his original work, *Colonnades***. Douglas is a graduate student and doctoral candidate with Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, MD.

An accomplished artist, Douglas has written, and performed many musical works around the United States culminating today with his newest work, *Colonnades*. Paired with poetry by Buchanan, *Colonnades* is a virtuosic, concert-length work for piano solo that confronts questions of faith, memory, individuality and the function of art in society.

We are so pleased that Douglas is willing to share his gifts with our Congregation through his performance, and we hope you will join us for this evening of music. Admission to the event will be \$10.00 per person, and reservations can be made by calling Sherry in the office at (203) 798-1994. A wine and cheese reception with Douglas will follow the performance.

From the Building and Grounds Committee

Jeff Shaffer, Chair

Thus far we are pleased that Buildings and Grounds has been able to respond to the needs put forth from our many committees and the Board. We are continuing with our facility overview in order to assist in any possible cost saving measures. The current focus of B&G will be to evaluate our seasonal needs and seek an appropriate company to deliver our winter weather response. We look forward to assisting the Aesthetics Team with the installation of flooring in the Fellowship Hall.

**B
&
G**

UUCD Fall Clean-Up, Saturday November 14th, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



Autumn is well upon us and the leaves, so colorful, falling from the trees, bring thoughts of colder days and nights. They also bring thoughts of warmer times, those shared with friends and neighbors. So it's time once again to gather for our UUCD Fall Clean-Up. We'll be addressing the basics of seasonal preparation as well as this year's main project of raking the strewn gravel from the lawn and installing a barrier to keep it from returning during the winter plowing. We are seeking donations of materials (railroad ties, rebar, etc.) for the project. We are asking for volunteers for this occasion. Those items foreseen as needed: warm clothing, gloves, rakes, and drop cloths for leaf removal. A bag lunch is recommended to round off our day's activities (coffee and mulled cider will be provided). Contact **Jeff Shaffer** for more information or to make a materials donation. We look forward to hearing from our members and friends should they wish to express a concern or desire.



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

Here's a snapshot of November's Religious Education programming:

General Topics for the group's in early November are:

9:00 a.m.

Pre-school-1st Grade: Kindness (how to act on the Golden Rule)

2nd-3rd Grade: Empathy (awareness of animals and the environment)

4th-5th Grade: Flexibility (We change and grow in our understanding)

11:00 a.m.

Come Sing A Song With Me (5th grade & under)– The power of giving and receiving, and songs of Thanksgiving and the significance of the song “Spirit of Life” to many Unitarian Universalists.

Senior High Youth group:

- **November 1st - (clocks fall back)** - Party for younger children at 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. Come between 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. to help set up.
- November meeting dates are: November 8th and 15th only.

6th-8th Graders

- **Junior High Youth Group meets the 2nd Sunday of the month (November 8th).** Contact **Greg Pings** or **Samantha McCoy** for details.
- **Neighboring Faiths** – please check with leaders, **John Miglietta** or **Judy Lacker** about the date and details of the first off-site visit (*possibly* Friday, November 6th). November 15th is the day they wrap up their exploration of Judaism.

Note for both Youth Groups:

- **Youth are invited to participate in the November 23rd Multigenerational service or as leaders/helpers for the November 29th Children's Chapel** (see Special Dates section that follows for details.)
- You can always check out our web-site www.uudanbury.org, which is updated by Friday afternoon for the Weekend's planned activities.

(continued to next page)

Special Dates

November 22nd - Multigenerational Thanksgiving Service (just Nursery care in the House).

Please contact Mary Collins by November 13th

- **If you wish to sing a song** – come to the 1st floor Conference Room at 11:00 in early November to practice (date to be determined).
- **If you would like to do a reading during the 9:00 and/or 11:00 service.**
- **If you are a baker, or would like to help purchase, a variety of breads for this service.**

November 29th - (SINGLE 10:00 a.m. service) **CHILDREN'S CHAPEL** - all participants come directly into the House first floor Conference Room. We will be cooking **STONE SOUP** today. Each child is invited to **bring a vegetable for the pot and fruit for a bowl. Older youth needed to assist.**

December 13th - **TREE TRIM Holiday event for all ages and religious backgrounds** This event will be planned and presented by the **Junior High Youth Group**. Put this fun multigenerational event on your calendar. It follows the 11:00 a.m. service.

Parents and Members - Please use the front door of the house to access any of the group meeting rooms without disturbing the other groups in session on Sunday morning, as the House kitchen has become a meeting space.

Committee Members hoping to use the copier on Sunday morning, please plan on using it when a group is not in the session (could be before 9:00 a.m., 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. on Sunday Morning, or after 12:30 p.m.)

Next Religious Education Committee Meeting is Thursday November 12th, 7:00 –9:00 p.m. You're invited. *One item on our agenda is to explore phone conferencing our meeting – if you are interested in being a member, but have trouble getting to our weeknight meetings, contact DRE to be included.*

Welcome to New Members

We joyfully welcome **Mary Ann Kulla** and **Marilia Chagas** as new members to our congregation:

Search Committee Corner

by Charles Stark

Greetings from your Search Committee. Here we are, well into the fall season and the search process continues to be on track for a spring arrival.

So what are we up to? As this is written, we are finalizing our Congregational Record and Information Packet. These are the two things that ministers in search will see in order to learn about us. Much of what has gone into them is based upon the thoughts and wishes you shared during the assessment part of the process, in Cottage Meetings and the Survey.

Speaking of the Survey, we encourage all of you, most especially Committee Chairpersons, to look at the survey results, which you can access now on the UUCD Member's page of our website. There is much information which we think you will find interesting and enlightening. It is your reward for the effort you all made in filling out a comprehensive survey.

By mid-November the Information Packet will be complete. It is what we prepare to show us off in our best light. It contains both text and pictures. In past searches it took the form of a loose-leaf book, which had to be mailed back and forth between the Search Committee and prospective candidates. Now, it exists only on-line. When it is done you will be able to look at it, again on the Member's page of our website.

Another important thing that has been completed is our compensation package. With the assistance of the Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee the package includes salary and housing allowance, as well as benefits. We are proud to say that, despite any financial challenges we face, we are within the guidelines of fair compensation set by the UUA.

So what happens now that we are on the verge of completing all of the above? We will soon be exchanging packets with ministers who express an interest in settling here. We will be interviewing these ministers and checking their references. We will see the ones who really interest us preach in neutral pulpits. And, the UU gods willing, we will find a candidate who most closely fits the profile of what you said you seek in a new settled minister.

A heads-up. Save the date! We have scheduled Candidating Week for April 11-18. This is when we will introduce the candidate we have selected to the congregation. The minister will preach on Sunday, April 11th. He or she will then be available in many different venues during the week for all of you to meet and talk with in less formal surroundings. Finally, the candidate will preach at another Sunday service on April 18th, following which a congregational vote will be taken on whether to call the candidate as our new settled minister.

I'm sure you will all want to participate in Candidating Week as much as possible. We are looking forward to it with great expectations. Look for more information on Candidating Week in future issues.

While we cannot share with you the names of any prospective candidates, we are committed to keeping the congregation informed of our progress. Continue to look for our Search Committee Corner in future issues of *Comment* and don't hesitate to send questions to our email address.

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

From Your Community Minister:

Remembering Forrest

I met Rev. Dr. F. Forrester Church in the first months of his ministry at The Unitarian Church of All Souls in Manhattan, in 1978. The sanctuary was cavernous, full of historic plaques, and empty of people, perhaps less than 100 attending where over 800 could sit.

Sunday after Sunday, before the service, Forrest was out front of the church on the sidewalk on busy Lexington Avenue shaking hands with those who were coming in, and with total strangers walking by, who had never even noticed a church there before, who never intended to come in, but who soon found themselves in the sanctuary – out of curiosity, perhaps – after being enchanted by Forrest’s big smile, enthusiastic handshake, warm words of welcome, and his crimson robe fluttering in the breeze. Sunday after Sunday, more and more people came to hear this brilliant new young preacher. And more and more people came back.

One of his first “workshops” that Fall was one he and I designed together: “Prayer & Meditation”, six weeks, one evening each, six different faiths. For the series I produced a Biblical scholar and feminist Catholic nun, Sister Carol Perry, whom I knew from my earlier years as a long-time volunteer at Marble Collegiate Church (with Norman Vincent Peale), and I produced a practicing Buddhist professor, Tek Lyn, whom I had just heard the previous Spring at “The [U.U.] Barn” in Redding, CT (the very Sunday I had discovered Unitarian Universalism and was welcomed by Annie Thorpe’s famous handshake). Forrest and I co-presented our “*Prayer & Meditation*” series and the attendance steadily grew each week, outgrowing the All Souls library and finishing the series in the chapel.

I was so happy with my new faith! I was so happy with my new minister!! I joined All Souls in February, 1979.

One of the saddest days of my life was October 3, 2009, riding the train from CT into Manhattan for Forrest’s Memorial Service.

The scenery outside my train window went unseen by me as the memories of the years of his ministry and our family times together turned over in my mind, page by inner page:

... his weekend visits to our Ridgefield house with his then-wife Amy -- and later with their very young children.

... the time Forrest spoke at The Barn, and was joined that weekend here by his father, Senator Frank Church.

... that Sunday, in 1984, when my husband David and I were up on the All Souls platform for Forrest’s “Dedication Ceremony” for our new baby Jessica (and to our great joy, Forrest and Amy were her god-parents).

... the crazy, cold, fun New Year’s weekend in Disney World, the four of us adults with three young children.

... the warm balmy leisurely stroll in Cambridge across Harvard Yard with Amy and Forrest, our three “little lambs” romping out across the lawn ahead of us after his brilliant sermon earlier that morning.

... and later, Forrest and Amy coming to Florida, joining us in our new home there, and my U.U. church there where Forrest was the celebrated speaker at two events, one for the larger Jacksonville community and one for the congregation. Both were packed.

By the time that, in 1993, David and I returned from Florida to resume living full-time in Ridgefield, Forrest’s family configuration had changed and my professional status had changed. I was now a Candidate for the U.U. Ministry, enrolled at Yale Divinity School. I preached my very first sermon at The Barn, encouraged – without ceasing – by Forrest. He preached the sermon at my Ordination in October, 2001 – truly a miracle, given the events in NYC the previous month on 9/11. We stayed in touch all through the years: Forrest, by sending his latest book, with a note and inscribed affectionately to David and me. Me, by newsy handwritten letters to Forrest. Family. Friend. Minister. Ministry.

It was obvious from Forrest’s earliest days at All Souls he had a Big Picture in mind: for All Souls as a congregation to grow, and for All Souls to be a Public Citizen, a positive force, in New York City, in the U.U.A., in the U.S.A., and indeed – via his books and broadcasts – in the world.

In his sermons and his books, even in his conversations, Forrest used language like an art form, painting pictures, combining sounds and meanings in new ways, sharing the personal and transforming it into the universal, and taking a complex universal truth and bringing it home to the heart, to each of us, with a twinkle, with a chuckle, with unforgettable wit, wisdom, and warmth.

Forrest’s Memorial Service was long, beautiful and packed. Our group there said it went by “*too fast.*” U.U. dignitaries and two of Forrest’s closest friends spoke. Most touching to me was seeing Forrest’s mother Bethine, and his two children, now young adults, who spoke of their father, his love, and his last days. The music and hymns at the Service were some of Forrest’s favorites, especially the choir’s *a capella*, echoing, “*Shenandoah*”. On the train ride back to CT, I was remembering how much Forrest had loved the outdoors wherever we were. I was sad thinking he won’t see this beautiful golden autumn or any other... here...

Twenty-five books published in twenty-five years, including his last, *The Cathedral of the World: A Universalist Theology*, coming out this month. Three years fighting cancer, publicly celebrating remissions, and continuing to preach amazing monthly “*last sermons*”.

Rev. Dr. F. Forrester Church, Minister of Public Theology to the last. Forrest Church, abiding friend.

Good-Bye Forrest. Thank you for being a blessing in our lives.

Rev. Peggy S. Block
November, 2009



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.

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. November dates are the 7th and 21st. All are welcome. Please notify **Mike Searing** if you plan to attend.



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**. November dates are the 14th and 28th.

Eat, drink and be merry!

November's **Round Robin** is coming up. Enjoy the company of your fellow **UUser's** in a home setting. The Round Robin host is **Claudia Durrell** on November 14th, at 5:30 p.m. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall or email **Suzanne Perry**, Round Robin Coordinator.

Towards a Just Health Care System

Is Health Care a human right? The Social Action Committee is looking for volunteers to help organize a Community Forum focused on that question. Please contact SAC Chair, Jean Hislop, or talk to anyone from the SAC if you are interested. We also plan to circulate sign up sheets to determine interest.

Events Committee Update

by Lisa Green

On **November 8th at 4 p.m.**, award-winning composer **Douglas Buchanan** will perform *Colonnades*, his concert-length work of art featuring original music, paintings and poetry. Please see additional article in this *Comment*.

Our **Winter Boutique- Saturday, December 5th**, is fast approaching (see additional articles on next page). Members and friends have several opportunities to join in the fun (and success!) of this event:

1. Re-Organizing? Set aside good-quality household and gift items for our **Sugar Plum Re-Gifting Corner**. Contact **Val Cochrane** once you've rounded up unwanted treasures.
2. Got Bling To Spare? Donate silver, costume or other fine jewelry to be sold at our **Jewelry Table**. **Jean Bowen** will be delighted to accept your contributions.
3. Looking For A Place To Sell Your Cool Creations? Or know someone who is? **Val Cochrane** will be happy to talk to you about setting up a display.
4. Love To Bake, But Desperately Trying To Avoid Temptation? Go ahead... let your inner pastry chef out to play! Bake all the lovely little cookies you want, then let us sell them at our **Cookie Walk**. Contact Lisa Greene if you're willing to donate a tray full of cookies to the cause.
5. Be There! Grab a snack at the **Snowflake Café**, check out all the great vendors, bring home a box of cookies and have fun!



Third Annual UUCD Winter Boutique and Cookie Walk
will be held
Saturday, December 5th, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Featuring a Delicious Array of Cookies to be purchased by the Pound,
A years worth of Beautiful Creations by the Knitting Ministry,
Craftspeople selling Art, Stationery, Quilts, Jewelry, Home Décor,
Tables of previously treasured Jewelry and “Sugar Plums” for Re-gifting,
and
The Snowflake Café for Snacks, Lunch and Beverages.



The **Winter Boutique Committee** Chairs seeking donations are:

Jean Bowen & Leslie Miglietta: Jewelry/Accessories - vintage, new, precious/holiday glitter and evening wear;

Val Cochrane: Limited rental space still available for sale of handcrafted items,
Re-gifting Corner: Needs like-new items valued under \$20 for thrifty shoppers;

Lisa Greene: Cookies – please plan to bake your very best recipe(s). You will be contacted but advance offers are cheerfully accepted!

Donna Lawrence: Snacks beyond cookies to sell in the Snowflake Café.

If you have time to work on Friday night (December 4th) from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. or Saturday (December 5th) from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., please let the Committee know.

This Time in History

by Douglas Parkhurst



Issues being addressed in 2009 by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury relate to finances and pledging, the search for a new, permanent minister, and building renovations. In this light it is interesting to note what was happening in the Danbury Universalist Church between April and November of 1884, one hundred and twenty-five years ago. This month's article is a continuation of one started in the October *Comment*. The following excerpts are taken from *Record of the First Universalist Society of Danbury, Conn., commencing January 13, 1873*.

1884, Part 2

May 25th 1884 -

Society met as per adjournment - Bro. Williams in the Chair. Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

There was a very general expression of satisfaction with the pulpit services of Bro. Chase [Alonzo Chase, ministerial candidate] this morning. Bro. M.W. Foster reported that Bro. Chase would graduate at Canton June 26 and could not come here until the 1st Sunday in July. That he would be content with a salary of \$800- per annum -

Motion that the Society's Committee be instructed to give Bro. Chase a call to become our Pastor for nine months from the 1st of July, at the rate of \$800 per year.... Voted that the Society's Com[mittee]. be instructed to correspond with Bro Libby State Missionary and ask him to be with us on Sunday June 8th and Bro Mitchell June 22nd....

Voted to adjourn to the 1st Sunday in July -

Attest A.R. Heath Clerk -

Alonzo Chase accepted the Danbury call. He was a member of the class of 1884 at Canton Theological School, a Universalist seminary in existence from 1856 to 1965, which was part of St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York. Chase's two immediate predecessors in the Danbury pulpit, the Reverends Dwight M. Hodge and Alfred J. Aubrey also attended Canton.

Internet inflation calculations figure \$800.00 in 1884 would have the purchasing power of about \$18,500 today.

July 6, 1884

Met as per adjournment - A.J. Williams in the chair -

...Com. instructed to notify Bro Chase in writing, that we extend him a call to be our pastor from Aug. 1st 1884 till April 1st 1885. at rate of \$800 per year with the usual condition - adjourned

Attest A.R. Heath Clerk -

The following notation then appears in the *Record*.

If any meetings were held prior to the Annual Meeting in October the records have been mislaid - Bro Alonzo Chase did commence his pastorate with this Society the first Sunday in September to continue till April 1st 1885 -

The annual meeting of the Society was scheduled for Wednesday evening, October 15, 1884. The Society met and immediately adjourned to noon on the following Sunday.

October 19, 1884 -

Met as per adjournment - Bro N.B. Dibble Chairman

...Collector presented his report showing that for twelve months from Oct 1st 1883 he had collected from Envelopes for current expenses \$86.90 and \$27.69 due Oct 1st 1884 - and for Pastor's Salary for 6 months from April 1st 1884 \$290.07 with \$48.93 yet due on Pastor's subscriptions therein considered - not including however certain new subscriptions on the paper. The total amount on the paper is \$651 - Total collected to date \$325 - balance to be collected \$326 - Pastors salary for next 6 months \$400 - A necessity for increase on the paper.

Following officers were elected -

A.R. Heath Clerk

F. Jarvis Collector -

M.W. Foster J.T. Bates A.J. Williams Society's Committee -

N.B. Dibble Agent.

Com. instructed to see about new roof and get estimates -

Adjourned for one week

Attest. A.R. Heath Clerk

Figure the amounts \$86.90, \$325.00, and \$651.00 in 1884 would have the purchasing power of approximately \$2,000, \$7,500, and \$15,000 today.

- To be continued



Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for your gift of \$200.00 to support Connecticut Food Bank's mission to alleviate hunger.

Over the past 26 years, Connecticut Food Bank has built a bridge between those who have an abundance of food – farmers and the food industry – and people who are hungry or unable to afford adequate nutrition. We have become an essential part of nearly every community in our six-county service area, serving as a centralized warehouse to receive large quantities of donated food for distribution to a network of 650 charitable programs that feed people in need.

No one person alone can solve the problem of hunger. We work together – Connecticut Food Bank staff, Board of Directors, member programs, food and financial donors, volunteers and the media – to raise food, funds and awareness of hunger in Connecticut. Your contribution to this effort is greatly appreciated.

It was my pleasure to worship with you recently.

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Carrington, Executive Director

Sow Green Community Garden

by Donna Lawrence



Jeff Schaffer and **Shawn Sweeney**, Coordinators, along with **Ben Roberts**, of the Sow Green Community Garden, have met to develop a plan for the 2010 Garden. Landlord Joe DaSilva has committed to letting us use the space for the year 2010. The new plan will involve recruiting teams of gardeners from civic groups, faith groups, and social service agencies to develop a larger garden with driveway access, a shed for supplies, a tree, classes on organic gardening, and a siphon or drip watering system. There also will be some areas reserved for Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen and other areas for community harvesting. Brochures and enrollment forms will be available by December. This year's garden included plots which were rented by The Hispanic Center and Escape to the Arts as well as those rented by individuals.

Theatre Aficionados

by Keith Dupree

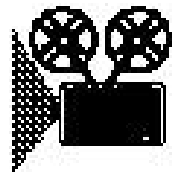
Mark your calendars - Thursday, December 10th, is the next "Pay What You Want Night" at Theatreworks, New Milford. The evening's performance is *Season's Greetings*, an "uproarious and universal tale of Holiday dysfunctionality."

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

Theatre Aficionados is a very informal gathering of people who enjoy seeing local theater together. All are welcome.

Movies with a Message – Second Friday Cinema

by Keith Dupree



"Wad the p'wer the giftie gie us, to see ourselves as ithers see us, T'would fr'm miny a folly free us, and foolish notion." (with apologies to Robert Burns). In a comedic spirit, our two films for November challenge our preconceptions and the ways in which we spend our precious lives!

7:00 p.m. – *Nowhere Fast* – Have you ever been busy all day but accomplished nothing? Our November short film presents a whimsical glimpse of what happened to one man's day.

7:20 p.m. – *Outsourced* – This romantic comedy follows a novelty company manager to India after his company outsources its customer service department. Todd must train his replacement and explain American culture to his new call-center employees. Talented and charming Asha has more than her share of questions, forcing Todd to reexamine his culture, himself, and his understanding of India.

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, November 13, at 7:00 p.m.** in the UUCD conference room. As usual, all are welcome. Pizza is provided, bring your own beverage. Popcorn optional! Your contributions will be gratefully accepted, all of which will go to the UUCD to encourage continuation of UUCD programs.

Soup Kitchen Corner

by Lynn Taborsak, Coordinator

It's harvest time! 40 UUCD Members and Friends have signed up for another year of Soup Kitchen magic. If you missed the deadline, just put your name on the **Feed the Hungry** roster in the rear of the sanctuary and we'll fit you in!

Everyone is encouraged to join in this effort. You can volunteer to LEAD a team; you can participate as a REGULAR TEAM MEMBER; you can serve as an occasional ALTERNATE when extra hands are needed; you can help us feed our neighbors with a GIFT CARD in any amount from any local supermarket; and, of course, you can bring in your donations of NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS for the food offering each Sunday.

On Saturday, November 7th, Soup Kitchen Team #1 will be lead by **Gary Winn**. Team #1 includes **Charley Stark, Donna Lawrence, Joe Teagarden, John Miglietta, Chris Halfar, Bruni or Mike Edwards, Matt McPartlin, Marshall Ballou and Tara Keinath**. It is officially fall and our hot meal is really appreciated. If you are unable to come, please find a substitute from the alternates list. Remember, the show must go on.



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 September through February 2010 is:

November 12: 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.

December 10: Biography Facilitator: Doris Henderson. Source: *The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life and Legacy of Francis Perkins, Social Security, Unemployment Insurance* by Kirstin Downey, 2009, 496 pages, \$23.10. No individual—not even Eleanor Roosevelt—exerted more influence over the formulation of FDR's New Deal or did more to implement the programs than Frances Perkins (1880–1965).

January 14: American Politics Facilitator: Roger Bogart. Source: *The Limits of Power: The End of Exceptionalism* by Andrew Bacevich, 2008, 224 pages, \$13.20. Crisp prose, sweeping historical analysis and searing observations on the roots of American decadence elevate this book from mere scolding to an urgent call for rational thinking and measured action, for citizens to wise up and put their house in order.

February 11: History of the Americas Facilitator: Bill McWilliams. Source: *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus* by Charles C. Mann, 2006, 541 pages, \$10.88. In a riveting and fast-paced history, massing archeological, anthropological, scientific and literary evidence, Mann debunks much of what we thought we knew about pre-Columbian America.

November 2009

November 2009

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					

December 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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
2 7:00pm The New Earth (Conf)	3 10:00am Knitting Ministry (2) (Conf) 4:00pm Landmark Sermons (Conf) 6:00pm Yoga (FH) 7:00pm Speaker Task Force	4 7:00pm Sunday Serv. Comm (Conf)	5 5:00pm DRE Relations (2) (Conf) 7:15pm Next Level Grp (Conf)	6 9:00am Men's Breakfast 10:30am S Kimball's Chalice	7 Sunday Services 12:30 C. Barrett's Chalice 12:45 B. Lewis Forum
9 7:00pm A Krieg's Chalice Circle (Yth) 7:00pm The New Earth (Conf)	10 10:00am Cluster Mtg (FH) 4:00pm Landmark Sermons (Conf) 6:00pm Yoga (FH) 7:30pm Social Action Comm (Conf)	11 7:00pm Board of Trustees (Conf)	12 7:00pm RE Comm (2 Conf) 7:30pm Book Grp (Conf)	13 9:00am Women's Breakfast 5:30pm Round Robin	14 Sunday Services 12:30 Membership Comm. 4:00 B. Buchanan Concert
16 7:00pm The New Earth (Conf)	17 10:00am Knitting Ministry (2) (Conf) 6:00pm Yoga (FH)	18 4:00pm B Myers Chalice Circle (Conf)	19 7:30pm Search Comm (Conf)	20 Comment Deadline	21 9:00am Men's Breakfast
23 7:00pm The New Earth (Conf)	24 10:00am Caring Comm (Conf) 6:00pm Yoga (FH)	25 Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27 9:00am Women's Breakfast	28 Sunday Services 10:00am One Service
30					

Shaded Events are off-site

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

November 1, 8, and 15, 2009: **Theological Options for UUs: A Three-Part Sermon Series.**

We know that Unitarian Universalism is theologically diverse, but how did we get this way? To begin to understand, we must turn to Universalist and Unitarian history.

Over the next three Sundays, we'll explore the religious roots of UUism, concentrating on three historic theological positions. Each corresponds to a specific period of our history, and each represents a living option for UUs today. The three services are led by Interim Minister Sue Spencer.

November 1, 2009: **Liberal Christianity.** (Don't forget to set clocks back Saturday night!)

November 8, 2009: **Transcendentalism.**

November 15, 2009: **Religious Humanism.**

November 22, 2009. **Intergenerational Service of Thanksgiving.** This year's service explores "Harvest Festivals Around the World." Traditions include the sharing of cider and bread, the recognition of UUCD member anniversaries (5th, 10th, 15th, etc.), and the distribution of "Guest at Your Table" boxes. We'll also have an "ethnic bread celebration" - please bring a small loaf to share, representing some part of your family's ethnic heritage. Service led by Interim Minister Sue Spencer and Director of Religious Education Mary Collins, with music by Stringed Cheese and Rob Catalano.

One Service at 10:00 a.m.

November 29, 2009. **Wicca, Witchcraft, and Paganism: Old Religions in a New Age.** Come learn about the Wiccan and Pagan movement with Rev. Alicia Lyon Folberth, who founded the Pantheon Temple, the first Pagan and Wiccan church in Connecticut, in 1995. She will be speaking on her personal journey, the surging growth of the diverse Pagan Community, and on the Old Religions themselves. She is a Priestess, Witch, activist, artist, designer, and writer. Please come with an open mind and questions you would like to ask.