



# 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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DECEMBER 2009

## For the Time Being

## Notes from your Interim Minister

No doubt by the time you read this, Thanksgiving will have come and gone. The unseasonably warm weather belies the reality proclaimed by the bare trees and the shortening days - winter is on its way. I used to dread November, feeling bereft once the trees had been stripped of their leaves, but now I find myself embracing its austere beauty. Ancient peoples saw this as one of the “thin times,” when the membrane between heaven and earth was at its most permeable. From the UUCD Fellowship Hall, we once again have a view of faraway hills, a view that’s been missing since April. The end of harvest and the chilly nights signal a time to come inside – and also to turn inward and take a longer view.

In our secularized world, we tend to lose sight of time’s sacredness. We tend to think of time as *chronos* -linear, quantitative, each day equal to the next. But in sacred traditions – Jewish, pagan, Christian, and other – time has a cyclical quality. Religious calendars track the journey of earth around the sun, and also the journey of the human spirit. In this view of things, time has a shape. Punctuating *chronos* is *kairos* time, “the fullness of time.” There are ripe and fallow times, times to celebrate and times to mourn. Sometimes, the time calls us simply to wait – to prepare for things that are going to happen.

For our Christian neighbors, November 29 marks the first Sunday of Advent. This is the beginning of the Christian year, a four-week period of anticipation, reflection and self-examination. Meanwhile, in Jewish homes, the first candle of Hanukkah will be lit at sundown on December 11. Both of these observances use increasing light, in the form of candles, to mark the progression of time. Thus they remind us of their link to even more ancient Solstice festivals, when people welcomed the return of lengthening days.

In December, most Unitarian Universalist congregations find a way to honor Jewish, Christian, and Pagan traditions by marking their various winter celebrations. Such eclecticism carries with it some danger of superficiality and misappropriation. But if approached humbly, with an inquiring spirit, our eclectic approach gives us an opportunity as well - to probe the universal meanings of the festivals, and perhaps to discover therein some special significance for our own lives.

The first three Sundays of December will be devoted to explorations of Advent, Hanukkah, and Solstice. I’d also like to invite you to three Wednesday evening candlelight services on December 2, 9, and 16, each on a different theme. These are quiet, meditative services, designed to give you a brief respite from what can be a frenetic time of year. They’ll take place in the Fellowship Hall from 6 to 6:30, followed by a light supper.

I hope to see all of you sometime during the holidays! May December be a blessed time for you and yours.

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

**Deadline for the January Comment -**  
**Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**December Vespers Services**  
**3 Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.**

Come take a break from holiday preparations, with three quiet services of readings, meditation, and music. Each service lasts about half an hour, followed by a simple supper of soup and bread. If you wish, you may bring some finger food to supplement this simple fare. We'll have you on your way by 7:00 p.m.

December 2: Advent

December 9: Winter

December 16: Hanukkah

**“Tastes of the Season” Brunch**



On Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup> there will one 10:00 service. Please invite someone you know who is alone at this time of the year to the service. Stay for a special “Tastes of the Season” brunch featuring some of our favorite seasonal dishes. Be a generous “re-gifter”. Bring an unwanted gift that you received for someone else to take home and enjoy. If the item is unclaimed after the brunch, it will be used for our Annual Goods & Services Auction. Make a reservation for yourself and a friend for the “Tastes of the Season” brunch and tell us what seasonal food item you are bringing. The sign-up sheet is in the rear of the sanctuary.



## President's Comment

by Jean N. Bowen, President

Every December finds me in high gear with way too much shopping, back-aching gift wrapping, organizing family gatherings and financing multi-events. It seems simpler sometimes to organize a UUCD fundraiser than Christmas with our ever-growing family. I have had years when I dreaded this holiday.

Perhaps you too experience similar stress. It is particularly complex for Unitarian Universalists who come from differing religious and cultural backgrounds that reflect our shared principles yet retain traditions of Chanukah and Christmas. Solstice, Kwanzaa and other celebrations are welcome additions in our community that reflect our shared openness to world religions. We are proud to be Unitarian Universalists; many of us want to experience our family customs and share the spiritual connection these holidays have provided us and our families.

My family is a combination of Christians, Jews, humanists, atheists and perpetual seekers. We all celebrate Christmas; some love it and some dislike it. But during the peak days we share mutual joy with the children opening a gift and delighting in a new toy, the delicious food presented and shared in love, an exchange of thoughtful gifts to our loved ones and the oh so yummy butter cookies.

I remember my family celebrations with fondness and conflict. My Mother singing "O Holy Night" over the kitchen sink, the ornaments made by my Grandmother stored and distributed to my children and grandchildren and, of course, the dreaded cleaning up the dry evergreen tree. It was and remains a special and even spiritual holiday for me.

I have come to a place in my life where I now welcome Christmas.

My wish for my family and yours is an opportunity to be with friends and family who care for each other, who acknowledge and accept your differences and welcome new traditions. However you wish to celebrate this season may you enjoy moments of peace and joy. And yes, Merry Christmas.

Love,  
Jean



### Interfaith AIDS Ministry Holiday Adopt-a-Family Program

A family living with HIV-AIDS could use our help to make the holidays special. Look for the giving tree in the foyer of Fellowship Hall. Choose a gift or food item you would like to provide. Fill in your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet and go do some shopping!

## Canvass Corner

by Ross Fenster

### Sharing the Vision 2010 breakfast

(Mark your calendars)

You're invited to breakfast! On Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, we will have a **Sharing the Vision breakfast** at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship hall. All adults and children are welcome. Young children will have activities at the RE house or in the foyer after the breakfast.

After breakfast our UUCD leaders will speak about our vision, and everyone is encouraged to share their thoughts and to ask questions.

Our Annual UUCD Canvass is scheduled to begin on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, but you will not be canvassed at this breakfast. This will be our time to listen and talk about the progress we're making in obtaining the vision we shared when we left the Barn in Redding.

Free food, childcare during the meeting, and good conversation with your fellow UUs. Please plan to attend the morning of January 9<sup>th</sup>, Ten a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Please call our Office Manager, Sherry, to let her know how many adults and children will attend at 203-798-1994 or email [sherryuucd@gmail.com](mailto:sherryuucd@gmail.com).

## From the Building and Grounds Committee

Jeff Shaffer, Chair

Thanks to all the participants in this past weekend's successful Clean-Up activity. We were to reclaim a good deal of the parking lot, including three NEW parking spaces for next Spring.

Building and Grounds will be doing a Clean OUT of our new security cage in the basement of the cottage in the middle of December. Any Members, Committees or anyone using the storage area/basement: we will need to identify your materials and make arrangements for continued storage. Please contact **Jeff Shaffer**, **Jon Dupree**, or **Cynthia Clark** about your storage space needs. This "inventory" will insure that materials are not "lost" or misplaced during the final stages of implementing our secure storage.

Thank you all for assistance and cooperation.

**B  
&  
G**

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

The summary statistics for July, August, September and October are recorded below.

	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>
% Annual Canvass pledge return	16.44%	23.6%	30.57%	36.41%
Operating Income Year-to-date	\$31,538	\$47,174	\$62,853	\$75,567
Operating Expenses Year-to-date	\$14,837	\$33,826	\$54,223	\$70,858
Operating Income – Expense YTD	<b>\$16,701</b>	<b>\$13,348</b>	<b>\$ 8,630</b>	<b>\$ 4,709</b>
Unrestricted Funds	\$12,072	\$ 8,722	\$ 3,971	\$ 48

**Analysis for October:**

The October pledge returns (5.83%) reached the excellent cumulative level (36.41%). Over the last 7 years the average and maximum pledge returns to date were 28.65% & 34.75% 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 results are favorable and give the reserves some breathing room.

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 \$48. The Unrestricted Funds needed to cover the continuing Monthly projected 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.

While it is fiscally wise to insure that the Unrestricted Funds have enough monies to cover all imbalances, it is often possible to cover these imbalances from funds in the restricted accounts. This is possible since some of our restricted accounts will not be drawn upon over the duration of the imbalance and can be used to cover the imbalance. As the imbalance disappears the restricted funds are returned to their original level.

The Board last month authorized the Treasurer to use the two accounts Archive Book Reserve (\$6,396) and the Growth/Building Reserve (\$6,842) for this purpose. It is expected that this will only be required for the month of November during this fiscal year.

Bruce Buzby, Finance Committee Chair  
Marie Dupree, Treasurer

**UUCD member seeks a part-time driver/companion on a temporary basis.** Monday through Friday, four hours in the afternoon. To find out more about this opportunity, please e-mail Sue Spencer or call her at the UUCD office.



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

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

### General Topics for the groups in December

All are encouraged to share their Holiday Traditions with each other in our groups this month, and we will also cover:

#### For 9:00 a.m.

*Pre-school-1<sup>st</sup> Grade:* Invitation and Friends

*2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:* Forgiveness

*4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade:* Reflection

#### For 11:00 a.m.

*"Come Sing A Song With Me" (5<sup>th</sup> grade & under)*– We will sing songs of the season (Advent, Christmas Eve preparations, Hanukkah, and Winter Solstice

#### *6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Graders*

**Junior High Youth Group (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month). Invites you to the December 13<sup>th</sup> Tree Trimming Party**

The annual UUCD Tree Trimming party is scheduled for Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, following the 11:00 a.m. service. Arts and crafts for children and adults will be available to decorate the tree; and the Junior High Youth Group will attempt an all-time record length paper chain that will grace Fellowship Hall during the holiday season. The Junior Youth Group will set up the craft supplies. We ask *you* to bring:

- Finger food to share.
- Baby pictures to hang on the tree. (Because every baby is a holy child.)

Don't miss this very social and creative event. Special thanks to **Gale and Jackie Alexander** for donating the 10-foot tree that will once again grace Fellowship Hall.

**Neighboring Faiths sessions are scheduled for December 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>** Please check with leader **John Miglietta** for potential visit date(s) related to the exploration of Christianity. It's a great time of year to visit and listen to all the special music!

#### *9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders*

**Senior High Youth group:**

- **Meets December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and possibly on the 20<sup>th</sup>** (If anyone is interested or able to go to the Social Action Con December 18<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> see the metro NY district webpage for youth activities and a link to register [www.uumetrony.org](http://www.uumetrony.org) (Events, Summary Events for Youth.)

FAMILIES You can always check out our web-site [www.uudanbury.org](http://www.uudanbury.org), which is updated by Friday afternoon for the Weekend's planned activities.

**SPECIAL DATES:**

**December 24<sup>th</sup> - Multigenerational Christmas Eve Services**

Please contact Mary Collins

- If you wish to sing a song at the 5:30 pm service,
- If you would like to participate in any way.

**December 27<sup>th</sup> - NO GROUPS meet. Nursery Care only**

**Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> - RE Committee Meeting\* from 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

\* *This is the meeting we need parents and new RE Committee participants to join in on.* We begin talking about our programming for next year, and assess how it's been going so far. If you can't make the meeting physically, or in case of snow, we will attempt a conference call. LET the DRE KNOW the 1<sup>st</sup> week in January if you will participate.

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From Your Community Minister:

**The Beatitudes**

by Rev. F. Forrest Church

- Blessed are the poor in spirit,***  
*for they know the unutterable beauty of simple things.*
- Blessed are those who mourn,***  
*for they have dared to risk their hearts by giving of their love.*
- Blessed are the meek,***  
*for the gentle earth shall embrace them and hallow them as its own.*
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness,***  
*for they shall know the taste of noble thoughts and deeds.*
- Blessed are the merciful,***  
*for in return theirs is the gift of giving.*
- Blessed are the pure in heart,***  
*for they shall be at one with themselves and the universe.*
- Blessed are the peacemakers,***  
*for theirs is a kinship with everything that is holy.*
- Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,***  
*for the truth will set them free.*

May you be blessed during this Holiday Season and in the coming New Year.

Rev. Peggy Block

## Search Committee Corner

by Carol Huckabee

The Search Committee is now moving into a new phase of our work: REAL CANDIDATES!!! Our Congregational Record is up on the UUA Transitions website for potential ministers to review. The Congregational Record is completed according to guidelines set by the UUA and can only be viewed by candidates who have been registered to participate in the settlement process. We have already had some candidates express interest in our church by having read our Congregational Record and we will soon be reading their Ministerial Records and Search Packets -- documents that provide an in-depth look at the candidates.

A second document --our Search Packet -- is also available for candidates to evaluate. We have integrated our Search Packet with our website material, providing a full, rich picture of the congregation. While only candidates will see our Congregational Record, all of you in the congregation can look through the Search Packet to see how your congregation is presented with all of its creativity, complexity and specialness. We utilized the information you gave us during the assessment phase last spring to create our search documents. A site for viewing will be provided in the back of the sanctuary and we urge you all to take a look by accessing the Ministerial Candidate Information Packet on our UUCD website.

The Committee will now narrow the field of prospective ministers to those we want to get to know better. In December and January we will conduct phone interviews with the most promising candidates. Pre-candidating weekends are set up for the winter where we will get to know the final three or four ministers in-depth through interviews, informal talks, reference calls, and a sermon delivered from a neutral pulpit. The final candidate will come to Danbury for Candidating Week April 11-18, during which you will meet him/her and hear two sermons. We ask you to save that week on your calendar for meeting our selected candidate. The vote to call for ministry is April 18, 2010 and you are not going to want to miss that!

The settlement process restricts us to just one candidate that we will vote on to be our next minister. You may be asking, why can't we bring all three or four pre-candidates on successive weekends and have a congregational vote? Years ago, serial candidating was not uncommon. The present search process is designed to avoid some of the problems serial candidating presents -- everything from having the search become a popularity contest to politicking for candidates that can lead to church schisms and tension among various groups who are often left with strong feelings toward both the incoming minister and their fellow congregants. Additionally, the confidentiality of the search process protects candidates. Ministers settled in a congregation may not have told their present parishioners that they are contemplating a move. These parishioners are entitled to hear the news from their minister at the appropriate time. To "leak" a minister's name can undermine his or her ability to serve their present congregation. When the identities of unsuccessful applicants are known, it heightens the competitive aspect of the search process and can hurt collegial feeling among ministers, as well as create hard feelings among congregations.

At this darkest time of the year, we are starting to see more and more light at the end of our search process. Our gift to you will come next spring, when we offer you our selection for the position of settled minister in our beloved church. At that time you will evaluate and vote on whether to call our selection for ministry in Danbury. Your gift to us is your enduring enthusiasm and support for the search process. We are deeply grateful for your trust. All of us on the Search Committee wish you a season of joy and peace.

**Charlie Schott, Carol Huckabee, Charley Stark,  
Dennis Dipinto, Judy Lacker, Gale Alexander, Joanne Wells**

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



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. December dates are the 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<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**. December dates are the 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.



**“Baby, It’s Cold Outside”** - On November 15<sup>th</sup>, Dorothy Day started it’s winter warm up program. The soup kitchen opens its doors at 6:00 p.m. every

evening for coffee, TV and conversation so that homeless individuals can wait indoors for the city’s 3 shelters to open at 9:00 p.m. No food preparation skills are needed! Our congregation will cover Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, and three Tuesdays in December, the 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up for a winter warm up session. We need two volunteers for each date. See Lynn Taborsak or Chris Halfar for details.

**Eat, Drink, and be Merry!**

December’s **Round Robin** is coming up. Enjoy the company of your fellow UUer’s in a home setting. The Round Robin Hosts are **Brad & Donna Roscoe** on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall or email **Suzanne Perry**, Round Robin Coordinator.



The **Social Action Committee** is collecting **men’s knit hats and work gloves for the day laborers at Kennedy Park.** Please



bring in your donated items and place them in the food offering basket on Sunday. We will be distributing these items on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at a special meeting for day laborers.

**Standing on the Side of Love – Help us Raise the Banner**

by Barbara Searing

The bright yellow T shirts you may have seen on some people at the Ridge stand for the Unitarian Universalist Association’s new initiative, “Standing on the Side of Love” (SSL). SSL is a public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love’s power to fight oppression and end hate and fear. Its objective is to combat hate crimes and other acts of violence against immigrants, LGBT people, and other groups in our community. The Social Action Committee wants to bring SSL into our congregation through witnessing events and other activities. To learn more, visit the SSL’s fantastic website at [www.standingonthesideoflove.org](http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org).



**Third Annual UUCD Winter Boutique and Cookie Walk**  
 will be held  
 Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 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.



### **Soup Kitchen Corner**

by Lynn Taborsak, Coordinator

**Happy Holidays to all of our Dorothy Day Hospitality House volunteers.** If you forgot to sign up for a team, 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 help with 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, December 5<sup>th</sup>, Soup Kitchen Team #2 will be lead by **Andrew Bloch** and **Carl Tichler**. Team #2 includes: **Tim Gilbert, Mike Searing, Al Taylor, Marilia Chagas, Tom and Dylan Worden, Karen Judd, Juan Cazorla, and Kristen McCarthy**. It is almost winter and our hot meal is really appreciated. If you are not able to volunteer on your assigned date, please find a substitute from another team or from the alternates list. Remember, you can access the soup team rosters from our website at [uudanbury.org](http://uudanbury.org).

Thank you **Jill Miller** for the Big Y World Class Market gift card!

## 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 concludes the narrative started in the October *Comment* and continued in the November issue. The following excerpts are taken from *Record of the First Universalist Society of Danbury, Conn., commencing January 13, 1873*.

1884, Part 3

Society officers began considering estimates for the cost of installing a new roof on their church building in the autumn of 1884. At this time the Danbury Universalist Church was located on the south side of Liberty Street, approximately half a block east of Main Street. The History section of the contemporary UUCD booklet *About the Danbury UUs* states this building was on the north side of Liberty Street. This is an error; the south side is correct. The building was razed many years ago.

**October 26th 1884 -**

**Met as per adjournment - Bro. N.B. Dibble in the Chair -**

**Com[mittee]. reported that best tin would cost 6 3/4 cents per foot - next best 6 - and that tin shingles could also be procured for \$6.50 per square of ten square feet, painted both sides - There are about 2500 feet in the roof, painting the tin would be about 1/2 cent per foot -**

**Motion that the roof be tinned over the shingles - pending this, the subject of Music was considered -**

**Voted to appoint Foster Jarvis - Mrs. E. I. Hadden and M.W. Foster a committee on Music -**

**Adjourned for one week -**

**Attest A.R. Heath Clerk**

**November 2nd 1884**

**Met as per adjournment -**

**Com. reported on subject of roof - exhibiting some Patent Tin Shingles, painted on both sides - warranted for 10 years by a responsible company - They will take off our shingles, build their own scaffolding, and put on this new kind of roofing for 7 1/2 cents per square foot of roof - We furnish the gutter. Bro. Foster will furnish stuff for the scaffolding.**

**Voted: to adopt the shingle shown us, on condition that we pay no money till tested, and receive a written guarantee for 10 years from the Co, known as the "National Sheet Metal Roofing Company". of 21 Cliff Street New York City**

**-**

**Voted that the Society's Committee circulate subscription paper for this purpose -**

**Voted to put on new roof as soon as possible -**

**Adjourned for one week**

**Attest A.R. Heath Clerk**

The Universalist Society purchased the lot and constructed the Liberty Street building during 1851-52; possibly the existing roof in 1884 was the original. In any case, a new tin roof, painted, and of the size required would have cost the Society approximately \$185.00. Internet inflation calculations show this amount to have the purchasing power of about \$4,400.00 today. Note that fundraising ("circulate subscription paper for this purpose") would be undertaken to support the project.

(continued to next page)

November 9th 1884 -

Met as per adjournment - Bro. N.B. Dibble in Chair -

Bro. J.T. Bates reported that Mr. Olmstead the Agent of the Patent Roof asks 7 3/4 cents per foot - and also that he Bro Bates will go to New York and try to get lower figures from first hands. His offer was accepted and the Committee granted another week to get figures - Com. on Music reported that Bro Cola S. Peck will act as leader and organist for us. we to pay him \$1.- per week for his expenses in performing the duties, and he to refund us any surplus remaining - Report accepted and Bro. Pecks proposition accepted -

Adjourned for one week -

Attest A.R. Heath Clerk

Whether the church roof was replaced in 1884 remains a question. The next entry in the *Record* announces the annual meeting of the First Universalist Society of Danbury the following October. No mention of the roof is made. Undoubtedly meetings were held during the intervening period; perhaps separate records, no longer existing, were kept during those eleven months.

1884 was an eventful year for the Danbury Universalists. During a seven month period an unexpected change of ministers, funding issues, and an expensive possible building repair challenged the congregation and its leaders. While the times are different today's issues are much the same. How the Society addressed those issues so many years ago can serve as a positive example to Danbury UUs in 2009.

## Theatre Aficionados

by Keith Dupree

**Mark your calendars** - Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 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, look for the posting under UUCD Activities on the sanctuary bulletin board, go to the website [www.theatreworks.us](http://www.theatreworks.us), or call Keith Dupree.

Theatre Aficionados is a very informal gathering of people who enjoy seeing local theater together. We convene at the theater when the doors open at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

## From Team Green

by Donna Lawrence

[goodsearch.com](http://goodsearch.com)

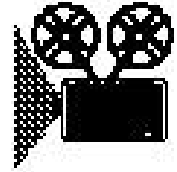
A search engine which donates 50% of its revenue to the charities and schools designated by its users? Does it sound too good to be true? Well, it's true! Team Green member, **Karen Romanelli**, alerted us to this.

Just click on the website [goodsearch.com](http://goodsearch.com) to find out more information. To quote from their "about us" page. "GoodSearch is a search engine which donates 50% of its revenue to the charities and schools designated by its users. It's a simple and compelling concept. You use GoodSearch exactly as you would any other search engine. Because it's powered by Yahoo!, you get proven search results. The money GoodSearch donates to your cause comes from its advertisers -- the users and the organizations do not spend a dime!"



## Movies with a Message – Second Friday Cinema

by Keith Dupree



For this darkest month of the year, we offer four short films each of which may find a comforting place in your memory forever.

- 7:00 p.m. – *The Wake of Calum MacLeod* – A fable set in Nova Scotia’s Cape Breton (8 minutes in Gaelic with subtitles.)
- 7:15 p.m. – *Shadow Ball* – A black team, a white boy, a moment in 1945, reminding us that a special experience, no matter how brief, can change a lifetime (12 minutes in English.)
- 7:35 p.m. – *Tocar Y Luchar* – We usually avoid documentaries, but this film is compelling: The story of a children’s program that taught a nation to hope (70 minutes in English and Spanish with subtitles.)
- 8:50 p.m. – *The Gift: Episode I* – Part I of a Scott Cervine trilogy. Like a Saturday matinee serial, episodes II and III will follow. Star Trek fans will love the opening. (10 minutes in English.)

For more information on these films, check the posting on the sanctuary bulletin board under UUCD Activities. 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, December 11, 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.

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### 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:

**December 10: Biography** Facilitator: Doris Henderson. Source: *The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life and Legacy of Frances 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 American 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.

### 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 Panthean 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.

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

December 6, 2009. **The Hopes and Fears of All the Years.** This time of year, many UUs turn to wondering, “Who is Jesus for us today?” Understanding his historical context is unlikely to answer the question completely – but it might give us some clues. Service led by Interim Minister Sue Spencer.

December 13, 2009. **Hanukkah: Festival of Freedom.** This year, Human Rights Day (a fixed observance) falls on December 10, while Hanukkah (a moveable one) begins at sundown the next day. Given this convergence, it seems a good time to celebrate the connections between human rights and this Jewish festival of liberation. Service led by Interim Minister Sue Spencer.

December 20, 2009. **Wintry Spirituality.** As the Solstice approaches, we peer into winter, anticipating two or three months of cold, snow, and ice. At the same time, we look forward to the turning, with the days once again beginning to lengthen. This Sunday, on the eve of Solstice, let’s consider its spiritual dimensions in reading, reflection, and song. Service led by Interim Minister Sue Spencer.

### Two Christmas Eve Services at 5:30 and 7:00 p.m.

December 24, 2008. **A Holy Night.** Join DRE Mary Collins and Interim Minister Sue Spencer to celebrate this holy night, celebrating the birth of Jesus, and honoring the sacredness of all children. The 5:30 service will be shaped more for children, the 7:00 for adults – but all are welcome at either service.

### One Service at 10:00 a.m.

December 27, 2009. **Leftover Turkey.** Are you feeling a little “down” now that the major holidays of Christmas and Thanksgiving have been completed? If so, Rabbi Emeritus Jon Haddon, the spiritual leader of Temple Shearith Israel of Ridgefield for the past 21 years, has the perfect prescription for uplifting your spirits! His sermon will provide numerous strategies for "picking up the pieces" of our lives when the elation of the holidays has passed and we are prepare ourselves for a return to the mundane. Service led by Rabbi Emeritus Jon Haddon.



Unitarian Universalist  
 Congregation of Danbury  
 24 Clapboard Ridge Road  
 Danbury, CT 06811

# December 2009

December 2009

January 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
	December 1 10:00am Knitting Ministry (2 Conf) 6:00pm Yoga (FH)	2 11:00am Transition Team (Conf) 6:00pm Vespers Service (FH) 7:00pm Sunday Serv. Comm (Conf)	3 6:30pm DRE Relations (2 Conf)	4 4:00pm Boutique Set-Up (FH)	5 9:00am Men's Breakfast 10:00am Winter Boutique (FH) 10:30am S Kimball's Chalice
7	8 10:00am Cluster Mtg (FH) 6:00pm Yoga (FH) 7:30pm Social Action Comm (Conf)	9 6:00pm Vespers Service (FH) 7:00pm Board of Trustees (Conf)	10 7:00pm Theatre Afficionados (NM) 7:00pm RE Comm (2 Conf) 7:30pm Book Grp (Conf)	11 Comment Deadline 7:00pm Movies w/a Msg (Conf)	12 9:00am Women's Breakfast
14	15 10:00am Knitting Ministry (2 Conf) 6:00pm Yoga (FH)	16 4:00pm B Myers Chalice Circle (Conf) 6:00pm Vespers Service (FH)	17	18 Sunday Services 12:30pm Tree Trimming (FH) 12:30pm Membership Comm	19 9:00am Men's Breakfast 5:30pm Round Robin (Roscoe's)
21	22 10:00am Caring Comm (Conf) 6:00pm Yoga (FH)	23 Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25 Office Closed	26 9:00am Women's Breakfast
28	29 6:00pm Yoga (FH) Office Closed	30 Office Closed	31		27 1 Service @ 10:00 11:30am Seasons Brunch (FH)

Shaded Events are off-site