



unitarian universalist
CONGREGATION OF DANBURY

COMMENT

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

FEBRUARY 2010

For the Time Being

Notes from your Interim Minister

In *Winnie the Pooh*, Pooh and Piglet take a walk on a golden evening. For a long time they walk in thoughtful silence.

Finally, Piglet breaks the silence. He asks, “When you wake up in the morning, Pooh, what’s the first thing you say to yourself?”

“What’s for breakfast?” says Pooh. And then, “And what do you say, Piglet?”

Piglet replies, “I say, I wonder what’s going to happen exciting *today*?”

Commenting on this interchange, consultant Robert Dale writes, “What we expect from life is usually what we get... Small expectations yield meager results. A congregation can choose a ‘breakfast dream’ or an ‘excitement dream.’

* * * * *

Congregational dreams are ultimately connected to the Annual Canvass. A congregation that’s timid about raising money will likely be confined to the realm of “breakfast dreams,” like those of dear Winnie the Pooh. Such a congregation’s “excitement dreams,” if it has any, will wither on the vine.

A breakfast dream is a survival dream, one of self-preservation – and thus barely a dream at all. A breakfast dream limits itself to questions like these: How are we going to pay the bills? What will we do about the leaky roof? How can we keep burglars from breaking in? It’s not that these are trivial questions; it’s important to pay attention to them. But if they’re the *only* questions a congregation ever asks, congregational vitality is dead in the water.

“Excitement dreams” are about ministry and mission. They extend Piglet’s question even beyond “What’s going to happen exciting *today*?” to “What exciting things can we *make* happen?”

Excitement dreams involve answering questions like these: What unique gifts does Unitarian Universalism bring to this area? What “good news,” what saving message, do we offer? How will we reach out to the lonely, the brokenhearted, and those seeking meaning for their lives? How will we share our bread with the hungry? How will we open the doors that imprison - in mind, body or spirit – how will we open the doors, and set people free?

This congregation is built on some compelling excitement dreams – dreams that need to be continually renewed. This month, when you consider your financial commitment to UUCD, I invite you to think about *your* excitement dreams for this place – and then make a pledge that will help them come true.

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.

UUCD Cancellation Policy – During very inclement weather, Sunday Services, Religious Education and any other meetings or events will be cancelled. To learn of a cancellation, please check one of the following:

1. Channel 3, WFSB-TV, Hartford, or www.wfsb.com;
2. WLAD 800 AM or WDAQ 98.3 FM Radio
3. News Channel 8, My TV9, WTNH-TV
4. The outgoing message on the church office phone, (203) 798-1994;
5. The UUCD website, www.uudanbury.org.

Deadline for the March Comment -
Friday, February 19.

Membership Committee

The next Membership Committee meeting will be on Sunday, February 14th following coffee hour in the Conference Room.

Don't forget – the new UUCD Directory is online on the Member's Page of our website: www.uudanbury.org.



President's Comment

by Jean N. Bowen, President

There is much to share with you about the progress we are making at UUCD; the long held vision to be present and participate in Danbury has been reached. This month we will report to UUA a growth from 146 in 2008 to 165 for 2009. In addition we have 100 friends and 113 children that are part of our community. This is due to your continued efforts and passion for our principles. In addition, the Board recommends that a Growth Task Force, led by **Susan Shaner**, develop some growth strategies for implementation over the coming year. As we manage to continue to balance our budget, we need to advance our growth, seek a permanent settled minister and review and select a plan for the "Next Level" build-out downstairs. A donor has been identified to help us create an entrance way and new sign; this will take planning and collaboration with the City of Danbury.

The Board has reviewed and adapted goals and objectives over the past 6 months that take the Vision 2020 process to the next step and identify key activities and persons responsible for implementation. I shared these at the Vision 2010 Breakfast and I am happy to share these with you if you are interested. The Fiscal Year 2011 budget planning has begun. Committees are encouraged this year to participate by thinking through what they need for their activities.

The Annual Pledge Drive and Canvass, led by **Ross Fenster** and **Bruce Buzby**, has had a great start and I am hopeful that you are able to support the priorities and give 10 – 15% more than you gave last year. I understand that this is a substantial gift and commitment for you to make. Give because you are able, give because you can make a difference and give because as a community we have accomplishments to be proud of and new opportunities for 2010.

**A Congregational Vote on the By-laws Revision
will take place on
Sunday, February 7th, at 12:45 p.m.
in Fellowship Hall.**

Heirloom Seedling Project

This spring, we will be embarking on a new fundraiser: we will be using the space in the lower level to raise heirloom tomato seedlings. We will sell the seedlings to the public in May. We have some supplies, but to make this project successful, other supplies would be helpful.

If you have any of the following that you could donate, please call or email

Barbara Myers:

- 4' fluorescent light fixtures
- 4' fluorescent light bulbs
- chain to hang the fixtures
- tables (to loan)



New Members 2009

During our Thanksgiving service last November, UUCD welcomed twenty people as new members. Here are short biographies of some of our newest members; we will publish others as we receive them.

Inge Hill was born and raised in Denmark, and came to the US in 1957. Until a year ago, she lived mostly in Washington DC. Last year, she moved with her husband, Bob Tourangeau, to Carmel NY, to be closer to her daughter Karen and her husband in Brewster. Inge also has two other children and two wonderful grandchildren. Her last job before retirement two years ago was as the administrator for Washington Ethical Society, where she also served as a wedding officiant. Her passions are animals, nature, and whatever artwork comes her way.

Joel Romanelli is from Long Island, but will be from Portland, OR in a year and a half. He writes, "I've referred to myself as a born again Unitarian. We were married Unitarian and belonged to a congregation in North Carolina for a while, left, and have come full circle back to the UU's after 25 or so years with the Episcopalians. And we've never felt so welcomed as we feel here." Joe is a soon-to-be-retired librarian, but what he really likes to do is sing and read.

Karen Romanelli became a member of the UUCD last January. "Upon reflection," she says, I believe I have been working toward becoming a UU for the last 25 years as an Episcopalian. I just didn't recognize it. I am so happy to have found this congregation and only regret not having found it sooner." Karen has been drawn to the Green Team, the Garden Committee, and the Women's Retreat Planning Group, and continues to come because of the emphasis put on inclusiveness in this congregation.

Donna Roscoe is a Connecticut native with a lifelong love for the outdoors. Her dream was to be a forest ranger, and after a maze of careers starting in the 6th grade with paperboy to Travel Agent through Office Manager, she is finally getting nearer her goal by being an Outdoor Educator for the Discovery Center at Ridgefield. "Of course I don't get paid for it," she says, "but it sure is fun."

Donna's daughter Nyssa wrote this about her mom: "Donna Roscoe is an avid wildlife enthusiast and naturalist. She never met a wildflower she didn't try to identify. Every family vacation requires an extra bag just for identification books. On one such vacation, she met another fellow nature enthusiast. They went on a two hour scheduled nature hike together. Three hours later they had only gone 100 yards. What was so interesting about the hike - mushrooms. Imagine how long it would have taken if they looked at fungus too."

Shawn Sweeney is a native of Elyria, Ohio (30 miles west of Cleveland) and arrived in Danbury two years ago to begin a fellowship with the Jane Goodall Institute. Today he continues his work with the Institute as a program coordinator for "Roots & Shoots," its environmental and humanitarian youth program. Shawn graduated from the College of Wooster in 2006 with a degree in Psychology, and is continuing his studies with the Institute for Humane Education pursuing a Masters of Education degree in Humane Education. Though Shawn joined UUCD in May of 2009, he feels as though he was a member the moment he stepped through the door in February. What he appreciates most about the UUCD is that he can be a part of a community full of integrity, and genuine interest in spiritual exploration and discovery, while attending to the needs of the community and the world at large. Apart from his activities with promotions for UUCD, the Green Team, and the Sow Green Community Garden, Shawn enjoys Vegan cooking and baking, hiking, and reading about animals, conservation and nutrition/health. He welcomes connections with all members of UUCD, and can best be reached via email.

Canvass Corner

By Ross Fenster and Bruce Buzby, Canvass Co-Chairs

Canvass packets were mailed on January 4th. Now that we've all received our Canvass packets it will be immensely appreciated if you'd fill out your pledge card and send it back in the stamped, addressed envelope included in the packet very quickly. Our Board of Trustees needs to project our revenue accurately so effective budgeting for the congregational year beginning in July is done on a timely basis. We are off to a very good start. Thank you for your generous spirits if you've already pledged. **Through January 20th we've received 38 pledges totaling \$62,216.00.** If you've misplaced your pledge card or need to discuss any other facet of the Canvass please feel comfortable contacting either of our Canvass Co-Chairs, **Ross Fenster** or **Bruce Buzby**.

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

The summary statistics for September, October, November and December are recorded below.

	September	October	November	December
% Annual Canvass pledge return	30.57%	36.41%	44.05%	56.68%
Operating Income Year-to-date	\$62,853	\$75,567	\$ 92,240	\$121,924
Operating Expenses Year-to-date	\$54,223	\$70,858	\$ 88,868	\$115,637
Operating Income – Expense YTD	\$ 8,630	\$ 4,709	\$ 3,372	\$ 6,287
Unrestricted Funds	\$ 3,971	\$ 48	\$ -1,074	\$ 4,199

Analysis for December:

The December pledge returns (12.63%) reached the cumulative level (56.68%) somewhat above the average in past years. Over the last 7 years the average and maximum pledge returns to date were 53.52% & 63.09% respectively. Thank you for your earlier payments especially the Supplementary Pledges.

Our projection model shows that the Year-to-date Operating Income is 2.2% below the expected level of \$124,682 and the Operating Expense is 2% below its expected level of \$117,909. In addition the Operating Income is running significantly ahead of the Operation Expenses giving UUCD a cushion of \$6,287. These results give the Unrestricted reserves (\$4199) some breathing room.

Looking forward to January and February we traditionally have Operating Income fall below Operating Expense by about \$4,000 each month. Our Unrestricted reserves are enough to support this imbalance in January but not February. Any early pledge payments will be much appreciated. The Unrestricted reserves are expected to return to the plus category in March when the income from the Auction is realized.

The finance persons, among others, wishes to thank the congregation for their generous support during this past summer and fall.

Bruce Buzby, Finance Committee Chair
Marie Dupree, Treasurer



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

Here's a snapshot of February Religious Education programming:

General Topics for the groups in February

Children's Chapel on Valentine's Day/President's Day weekend - we will begin a quilt making project called "Blankets of Love" and hear a story "Love Dogs" from Rumi. (Blankets of Love are for babies and young children at Uwe Koepke's newly opened clinic in Danbury.)

For 9:00 a.m.

Pre-school-1st Grade: Will continue with the Gift of Families (and a story about Kindness plus Chinese New Year traditions, The Gift of Mutual Caring we find with animals (responsibility, affection, loyalty). Possible visit from a guide dog, story of St. Francis and the Wolf.

2nd-3rd Grade: "Do Unto Others..." The Good Samaritan story (from Hebrew and Christian sources), and generosity, an adapted historic Islamic Tale "The Better Offer."

4th-5th Grade: Talmudic story of the Two Brothers, Courage & Conviction (illustrated by the story of Eliza Tupper Wilkes, a Universalist circuit rider in the mid 1800's.)

For 11:00 a.m.

"Come Sing A Song With Me" (5th grade & under)– We will sing songs and hear stories: about The Gift of Love, All You Need is Love (and a story from Lao Tsu) and All God's Critter's Got a Place in the Choir, Under One Sky and learn about the Islamic celebration (2/26) of the Prophet's Birthday, Jewish music for Purim.

6th-8th Graders

Junior High Youth Group will join the Children Chapel to help make quilts on **2nd Sunday of the month - February 14th.**

Neighboring Faiths sessions are scheduled for the rest of February. Please check with leader *John Miglietta* for more information.

9th-12th Graders

Senior High Youth group:

- Expected to meet in February. They are using *Facebook* to communicate dates and for other communications now (for more information contact **Chansoda Roemun**). Youth please check out the metro NY district webpage for youth activities and a link to register for them www.uumetrony.org (Events, Summary Events for youth) if you wish to participate.

FAMILIES You can always check our web-site www.uudanbury.org, which is updated by Friday afternoon for the Weekend's planned activities.

SPECIAL DATES:

Thursday, February 11th - RE Committee Meeting* from 7:00-9:00 pm.

* We highly encourage parents and new RE Committee participants to join in.. Following up from last month's meeting, we will refine our discussion about our programming for next year. We will have report backs about certain curricula options and we will discuss possible changes to *Coming of Age* program. LET the DRE KNOW if you wish to participate.

Search Committee Corner

by Charles Stark

To borrow a phrase from the world of sports, IT'S CRUNCH TIME! Your Search Committee is making the final turn and heading for the home stretch.

As has been mentioned by Jean Bowen and Reverend Sue, in response to our Congregational Record and Information Packet, we received 21 applications from UU ministers in search. (By the way, if you haven't seen our Information Packet it is still up on the UU Danbury website- have a look.) After thoroughly reviewing each minister's Ministerial Record we requested packets from roughly half the applicants. After reviewing these we narrowed the search again by roughly half.

So here we are. As I write this, we are conducting telephone interviews via conference calls between a minister and the whole Committee. The next step, which will be complete by the time you read this, is to narrow the field to three or four "pre-candidates." Each of these "pre-candidates" will come to our area for a weekend to meet personally with the Committee. They will be thoroughly interviewed and their references checked. Each minister will preach at a "neutral pulpit" where all Committee members will sit in the pews and observe.

Finally, as a result of the entire process, the Committee will select one candidate. But the process doesn't end quite yet. The negotiating team will sit down with the minister to iron out the terms of the agreement. Once that has been agreed to by both sides we can present the candidate to the congregation.

A reminder: 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 at the UUCD 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 to the fullest extent 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 or attributes of any prospective candidates, we are committed to keeping the congregation informed of our progress. Continue to look for our Search Committee Corner in *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.**



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. February dates are the 6th and 20th. 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**. February dates are the 13th and 27th.

Right to Flourish
is starting a new topic on
Long Distance Caregiving.

We wish to:

- hear your stories
- acknowledge your experience
- open discussion
- supply information as we are able

No matter what stage of life you are in, please contact Meredith Spector to offer your comments and suggestions. We need our community!



Vegetables at UUCD next Summer

The UUCD Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program returns after a successful debut in 2009. For twenty weeks running from mid-June through the end of October, fresh organically grown vegetables will be brought in each Sunday morning from the Stone Wall Farm in Cornwall Bridge, CT. Both “full” and “half” shares are available, supplying enough vegetables throughout the season for a typical family of four or couple, at a cost of \$525 and \$300, respectively. Shares are limited, so please reserve early. Contact **Ben Roberts** for more information.

The **HomeFront program** is heading into its 23rd season of organizing volunteers to keep low-income neighbors in their homes by organizing volunteers to complete quality of life repairs at no cost to them. Over the years, volunteers through HomeFront have revitalized more than 2,400 homes in need. In this current economic climate, HomeFront reports an increase in requests across the Greater Danbury area and throughout the municipalities served by the program. More volunteers will be critical in this challenging time. This year’s official volunteer HomeFront Day is Saturday, May 1st, 2010. Participants with or without home repair skill can help to make a difference. Please contact **Max Schmitt** if you would be interested in rolling up your sleeves to help a less fortunate neighbor.

Next Level Committee Update

by Pamela Mitchell, Chair

As you've heard in various recent reports from Sue Spencer and Jean Bowen, the Next Level Committee is working on plans for building out the lower level of the Fellowship Hall for near-term (hopefully before June, 2011) use. We have an enthusiastic and talented team of folks using their analytic and creative thinking caps to come up with alternatives that will be presented to the congregation later this year. To date we have:

- Researched the potential options for use of the space, based on market and legal parameters;
- Focused on three potential scenarios for developing the space: build-out for UUCD internal use only; build-out for UUCD use + rental to a 3rd party daycare; build-out for UUCD use + UUCD-run daycare.
- Developed three potential designs for the space: basic/open space; flexibly-partitioned space; fixed-wall design.

Current work in process: a) identifying architect to create plans which can be used for costing of alternative build-out designs; b) Financial analysis of potential expenses and income related to potential scenarios; c) creating calendar & communication plan for updating the congregation.

Our current members are: **Gale Alexander, Jon Dupree, Bill McWilliams, Jean Renjilian, Ben Roberts, Charlie Schott, and Jeff Shaffer**. If you are interested in participating on the team, please contact me. If you'd just like to hear what we're up to or share an idea, please chat with any member of the team at coffee or drop me a line. Stay tuned for more exciting updates soon.

UUCD Street Team

In an effort to grow our profile within the greater Danbury community, the UUCD is working on new ways of promoting our events and programs. One of these new ways is through the **UUCD Street Team**. We all know that we pay more attention to things that our friends and families do, so the best way to get people involved in our Congregation is through *word of mouth* or in our case word of pen, keyboard and foot too! So if you're passionate about our congregation, and have a big mouth, or are swift with a pen, keyboard or out on the streets, consider joining the UUCD Street Team!

Here's what members of the Street Team do to promote the UUCD:

- Pass on announcements and invitations via email
- Send paper invitations via snail mail
- Post flyers at local business and retailers
- Talk to everyone they meet

We'll let you know when there's something really important going on, and of course Street Team Members are always encouraged to promote what they see going on at the UUCD. If you're interested, or have any questions, send an email to Shawn Sweeney with **UUCD Street Team** in the subject of your email.

A Valentine from your Community Minister
and the poet Susan Polis Schutz

“Love Is...

Love is

trying not to hurt the other person
trying not to change the other person
trying not to dominate the other person
trying not to deceive the other person

Love is

understanding each other
listening to each other
supporting each other
having fun with each other

Love is

not an excuse to stop growing
not an excuse to stop making yourself better
not an excuse to lessen ones' goals
not an excuse to take the other person for granted

Love is

being completely honest with each other
finding dreams to share
working toward common goals
sharing responsibilities equally

Everyone in the world wants to love.
Love is not a feeling to be taken lightly.
Love is a feeling to be cherished,
nurtured, and cared for

Love Is...”

Rev. Peggy Block

Dear UU's,

I hope you are as excited as I am to welcome Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) Executive Director Bruce Knotts to speak to our congregation on February 28th! Bruce's topic will be "Faith to Change the World." He will be speaking about LGBT advocacy, disarmament, women's empowerment, and other programs at the UU-UNO.

Jean Hislop and myself are both lucky enough to have met Bruce Knotts in person, along with his wonderful husband Isaac Humphries, and so we know the extent of our good fortune. But for those of you who have not met Bruce, here's how he looks on paper:

Bruce Knotts earned a Bachelor's degree in history at Pepperdine University, and then attended the Monterey International Institute of International Relations for a Master's degree. In 1984, Bruce was invited to become an American diplomat with the Department of State. He served as a diplomat in Greece, Zambia, India, Pakistan, Kenya, Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire, and the Gambia. He also went on shorter missions in a variety of other countries. After retiring in 2007, he became the Director of the Literacy Council of Prince George's County. Bruce is also the Public Policy Co-Chair on the Board of Directors of the Maryland Association of Adult Community and Continuing Education. He has served on a Grants Evaluation Committee for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and also addressed the MSDE advisory board on successes at the Literacy Council.

His love of languages led him to study Greek, Spanish, Arabic, Urdu, German, Amharic and French. He also found himself drawn to studying a multitude of religious systems, until he came upon the All Souls Unitarian Church in Washington, DC. Bruce began his position at the UU-UNO as Executive Director on January 1st, 2008.

And to go along with all this fancy stuff, Bruce is also an approachable and pleasant person to be around. I look forward to hearing him speak, and hope to see you all there!

Warmest regards from your friendly neighborhood UU Envoy,
Veronica Swain

Housatonic Habitat for Humanity plans to renovate two 3-bedroom homes in Danbury. Please join us for an Informational Meeting for Prospective First-Time Homeowners at St. James' Episcopal Church, 25 West Street, Danbury, on Tuesday, February 2nd or Thursday, February 4th at 7:00 p.m. or Saturday, February 6th at 1:00 p.m. Applicant families will need an annual household income between \$35,000 - \$60,000.

On behalf of **Harambee Center for Youth and Community Services**, I want to thank you for your generous donation. Your donation is a blessing to those who have so little and we thank you for that. Because of your support, we are able to continue to provide important programs and services for the youth of our center. Your generosity brings hope and a sense of community.

Thank you,
Elke Calero Probst Sweeney,
MSW
Program Specialist

Dear Friends,

We are deeply grateful for your contributions to the UUA as part of the 3rd Annual Association Sunday. Your participation in this event is an inspirational reminder that collectively our faith is stronger and our hearts are open to sharing it with others.

Your gift of \$213.50 will help us to strengthen our welcoming and inviting spiritual communities to ALL people.

In faith,
Rev. Terry Sweetser
Stewardship & Development

Soup Kitchen Corner

by Lynn Taborsak, Coordinator



Neither Wind Nor Rain Nor Sleet Nor Snow will keep our UUCD Soup Kitchen volunteers from their appointed meals!

Winter is here to stay with bitter cold temperatures for the Danbury area. That is why our warm hospitality and generous hearts are so needed by the guests that frequent Dorothy Day Hospitality House on Spring Street. This month Soup Kitchen Team #4 will prepare the meal on Saturday, February 6th.

Team #4 is lead by **Lisa Austin-Smith** and **Debbie Musumeci** and includes: **Randy and Tucker Smith, Joanne Davidson, Cathie Billings, Jane Leff, Darrin and Haley Perlow, Jan Galloway, Val Cochrane, and Nancy Hershatter**. If you unable 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 and alternate list from our website at uudanbury.org.

If you would like to help stamp out hunger in our community, you can still volunteer to 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.



UUCD Conversations (formerly the Nonfiction Book Discussion Group)

UUCD Conversations meets on the second Thursday of each month from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. All are welcome. Please contact **Bruce Buzby** if you have any questions. The schedule for February and March 2010 is:

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.

March 11: One Man's Mission Facilitator: Ben Roberts. Source: *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time* by Greg Mortenson and David Relin, 2006, 331 pages, \$9.00. As the book moves into the post-9/11 world, Mortenson and Relin argue that the United States must fight Islamic extremism in the region through collaborative efforts to alleviate poverty and improve access to education, especially for girls. Captivating and suspenseful, with engrossing accounts of both hostilities and unlikely friendships, this book will win many readers' hearts.

Movies with a Message – Second Friday Cinema

by Keith Dupree



What does one do when life is not the way you would like it to be? Our short film and our feature this month introduce two individuals who find their life situations are in conflict with their intuition.

7:00 p.m. – *Charlie Thistle* – In a futuristic world, Charlie works in the Department of Normality. After 20 years, he wonders: Is this all there is?

7:25 p.m. – *Ocean of Pearls* – Set in Toronto and Detroit, Dr. Amrit Singh struggles with the tension between his Sikh identity and his promising career, giving us an intimate glimpse into another culture while telling the universal story of one’s search for meaning and worth.

For those who can stay, our evening will conclude with the final film of a trilogy by Scott Cervine.

9:15 PM – *The Gift: Episode III* – (16 minutes)

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, February 12, at 7:00 p.m.** in the UUCD conference room. As usual, all are welcome. Pizza is provided, bring your own beverage. Popcorn optional!

Contributions will be gratefully accepted, all of which will go to the UUCD to encourage continuation of UUCD programs.

(For more information on these films and on our film series, check the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, look under “UUCD Events” or visit *SpiritualCinemaCircle.com*.)

Theatre Aficionados

by Keith Dupree

Mark your calendars: Thursday, March 4th, is the next “Pay What You Want Night” at Theatreworks, New Milford. The evening’s performance is *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, music and lyrics by William Finn.

For more information, look for the posting under UUCD Activities on the sanctuary bulletin board, 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. We convene at the theater when the doors open at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

February 2010

February 2010							March 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28							28	29	30	31			

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
February 1	2	3	4	5	6
	10:00am Knitting Ministry (2 Conf) 5:00pm DRE Rel (2 Conf) 6:00pm Yoga (FH)	10:30am Transition Team (Conf) 7:00pm Sunday Serv. Comm (Conf)	7:15pm Next Level Grp (Conf)		9:00am Men's Breakfast 10:30am S Kimball's Chalice Circle (2 Conf)
8	9	10	11	12	13
7:00pm A Krieg's Chalice Circle (Yth)	10:00am Cluster Mtg (FH) 6:00pm Yoga (FH) 7:30pm Social Action Comm (Conf)	7:00pm Board of Trustees (Conf)	7:00pm RE Comm (2 Conf) 7:30pm Book Grp (Conf)	7:00pm Movies w/a Msg (Conf)	9:00am Women's Breakfast
15	16	17	18	19	20
	10:00am Knitting Ministry (2 Conf) 6:00pm Yoga (FH)	4:00pm B Myers Chalice Circle (Conf)		Comment Deadline	9:00am Men's Breakfast
22	23	24	25	26	27
	10:00am Caring Comm (Conf) 6:00pm Yoga (FH)		7:30pm Search Comm (Conf)		9:00am Women's Breakfast
					28
					Sunday Services

Shaded Events are off-site

1

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

February 7, 2010: **Surviving the Loss of a Love.** We all know the experience of loss – a friend, a lover, a family member, a pet. Much good, practical advice is out there to help us cope day to day. But what *spiritual* resources might we draw on? Service led by Interim Minister Sue Spencer.

February 14, 2010. **Reimagining Valentine’s Day.** Love is about more than romance, greeting cards, and chocolates. On National Standing on the Side of Love Day, we celebrate love’s power to transform communities! Today’s service, led by Interim Minister Sue Spencer and members of the Social Action Committee, introduces the “Standing on the Side of Love” campaign to UUCD.

February 21, 2010. **What Does the Bible Really Say about Same Sex Love?** People who oppose same-sex marriage, or who wish to justify the oppression of gay men and lesbians, routinely turn to the Bible. But what support is there in the Bible for such discrimination? Maybe less than we think. Service led by Interim Minister Sue Spencer.

February 28, 2010. **Women’s Rights Worldwide: a Perspective.** Join us for worship and the exercise of our UU principles. Our Social Action Committee and our new UUCD Envoy to the UU-United Nations Office, Veronica Swain, present a program centered on women’s rights. Bruce Knotts, Executive Director of the UU-UNO Office, will challenge us in a talk centered on the treatment of women in diverse lands. You won’t want to miss hearing and meeting Mr. Knotts, an active UU with All Souls Church in Washington D.C., and a retired Foreign Service officer with broad global experience.