



**F**IRST  
**U**NITARIAN  
**S**OCIETY OF  
**P**LAINFIELD



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Established 1889 (Unitarian-Universalist)

September 2009

## UPCOMING SERVICES

**Sept. 6 — Andy Garcia Phillips & Ralph Braskett**

### JOURNALISM AND CORRUPTION

An application of Andy's July 12 service to the latest major state scandal. The critical role played by newspapers in explaining the complex nature of the scandal. A discussion of the underlying causes that insure repeats of this scandal unless changes are made.

**Sept. 13— Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks**

### BEGINNING, BELONGING, BUILDING

As we begin this new and exciting journey together, we will explore what it means to belong to this congregation and to this religious faith. What shall we build for ourselves and the future? This theme of belonging and building will be visited throughout the year in several ways including future sermons, an exploration of spiritual practice, multi-generational experiences and religious education. The children will join us for the first part of the service.

**Sept. 20 – Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks**

### IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN?

The United Nations International Day of Peace is celebrated each September 21. This service will explore peace as a practice and as a practical reality. This morning we dedicate, and show our appreciation to, all those who will be teaching in the religious education program this year.

**Sept. 27 – Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks**

### LETTING GO

Using the Jewish observance of the Days of Awe as a starting point, we will explore the process of forgiveness. Is it, like J.K. Rowling says, easier to forgive someone who is wrong than it is someone who is right?

### ART IN THE SANCTUARY

**THE WEDNESDAY GROUP SHOW**—The FUSP art group meets on Wed. nights to learn, play and create art. This is a sampling of the works we have made. Now you can see what we've been up to and why it always sounds like we are having too much fun for a FUSP evening meeting. You may even be inspired to join us. Prices for work can be found in the entry alcove. Aug. 30 through Oct. 11. Meet the artists. Join us for an opening in the sanctuary on Aug. 30 after the service. Refreshments will be served.

Since candidating with you in early June, and accepting your call, I have been very excited to get started working with and serving you. I have thought a lot this summer about what it means to be a minister in an urban setting, a minister in a historical building, and a minister to a congregation that wants to grow and connect with the community. I have thought about the things you told me when we met in June about developing a deeper sense of community and a deeper understanding of who we are as Unitarian Universalists and of our spiritual lives. All of this has me only a little daunted but more than that, excited, energized and happily challenged.

Given all of this thinking and excitement, there are two things I want to share with you about our work together as we begin this journey. First, is that the work of our congregation is not simply my work or your work. This work is not the Board's, or the work solely of the staff. It is our work. We are now partners in nurturing the community we are and creating the community we want to be as we grow and expand our ministries. This is no easy task to look at who we are and see what changes we might need to make. It is not easy to forge a new path and invite others to walk that path together. However, now is the time for us to take a look at who we are and where we want to go. And it is time for each of us to look inside our hearts and see how we will contribute to this wild and wonderful adventure.

In this vein, I am proposing a theme for the year: "Beginning, Belonging, Building." Throughout the year, through services on Sunday morning, lifespan religious education, programs and other opportunities, we will explore this theme together. We will create opportunities for us to get to know each other as we begin our journey together. We will talk about and explore in a deep way what it means to belong to a congregation and what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. Finally, we begin to take a look at our dreams for building our future together.

This theme comes with a symbol, that of the labyrinth. The labyrinth has a beginning and then it winds around this way and that helping the person walking through the labyrinth see different views and perspective. Yet, each reflective and meditative step takes us deeper to our center. Like our own journey, the labyrinth shows a path with many turns and yet slowly guides us to our destination. *Continued on page 3*

# WORSHIP MINISTRY

## BEYOND THE PULPIT — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

If you have been around awhile I invite you to roll up your sleeves and make sure your shoes are tied as we begin this exciting and wonderful journey. If you haven't been to worship in awhile or you strayed away from FUSP, I invite you to come back. If you are a newer member or guest in our congregation, please do stick around! Our journey begins, together, with our first step, right now!

### OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks will be in the office on Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 10:00 AM until 3:30 PM. She will be working from home on Thursdays and will answer calls & emails. On days when there is an evening meeting at FUSP that she needs to attend, Rev. Tracy may come in later that day. Please note that Rev. Tracy will occasionally be away from the office for meetings and visits during office hours so it is best to call and make an appointment to see her. On Fridays, Rev. Tracy writes her sermons from home. Monday is her day off. In an emergency, the office administrator (M-Th, 9AM-3PM) will be able to reach her & she checks voice mail on days she is not in the office.

These hours are flexible and experimental. Please be patient as Rev. Tracy adjusts her schedule to best fit the needs of FUSP and her travel time. Please feel free to call Rev. Tracy at the office or to e-mail her. The best e-mail to use is [revtsj@fusp.org](mailto:revtsj@fusp.org). She will return your call or answer your e-mail as soon as she can.

### CALLING ALL CONGREGATIONAL MUSICIANS

We'd like to gather a list of congregational musicians (instrumentalists and vocalists) who are interested in playing for minister- or lay-led services in the coming year. We'll coordinate with the Worship and Music Committees to try to match up congregational musicians with services that would like to have special music (as an alternative or to supplement the choir).

For those who are interested, please tell us: What your skills are (vocal or instruments you play), What styles of music you are interested in, How often you'd like to provide music, Whether you can do it on your own or need vocal or instrumental support

With this information in hand, we can take stock and see what we can provide in the way of alternative music at FUSP. You can reply via email or by posting to the Facebook page for "First Unitarian Society of Plainfield". Thanks, John Hawkins

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## **A WARM AND FRIENDLY WELCOME TO ONE AND ALL**

Religious education is a very important and vital part of church community. It is with great enthusiasm that I announce the religious education committee's whole hearted endorsement and commitment to providing a lifespan religious education program. This means there will be more opportunities for adults to engage in learning and exploring their own spiritual journey and identity. The particulars about children and youth programming along with the adult R.E. offerings are provided in the 2009-2010 R.E. Prospectus. Copies of this publication can be found in the pew racks and the R.E. table.

This year I begin my 15th year serving as Director of Religious Education for this congregation. As a professional religious educator I continually find the work stimulating, engaging, and very worthwhile. It is with this in mind that I heartily welcome and look forward to collaborating with the Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks in creating a welcoming and nurturing setting for our children and youth.

Our wonderful volunteers have been diligently planning and preparing for the upcoming year; the religious education committee, teachers, and many others have given time and effort to fashion an environment that encourages both individual and community growth and sustenance. We have a wide range of classes and groups that will offer deeper meaning and greater understandings to your personal and professional lives.

Join us on September 13th as we step into the new year together.

Peace and Love,  
Sue L. Fertig,

Director of Religious Education

### **ATTENTION R.E. PARENTS**

The Religious Education Program requires that a yearly registration form be completed and returned to the R.E. office by September 20th. A copy of this form has been snail mailed to you in a brightly colored envelope. Please list all your children attending the program (even youth) and check off your choice of volunteer opportunities. Remember, this a volunteer program and we count on the efforts of all the parents with children in the program to participate. Thank you for supporting our religious education program.

# LEADERSHIP MINISTRY

## SOMETHING IN THE AIR

Dear Friends and Members, Welcome back! I hope each of you managed to carve out some quality time for yourselves and your families these past few months. Before we turn the page on the summer of '09 and begin to write the next chapter in the annals of FUSP, I've got a few things to share with you; and I will start by offering my sincere thanks to all of you for putting your faith (am I allowed to use that word) in me as president of the Board of Trustees. I, and the rest of the Board, look forward to serving our community with energy and enthusiasm as we embark on the next leg of our journey, in partnership with Reverend Tracy.

We've had a busy summer at FUSP. We've enjoyed two successful, well-attended barbecue fundraisers. The August 18 barbecue came on the heels of a presentation from Historic Building Architects. Annabelle Radcliffe-Trenner shared with us the fruits of the design and development stage of the building restoration plan, including such things as options for the parish hall roof and the alteration of the kitchen to accommodate the proposed chair lift. The next phase includes the preparation of construction documents followed by bidding by qualified contractors. We hope that work will be well underway by November.

At the July Board meeting the Board appointed Karen Hawkins, to fill the vacant Denominational Affairs seat, and appointed Charlie Sweeney to a vacant position on the Committee on Ministry. The Board is pleased to announce that we have renewed the contract with Sue Fertig the RE director, and tickled pink to sign a new contract with Gail Slater as music director. That's right, she's back!

There will be a start-up meeting for the Church Council and Rev. Tracy, on Friday and Saturday September 18 and 19, facilitated by Metro NY District rep. Doug Zelinski. All council members are urged to attend these vital meetings as we start to define and grow in our partnership with our new minister.

Guy Mastroianni, Board President

### YOUR OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Guy Mastroianni
<b>Vice president</b>	Paul Calouri
<b>Finance</b>	Jack Schrum
<b>Secretary</b>	Julie Walsh
<b>RE Trustee</b>	Denise Soppas
<b>Trustees at large:</b>	Larry Patton, JoAnne Macaluso, Angela Goldman, Peter Jones

# LEADERSHIP MINISTRY

## WELCOME TO A BRAND NEW CHURCH YEAR!

The Committee on Ministry extends a warm welcome to our new minister, Tracy Sprowls-Jenks and wishes the Board of Trustees a successful year.

We are here to minister to all FUSP members.

Gloria Deodato, Co-Chair; Jane Gowen, Co-Chair; Elaine Kopreski, Past Chair; Chris Baglieri; Charlie Sweeney; Maureen Erwin

## THE COM

The Committee on Ministry (CoM) is a little-known and often misunderstood group which exists to promote and maintain the overall health of the congregation. We do this by listening, watching, and taking the “pulse” of the congregation, as well as promoting dialogue between members and ministries. A congregation is much like a large family, vulnerable to the conflicts, wounds and hostilities that arise when people live and work together. The COM works informally, and confidentially, to anticipate needs, provide support, and intervene in disputes so that FUSP can continue to be a place of welcome and belonging, each member respected and respecting of others, called to be our best self.

The COM can be contacted through any of it’s members: Elaine Kopreski, Gloria Deodato, Jane Gowen, Nancy Young and Chris Baglieri.

## ANNUAL FUSP AWARDS

FUSP recognized the significant contributions of seven members at our Annual Meeting. **Gerry Heinzer** received the General Award for exceptional contributions over the last year in recognition of his work on restoration of building. **Karin Harris** and **Lois Laning**, the smiling faces offering us coffee on Sunday mornings, were named Our Unsung UU's. **Sue Krisburg** got the Board of Trustee's Award for her dedication to our Principles and support of our work. **Heather Brown** for her dedication to social justice and the environment was awarded the Service to the Greater Community Award. **Grace LaForge** won a special award, the Sophia Lyons Fah's Award for her exceptional and continuing commitment to our youth. Carl Heath, Board Vice President, FY

## **LEADERSHIP MINISTRY**

### **CHANGE IN OFFICE HOURS**

The Board of Trustees has approved a change in the Office Administrator's schedule, granting her Fridays off, in lieu of the raise in salary we have not been able to give her for the past several years.

**From now on Office Hours will be 9:00 - 3:00 Monday through Thursday.**

The deadline for submissions to be included in the Order of Service will be Wednesday morning. This will not result in any less work being done by Louise, just that she will do it in fewer days; it will just give her some much-needed time to schedule personal and medical appointments. She has always been willing to come in early and/or stay late to accommodate emergencies; I'm sure this will not change. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Barabara Van Savage

## **FINANCE MINISTRY**

### **AMAZON.COM SALES GIVE US 5%**

Do you use Amazon.com? If so, click on the Amazon.com icon to the right and the church will receive an award of 5% of sales that come directly from clicking on our link. If you leave the Amazon web site, be sure to click on FUSP's link to get back into it. This is a Real Easy way to grow funds for the church!

### **SUPERMARKET GIFT CARDS HELP FUSP**

Spending big on food to restock after vacation and light summer meals? You can give our church 5% of all your supermarket bills at no additional cost to YOU! How? Pay for that food with Supermarket Cards, which YOU can buy at church every Sunday to use at: Kings, Pathmark, Shoprite, Stop&Shop.

It is so easy: Buy Cards with check or cash at our table in the Parish Hall next to the office after services every Sunday. Think of them as store money useable for all goods sold by the store. We are waiting for you to put your money to work for FUSP.

We have cards in varying denominations; use cards for fixed dollar amounts, like a debit card. Any questions: See us at our table, or call Pat Heath or Ralph Braskett.

# FINANCE MINISTRY

## NEWS FROM THE FUNDRAISING MAVENS

We have had an exciting and eventful summer! Thanks to all who helped with our July and August Churchyard Barbecues! They were a smashing success!

We are looking forward to more great events this fall in keeping with two of the fundraising committee's goals: the fiscal health of our Society and Community Building. In September: Pancake Breakfast, 8 a.m. on September 20th. Join us early for delicious gourmet pancakes and hot coffee in the Parish Hall! In October: Churchyard Barbecue, October 4th after the service. In the works: Do you have a business you would like to advertise to fellow FUSPERS? Business advertising coming soon! See Melissa Logan if interested. Basket Auction: details in October!

We are developing ideas for a vegetarian luncheon fundraiser. If you are interested in helping, contact Melissa Logan. The Social Justice Committee and MTF co-sponsored the July BBQ. Women's Alliance is co-sponsoring a play in the spring. Would your committee like to co-sponsor an event? Contact Julie Walsh or Melissa Logan.

## FROM THE COUNTING HOUSE

First things first, gratitude on a personal level. There have been some changes around the Old Finance Wing here at FUSP. On July 1, 2009, after three years of dedicated service, David VanSavage stepped down from the Treasurer's position. I want to use this time and space to thank him, on behalf of the Society and personally, for his efforts. The man is a dab hand at Excel spreadsheets. He and they will be missed.

So now you're asking yourself "Is the position of Treasurer vacant?" Not at all and that's thanks to newcomer Allan Reading. While he might be a little wet behind the ears I can report that his efforts over the past two months have been first rate and are, I hope, indicators of smooth sailing for years to come in "The Counting House".

By the time you read this, the 2008-2009 Year-End Financial Report should be posted on our website and I encourage you all to take a look. In case you do not have access to it, I can report that we only spent \$229,327 or 93.5% of our budget of \$245,139. While this might seem like great news,

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## FINANCE MINISTRY

### FROM THE COUNTING HOUSE —CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

unfortunately our income was only 92.7% of our budget or \$227,196. This means that for the year, FUSP lost \$2,131. During both a ministerial transition and difficult financial times I feel that such a small loss is really very good news. Furthermore, for last fiscal year there are still some outstanding pledges. These may be received in the coming months, with some gentle reminding, and so the year may still actually turn out to be a positive one, financially speaking.

Since I mentioned pledges I do want to provide some more information about them. Last year we had \$174,544 in pledges. Of that total, \$15,531 remains uncollected. Some of that amount will, no doubt, never be collected. “Why?” In some cases, the pledger moved. In others, unexpected expenses or losses of income prevent members from hitting the goals they have set for themselves. There are also bound to be other reasons that we will never know. “How do we handle these accounts?” Any person who makes a donation this year, who still has an outstanding pledge from last fiscal year, will have it credited against last year’s remaining balance before applying their gift towards this year’s pledge. If that is not the intent of anyone making a donation please let either the Minister or the Finance Chair know and account adjustments will be made to honor any givers wishes.

Topic for next month’s newsletter? “So how are we doing THIS year?”

Jack Schrum, Finance Chair

## SOCIAL JUSTICE AND OUTREACH

### SOCIAL JUSTICE AND OUTREACH MEETING

The Social Justice and Outreach committee will meet on **Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 7:30 in the Steven's Room**. This committee includes chairs of sub committees such as food pantry, Homefirst, holiday dinners, racial justice, welcoming congregation, and UUSC. Other friends and members who are interested in being involved in the justice work of this community are encouraged to attend. **This committee will continue to meet on the fourth Tuesday of every other month this year.**

# SOCIAL JUSTICE AND OUTREACH

## “COME OUT” ON FRIDAY NIGHTS FILM SERIES

TREMBLING BEFORE G-D latches on to a provocative subject -- the heartfelt desire of homosexuals to find a place for themselves in Orthodox Judaism -- and treats it with compelling tenderness. Shot in six countries, this documentary shatters assumptions about faith, sexuality, and religious fundamentalism. Built around intimately-told personal stories of gay and lesbian Hasidic and Orthodox Jews, the film portrays a group of people who face the profound dilemma of how to reconcile their passionate love of Judaism with the drastic Biblical prohibitions that forbid homosexuality. The film profiles a range of complex individuals -- some hidden, some out -- including the world's first openly gay Orthodox rabbi and Orthodox lesbian high-school sweethearts.

Trembling Before G-d is where the Old World meets the New, daring to open dialogue about the meaning of religious identity and tradition in a modern world. For the first time, this issue has become a live, public debate in Orthodox circles, and the film is both witness and catalyst to this historic moment. What emerges is a loving and fearless testament to faith and survival and the universal struggle to belong. **Friday, September 25, 7 PM, Steven's Room.** Popcorn and refreshments provided. Childcare available (call Valerie Mead if needed). Discussion to follow film-viewing.

### HOMEFIRST THANKS YOU!

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the Interfaith Housing project in August with Homefirst. Members and friends prepared space, played host, made dinners, and even spent the night at the church to make our guests feel safe and welcome during the time of their greatest need. Members and friends worked hard to convert the Stevens wing into six bedrooms and common areas for four families and two single women who are homeless and in a program where they are waiting for transitional housing. Thank you to all who donated your time and treasure to make our church home a comfortable and safe place for our fourteen guests. We plan to host families again in February.

Thanks again from the coordinators, Karen Hawkins, Melissa Logan, Heather Brown, and Sue Krisburg.

# **SOCIAL JUSTICE AND OUTREACH**

## **WHY CIVIL UNIONS AREN'T CIVIL**

New Jersey enacted a civil union law in 2006. So why all the clamor for marriage then, if we already have civil unions? According to Lambda Legal Defense, there are more than 1,400 legal rights conferred upon heterosexual couples by the simple act of marriage. Most of these rights are not available to same-sex couples, even to those with civil unions. Civil union laws do provide some legal benefits but they are woefully lacking in their protections, can be easily contested in court, exist in only a handful of states, are not recognized beyond state borders, and provide couples with NO federal protections.

Civil unions and marriage are far from being equal. With the denial of gay marriage, lesbian and gay couples are kept from much more than a ceremony and marriage certificate. Creating equal access to marriage is the only equitable way to ensure equality and Garden State Equality has been at the forefront of this drive in New Jersey. Passage of a marriage equality statute is at a crucial time in the state. Despite the support of Governor Corzine, a state Review Commission, and the majority of New Jersey residents, marriage equality has yet to be enacted. The upcoming November elections, especially that of Governor, can greatly affect this issue.

For more information or to get involved FUSP members can attend Welcoming Congregation meetings (see Pat Heath for details) and events, or contact Garden State Equality at (973) 473-5428 or [www.gardenstateequality.org](http://www.gardenstateequality.org). And stay tuned this fall for a Sunday service and phone bank to address this timely issue. Become involved! Become an ally!

Valerie Mead

## **HELP WANTED**

Members of the Green Sanctuary Committee are needed. The Green Sanctuary committee meets every other month. Its goals are to help the committees of this society set goals toward becoming more environmentally sustainable in their practices, and to educate and support members of the society in making lifestyle choices that are good for the environment. New members are needed to do this work since the old chair is stepping down next year. If you have an interest in this work please contact Heather Brown.

# THE GREEN CORNER

## **ONCE IN A LIFETIME — By Peter Sawtell of Eco-Justice Ministries**

The modern era of remarkably cheap and easy transportation has provided us with a wonderful opportunity to travel widely. For me, personally, and for many people that I've talked to, experiences of other cultures, other habitats and historical sites are among the great joys of life. Travel is enlightening and broadening. It makes us better people by expanding our horizons and challenging our preconceptions.

For those of us who live in the United States, some far-flung travel may be especially important. Our exposure to the rest of the world is very sparse and biased. When the news we receive is so oblivious to other countries, and when we assume that "the American way of life" is the global norm, we may need to walk the streets of Mumbai, Hong Kong or Cairo to experience a totally different world. Our awareness and appreciation of complex ecological systems is so sketchy that a visit the Amazon, the Great Barrier Reef, or the Kalahari may be needed to break open our eyes and our spirits. That sort of travel is enriching and life-changing.

While travel can be wonderful for those who do it, it is not wonderful for the planet. Every trip that enhances the tourist degrades the Earth community with additional greenhouse gasses and depleted fossil fuels. It looks like a no-win trade-off: "Pick one or the other -- live your life fully, or care for creation." Put in those terms, the personal benefits of travel are dramatic, and the global effects are diffuse. No wonder most people -- when given the option -- chose vacations instead of "stay-cations."

Not all travel is profoundly broadening. Flying to Cancun to stay in a luxury hotel to sunbathe on a beach doesn't do much to build solidarity with the people and habitats of the Yucatan Peninsula. A few days in Las Vegas may be great fun, but being steeped in that culture of excess is not much of a justification for the trip's environmental impacts.

Yes, travel to far-away places can be a profound, enriching, life-changing experience. But let's be honest that the number of miles traveled is not directly related to the quality of the experience. Lots of frequent-flier miles does not ensure your growth as a person.

This is where I think of the Islamic "pillar" of the Hajj, a pilgrimage to Mecca. Each devout Muslim, at least once in their life, is expected to make a pilgrimage to Mecca. Going to the holy sites that provide the bedrock of the faith, participating in rituals that evoke the central events of Islam, is an obligation for all followers of Islamic practice. The Hajj seems easy today. But think back 100 or 1,000 years. In a time when most people never traveled more than a few miles from home, when any long journey was very expensive, dangerous and time-consuming, making the pilgrimage to Mecca was a one-time, utterly unequalled experience.

# THE GREEN CORNER

## ONCE IN A LIFETIME

There is a world of difference between a tourist and a pilgrim. One is an observer, the other is a participant. The pilgrim's destination and engagement is crucial. It is a ritual-infused trip to a specific place, and no other location can provide an equivalent experience. The Hajj gives us an image of pilgrimage as travel where the benefit -- in personal experience and in the building up of community -- can more than balance the ecological cost.

So here is my suggestion. Let us affirm the value of genuinely profound travel experiences by affirming "once in a lifetime" trips. Living lightly on the planet doesn't mean that we have to give up all travel. It does mean that our major trips should be very worthwhile. The Hajj calls for a trip to Mecca, but the options for pilgrimage can be more diverse. Christians & Jews have often seen a trip to "the Holy Land" as a spiritual pilgrimage, an extensive tour of historical sites in Europe, an immersion trip deep into the Amazon's rain forests, a journey to trace the family's heritage, or a river trip through the Grand Canyon could each qualify for others.

"Once in a lifetime" is too stark; it could work with "once in a decade", or "once in a life stage" (adolescence, middle age, and retirement). Thinking in terms of Hajj leads us to place great importance on an intentional journey. When we evaluate it in terms of "what would make such a profound difference in my life that it is worth great costs", then those trips become more valuable to us, and our community. In the future where travel will be less frequent -- because of higher costs for fuel, because of environmental sensitivity, or even because the escalating demands of work make it harder to get away -- the travel that we do take should be life-changing.

Personally, and in your immediate family, consider how limiting major trips might make for much richer experiences, so that the saying about "less is more" is actually true. Imagine what it would be like in our churches if we celebrated the value of exceptional trips with special blessings for those who are embarking on this sort of once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage. Think of the depth of conversation that would be possible in sitting down with a new friend and asking, "where do you want to go for your Hajj?" or "tell me how your Hajj enriched your life."

Travel is cheap, easy, and some think unlimited travel is an unalienable right to the pursuit of happiness. If we don't reframe the purpose and the value of our trips, then less travel does seem like deprivation and a restriction on freedom. If, however, we elevate rare and special trips into a different category of travel, then we enter into a different set of choices and opportunities. As we seek ways to live more sustainably, it is important to highlight the aspects of life that we value most deeply, and to affirm those blessings. Finding ways to celebrate the most meaningful forms of travel will give us a different perspective as we reduce our less significant jaunts.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

**Print/Advertising: Noon, Sept. 14**      **Electronic: 5 PM, Sept. 18**  
**Assembling : Sept. 22**

Content to appear in the monthly Newsletter must be **emailed to newsletter@fusp.org AND website@fusp.org** by the dates shown above. Because it takes longer to process announcements that are not submitted in electronic format, the print deadline is considerably earlier.

### **OBSERVING DEADLINES IS IMPORTANT!!**

Last year we, or at least some of us, had a problem meeting the deadlines for submission of information to the Newsletter and/or the Order of Service. This creates problems for the editors and for the Office Administrator, who must either scramble to create space at the last minute or leave things out (and if they're left out, it appears to reflect on the editor, not the delinquent submitter). **Both the Website/Newsletter editors and the Office Administrator have been advised to be strong in resisting late submissions.** It is the feeling of the Office Chair that those who cannot meet the published deadlines need to make other arrangements for publicizing their events. ORDER OF SERVICE deadline is the Wednesday before each Sunday.      -Barbara VanSavage

### **FROM THE CARING COMMITTEE**

We are happy to hear that **Jessica Toscano** is recovering well from her kidney surgery. **Allan Reading** is recuperating slowly from a fall through scaffolding which dislocated his shoulder.

### **WOMEN'S ALLIANCE**

Have you read a good book recently? Have you seen any good movies? Our September meeting, back by popular demand, is our annual opportunity to recommend and briefly present books and movies that have impressed us. Come prepared to share your recommendations and to take away a list of ideas for your future reading and viewing.

The meeting will be on **Saturday, Sep. 19th, from 10 AM to noon in the Steven's room.** We welcome all women of FUSP. Think about joining us; we look forward to seeing YOU. Please contact Bonnie Rowan several days in advance if you need childcare.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

## **FAMILY GAME NIGHT**

Join us for our next game night on **Friday, September 11 from 7 to 10 in the Steven's Wing**. Game night is held on the second Friday of each month and is a great opportunity to meet new friends or get to know some old ones better. Friends of all ages are welcome, and a great variety of games are played. You can bring a game you love, or just come ready to learn a new one. Bring a snack or drink to share. Contact Heather Brown additional information.

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

After a formal vacation in July and August, the Men's Breakfast will resume on **Saturday, September 12th, at 9 AM in the Stevens Room** All male members and friends of FUSP are invited to attend and participate. The topic, led by Rupert Crawford and Sandy Kaplan, will be "The Myth of Global Warming- Pro and Con". We intend to keep the discussion civil and don't expect to come to any conclusion. Why stay home?

## **METUCHEN COUNTRY FAIR**

The Metuchen Country Fair will be held on Saturday, Oct. 3rd. This is the first time FUSP will have a booth at this fair. We will hand out balloons with the FUSP name, address and website on it, making balloon animals for the kids & perhaps some face painting. We will also have pamphlets regarding FUSP & our RE program. Anyone interested in helping out between the hours of 10 to 4 should contact Sue Krisburg.

## **UU LEGISLATIVE MINISTRY OF NEW JERSEY FALL ISSUES WORKSHOP**

Saturday, October 3 9am – 1pm At The Unitarian Church in Summit, NJ.

This gathering will be a working session to Review (or learn how) the legislative process in New Jersey works, Better understand the role of Congregational Liaisons and Action Teams, Hear about the ongoing work of our Task Forces: Health Care, Environmental Justice, Economic Justice, and Emerging Issues, Meet Julia Hamilton, UULMNJ's Director, Prepare to take action on pressing issues like Marriage Equality!

Visit [www.uulmnj.org](http://www.uulmnj.org) for more information, or contact Julia Hamilton, [director@uulmnj.org](mailto:director@uulmnj.org)

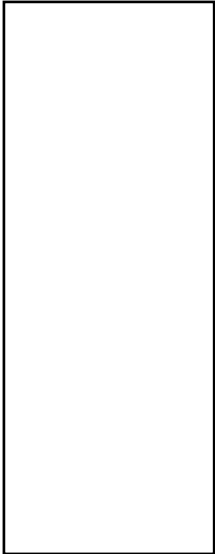


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DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE RUSH