



FIRST
UNITARIAN
SOCIETY OF
PLAINFIELD



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Established 1889 (Unitarian-Universalist)

July & August 2009

UPCOMING SERVICES

July 5 - Rohn Hain

WHAT IS THE UULMNJ?

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of New Jersey is a coalition of all of the congregations in NJ working to affect public policy by advocating for the seven principles of our faith in Trenton. Officially created in February 2009, social justice leaders from various congregations have been meeting over the last three years to organize and focus on our important issues. In the summer of 2008, UU members were polled and identified economic justice, environmental justice, and health care as main areas of concern. Please join us to learn more about the work of the UULMNJ.

July 12 - Andy Garcia Phillips

JOURNALISM FOR THINKING PEOPLE

Newspapers are in decline in quantity and quality. Network news is hopelessly superficial. Cable news fills 24-hours with hyper-partisan info-tainment. A large segment of society gets its news from comedians and radio jocks. From inside America's newsrooms, some advice and discussion on remaining an educated citizen in a changing media environment.

July 19 - Susan Neuhaus and Jim Tuite

"YOU, TOO? I HAD NO IDEA!!" : DISCOVERING CONNECTIONS

Isn't it fun when you discover you had something in common with an acquaintance? Let's celebrate the similarities between us.

July 26 - Jody Hey and Kathy Roberson

BUILDING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

In her June 6th sermon, Reverend Tracy spoke about establishing connections with the broader community. Jody and Kathy will talk about their time in the small African country of Malawi, and some of the connections they experienced there.

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July & August 2009

WORSHIP SERVICES

~~August 2 - Rev. John Crestwell and the Racial Justice Committee~~

IT MATTERS WHAT WE BELIEVE

These are words Sophia Fahs spoke some years ago and are apropos as we meet today. Some beliefs lift us and others up, while others depress or diminish us and others. It truly matters what we accept, value, and cherish in our lives. The Rev. Crestwell is minister of Davies Memorial UU Church in Camp Springs, MD. Davies Memorial, a multicultural congregation, was cited by the UUA as a "Breakthrough Congregation" in 2007.

August 9 - Melissa Logan

EDUCATING ROSA: BILINGUAL AND IMMIGRANT EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES

If our non-English speaking forefathers learned English without special classes and did just fine in life, why are immigrant students failing today? Why can't immigrants learn English? Why are we teaching students in Spanish in Plainfield and other cities and towns? Bilingual teacher Melissa Logan will explain the history of bilingual education in the United States, and the pedagogy behind effective modern bilingual and immigrant education programs.

August 16 - Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks

GETTING LOST; FINDING FAITH

Everyone gets lost every once in awhile. Even a whole nation can be lost. In the frustration of getting lost, what can we find about faith? Rev. Tracy will begin taking appointments as our new settled minister after August 1. However, if you would like to email her your stories and thoughts about being lost, she will use these as she prepares her sermon. Her email address is revtsj@gmail.com

August 23 - Jack Schrum

REMEMBERING RANDY PAUSCH

Randy Pausch was chosen by Beliefnet as their "Most Inspiring Person of 2008." He was a Political Science Professor at Carnegie Mellon University and a UU. His "The Last Lecture" became an internet sensation, seen by more than 20 million people and was later turned into a book. When you hear his story, you, too, will find it very hard not to be inspired (and proud).

August 30 - Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks

THE SEVENTH INNING STRETCH

This morning we take a look at America's favorite past-time, baseball. We will hear some stories about baseball and meet a few players you might not know about. Some say baseball is a religion. We will explore why it just might be true. You need not like baseball to get something out of this sermon!

WORSHIP MINISTRY

FLOWERS & ROBINSON WINDOW

Please help beautify our sanctuary on Sunday mornings by donating a bouquet of flowers. Cost \$32.50. It is also possible to light the Robinson Window for a month by donating \$45.00. Please get in touch with Doris Lange to arrange either donation.

ART IN THE SANCTUARY—CURRENT EXHIBIT

"MyScapes in MySpace: Images from the life space of the photographer."

Photographs of nature by Mark Williams. July 12 - August 16

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Congratulations to our youthful members celebrating a birthday this summer:

In JULY

Tyler Baglieri
Spencer Gowen
Ellie Beder
Tara Sciortino
Juliet Trifiro
Nicholas Trifiro

In AUGUST

Sarah Douglas
Emma Budiansky
Justin Langley
Anna Leistikow
James Sciortino. .

Reading Family Home Services

Allan, Martha, Emma, Carolyn, Matthew, Annie and Robert Reading are available to perform the following jobs for you:

- Childcare (your home or ours)
- House-sitting
- Minor Home Repairs
- Landscaping: Gardening, Planting, Weeding
- Pet Care (Feeding, Sitting, Walking)
- Transportation (to appointments, to airport, etc.)
- Other Odd Jobs

Call us at 908-757-7707 or email us at amreading@aol.com to arrange time and rates.

----This is a paid advertisement----

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SUMMER FUN FOR U.U. CHILDREN AND PARENTS

Summer is the time to relax and enjoy life at a slower pace. I found some websites that will both entertain and encourage thoughtfulness. Here they are:

<http://www.myabodo.com> <http://www.worldpeace.org/peacepals.html>

http://www.janbrett.com/activities_pages_artwork.htm

<http://www.poodwaddle.com/worldclock.swf>

<http://www.religioustolerance.org/>

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/learn.jsp> <http://www.kidsfootprint.org>

<http://www.kidscanmakeadifference.org/index.html>

Enjoy your summer!

Peace,

Sue Fertig, Director of Religious Education

INTRODUCING SUMMER PALS

The RE Program is looking for adults and older children (11+) to participate in a very special program being introduced this summer.

Roughly every other week starting July 12th we will be presenting special activities geared for children 6 years and older. These activities will focus on hands-on indoor and outdoor projects done in cooperation with older children or adults. We're calling it "Summer Pals." Our tentative schedule for the program is **July 12th and 26th, August 9th and 23rd.**

The success of this program will depend (as always) on your support, so please consider signing up to participate for weeks when you are planning to be at FUSP this summer. Sign-ups for children and adults will be on June 21st and 28th. For more information, see Jim Tuite or Dan Zucker in the Parish Hall after services

LEADERSHIP MINISTRY

QVO VADIS

At the special meeting June 7th we voted the Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks as our next minister. The vote was 110 yes and three no. A overwhelming vote of confidence. We are hopeful she will help grow our Society membership.

At the Board of Trustees meeting June 11 Annabele Radcliffe-Trenner – Principal of Historic Building architects explained the proposed construction projects at FUSP. Some of the construction will be a new roof for the Parish Hall, taking the Robinson window out and repairing it, masonry work, removal of the Powell Porch, installing a handicapped elevator and other projects. Construction should start in a few months and it is estimated it will be completed by May 2010.

We have \$194,708 paid from pledges and grants. We have a total of \$415,000 in pledges and grants. There is some \$180,000 outstanding. The grant committee will be contacting members and friends to pay their pledge more quickly. Since the pledges were on a three year program, we will need a bridge loan to pay the contractors until the pledges are paid. We are working on the paperwork for the loan. If you are reading this and have not pledged, please do so. The total expenses are projected to be more than the pledges.

The June finance report presented by Jack Schrum shows a shrinkage in equity of \$24,665. This is serious because the new minister will be more costly.

A committee was formed to evaluate better utilization of our space.

At the Board meeting it was decided to sell bricks for a walkway to the memorial garden. The bricks can be etched with the words desired by members and friends.

We will be housing the guests of HomeFirst August 16 – 23. If you can help, contact Karen Hawkins or Melissa Logan.

Fred Lange, President

LEADERSHIP MINISTRY

THE REV. TRACY SPROWL-JENKS HAS ACCEPTED OUR CALL!

The Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks has accepted our call to become the next settled minister for The First Unitarian Society of Plainfield. She will begin serving our congregation on August 1, 2009.

Tracy plans to continue living in Ridgewood until her son Izaak graduates from high school in three years. During that time, she will commute to Plainfield as needed, with the expectation that she and her husband, David Jenks, will move to our area after Izaak graduates.

We greatly appreciate the trust that the congregation placed in our search committee, the effort that members devoted to making Tracy and her family welcome during candidating week, and the enthusiastic vote to call Tracy at the Special Congregational Meeting on June 7.

Now the search committee's work is done, and we will return to being regular members of FUSP. Starting in August, Tracy will be minister for all of us. We urge the congregation to work with her to make her ministry a success, and our vision for the future a reality.

Love, The Ministerial Search Committee Alice Logie, Breda May, Craig Hinds, Diane Sciortino, John Hawkins (chair), Kate Riegel (& honored alumnus Milt Rowan)

FINANCE MINISTRY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR RECYCLING

July 25 and August 22 we will be at the Fanwood Recycling Center. Each day we work there FUSP receives \$225 and we help the environment. We need 12 volunteers 8:45 AM to 1 PM. All proceeds go to the operating budget to pay for staff salaries, maintenance and utilities. See Fred Lange if you can help.

FINANCE MINISTRY

SERVICE AUCTION THANKS

We would like to thank everyone for making this year's Service Auction a big success! Despite these uncertain economic times, we have raised over \$13,000 dollars for FUSP. Thanks to Guy Mastroianni, our auctioneer extraordinaire.

AND ALSO:

Sue Krisburg	Lindsay Walsh	Clayton Phillips
Christopher Walsh	Alex Brown	Louise Polli
Ralph Braskett	Sandy Kaplan	Denise Soppas
Karin Harris	Garnet Ivaniuc	Iris Ivaniuc
Eric Ivaniuc	Charlie Neiss	Sherie Novotny
Charlie Sweeney		

Thanks to all of the generous donors, bidders, and basket makers, and anyone we missed! It was a great event for a great cause! Melissa Logan and Julie Walsh, Service Auction Co-chairs [serviceauction@fusp.org]

CHURCHYARD BARBEQUE

July 12, 12 Noon, Steven's Room and Patio - Are you experiencing some summertime blues? FUSP's Churchyard BBQs are the answer!

Roast Pig, vegetarian delights, cooling refreshments, fun people, cozy conversations, laughing children...all in the comfort of our own FUSP Churchyard. \$10.00 admission (\$25/family) includes all of the above!

This fun-filled fundraiser will be a joint venture between FUSP and our partner church, Mision Torre Fuerte, and is co-sponsored by the Racial Justice Committee. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other in a relaxed, social setting!

Our next Churchyard BBQ is scheduled for August 9th so mark your calendars now. Questions? See Sandy Kaplan or Melissa Logan

FINANCE MINISTRY

NEEDED: SUPERMARKET CERTIFICATE SELLERS

FUSP needs Supermarket Certificate sellers during coffee hour on Sunday morning to backup/substitute for our regulars. Can you help run this valuable program -- budgeted at \$5,000 for the coming year, when we project a deficit?

Duties:

- Pickup Supermarket Cards/Certificates from regular store seller.
- Sell certificates at the Food Certificate table after Services on Sunday for 30 or 40 minutes, usually earning a \$1/minute or more for our church.
- Keep a list of the certificate buyers' names; mark checks & cash with store name, and give it to the FUSP Treasurer/Designate when you finish.

See/Call Pat Heath or Ralph Braskett for details.

SUPERMARKET CARD \$20 FOR \$1 PROGRAM CONTINUES IN SUMMER

Summer is here and so are your Supermarket Cards' Sellers every Sunday. You can give our church a small part of your supermarket bill at no additional cost to YOU! For every \$20 you spend at your supermarket, \$1 goes to FUSP! Every item you buy can be paid for with Supermarket Cards--even prescriptions or video rentals as well as food, paper goods, etc. Use the cards just like debit cards; they come in varying denominations -similar to paper money.

How? It is so easy: Buy Supermarket Cards with check or cash every Sunday for use at: Kings, Pathmark, Shoprite, Stop&Shop. Where: Buy them at our table in the Parish Hall-next to the office- during the coffee hour after services every Sunday.

We encourage you to buy larger amounts of cards, if possible, since many of us attend church services less in the summer. Please inform us beforehand if you want a large amount of cards. If you cannot get to church in the summer, perhaps we can arrange deliveries. If you have any requests or questions, see us at our table, or call Pat Heath or Ralph Braskett.

SOCIAL JUSTICE & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

RACIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE REACHING OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY

The Racial Justice Committee, having completed the UUA seminars on race and ethnicity, "Building the World We Dream About", is now exploring how best to apply its anti-racism/multicultural learnings in Plainfield and surrounding communities. During the course of the seminars, we met with members of the Plainfield community and visited various neighborhoods. It is now time for action! Among the potential areas we are examining are:

- To operate a monthly soup kitchen in cooperation with other churches.
- To sponsor a forum bringing together members of the African-American and Latino communities, law enforcement, local and state officials, community organizations, churches and residents to address inter-ethnic violence in Plainfield.
- To build social and social justice networks with our resident Latino community, Mission Torre Fuerte.
- To further develop our relationship with El Centro Hispanoamericano and support their immigration work.



EL CENTRO HISPANOAMERICANO
SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES SINCE 1984

ANGELS ACTION
FOUNDATION

One will be chosen. We are already cooperating with "Angels in Action", a Plainfield group working for justice and equality for oppressed, poor, and victimized people, in teaching ESL and plan to expand our relationship. If you are of like mind, you are invited to join us in pursuing our First UU Principle, "to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person."

SOCIAL JUSTICE & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Our food pantry continues to experience a higher than usual volume of clients. In these tough economic times more families are finding it difficult to feed themselves. Please remember to pick up an extra item or two each time you go shopping and place it in the large basket for the food pantry in the vestibule as you enter the church. We also accept monetary donations which can be placed in the plate during the offertory with "food pantry" in the memo line. The food pantry is entirely funded through the donations of our members and is now serving over thirty families once a month.

Please do not place clothing in the donation basket. We do not have room to store it, and it creates extra work for us to take donated clothing to an appropriate location. We suggest you donate your used clothing to Goodwill or another local charity that is set up to accept clothing. Thank you for the coupons. They make a big difference. Please keep them coming too.

HOMEFIRST NEEDS YOU

FUSP is again partnering with HomeFirst to house up to 14 temporarily homeless guests from **August 16 - 23**. HomeFirst provides support and housing so families can move out of homelessness. We had a great time doing this congregation-wide intergenerational project in March. Our guests are housed in the RE Wing, and use the parish hall, kitchen, restrooms, and other common spaces. We thank the congregation for generously sharing their space to make the housing possible. Volunteers are needed to: shop, cook, sleep over, play and more. Training and support is provided for all volunteers. Watch your email for training and meeting dates. On Sunday, 13 July and Sunday 10 August our second collections will support the housing effort.

To help, contact Melissa Logan or Karen Hawkins. We welcome adult and youth helpers before, during and after the housing dates.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

FROM THE CARING COMMITTEE

Our sympathy to **Jack Schrum** and family. Jack's grandfather passed away.

Sympathy to **Kathleen Murphy** as Kathleen's father passed away after a long illness.

Condolences to **Gayle Jones and Al Allman** for the untimely death of their friend.

Best wishes to **Joan Sweet** who has moved to Florida.

Congratulations to our high school graduates: **Leah Fertig, Emma Reading and Rachel Zucker.**

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE FOR JULY

It's time for fun! Our annual summer picnic will be on **Saturday, July 18th.**

This year we will be b and, weather permitting, on the lovely back **patio area behind the Steven's room.** We'll start **at 11:00** for a short meeting and check in, and then begin our picnic. We ask that everyone bring a dish to share.

To help us in planning, please sign up with Karin Harris or Bonnie Rowan. We invite all women of FUSP to join us, those who have been active in our group as well as those who are thinking of participating. **There is nothing scheduled for August.** Our regular meetings will resume in September.

MEN'S BREAKFAST - SUMMER

The Men's Breakfast group hasn't set its program for the summer yet. Keep July 11th & Aug. 8th open for a Breakfast. Look for e-mails and in the weekly orders of service. If we can't get any sponsors for the summer months, we'll meet in a local restaurant.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES FOR SEPTEMBER

Print/Advertising: Noon, Aug. 11 Electronic: 5 PM, Aug. 14

Assembling : Aug. 25 Submit to newsletter@fusp.org and website@fusp.org to be included on the website & in the newsletter. —

Priscilla



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July & August 2009



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DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE RUSH