

# FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF PLAINFIELD



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ESTABLISHED 1889 (UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST)

FEBRUARY 2010

## WORSHIP SERVICES

### WHERE IS OUR TREASURE?

**FEBRUARY 7TH - REV. TRACY SPROWLS-JENKS**

This morning we celebrate our community and our presence in Plainfield with a sermon to kick off our annual canvass.

### RE-IMAGINING VALENTINE'S DAY

**FEBRUARY 14TH - REV. TRACY**

### SPROWLS-JENKS

Along with other Unitarian Universalist congregations around the country we are honoring Standing on the Side of Love day. Visit [www.standingonthesideoflove.org](http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org) to learn more about this Unitarian Universalist Association program.

**TBA**

**FEBRUARY 21ST - GUEST PREACHER**

Description forthcoming.

### MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE: HEARING EACH OTHER, HEALING THE EARTH

**FEBRUARY 28TH - REV. TRACY SPROWLS-JENKS**

Join me this morning to learn about the Parliament of World Religions I attended in December in Melbourne, Australia.

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

### BEYOND THE PULPIT

There are a lot of demands for our money. Nonprofits and other organizations, maybe especially the church, seem to always be asking for money. Since I have been with you we have had second collections each month going to various worthy causes. In addition to these, we have collected for the Guest at Your Table program run by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee over the holidays. We have given money to support the Unitarian Universalist Association and the anti-racism work they do for Association Sunday last October 4. Individually and as a congregation we

have given money to the UUSC and other organizations to support and aid the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. On top of all of this many of us have given to the capital campaign fund for the restoration work of our church.

There are so many needs and demands on our money and yet each time the call is made people dig into their wallets to give. Ours is a generous congregation even in the midst of a recession that has strained our economy and our incomes. Even in the midst of uncertainty and anxiety, people all over are being generous with

what they have.

Our annual canvass kicks off on February 7 and thus, again, the church will be asking you for money. The sermon that Sunday, "Where is our Treasure?," will start off the month of canvass followed by a luncheon for all members and friends. Please be sure to make it to church on this Sunday to celebrate our community and to make a commitment to our continued presence in Plainfield. Please be thinking about what kind of pledge you would like to

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# WORSHIP COMMITTEE

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## BEYOND THE PULPIT

*(Continued from page 1)*

make for the 2010-2011 fiscal year and be ready to fill out a pledge card on February 7. You have a whole year to pay your pledge and you decide how you wish to pay it.

I know that there are a lot of demands on your money. I know that you already give much to our congregation and to other groups

## SUNDAY FLOWERS

Do you enjoy seeing the lovely bouquets of fresh flowers in the Sanctuary every Sunday morning? Then take advantage of this opportunity to celebrate someone's birthday (even your own) or an anniversary or commemorate a special occasion. The cost is only \$32.50 (very reasonable by today's standards) and Doris Lange will make all the arrangements for you. Do give her a call! Thank you.

that want and need your support for the good work that they do. As you consider your pledge for the coming year think about what this congregation already offers you. Think about what ministries you would like to see here and what your money could make happen. Think about our vision and where you would like to see us in the future. Think about our

## OFFICE HOURS

Usual office hours for Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks are Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 10:00 AM until 3:30 PM. but it is best to call for an appointment to see her. Thursdays she works from home. Fridays she writes her sermons. Monday is her day off. Feel free to call Rev. Tracy at the office or to e-mail her at [revtsj@fusp.org](mailto:revtsj@fusp.org). In an emergency, the office administrator (M-Th, 9AM-3PM) will be able to reach her.

affirmation we say each week and what it means to us as a community.

Your money and support of this congregation will make a difference. Our congregation counts on your generous support to provide a liberal religious voice in Plainfield and a Unitarian Universalist voice in central New Jersey. Please pledge generously.

## PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHARLIE

Charlie Neiss has been working with film most of his life, but recently switched to digital cameras. His works in the sanctuary attempt to capture quiet places in our busy world. January 24 - February 28



*Wagner Farm, Morning Dew*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE WELCOMES FUSP'S NEW FAMILIES

If your children have joined the RE program during this church year, we'd like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our program! On **February 21st**, the REC is holding a Welcome and Religious Education Orientation

meeting from **11:30-1:00 PM in the Stevens Room.**

We'd like to take this opportunity to give you an overview of the RE program as a whole, see how your child is doing in the program and answer any questions you

may have. Most importantly, we on the REC would like to get to know you, and what your needs and expectations are for the RE Program, so please save the date!

Light lunch will be served and the childcare room will be available!

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS OR GOD IS IN THE DETAILS

When I googled "the devil is in the details" I found that this saying originated as "God is in the details" and that it means; "whatever one does should be done thoroughly, details are important." Either way it speaks to the importance and care of the many facets and aspects of a task. In our Religious Education Program we have many details that support the work of providing a safe and emotionally supportive community that promote and support the spiritual journey of all our members and friends. The details are the mortar that hold the bricks together and make our R.E. program strong and vital.

The Religious Education Committee and I invite you to participate by volunteering your time (doing the details) or by expressing gratitude and appreciation for those who are involved in the details. This month I'd like to share some of these details; some of them need volunteers, some of them require your participation while others call for your acknowledgement and thanks.

•Once a month Yvonne Laurenty

(REC member) acts as our substitute DRE (Director of Religious Education) during my Sunday off. Yvonne has been doing a wonderful job and plans to continue in this position until May.

•Our pre-school class (4 and 5 year olds) needs 2 more teachers and class room helpers to work on a monthly basis. Please speak with me or Susan Neuhaus if you are willing and able.

•Our Coming of Age youth have chosen 11 of our adult members to act as their mentors, from Jan.-April of this year. Many thanks to these generous folks.

•Adult Religious Education has been re-energized this year with a number of thought provoking and community building classes and seminars. This has been accomplished through the efforts of many including; Chris Baglieri, Denise Soppas, Rev. Tracy, Kate Riegel, and Meredith Slotoroff. You are invited to participate in these offerings; check the F.U.S.P. website for details.

•Sunday Morning Assistants (a.k.a. snack helpers) are always

needed. This is an excellent way to contribute to the program without having to do prep work. Speak with Susan Neuhaus about available dates.

•Secret Pal Program- an annual multigenerational event that connects our children and youth with an older youth or adult in the congregation. Begins February 21 and ends March 21 (Celebration Sunday). Speak with Jim Tuite for details.

As you can see by these examples we have a resilient and valuable Religious Education Program. It's truly a collaborative effort staffed by many talented and able volunteers. Much of my work and the work of the Religious Education Committee is about the details--the details that need to be done with care and thoroughness. To me "the devil/God is in the details" means take pride in your efforts and do them with kindness and grace. I invite you to join us by contributing to the details of our Religious Education Program.

Blessed Be,  
Sue L. Fertig  
Director of Religious Education



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Many wishes for wonderful birthdays to those celebrating in February:

Ian Cauley

Judah Garcia-Phillips

Andrew McCarthy

Eliza Patton

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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## INVULNERABILITY

On **Sunday February 14th**, Kit Marlowe and Chris Baglieri will lead a workshop designed to empower them to deal with teasing and insults. We will use the examples of Superman and W. Mitchell to help our children and youth recognize that they actually have a choice to be hurt by verbal assaults, or to rise above attacks by mean people.

In the course of this workshop, each student will:

- Think about how it would feel to have the power of invulnerability, like Superman has.

- Learn that at least some human beings have endured incredible suffering without it affecting their self-esteem

- Participate in an exercise in which one person (a teacher) endures lots of insults because of the love he or she receives from the community

- Consider the Frederick Douglass quote below, which informs the kids that they need not let foolish insults harm them.

“A gentleman will not insult me, and no man, not a gentleman, can insult me”

## SECRET PALS

### SIGN-UPS

Sign ups for our annual Secret Pal Program will begin on January 17 in the Parish Hall. Sign up to have a Secret Pal (ages 4-11) or to be a Secret Pal sponsor (ages 11-99). The program will begin on February 21 and end March 21 (Celebration Sunday).



## LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

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### SOMETHING IN THE AIR

There's something new in the air at FUSP this month and it stands outside on the front lawn. It's the sign that advertises our historic significance to not just our own local community, but our value to the State of New Jersey as well. It represents the commitment of all our members who have pledged so generously to the capital campaign and moreover an investment by the New Jersey Historic Trust Fund in support of New Jersey's oldest Unitarian church.

Nice job FUSP, but it's not all champagne and caviar just yet! Bad news first, then the good, ok?

At the time of this writing we are only days away from receiving the finalized agreements with the State and then moments away from signing a contract with the General Contractor; so nothing is really etched in stone, but seems rather certain nonetheless. Also, and more importantly, we still have some significant financial issues that are unresolved.

In the current economic lending atmosphere, we are faced with limited prospects in securing the bridge loan we voted for at the Annual Meeting; and while we are close to resolution on that matter, it is as yet an open matter.

Also, I've referenced this congregation's generosity, but we never actually met our target pledge number, and stand about \$40,000 short of that goal. To close that gap, the Building Restoration Committee is exploring ways to reach out to those in our congregation and in our larger community who have not yet taken advantage of the opportunity to invest in the future of our Society.

Now here's the good news. It's actually kind of great! We've narrowed down our choice of contractors and it seems we will be

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# LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

## SOMETHING IN THE AIR

*(Continued from page 4)*

able to perform ALL of the essential work outlined in Phase 1 of the restoration plan, at a cost that sneaks in just below the anticipated budget! Also, Ted Nickles, the owner of the company we plan on doing business with, is a member of the Unitarian Universalist church in Cherry Hill, NJ. How cool is that!

In preparation for writing this article, I reviewed last month's piece and I've come to the realization that I'm long winded and I could save a tree or two by keeping things brief. But... then along comes this concept of the electronic newsletter as we start to wean ourselves off paper and postage and suddenly I don't feel so bad about blathering on about

how this transition to electronic media will save the church about \$1,500 a year, and lessen our carbon footprint in the world.

However, keeping your computer on longer than necessary just to be able to read my rants might actually have a bigger carbon footprint than postal transportation. Who knows? So don't believe everything the global warming guys tell you! Also, don't believe anyone who tells you that it's OK to park next door. Our neighbor has been unreceptive to my telephone inquiries regarding his new towing policy and as yet we have no resolution to this situation.

Have you seen the Food Pantry lately? It got more than a face-lift last month and the remodel was

funded by generous donations from individuals and a \$ 2,000 check from the Summit UU church. "Go, Summit!" And "Go, FUSP;" especially JoAnne Macaluso, Steve Schultz, Dean Leistikow, Jack Schrum, and me your humble servant for a job well done!

My thanks go out to many others in the congregation who've reached out to me in response to last month's plea for volunteers to serve in a variety of roles at the church. We've still got some vacancies waiting to be filled so don't be afraid to jump in when you're ready, it's a level of participation that promises to enrich your own journey at FUSP.

Guy J Mastroianni, Board President

## LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN...AND WOMEN!

There are a few projects shaping up at FUSP that will require some volunteer work from within the congregation.

The first and foremost project is the remodeling of the Food Pantry. We have received a substantial donation towards the pantry and part of the money is being spent on upgrading our storage and distribution capabilities. The removal of the existing built in shelving, spackling and painting have been completed.

Other projects in the pipeline are:

- Dismantling and removing cabinetry in the Kitchen
- Cleaning and painting the Parish Hall heating ducts
- Constructing a new partition wall in the Main Office
- Installing new cabinetry and furniture in the Remodeled Office
- Repairing woodwork, plastering, and painting in the Parish Hall
- Install new bulletin boards and signage in new approved loca-

tions

These are some of the fellowship building tasks that I am confident we at FUSP are able to complete on our own. I truly believe that with well thought out plans, and with eager volunteers we can begin to transform our building to reflect a deeper sense of pride, professionalism, and hospitality.

Folks interested in sharing their skills and enthusiasm to assist in the above projects can call Guy Mastroianni or Melissa Logan .

# LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

We are now listed in the National Register of Historic Places!!!

The First Unitarian Society of Plainfield, N.J. was incorporated on August 26, 1889 and, some three years later, the Reverend Hobert Clark christened the building All Souls Church on

May 11, 1892. We just received word that All Souls Church is now on the National Register of Historic Places as of December 11, 2009. This is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. The National Register website shows a range of

beautiful historic places throughout the country. Stacy Spies, a former member and historic architect, was primarily responsible for this accomplishment. The reference number for All Souls is 09001078. Fred Lange – Archives

## THE NEWSLETTER GOES ELECTRONIC

As announced last month the Board has voted to begin electronic delivery of our monthly newsletter. While we recognize that some members and friends prefer "hard copies" the printing and postage costs and ecological advantages determined their decision. Beginning February we will deliver the newsletter electronically and also make paper copies available for pickup at FUSP.

Monthly you will be e-mailed a link to the newsletter when it is published. Of course, you can also print your electronic copy if you wish. During a two month transition period, the February and March issues will also be mailed as usual. Afterwards, for those members who have no or limited computer access or those who wish to continue to receive a paper copy, you can have your

copy delivered by first class mail (we will no longer be eligible for the bulk rate.) Contact the Office if you wish to receive your newsletter by post. Please make a donation to cover the mailing cost.

Of course, the newsletter is always published on our website, [www.fusp.org](http://www.fusp.org), which you can always browse at your leisure.

-The Communications Committee

## MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

### PASSOVER SEDER - SAVE THE DATE! - TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2010

We will once again be having a Passover Seder here at FUSP in the Parish Hall. Sylvia Walker will be coordinating it as a guided bring-a-dish (recipes must adhere to traditional foods and include no flour except matzo cake meal, potato starch, or matzo itself and no leavening agents). Recipes will be provided to those who do not have their own passover recipes. If you would like to help

with coordination, set-up, serving or clean up, call Sylvia at 908-561-6073 or e-mail her at [lee-syl@verizon.net](mailto:lee-syl@verizon.net) before Feb. 7. She will begin taking reservations & food offers Monday, March 1. This is definitely a family occasion.



# MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

## FROM THE CARING COMMITTEE

- Apologies, December announcement should have read good luck to **Jane and George Gowan** as they begin a new phase in their lives.
- Condolences to **Sally Young** on the death of her friend of many years.
- Good luck to **Sue Krisburg, Guy Mastroianni & Family** on the move to a new home and condolences to them on the loss of their cat, "Billygoat."
- Best healing wishes to **Debbie Gordon's** mother-in-law who fell and needs assisted living and good luck and supportive wishes to **Debbie** who is having difficulty in finding appropriate placement for her.
- Congratulations to **Dawn & Steven Schultz** who are expecting a baby girl at Easter.
- Happy Birthday to **Kurt Pollak** who turned 76 the end of December, **Jim Weiler** who turned 64, **Pete Jones** who turned 86, and **Herm Bieber** who turned 80.
- Best Wishes to **Debbie Weiler's** father who is seriously ill.
- Best Wishes to **David Nowlin** on his impending move to TN and to **David and Ilka** on their beginning a new phase in their lives.
- Best healing wishes to **Denise Soppas'** aunt who started chemotherapy this month and supportive wishes to **Denise** who is her aunt's only support.
- Get well wishes to **Wendy Pantoja** who underwent gall bladder surgery in mid-January.
- Our thoughts and prayers go out to the people of Haiti in their time of destruction and loss and to all those who have friends and/or relatives there.

## FUSP WILL BE CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH IN A BIG WAY THIS YEAR!

On **March 19**, the one-woman play, **Lorena Hickok and Eleanor Roosevelt – A Love Story** will be staged in the Parish Hall, with a reception to follow in the Stevens Room . Co-sponsored by the Welcoming Congregation Committee and Women's Alliance as an entertaining fund raiser, this was the longest running play in Provincetown from 1994 to 2006 and also has been seen around the country and abroad.

This dramatic production, by Pat Bond, chronicles the 30-year relationship between the First Lady and the top woman journalist in the US, as documented in over

2,000 letters written by ER to her beloved Hick. It stars Marjorie Conn, a talented actor, author and playwright. She will provide a question and answer period after the 65-minute play and be available in the Stevens Room during the reception to autograph copies of her books which will be on sale.

Tickets cost \$15.00, which include the wine, cheese and other tasty drinks and finger foods at the reception. They may be purchased after Sunday services from Sue Keat, from individual members of the Women's Alliance and Welcoming Congregation Committee, or by mailing a check

made out to "Women's Alliance" to: The First Unitarian Society of Plainfield, 724 Park Ave. Plainfield , NJ 07060 c/o Women's Alliance .

The proceeds from this fund raiser will be divided equally to aid: the Women's Alliance in giving the Joan Sweet Memorial Scholarships to FUSP female graduates, as well as to local charities in need and the Welcoming Congregation Committee in their efforts to offer additional UUA educational workshops on human sexuality, free film nights, and plan informative Sunday services.

# MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

## WOMEN'S ALLIANCE HONORS JOAN SWEET'S MEMORY

The Women's Alliance voted on Saturday, January 16, 2010 to establish a **Joan Sweet Memorial Scholarship Fund** to honor Joan's many years of service to the organization. Joan was a conscientious member of the group for decades before serving as the Co-chair with Lynette Birkins in 2004, for three years. During this era she became known for her diligence in starting and maintaining two scrap books which accurately chronicled each month's activities. Joan was also greatly appreciated for her artistic hand painted and highly personalized thank you notes to those who had facilitated programs or brought the refreshments to the meetings. (Many felt the need to seek her out to thank her for her unique and lovely thank you notes!)

Joan also played a key role in the fund raiser known as The Heritage Tea. The

idea for this event came when the cleaning of the messy Women's Alliance closet revealed two silver services inscribed with the names of two FUSP women and dated in the 1890's. A complete search of our archives, the Plainfield library, and the Internet was required to discover just who they were, but had the bonus effect of producing the names of still other women who had made valuable contributions to the early congregational history. The Heritage Tea recreated that era and celebrated the contributions of six women. (Ask to see Joan's scrapbook should you wish more information on this.)

Four years ago when Lynette had to give up her role for health reasons, Bonnie Rowan graciously agreed to take over, with Joan continuing as the co-chair. Both successfully led the group forward, and now Joan's seven years of dedicated

service are looked upon as both vital and laudable. Even with the challenges imposed by the ravages of colon cancer treatments Joan bravely continued on as a responsible leader for almost two years. Only when her health decline forced her move to be near her daughter in Florida did she resign, with Karin Harris ably filling in. Joan died a few months later.

Although the Women's Alliance has been awarding scholarships to FUSP's graduating females for a few years, it was felt to be most appropriate to honor Joan by having her name permanently attached to it from now on. In addition to recognizing her long and valuable service to the group, it also seemed fitting since Joan was a secondary school biology teacher and strongly believed in promoting higher education to young people.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

### CAN YOU IMAGINE SPENDING ALMOST A MILLION DOLLARS?

The work will soon begin, bids have been received and the 'counting down' of spending will start and it will be swift, ending by fall. The 'counting up' of the money to do this work is needed before we spend \$447,000 (to be matched by the state.) Over

\$47,000 was received in December so the bank account totaled almost \$237,000. A small amount has been spent but there are balances of pledges to be received. Also about \$50,000 more needs to be pledged and given within the next year. For those who have not

pledged you will hear about this next month. Thanks to several members who have given donations in honor or memory of others. You can do this also. Alice Logie

### 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!



# SOCIAL JUSTICE & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## “COME OUT” AND JOIN US FOR THE FREE FILM SERIES

OUTRAGE gives new meaning to the phrase “don’t ask, don’t tell”. While director Kirby Dick doesn’t actually stick his camera under any Capitol Hill bathroom stalls in the documentary film OUTRAGE, his goal is the same - to catch conservative, family-values politicians with their pants down. Armed with a chorus of implicating voices including journalists, politicians, activists, and writers, Dick sets out to spill the beans on gay elected officials living in the closet, who publicly preach one thing and privately do another. Call it yellow (or should that be pink?) journalism if you must, but as OUTRAGE persuasively argues, it comes not to in-

vade its subjects’ personal lives but to hold them accountable for their hypocrisy

OUTRAGE is a well-packaged effort covering the Reagan years and the birth of the religious right to the present, and examining powerful policymakers who have actively campaigned against LGBT interests including same-sex marriage, funding for AIDS, and adoptions by gay parents while surreptitiously pursuing gay relations. Dick investigates the hidden lives of well-known political figures including now-retired Idaho Senator Larry Craig, resigned New Jersey Governor Jim McGreevy, former NYC Mayor

Ed Koch, and current Florida Governor Charlie Crist.

Dick’s skillful layering of audio tapes, interviews, and sexual confessions, as presented in contrast to the anti-gay votes these politicians have made, reveals how journalists and the mainstream media -- which the film damns for its refusal to expose hypocrisy -- have been complicit in keeping public figures in the closet.

The film will be shown on **Friday, February 26th at 7 PM in the Stevens Room**. Popcorn and refreshments will be provided. Childcare available (call Valerie Mead if needed). Discussion to follow film-viewing.

## HOMEFIRST NEEDS YOU!

FUSP is again partnering with HomeFirst to house up to 14 temporarily homeless guests from **February 28 - March 14**. HomeFirst provides support and housing so families can move out of homelessness. Our guests are housed in the RE Wing, and use the parish hall, kitchen, restrooms, and other common spaces. For the first time we will be hosting for two consecutive weeks.

Volunteers are needed to:

- shop
- cook

- sleep over
- play and more

We welcome adult and youth helpers of all skill levels and interests. HomeFirst is a great service opportunity for RE classes and other FUSP groups. Dinners and sleepovers are a way for families and friends to do service together. Hosting is gratifying and fun.

To help, contact Melissa Logan (mlogan28@optonline.net) or Karen Hawkins (KLavroff@yahoo.com). Please tell us what you would like to do

and the 2 - 3 best dates for you to participate. If you want to be involved but aren't sure how, let us know that and one of the coordinators (Kate Riegel, Heather Brown, Sue Krisburg, Melissa or Karen) will give you a call to explain the options.

To learn more, join us for an information and training session, Tuesday, 23 February, at 7:30PM in the Stevens Room.

We thank the congregation in advance, especially our RE youth and teachers, for generously sharing their space.

# SOCIAL JUSTICE & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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## GREETINGS FROM THE UULMNJ!

Have you participated in our historic work on marriage equality? Maybe you have learned more about the legislative process, or gotten involved in the issue of affordable housing. Perhaps you have simply enjoyed knowing that our Unitarian Universalist values are finally getting a voice in the public sphere here in New Jersey. For many reasons, the UULMNJ has grown into a vital and active presence in our state. And we could not have done it without you.

**\*Our Plenary meeting,\* with a keynote address by Rev. Morales, will be hosted at the Unitarian Society in East Brunswick from 9am - 1pm on Saturday, January 30th.** You can register online by visiting our

website at [www.uulmnj.org](http://www.uulmnj.org).

At this meeting, we will be discussing and celebrating the ongoing work of the UULMNJ. All are welcome! Everyone registered by January 25th will receive an email packet of information prior to the meeting, and Affiliated Congregations will be voting on issues like the 2010-2011 budget, new Board members and updated by-laws. We will provide a working lunch from 12-1pm, which will be your opportunity to discuss the specific issue of your choice in more depth (we are asking for a donation of \$10 to cover the cost of food).

We need you there: to represent your congregation, to take an active part in the process, and to

hear from our UUA leadership about the work of justice in our religious life. Please spread the word, bring a friend, and join us on January 30th! Register online now at [www.uulmnj.org](http://www.uulmnj.org).

\*As for the Reception for Peter Morales on January 29th,\* it will be hosted at the UU Congregation at Montclair. Support the work of the "action arm" of the UULMNJ, the UULMNJ Public Policy Network, by joining us for this event. Be a part of the conversation with Rev. Peter Morales as we welcome him to New Jersey and raise money to support our efforts. Please see the attached invitation for more information. This fundraiser is critical because donations to the UULMN.

## CHRISTMAS DINNER A SUCCESS!

Our FUSP Christmas Dinner for the Plainfield Community was a success! We served over 150 guests a good, home-cooked meal of turkey, ham, yams, potatoes,

vegetable casseroles, eggnog, juice, coffee, tea, and many desserts. We were also able to send each guest home with a bag of groceries and a pair of warm

gloves, hat, and/or scarf. Many thanks to all who contributed time, food or money to this worthy cause. Stay tuned for Easter! Love, Cass & Karleen

## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Join us for our next game night on **Friday, February 12 from 7:30 to 10 in the Stevens Room.** 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 variety of card and board games are played. You

can bring a game you love, or just come ready to learn a new one. Contact Heather Brown at [heathbrown@aol.com](mailto:heathbrown@aol.com) for additional information.

# EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## MEN'S BREAKFAST

As usual, our Men's Breakfast will be on the second Saturday of the month, in this case, **February 13th, at 9 AM in the Stevens Room**. Rupert Crawford has chosen the topic: "As the Mayans

predicted the end of time in 2012, and as there are a number of Christian ministers who are claiming that Jesus is about to return to earth, I think it is wise for us to prepare our individual

"Bucket Lists" of things that we still want to do in the time we have left." Pete Jones will join Rupert in presenting the program. Start thinking; there isn't much time!

## BOOK TABLE

Many of the books at the table are related to church programs. The Small Ministry Groups will be using "Heart to Heart" this spring. Although not a requirement for being part of the program, having your own copy gives depth to

your participation. More copies of "Love and Death" by Forrest Church have arrived. Also available are copies of former member, Judy Davis' "Pagoda Dreamer."

Books for the daytime discussion group on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 1:30 in the Stevens Room are "Unaccustomed Earth" by Jhumpa Lahiri and "The Shack" by Wm. Paul Young are being sold at the table.

## BRING-A-DISH DINNER FOR FEBRUARY

The Dinner will be at the **home of David & Barbara Van Savage on Saturday, February 13th at 6:30 PM**. We welcome new members and friends. It's a great way to get to know others. Mi-

nors are welcome, however, the house is not child-proof, so call with questions/concerns. RSVP to the Van Savages's with what dish you plan to bring. Please bring your own beverage and a small

donation to cover expenses. We still need hosts for our dinners in March and May. It's an easy way to entertain since everyone else does the cooking. The dinners are usually the fourth Saturday of every month. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Daniel Zucker at 908-889-5894.

## WOMEN'S ALLIANCE


In honor of Black History month we have chosen to read and discuss the book "The Color of Water" by James McBride. Our facilitator will be Yvonne Laurenty, PhD., retired professor of literature. Yvonne has asked us to look at the book on two tracks. First, think about possible reasons why the book was controversial among the ultra conservative fundamentalist Jewish community who were very angry with the author when it was published, and second, to look at how the book is a

good reflection of hybrid aspects of American culture.

Alice Logie has copies available at the book table during coffee hour. We will meet on **Saturday, February 20th from 10AM to noon in the Stevens Room**. If possible, try to arrive a little early for munching and socializing so we can devote sufficient time to an interesting discussion. Please notify Bonnie Rowan several days in advance if you need child care.

## WOMEN'S ALLIANCE BOOK GROUP

The Women's Alliance Book Group will meet on **Thursday, February 4th at 7:00 in Classroom 1**. The book to be discussed is "Bel Canto," by Ann Patchett, 2001. It is available used online at Amazon.com. Please remember to go through the FUSP website if you order from Amazon.



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**DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE RUSH**

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## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR MARCH**

Print/Advertising: Noon,  
February 8

Electronic: 5 PM, February 12

Assembling : February 23

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