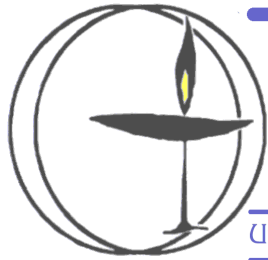


January 2009



the
chalice

Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua Newsletter

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January Sermons

January 4th, 2009: "WE REMEMBER THEM"

Rev. Maureen Thitchener

Now that the holidays have passed, the time when we speak so often of new life, we also must speak of life that has ended, as we go forward into a new year. It is most difficult to live in the present only. This is the time when we are like the two-headed goddess, Janus. We look backward with gratitude to those who enriched our lives, as we look forward with hope. This will be a special time to remember special people. Please join in sharing your own memories with us.

January 11th, 2009: "Journeys From yesterday to tomorrow, the road passes clearly through Today"

Chris Raha

As we build and strengthen ourselves from our past actions and experiences and into tomorrow in our hopes and dreams, we share this day together. Today we will focus on sharing pieces of our own journey to where and who we are with an eye towards where and who we would like to be, individually and as a faith community.

JANUARY 18th, 2009: "THE MEANING OF THE BELOVED COMMUNITY"

Rev. Maureen Thitchener

I sincerely feel we are entering a new period in America. One that I am hoping will

offer us a way to bring to fruition the dreams and visions of our original founders, and the many who followed, all with hopes that we can and will be the people we feel called upon to be. We now have a time set aside in our calendar to celebrate the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. as we search again to find hope and trust that his dream is moving closer toward reality. - Maureen

January 25th, 2009: "Spiritual Insights From A Child's Story"

Rev. Chester Freeman

Spiritual Insights From A Child's Story: Come Listen and reflect on your childhood and beyond. Rev. Chester Freeman believes that all children's stories have insights into the humanity of existence. They are written on two levels: one for the child and one for the adult. During this service we will examine both. Let us explore life's lessons as fantasy imitates life.

We invite you to join Rev. Freeman as he shares more from his journey of wide ranging experiences as author, artist, traveller and frequent lecturer for Unitarian Universalist churches in New York and California. Rev. Freeman loves to travel and has spent time in England, Ireland, Belgium, France, and Japan where he lived in a Zen Buddhist monastery studying za zen meditation. His most recent trip was to Italy where he visited Rome, Naples, Florence, Venice and the island of Capri. Currently most of his travel involves trips to North Carolina where he visits his 90 year old father.

News & Events

The Liberal Religious Hour

From time to time congregation members ask me about the video recordings that Mark Syverud and I do most Sundays. Video recordings have been made by myself and others since 1994 of church services and other events of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua. The first intent was to have a video record of these services and events.

Secondly, since 1996 the church has sponsored a program on FLTV-Cable 12 on Finger lakes Cablevision called, "The Liberal Religious Hour". "The Liberal Religious Hour" is a weekly program on FLTV-Cable 12 available to subscribers to Fingerlakes Cablevision. It is on each Wednesday at 7 PM on channel 12, which cover parts of Ontario, Seneca, Yates and Wayne counties in the Finger Lakes region. This weekly program has aired to viewers in the four county region a show featuring services from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canandaigua as well as a series of programs called "Faith in the Free Church". That series was developed to highlight the history of the liberal churches in the United States as well as current liberal outlooks from around the country.

The ministers and Board of Trustees of the Canandaigua church have been supportive of the video work from the beginning, both with financial resources and cooperative efforts. Many congregation members have helped behind the scenes and some have been on air "talent" as well as permitting their services to be used for the TV program.

There are a few things that contribute to recording a Sunday service that can be done by the congregation. When you see that you may have to pass in front of the camera don't feel that you need to duck down, simply move quickly

and naturally.

The best video of a service will have people sitting in the front rows of the church. Sitting closer to the front will improve your ability to hear soft speaking folks at the Joys and Concerns part of the service and seats in the rear will be available to late arrivals so they won't need to disturb others to find a seat.

At the end of the hallway outside the restrooms there are VHS tapes and DVD discs of many of these recordings. Please look them over or use the index if you would like to see what's available. These recordings are there for you, each church member or friend, to borrow. All that we ask is to return any borrowed items in a timely manner and try to replace them in their chronological order.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please talk to me, Daniel Brigham

Marketing/PR Experience Wanted

GUUSTO (the cluster of the 4 Rochester area UU churches) is considering submitting an application for a Chalice Lighters Grant to use for advertising of UUism in general and our congregations in particular. We are looking for someone with marketing/advertising expertise who would be interested in helping us develop such a marketing plan. If you are interested, please let Ellie (ellie7349@yahoo.com) know.

BOOKS FOR SALE

Books for adults on various topics as well as children's books are being sold after the Service each Sunday. The books are on consignment from the UUA Bookstore and will be available through the month of January. Please consider purchasing a book for yourself or as a

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gift. A small part of the cost goes to help support our congregation. If you have any questions about the books (or suggestions for future orders), contact our bookseller, Mary Drake.

New UUCC Member Directory Ready for Delivery

The new directory will be at church -- look for the one with your household name on it. Please don't take more than one printed directory per household. We would like to limit our printing on paper, so we will also distribute the PDF version so that you can refer to it and print from it as you like. Please note that photos of members were taken as opportunity arose over several months of patient work by Fran Coleman. If you are a member and we missed getting your photo, we're sorry (a few of you refused to be "snapped" and that's your prerogative).

Any mistakes in the directory content are inadvertent -- if they are important, please send out an announcement so that people can make a manual update on their printed directory. Keep your eyes open for the new member photo display board coming soon at UUCC.

Regards, Dorothy Hoskins
Membership Committee

UU SKI CLUB EVENT:

The First Unitarian Church of Rochester is sponsoring a Ski Weekend @ Holiday Valley from January 14th - 16th (Wednesday-Friday), 2009. The resort has 56 trails, 13 lifts, and 95% snowmaking. Cross country skiing is available on site and at Allegany State Park (20 minutes away). The cost is \$165/night, double occupancy with continental breakfast. Up to two children (under 18) stay and ski free when at least one parent skis. A non-refundable deposit of \$50/room/night is due November 1st. For more info, contact Brad Freeman @ 377-7983.

A CARING COMMITTEE REMINDER:

When a family member enters the hospital, needs emergency meals, needs transportation to church, or wants home visits; please contact Gigi Horwood-Benton or Donna Brigham or any Board member.

ARE YOU MISSING OUT ON CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS????

Then you want to join our Yahoo group. Its simple!! Follow these easy steps:3

- 1) Go to www.yahoo.com
 - 2) Click the link "groups" (in the column on the left side of the page)
 - 3) When it says: Find a group - put in UUCC Announcements & Hit Search
 - 4) Click on the UUCC-Announcements link
 - 5) Click on "Join This Group!" (a box on the right side of the page)
 - 6) It will ask for an ID (usually your email address) and a password (of your choosing)
 - 7) It will ask you some personal questions that are optional & then you submit your information.
- NOW - Every time a computer announcement is made, you will get it. And you can post announcements, too!

UUCC Website Update:

James Haswell has been working on updating the UUCC website with a whole new interface. The new site will have the ability to feature forums, a calendar, online Chalice newsletter, blogs, photo galleries, and much more. It is far from complete, but your input can help bring about its full potential. Please go online, take a look and share your thoughts on the site. The web address below is temporary until the new updates are complete.

<http://uucc.nofreewill.net>

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Once at the site, click on “log in”. Here you can setup a new account (you'll need to give a email and validate your new account with a new account email that will be sent to you). After that, log in and take a look. Click on the “forums” link and leave a message on your thoughts and ideas for the site.

If you have any questions feel free to contact James.

James Haswell
315.278.4093
freewill@nofreewill.net
0.0.0.PalmerEldritch.0.0.0@gmail.com

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

If you are looking for a religious community in which to seek spiritual growth...

If you are eager to consider religious questions with others who are not always certain they have all the answers, but who are determined to keep searching with an open mind, and acceptance of other peoples' beliefs...

If you would like the fellowship of others for celebration and worship, discussion and education, friendship and mutual support...

If you want children to be helped to develop their own religious beliefs...

If you wish to preserve and extend the traditions of personal freedom and human dignity against the dangers they face, you may find this church

fills your spiritual and human needs...

If you wish to know more about us as you consider membership, talk to our minister:

The Reverend Maureen Thitchener
585.657-7526

HOW TO GET THE WORD OUT AND HOW TO RECEIVE IT

You can publicize your events in a number of ways.

By print, if it is related to our church, send it to 4chalice@gmail.com. Indicate whether it is for the weekly announcements or the monthly Chalice newsletter.

The firm newsletter deadline is 15th of the preceding month.

We also have two e-mail announcement systems: Yahoo and Google. You must be a member of the e-mail list in order to send a message.

For e-mail list at Yahoo. If you are a member you can post your message to: uucc_announcements@yahogroups.com.

The announcements that are posted on Yahoo groups (UUCG announcements) are open to anybody who is a group member and there are no restrictions on subjects.

For Google, the address is uucc@googlegroups.com. The plan is to keep these posting church related.

Correspondance

Choosing Love This Holiday Season - A Pastoral Letter from Rev. William G. Sinkford

December 12, 2008

Dear friends:

As the winter days of this holiday season grow shorter, we light candles in the darkness. Outside there may be blustering wind and even snow, but inside our homes and congregations, we create warm sanctuaries. We celebrate the joys of the season and anticipate the return of the light.

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In this season of contrasts, I am reminded of the words of the Rev. Rebecca Parker: “Your gifts, whatever you discover them to be, can be used to bless or curse the world.”

This past November, I spent several weeks on a pilgrimage to Africa, accompanied by Rev. Eric Cherry, UUA director of international resources; Paula Cole Jones, an antiracism consultant for the UUA’s JUUST Change Consultancy; and Maria Sinkford, my wife. We went to learn about truth and reconciliation in South Africa; to fellowship with Unitarian Universalists in Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa; to meet with justice-making partners; and to visit Goree Island, one of the departure points for Africans enslaved in the transatlantic slave trade.

Along the way, we were witnesses to humankind’s capacity for cruelty – and for compassion.

One of the most important and difficult parts of the journey was visiting Goree Island, off the coast of Senegal.

There we saw the small, dark cells where enslaved people were held. Dozens of human beings were crammed into these dank and crowded spaces and were only allowed outside once a day. There were separate cells for slaves who resisted, for virgin girls who were to be raped by slave traders, and for slaves who were force-fed so that they could be transported across the ocean. Slaves who became sick were thrown into the shark-infested sea.

And we saw the “Door of No Return.” Through that door, Africans departed the island alive and enslaved, or dead.

There is no way to completely describe the horror of this place, but I left Goree Island with a deep respect for the tenacity and courage of those who survived to mother and father a new people

here in America. And I wondered if I myself could have survived the hardship and cruelty that they endured.

But we also witnessed the human capacity for love and for hope.

One of the most wonderful moments of the trip was our visit with the Manya Krobo Queen Mothers Association of Eastern Ghana, a program partner of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office.

In this district of Ghana, each of the 320 Queen Mothers represents one of the district’s member communities. The entire district is governed by a chief, who is selected by the Queen Mothers Association.

When the HIV/AIDS epidemic began, the Queen Mothers were the information-gatherers. Ghana has suffered less from HIV/AIDS than most West African countries, but rates in this district were high. The Queen Mothers and the chief responded with a massive educational campaign. They received some money from the national government, but relied mostly on personal contact with people in impacted communities. Their campaign successfully cut in half the rate of new infections in their communities.

Meeting the Queen Mothers was inspiring. Theirs is an impressive and hopeful story. In the face of a virulent epidemic, they were able to save lives through their compassion and dedication.

During our journey, we visited a school and the orphanage run by our Unitarian Universalist brothers and sisters in Kampala, Uganda. The resources of the Kampala congregation are modest, but these Unitarian Universalists have nonetheless been successful in vastly improving the lives of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

For many here in the United States and around

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the world, this year's holiday season will be a challenging one, in which the continuing problems of war and poverty will be exacerbated by worldwide economic strains. Now, as much as ever, it is critical that we affirm the primacy of love and hope.

I am heartened by the stories of Unitarian Universalist congregations that are practicing generosity this holiday season. I am proud to hear about our congregations that are collecting goods to keep struggling families warm, that are supporting food banks, that are resisting rampant consumerism and promoting ethical consumption, and that are advocating for a more just society.

There are so many opportunities in this holiday season for each of us, and for our congregations, to shine the light of compassion. Even if we have meager resources and great challenges, we can still serve the larger good.

My holiday prayer is that we will continue to find ways to choose love. By affirming the human capacity for compassion, we – individually and collectively – can be a blessing to the world.

In faith,

**Rev. William G. Sinkford, President
Unitarian Universalist Association**

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315.235.1545, DREUCC@gmail.com

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