

FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF PLAINFIELD



Minister Tracy Sprowls-Jenks
Religious Ed. Dir Sue Fertig
Music Director Gail Slater
Office Administrator Louise Polli
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www.fusp.org (see back page for e-mails)



ESTABLISHED 1889 (UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST)

APRIL 2010

WORSHIP SERVICES

FINDING THE MEANING IN EASTER

APRIL 4 - REV. TRACY AND
SUE FERTIG, DRE

Please join us this morning for a multi-generational Easter service. Unitarian Universalists struggle with the meaning of Easter. What is in this ancient story for those who are not Christian or do not believe in the story? What can the Easter story offer us as UUs? After the service the children will have an Easter egg hunt.

VOICES FROM THE PAST

APRIL 11 - REV. TRACY

Voices from our Unitarian Universalist past guide us on our path today. But where do we go from here?

BLUE BOAT HOME

APRIL 18 - REV. TRACY
A service in music, poetry, and homily celebrating the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. Our children will join us for the first part of this service.

At 5:00 this afternoon, please join us as we formally install Rev.

Tracy Sprowls-Jenks as the called minister of the First Unitarian So-

ciety of Plainfield.

COMING OF AGE SERVICE

APRIL 25 - THE COA GROUP
As a rite of passage our Coming

of Age service represents our youth's transition from childhood to adulthood. The service will be a celebration of their growth and honors their individuality. Join us for this relevant and powerful service. It will be life changing. A reception hosted by the COA parents will follow the service.

Children 8 years old and up will attend the service.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

PASTELS BY SUSAN STROBER

Susan is a signature member of the Pastel Society of New Jersey and a member of the UU Congregation of Somerset Hills. She has won local and regional awards for her very colorful paintings. Susan studied painting and drawing at the School of Visual Arts and the Arts Students League in New York, Somerset Art Association and the NJ Center for Visual Arts in New Jersey and with various

well known artists. A price list can be found in the front alcove. Her work will be exhibited March 7 through April 11. An opening reception will be held on March 7, 2010 after service until 2 PM. There will be wine, cheese, and folk rock performed by Nancy and Raymond Brungard, members of the Somerset Hills congregation and former members of FUSP. All are welcome.

OFFICE HOURS

Usual office hours for Rev. Tracy are Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 10AM until 3:30 PM. but it is best to call for an appointment. 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. In an emergency, the office administrator (M-Th, 9AM-3PM) will be able to reach her.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

BEYOND THE PULPIT

Yesterday, I had coffee with John Hawkins. As many of you know, he served as chair of the Search Committee that brought me here. What many of you don't know is that he is also going to serve, along with Craig Hinds, on my Site Team. What is a site team, you might ask?

The site team is a group of four to five people who will aid me in the process of becoming a Doctor of Ministry. They will take a look at twelve competencies in ministry (such as preaching, pastoral care, prophetic word, etc.) and determine the two I need to focus on in the next year. They will read my proposal for my project (every dissertation for the Doctor of Ministry also has a project) and offer suggestions and guidance on how to make the project happen. They will read the dissertation and give me constructive criticism to make it both scholarly and yet accessible. Finally, they will attend the graduation and be a part of the ceremony by "hooding" me. In addition to John and Craig, I have three other members on the team, a minister, a sociologist and our district executive.

This year I finish up my classes and by June I hope to have my project proposal handed in. Once this is accepted, I am no longer a student but a candidate for the

Doctor of Ministry. I hope to spend all of next year on the project and the following on the dissertation so that I graduate in May of 2012.

So let me tell you a bit about the project. I am exploring how we create a Unitarian Universalist identity. I think a consistently strong way to develop identity is through music and story. Next year I hope to have several musicians come in and lead a service as well as talk to us about identity through song. In addition, we will hear stories about who we are as Unitarian Universalists. All of this is background "research" for the final project which will be a book and CD with the songs and stories we have heard and created. My hope is that this book and CD will be one way we instill a UU identity.

I hope you will share with me your ideas on all of this. I am excited to be doing this work and I think our congregation will greatly benefit from all the musicians and stories we will share next year. A further benefit will be our own deeper understanding of who we are as Unitarian Universalists. Sounds good, right?

Well, I started this column by saying I had coffee with John. In that conversation I shared how I feel like we need to have more ways to dialogue and discuss the

things I am learning at school, the things that are on your minds, the issues and concerns of our society that affect the congregation, etc. In this post-modern age one way we can dialogue without leaving our comfy chair is through a blog. I started one recently called <http://athispointintime.blogspot.com/>. In it, I will mostly talk about religion and politics and social issues that concern us as a people of faith. I invite you to participate in this conversation. Pay me a visit online and let's talk.

Of course, if there is something of a personal nature or a congregational concern that you wish to talk about, the old fashioned and, yet deeply cherished, in-person conversation is a great way to go. Just give me a call or email me at revtsj@fusp.org to set up an appointment.

Please consider purchasing flowers for a Sunday Service, or lighting the Robinson Window for a month to remember an anniversary; a loved one or a special occasion. Your memorial will appear in the Sunday Order of Service. Flowers are from a local florist and you may take them after the service. Price is \$37.50. Lighting the Robinson Window is \$45.00 for a month.

Contact Rob Weldy for details at 908-322-5116 or e-mail: weldyserv@aol.com

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

CALL FOR SUMMER 2010 SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Has the cold of winter got you imagining yourself in flip-flops in August? How about picturing yourself leading a summer service? Summer services are less formal and present an opportunity to try something new.

When people step forward on a summer Sunday to lead a service, they experience the fulfillment of leading the congregation in thoughtful contemplation of something they feel is important. Our congregation expresses the depth and breadth of its spiritual, intellectual, and social concerns through such lay led services, allowing us to benefit from many voices. Why not lend your voice?

As is our custom, we will have lay led services throughout the summer of 2010. The worship committee asks that you begin to think about whether you are able to contribute to this effort. You can lead a service on your own or team up with one or two other

people. Typically a sermon lasts 15 minutes. If you work with a group on a service, each person would have about five minutes. Many ideas for services would lend themselves to this shared format because it would allow for multiple perspectives on topics that touch our lives in rich and varied ways. If you haven't led a service before, you should know that the worship committee helps you create the order of service and provides any other guidance that leaders request. The summer is a time for us to explore, and in that spirit, we offer this list of possible ideas for services:

- The telephone: How do different generations think about this device? (A family with teens might be the perfect team for this service idea!)
- Facebooking, twittering, texting, networking: Do these new verbs mean we are growing closer or further apart in our relationships?

- Feeling safe: When the news talks of terrorism and disasters, how do we cultivate a feeling of psychic safety?
- Prioritizing in the midst of distractions: What is important when everything is immediate?
- Job/career changes: What is it like to redefine oneself?
- Caregiving: What insights emerge when caring for children, friends, parents?
- Pace of life: Is technology really saving time?

To reserve one of these topics or suggest others, please contact Ralph Braskett, Bettina Caluori, Debbie Gordon, Kathy Roberson or Sally Young.

The worship committee is also looking for a person to do a lay-led service on May 30. If interested, contact Ralph Braskett.

YOU ARE INVITED!

All Members and Friends of
The First Unitarian Society of Plainfield
Are Requested to Participate in and Support the Installation of
The Reverend Tracy Sprowls-Jenks
As Settled Minister of Our Society Called and Installed by Our Congregation

Sunday, April 18, 2010 5:00 PM.
724 Park Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

Reception to follow in the Parish Hall. Please RSVP to FUSPInstallationRSVP@gmail.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

COMING OF AGE: A RITE OF PASSAGE

Many cultures and faith traditions instruct and guide their children through a period of preparation and reflection of their religious and cultural values. In both Native American and African tribes ceremonies are conducted welcoming their children into adulthood. A young person in the Jewish faith will spend years studying the torah in preparation for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah celebration. Confirmation is the term used in the Roman Catholic Church when a young person between the ages of 12 and 18 chooses to be confirmed with the strength of the Holy Spirit, in order to lead a Christian life.

In our Unitarian Universalist faith

SECRET PAL CELEBRATION SUNDAY

March 21st is the final Sunday of the Secret Pal program, a.k.a Celebration Sunday. That is the day the children get to meet their Secret Pals and have lunch with them in the Parish Hall after the service. Secret Pals are reminded to contribute \$5.00 to cover the cost of lunch.



April 2010

we call this rite of passage, Coming of Age (COA). It represents the work of the individual, their family and this religious community in developing an individual, who is proactive, justice seeking, resourceful, inquisitive, and compassionate. This work culminates in the form of a Sunday service that is developed and presented by the Coming of Age youth, their leaders, and mentors. During this service the youth will share their music, personal credos, perspectives, and values. This makes for a very powerful and compelling worship service.

This year we will celebrate the growth and development of our Coming of Age youth on April

EASTER SUNDAY FOOD HUNT

Following our Easter Sunday special service will be a special Easter Egg Hunt. Instead of a hunt for Easter eggs this year, our RE kids will hunt for canned foods to help stock up the food pantry! This provides essential food for the needy in the larger community and will be wonderful time for the children. The most requested items for the pantry are cans of tuna and vegetables. We will be collecting cans for the event. Please bring them before the Sunday service on Easter Sunday.

25, 2010. Join us as we honor the following youth: **Emma Budiansky, Nava Caluori, Ian Cauley, Nicholas Schrum, Elsa Leistikow, Madeleine McGrory, Valerie Neuhaus, Tara Sciortino, Zachary Schultz, Christopher Walsh, and Chloe Williams.**

On behalf of The First Unitarian Society of Plainfield and the Religious Education Program I encourage you and your family to attend the service on April 25th and to witness this milestone event we call Coming of Age.

Peace and Love,

Sue Fertig, Director of Religious Education

COMING OF AGE SERVICE: APRIL 25

(Children 8 years old and up will attend the service)

As a rite of passage our Coming of Age service represents our youth's transition from childhood to adulthood. The service will be a celebration of their growth and honors their individuality. Join us for this relevant and powerful service. It will be life changing. A reception hosted by the COA parents will follow the service.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

FIRST SUNDAY EXPLORERS:

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WITH REV. TRACY

Ages 11th grade and up are welcome!). **Time: 11:30 AM until 1:30 PM.** The idea behind Explorers is to have a single session on something of interest. It can be a current event, a concern of the congregation, or a philosophical issue that sparks a passion. These single sessions can lead to further discussion, education, action or exploration opportunities, if there is interest and support.

This series will start up again in the fall. Your suggestions for topics are welcome. If you would like to lead a session, please let Rev. Tracy know your interest and your topic. Her email is revtsj@fusp.org.

March 7: Parliament of World Religions: A closer look at the Parliament of World Religions and what it means to Unitarian Universalists. We will explore the several themes of the parliament and bring these ideas back into our community. Some things we

will explore: the global financial crisis, aboriginal rights, world religions, spiritual practice and more. Class will be in the Sanctuary on this Sunday.

April 11: Unitarian Universalism: A Religion, A Faith, A Journey We will take a deeper look at our faith tradition including our history and our founding theology. We will explore the theologies that make up our congregations now. We will learn about historical figures as well as current UU heroes. We will explore

PATH TO MEMBERSHIP CLASS

The next Path to Membership Class will be **May 16 and the next New member Sunday is May 23rd.** Please contact Rev. Tracy for more information at revtsj@fusp.org or check the Path to Membership article under the About Us tab of the website.

the idea of faith and what it means to belong to a religious organization. Class will be in the Stevens Room.

May 2: Unitarian Universalism: As a Social Movement: We will look at Unitarian Universalism through the lens of a social justice movement. What is the theological basis for the social justice work we do? Can we be martyrs of this faith? We will explore this topic both in a historical context and our contemporary one. Class will be in the Stevens Room.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Many wishes for wonderful birthdays to those celebrating in March:

Gianna Calligy

Dillon Monti

Jacob Schultz

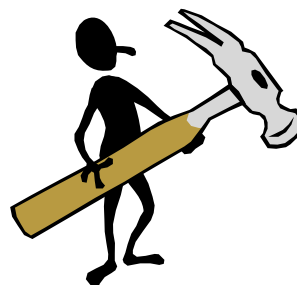


LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

NEW WAY TO COMMUNICATE WITH PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Property Chair, George Gowen, is pleased to announce that Peter Jones has been appointed Board liaison to the Property Committee. All requests for repairs, changes, etc. should be directed

first to Peter at preaderj@aol.com with a copy to George at george@gowen.com as well as property@fusp.org. Thank you.



LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

SOMETHING IN THE AIR

If you haven't noticed; I missed last month's newsletter deadline and you were all spared a page and a half of eyestrain. It's not that I'm a slacker, or suddenly feel that you don't need to know what's going on around this place, but I, and a devoted group of others, have been busy speaking with actions rather than words!

That's actually typical of many members here at FUSP who endeavor to do their committee work and volunteer for a lot of vital programs, but how many of them can say they remodeled the

office, and got the ducts painted in the parish hall!

Actually, the number would be about 10, which is too many to name individually, but you know who you are! I'm sure I speak for the entire congregation when I extend heartfelt thanks for revitalizing the look and function of our facilities. We're not done yet, the Building Use Task Force Upgrade Committee is bending over backwards to implement many more improvements while posing minimal disturbance to daily operations. Keep your eyes open for more upgrades and improvements

and if you feel you have a talent to offer, contact me or Melissa Logan to sign up.

Speaking of hard working volunteers, let's recognize and thank everyone who pitched in and made last month's two-week long Homefirst stay a success. While the number of guests varied, the commitment of our volunteer members stayed strong. There were a handful of conflicts that arose due to our guests extended stay and I'm glad that all affected parties were able to resolve all of

(Continued on page 7)

ONLINE NEWSLETTER

As previously announced, 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 May we will deliver the newsletter electronically and also make paper copies available for pickup at FUSP. **THE APRIL ISSUE WILL BE YOUR LAST HARD COPY NEWSLETTER.** Starting with the May issue, 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. For those mem-

bers 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) and a donation of \$7 to cover the mailing cost will be greatly appreciated. Contact the Office (908-756-0750) if you wish to receive your newsletter by post.

Of course, the newsletter is always published on our website, www.fusp.org, which you can always browse at your leisure. The easiest way to find it is to go to the News & Events tab.

The Communications Committee

SUBMIT TO ONE EMAIL ADDRESS

For many years, the submissions to the newsletter has been tied to website submissions so now we will tie the emails together! Please submit all materials for the website OR newsletter to **newsletter-website@fusp.org**. BOTH the website editor, Karin Gast, and the newsletter editor, Priscilla Hockin Brown, will receive your email. Karin will kindly edit your materials and post on the website. Priscilla will copy from the website and post in the newsletter. Easy!

Newsletter Deadline for May:
Advertising or Print: April 12
Electronic submissions: April 16
Assembling & Mailing: April 27

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

SOMETHING IN THE AIR

(Continued from page 6)

their real estate and scheduling difficulties and focus on the benefit the program offers to our guests in need.

At this writing I have been made aware of the canvass results, and while it is an improvement over last year, at this point we are still noticeably short of our \$214,000 goal. If you haven't pledged yet, please take the time and consider the value you get for your pledge dollar and pledge accordingly; and if you have pledged already maybe you can help us out a little more to reach our goal.

While you all have your check-books out, this might be a good time to fill you in on the capital campaign for the building restoration too! By my calculations we are still some \$ 130,000 short of our commitment and we are working hard to close that gap as well. Please talk with me or Debbie Gordon about how you can be a vital part in the restoration of our spiritual home.

You might think that pledging to FUSP is somewhat like paying taxes, and to the extent that we are all obliged to pitch in, it is. But I feel much better about dig-

ging deeper to support this church instead of some bloated bureaucracy that consistently wastes our hard earned dollars and seems to worship excess and inefficiency. Here, we truly are a family that supports each other with real dollars and through responsible actions. We all share in the work, the joys and the sorrows of our congregation as we earnestly try to make this world a better place. I can't think of a better place to call my spiritual home, and better people that I call friends to share my gifts with,..... can you?

Guy Mastroianni, Board President

FINANCE COMMITTEE

GENEROSITY

Some of you have not had the opportunity to contribute to the Building Fund. It is not too late to make and pay a pledge this year to the almost \$50,000 that is needed in addition. Forms are at the Booktable.

We are a generous congregation. In Michael Durall's "The Almost Church Revitalized" he suggests that new members "reach the 5 to 10 percent charitable giving level as soon as possible." Are you there yet? Add your annual

pledge, the pledge to the capital building fund, and what you contribute in the plate and on second Sundays. You will be surprised by your generosity.

Alice Logie

NEWS FROM THE CANVASS COMMITTEE

As of March 11th we have 105 pledges totaling \$179,663 for the fiscal year 2010 - 2011. This is an increase of 3.3% over last year. We tried several new approaches for this canvass and they appear to have worked. The canvass is officially over; however, there are

13 pledges still outstanding and we will be contacting them shortly. There were many people who helped with this canvass. Some are: Paul Caluori, Amy Garcia Phillips, Karin Gast, Tracy Sprowls-Jenks, Sandy Kaplan, Alice Logie, Joanne Macaluso,

Guy Mastroianni, Louise Polli, Bonnie Rowan, Denise Soppas, Susan Neuhaus, Barbara and David Van Savage, Julie Walsh and the lunch crew. Many thanks to all!

Fred Lange - Canvass Chair

SOCIAL JUSTICE & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

FRIDAY NIGHT FILM SERIES - "COME OUT" AND JOIN US!

"The last part of me that is female is killing me." So notes Robert Eads, a female-to-male transsexual who was dying of cervical and ovarian cancer and refused treatment by doctors too discomforted by his non-normative gender to treat him. "Southern Comfort", (winner of the 2001 Sundance Grand Jury prize), is a mind-stretching and riveting documentary about the last year of Robert's life.

To start with, Robert has a "chosen family" of two young female-to-male transsexuals he calls *sons*, and the boys have female partners. Then there is Robert's biological son, who fumbles over his pronouns when

he describes his *mom*. And Robert's current sweetheart, Lola, is a tall striking brunette who, minus her wig and makeup, sports a receding hairline and a 5 o'clock shadow.

Eads is the linchpin of the film though, and his wit, generosity, insight, and survivor's spirit are irresistible. He says the only time he felt like a homosexual was when he – as a woman – was married to the biological father of his children. "I am – and have always been – a heterosexual male," he says. Eventually Robert opted to have a sex change and believes his doctor's decision for him not to have a hysterectomy is what led to his ovarian cancer. If

there's a villain in Southern Comfort, it's the medical profession -- not only the transsexual specialists but the numerous doctors who refused to treat his cancer, claiming that his presence in their offices would "upset their women patients." But instead of dwelling on their cruelty, Robert exudes serenity and a commitment to friends, family and a final trip to Southern Comfort, the annual Atlanta convention that serves as a touchstone for transgendered people.

Friday, April 23, 7 PM, Steven's Room. Popcorn and refreshments provided. Childcare available (call Valerie Mead if needed). Discussion to follow.

MANY THANKS TO HOMEFIRST VOLUNTEERS!

On March 14 FUSP completed a successful two weeks of hosting temporarily homeless families through Homefirst (<http://www.homefirstinc.org/>). Hosting enables us to collaborate with other organizations, make the greater community aware of our vibrant congregation, and live our commitment to service and justice.

The project involved over 50 volunteers from FUSP and the surrounding community. Community volunteers included three North Plainfield Girl Scout troops, UU Metro District youth

who attended Con Om Nom and the Mision Torre Fuerte congregation that meets in our building.

FUSP's Homefirst coordinators want to thank several FUSP groups in particular:

- Our youth group and advisers who prepared and contributed several meals and snacks
- The Neighboring Faiths class for preparing breakfast
- Our COA class and their mentors for many hours of service
- Act IV and RE teachers and youth for sharing their space
- The Arts Group, for offering

a craft to our guests

- Reverend Tracy and Sue Fertig, Director of Religious Education, for planning a fabulous intergenerational service on how communities create welcoming homes

We're grateful to every one of you who shared space, set up, shopped, cooked, slept over, cleaned up and organized. We can't do this project without you, and we look forward to working with all of you to host again in summer 2011.

Karen Hawkins, Sue Krisburg, Melissa Logan, Kate Riegel, and Jim Tuite

SOCIAL JUSTICE & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

GREETINGS FROM OUR FOOD PANTRY!

I will make this short and sweet. We have provided over 1000 bags of food to 374 people, including over 200 children since my stewardship began last August. Also, we have rejoined the Community Foodbank of NJ which allows us to purchase food at greatly reduced rates (\$400 = 6 carloads of food). However, with this benefit comes the contractual requirement to provide a second food distribution date from our location here at FUSP.

Our current distribution date is usually the last Saturday of the month (11:30AM - 2PM). We are now planning on also being open on the last Monday of the month (4:30 - 6PM). As you can imag-

ine, picking up the food, organizing the pantry, putting together family bags and distributing them requires many hands. In general, we need 2-3 volunteers for 2.5 hours on each of the distribution days. At present, our list of volunteers is rather short and we would greatly appreciate your renewed involvement.

Thank you so much for your contributions of money and food! and now, we are looking forward to your physical presence at the Food Pantry as well. There will be a sheet posted on the Food Pantry door showing the dates we'll be open. Please sign up for whichever date is convenient for you. If you are not sure about the

date but want to be involved, send an e-mail to Karin Gast (to website@fusp.org) and she will put you on our list of future volunteers. If you need more details, talk to Karin or me (Joanne Macaluso). I can tell you it gives one a great feeling of satisfaction to be able to help people in need! Thank you again for your generosity in this community endeavor!!

Joanne Macaluso, Food Pantry Chairperson

SUPPORT REV.

TRACY'S INSTALLATION

Installation of our settled minister is a formal recognition of the covenant between minister and congregation, in a ceremony performed by the Members of our Society. Please plan to attend and participate. We also invite all Friends of the Society to attend and support our congregation's installation of Rev. Tracy. You can help make the installation ceremony a success. To lend a hand, contact any member of the Installation Committee (Joanne Macaluso, Breda May, Angela Goldman, Kate Riegel, or John Hawkins).

To provide financial support for the installation, write a check to FUSP with "Installation" in the Notes line.

EASTER DINNER FOR THE PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY

April 4th: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Do you have a favorite holiday dish or homemade dessert you'd be willing to share at our dinner for the community this year? Here's what we're asking of you this year for Easter:

- prepare that special dish at home, enough to feed at least 10-12, and bring it to church on Easter morning (ham, roast chicken, potato or macaroni dish, veggie dish, dessert)

- volunteer 2 hours of your time

that day to help setup, serve or cleanup.

- call Cass & Karleen (732-574-0059) and let them know!

The Food Pantry will provide whatever you don't so we need to know in enough time to shop (7-10 days prior to Easter).

If you can't make a homemade dish, feel free to donate cash or food certificates to the pantry and we'll do the rest.

Come be with us and bring a memory!

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

FROM THE CARING COMMITTEE

◆ The caring committee and all FUSP members continue to offer whatever solace we can to the **family of Heather Brown**. We will continue to be available for whatever help is needed through their grieving process.

◆ **Doris Lange** had successful hip replacement surgery and is currently in Runnells Rehabilitation Center. She may be home by the time you receive this newsletter. Her phone number at the rehab is (908) 771-9639. We wish her continued progress.

◆ Congratulations to **Joe & Nancy Young** on the engagement of their son, Geoffrey.

◆ Congratulations to **Beckie Orth** and her family on the adoption of a needy puppy.

◆ Wishes for quick progress to **Christine Betros** whose father is now on the kidney transplant list.

◆ Wishes for total healing to

Simon Keller 's mother who broke her arm and is recuperating at home.

◆ Congratulations to **George Gowen** on catching the hit-and-run driver who damaged **Sally Young**'s car, and our best hopes to Sally that she'll have continued transportation.

◆ Congratulations to **Chris Bagliery** and his brother's family. Chris is delighted in becoming an uncle again.

◆ We are happy that **Gerry Heinzer** completed necessary surgery, is feeling better and is back participating in church functions.

◆ Congratulations to **Lois DeRitter** and her daughter Lauralynn who has been accepted to veterinary school.

◆ Congratulations to **Christine** whose sister's baby boy was born and named for her brother.

◆ Wishes for a complete recovery to **Jessica Toscano** who had another round of hospitalization but is now home again.

◆ Condolences to **Lynette Birkins** whose friend from her writing group was murdered.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Join us for our next game night on Friday, April 9 from 7:30-10 in the Stevens Room. Game night is held on the 2nd Friday of each month and is a great opportunity to meet new friends or get to know some old ones better. All ages are welcome. You can bring a game you love, or just come ready to learn a new one. Contact Christine Betros at christinebetros@yahoo.com for additional information.

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE BOOK GROUP

The Women's Alliance Book Group will meet **Thursday, March 4th, at 7:00 in Classroom 1**. "Yellow Raft on Blue Water" by Michael Dorris is the selection. The same story is told by a Native American mother, daughter and grandmother in the voice of each. The story is so authentic that many people believe that it was actually written by Dorris's wife, Louise Erdich.

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE: FILM NIGHT

This month is a change from our normal Saturday morning schedule. We will meet on **Friday evening, April 16th at 7:30 pm in the Stevens Room**.

The movie we have chosen is **SMOKE SIGNALS**, a funny, touching, thought provoking film whose characters are Native Americans from the Coeur d'Alene Indian reservation in Idaho. **SMOKE SIGNALS** has been recognized with awards from the Sundance Film Festival,

the Independent Spirit Awards, the American Indian Film Festival, the London Film Festival and others. It is based on stories by Sherman Alexie, a well known Native American writer.

Since the WA book group will have just completed "Yellow Raft in Blue Water", a novel about Native Americans, this film seemed especially appropriate. Rated PG 13. High school age might enjoy it as well. We welcome newcomers.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

BRING-A-DISH DINNER

The Bring-A-Dish Dinner for April will be at the home of **Theresa Jefferson on Saturday, April 24th at 6:30 PM.** We especially welcome new members and friends. It's a great way to get to know others. RSVP to and confirm with Theresa (732-339-0411) what dish you plan to bring. Please bring your own wine, beer or soda. This is a family friendly dinner. Childcare will be available. There will be a small charge to cover expenses.

Upcoming Bring-A-Dish dinners: at the homes of **Breda May on May 15th and Lee & Sylvia Walker on June 12th.** July and August are open. It's an easy way to entertain since everyone else does the cooking. The dinners are usually the fourth Saturday of every month with some adjustments to work around holidays. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Daniel Zucker at 908-889-5894.

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 before Feb. 7. She will begin taking reservations & food offers Monday, March 1. This is definitely a family occasion.

SPRING CLEAN-UP

Not only do we want to do our usual spring clean up this year but we need to have the grounds in particularly good condition for the many guests we will be having for Tracy's ordination. Let's plan it for Saturday, April 3rd at 9 AM. In case of bad weather, we can still do it on the 10th in time for the ordination. Please bring

some lawn bags and material to close them. Be prepared to take a few bags home with you to dispose of in your usual manner; we don't want them at the curb waiting for the city to pick them up at some possible future date. Bettina Caluori would love to hear from all you volunteers, but you can just show up, rake in hand.

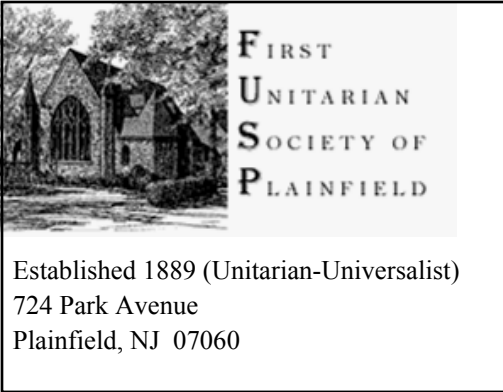
DAYTIME BOOK DISCUSSION & BOOKTABLE

"The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" by Stieg Larsson will be discussed by the group on the Fourth Wednesday, April 28 at 1:30 PM in the Stevens Room. The book is available at the Booktable. Also UU books "Heart to Heart" for Small Group Ministry and the books on how to grow the UU congregations, "The Almost Church" and "The Almost Church, Revitalized" by Michael Durall are now being sold at the Booktable.

Advertise your membership by carrying our new canvass tote bag available to member for \$10.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast will be held in the **Stevens Room on Saturday, April 10 at 9 AM.** Since last month's meeting was canceled, we will run the planned topic: Sandy Kaplan & Rob Weldy will lead the discussion. "Candidate Obama made promises before he was elected. It appears that some of them have not been honored. In hindsight, weren't some of them not possible to honor, even as he made them. Is he responsible for everything he promised, even if the fulfillment is out of his control? Are we responsible for forcing him to make impossible promises in the first place?" Come join the controversy!



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DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE RUSH

2010 DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING: WE WOULD BE ONE

April 30-May 1, 2010; Hyatt
Morristown, Morristown NJ

The Rev. Burton Carley will deliver the keynote address “What Binds Us Together?” at the 2010

Metro NY District Annual Meeting. His address will focus on how we might understand our center as a people of faith and deepen the quality of our spiritual bonds.

Olympia’s Daughters will be the featured guests on Friday night.

<http://uumetrony.org/am10/index.htm>

Newsletter Deadline for May:

Advertising or Print: April 12

Electronic submissions: April 16

Assembling & Mailing: April 27

Submit to newsletter-website@fusp.org