



FIRST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF PLAINFIELD

Minister Tracy Sprowls-Jenks
Religious Ed. Dir Sue Fertig
Music Director Gail Slater
Office Administrator Louise Polli
Phone: 908-756-0750 Fax: 908-769-0452
www.fusp.org (see back page for e-mails)



Established 1889 (Unitarian-Universalist)

March 2010

Worship Services

HOW HARE BUILT HER HUT

March 7th - Rev. Tracy and Sue Fertig, DRE

Homelessness is a growing issue in our community. Homefirst is an organization that helps folks with temporary housing. Our multi-generational service this morning takes a look at homelessness and what we can do to help.

INSIDE OUT: SPIRITUALITY AND SOCIAL ACTION

March 14th - Worship Committee and Jason Seymour, guest preacher

Unitarian Universalism includes both an artistic appreciation of

the transcendent beauty of life, as well as an enduring and realistic call to social responsibility. How might a fuller development of this relationship help us to (at once) savor and serve the world around us? Find your feet this morning on the rock of universal love as we explore the voice from within that calls us toward justice, unity and compassion.

Jason Seymour is an aspiring Unitarian Universalist minister. He is particularly interested in economic justice and the arts. Jason received a Master of Divinity degree, with a concentration in social ethics, in May from Union Theological

Seminary in New York City; he received undergraduate degrees from Bucknell University in Business and Music.

MANY BELIEFS, ONE FAITH

March 21st - Rev. Tracy
Why should we explore our personal spirituality in community? What does being a part of the Unitarian Universalist Association really mean for us?

THE FIRST STEP IS THE HARDEST

March 28th - Rev. Tracy
Moses, Passover, obstacles, and justice are themes of this morning's service.

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 con-

gregation'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 The First Unitarian Society of Plainfield with "Installation" in the Notes line.

Worship Committee

BEYOND THE PULPIT - March

When I got back from the Parliament of World Religions, I was very excited about everything I experienced and learned while in Melbourne, Australia. I shared some of what I learned there in my column for the December newsletter. With the holidays and the canvass now out of the way, I finally can get back to the topic of world religions, interfaith work and the Parliament in this newsletter.

While I was in Australia, I blogged (for those who do not know, blogging is an online journal where people share their ideas and reflections. Look for this blog on our website under about us and then minister. The blog is at the bottom of the

page) about some of the things I experienced at the parliament. Last month, I gave a sermon on the topic, sharing my thoughts on interfaith work, youth power, first people's rights and the global economic crisis—all workshops or plenaries I attended at the conference.

Now my mind has turned to how we can go a bit deeper in learning and exploring about the Parliament, world religions, partnerships with interfaith organizations, sustainability and many of the other issues that came out of attending the Parliament of World Religions. Starting this month I plan to offer a few one-time seminar/discussions around various topics. In addition to these named

above, I plan to include Unitarian Universalist history, a primer on the Unitarian Universalist Association, theology and social action as topics for us to explore together. If you have an interest in helping me present a topic, please let me know.

In April and May I will be offering a course called "Articulating Your UU Faith." This five-session course will help participants discover and communicate their liberal religious ideals. Please join me!

Chris Baglieri and the Adult Religious Education Committee have other Adult Religious Education opportunities planned

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OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks will be in the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00 AM until 3:30 PM. She will be working from home on Thursdays and will answer calls and emails. On the evenings when there is a meeting at FUSP that she needs to attend, Rev. Tracy may come in later in the day. Please note that Rev. Tracy will occasionally be away from the

office for meetings and visits during office hours so it is best to call and make an appointment to see her. On Fridays, Rev. Tracy writes her sermons from home. Monday is her day off. In an emergency, the office administrator (Louise Polli, M-Th, 9AM-3PM) will be able to reach her and she checks voice mail on days she is not in the office.

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

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 Robertson 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.

FLOWERS AND ROBINSON WINDOW

Please consider purchasing flowers for a Sunday Service, or lighting the Robinson Window for a month. You may wish 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

Religious Education

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE MID-WINTER RETREAT

On January 24, 2010 the Religious Education Committee (REC) members and I met at the home of Amy and Andrew Garcia Phillips. Seven members of the REC were in attendance; Chris Baglieri, Denise Soppas, Kit Marlowe, Amy Garcia Phillips, Kate Reigel, Jim Tuite and Susan Neuhaus. We began the session with a hearty pot-luck lunch and opening words from Chicken Soup for the Teacher's Soul. The agenda included three areas of interest; a retrospective of our Religious Education (RE) program, the discussion and completion of a survey of "500 Sundays" around the priorities of our religious education program and finally, creating an original marketing approach that would promote our R.E. program and F.U.S.P.

Chris Baglieri and Denise Soppas facilitated the discussion regarding the R.E. program retrospective with a review of last year's list of "needs"

and highlighted a number of improvements that have been integrated into our program including; a re-organized and re-energized Adult Religious Education program, more interactive experiences during the "time for all ages" in the Sunday service, the commitment of adding a second adult or older youth to assist in each classroom, the addition of white boards and CD players for every classroom, the creation of a more efficient way to recruit snack helpers and distribute the R.E. snack (i.e. clear posting of food allergies) and intentionally recruiting R.E. volunteers from a more diverse pool of folks (not just parents). All these improvements have been successful in establishing a more welcoming and reliable environment for our community to thrive in.

The concept of "500 Sundays" was developed by Kit Marlowe. The premise is that

our children spend approximately 500 Sundays between the ages of 5-18 years old with us on Sunday mornings. Kit then raised the question, "What are we giving our children in terms of religious education during that time?" Kit created a survey around the various topics and we were asked to complete it during the retreat. Kit has since tallied and generated the following the list of the six most valued topics for our R.E. program they are; Unitarian Universalism, Judeo-Christian traditions, other world religions, personal philosophy, personal responsibility for social justice and emotional stability and growth. This information will be used in selecting curriculum for next year.

The third topic was presented by Chris and it involved marketing our R.E. program. Under Chris's direction we broke into 2 groups and he challenged us
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MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Lia Davies
Luca Calligy
Isaac Schrum
Elsa Leistikow

Sam Beck
Zachary Schultz
Jessica Toscano
Alexander S. Zucker



Religious Education

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE MID-WINTER RETREAT

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to create a strategy that would be both engaging and creative to potential members and friends. The 2 groups worked non-stop for 20 minutes and produced the following ideas; one designed a template that would incorporate children of diverse backgrounds passing a chalice one-to-another with the U.U. principles printed along the bottom of the page,

the other group created a theme around the idea of a “Work Out Gym for your Spiritual Development” where you can exercise and strengthen your core beliefs and values in a religious community. Both ideas were well received and may have possibilities in the future.

All the REC members present thoroughly enjoyed and were nourished by the variety of

topics and exercises. It was an important to take time to discuss and deliberate about the topics that are often left out of our monthly meetings due to time restraints. Many thanks to Chris, Denise, Kit and Amy for creating a valuable and interactive retreat experience.

Peace,
Sue L. Fertig
Director of Religious Education

ATTENTION ADULT RE PARTICIPANTS!

For our Winter Adult RE Session, we will be hosting a sampler class, combining highlights from the three UU parenting curricula. These exciting classes will be combined with printed and online resources in an overview of the UU parenting issues. The curricula that we will explore are:

1. Being A UU Parent
2. Parents as Resident Theologians

3. Parents as Social Justice Educators

Classes will meet on Thursday nights, and will be co-led by Chris Baglieri, Kate Williams and Sue Fertig.

Our first (planning) meeting will take place on **Thursday, February 18th at 7:30 PM** with future meeting times to be determined by the group.

Please note that due to the

“sampler” nature of the class, it is not necessary to attend every session, but we will work with interested participants to establish a schedule of Thursday meetings that works for families.

E-mail Chris Baglieri (cbaglieri@optonline.net) if you think that you might be interested in participating.

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.

Membership Development

FROM THE CARING COMMITTEE

- The congregation is profoundly saddened at the loss of **Heather Brown**, who died on February 7. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband, **Craig Hinds** and their three sons, **August, Forest and Rowan**. Our thoughts and prayers are also with her brother **Alex Brown**, and his family, **Priscilla and Liam**.

- We are also sad to share the news that **Valerie Mead's** brother, Michael, passed away and Debbie Weiler's father, **Jackson R. Pellett** also. Our

prayers are with these families in their time of grief.

- Here's wishing health and wellness to **Tara Janick's** cousin who was severely injured in a car accident.

- **Martha Haviland's** aunt was recently diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

- **John Sciortino's** friend was diagnosed and is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

- **Lois Lanning's** niece has a mass in her abdomen.

- A speedy recovery to **Ralph Braskett** and **Wendy Pentoja** as they continue to recover from recent illnesses.

- Congratulations to **Gail Slater** and her partner, Pam, who are celebrating their 35th anniversary.

- **Martha Duval** is a home-bound member who would appreciate a call or a card. Tracy had a nice visit with them recently.

For details about the specific event, go to Members only>Membership>Membership Announcements or look under News & Events>Announcements.

BEYOND THE PULPIT - March

(continued from page 2)

throughout the spring. There is also the Adult Our Whole Lives class taking place right now. There are so many opportunities here to deepen our understanding of who we are,

to expand our intellect, and to grow our souls. I hope you will take a look at some of these opportunities and make the time to deepen who you are as a Unitarian Universalist.

Further information about these various Adult Religious Education opportunities will be available shortly!

Social Justice & Community Outreach

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, 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.

RACIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE REPORT

Having piloted the new UUA seminar series on race and ethnicity, "**Building the World We Dream About**," our Racial Justice Committee is moving rapidly to address a major issue in the city and schools of Plainfield, youth violence. We have joined together with other congregations: Grace Episcopal, United Church of Christ, Shiloh Baptist, the Quakers, Covenant Methodist, Faith Tabernacle, The Greater Central Jersey Clergy, and Watchung Avenue Presbyterian and organizations: Angels in Action, and Peoples

Organization for Progress.

Our group's first objective will probably be to support and work with The Youth Council Teen Center to deter and reduce the trend of gang involvement and gang criminal activities and redirect youth that are at-risk of becoming or whom are already gang members or career criminals toward becoming constructive and productive citizens. They are currently working with 18 young people in after-school programs providing counseling, recreation, and community service. They

need a larger facility, equipment and volunteers to deal with the larger need. Longer term we are gathering information from local government and educational authorities to bring about a city-wide conference of government and educational leaders, experts, young people and African-American and Latino families to take effective action.

Our Committee welcomes members and friends to join us. Speak to Carl Heath.

Canvas Committee

NEWS FROM THE CANVASS COMMITTEE

As of February 11, 2010 we have received \$124,715 in pledges from 51 pledge units. This represents 58% of our proposed budget. It also represents a 20% increase in the

amount pledged by these same units! However, there are some 69 pledge units still outstanding and we need to hear from every one of them. So, as in years past, we will be contact-

ing these members in the days to come. But, it would be so much easier if you all sent in your pledges directly to Fred Lange, Canvass Chairperson. Thank you!

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!



FUSP Activities

GREAT TASTES AT THE CHILI COOK OFF!

Many thanks to all of you who made the Chili Cook Off a great happening! The "contestants" fed us well and were the prime reason for its success. The variety and quality of the chilies created the line of people that

kept coming back for more until some of the selections ran out. So many helpers set up the tables and cleaned up afterwards that no one had to work too hard. And we can't skip the more than seventy of us

who ate, drank, sat around and talked. We're looking forward to even greater participation next year and, perhaps, some new champions.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Join us for our next game night on Friday, March 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 Christine Betros at christinebetros@yahoo.com for additional information.

Events & Announcements

MEN'S BREAKFAST- March

**Saturday, March 13th, 9 AM
Parish Hall**

A little change this month for the Men's Breakfast. We will be meeting in the Parish Hall on Saturday, March 13th at 9 AM. The church will be hosting Homefirst and they will be

using the Stevens Room . Jack Schrum and Kurt Pollak will lead the discussion. "Candidate Obama made promises before he became President Obama. It appears that some of them have not been honored. In hindsight, weren't some of them not possible to honor, even as he uttered

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!

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE BOOK GROUP

**Thursday, March 14th, 7 PM
Classroom 1**

The Women's Alliance Book Group will meet Thursday, March 4th, at 7:00 in Class-

room 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 - March

**Saturday, March 27th, 10 AM
Stevens Room**

Women's Alliance is planning a truly special meeting for March. Our guest speakers will be Jody Wood and Carmen Salvarrieta, co-founders of Angels in Action, a non-profit group that is doing exceptional work with Latino immigrants here in Plainfield. We have asked them to talk about the activities of

their organization, the situation in general of immigrants here in Plainfield, and to share part of their own personal stories. Don't miss this interesting and informative meeting. We will meet on Saturday March 27th from 10 AM to noon in the Stevens Room. (Notice that this is not our usual 3rd Saturday.) Please notify Bonnie Rowan several days in advance if you need childcare.

Also, don't miss the one woman play about Eleanor Roosevelt being given on Friday, March 19th. Details can be found elsewhere in the website/newsletter. This is a much needed fund raiser for Women's Alliance and the Welcoming committee. Please support our efforts and come out for a great evening of entertainment.

Events & Announcements

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 both 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 New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in New Jersey and with various well known art-

ists. 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.



Roses in Earthenware Vase

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.

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 leaven-

ing 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 leesyl@verizon.net before Feb. 7. She will begin taking reser-

vations & food offers Monday, March 1. This is definitely a family occasion.



Property Committee

NEW WAY TO COMMUNICATE W. 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 pread-erj@aol.com with a copy to

George at george@gowen.com as well as property@fusp.org. Thank you.

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



FIRST
UNITARIAN
SOCIETY OF
PLAINFIELD

Established 1889 (Unitarian-Universalist)
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DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE RUSH

Newsletter Deadline for April

Print/Advertising:

Noon, March 8

Electronic: 5 PM, March 12

Assembling : March 23

Submit to newsletter@fusp.org

and website@fusp.org to be in-

cluded on the website & in the

newsletter. — Priscilla