

Edited for the Web: Personal information and contacts removed, as well as children's last names. Web viewers needing more information are invited to contact the church office at administrator@albanyuu.org.

Sundays at Albany UU

Please join us on any Sunday for:

Mindfulness Meditation, Religious Education for children and youth, the Service, Coffee Hour, or any combination thereof. Other programs on Sundays include Forum (social justice and environmental topics), Family Chapel, social events, and adult education.

All are welcome!

WINDOWS

Newsletter of the First Unitarian
Universalist Society of Albany

January 2017

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Sunday Schedule

9:00 AM

Mindfulness Meditation

9:45 AM

Nursery/Toddler rooms open

10:00 AM

Service

Family Chapel

(1st Sunday/mo. Oct.-May)

Religious Education

11:00 AM

Coffee Hour

11:45 AM

Forum (as scheduled)

Services

Jan. 1 "Begin Again in Love," Rev. Sam Trumbore

The New Year is another chance to review our lives and then start, stop, continue and modify directions, behaviors, patterns and habits. Rather than setting up unrealistic expectations for making big changes, there are ways to begin again by leading with our heart rather than our head.

Music: Ann Brandon (piano)

Jan. 8 "Tongues of Fire," Rev. Sam Trumbore

Prophets are not easy people to be around if you are a person of privilege. They make the privileged feel very uncomfortable. But listening and responding rather than tuning them out or locking them up can save vulnerable lives and create a more just world.

Jan. 15 "Prophetic Love," Rev. Sam Trumbore

The "Standing on the Side of Love" campaign has helped put our values into action. This way of being an activist is different than sorting out the good guys and the bad guys. This way of change harnesses love's power to challenge exclusion, oppression, and violence to create justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

Jan. 22 "Our UU Prophetic Message," Rev. Sam Trumbore

A new President will have taken office two days before this Sunday. How will his message for this country line up with our values? How will it differ? What will we say about it? And what will we do about it?

Music: Kathleen Bawel

**Jan. 29 "Conscience and Compromise,"
Rev. David Weissbard**

I am being asked for a sermon title six weeks before the event. That is a little tricky. The Sunday in question is a week after the inauguration of the new POTUS. One presumes that it is most likely to be DJT. While I am sure there are exceptions--

and that will be part of my point--I am confident that this presents a dilemma for many Albany UU members: we have principles, but politics is about compromise. So where does that leave us? I anticipate exploring the tension between conscience and compromise as we live in, forgive me, "a Trump nation."

Music: Chris Dunn (piano)



Calendar

Events happening every Sunday at Albany UU

9:00 AM Mindfulness MeditationSanctuary
 10:00 AM ServiceEmerson
 Family Chapel (1st Sunday/mo. Oct.-May)Sanctuary
 Religious Education Classrooms
 11:00 AM Coffee Hour.....Channing

Exceptions:

Regular events and meetings

CHECK the newsletter for changes to date, time and location

Sundays	5:30 PM	Walker Book Club (2nd)	Wednesdays	10:00 AM	Projects & Quilts (weekly)
	11:45 AM	Social Responsibilities Council (3rd)		12:00 PM	All Sides Considered (1st & 3rd)
Mondays	12:00 PM	Channing Circle (3rd)		5:30 PM	Green Sanctuary Committee (3rd)
	6:15 PM	Religious Education Council (1st)		7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal (weekly)
	7:00 PM	Earth Spirits (3rd)	Thursdays	7:00 PM	Program Coordinating Council (2nd)
Tuesdays	10:00 AM	Philosophy Group (weekly)		7:00 PM	Board of Trustees (3rd)
	1:00 PM	Bridge (weekly)			
	7:00 PM	UU Humanists (3rd)			

All other events happening in January

1-Jan Sunday	10:00 AM	No Sunday School	17-Jan Tuesday	7:00 PM	Exploring the Bible: Old Testament..... B-7
	11:00 AM	No Regular Coffee Hour		7:00 PM	Third Tuesday Meaning Matters.....Stott Lounge
4-Jan Wednesday	6:30 PM	Wellspring Spiritual Practices B-8	18-Jan Wednesday	6:30 PM	Wellspring Spiritual Practices..... B-8
5-Jan Thursday	5:30 PM	SURJ Education & Outreach Group Meeting B-3/B-4	19-Jan Thursday	5:30 PM	Religious Services Committee B-7
6-Jan Friday	6:00 PM	Multi-generational Potluck, host TBA Channing		5:30 PM	SURJ Education & Outreach Group Meeting B-3/B-4
7-Jan Saturday	1:00 PM	RE Volunteer Development 24/25, 26		7:00 PM	Albany UU Board Meeting..... Channing
8-Jan Sunday	10:00 AM	Family Chapel Sanctuary	21-Jan Saturday	6:00 PM	Circle Dinner Offsite
	11:45 AM	Nominating Committee Meeting..... B-7	22-Jan Sunday	10:00 AM	FOCUS Food Pantry Sunday
	12:30 PM	Parent support group potluck and meeting..... Channing, 24/25 and 26		11:45 AM	Auction Meeting..... B-7
	5:30 PM	Walker Book Club Channing		11:45 AM	Green Sanctuary Forum.....Emerson
9-Jan Monday	10:00 AM	Small Group Ministry..... B-5		12:00 PM	RE Volunteer Development..... 24/25, 26
	3:00 PM	Overflow Shelter Meal PrepKitchen		1:00 PM	Food clean up / RE Volunteer Development.. Kitchen
	6:15 PM	RE Council meeting Channing	23-Jan Monday	10:00 AM	Small Group Ministry..... B-5
10-Jan Tuesday	7:00 PM	Exploring the Bible: Old Testament B-7		3:00 PM	Overflow Shelter Meal Prep Kitchen
12-Jan Thursday	6:30 PM	Finance committee..... B-7		7:00 PM	Fourth Monday Meaning Matters B-8
	7:00 PM	Program Coordinating Council..... B-8	24-Jan Tuesday	5:30 PM	Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ).....Emerson
13-Jan Friday	6:00 PM	Meditation Retreat..... B-8		7:00 PM	Exploring the Bible: Old Testament..... B-7
14-Jan Saturday	8:00 AM	Meditation Retreat..... B-8	29-Jan Sunday	11:45 AM	Forum: Resist and Rejoice: UUs joining together to make a difference..... B-8
15-Jan Sunday	11:45 AM	Growth Through Service Conversation Team..... B-8	31-Jan Tuesday	7:00 PM	Exploring the Bible: Old Testament..... B-7
	11:45 AM	Social Responsibilities Meeting B-7			
	7:00 PM	MLK Interfaith Memorial Service..... Offsite			
16-Jan Monday	12:00 PM	Channing Circle Lunch Channing			
	1:30 PM	Third Monday Afternoon Meaning Matters..... B-8			
	7:00 PM	Earth Spirits B-8			

Sam's Outlook

The call to be a prophet

Rev. Sam Trumbore

A new President will take office in January who inspires a lot of concern and fear rather than excitement and anticipation. Although we do not know exactly what he might do, based on who he has selected for his cabinet, I fear the worst. Some among us fear the very underpinnings of our democracy might be challenged by this new administration. It is out of this kind of concern that resistance rises up to confront those in power who threaten to compromise our American social contract. In Biblical times, these resisters who confronted the authorities who had marginalized their covenant with God were called prophets.

The ones who were written about were 48 men and 7 women who were designated Biblical prophets. One of the first ones, the one most of us are at least a little familiar with, was Moses. Moses defines the prophetic model. Have you heard his story?

Moses was out tending his flocks, minding his own business, when he saw a bush that appeared to be on fire, without burning up. It called his name, "Moses, Moses." Moses responded, "Here am I." As he approached, the bush cautioned, "Do not come near, put off your shoes from your feet, for the place you are standing is holy ground." So began the commissioning of Moses to set the Jewish people free from Pharaoh and end their slavery in Egypt.

What is important to note here is Moses didn't think this up himself. In fact, Moses is anything but enthusiastic about getting the divine call to liberate his people. Moses said, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?" Moses doesn't think anyone will believe him or follow him. Moses complains that he stutters and isn't a good public speaker. After quite a lot of coaxing, confidence building and promises of heavenly backing from God, Moses agrees to take up the challenge.

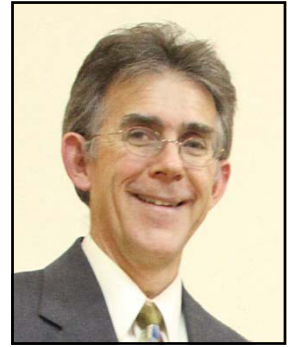
As is familiar to any of us who has attended a Passover Seder, Moses was successful in liberating his people from Egypt. While wandering those 40 years in the desert, before they arrive in the promised land, God makes some really big promises to Moses. If

the Jewish people keep God's laws and commandments, then, they will be favored and be blessed. From Mount Sinai, God offers Moses and the Jews a covenant, a promise that becomes foundational for their faith. The Jews become a people of the Law. Now, more than acts of worship and sacrifice, loving God means keeping God's law. If not, there will be trouble, as God's anger transforms into lightning bolts and earthquakes, plagues and invasions, fires and floods.

From then on, during the time of early settlement of Palestine guided by the Judges, to the establishment of the first Jewish King, to the division of Israel from Judah, to the conquest by the Assyrians, to the Babylonian captivity, to the conquest by the Greeks, Hebrew prophets have appeared to critique the state of affairs and call the Jewish people back into right relationship with God.

These prophets weren't leaders like Moses. They were not among the politically powerful - some, as lowly as shepherds. Some as reportedly supernaturally gifted as Elijah. What they had in common was being specially selected to be God's voice on earth and deliver God's message, often quite dramatically. The prophet Isaiah walked barefoot and half-naked for three years to warn his people. Jeremiah took a clay jar and smashed it in front of the elders and priests to illustrate that God will destroy Judah. He also put a yoke made of wood and leather straps around his own neck, to demonstrate the coming Babylonian captivity.

Prophets tend to show up at inconvenient times with an inconvenient truth. Amos, calls out, "Hear this, you who trample upon the needy...and deal deceitfully with false balances, that we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals..." Isaiah warns, "Tremble, you women who are at ease, shudder, you complacent ones..." Habakkuk laments, "Woe to him who heaps up what is not his own ... Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house,... Woe to him who builds a town



Sam's Outlook, continued on page 4

News

Forum on January 29

UUs joining together to make a difference

“Our faith as Unitarian Universalists requires that we respond to economic injustice. We cannot ignore the harm caused when people at the top control and receive most of the resources and those that carry out the work of the world struggle to survive.”

These words are from a draft Statement of Conscience on Escalating Inequality, prepared for consideration by the 2017 General Assembly in New Orleans. Come to the Forum on Sunday, January 29 at 11:45 to reflect on this statement and to learn about how you can participate in this annual meeting of UU congregations. The theme of the 2017 General Assembly is “Resist and Rejoice!”

Each June, delegates to General Assembly vote on statements of social justice that guide the actions taken by our Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. But General Assembly is more than social witness. It is an opportunity for thousands of UUs to worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the UUA through democratic process. In June 2017, delegates also will elect the President who will lead UUA for the next six years.

Flyers in this issue

At the end of this newsletter you will find full page items on:

- ◆ Looking Forward! Letter of Intent
- ◆ Stewardship survey

Youth, young adults and families can participate, and Albany UU will pay the registration fee for members who serve as delegates.

You can read the draft Statement of Conscience at www.uua.org/economic/escalatinginequality—Peggy Sherman for the UU Connections Team

Report from the Looking Forward campaign

The last solicitations have been made, and the campaign is drawing to a close. In case you have not received a Letter of Intent, we include one at the end of this newsletter. Please fill it in and send it to Albany UU promptly, so we can know the correct totals pledged. We have passed the \$210,000 milestone. Of that total, \$131,000 is pledged to be paid before next February. When received, that money will immediately reduce the amount borrowed. As future pledges are paid, any new loan from the Endowment Trust will be paid back first, and then the bank loan

Sam’s Outlook, continued from page 3

with blood...” The prophets go straight to the top and name the evils they see.

Impatiently they warn of the consequences of turning away from their covenant with God. A few at the top may be responsible for injustice, but the whole people will suffer for their sins. “I shall send a fire upon Judah,” says God through Amos’ lips, “and it shall devour the strongholds of Jerusalem.” “God personally will hack down their altars,” warns Hosea, “and wreck their sacred pillars.” Micah announces for God, “Listen, for this whole brood I am planning disaster, whose yoke you cannot shake from your necks, and walk upright; it shall be your hour of disaster.”

But the prophets are not all doom and gloom. They also foresee a time of purification and redemption when the people turn away from evil, and the cove-

nant restored.

Perhaps this new Trump administration may be far better than many of us expect. Maybe he will not threaten civil liberties, trample down the poor and disadvantaged, cut up the social safety net, and reject the stranger (aka immigrant), widow and orphan. If he does, watch out! Those are the kind of policies very likely to call out the prophets.

May our congregation be open to that call to be a prophetic voice, as needed, to protect the vulnerable and project our values, to protect our national covenant of democracy, ready to put our values into action.

I’m ready, how about you?--Rev. Sam

P.S. If you want to learn more about Moses and the prophets, join our Exploring the Bible class that examines the Old Testament beginning Jan. 10 at 7pm (see announcement on page 7).

will be paid back ahead of its due date. We'll have a complete accounting of the campaign as soon as we're sure we have received all pledge forms.

The Looking Forward Committee is immensely grateful to the 67 donors (individuals or families) who have contributed so far. We look forward to a much more favorable outlook for retiring all indebtedness.

Martin Luther King Celebration “An Unfinished Agenda”—Rev. Dr. H. Ward Greer

Jan. 15, at 3:00pm, at Congregation Beth Emeth, 100 Academy Road, Albany

Everyone is invited to this service in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. presented by the Capital Area Council of Churches.

Dr. Greer, who now serves a church in Wilmington, Delaware, is the former director of Albany United Methodist Society in Albany, NY where he was instrumental in the leadership of the West Hill Ministerial Fellowship. He is a dynamic speaker you'll not want to miss. The offering taken up goes to a college scholarship fund for area students.

Guest at Your Table

How is your guest doing? If you haven't welcomed a virtual guest from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee yet, you can still pick up a box from the SRC table in Channing Hall at Coffee Hour. You can learn about the UUSC's mission and model for effecting social change by reading their guests' Stories of Hope. Brochures are at the SRC table and at the UUSC website: uusc.org. The Guest at Your Table boxes are reminders to donate monetarily to UUSC. All donations qualify for UUSC membership. Donations of \$40 or more qualify for active membership, and contributions of \$125 or more are eligible to be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Shelter Rock congregation in Manhasset, NY. Please return boxes or get your checks made out to UUSC to the RE window by January 22.



Our gardens will need help in 2017

Who will make sure our gardens continue to thrive now that the previous garden coordinator has

“retired”????? While our gardens are intentionally independent and self-sustaining, they would like a volunteer coordinator to make sure they are uncovered in the spring, weeded in the summer and put to bed in the fall. Coordination of the gardening activities is a wonderful Volunteer Opportunity that can primarily be done from your home computer. It also affords the opportunity to meet a wonderful group of people that “like to play in the dirt”. A new coordinator can choose to continue the existing garden plan, or to introduce their ideas for making the gardens even better! A Service Opportunity write up, specifying the responsibilities of the Garden Coordinator, is available - see Paula Moskowitz (xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) or Albany UU President Dick Dana (xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) to get a copy. Paula (garden coordinator for 9 years) will continue to actively help with the care of our outdoor space and guide the new coordinator in becoming comfortable with a great volunteer opportunity!

Attention: Committee Chairs!

Budget requests for 2017-18 church year are due Jan. 8!!!! Committee chairs can find the 2017-18 budget request form on the Albany UU members resource site (members.albanyuu.org), in the left column, under the Church Office tab, in the File Cabinet. If your program, committee or group need funds in the next fiscal year, your request must be filed by Jan. 8. Contact Steve Moskowitz at xxxif you have questions.

Partner Church news

At Last! We're going to Romania this summer! The highlight of the trip will include four days living with members of Albany UU's Partner Church in Szökefalva. We will work with them on a joint service project and also do some sight-seeing in that part of Transylvania. The rest of the trip will include places that are of historical importance in Unitarianism as well as other cultural and interesting sites. The total trip will be in two parts, a base itinerary from Aug. 5 through Aug. 13, with an optional visit to additional sites from Aug. 2 to Aug. 5. So far 10 have signed up to go, and there is ample room for others who may be interested. See or contact Dave Metz with questions (xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Board notes

The silk that joins

Linda Hunt, Secretary

I am Linda Hunt, and am privileged to serve on the Albany UU Board of Trustees as Secretary. An important decision recorded in the minutes of the Board's August 18, 2016 meeting is the unanimous approval of the Albany UU Board Covenant. Developed by a subcommittee of the Board, our covenant reads:

"We, the Board of Trustees, covenant with each other to:

Commit our energy and talent to the work of the Board, ready to assume our fair share of responsibilities;

Participate fully, respectfully and honestly in Board dialogue, striving to understand the viewpoints of others;

Be accountable to one another, supporting each other and assuming goodwill;

Deal with conflict responsibly and respectfully;

Respect Board decisions and represent those outcomes with integrity; and

Be faithful to the Albany UU mission."

Our new covenant is attached to the agenda for

each meeting to remind us of our goals.

According to one source found on the UUA website, "Covenant is the silk that joins Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations, communities, and individuals together in a web of interconnection. The practice of promising to walk together is the precious core of our creedless faith." The Religious Education Council, several RE classes and various Albany UU committees also have adopted covenants.

After adopting the Board Covenant, the trustees made a second decision to define the process for developing a Congregational Covenant. Reverend Sam Trumbore, President Dick Dana, Vice President Patti Jo Newell and Lee Newberg volunteered to serve on a subcommittee for that purpose. Reverend Sam has scheduled a sermon to describe the scope and reasons for a congregational covenant for February 26, 2017. Come that day to learn more about congregational covenant, thinking of this effort as the development of a hopeful, unique document intended to deepen our individual and congregational commitment to join our Albany UU congregation, our community, and individuals together in a web of interconnection.



Growing Together

UUA Common Read discussion:

The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement, by The Rev. Dr. William Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove .

Monday Jan. 30, Feb. 6 and 13, at 7 to 8:30PM. Childcare is available by advance reservation. To sign-up see the box.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the SRC table. In addition, some copies may be available for loan.

Special programming in January for grades Pre-k through 5th

In January we like to shake things up a bit. Each year I plan special activities for the month of January around the theme of the month for children in pre-K through 5th grade and ask parents and other volunteers in the congregation to share their talents by leading 30-minute workshops. This year the theme is Prophecy. Let's help the children connect with their own inner voice, articulate their thoughts and put their ideas into action. It's not too late to join in. Potential skills or areas for workshops include yoga or other body work, science, storytelling, music making, drama, special crats and Maker Space (giving children an opportunity to use materials and real tools – from staplers to hammers to 3-D pens – to solve problems.)

Religious Exploration

Wake up!

Leah Purcell, Director of Religious Education

The January theme is Prophecy

From Soul Matters: *Our times ask us to exercise our capacity for prophetic witness, by Prophetic witness I mean our capacity to see what is happening, to say what is happening and to act in accordance with what we know.... Prophetic witness ...is the ability to name those places where we resist knowing what needs to be known.*—Rebecca Parker, UU theologian and minister

Prophets are known for their condemnation. Images of an angry bearded man shouting and predicting God’s judgment come to mind. But for Unitarian Universalists, the prophetic voice has always been less about shouting “You’re evil!” and more about pointing out “We’re all asleep!” The prophetic message, for us, is not so much “Repent!” but “Wake up!”

We need prophetic communities now more than ever. As Rebecca Parker says, we need circles of brave and bold people who are willing “to see what is happening, to say what is happening and to act in accordance with what they know.” Which means that being a community of prophecy is not just about helping people wake up to each other’s realities and

fears; there is also the matter of waking up to and being wide-eyed about the need for resistance. Most of the time, holy work is about finding common ground among differing world views. But sometimes, holy work is about prophetic judgment and knowing when some views need to be opposed. As an activist has said, “I am not crushed. I am awake.”



So many ways to wake up. So many people who need us to do so. Sleep is no longer a luxury. In the end, maybe that is the most prophetic message of all.

What about waking up the children? As the phrase “out of the mouths of babes” hints, children and youth are some of the most awake people there are. What they need from adults is the space, materials and guidance to hear what is in their hearts, and entree to speak truth to power. That will be the focus of our UU Jams—our special programming for the Kindergarten through 5th graders this month.

In joyful service,

Leah

We'll have 2 combined groups. Details:

3rd - 5th grade group (Jan. 8 will be just 3rd and 4th because that's the last day of 5th grade OWL)

K-2nd grade group The idea is to offer children choices of activities each week. - 2 choices for the Orange/Yellow Group and 3 choices for the Green/Blue/Violet group. (with just 2 activities for the Green/Blue group on Jan 8)

The **Pre-k group** will have their own special programming - a month of Teddy Bears - led by the regular volunteers.

Exploring the Bible: The Old Testament

The Dickinson Series Part Two

Six Tuesdays, starting Jan. 10, 7:00 pm

Led by Rev. Sam Trumbore and Karen Greene

Based on interfaith curriculum developed by the Massachusetts Bible Society (that has UU's on its

Board of Directors), this class will open up the wealth of stories, guidance, inspiration and cultural history that informs and shapes Western Civilization found in the Bible. The six sessions focusing on the Old Testament this time will cover:

1. Older Than Dirt (Genesis 1-11)
2. Who's Your Daddy? (Genesis 12-50)
3. Laying Down the Law (1799 – 1019 BCE)

Three ways to sign up for a class or event:

—Send an email to Registration@AlbanyUU.org

—Sign up at the Sign Up Site in Channing Hall

—Call the church office, 463-7135

If childcare is offered, please let us know you need it when you register. (Include names and ages of children.)

- 4. United We Stand (1030 – 922 BCE)
- 5. Divided We Fall (931 – 586 BCE)
- 6. Age of Empires (606 – 4 BCE)

To sign up, see box...or just show up!

Mindfulness Meditation Workshop

led by Rev. Sam Trumbore

Jan. 13-14

This meditation training and practice workshop will be led by Rev. Trumbore, on Friday 6:00pm to 9:00pm, and Saturday 8:00am to 3:00pm. It gives the participants an opportunity to learn Buddhist mindfulness meditation techniques and/or refresh and deepen their meditation practice. All are welcome from first timers to experts. There will be a vegan potluck lunch on Saturday and all are encouraged to bring something to share. To sign up, see box. (A voluntary donation can be offered at the end.)

Future workshop dates: Feb. 17-18, Apr. 28-9. Mark your calendars NOW!

Rev. Trumbore has practiced Buddhist Vipassana or insight meditation for over 30 years and is Past President of the Unitarian Universalist Buddhist Fellowship. This meditation technique is one of the best for Unitarian Universalists. It helps people train their minds to strengthen concentration and intensify moment-to-moment awareness. Regular practice of this technique quiets and sharpens the mind, opens the heart and can improve one's physical health.

Three ways to sign up for a class or event:

—Send an email to Registration@AlbanyUU.org

—Sign up at the Sign Up Site in Channing Hall

—Call the church office, 463-7135

If childcare is offered, please let us know you need it when you register. (Include names and ages of children.)

Our Community

Welcome, New Members!

Nancy Shay was a long-standing member of the Bennington, Vermont UU, until she began attending Albany UU in August, 2016. She moved here after marrying her husband, Frank, in June 2016. They have a home in Delmar. She's interested in reading, travel, hiking, biking, cooking, family



Jessica Bechard is a graduate student in Information Science at University at Albany. She is a library clerk at Albany Public Library and the New York State Library. She lives in Albany with her younger brother and their beagle, Fenrir. In her spare time, Jessica enjoys knitting

and reading.

Susan Cypert's passions are her son and daughter; being outdoors - canoeing, skiing, camping, gardening etc., and social issues. Sue was a member of the first all-women's group to raft the Grand Canyon and an Outward



Bound instructor. In 1982 she joined the Canton UU church with minister Max Coots. Professionally she worked in university administration and taught management. Through parenting, adventures, and work, Sue has had MS. A bad car accident in 2011 put her in her wheelchair. Sue planned to be on the Greenpeace boats when she retired, but the wheels are problematic, so in 2012 she moved to Colonie.

Her favorite sayings:—*I didn't see it until I believed it.*—*Darwin is responsible for the SNUGGLE for existence.*—*I don't plan to tread softly thru life to arrive safely at death.*

Vicki Michael grew up in Maine, graduated from Smith College and has an MBA. She has worked in IT for over 25 years and is currently a Business An-



alist at New York State DMV. She has two children – Mia adopted from China and Euzekiel from Haiti. Vicki was baptized Catholic, confirmed Episcopalian but then turned away from organized religion in adulthood. Thirty-four years ago, she found a Higher Power in the 12

Steps and has been searching for a “spiritual home” since then. She found it two summers ago when her family attended a Non-violent Communication Weekend with members of Albany UU. She has enjoyed knitting since the age of 5, reads mysteries and lives in Albany with her children, Peaches the cat, and lifelong friend, Carole.

Born in Port Washington, LI, NY, **Carole Pink** is a free thinker and the-

ist. Proud to have been a former peacenik hippie, she lives in Albany with her two amazing children and her amazing best friend Vicki along with the world's happiest dog, Lucy. A student of Sufism, she was thrilled to be initiated by Pir Vilayat. She lived in England and she's traveled to Turkey, China,



Europe, Haiti, and Ghana. She plays African drums and loves to dance. She is an ordained minister in the church of Gaia and a Reiki master and wants to incorporate Reiki into her work as a counselor. A lifelong political activist inspired by Ghandi and Martin Luther King, she loves to write, read English mysteries, sing and laugh. Her philosophy is humor and compassion are keys to a life well lived.

6 to 9 at 6:09: Circle Dinners Saturday, Jan. 21

Please plan on joining us for the January Circle dinner. The dinners provide Albany UUs and visitors the opportunity to socialize over a delicious potluck dinner in a private home and become better acquainted with fellow UUs. If you have not participated in the past, January is a great month to sign

Need to talk? FUUSA Pastoral Care Associates are here to listen!



Our Pastoral Care Associates have been trained in compassionate listening skills and are available to all members and friends of our congregation. To contact a Pastoral Care Associate, email listeners@albany-uu.org, contact Reverend Sam Trumbore, the FUUSA office at 518-463-7135, or one of them personally. They are: Dave Munro, Chuck Manning, Phil Rich, Jan Satin, Randy Rosette, Sandy Stone, and Lisa Barron.

up. Everyone is welcome, singles and couples, regardless of dietary restrictions. We can also provide rides, as needed. We hope you will join us on January 21.

We had a wonderful turnout for the November dinners: very enjoyable dinners were held at five homes with many new participants. In October and December, so few people signed up that we ended up canceling these dinners. I hope that the circumstances in October and December were unique, but to facilitate decision making, I am setting this policy for the future: A minimum of 18 people, including two host families, must sign up for a circle dinner to be held.

To sign up for a January dinner, you can email Martha Musser at mussermartha@gmail.com or complete the form on the sign-up board in Channing. *The deadline for signing up is Sunday, January 8.* Assignments will be e-mailed after that date. If you have questions, please contact Martha at xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx or by email.

Save these dates for future circle dinners: Friday, March 10; Saturday, May 13

About Us

Linda and Joe Shanley have moved to Raleigh, North Carolina. Check ChurchDB or contact the church office for their new address!

Walker Book Club

Join the Walker Book Club for a potluck and book discussion on Sunday, January 8, at 5:30 pm in

Channing Hall. Newcomers are always welcome.

We start with a welcoming shared supper which is followed by a lively discussion of the book of the month. Bring your favorite dish to share and a small contribution to cover beverages.

In January, we will discuss *The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement* by Reverend Dr. William J. Barber II, and Jonathan Wilson. This is the 2017 UUA Common Read. Books will be available for purchase at Albany UU soon. Dr. Barber, a modern-day civil rights champion tells the stirring story of how he helped start a fusion, political movement to bridge America's racial divide.

February's book is a novel, *Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman.

Contact Linda Hunt xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx for further information or questions.

Channing Circle

On **Monday, Jan. 16** we will have the privilege of interviewing four Albany UU artists during our program after lunch. They have agreed to share "when and how" they became artists-- so plan to join us for our usual "bag" lunch with coffee, tea and dessert provided. We have lunch at noon and then the program. The four artists are Lois Webb, Arlene Gilbert, Lisa Barron, and Terry Way. See you on the 16th!!

East of Hudson Potluck

Friday, Jan 6, at 6:00 PM

On Sundays we gather as a larger community of UU's to connect and commit to our UU values. This gathering is for those of us who live east of the Hudson to socialize and perhaps discuss more local concerns. Join us to enjoy good food and as always lively conversation! At the Babalas', 10 Budd Ln. East Greenbush. Call or email to confirm and let us know what you are bringing (though we can never have too much chocolate cake!) xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Albany UU Humanists.

The Albany UU Humanists next meet at 7 PM on Jan. 17 in Room B-8 at Albany UU, the third Tuesday of the



month. Our conversation continues as to what constitutes Humanism in Unitarian Universalism and at Albany UU. Questions and topic(s) will be determined at our upcoming December meeting. Look for details on the Albany UU Humanists egroup site (details below to join), and in the weekly Previews after the holidays. Please come and join us.

For further information on Humanism in Unitarian Universalism, please go to the UU Humanists website at <http://huumanists.org>. There you will find the UU Humanist blog, feature articles and commentary, and some related Facebook groups. There is also the American Humanist Association's website at <http://americanhumanist.org>.

Also, please feel free to join the Albany UU Humanists conversations on the Albany UU website (member.albanyuu.org) by clicking Groups and add your name to the Albany UU Humanists. You may also call the Albany UU office (463-7135), or contact Don Odell (xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) to be added to the egroup.

It's time to register for Unirondack!

This UU summer camp offers week-long overnight programming for children, youth and families to interact, create, and play together- making friends that last a lifetime.

Summer 2017 Schedule

Barton

For ages 9-12
July 1-8

Channing 1 & 2

For ages 12-14
July 9-15 & July 16-22

Parker 1 & 2

For ages 14-16
July 23-29 & July 30-Aug 5

Ballou 1 & 2

For ages 16-18
Aug 6-12 & Aug 13-19

Teen Trip Camp

For ages 15-18
July 30-Aug 5

Registration and more info at unirondack.org



Be a Caring Network Helper

We'd like to hear from folks who might have some time on their hands and would like to help out our members who don't get out much and who might benefit from a visit, a meal, a shopping trip, transportation, or a card. If you attend service regularly, you might consider being our Joys and Sorrows column writer.

Additionally, if you are looking forward to retirement volunteer work, we will need a new Caring Network coordinator by the Fall of 2017.

Please contact Eileen Hoffman at xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx or fill out a card at the Sign Up Site in Channing Hall.

If you need the services of the Caring Network, please call the office during regular hours at 463-7135.

Items of personal joy or caring may be submitted during the service on the yellow cards provided, or directly to Mary Ann Randall (xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.)

Social Justice

Social Responsibilities Council

The news has been filled with events in North Carolina—the passing of legislation affecting the LGBTQ population, the extremely close governor's race, the resultant stripping of the in-coming governor's powers by the majority party. Now you have a chance to discuss with others, either through the Walker Book Club (Jan. 8) or the three part class offered by Rev. Sam (starting in late January and continuing into February), Rev. Dr. William J. Barber's inspiring, North Carolina-based book, *The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement*. As soon as the books arrive from the bookstore, we will have them for sale (under \$20—a great holiday gift) at the SRC table. We clearly face uncertain times as a new administration takes over—in our city, our state, our country and the world. It is important that we stay true to our UU principles not only in word but in deed. I'll end with the chorus from *We'll Build a Land* from our hymnal *Singing the Living Tradition*: "Come build a

land where sisters and brothers, anointed by God, may then create peace: where justice shall roll down like waters, and peace like an ever-flowing stream."

Climate justice events at UU Schenectady

The UU Society of Schenectady will observe Climate Justice Sunday on Jan. 29. The Rev. Fred Small, a UU minister and song writer dedicated to climate issues, will lead a worship service at 10:30 a.m. and a climate justice workshop at 12:30 p.m.



(Lunch will be offered at noon). Contact Crys Hamelink xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx or Nancy Peterson xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx. The UU Society of Schenectady is at 1221 Wendell Ave., Schenectady, NY 12308.

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

A Welcoming Congregation

405 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12206 • Phone 518.463.7135 • Fax 518.463.1429
Email administrator@albanyuu.org • www.albanyuu.org

Letter of Intent for

Name _____

Address _____

It is my/our intention to give to the *Looking Forward!* campaign the sum of \$ _____.

I/We understand that this commitment is over and above my/our annual pledge.

I/We wish to pay \$ _____ now, leaving a

balance of \$ _____ to be paid as follows:

During 2016: \$ _____

During 2017: \$ _____

During 2018: \$ _____

During 2019: \$ _____

Signature _____

Date: _____

Signature _____

Date: _____

Allocation of Your Gift

The first priority of the *Looking Forward! Campaign* is to eliminate the need to borrow more from the Endowment Trust. Therefore, all funds raised up to \$165,000 will be used to offset the need for further borrowing from the Endowment. We hope that generous giving will exceed that first threshold. Any funds raised beyond \$165,000 will be applied to further reduce the amount borrowed from the bank or, if received after loan renegotiation, used to prepay the bank loan. Following paying off the mortgage, any remaining funds will be used to repay the original (2004) Endowment Trust loan.

Thank you for your gift.

Please mail your completed form to:

Looking Forward!, Albany UU, 405 Washington Ave., Albany NY 12206

WE NEED YOU

Stewardship is the one activity at Albany UU that all members and friends participate in so that we can keep our beloved congregation operating on a sound financial footing. Albany UU and all the good things we do could not exist without your financial support.

The Annual Stewardship Campaign will start early in 2017 but the Stewardship Committee is reaching out to the congregation NOW for your help. Planning for the campaign will begin this month. We are asking each of you to consider how you could help this year.

As you think about how Albany UU enriches your life and how you can help, remember – “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” Thanks for your help. If you have any questions about Stewardship and how you can participate contact Chuck Manning (439-4226 or chuckmanning@hotmail.com).

Please check the items with which you would be willing to assist:

- Developing a Theme/Message (January)
- Being a co-leader of the Campaign (January – May)
- Preparing written materials – letters, flyers, announcements, order of service inserts (Jan. – March)
- Making follow-up phone calls and/or emails to obtain pledges from members and friends (April – June)
- Serving on the Stewardship Committee to organize the campaign (Jan. – May)
- Making personal visits to other members and friends to obtain pledges (Feb. – April)
- Helping at the Stewardship Table on Sunday mornings (Mar. – May)
- Giving a 3 – 5 minute testimonial at a Sunday Service saying why you give to Albany UU (Feb. – Mar.)
- Helping with mailings by stuffing envelopes (Feb. – April)

Your Name _____ **Phone Number** _____

Please return this page to the Stewardship Committee, Albany UU, 405 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12206 or drop it off at the church office.

Contact Us

Board of Trustees 2016-2017

email: board@albanyuu.org

Executive Committee

Dick Dana, President
Patti Jo Newell, Vice President
Kathy Harris, Treasurer
Linda Hunt, Secretary

Trustees

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Michele Desrosiers
Ben English
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Jon Newell
Annika Pflugger

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David Quist, Chair, Religious Education Council
Jean Poppei, Chair, Social Responsibilities Council

Elected Officer (not on Board of Trustees)

Michaela Pochily, Assistant Treasurer

Staff

Minister

Rev. Sam Trumbore, strumbore@uumin.org

Church Administrator

Amy Lent, alent@albanyuu.org

Director of Religious Education

Leah Purcell, dre@albanyuu.org

Administrative Assistant

Tammy Hathaway, office@albanyuu.org

Custodians

Hadiya Wilborn, Cameron Holloway

Regular meeting days

Check current calendar for time and location

Board of Trustees, 3rd Thursday
Program Coordinating Council, 2nd Thursday
Religious Education Council, 1st Monday
Social Responsibilities Council, 3rd Sunday

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

Phone: 518.463.7135

Address: 405 Washington Avenue, between Robin Street and Lake Avenue, Albany, New York 12206

Main entrance is on Washington Avenue. Rear entrance is on West St. Both have ramp access. The building is fully handicapped accessible.

Parking: Parking is available on the street. On Sundays (and for some special events) FUUSA has permission to use the University at Albany's Hawley Parking Lot on Robin Street at Washington Avenue.

Office hours

September-June: Monday-Friday, 9:00-3:00

July-August: Monday–Thursday 9:00-1:00

And by appointment

Websites

General: www.AlbanyUU.org

Resources: www.members.AlbanyUU.org

Building use

To **reserve a room** for an Albany UU activity, contact Church Administrator Amy Lent (463-7135 or administrator@albanyuu.org).

To **rent hall or classroom space** for a personal or non-Albany UU activity, contact Church Administrator Amy Lent (463-7135 or administrator@albanyuu.org).

Windows is the newsletter of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany. It is published monthly, except July and August, in the offices of the Society at 405 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12206, and distributed to members and friends of the Society. Church office phone is 518-463-7135.

Editor: Amy Lent

Send submissions for all publications to:
Windows@AlbanyUU.org or to the church office.

Publication deadlines

Preview email: 9:00 a.m. Wednesdays

Order of Service: 9:00 a.m. Thursdays

Windows: 9:00 a.m. 3rd Friday of the month

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany

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Albany, NY 12206

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www.AlbanyUU.org