

The PowerLine

The Newsletter of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara



June 2007

Issue 10 Volume

June's Sunday Services

3 - Rev. Frances Manly - **Passwords**

Antoine de St.-Exupery wrote, "We live, not by things, but by the meanings of things. It is needful to transmit the passwords from generation to generation." Our young people will share something of what they've learned this year in a very special Time for All Ages, and we'll reflect on why what we do with them is so urgently important for them, for our congregation, and—maybe—even for the world.

Ushers: A.J. McCabe

Coffee Hour Hosts: Pat Loretto, Karen Labosky

Flowers: Betsy Diachun

10 - Dr. Vijay Chakravarthy - **Perspectives from the Hindu Worldview**

Ushers: Angela Flower

Coffee Hour Hosts: Trish & Tom Bateson

Flowers: Ed Tormay

17 - Rev. Frances Manly - **Flower Ceremony**

Our religious community is like a gorgeous bouquet in which each flower, each piece of greenery, contributes something essential to the whole, and the whole is much more than just the sum of its parts. Bring a flower (not a potted plant) from your garden, the florist, or the wayside to add to our communal bouquet; take home a different flower at the end of the service in this uniquely Unitarian Universalist annual ceremony.

Ushers: Yvonne Stocker

Coffee Hour Hosts: A.J. & Matt McCabe

Flowers: *Everyone*

24 - Summer Services Begin - Please note the time change to **10:30 AM**.



Save This Issue!

It is the last for this church year.

The next PowerLine will be published in September.



Garage Sale- June 2 & 3

Our second annual garage sale will be held in conjunction with the ten-mile garage sale in Lewiston and Youngstown, on June 2 and 3. It will be at 370 Howard Drive, in Youngstown, at Ed McGreevy and Ed Tormay's. (Howard Drive is in Collingwood Estates off River Road.) Hours will be 8 AM to 4 PM on both days.

We are hoping for volunteers to help sort, price and sell. Please contact the Eds, 745-1241, to schedule a time to help. Donations of every kind are being accepted. Call if you need help getting items to this address. We expect to have a tent again this year in case of rain and will be using the garage and driveway as well to display items. Light refreshments will be sold. If members have perennials from their garden to share, these would also be welcome. Please label clothes with size and suggested price.

President's Corner

A wonderful opportunity has presented itself to our congregation but we need your creative juices to get it moving. The five churches of WNY in our cluster group have decided to advertise on Prairie Home Companion. We will have a 30 second ad on both Saturday – 6 to 8 pm (94.5 FM) and Sunday (970 AM) noon to 2 pm. We hope to start this in September and run the promos for 30 weeks. The cost will be divided between us with the larger churches paying a proportionally larger amount. Of course this will all fall through without their participation.

So, what can we say in 30 seconds to tweak the interest of Garrison Keillor's listeners? He is always telling UU jokes and we must convince people that we really exist and we are not just a joke.

The cluster group meets again in late June so get any of your ideas to me before then. Nothing will be considered too corny.

You will find a list of dates for the summer picnics in this Powerline. We do hope everyone can join us as we try new locations at nearby parks. Please save this newsletter so you know where we are and when. The same goes for the more informal summer services we hold at 10:30 am, rather than 11.

You will also see a plea for keeping up on your pledges. Please help sustain the church throughout the summer months. And don't forget UUNEX – July 15-18. We'll need help with this major fundraising activity.

But my biggest plea is to remember each other. Reach out and make that phone call or stop in for a visit to keep our extended family connection going and growing.

As always, We believe in UU and You!

Betsy

NOTL Garden Tour

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Garden Tour will be on Saturday, June 23, 2007. You may visit the seven glorious gardens from Noon until 5:00 PM.

A number of UU's participated last year. They all had great things to say about the walk.

Tickets are \$10.00 and may be purchased from Angela Flower or the NOTL Chamber of Commerce.

NACC Gallery Opening & Open House

Beyond the Barrel an exhibit featuring local artists including Bonnie Soley. It is her debut as an artist in oils. The show will open with an artist's reception on Friday, June 22, from 5 to 9 PM. The show will run through September .

Also, on June 22, many of the artists and artisans will open their studios to the public. Some will demonstrate methods used in their art. It's an opportunity for you to see artists at work.

June Outreach Offering

June 17 will be our last day of formal services and also our last outreach offering until next September. This month we will donate to the UU Service Committee for their work with tornado victims in Kansas.

Their website makes the following statement: "UUSC is deeply saddened by the death and destruction caused by the category EF-5 tornado that hit Greensburg, Kansas on May 4. UUSC welcomes all donations, and will use these funds to make sure that humanitarian aid reaches those who are most in need."

Please join us as we help our fellow Americans after this storm laid waste to the entire community – houses, public buildings, businesses and parkland.

If you have suggestions for local groups or agencies we might want to consider for next year, please contact Skeeter Tower, Betsy Diachun, or Rev. Frances Manly.

FUNN WINE TASTING CLUB

Next tasting: T.B.A.

Wine: T.B.A.



"In Vino Veritas"



Walking Together...



Rev. Frances Manly

For the past two or three months, in my capacity as Co-President of the Network of Religious Communities, I have been among the leaders wrestling with an issue that is easily stated but terribly difficult to address. The question is the one Rodney King famously asked in the aftermath of his videotaped beating by Los Angeles police: Why can't we all get along?

Or perhaps more to the point, *how* can we all get along?

The Network is dedicated to promoting communication, cooperation, collaboration, and understanding among the various religious communities of our area. But what happens when communication breaks down and lack of understanding is interpreted as malice?

The current controversy began when one member group sponsored a speaker, a disaffected member of another religious group, whose speech was seen as unfairly, inaccurately, and possibly dangerously attacking the group he had left. (The details don't really matter, because this is the kind of issue that can come up again and again.) Several Network leaders from different faith traditions attended the lecture and agreed with the assessment. From there on, things just got more and more complicated. Was the Network (rather than a few individuals) supporting the sponsoring group and betraying the other one by even attending the lecture? If the individuals who attended it met to discuss it afterward (including the possibility that the Network might want to respond in some way), did that constitute an attack on the sponsoring group? Was it even possible to talk about it, or to ask questions about the Network's role without offending somebody, without being

seen as bashing this group or being anti- that one?

I don't know what the outcome of all this will be. The Network Board of Governors is working toward developing some broad guidelines and policies for how we relate to one another as individuals and as groups and for whether and how it is possible and desirable to call one another to account, respectfully, when one group feels attacked or harmed by the speech or actions of another. I hope that we will be able to come up with something meaningful that all our member groups can endorse.

One thing this brings home to me is how desperately important is the work we do here together, in our congregation, to learn to get along in spite of our differences—even to respect, appreciate, and learn from those differences. When serious controversy arises, it can be hard work, even within a congregation bound by at least an implied covenant to walk together in the ways of love. But the rewards are enormous—greater love and respect for one another, a more vibrant and transformative community, a deeper understanding of ourselves and one another, a more real and vivid experience of the “unity that makes us one, and binds us together forever, in spite of time, and death, and the space between the stars.”

The more we can do this on a small scale, the more we will be able to take our learning and our commitment out into the wider world where the conflicts are greater and the divisions often much deeper. This may seem a small hope, but lately I think it may be our best hope. As John Murray wrote, “You may possess a small light, but uncover it, let it shine, use it order to bring more light and understanding to the hearts and minds of [all people].” The world needs this little light of ours; let's let it shine!

Love and Blessings,

Frances



The minister is available at the church office by appointment and to visit members, especially those who are ill or unable to travel easily, in their homes. If you would like to speak with her, or you know of someone who would like a call or a visit, please call her at home, at 837-9230, or e-mail franly@mac.com. She is usually available at church on Thursdays, 10 am – 2, but it's a good idea to call ahead and make sure.

Special Potluck Supper

During the month of July, NOAH member congregations across Niagara County will be undertaking individual projects in their own neighborhoods. On Friday, June 15, we'll have a Special Potluck Supper to explore how we can put our faith into action with a NOAH project for our church during the month of July.

NOAH staff member, Bruce McKay will be with us to facilitate the discussion. It will have both a public and a personal dimension, inviting us to explore together both the needs of the community around the church and what we feel our faith calling us to do. Let's meet around 5:30. Come with ideas, a dish to share, and an openness to something new. All members and friends of the congregation are urged to attend.

Summer Picnics

These monthly, potluck picnics are scheduled to begin around noon. There will not be one held in June this year – cancelled for personal family Father's Day activities.

Sunday, JULY 22 – at Whirlpool State Park – off Robert Moses Parkway between DeVeaux Woods and Devil's Hole State Park.

There is a shelter reserved which contains picnic tables and a grill area. Bring your own table service and food to share. Blankets, folding chairs and games – if desired. Soft drinks and juice will be provided – if you want something else BYOB. You can hike into the gorge from there.

The Host Committee if you have questions: Kathy & Gary McCunn, Barb & Jim Faller, Jean Speck, Karen Labosky and Marge Gillies.

Searching for an Interested Person

The Board was looking for five people who would be interested in being on the Search Committee to find a new minister. Four people, Joy Rowlinson, Peter Diachun, Ed Tormay, and Tom Yots volunteered on Sunday, May 20. We could use one more person.

We hope to meet with Sara Clavez, the Settlement Representative for Part-time Ministry for the SLD, on Saturday, June 16 in the afternoon. Anyone who wishes to learn more about the process is invited to join us. More details will follow. If you would like to participate in any way please let Betsy Diachun know.

June Birthdays

29 - Kathy McCunn
30 - Ed McGreevy

July Birthdays

13 - Marge Gillies
22 - Bonnie Soley
29 - Bill Soley
30 - Jordan West

August Birthdays

7 - Carole Manson
11 - Nicki Faller
18 - Zachary Chrzanowski

Sunday, AUGUST 12 - at Bonds Lake – between Ridge Rd. and Meyers Hill Road on Lower Mountain Road.

A “first come” shelter may be available but be prepared with blankets or folding chairs in case it's not. Soft drinks and juice will be provided – if you want something else BYOB. Fishing, canoeing, kayaking, rafting are allowed on lake. Hiking trails abound.

The Host Committee if you have questions: Ed McGreevy, Ed Tormay, Skeeter Tower, Laura Andrus, Anne Belin and Peter Nimkoff.

Sunday, SEPTEMBER 9 – First Sunday of the church season will be in the church's back yard. Again, soft drinks and juice will be provided.

The Host Committee: Carol Manson and Marn Weld.

Summer Pledges

Since our expenses continue year round, we would like to remind you to please pay your pledges during the summer months. They may be mailed to the church: P.O. Box 2566, N.F., NY 14302-2566; the mail will be collected at least once a week.

July is the last month in the 2006-2007 fiscal year with August 1st starting the new fiscal year. Thanks for your consideration in keeping our cash flow going.

CRE

What's Happening in June

June 3 - Making our Church Beautiful (come ready to dig in the dirt)
Kathy McCunn

June 10 - Yoga with Gary McCunn and Teresa Labuszewski

June 17 - Intergenerational Church Service Flower Communion
(don't forget to bring a flower)

Special CRE Presentation during the Church Service

June 24 No CRE - Summer Services begin (10:30 A)

Thank You!

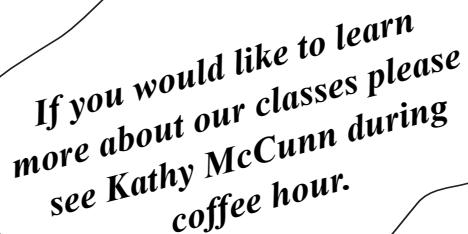
Thanks to our May Teachers: Gary McCunn, Kirstin Dixon, R Erica Kopp, and AJ McCabe.

Many thank yous and cudos to all who helped to make our CRE Program interesting and exciting this year. Thank you to the CRE youth for their participation in church services and activities: Lily, Isabella, Jeremy, Keara, Bryce, Madison, Alex, and Shriya.

Special thanks to Sheen Rajmaira for all her contributions this year and farewell to Sheen Sean and Shriya. We will miss you and we wish you the best.

I, along with the CRE Committee look forward to a new and exciting 2007-08 CRE year. See you in September.

Kathy McCunn



If you would like to learn more about our classes please see Kathy McCunn during coffee hour.

Interfaith Impact of NYS Individual and Congregational Memberships Welcome

Interfaith Impact of New York State is a UUA-UUSC partnerorganization. The St. Lawrence District is an official member and UUs are active on the Board. Robb Smith of our Albany congregation is Executive Director - robb@interfaithimpactnys.org. We encourage individual Unitarian Universalists in New York State to join. We also encourage you to invite your congregation or social action group join as an organizational member.

Congregation/organization (suggested): \$50 - \$100 - \$300

Individual donation (suggested): \$10 - \$25 - \$50

Phone: (518) 463-5652

E-mail: interfaithimpactnys@verizon.net

Background information on state issues at www.interfaithimpactnys.org

A Short History Lesson

1910

Universalist church is mentioned in *Gazette* but expires in 1907

1913 J Allen Johnson assumes leadership in forming NF Unitarian church

1914 The Rev. Richard Boynton, First Unitarian Church, Buffalo, preaches at Odd Fellows Hall in NF

1915 WW Kincaid of Spirella Co. involved in founding group

1919 Meadville Theological students lead services

1920

1920 American Unitarian Assoc. sends money
The Rev. Dr. Orville Bruce Swift assumes ministry 20 March

First Unitarian Church officially organized
Oct. 17 - 34 charter members

1921 Layman's League, Women's Alliance, Sunday School established

Purchase of lot at 639 Main St. Mar. 11
Incorporated Apr. 10

AUA offers \$10K toward cost of building
Ground broken July 20

1922 Building dedicated, Jan 15

1926 Floor of Unity Hall completed
Rev. Robert B. Day begins pastorate Oct. 1

1927 Niagara Unitarian, monthly newsletter, debuts, continues on and off over the years

1928 Organ purchased

1930

1930 639ers, young people's group, formed

1931 Depression-era financial problems, including arrearage of minister's salary

1940

1940 New roof on building
First Holiday bazaar

1941 General conference of AUA held in NF, church hosting

1943 Evening Alliance debut

1945 Charles Engvall called as minister
25th anniversary of founding

1947 Photos of first three ministers hung in narthex
Memorial fund established
Coffee hours after services

UN Day, flag flown on Rainbow Bridge

Teen conference

1950

1951 150 members
Rev. George N. Marshall called as minister,
Rev. Swift as interim minister

1953 Parsonage at 931 Maple purchased
One end of Unity Hall subdivided into rooms for classrooms

1955 Financial drive remodels auditorium, adds six classrooms, retires AUA indebtedness
Building rededicated 17 Oct

1957 Purchase of lot at 626 6th St.
Membership 234

1959 Assented to merger of Unitarians and Universalists
Purchased lot, back half of 630 6th St., enlarging property back of building
Therese Drozdowski hired as secretary

1960

1960 40th anniversary
Publication of Unitarianism in Niagara Falls, a history

Proctor Martin, long time organist, replaced by Lucille McElwain

Proposal to relocate to Lewiston defeated

1961 Rev. JDonald Johnson succeeds George Marshall

1962 William Dower bequeaths \$35K, paying off mortgages on 626 6th St and parsonage
Purchase of parsonage, 1221 Garfield

1968 Friday night coffee house for teens

1970

1970 Nick Critelli, sexton for 35 years, dies
\$15K bequest memorializing Nora Hutzler enables kitchen update
50th anniversary of founding

1971 626 6th St sold for \$1

1974 Rev. Andrew Kennedy replaces Johnson

1977 BINGO starts a 9 year run
Banner project initiated, selling sets of them to other churches

1980

1980 Rev. Ian Evison installed

1983 Cook book issued to pay for organ repairs

1984 Rev. Rudolf Gelsey installed

1990

1990 Rev. Gelsey leaves, hiatus between ministers

1995 75th anniversary of founding

1996 Rev. Frances Manly called as minister

2000

2000 NF Little Theater offers to buy building; deal ultimately quashed

2004 First UUNEX, NF experience

2007 Building named to NY State and US Register of Historic Places

St. Lawrence District Social Justice Network
Presents

Be the Change You Want to Be

A Social Justice Conference
October 20, 2007--10am to 4pm
May Memorial UU Society - Syracuse

Theme Speaker
JAY GALLAGHER

Albany Bureau Chief Gannet News Service
Member First UU Society of Albany
Registration materials will be out in September.

Volunteers Needed for Sunday Services

Spring is here and summer is fast approaching! So it's time to think of our Summer Services!! Once again we are asking for volunteers to lead a service. The Summer Service is more "relaxed" than our usual formal Sunday service and is an occasion to discuss ideas and to think and to converse. Last year we had nine volunteers. Each of them led one Sunday discussion.

We need service leaders for the following dates:
June 24, July 1, July 8, July 22, July 29, August 5, August 12, August 19, and August 26. Many hands make light work!

Please contact Yvonne Stocker (YvonneStocker@gmail.com) 716 278-0176 to take up the "torch" for one of these summer Sundays.

Invitation to Membership

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

If you are eager to consider religious questions with others who are not always certain they have all the answers but who are determined to keep searching with an open mind...

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

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

If you wish to preserve and extent the traditions of personal freedom and human dignity against the dangers they face today...

You may find that this church fills your spiritual and human needs.

If you wish to know more about us as you consider membership, please speak with our minister.

7



PowerLine
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bonnie.soley@verizon.net or call
316-5863.
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7