Sunday, February 7, 10:30 am
Love and Democracy
Rev. Margret A. O’Neall
Music: Peg Delaney, jazz piano and Bill Delaney

Our fifth principle upholds the value of democratic process in our churches. Decision-making in a community is simple if everyone thinks the same way, likes the same things. But what about when there are differences, strongly held opinions, divergent priorities? As we begin to prepare for the ministerial search process, this church will explore lessons of love in community.

Sunday, February 14, 10:30 am
Love, Justice and Ice Cream
Rev. Margret A. O’Neall

Music: Jim Stagnitti and Eric Chang, marimbists

We close our month of Standing on the Side of Love with the tradition of Sundae Sunday, when we make new friends across the generations over a dish of ice cream. This is a time to share learning and insights from our 30 Days of Love, and to enjoy the sweet connections in community.

Sunday, February 21, 10:30 am
Continuing the Process of Evolution
Rev. Lynn Ashley, Minister, UU Congregation of Glens Falls
Music: Polina DeCarlo, piano

February 12 is celebrated as Darwin Day, as we join people of many faiths across the continent to mark the birth and contributions of Unitarian naturalist Charles Darwin. Especially, we are reminded of our responsibilities as participants in the act of creation.

Sunday, February 28, 10:30 am
Heart and History
Rev. Margret A. O’Neall
Music: Iida Spencer and Mark Evans – 4 hand piano music by Brahms and Dvorak

Our hearts connect in friendship and music with the Stony Hill Church in Marosvásárhely, our Transylvanian Partner Church. As a group prepares to visit this summer, we are helping to purchase a new electric organ to celebrate the 10th anniversary of their building dedication. This partnership reminds us that our historic Unitarian roots are deeply planted in the Transylvania countryside.
Coherent **governance** is the foundation for a great ministerial partnership, with clear roles and collaborative leadership, as well as for member engagement. The governance work began with a learning process and a decision to move forward on a path of change; one of the insights in that learning was that strategic governance depends on a shared mission and vision, so the current **visioning work** is part of governance. Also part of this work is the **Ministry Teams** study process to understand the best current thinking in how a church can organize to balance stability and responsiveness, involvement and development for all members, all ages, all interests.

Initiatives in **member engagement** are also varied. There are two new congregation-wide **social justice initiatives** (Family Promise and Climate Change), as well as workshops and book discussions to strengthen understanding of the related issues. We are working toward greater **multi-generational engagement** in all parts of congregational life, from the existing traditions such as camp-outs, camp-ins, celebrations of holidays and special occasions, to expanding the involvement of our younger members and strengthening the family experience in worship (Junior Worship Associates, Coming of Age). The **adult experience** in the church is being deepened to create a more intentional journey into membership and Unitarian Universalist identity, with expanded lifespan learning that ranges from Wellspring to courses such as World Religions and UU History – along with the new opportunities to live into our commitments with volunteering and service. So if someone asks you how Family Promise, Junior Worship Associates and the Long Strange Trip fit together, they grow from the common commitment to expand the opportunities here to engage, to deepen and to live our Unitarian Universalist values.

**Sustainable stewardship** is part of all this energy, as your investment in the future focuses on relationship, engagement, ownership of your rich history and excitement about what the future holds. There are many examples. You have completed the renovation of the fountain pools, and you are supporting the wide range of efforts that maintain these welcoming buildings and gardens. You sustain the church staff with fair compensation, and participate with your fair share in supporting our larger Association. As you generate your common **vision of the future**, you will continue to create conversations and build relationships to sustain this historic congregation into its promising future.

And now begins the process of creating the **Ministerial Search Committee**, those most trusted members who will represent the congregation in seeking your next settled ministerial partner. All the work in governance and engagement, learning and deepening, are part of creating the foundation to make the ministerial match that will carry you forward. So we continue to grow in love, and as always, I look forward to seeing you in church!

Margret
Love is the Spirit of the Church

"Love is the spirit of this church" are some of the first words we say each Sunday. A newcomer will hear this community say these words loudly in unison. When training our Junior Worship Associates, we tell them to say the word “love” nice and loud. There is no mistaking that this is a loving church.

But what does that word love mean? Too many times the word love is reserved for a romantic love and it loses its power in other contexts. Other languages have multiple words for the different kinds of love- familial, platonic, self love- but English only has one word so we need to learn the nuances of that one, small, powerful word.

Some of our youngest children, our PreK/Kindergarten Chalice Children class, are learning about the love of our community. They had a particularly touching class in the fall where they talked about how this church community loves and cares for one another. When a family in our congregation is in pain or sick, we gather together to help them and to make that difficult time a little easier. Even if our actions seem inconsequential—a casserole here, a bag of groceries there-surrounding the family with love is the act that penetrates. Having dinner on the table is certainly a help, but it’s that special ingredient of love that truly makes the dinner memorable.

Over the summer, our religious education followed the curriculum “Love Will Guide Us” which used love as a way to teach our children about our six sources. One of the lessons the children especially enjoyed over the summer was the story of Harriet Tubman and her love for justice and her community. The children were amazed that after becoming free, Tubman worked the Underground Railroad and risked going back to the South over a dozen times to free other slaves. Harriet Tubman did not have a romantic love affair and go back to save her one true love from slavery. She saved approximately seventy slaves because she believed it was wrong for people to own other people and her love for justice and her community gave her the courage to act on those beliefs. The children were moved by this story and this new type of love they learned.

Our Keepers of the Earth class learns how to care for our Earth. They go outside and learn how the Earth provides for us and how our actions affect our environment. Hearing the children excitedly run around in the Waters House backyard, and then fall quiet as their teachers explain their lesson tells me that they are truly learning to care for our Earth. I admit that one of my favorite parts of Sunday morning is peeking out and seeing what that class gets to do when they go outside!

I could go on and on about how love is taught in each of our classes. Our Sing to the Power class is learning to be agents of positive change and the love of social justice.

Our Neighboring Faiths class is learning about world religions and how to care for people who believe things that we don’t believe in. The topic of love comes up implicitly in almost every Coming of Age class as they learn how they want to be loving members of our church community.

Our religious education program promotes love in all of its variations-love for our family, love for our community, love for our Earth, love for justice. It’s one of the reasons I know we have a strong program that is helping to raise children who will grow into adults that will make this church proud. Look at what our youth already do: travel across the nation and to other countries to help our global community. It isn’t done out of obligation. It’s isn’t done to look good on a college application. The money is raised; the logistics are planned; the work is done out of love for the interdependent web of existence of which we are all a part.

Love is the spirit of this church. Love is the spirit of each member of this church and it is evident in all the work we do and how we raise our children. With each loving action we take- teaching RE, making a casserole for a family in need, fighting for justice- we make the world a better place.

In faith,
Julie
Teams

As I write this column, I am in Venice, Italy, with a little breathing room early on Sunday morning in the middle of a very intense two-week business trip. Yesterday, I visited the world famous Murano Glass Works where skilled glass blowers worked as a team, the master and his assistants, to make beautiful works of art, as they have for centuries. What a well-tuned team, each member knowing exactly what to do, and when to do it, so that hot blown glass and glass beads could be merged together into a thing of beauty. Although some of this was show, designed to impress us tourists, I was struck by how these skillful artisans seemed to enjoy making the rhythm of their work play together so flawlessly.

What if the work of our church could always play together so beautifully? Some of what we do comes together with great team work, but not always. So as we rethink our vision and our structure, we need to consider how things get done. Governance focusses on how we are structured, who establishes policies and where we are headed. But how we really get things done is another matter. This is what we call the “ministry” of our Society, whether it is organizing RE classes, doing social action projects, doing Sunday services or just having fun together.

The wonderful book Mobilizing Congregations by John W. Wimberly, Jr. is an eye opener. It outlines today’s best practices for congregations. The day of doing everything by committee is a thing of the past. It’s now all about teams. Just a change of popular jargon? I don’t think so. The term “committee” implies long term commitments and assuming a burden of responsibility: managing, planning, recruiting volunteers, getting the Board to approve funds, etc. Teams are all about people getting together to do a specific job and then moving on. The result is the work of the Society can become more fun and self-fulfilling. It helps to build community though shared commitment.

So, if you missed the book discussion on this topic, led by Margret, get a copy, or borrow one of the many copies floating around church and spend a couple of hours on this short read. It may just change your view of how we do church.

Peace,

John
BRING YOUR APPETITES! - FEBRUARY 28TH 
PARTNER CHURCH - FUNDRAISER LUNCH

This is an important event in support of our UUSS Partner Church. We fondly recall memories of sharing the Transylvanian country side with our partners in Marosvaserhely, Transylvania (Romania). And, our youth anxiously look forward to their planned July 2016 visit there.

Reverend Csaba, minister of our partner church shares the following:

I would like to thank you for your generous financial help this year. We have a big plan in our church. In 2016 we are going to celebrate the 10th year of our church dedication, and we would like with this occasion to buy a new electric organ for our church. The organ music has a very important part in our church services, and we have right now a very old electric organ. We started to buy a new and better electric organ. The price of the organ is around 8,000 Euro. Half of the money we got as help from the Hungarian Government, and the other half we have to gather in the congregation.

The collection in the service on February 28th will go to the Partner Church and their new electric organ.

Our luncheon menu on that day will feature Hungarian-inspired food – Paprikash OR Gulyas, AND a Hungarian Vegetarian Soup. Proceeds from the UUSS All-Church lunch will go toward the cost of travel for our eight youth who will be visiting our partner church in July 2016. Our hope is that these continued activities will further solidify the bonds between our two communities. We ask for generous donations. Please plan to join us!

COFFEE, CRULLERS & CONVERSATION!

There are four Sundays in February and every one of them will have a CC&C preceding the service. In order to precede the service, CC&C needs to start before the service; so we will. We will start at 9:30am and here is why you will want to be there:

- **February 7th**: John Mishanic will make a presentation and answer questions about the "Schenectady Green Market"
- **February 14th**: A scintillating conversation and delicious coffee
- **February 21st**: Fred Lee will discuss "Noise and its Relation to Public Health"
- **February 28th**: A delicious conversation and scintillating coffee

And then, and then, there are always the CRULLERS...

UUSS BUGS - A NEW WAY TO VOLUNTEER SIGN UP ON THE BULLETIN BOARD!

It's a New Year and we're trying something new!

For the next service period, March - June 2016, we're going to use the UUSS BUG bulletin board between the mens’ and ladies’ rooms that we wrote about last month, to have people sign up for UUSS BUG service.

We will post a blank schedule on the bulletin board from January 28th until February 10th. During these 2 weeks, please stop by and sign up for the date(s) and job(s) you prefer by putting your name in the space(s) on the schedule. We encourage you to sign up for more than one date and/or job.

We know some people may not be able to sign up in person or may just forget to do so. Therefore after February 10th, we will contact UUSS BUGs by email in order to complete the schedule.

We hope this will make the process easier for you and also assure you of the dates you want. Thank you in advance for trying this new system.

Lisa Angle and MaryAnne Mangano, Your UUSS BUGs Coordinators

IT'S A MARDI GRAS PARTY! SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH 7PM IN THE DINING ROOM

Live music by the Nisky Dixie Cats! Dancing! Yummy snacks! Fun people! This is a combined fundraiser for the Sr Youth trips to New Orleans and Transylvania. Free-will donations are welcome.

SUNDAY MORNING YOGA AND MEDITATION!

"Every body" is welcome to relax and stretch at Guided Yoga with Mati every Sunday morning from 8:00-9:15am in the Emerson Room. On the 2nd and 4th Sundays, Mati leads Guided Mindfulness Meditation in the Emerson Room at 9:30am. This 20 minute seated meditation is followed by a period to share experiences and ask questions for further information. For more information contact Mati at mihackett@nycap.rr.com.
UUSS PHILOSOPHY GROUP

The Philosophy Group will be choosing a new book on January 27 as we finish our reading and discussion of Edmund Burke. We meet every Wednesday at 10am in the Emerson Room. New members are always welcome. If you have questions call or write Michael Foster at 382-5982 or mfoster9@nycap.rr.com.

A VISITING STEWARD'S EXPERIENCE IS NOT WHAT YOU MIGHT THINK

Would you like to make some new friends at church and help strengthen this religious community? There are many ways to do that, of course, but here is one that you might not have thought about: becoming a Visiting Steward.

Visiting Stewards are people who care about our congregation and enjoy conversations about both what they love here and how we might improve.

Last winter the Stewardship Committee returned to holding face-to-face stewardship conversations with as many members as possible — with fabulous results. More than 35 members agreed to be Visiting Stewards. They attended a March training session after church and were each matched with four members, with whom they had a conversation about UUSS. Many stewards reported that these conversations opened new doors to friendships and mutual interests for them.

This winter the Stewardship Committee hopes to recruit even more Visiting Stewards, enough so that ALL our members and pledging friends can enjoy this conversation. If this is something you want to learn more about, please contact Stewardship Committee chair Mark Hyland at mark.e.hyland@gmail.com or 859-5656.

CABIN FEVER CURE-ALL

3RD ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF & TRIVIA NIGHT!
Friday, February 5th,
5:00pm to 8:00pm
See Flyer on Page 13!

CIRCLLES SUPPERS - SIGN UP NOW!

Interested in getting to know other members of the UUSS family a little better? Interested in good food? Interested in good conversation?

Join us for the spring Circles Supper. This is the dinner series we formerly called Silver & Gold. We will meet in groups of four to twelve at 6pm in members' homes for good conversation and great food. Each adult brings an assigned dish and a beverage of choice. It is a great opportunity to meet new folks or get better acquainted with folks you already know. Please join us! We hope to see you there!

For the Saturday, February 27th Circle Supper!
Sign up by Saturday, February 6th

For the Saturday, March 19th Circle Supper!
Sign up by Saturday, February 27th

For more information and to register online:
http://goo.gl/Yfvgkg
Or Contact Jodi at jodilovegrove5@gmail.com

CIRCLLES

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships will be available for UUSS members through the Leadership Development Team for participation in one or more classes offered this spring by the UU Leadership Institute! http://www.uuinstitute.org/
Currently 11 different on-line classes will be offered this spring; including: Spiritual Direction; History & Theology of Covenant; Healthy Leadership; Membership; Stewardship; Intercultural Skills for a Diverse World and other topics. It is our hope that anyone participating in this training will gain skill and knowledge that they can pass on to our UUSS congregation. Contact Mike MacLaury at mmaclaur@nycap.rr.com.
JUST MERCY: A STORY OF JUSTICE AND REDEMPTION BY BRYAN STEVENSON

February 7, 14, 21 & 28
Emerson Room, 12:00-1:30PM

Just Mercy, a powerful true story by Bryan Stevenson, who founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system. The book explores the potential for mercy to redeem us, and issues a call to fix our broken system of justice. The book is available in paperback or e-book format.

The book discussions will be in the Emerson Room from 12:00-1:30 February 7, 14, 21, & 28 12:00-1:30, we will allow time for Sundae Sunday and the All Church Luncheon. To get involved, simply purchase and read the book Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson and indicate your interest by signing up at the Lifespan Faith Development of Social Action Council table in the Great Hall after Sunday services, through the UUSS website: http://goo.gl/pAcvP0 or by calling the church office at 374-4446.

GETTING TO KNOW UU
FOUR THURSDAYS: MARCH 10, 17, 24, 31

Class Facilitators: Kathy Fernandez & Steve Healey
Emerson Room, 7:00 - 9:00pm

This small group workshop addresses the basics of what it means to be an active Unitarian Universalist, and provides an opportunity to connect with others who share your interests while you explore our historic liberal faith tradition. The four class sessions meet four consecutive Thursdays, beginning March 10, 2016. Topics include UU history and theology, faith development, how we worship in a covenantal faith, and how we express our values through social justice. Register by signing up at the Lifespan Faith Development table after service on Sundays, by calling the church office at 374-4446, or online through the UUSS website at http://goo.gl/vW5kPA.

CREATING A VISION OF THE FUTURE
FEBRUARY 13TH, 9AM TO 1PM, DINING ROOM

All are invited to join us on Saturday, February 13th, to help shape the vision for this church, integrating the spirit and message from all your individual dreaming, and generating a statement that can serve as a navigational guide into the future.

You are welcome to come without registering, but if we know how many plan to attend we can better provide for space and snacks for everyone. We do need to know if you will need child care to attend. Sign up at the Adult Faith Development table, online at http://goo.gl/F7V3QQ, or by calling the church office at 374-4446.

LONG STRANGE TRIP:
AN EXPLORATION OF UU HISTORY

Six Thursday Evenings, 7:00-9:00 pm
February 18 – March 24
Co-Facilitators: Ernie Hall and Julie Rigano

Long Strange Trip traces the history of Unitarian and Universalist thought and practice from the beginning of the Christian era to what we know today as Unitarian Universalism. Each class explores the challenges of a time period, and the implications for our liberal faith tradition today. Register at the Lifespan Faith Development table after Sunday services, through the UUSS website at http://goo.gl/Q5XvFn or by calling the church office at 374-4446.
What is the job of our Board of Trustees?

Members of the UUSS Governance Task Force (GTF) continue to work with the Board of Trustees to improve the way that our congregation governs itself. Specifically, the GTF is charged with helping the Board create a comprehensive Policy Manual and transition to a policy-based system of governance, as described in Dan Hotchkiss’s book *Governance and Ministry*.

In January, the GTF gave Board members a list of 80 specific tasks that take place in our church to keep it running. Each task appeared on a separate sticky label, and Board members had to place each label in one of three concentric circles. The central, smallest circle was for “Core Board Roles.” Next came “Work that could be done by the Board or could be delegated to others.” The outer area was for “Non-Board Work,” meaning tasks that should not be performed by the Board as a whole.

Some tasks were easy to identify as Non-Board Work, such as: Paying bills, Vacuuming the carpet, Teaching RE classes, and Providing pastoral care. (Of course individuals often serve multiple roles at UUSS, and it can be helpful to think of our wearing different “hats” when we do. For instance, this means that while individual Board members are welcome to teach an RE class, the Board as a whole is not expected to teach RE.)

Board members quickly agreed on some other tasks as Core Roles for the Board, such as: Approving building usage policies, Determining the need for a capital campaign, Developing a policy manual, and Evaluating whether or not the church is fulfilling its mission.

This was a challenging exercise both because the list of tasks is long, and because — like so many churches — UUSS has been guilty in the past of acting as though every little decision needed Board approval, which can monopolize Board meetings and reduce the time available for discernment, oversight, and strategic planning. Time ran out before all 80 tasks could be categorized, so this exercise will be continued at the February Board of Trustees meeting.

Continues on page 9.....

GREEN SANCTUARY & CLIMATE JUSTICE

**What’s Happening with UUSS and our Planet and You?**

**Our Advocacy Team** got the year off to a great start by participating in a Climate Rally in Albany on January 13th. The occasion was Gov. Cuomo’s State of the State address. Groups from around the State voiced concerns about pipelines supporting the fossil fuel infrastructure, and the concern that the fight against global warming needs to progress much more rapidly in order to keep temperatures from rising into the danger zone. You can advocate for these and related issues even if you couldn’t go to Albany by going to [http://gelfny.org/](http://gelfny.org/). You will also hear more from us each month on ways you can help.

![Image of people rallying for climate justice]

**UUSS members rally for Climate Justice at the NY State Capitol. Who are these people?**

**Did you know** that you can purchase renewable energy even if you don’t have your own solar panels or wind turbine? National Grid has a list of electricity providers who specialize in renewable energy. You can choose a provider from this list, thus purchasing renewable energy. We’ll have the information at the Green Sanctuary Table on Sunday, or you can simply go to the website [https://www.nationalgridus.com](https://www.nationalgridus.com).

**On March 6th** we’ll be showing the film “Merchants of Doubt” after the Sunday service. This film exposes the use of the same tactics by climate deniers that were used by the tobacco industry. In fact some of the same people who were involved in advertising cigarettes are now involved in the campaign to deny global warming. Join us to watch this informative film over a light lunch. Sign up at the Green Sanctuary Table during February. If you will need childcare, please contact Nancy at [gs.uuss06@gmail.com](mailto:gs.uuss06@gmail.com) or call 374-5810.
RIPPLES: SOCIAL ACTION COUNCIL

Pushing the Valentine Envelope: 30 Days of Love and then what?

By Robin Schnell

As you read this, we’re nearing the end of a 30 Days of Love campaign that focuses on the theme Black Lives Matter and racial justice. I recently read a quote that elucidates the meme:

“We must pursue policies that transform this country into a nation that affirms the value of its people of color. That starts with addressing the four central types of violence waged against black and brown Americans: physical, political, legal and economic.” Symone D. Sanders, Press Secretary for Bernie Sanders

The UUA is asking us to donate to relevant causes, meditate and act. As a congregation we are doing good things: We have donated time, money and material goods to SICM, Family Promise, The Center for Community Justice and Joseph’s House, all of which benefit black lives in the downstream; we have mediated as we read Just Mercy and attended Bridges Out of Poverty workshops; and we have acted by attending rallies and lobbying for economic and criminal justice.

I’m proud of our congregation for taking those actions, but while we have seen change that gives us faith that the future can be brighter, we need to continue the work. How?

- Extend our community partnerships so that we can deepen our understanding of issues and have more conversations about possible solutions. Social Action is planning a movie event on a Friday evening, possibly in April, where we will invite all of the Family Promise congregations for voluntary fundraising and friend-making.

- Learn more about what our community does for those who have had contact with the criminal justice system. The December CCJ reentry Taskforce meeting featured two uplifting presentations on changing the mental health procedures for people in reentry and on using gang members who are reentering after prison to stop gun violence in their neighborhoods. How can we support these positive approaches?

- Consider ways in which you can use your privilege to give voice to those who are powerless. What privileges do you possess? Is it the privilege of shopping at a grocery store where you don’t fear catching a stray bullet? What do those stores sell? How much does it cost to shop there? If cigarettes are unhealthy, why do we only make it illegal to sell loosies? Are you privileged to own a car? Discover what it’s like to take the bus. How would it limit where you live? How might you improve that transportation system? What is your school system like? Do you ever have to think about how the Weekly Reader will get paid for? Why don’t our tax dollars level the playing field?

I’ll leave you to ponder what those next steps for change can be. The Social Action Council welcomes your thoughts! Stop by our table to share them.
EBWA PROGRAM - FEBRUARY 25TH

Quilts Through the 20th and Into the 21st Century

Kathryn Greenwold will speak about trends in quilting during the 20th century and about where we are going in the 21st century as new methods, machines, fabrics, paints, and designs are used. Quilters today are building a body of work that will become the "traditional" quilts in 100 years. Kathie will also focus on the effects the internet and computers have already had on the quilting world and what we might see in the next 25 years.

Kathryn has been quilting for 60 of her 67 years. She began with her grandmothers in Nebraska. However, her quilts now reflect both the traditional quilts and techniques she learned from her grandmothers and an artistic expression using textiles, found objects, paint, stamping, and printing for art quilts and framed art. Kathryn is a qualified appraiser of quilts, and quilt historian, instructor and author. Her first book of quilt patterns, written with Lynn Makrin, is *Amish Shadows Light Reflected*, which explores the Amish Shadows block in both traditional and modern settings. She and Lynn are working on their second book, *Ladders to Heaven, Roads to Everywhere*, which will be out in early 2016.

All women are invited to attend this program, February 25 at 7:45pm. To enjoy socializing with other women, arrive for wine or juice between 5:45pm and 6:15pm when a catered vegetarian meal will be served. Make reservations for the meal by emailing Gabrielle Reals at ellegr3@gmail.com by Monday, February 22nd or by calling her at 382-5685 no later than 8pm Tuesday, February 23rd. You may request a gluten-free meal with your reservation. You may also bring your own meal or come for the program only at 7:45pm. Cost of the entire evening is $15; cost of the program only is $3.

Looking Ahead: On March 31st, journalist Azra Haqiqe will speak on Living in the Capital Region as a Practicing Muslim Woman.

ALLIANCE SPECIAL APPEALS - 2016

The Women’s Alliance is seeking requests for donations from our Special Appeals Fund. Over the years, we have awarded donations to a variety of organizations, including grants to the UUSS Soup Kitchen Committee, Green Sanctuary, Dining for Dollars, and the Youth Group. We have also awarded donations to community non-profits such as the HH Arts Center, SICM, the YWCA, and Planned Parenthood. If you are aware of a local non-profit group that would benefit from a grant, please let them know that money is available. The organization should send a letter including a brief description of their purpose, a request for a specific amount and an explanation for how the donation will be used. Submit requests to Crystal Hamelin, Special Appeals Committee Chair at UUSS, 1221 Wendell Avenue or by email at dhamelin@nycap.rr.com, by March 15th. The members of the Alliance are pleased to help in this way!

Thank you!

January 25, 2016

Dear All,

As I work on tying up loose ends for Dining for Dollars I can’t help thinking of all of you and the continued support you give to this project.

So far this year we’ve raised $9,600, and checks continue to come in.

I try to write individual thank you letters; but I know some people get lost in the chaos and I end up not reaching everyone. For this I am truly sorry. Please know that if you gave grocery money, helped in the kitchen, gave technical support, delivered meals, sent mailings, ordered a meal, made a donation or in any other way helped to make this fundraiser a success I am truly grateful and overwhelmed by your generosity.

People in the Gulf Coast and girls throughout the world will be helped because of your caring.

Blessings to all of you,

Ellie von Wellsheim
Dining for Dollars Coordinator
FORMING THE MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE
AT THE
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF SCHENECTADY
FEBRUARY – APRIL 2016

The time has arrived!

All active UUSS Members in good standing will be contacted during February by a Special Nominating Call Team member to ask for your suggestions of people who you think would be suitable Ministerial Search Committee candidates. Those members mentioned most often will be considered for nomination to stand for election at a Special Congregational Meeting in April.

Attempts will be made by the Call Team to contact ALL members in good standing during February. Please respond when you are contacted to participate in this important step in creating the future of the church.

A description of what makes for a good Ministerial Search Committee member is ________________.

Here are some questions to ask yourself when making your suggestions:

- What are good qualities needed for someone to serve on a Ministerial Search Committee?
- Who in the congregation works well with others?
- Who can represent and serve the whole congregation well (including looking out for the needs of children) and not just a piece or “faction” of the congregation?
- Who has been and/or is active in the congregation and has demonstrated both responsible participation and responsible leadership?
- Who knows the history and culture of the congregation, whether a member of long standing or relatively new?
- Who would have no “axe to grind”?
- Who is aware of strengths and weaknesses, what the congregation is like at its best and at its worst, as well as on an average day. Who would be able to know and relate all this to potential candidates?
- After thinking about all of these questions, whom would you trust to serve on the Search Committee on behalf of the congregation?

A description of what makes for a good Ministerial Search Committee member is on the following page.
QUALITIES TO SEEK IN PROSPECTIVE MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The kind of person to seek:

1. One who has an overall perspective and commitment to the nature, purpose and activities of the congregation. Contrary to what might be expected, we do not recommend that Search Committees be made up of representatives of special interest groups. This tends to create unnecessary conflict and to have people looking for "one issue" candidates. So instead of looking for "representatives," we recommend looking for "senators."

2. One who is committed to UU pluralism in every area: theology, life styles, social concern, etc.

3. One who is patiently able to work for consensus rather than insisting upon majority rule or minority tyranny.

4. One with time to be thoroughly and continually involved. Members of the Committee may well devote a minimum of 20 hours monthly for ten months or so, to say nothing of the added time involved when the pre-candidating interviews get underway. Searching for a minister must be a top priority for members of the Search Committee.

5. One without rigid requirements regarding a minister’s sex, sexual orientation, marital status, race, ethnicity, age, etc.

6. One who constantly remembers the wishes of the congregation, who will not permit the Search Committee to become an autonomous, independent (and finally irresponsible) entity.

7. One with a history of UU involvement. This does not necessarily mean long-term involvement, but it does mean that people very new to our religious community probably ought not to be asked to serve. It takes time for people really to accept and embrace our diversity.

8. One who very evidently has the confidence of the congregation.

9. One who can respect the confidentiality of the process, but who, nonetheless, is eager to keep the congregation informed regarding the progress that is being made.

10. One of cooperative disposition, not disputatious.
Cabin Fever Cure-All
3rd Annual Chili Cook-off
and Trivia Night
Friday, February 5-5:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Contestants vie for bragging rights and the coveted "U USS Best Chili" trophy for the next year.

To enter: Bring your recipe card and a big pot of chili.

Judges …that's everyone else... bring a salad, corn bread, or dessert to share.

- Winners (1st, 2nd & 3rd place) will be selected by weighted voting from all adults attending.
- Everyone gets to vote for their 1st, 2nd & 3rd place favorites.
- We’ll provide the beverages.
- The evening will be filled out with a "Trivia Night" for the competitive (and non-competitive) adults, teens and children!

Sponsored by:
Adult Programs Council

—Fun!—
—Family Friendly—
—Free—
Change is Our Choice: Creating Climate Solutions
Climate Justice Book Discussion Course
at the
Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady

Two time offerings:

Sundays - noon to 1:30
4/3, 4/10, 4/24, 5/22 and 6/5

Tuesday evenings - 7-8:30 pm
3/29, 4/12, 4/26, 5/10 and 5/24

How do we know climate change is real? What is the human role? How do we deal with climate change skeptics? What should nations and states do? What can you do? Why is climate change the most critical problem facing us in the 21st century?

Join us for a book discussion course, “Change is Our Choice, Creating Climate Solutions” published by the Northwest Earth Institute. Course topics include areas such as why the climate crisis needs you, what you need to know about the scientific evidence, finding your own carbon footprint, the climate of denial, the global and local movements to address the crisis, how the change is our choice, and your own action plan to connect and act.

Climate Justice is a major “Living Our Principles” congregational initiative at UUSS – and the course is linked to the Climate Justice theme of our regional CRUUNY service this April 17.

Sign up at the Lifespan Faith Development table or the Green Sanctuary table after Sunday services, or on the UUSS website here: http://goo.gl/JhCLhJ.

You can preview a hard copy of the “Change is Our Choice” book at the Green Sanctuary table, and you may purchase the book, or the electronic book (preferred as a greener solution!), through the Northwest Earth Institute directly.

Contact Crys Hamelink at crysh@nycap.rr.com if you have questions. This course is sponsored by the UUSS Green Sanctuary/Climate Justice Committee.

Thank you for your interest in Climate Change Solutions!
Remember, we have no “Planet B.”
## February 2016

**Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady**

For an up-to-the-minute UU Society of Schenectady-calendar, go to [www.uuschenectady.org](http://www.uuschenectady.org) and click on the calendar link at the top of the page!

### February 2016 Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 31</td>
<td>Rev. Margret Off Site</td>
<td>7:30pm FUSS Budgets (E)</td>
<td>9:30am EBWA Steering Committee (F)</td>
<td>7:00pm Spiritual Practice Sampler (F)</td>
<td>5:30pm APC Chili Cook-Off (DR)</td>
<td>9:00am Seven Stages of Money Maturity (E)</td>
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<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>Hosting Family Promise (E)</td>
<td>DLRE's Day Off</td>
<td>Minister's Day Off</td>
<td>6:00pm Ex Committee (E)</td>
<td>7:00pm Wellspring: Faithful Action (F)</td>
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<td>Feb 2</td>
<td>Church Closed</td>
<td>Presidents' Day (United States)</td>
<td>10:00am Green Sanctuary</td>
<td>10:00am Philosophy Discussion (E)</td>
<td>7:00pm Wellspring: Sources (F)</td>
<td>1:00pm Staff</td>
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<td>Feb 3</td>
<td>Valentino's Day (United States)</td>
<td>5:30pm Niskayuna Coop (E)</td>
<td>7:00pm Wellspring: Sources (F)</td>
<td>7:00pm Wellspring: Sources (E)</td>
<td>7:00pm REC (WH 2nd Floor)</td>
<td>Lincoln's Birthday (United States)</td>
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<td>Feb 4</td>
<td>8:00am Guided Yoga Flow</td>
<td>9:30am CC&amp;C (F)</td>
<td>9:30am Choir (DR)</td>
<td>10:00am Philosophy Discussion (E)</td>
<td>7:00pm Finance Meeting (E)</td>
<td>12:15pm Men's Lunch (Edison Club)</td>
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<td>Feb 5</td>
<td>9:30am Guided Meditation</td>
<td>1:30pm Caring Team (F)</td>
<td>10:30am RE in Worship (Gr)</td>
<td>12:00pm Just Mercy, the U</td>
<td>7:00pm Herb Group (WH Library/K)</td>
<td>7:00pm LONG STRANGE TRIP: AN EXPLORATION OF UU HISTORY (DR)</td>
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<td>Feb 6</td>
<td>10:30am RE Classes in Wa</td>
<td>5:30pm Niskayuna Coop (E)</td>
<td>10:30am Worship Service</td>
<td>12:00pm Just Mercy, the U</td>
<td>7:00pm LONG STRANGE TRIP: AN EXPLORATION OF UU HISTORY (Emerson Room)</td>
<td>Susan Vacation</td>
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<td>Feb 7</td>
<td>12:00pm Fireside Chat (F)</td>
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**Calendar Highlights for February 2016**

- **Groundhog Day (United States)**: February 2
- **Lincoln's Birthday (United States)**: February 12
- **Lincoln’s Birthday (United States)**: March 1
- **Susan Vacation**: February 28, March 5

For more information or to view the full calendar, visit the Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady’s website at [www.uuschenectady.org](http://www.uuschenectady.org).
PURPOSE OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF SCHENECTADY

The members of this Society covenant to maintain and foster in Schenectady a non-creedal religious society whose purpose shall be to:

- Encourage a free and responsible search for truth, knowledge, and understanding;
- Nurture the religious growth of all who participate in the life of this Society;
- Serve the community;
- Seek the realization of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

Affirming the individual right of conscience, freedom of belief and the democratic process, with reverence for life and respect for the profound mystery of existence, we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

Sunday Services and Religious Education
10:30AM every Sunday Morning

Minister: Reverend Margret A. O’Neall
Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 10am-4pm (by appointment)
Phone: 518-374-4446 #2
Email: revmargretuuss@gmail.com

Director of LRE: Julie Rigano
Office Hours: Monday: 1pm-4pm
Tuesday Off
Wednesday, Thursday: 11am-3pm
Phone: 518-504-0684
Email: JulietheDRE@gmail.com

Music Director: Gareth Griffiths
Phone & Fax: 518-395-9381
Email: ggriffiths1739@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Susan Marino
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm
Phone: 518-374-4446 #0
Email: uuadmin@nycap.rr.com

Bookkeeper: Carolyn Sabol
Email: uubookkeeper@nycap.rr.com

Custodians: Helen Freeland & Ed Holen
Phone: 518-605-5551

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