June Worship

Sunday, June 5, 10:30 am
The Language of Flowers
Gary Feinland and the UUSS Worship Team
Music: Maria Zementowski, guitar, Ray Andrews, charango
The Flower Communion is a Unitarian tradition celebrating our unity of community in all our beauty and diversity, the love that holds us in active covenant, and our bright presence in the world. Please bring a flower to share in our annual flower exchange.

Sunday, June 12, 10:30 am
Abundance – Rev. Margret A. O’Neall
Music: Joe Gumpper, fiddle; Tony Califano, guitar
On this day of picnic and games, we celebrate the abundance of this beloved community with story and song as we appreciate all our teachers and facilitators, and then head outdoors to relish the joy that we create as a faith community of many perspectives and shared love. Come dressed for fun!

Sunday, June 19, 10:30 am
In the Full Light of Day – Rev. Margret A. O’Neall
Music: Graham Wolfe, piano
When Father’s Day falls on the eve of the summer solstice, in this month when we celebrate the heritage of the Pride movement, we are reminded that the loving diversity of our families can best flourish in the full light of day. We acknowledge the strides our society has made toward equal standing for all families, even as we pledge to work for continued progress.

Sunday, June 26, 10:30 am
Chanting on the Side of Love!
Albany Kirtan Band
Embody the spirit of the gratitude through song and story. Chant, breathe, release and revive with the resonant tones of the Kirtan tradition. Let’s fill the dome with joy and gratitude for all that is good in our lives!
if this Search process follows the pattern in most congregations, there will be a flurry of activity this fall, with discussion groups and surveys, as the Ministerial Search Committee gathers information and input from Society members to create the Congregational Profile. That Profile gets posted online in December for prospective ministers to see. Then in the winter the Search Committee goes quiet, as they start to converse with specific ministers; and they must maintain silence about the specifics of the persons and conversations with which they are engaged.

And in the meantime, this faith community will continue to grow in energy and presence in the community, deepening the loving relationships that are the core of congregational life, building the structures of the new governance system, and nurturing mind and spirit through learning, engagement and growth. It is such a pleasure to travel this continuing adventure with you -- I always look forward to seeing you in church!

Margret

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - LOOKING AHEAD

With our last religious education class on May 22nd, I can’t believe a whole year of RE has flown by. This year has been full of unforgettable memories. From exploring the Waters House backyard with our first and second grade Keepers of the Earth to bringing my father in via video chat to talk to our sixth and seventh grade Neighboring Faiths class about Judaism. From putting up Buddhist prayer flags with the third to fifth grade Sing to the Power class to the many adventures and discussions in Coming of Age in the very same room in the afternoon. From a full nursery bursting with gurgles and laughter to a vibrant youth group participating in the larger UU community outside of our walls.

Now I’m looking forward to next year and the great opportunities we have in store for our children and youth. Next year we are offering Our Whole Lives, our phenomenal sexuality education course, for multiple grades K-12. We are also offering classes to help our children and youth think, grow, and love.

Too excited for next year to wait? You don’t have to wait! You can register for next year’s religious education classes right now through our Breeze member database. Simply log onto Breeze and go to your child’s profile. Once there, click on the bar that says, “Religious Education” to the left. Option will pop up to register for next fall, OWL, and even for our summer RE program!

More instructions are in the RE Brochure at the Welcome Table, the Religious Education table at the back of the Great Hall, and on the Religious Education bulletin board in the RE Hallway off the Great Hall.  

Julie
PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

A few weeks ago, I attended the dedication ceremony in which a bronze bust of Charles Proteus Steinmetz was placed on the historic marker in the park adjacent to our church, once, the site of Steinmetz’s home. The ceremony was attended by dignitaries and city officials and a small assembly of local citizens including a handful of UUSS members. After all the speeches and the unveiling of the bust, cigars were passed out and photos were taken of all present beside the full-sized placard of Charles Proteus with his ever-present cigar.

Steinmetz was, of course, the electrical wizard of Schenectady, one of the most brilliant engineers of all time, credited with developing the mathematical underpinnings that enabled the AC electrical power systems that we still use today. He also was a socialist, a humanitarian and an educator. His accomplishments as an advocate for progressive change in his adopted city of Schenectady were impressive. As President of the Schenectady School Board, he instituted many changes in our public schools that were revolutionary for his time. As President of the City Council, he created the city-wide park system that we enjoy today. Though not a member of our church, he was a close friend who was invited on several occasions to speak from our pulpit. When he died on October 26, 1923, Unitarian Minister, Reverend A.W. Clark spoke of his extraordinary gifts that would benefit generations to come. He also spoke of the countless men (and women) who “will sit at the shrine of his leadership and achieve high attainments.” Reverend Clark’s pronouncement applies equally to the generations of engineers that followed Steinmetz and the generations of UUSS members who have sat “at Steinmetz’s shrine of leadership and have achieved high attainments” in their work for social justice in our city and beyond.

Steinmetz’s legacy has been on my mind, particularly in the past several days as Sandra and I attended the UU Service Committee’s Stewardship Circle Annual Meeting. I feel a real connection to Steinmetz. You see, I, too, am an electrical engineer although my electrical wizardry is far less impressive. And like him, I am a short guy with a mustache. But mostly, I am inspired to sit at his shrine of leadership and strive to achieve just a few attainments that will make the world just a little better.

The UUSC meeting gave us the opportunity to sit at the shrine of other great leaders. Like Reverend Bill Schulz, retiring UUSC Director, who also spoke from our pulpit a year and a half ago and former Congressman Tom Andrews, who will take over the reins from Bill in July. Tom, like Bill, is a passionate and accomplished human rights advocate. We also had the privilege to meet Sadhana Shrestha, the Executive Director of Tewa, and a grass roots organization based in Katmandu that UUSC partnered with after a Richter 7.9 earthquake devastated many rural villages in Nepal a year ago. Sadhana, explained how, unlike many larger international relief agencies, which delivered articles of aid to affected regions that were not really needed, her smaller organization selected particularly marginalized populations and first asked them what they most needed, making their relief efforts far more effective.

Most of us will never have the opportunity or capacity to lead major changes that make our world a better place. But we all have the capacity to take inspiration from these great achievers and resolve to do what we can. And if we all do so, collectively we will achieve high attainments.

Peace,

John

Mission
Connecting in spiritual community, we celebrate life with joy grow in compassion create justice
ADULT PROGRAMS COUNCIL

ANNUAL PICNIC - JUNE 12TH

Come one, come all to our annual end-of-the-year Annual Picnic to be held on our patio on Sunday, June 12th, right after service. Thrill to the aroma of grilled burgers; veggie burgers and hotdogs, bring a side dish to share if you like. There will be games for kids, while you spend a few precious moments with friends old and new before summer overtakes our lives.

UUSS PHILOSOPHY GROUP

The Philosophy Group will be choosing a new book for June and September along with planning our summer sessions for July and August. We meet every Wednesday from 10:00am-11:30am in the Emerson Room. New members are always welcome. If you have any questions, call or email Michael Foster at 382-5982 or mfoster9@nycap.rr.com.

JUNE PRIDE EVENTS IN ALBANY AND SCHENECTADY!

June is LGBT Pride month, and there are activities and celebrations planned in our area. The biggest celebration is the Capital Pride Parade and Festival on June 11. The CRUUNY congregations will be marching in the parade! The parade starts at noon at the corner of Robin and State streets in Washington Park in Albany. All UU marchers should assemble at the CRUUNY sign near there. The parade route can be found at capitalpridecenter.org. We will be walking with our large Standing on the Side of Love and CRUUNY banners. Please join us and wear your Standing on the Side of Love shirts, if you have them. We hope to have a large contingent! The Festival starts immediately following the parade at the end of the route and includes music, speakers, and other activities.

There is also a Schenectady Pride celebration on June 18th at 3pm at Schenectady City Hall at 105 Jay St. This is family oriented and is a community celebration of our diversity.

Given the recent anti-LGBT bills passed in Indiana, North Carolina, and Mississippi, it is clear that the struggle for LGBTQ respect and equality must continue. It is important for UU’s to support these events, so please participate in one or both of them if you can.

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 more information, contact Mati at mihackett@nycap.rr.com.

AND ALSO COMING THIS FALL!

In addition to Guided Yoga Flow class, held every Sunday at 8:00am in the Emerson Room and Guided Mindfulness Meditation held every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 9:30am in the Emerson Room (20-minute seated meditation followed by a period of sharing experiences), Mati will be offering CHAIR YOGA every 5th Sunday, beginning October 30th! More details to follow.

SOUP KITCHEN

Thank you all so much for your generous donations to fund Soup Kitchen Lunches at A Place For Folk’s April concert. We served 146 meals at the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen in March, 141 in April and as many in May. Our next serving dates are June 13th, August 15th and September 12th. Think about volunteering for one of these dates. Contact Kendra at kendra.pratt1@gmail.com.

Vision

We will boldly live our Unitarian Universalist Principles, within our church and in service to the larger community. We will nurture mind and spirit through lifelong learning, engagement and growth. We will create a community that welcomes, embraces and supports all. We will worship in ways that comfort, inspire and challenge.
There are lots of exciting things going on in the church these days that would benefit from the skills and passions of our members – and we don’t always know all those skills and passions, and those with the skills might not know what is helpful. As we move into a responsive Teams approach, there is plenty of flexible space for getting involved with or without long-term commitment, in ways that fit your schedule and desires. Right now,

- Are you a musician yearning for a creative outlet? The monthly Vespers service might have the place for you.
- Do you love event planning? The Events Team is flexible and connected.
- Fascinated by best practices in organizational risk management? We are looking to create a Safety Team that will take the lead on everything from fire drills to intruder response.
- Love to teach and lead discussions? We can always use teachers and advisors for child/youth Religious Education, as well as facilitators for our Adult Faith Development courses.
- Want to give others the great experience you had when you entered this church? The Membership Team has a wealth of opportunities to be involved.

And the list goes on and on. Talk to Rev. Margret or to Julie Rigano, DLRE if you see something that interests you here – or if your interest is not listed, but could be!

UU Wellspring is a course in spiritual deepening designed specifically for UUs! In this intentional 10-month program, participants study the history of Unitarian Universalism and explore spiritual questions in a small group setting. Five interconnected components serve as guideposts: commitment to a daily spiritual practice, monthly spiritual direction, meetings twice a month, readings, and putting faith into action. Honor the voice of your inner teacher as you reflect on life’s biggest questions. For more information and to sign up: http://goo.gl/Aydno8

UUSS BUG HELP WANTED

UUSS Bugs is looking for volunteers to help with summer services. We need a minimum of 2 people for each of the 12 services from June 19 to September 4 to share the tasks of greeting, ushering and making and serving lemonade. If you are willing to help out, please put your name on the schedule on our bulletin board, which is in the hallway between the restrooms. Thank you! Lisa Angle at langle.tking@gmail.com and MaryAnne Mangano at mmangano@nycap.rr.com, your UUSS BUGs coordinators.

HELP FEED HUNGRY KIDS THIS SUMMER

Join other UUSS members in serving lunch to kids from low-income families at Jerry Burrell Park in Hamilton Hill during the weeks of July 18-22 or August 29-September 1. The Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM) will provide the food, and we need about 4 volunteers each day to serve the kids. We can expect to feed about 125 kids a day. These are children who qualify for free lunches during the school year, but often go without lunch when school is not in session. This is a heart-warming and rewarding experience, and fun to do with others from the congregation. You may sign up for one day or more, and youth also enjoy this volunteer opportunity. As one volunteer said: “Time spent with SICM Summer Lunch has been such a positive experience. I served hundreds of lunches, made friends, wiped tears, and laughed incredibly hard.” Further information and sign-up sheets are available at the Social Action Council Table or through Kat Wolfram (kmwolfram@gmail.com) or Crys Hamelink (crysh@nycap.rr.com).
GREEN SANCTUARY & CLIMATE JUSTICE

Advocating for Our Interdependent Web of Life!

May was one very active month for climate justice. The May 9th Advocacy Day was informative and exciting. Interfaith Impact provided information packets and had lined up visits with leadership in the senate and assembly. We spoke with staff of Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, the head of the Senate Energy Committee, the Senate Chair of Crime and Corrections, and many others. When we asked what we can do to help move clean power legislation forward, we were told, "Do more of what you are doing now," i.e., Advocacy. So keep abreast of advocacy efforts and join in!

The May 14th Break Free Albany Climate Action Day was another exciting day. This event was organized by http://350.org/, Bill McKibben’s organization, working with local environmental activists as part of international week of breaking free from fossil fuels. If you’ve never participated in a major activist event, we’re sorry you missed this opportunity. It’s a really remarkable feeling to be participating with such a large crowd of people in something for which you share a passion. Listening to speakers, meeting up with old friends, making new ones (totally amazing people from all over the Northeast), marching, chanting and singing together, agreeing on rules of civil disobedience and sharing the spirit. Did we do civil disobedience? Yes and no. The goal was to blockade the tracks where the oil trains (bomb trains) run, which we did. However, the authorities had already put a chain link fence blockage across the track, not keeping us out, but blocking the trains from running for the weekend. Either they agreed with us or they wanted to avoid a confrontation. …. What do you think?

Saturday, June 18th is the date of our spring/summer outing. Anyone in our congregation interested in coming is welcome. CRUUNY members are all invited, and please feel welcome to bring family. Our outing this year will be at Peebles Island, a very scenic State Park at the confluence of the Mohawk and Hudson rivers. Arrival time is between 11:30 and 12:00. Early arrivals claim picnic tables and start set-up. This is a potluck picnic, so please bring something to share as well as your own picnic ware. After the picnic we’ll hike the scenic trails which should take about an hour and a half, so you can figure on finishing by about 2:30.

ENJOY A GREEN SUMMER, HOPEFULLY NOT RECORD-BREAKING HEAT!!

RIPPLES: SOCIAL ACTION COUNCIL

THE MOONCATCHER PROJECT

I just returned from Uganda last week. I was traveling with two dear friends and working with our wonderful Ugandan friend Phoebe to bring the MoonCatcher Project to another area in Uganda. Temperatures were in the 80’s, dusty red dirt everywhere, mud huts, hard working women and plenty of smiling faces. These beautiful people have captured our hearts.

We set up a sewing collective having bought 8 treadle/electric machines, tables, chairs, notions, etc. We understood each other with a bit of English, lots of hand gestures and constant laughter.

It was raining and the mud stuck to my shoes and I swear it made me an inch taller than usual. We moved between tented cutting areas; to cement garage sewing area making our MoonCatcher menstrual pads. The women were determined to learn quickly and get their sewing business underway. The MoonCatcher Project is paying the women to make the pads so every completed and approved kit brings some income to women struggling to feed themselves and their children. This was our first Ugandan “MoonBee” and it worked.

We went to 14 schools to teach menstrual health and reproductive management and talked to over 1,100 girls. We showed them our pad and promised that our sewing group would make sure every girl would receive one. These beautiful, soft spoken teens asked questions, shared their concerns and expressed gratitude for our desire to help them stay in school. They really want an education, understanding that it is a way out of poverty.

We have had support from so many people here at home financially and hands on with the sewing bees. We realize that without this we wouldn’t have been able to do what we did in Uganda. The MoonCatcher Project is a three-tier strategy: we deliver pads to girls to help keep them in school; we provide an education about menstruation and reproductive health; and we provide employment for women who need jobs to support their families. When all of us help, it becomes possible to make a difference.

As Phoebe says “A problem shared is a problem solved”

Thank you all for sharing in the solution.

Ellie von Wellsheim
EBWA PROGRAM - JUNE 16TH

Schenectady County Historical Society and Stockade Walk

Did you realize that Schenectady’s Stockade is considered a national treasure? It contains a wide variety of Dutch and English 17th and 18th century buildings, many with later embellishments and additions. The National Park Service has described it as "the highest concentration of historic period homes in the country," with over 40 homes older than 200 years.

The area was originally settled in 1661 by Dutch merchants and fur traders. The settlement was burned and nearly destroyed in the Massacre of 1691, and re-built in 1692 with the encouragement of Lawrence, a Mohawk Indian. In the late 18th century, before establishing its present campus, Union College’s first building was located at the corner of Ferry and Union Streets.

See some of the sites; hear some of the stories on June 16th. The Annual EBWA field trip begins at 5pm at the Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Avenue. After an introduction and brief tour of the Society’s building, our guide will lead a walk in the Stockade area. We will end by sharing supper at Arthur’s Market about 6:15pm. Women can make reservations for the field trip and supper with Gabrielle Reals by e-mailing her at ellegr3@gmail.com by Monday, June 13th or by calling her at 382-5685 no later than Tuesday, June 14th at 8pm. Cost of the entire evening is $15; cost of the tour only is $5. A gluten-free meal is available if requested with your reservation. Reservations are requested for both the meal and the tour.

Parking is limited; carpooling is strongly suggested. Off-street parking is available in the YWCA parking lot next door to the Historical Society.

WOMEN’S ALLIANCE PROGRAM
JUNE 2ND

Glorious Gardens of England! From lush Devon to London to the Botanic Garden in Cambridge.

This enchanting program will be presented at the June Women's Alliance meeting on Thursday, June 2nd by our own honored gardener, Gary Griffiths. Gary, a seasoned Anglophile traveler, will share slides of her May trip to England, her latest of many trips to visit English Gardens. Gary has presented her illustrated programs on English gardens at Siena College, the English Speaking Union and the Berkshire Botanical Garden. Her own garden in Scotia, her secret hidden "room" created on an ugly vacant lot she purchased in 1999, a bluestone patio surrounded by curving beds containing perennials, herbs, shrubs and conifers, has been on several tours, featured in area newspapers and was featured in the October, 2007, issue of Better Homes and Gardens.

Lunch will be served in the UU Dining Room at 12Noon at a cost of $13.00. Please make reservations with Mariko at mariko@nycap.rr.com or call her at 399-4552 by May 30th. For menu details, refer to Circuits or the Order of Service after May 22nd. Men are warmly welcome. If you find you cannot attend after making a reservation, notify Mariko by Tuesday, May 31st to avoid being responsible for the cost of your meal.
Earth Circles
FULL MOON DRUM CIRCLE AND SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION
Monday, June 20, 7-8 pm
Look for us around a fire in the gardens behind the church.
We will drum inside under the dome if it rains. All are welcome!
Bring instruments and a short reading if you have one.

UUSS Earth Circles with ECOS
Paint, Pastel, or Draw...Art Outside is more Fun!

Won’t you join us? Artists of every skill level are welcome. Everyone brings personal supplies and gear.
There is no fee. Each person chooses a view or subject, and works in the medium of choice.

Tentative June En Plein Air sites & dates:
June 4, 9am -- Schoharie Crossing Aqueduct (In conjunction with the annual ECOS paddle excursion)
TBA--Central Park Rose Garden in Schenectady and Schoharie Valley overlook at Wellington’s Herbs & Spices

Sign-up by e-mailing: ArtOutsideNENY@gmail.com
Details of exact location, date & time will be sent via e-mail
### June 2016

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**May 29 - Jun 4**

- **May 29 - Jun 4**
  - **June 1**: 10:00am Green Sanctuary (F)
  - **June 1**: 10:00am Philosophy Discussion (E)
  - **June 1**: 7:00pm EBWA (DR)
  - **June 1**: 7:00pm Wellspring: Sources (F)
  - **June 1**: 7:00pm Wellspring: Sources (E)
  - **June 1**: 11:30am Women’s Alliance (DR/E/K)
  - **June 1**: 1:00pm Staff Meeting
  - **June 1**: 7:00pm Rental (DR)

**Jun 5 - 11**

- **Jun 5 - 11**
  - **May 30**: 8:00am Guided Yoga Flow (E)
  - **May 30**: 9:30am CC&C (E)
  - **May 30**: 10:30am RE in Worship (Great Hall)
  - **May 30**: 10:30am Worship Service
  - **May 30**: 12:00pm Change is our Choice! (E)
  - **May 30**: 12:00pm Fireside Chat (F)
  - **May 30**: 1:00pm Whirling Rainbow Lodge – Women’s Lodge
  - **June 1**: 7:30pm FUSS Budgets (E)

**Jun 12 - 17**

- **Jun 12 - 17**
  - **June 5**: 8:00am Guided Yoga Flow (E)
  - **June 5**: 9:30am CC&C (F)
  - **June 5**: 10:30am RE in Worship (Grande Hall)
  - **June 5**: 10:30am APC Year End Pic
  - **June 5**: 12:00pm Fireside Chat (F)
  - **June 5**: 1:00pm Whirling Rainbow Lodge – Women’s Lodge
  - **June 9**: Office Closed

**Jun 19 - 25**

- **Jun 19 - 25**
  - **June 19**: Father’s Day (United States)
  - **June 19**: 8:00am Guided Yoga Flow (E)
  - **June 19**: 10:30am RE in Worship (Great Hall)
  - **June 19**: 10:30am Worship Service
  - **June 19**: 12:00pm Fireside Chat (F)
  - **June 19**: 1:00pm Whirling Rainbow Lodge – Women’s Lodge
  - **June 21**: 1:30pm Caring Team (F)
  - **June 21**: 5:30pm Adult Program Council (E)
  - **June 21**: 7:00pm Board of Trustees (E)
  - **June 21**: 7:00pm Summer Sostice (GH)

**Jun 26 - Jul 2**

- **Jun 26 - Jul 2**
  - **June 26**: 8:00am Guided Yoga Flow (E)
  - **June 26**: 9:30am Guided Meditation Practice (E)
  - **June 26**: 10:30am RE in Worship (Great Hall)
  - **June 26**: 10:30am Worship Service
  - **June 26**: 12:00pm Fireside Chat (F)
  - **June 26**: 1:00pm Whirling Rainbow Lodge – Women’s Lodge

For an up-to-the-minute UU Society of Schenectady calendar, go to www.uuschenectady.org and click on the calendar link at the top of the page!
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