

MUUS NEWS

MATTATUCK UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY • P.O. Box 876, Woodbury, CT 06798

♦ Meeting House - 122 S. Pomperaug Avenue, Woodbury, CT ♦ **October 2009**

Turning

This morning was colder than usual. As my husband and I sat outside eating our breakfast, we looked at flowers still radiant with summer sunshine and at ripples racing across the pond. It was cooler, by far, than it had been all summer. A cool and bracing breeze shook the roses, and stirred the whirligigs briskly in the rose bed. Sunlight pierced through open blue patches in slate gray clouds.



Yes . . . it feels like autumn. Already it is time to put on a fleece jacket, only to return indoors to watch nature through clear glass windows. It is the time for the turning of the seasons.

I find that I am reluctant to let the season move on. It moves on without my permission. It moves on without even asking my permission! Life moves on, whether ready or not.

And, yet, there is so much to look forward to . . . A variety of exciting gatherings awaits us as we embark on this next church year. There are so many opportunities for us to connect and be with one another. This is, to me, what a religious community is for . . . it is for the connecting, the sharing, the laughter, the music. It is for the wholesome beauty that emerges in a touchable spirit that arises from our shared lives together. It is for lives braided together in joy and sorrow, knowing this is the home for which you have been waiting, the home to which you return, the home that you build and repair. This place, these people, these children, this memory of lives shared thoughtfully, carefully, joyfully. This is what it means to religiously share our lives together in this community.

So . . . yes, it's a time of turning. Soon green grass will turn to brown . . . leaves to red . . . trees will relinquish all their leaves . . . snow will fly. As they do, we will be turning as well. Turning in toward our religious home, turning toward one another, turning with one another to strengthen this community that we love, religiously.

May we welcome the opportunity to turn toward our new tomorrows together. May we each embrace the beauty within and beyond that is just around the corner. May we be there for one another through the changing seasons of our lives.

With love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeanne".

Jeanne

Clara Barton Fall Rally—November 7th

Calling All Leaders and Interested Members of MUUS . . .

The Clara Barton District Fall Rally will be on Saturday, November 7 at Nichols College in Dudley, MA. The theme for the rally is Lessons in Leadership and the program will follow last year's successful Leading in Congregations approach, offering 2-part workshop tracks for a more in-depth exploration of each content area.

Workshop tracks have now been finalized: Response to Trauma Restorative Justice A Home for the Heart: A Spiritual Approach to Conflict Transformation Emotional Intelligence Seeing Systems - Unlocking the mysteries of congregational life Creating Lay Led Pastoral Care Teams Campus Ministry Leadership Development is a must for healthy congregations.

Please make attending the Fall Rally a high priority for any and all interested members and friends. Mark your calendars now for November 7 . On-line registration forms available at <http://www.cbd.uua.org/>. Contact Tracy Johnson for more information.

Association Sunday— October 11th



Each month the Sunday Service Committee, using input from the congregation, chooses a charity or organization for which we collect funds. This month, our special collection is especially important as we will be joining with other members of the UUA to celebrate Association Sunday. We are better together! Let us continue our efforts to *Grow Our Faith*, and in so doing build the beloved community. Through this special service and collection to fund *Growth In Diversity* programs, we can develop spiritual communities that are more racially, culturally, and economically inclusive and welcoming to ALL people.

Membership Matters

It's hard to believe that the summer is over and we have to compile the directory for our members and friends. ***Be sure to let me know by phone, email or even in person if you have any changes to your listing in the directory.*** If you haven't had the chance to get to our Sunday services you are missing something very special, and we are missing you!

Sign up for Sunday flowers to honor someone special or make coffee and tea for "Coffee And" after the service. The membership committee is always looking for your new ideas. We meet on the second Thursdays at 3:00 PM at MUUS.

Submitted by
Christine Edelson
Chair, Membership Committee

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

Ingathering - Sunday, September 13, 2009 - and the meetinghouse was full! Full of people and brimming with excitement at the prospect of another year together. How wonderful to see so many familiar faces return to gather in community once again; to see new faces as well as old friends. We are, indeed, an amazing community that is fast approaching thirty years of age. Thirty years of supporting one another in our good times and our difficulties. Thirty years spent exploring what our Unitarian Universalist principles mean for us and then embracing what we discover.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read about our History Timeline to be completed on October 25th at a special gathering following the service. We have much to celebrate together as we look back over the past thirty years of community and likely much to learn from where we have been that will help us to determine where we would like to go in the coming years. MUUS means something different to each of us, but it is all those individual pieces of the story woven together that define us as a community. All of our remembrances woven into a marvelous tapestry!

Community - the common sharing and ownership of our collective interests and work. Let us take some time this month to consider what the interests and work of MUUS have been and to ponder what the future may hold for us. It is my hope that each of us be willing to own a piece of both our history and of our future and that in sharing we will be strengthened in our sense of community.

In Faith -

Tracy Johnson
President, Board of Trustees

PATHWAY TO MEMBERSHIP –OCTOBER 3RD

Visitors and friends are invited to attend this class to get to know what Unitarian Universalism is about, and to consider joining the congregation. Guests will have an opportunity to share personal journeys, explore the history and polity of Unitarian Universalism, and discuss the meaning of membership at MUUS. RSVP to Rev. Jeanne at revlloyd@comcast by **10/2/09**.

We will meet from 1-5 pm.

Please contact Rev. Jeanne at 860-930-4101
or revlloyd@comcast.net.



The MUUS History Timeline

By the time you read this, you will have noticed the history timeline placed on the meetinghouse walls. This very tangible timeline asks us to reflect on and write down on our various memories of MUUS, since her beginning. Creating a shared memory and understanding of our past, requires that we *come together* to recall the **sparkling moments** and also the **challenges** of this congregation. She, the church, is counting on you, its members, to remember all the wonderful strengths she has and all she has been through, so that she can turn the next corner in her life, to become a congregation ready and able to provide spiritually transforming moments for the next generation of members. This process is an important cornerstone for **all** the types of growth we may hope for in this congregation.

Please come with your thinking caps, ready to share memories and to reflect on the identity of this congregation, past, present and future. Join us on **October 25, 2009, 12 – 5pm, for a Congregational Gathering to complete this important milestone.**



Spotlight on Sunday Services



The members of the Sunday Service Committee work hard each month to provide the congregation with interesting services on the Sundays when Reverend Jeanne is not in the pulpit. We look for speakers who can challenge us, speakers with a passion they want to share and speakers who will help us in our spiritual journey. Our budget is limited—we try to have one paid speaker each month and to have a volunteer guest speaker on another. We need your help:

Do you know of a speaker who may share our principles or who could present a 20 minute talk of a topic of interest to our congregation?

Do you have a passion or a a topic that you would like to share with us?

Would you like to participate in a service by doing a reading, a meditation, welcome and announcements or closing words?

Do you have an opinion—positive or negative—about a recent service?

We want to hear from you!!

*Contact any member of the Sunday Service Committee:
Donna Pereira, Irene Conley, Mike Ingber, Christine Edelson,
Charlie Batcheldor, Jack Lander and Mary Lander*

ADULT PROGRAMS

SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES~ There are a variety of long and short term groups currently active. If you have an interest in facilitating or participating, or if you have any questions at all, please contact any member of the SGM Steering Committee: Reverend Jeanne, John Cummings, Mary Lander, Diane Langlois, Marianne Ashby, and Mike Ingber

MEN'S LUNCH~ First and Third Wednesdays

This is a time for laughter, serious discussion and fellowship.~ See Bob Bazin on Sunday morning .

MEN'S GROUP– Third Thursday of every month. Please call Dave Bolduc for location.

STUDY GROUP-BEAUTY, THE INVISIBLE EMBRACE

Third Thursdays, 7-9 pm, at MUUS facilitated by Rev. Jeanne. Contact her to register and for a study guide.

CIRCLE OF GAIA

Wednesday, October 21, 7:15 p.m. at Christine THE COLOUR by Rose Tremain , LEADER: Tamsin Looker .As a courtesy to our hostesses, please call if you CANNOT come to the meeting OR if there might be a cancellation due to weather.

MUUS POETRY GROUP

Eighteen members and friends of MUUS have been meeting monthly to read and to enjoy poetry together. Poets whose work has been considered thus far are Mary Oliver, Stanley Kunitz, and Billy Collins. We meet in the meeting house at 2:30 PM on the last Thursday of the month. If interested, please speak with Rudy Bremser or Mary Lohmann.

WWW.MUUSCT.ORG

Did you know....

- You can get a copy of current and past newsletters on our web site?
- Up to date information on upcoming services available online?
- Information about upcoming MUUS events such as the service auction can be found at www.muusct.org?
- The most current calendar information for meetings, events and activities can be found on our site?
- Links to the UUA, the Clara Barton District and other sites of interest can be accessed from our site?
- Information and forms for Religious Education for Children and Youth is available online?



Now you know!

Through the Looking Glass



Come to this year's Service and Talent Auction on Saturday, November 14th dressed as one of the characters from the story about Alice and her friends. This event puts the real "fun" in fundraising as well as being our biggest fundraising event of the year. The auction is open to friends and neighbors, so be sure to include them when buying your tickets. For only \$20 you get to bid on the silent and live auctions, enjoy a delicious dinner with dessert, and spend time with MUUS friends.

Speak with a member of the Auction Committee after Sunday services to fill out your donation forms. Forms will also be available online. Let's make this our most successful auction ever! Contact Rod Ashby or Christine Edelson to see how you can help out.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

It is great to be gathered back together again. Ingathering Sunday is one of my favorite times of the year, reconnecting with people as we return from summer holidays and adventures. This promises to be an exciting year in RE and we are looking forward to strengthening the connection between the youth and adult congregation. We held our 2nd annual marshmallow roast as our kickoff event at Jim Heetman's house and enjoyed marshmallows and s'mores. Registration Sunday gives us a chance to show off the curriculum for this coming year and generate enthusiasm among the parents and the kids for what we could accomplish this year. Check out the new RE webpage for info on upcoming events. The end of September sees the restarting of the kids Small Group Ministry session (facilitated by Tom Oakes and Kate MacKinney) which experienced a wonderful reception and attendance last year. Shortly we will be looking for volunteers to assist with this year's Coming of Age group and also to lead the older class as we use the Tapestry of Faith to examine aspects of spiritual life and Unitarian Universalism through selected poetry. Additionally we will reconfigure Children's Chapel around the idea of social justice and our 6th principle of "The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all." These are ambitious goals but we in RE know that with the help of our community we are equal to the challenge!



Submitted by Connie Cole Ingber for the RE Committee

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 YOM KIPPUR 10:30am - Sunday Service 12:30pm - Leadership Retreat	28	29	30 4pm - SOM-Gen'l Spirituality 7pm - SOM-Friends of the	1 7pm - Board of Trustees @	2	3 1pm - Pathway to
4 10:30am - Sunday Service	5 8:30pm - SOM - Wheatley @	6	7 12pm - Men's Lunoh @ Good 4pm - SOM-Gen'l Spirituality 7pm - Three Churches	8 2:30pm - Membership 7pm - SOM-Youth @ RE	9	10
11 UUA ASSOCIATION SUNDAY 10:30am - Sunday Service	12 COLUMBUS DAY	13	14 4pm - SOM-Gen'l Spirituality 7pm - SOM-Friends of the 7pm - SOM-Walden @ Diane	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7pm - Beauty, the Invisible 7pm - MUUS Men's Group	16	17
18 10:30am - Sunday Service	19 8:30pm - SOM - Wheatley @	20	21 12pm - Men's Lunoh @ Good 4:30pm - RE Committee Mtg 7:15pm - Circle of Gals @	22 8pm - Sunday Service 7pm - SOM-Youth @ RE	23	24
25 10:30am - Sunday Service 12pm - MUUS History	26	27	28 7pm - SOM - Walden @ Diane 7pm - SOM-Friends of the	29 2:30pm - Poetry Group @	30	31 HALLOWEEN

This page was created for you to be able to tear off and post on your refrigerator!

SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 A.M.

October 4th - The Death Penalty from the Perspective of a Victim's Family Member

Lorry Post opposed the death penalty before losing his daughter to murder in 1988. Though this event changed his life, it did not change his views on the death penalty. In fact, after the murder he went on to lead the successful effort to abolish New Jersey's death penalty and also served as Executive Director for Murder Victim's Families for Reconciliation. Lorry will share how the death penalty fails victims and fails to bring us closer to a more just and peaceful society. MUUS member John Cummings facilitating.

October 11th - Association Sunday

We as members of the Unitarian Universalist Association know our congregations can do more together than alone. *We are better together!* Let us continue our efforts to grow our faith, and in so doing build the beloved community. Through this service and collection to fund *Growth In Diversity* programs, we can develop spiritual communities that are more racially, culturally, and economically inclusive and welcoming to ALL people. This special service will be facilitated by the Sunday Service Committee.

October 18th—To be determined; check our website for updated information.

October 25th "Moments of Quickening at General Assembly 2009"

Join Christine Edelson, Tracy Johnson, and Rev. Jeanne as they reenact and relay the most inspiring moments of our UUA General Assembly in Salt Lake City, 6/09. Come to hear news from UU sisters, brothers, and congregations from across the land. Come to experience what it feels like to be part of a religion that relentlessly calls for justice and compassion in our world.



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Time Sensitive

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

E-mail your submission by Midnight on the 15th of October to: info@muusct.org

Please abide by the following guidelines:

- DO NOT E-MAIL ATTACHMENTS ! If you compose in another program, copy and paste only the plain text into your e-mail program. (Copy & Paste functions are located in the programs' Edit menu)
- Send ONE news item per e-mail and label the subject with the TITLE & MONTH
- Use your spell check utility and proofread content BEFORE sending.
- Submit your item in finished form, including TITLE and AUTHOR/Committee AND a phone & email contact.
- When space is limited, first-time submissions will be given priority over repeat/similar submissions.
- MUUS reserves the right to edit submissions.

Production by Donna Pereira
Mailing by Terry Schroeder

OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Jeanne's regular weekday in Woodbury is on Thursdays and those Sundays when she is preaching.

Rev. Lloyd's office hours are by appointment. *If there is something on your mind or in your heart, for which you would like a listening ear, please call her at 860-930-4101 to set a time to meet. Likewise, you can also reach her at revlloyd@comcast.net*

We're on the web!
www.muusct.org