



COMMENT

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury, 24 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, CT 06811 * 203-798-1994
Rev. Suzanne Spencer, Interim Minister

SEPTEMBER 2009

For the Time Being

Notes from your Interim Minister

Welcome back! I hope your summer has been all you had hoped for, and more – whether a time of rest, renewal, creativity, exploration, or reconnection with family and friends. Even if circumstances have made it a sad or difficult time for you, I hope you’ve been able to find some measure of comfort, or the occasion for new insight and growth – to find a way, in the words of Kenji Miyazawa, to “embrace pain and burn it as fuel for the journey.”

I look forward to seeing you at our September 13 Ingathering Service. This is our first day back to the regular Sunday schedule, with services at 9 and 11 a.m. As has been the custom at UUCD, we will mark this Sunday with an intergenerational “Gathering of the Waters.” Please bring a small container of water to contribute to the common bowl. This can be water gathered from your travels this summer, or from some local place of significance to you, or even from your own garden hose or kitchen tap.

Although the use of water in religious ceremonies is ancient and timeless, the Unitarian Universalist Water Ceremony is of relatively recent origin. It began in the mid-1970s, at the first UU Women and Religion Convocation in Grailville, Ohio. The conference organizers asked the participants, who came from all over North America, to bring a small vial of water from their homes, to be poured into a common bowl at the opening worship service. The water was intended to symbolize, as one minister has written, “that although the women came from many different places, were of different backgrounds and life experiences and social situations, they were Unitarian Universalist sisters, of one liberal heritage.”

This ceremony proved so powerful that many participants were moved to share it with their congregations. Since then, it has traveled throughout the continent, and even as far as Australia and New Zealand. Although it’s not universal in UU congregations, many observe it as we do, during the September homecoming service. Some congregations have practiced it for so long that its origins are assumed to be lost in time.

In some congregations, the water ceremony has strayed from its original purpose. Rather than being a sharing of self, it became an occasion for travelogue (“where I went on my summer vacation”) or an implicit contest (“who can bring water from farthest away?”). Thus a ceremony originally meant to express communion and connection became instead the occasion for competition and separateness.

Whatever its source, and whether it’s from near or far, I’d encourage you to bring water from a place that represents renewal or healing for you, or that in some way reflects your deepest self. During the service, there won’t be time for extended sharing – or even for more than a sentence from each person. But please feel free to e-mail me (RevSueSpencer@gmail.com) with stories about the water you are bringing, and we will find ways to weave these into the service.

Love and blessings,
Sue

Our Mission Statement:

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury is an open religious community that welcomes a diversity of people, ideas and beliefs.

We celebrate together that which is good in life, and offer comfort and care in times of need.

With others, we work to create a just society and a sustainable Earth.

We stand as a beacon for independent thought, and encourage lifelong spiritual and intellectual exploration.

Adopted by this congregation May 16, 2008

Comment is the newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury, 24 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, CT 06811, (203) 798-1994. Articles (**250 words or less**) may be emailed to Sherry at SherryUUCD@gmail.com or dropped off at the church office.

Deadline for the October Comment -
Friday, September 18th.



Just a reminder that we now take a weekly Food Offering during the Children's Focus of our Sunday service for distribution by our Social Action Committee to local soup kitchens and agencies. A list of appropriate foods appears in our Sunday Order of Service, **Dried beans and whole grain rice are especially needed.** It is easy to forget to bring your donation so when you think of it stick it in your car.

President's Letter

by Jean N. Bowen, President



When we came together at our Annual Meeting in May you met the challenge to assist this Congregation with additional funds. You have entrusted the Board of Trustees with leadership and fiscal responsibility. You can be assured that we are counting every penny – three times! We are sorting out our administrative history, crafting policies that clarify member and committee responsibilities to each other and simplifying our structure. In regular Thursday emails I will keep you posted and informed of news and of the focus that we are planning and implementing.

An Executive Committee of leaders will meet in between Board meetings to plan and develop agendas for meetings. The Council will meet less frequently but improve its planning for the year. Individuals that would like to submit Adult Programming or Events will be asked to prepare an outline of details and expenses. The Board met recently in retreat to renew its Covenant and ask hard questions of ourselves about our organization.

Sow Green, The Empty Bowls Project and Chalice Circles sustain us and attract interested people and new friends. Our outreach in the community to disenfranchised, homeless and poor people provides an example of service to Greater Danbury and admirers of progressive ethics. We come together and share ourselves in community that inspires us and generates enthusiasm to do more.

Expansion of the website, a lower level build out planning task force and a lecture series have identified leaders and volunteers. You will hear more about these initiatives in the coming months.

As our community calendar fills and activities swell, take a moment to enjoy the fun, inspiration and good work of our shared spiritual time together.

Summer Services



... have been wonderful! Many thanks to all of our talented lay leaders. Look for a summer wrap-up in the October Comment.

~ The Sunday Services Committee

**Treasurer's
\$\$ Report \$\$**

The summary statistics for April, May and June of the 2008-09 fiscal year plus July are recorded below.

	April	May	June	July
% Annual Canvass pledge return	81%	88.3%	96.6%	16.44%
Operating Income Year-to-date	\$180,686	\$204,018	\$222,174	\$31,538
Operating Expenses Year-to-date	\$200,423	\$217,544	\$239,330	\$14,837
Operating Income – Expense YTD	<u>\$ -19,737</u>	<u>\$ -13,496</u>	<u>\$ -17,156</u>	<u>\$16,701</u>
Unrestricted Funds	\$ -5,352	\$ 869	\$ -2,774	\$12,072

Analysis for 2008-2009

Last year’s annual pledge returns (96.6%) was above the average annual returns (94.11%.) This excellent performance allowed the UUCD to reduce the expected use of unrestricted funds from the projected value of \$19,000 to \$17,156. Thank you. We need as much cushion as possible to protect next year’s balanced budget from uncertain events such as lost renters, required emergency repairs to our facilities, increased fuel costs, etc.

Analysis for July:

The July pledge returns (2.16%) plus the prepaid pledges (14.28% including the supplemental pledge payments) reached the excellent level (16.44%) achieved last year. Over the last 7 years the average and maximum pledge returns to date were 10% and 16.44% respectively. Thank you.

Current Operating Income YTD is about \$7,686 above its end of July projected value and the Operating Expense YTD is below its target by about \$4,000. This is very good news leaving the UUCD with a surplus of \$16,701 (Targeted surplus was about \$5,000.)

The Unrestricted Funds (cushion for the variations in income and expense month to month) at the current level of \$12,072 looks healthy. We need to remember that last year at Christmas time it rose to just over \$14,000 only to fall to -\$5,900 by February 29 and -\$5,352 at the end of April. UUCD needs to carefully watch its cash flow.

Supplemental Pledge:

Our congregation members have shown their strong concern for the financial health of the UUCD with their response to the supplemental pledge drive (\$16,383). Over 50% of the congregation participated with a 15% average increase in their pledge. This increase individually ranged from 1.83% to over 80% and from \$22 to \$1,000. Over 50% of these pledges have already been paid. We thank you for your generosity. We also welcome any additional contributions from members that have not had a chance to participate in this pledging event.

Bruce Buzby, Finance Committee Chair
Marie Dupree, Treasurer

HOME SAFETY REFRESHER

Guest speaker: **Jordan Leach**, Deputy Fire Marshall, Danbury Fire Department

CONCERNED ABOUT:

FAMILY
FRIENDS
SELF



HEAR ABOUT:

SAFETY INNOVATIONS
FIRST RESPONDER STORIES
PRACTICAL TIPS

Date to be Announced at 12:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Pack a lunch!

Sponsored by **RIGHT TO FLOURISH**
Contact Meredith Spector for more information

Chalice Circles

We are beginning the sixth year of our Chalice Circles, our Small Group Ministry program. Chalice Circles are a response to the need to build community and friendship outside the normal workings of the congregation (Sunday Services, coffee hour, committee meetings, etc.). Chalice Circles are groups of no more than 10 people including a trained facilitator. They meet once a month and members are asked to put a high priority on attendance.

The format of Chalice Circle meetings helps participants set aside daily distractions, reflect on their lives and beliefs, and make meaningful connections with one another. Through sharing their wisdom, members leave each meeting with a deeper understanding of themselves and of each other. Each Chalice Circle becomes a small, personal community of listening and caring in the midst of a large congregation.

We will be offering six times and dates for our Chalice Circles this year:

- One Sunday TBD per month, after 2nd service coffee hour
- 2nd Mondays 7:00 PM
- 2nd Tuesdays 7:00 PM
- 1st Wednesdays 7:00 PM
- 3rd Wednesday afternoons, 4:00 PM
- 1st Saturdays 10:30 AM

If you'd like to register, please pick as many of the dates and times that fit your schedule, and email Sherry at sherryuucd@gmail.com with your choices or call her at 203-798-1994. Brochures and registration forms are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary; if more convenient, fill one out and leave on Sherry's desk while at the Ridge.

We would like to hear from you no later than September 20th. If you have questions ask any of our facilitators: **Claudia Durrell, Mary Alice Kimball, Sky Kimball, Anne Krieg, Meredith Spector, or Barbara Myers.**

Religious Education in 2009-2010

by Samantha McCoy, Chair

The Religious Education Committee has been working hard this past spring and summer to put together a dynamic program for the 2009-2010 RE year. **Our 9:00 a.m. program for Grades 5 and under will use curricula from a new, and thoughtfully designed, UUA program called *Tapestry of Faith*.** The *Tapestry* programs cover a range of age groups, from pre-school all the way to adulthood. Our Committee found the children's curricula appealing, based on the way they weave together exploring Unitarian Universalist identity, learning from other traditions, and engaging in social action - all as a way of fostering communities based on love and justice.

- Children in Pre-school through Grade 1 will use a curriculum called **"Wonderful Welcome"**
- Grades 2 and 3 will explore **"Moral Tales"**
- Grades 4 and 5 will create a **"Toolbox of Faith."** We encourage curious parents (and potential leaders!) to explore the lessons themselves at <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/index.shtml> .

Because attendance at the **11:00 a.m. RE session** has fluctuated over the past few years, our DRE Mary Collins and the RE Committee tried to come up with a program for these children that would meet our congregation's varied needs at that time. Children who attend the 11:00 a.m. RE this year will take part in a new program based on storytelling and song. It will initially be based on the songbook *Come Sing a Song With Me* by the UU Musicians Network. The editor, Melodie Feather, has noted the origins of multicultural and oft sung UU songs which will enhance our appreciation of other religions, cultures and UU history. We see this as a way to foster community and build a musical tradition amongst our youth. The Committee's hope is that adults, youth, and children from the congregation with a love of singing, musical skills and backgrounds will volunteer with the group and help us to make connections across generations. If you would like to volunteer with this new musical program or have other questions, please speak with Mary Collins.

Youth from Grade 6 through Senior High have several programs available to them:

At 9:00 a.m., those in Grades 6 through 8 will take part in the *Neighboring Faiths* program (three Sundays for each religious tradition explored). This curriculum has been a core component of UUCD religious education for many years now and is always very popular amongst the youth. Participants in this group will explore many faiths and visit houses of worship over the course of the year, learning about each tradition, engaging in discussion about what faith means to people around our nation and the world, noting similarities to their views and respecting the differences.

The Junior High Youth Group will continue to meet at the same time as last year – 11:00 a.m. on the second Sunday of each month. The JHY group welcomes any youth in Grades 6 through 8, regardless of their prior participation in the group or the congregation. **NOTE:** there will be a kick-off potluck **PICNIC** for Jr.High Youth and their families (off-site) on September 20th after the services. Contact **Greg Pings** for the particulars.

Our Senior High Youth Group participants will initially meet on Sunday, September 20th at 11:00 a.m. Advisor **Chansoda Rouen** and Senior High youth will work on setting their preferred meeting time for this year (could be 11:00 a.m., 12:30 -2:00 p.m. or 4:00-5:30p.m.) and to plan activities (spiritual, social, and service oriented). Please stay tuned for further details.

Finally, the Religious Education Committee, in consultation with the Board of Trustees and the Common Council leaders, has decided to maintain the materials fee policy from last year. This was an effective and targeted way for RE and the Board to manage the RE budget. Guest families, of course, will not be asked to pay

a fee until they have visited on four occasions or express their desire to participate in our congregation. **When families register their children for RE programs this fall, we ask that they also submit \$20 per child or a maximum of \$50 per family. No child will be turned away from RE programs based on an inability to pay this fee.** Any families who have questions or concerns about the fee request should speak with the DRE, Mary Collins.

As always, the RE Committee thanks the members of the congregation for their support. We continue to seek volunteers to help keep our weekly programs running. There are many options available for potential volunteers, whether you'd like to help once a month or maybe just once or twice per year. We can also always use more support with our committee work and would love to have new members join our planning team. Please see any member of the RE Committee or Mary Collins if you're interested in taking part.

The RE Leader Orientation for this fall will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 12th. *Leaders are reminded to bring their calendars / tentative schedules from September 20, 2009 through May 2010.* We're looking forward to an excellent year!

Explore UUCD's History! - Sunday, September 27, 2009

Sunday, September 27, is "UUCD History Sunday." As the name implies, the Sunday services will focus on the congregation's history, from its origins as the First Universalist Society in Danbury (1822) to its latter-day incarnations. After the services, members and friends are invited to share their own recollections in an afternoon workshop (1 - 4 p.m.), "Telling Our UUCD Story." Old-timers, mid-termers, and newcomers are all invited - indeed encouraged - to attend.

A book about UUCD's history, *The Story of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Northern Fairfield County, 1822-1995* by Reverdy Whitlock, will be available for purchase. Members and friends are invited to bring mementoes from the congregation's earlier years (this includes recent history) for a special display. Those unable to attend are invited to contribute reminiscences via letter or e-mail. Doug Parkhurst has already promised to send his remembrances of growing up in the First Universalist Church on Main Street.

Why is it important to do this? It's actually one of the ways in which UUCD gets ready for its new settled minister. Among the Five Developmental Tasks for a congregation in transition, the first one is "Coming to Terms with History." Although "coming to terms" may suggest something negative or painful, the most important part of it is celebration. Long-time members are invited to remember The Barn and its antecedents, even as they celebrate the bold decision to move back into Danbury.

Another purpose of highlighting the congregation's history is to bring new people on board. Even if they never experienced The Barn, newcomers can "own" that part of the story when long-time members share the lore with them.

A light lunch, at a nominal charge, will be provided between the 11 o'clock service and the afternoon workshop. So that we can know how much lunch to prepare, please sign up by calling or e-mailing the UUCD office (203-798-1994 or SherryUUCD@gmail.com). There is, of course, no need to sign up for the Sunday service.

Hope to see you on the 27th!



Sunday, September 13th will begin our regular Service Schedule. We will have two services, one at 9:00 a.m. and one at 11:00 a.m.

We joyfully welcome Jeff Shaffer as a new member to our congregation!

Empty Bowls Project

by Mary Alice Kimball

We had great fun during our “Summer Programming”. *Team Green* sponsored the “Empty Bowls Project”.

The basic idea for Empty Bowls is simple. Participants create ceramic bowls, and then we will serve a simple meal of soup and bread. Guests choose a bowl to use that day and to keep as a reminder that there are always Empty Bowls in the world.

All Members of the UUCD had an opportunity to create a bowl. During the month of July we worked with the younger members of the congregation in creating their bowls. Sundays, July 12th, 19th, 26th, and August 2nd alternative summer programming occurred at the Founders House. **WE HAVE OVER 100 BOWLS!**

We also talked about *Team Green's* interests in increasing awareness and availability of organically grown and local foods and waste reduction. Empty Bowls was a creative way to string these themes together, while also drawing attention to hunger, and global abuse and misuse of seemingly abundant resources. It allows us to tie our own efforts for creating a sustainable community to efforts around the globe where groups like ours are doing the same thing.

The sale of our bowls and project will be promoted at the annual Taste of Danbury celebration to be held on the weekend of September 12th and 13th.

We will be hosting a simple meal on Friday, October 16th, World Hunger Day. This meal will be open to all participants of the Empty Bowls Project.

I want to thank the many, many people who helped, especially **Meredith Spector, Donna Roscoe, Lisa Austin-Smith, Shawn Sweeney, and Sky Kimball**. But most of all I wish to thank **Suzanne Perry** who helped make my dream of bringing the EMPTY BOWLS project to our congregation come true!

For additional information regarding the Empty Bowls Project go to:
<http://www.emptybowls.net/EmptyBowlsProject.htm>.



Dear UUCD Friends,

A mixture of excitement and sadness fills us as we write to tell you that we are leaving Danbury and, as of the end of the summer, are off to new adventures as retirees in Germantown, Tennessee. Germantown is a suburb of Memphis and just a 45-minute jaunt from our farm in Northern Mississippi. Our new address is 1760 Crooked Creek Lane, # 62, Germantown, Tennessee 38138; our e-mail addresses will not change. It has been a wonderful nine years for us as members of the UUCD. You have been such good friends and a most important part of our lives; we will miss you very much. We won't totally disappear though, as we will often come to visit our grandchildren and all of you as well; our membership in the UUCD will be maintained throughout this church year.

With very best wishes and love to you all,
Bob and Lana Wallace



Yoga on the Ridge!

Every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in UUCD Fellowship Hall, Harnam Singh (Tony Zatzick) is teaching weekly Kundalini Yoga Class. Any and all are welcome to join the class. It will be open to both members of UUCD, and members of the community. Each class has a fee of \$15.00 (half of which will be donated to UUCD) and will last about one and one half hours. Some mats will be available, but if you have your own please bring it with you. If you have any questions please contact **Shawn Sweeney**.

Women out to Breakfast meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month at 9:00 a.m. for informal coffee and conversation at Elmer's Diner. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to attend, please contact **Karen Gillotti**. September dates are the 12th and 26th.

Job Opening!

The Association of Religious Communities' (ARC) Beyond Homelessness program seeks a full-time Case Manager and Housing Advocate. For complete job description, please check the Fellowship Hall bulletin board, or e-mail Sue Spencer at RevSueSpencer@gmail.com.

Men Out to Breakfast is an organization of men seeking fellowship and spirituality and meets for breakfast and discussion on the first and third Saturdays of each month, at the Windmill Diner, Mill Plain Road in Danbury, convenient to Exits 2 and 4. Meeting time: 9:00 a.m. September dates are the 5th and 19th. All are welcome. Please notify **Mike Searing** if you plan to attend.

Theatre Aficionados

by Keith Dupree

Mark your calendars - Thursday, October 1st, is the next "Pay What You Want Night" at Theatreworks, New Milford. The evening's performance is "Kiss Me, Kate", Cole Porter's musical adaptation of Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew."

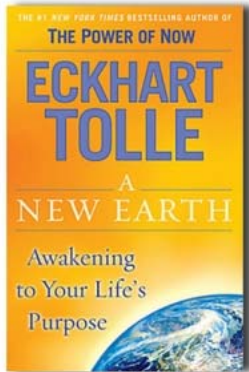
For more information, go to the website www.theatreworks.us, or call Keith Dupree.

As there are no reserved seats for this performance, we will convene at the theater when the doors open at 7:30. If you call Keith Dupree to say you plan to be there, we will be sure to look for you.

Members, Friends, Friends of Friends – All are welcome. Theatre Aficionado – You can be too!

Ten Week Study Session – *The New Earth* by Eckart Tolle

by Joe Gillotti



Join us for a (10) ten-week study session covering Eckart Tolle's enlightening and riveting book, *The New Earth*. The author offers readers intense and compelling guidance in redirecting our attitudes to better understand ourselves, spiritually, and the world around us. Do you spend much of your waking hours in fear, disconnect, anxiety, despair, frequent drama, negative emotions, worry or often feel consumed by acute stress? Do you take things personally, feel offended, making yourself right and other wrong through futile mental or verbal complaining? Are you at times controlled by compulsive behavior patterns such as smoking, overeating, drinking, TV watching, Internet addiction, etc.?

Come and find out how through understanding and practice you can begin to deal more effectively with these and many of the other negative issues in life. You'll learn how to dis-identify with the incessant and repetitive stream of compulsive non-productive thinking that we all face every day. You'll discover that 95% of your thinking is ego driven, pointless and problematic.

This course is intended to help you not only understand the intellectual concepts of Being Present or Being in the Now, but more importantly putting them into practice and thus experience a better way of life for yourself and those around you.

We will meet in the Conference Room on Mondays beginning September 18th, from 7:00 p.m., to 9:00 p.m. The course will be lead by Joe Gillotti. Joe has been teaching Hatha Yoga and Yoga Philosophy for many years. He also has extensive experience in platform training, teaching motivational and soft skills techniques in the business world. There will be a sign-up for the ten sessions, and you must bring your own copy of the book (\$6.00 on Amazon.com.) If you have any questions, contact Joe.

Are You Ready To Live Your Life Purpose Out Loud?!

Five months before you were born, your unique fingerprints were permanently and unalterably formed. They hold the key to identifying what's known as your Soul Psychology Triad: your Life Purpose, your Life Lesson, and your Umbrella of Consciousness. Join us for a one-of-a-kind half day adventure to discover your individual Umbrella of Consciousness and unlock the secrets of how to live your right life! Get your fingerprints interpreted by Master Hand and Fingerprint Analyst, Roberta Coker, in a safe and seriously fun environment and gain the tools that will help you move forward with your true Life Purpose. ***Discover Your Umbrella of Consciousness*** half-day workshop, on Saturday, October 17th, from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$80. For more information contact, Roberta Coker, MHA: 877-424-HAND(4263); SeriousFun@HandDynamics.com or UUCD member Susan Shaner, MA, MS: 203-730-2103 susan@sagelead.com



Dear Rev. Sue and All at UUCD,

Thank you for helping make 50 Years of Faith a wonderful fundraiser for ARC and a special celebration of my birthday with the community.

I've been to your Fellowship Hall many times. But had not idea what the room was going to look like when I walked in on June 9th. It was absolutely beautiful!

Many thanks to **all who helped set up and clean up**. I'm sorry I didn't get your names, but my appreciation is heartfelt.

I'd also like to thank the people who I know by name that worked on this event:

Valerie Cochrane – for adorning the room and tables, and the “50” emblem!

Jean Bowen – for writing and giving a fun and thoughtful speech

Rev. Sue – for giving a great Tea Basket to the auction

Chris Halfar – for upgrading my auction basket with a pretty lining

Bill McWilliams – for recording the program speeches on a CD

And to **Lynn Taborsak** – for the idea to hold the event, for the Vision to Name the event, and for planning everything from start to finish from Invitation Design, Printing and Mailings, to: championing a new kind of participation from the ARC Board and staff, building and managing the Guest List and Donations, producing our first ever Ad Book, for an upbeat program with a diverse mix of speakers, a nicely mounted photo collage, and somewhere along the way for identifying cost-effective Food, Beverage & Table Vendors so all Attendees could – eat, drink and be merry.

Thanks for your friendship with ARC and with me.

One love,



The Hispanic Center of Greater Danbury, Inc. graciously accepts the Share the Plate's contribution of \$266.00 from the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury.

We are pleased to count on the support and continued collaboration with you and your congregation. **“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”** – Henry Ford.

Many Thanks!

Sincerely,

Ingrid Alvarez-DiMarzo, M.A.
Executive Director

Soup Kitchen Corner

by Lynn Taborsak, Coordinator

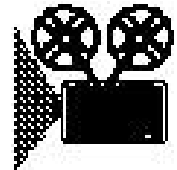
Soup Kitchen Corner: Happy New Year! It's September and it's time for volunteers to sign up for a UU Soup Kitchen team! On the first Saturday of every month, we provide a hot, nutritious meal at the Dorothy Day House of Hospitality on Spring Street in Danbury. We are not asking you to give up twelve of your precious Saturdays next year! We are only asking you to give up three Saturday afternoons a year or one Saturday every four months. Please sign up to join a Soup Kitchen team between services with **Lynn Taborsak** or add your name and contact information to the Soup Kitchen Roster on the table in the rear of the sanctuary.

Everyone is encouraged to join in this effort. You can volunteer to LEAD a team; you can participate as a REGULAR TEAM MEMBER; you can serve as an occasional ALTERNATE when extra hands are needed; you can help us feed our neighbors with a GIFT CARD in any amount from any local supermarket; and, finally, you can bring in donations of NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS for the food offering each Sunday.

On Saturday, September 5th, Soup Kitchen Team #3 will be lead by Gary Winn and includes **Jim Wruck, Anne Eigen, Sue Sherman, Julie Gordon, Bob Taborsak, Vicky Wolff, Heather Smith** and **Mike Toto**. It is "Labor Day" weekend so if you cannot come, please find a substitute from the alternates list. Remember, the show must go on even on a holiday weekend!

Movies with a Message – Second Friday Cinema

by Keith Dupree



We present two very powerful films this month, one a short that creatively portrays personal break-thru, the second our feature film a story of a young man's coming of age..

7:00 p.m. – *Era* – In 1920's London, Jonathan and Jane are having tea, and Jonathan is summoning up the courage to propose matrimony when (well, you'll just have to come see the film!)

7:20 p.m. - *Canvas* – Academy Award winner Marcia Gay Hardin and Emmy Award winner Joe Pantoliano star as Mom and Dad in this semi-autobiographical film written and directed by Joseph Greco. Son, Chris, faces the challenges of a growing middle-school aged boy, while his mother begins to sink into the initial phases of schizophrenia.

We believe that good experiences are even more fulfilling when shared with others. To this end, our objective each month is to present films of substance in a living room setting and to provide an opportunity to discuss with friends. Please join us on **Friday, September 11th at 7:00 pm.** in the UUCD conference room. As usual, all are welcome. Pizza is provided for your culinary enjoyment. Bring your own beverage. Popcorn optional! Contributions will be gratefully accepted and all proceeds turned over to the UUCD to encourage continuation of UUCD programs.

(For more information on these films, check the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Look under "UUCD Events.")



UUCD Conversations (formerly the Nonfiction Book Discussion Group)

UUCD Conversations meets on the second Thursday of each month from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. All are welcome. Please contact **Bruce Buzby** if you have any questions. The schedule for September through February 2010 is:

September 10: Global Economy: What makes it tick? Facilitator: Bob Bollinger. Source: *The World is Curved: Hidden Dangers to the Global Economy* by David Smick, 2008, 272 pages, \$8.89. "David Smick understands, as few do, that international finance depends on politics and passions as much as on policies. Agree or disagree, his sense of where we have been and where we are going deserves close attention. He writes in a way that makes giving close attention a pleasure." Lawrence H. Summers, former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury.

October 8: Science Biography Facilitator: Bob Wallace. Source: *Darwin's Sacred Cause: How Hatred of Slavery Shaped Darwin's Views on Human Evolution* by Adrian Desmond, 2009, 448 pages, \$18.24. "In this controversial reinterpretation of Charles Darwin's life and work, the authors of a highly regarded 1991 biography argue that the driving force behind Darwin's theory of evolution was his fierce abolitionism, which had deep family roots and was reinforced by his voyage on the Beagle and by events in America." - *Scientific American*

November 12: Science Biography Facilitator: Ross Fenster. Source: *The Invention of Air* by Steven Johnson, 2008, 216 pages, \$16.34. A story of science, faith, revolution, and the birth of America. It is a story of sweeping historical transformation, of genius and friendship, violence and world-changing ideas that boldly recasts our understanding of the most significant events in our history.

December 10: Biography Facilitator: Doris Henderson. Source: *The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life and Legacy of Francis Perkins, Social Security, Unemployment Insurance* by Kirstin Downey, 2009, 496 pages, \$23.10. No individual—not even Eleanor Roosevelt—exerted more influence over the formulation of FDR's New Deal or did more to implement the programs than Frances Perkins (1880–1965).

January 14: American Politics Facilitator: Roger Bogart. Source: *The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism* by Andrew Bacevich, 2008, 224 pages, \$13.20. Crisp prose, sweeping historical analysis and searing observations on the roots of American decadence elevate this book from mere scolding to an urgent call for rational thinking and measured action, for citizens to wise up and put their house in order.

February 11: History of the Americas Facilitator: Bill McWilliams. Source: *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus* by Charles C. Mann, 2006, 541 pages, \$10.88. In a riveting and fast-paced history, massing archeological, anthropological, scientific and literary evidence, Mann debunks much of what we thought we knew about pre-Columbian America.

One Service at 10:00 a.m.

September 6, 2009. **Now is the Time: Nurture Your Soul, Help Heal the World.** Longtime member Michael Searing will reflect this morning on why he is a Unitarian Universalist and why you ought to consider joining our religious movement. He will ponder the demands on his life, and will share what "UU" has meant to him, and, more importantly, what it can mean to YOU. Bring a friend and help spread The Word!

Services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

September 13, 2009: **Intergenerational "Gathering of the Waters."** Sue Spencer and Mary Collins collaborate to lead this service for the opening of the new congregational year, when our 9 and 11 a.m. services resume. Nancy Hershatter and Rob Catalano will provide the musical offerings. The Water Ceremony has become traditional at UUCD; please bring a small container of water to add to the common bowl.

September 20, 2009. **Service as Spiritual Practice.** Most UUs would probably agree that "faith without works is dead." But works without faith, or *something* sustaining, can also be deadening. How do we avoid the burnout of "doing too much"? Can our service flow from our most authentic selves? Service led by Interim Minister Sue Spencer and our new Volunteer Coordinator, Marcia Brooker.

September 27, 2009. **UUCD History Sunday.** As congregations go, this one has quite a complex history. Today we'll take a look at that history: How has it shaped who we are today? What lessons does it hold for us, as we look toward the future with a new minister? Service led by Sue Spencer; and will be followed by lunch and an afternoon workshop, "Telling the UUCD Story." Old-timers, mid-timers, and newcomers alike are encouraged to attend!