



# COMMENT

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Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury, 24 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, CT 06811 \* 203-798-1994  
Rev. Linda Hansen, Minister

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JUNE 2008

## Letter from Linda



### Recent Events

Once I decided to leave our congregation, UUA rules prohibit me from taking any stands or speaking out on policy issues that will affect you after I'm gone. For that reason, I had to remain silent before the vote on joining the **New Sanctuary Movement**. But now that you've taken it, I'd like you to know how proud I am of the stand you have taken. I know that there are many discussions and decisions to follow. I hope those who voted "no" will feel welcome in those discussions and will continue to have the courage to speak their opinions. The best decisions will only be made when every voice is heard.

It was a privilege to attend both of the May 18<sup>th</sup> **Coming of Age services** (and to be invited to preach for the 9<sup>th</sup>-grade service). Our youth give us reason to feel hopeful about our world. The only disappointment was how sparsely attended these services were; please remember how much our youth need our support and encouragement. And thanks to those parents of Coming of Age youth who are donating a tree in their honor to our grounds!

Like so many of you, I find the results of the current **Pledge Campaign** hard, especially as I'm about to leave. I know the economy is at least part of the problem, and I'm truly sorry for those of you experiencing financial difficulties. Remember that I have a Discretionary Fund if you are in real need.

That fund, by the way, will go into the hands of your new **Interim Minister, the Rev. Suzanne Spencer**. I had the privilege of meeting her last week when she drove through our area, and I believe the Interim Search Committee made a splendid choice! (See their article about her on page 7).

### My Schedule

I will be in the pulpit four of the five Sundays of June; my last Sunday is June 29<sup>th</sup>. **However, I will continue working until Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup>**. During those last weeks, I will be doing lots of transition work—cleaning up paper and computer files for your new minister, writing her voluminous notes about the way we do things during the year, and attending any final (for me) meetings. I will also be making pastoral care visits during that time.

Please note that I will be asking Sherry Kyriacou, our Office Manager, **to remove all my sermons from the website by mid-July**. If there's anything you want to read there, please be sure to do so by that time. The [minister@uudanbury.org](mailto:minister@uudanbury.org) email address will also be closed at that time to save Rev. Spencer finding millions of spam emails when she arrives in August. Please check with the office to find out what her email address will be.

If you'd like to get together for tea/coffee or lunch before I leave, I'd love to do that. Just let me know.

### After I'm Gone

Just as it was difficult for me not to be able to look for my deepest friendships within the congregation, so there is another hardship in leaving. In order to encourage you to bond fully with your new ministers—first your Interim Minister and then your new Settled Minister—**I am asked not to stay in contact with my former congregants**, at least for a few years. I hope you know I don't find this easy, but it is a guideline I understand and respect. So let us savor the time we have left together.

With love,  
Linda

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	email: <a href="mailto:minister@uudanbury.org">minister@uudanbury.org</a>	
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Nursery	Allyson Tozzoli	798-1994 (O)
Website	<a href="http://www.uudanbury.org">www.uudanbury.org</a>	

The Church Office is typically open on Tuesday from 8:45 - 10:45 and Thursday and Friday from 9:00 - 2:00. Please call ahead for office hours and/or appointments with Rev. Linda Hansen, Rev. Peggy Block or DRE Mary Collins.

**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 [secretary@uudanbury.org](mailto:secretary@uudanbury.org) or dropped off at the church office.

**Deadline for the July/August Comment - Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>.**

Please note change of address effective June 1, 2008:

Marcia Brooker  
 7 Kimball Street, Apt #19  
 Lebanon, NH 03766  
 603-727-9265  
[marciabrooker@aol.com](mailto:marciabrooker@aol.com)

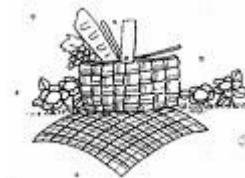
**Men Out to Breakfast**

Men Out to Breakfast is an organization of men seeking fellowship and spirituality and meeting 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 two and four. Meeting time: 9:00 a.m. All are welcome. June dates are the 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.



**Women out to Breakfast**

**Women out to Breakfast** will meet on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at Elmer's Diner on Padanaram Road across from the North Street Shopping Center (exit 6 from I-84W, turn right; exit 5 from I-85E, go straight 2-3 miles.) Please notify **Karen Gillotti** via email if you plan to attend.



**END-OF-YEAR PICNIC  
 And Say Goodbye to Linda**

**June 29<sup>th</sup> After the Service**

Join in the end-of-year celebration with each other on June 29<sup>th</sup> after the service. There will be one service at 10 a.m. This is our last chance to all be together this year before we go our separate ways for the summer. Bring games for outdoor fun, if you wish. Bag chairs for sitting outside would also be helpful. A grill will be provided and the congregation will provide hot dogs (meat and veggie) for grilling. This is a potluck. Please bring items below according to your last name. We ask that you bring enough for 10-12.

A-G: Soda/Drinks

H-M: Salads

N-S: Vegetable/Fruit Trays

T-Z Finger Desserts



## President's Letter

By Carl Tichler, President

With the coming of the warmer weather and the more relaxed summer schedule, I had thought that my work as President would also lighten somewhat. This has not been the case, for reasons both encouraging and challenging. Most pressing at this time are our financial hurdles for the coming year, which were made clear in the budget approved at our Annual Meeting. Bruce Buzby has taken on the task of finishing up the pledge campaign, as well as working with all of you to prepare for the challenges created by the budget cuts. Many thanks to him for taking on this difficult task, and if you haven't done so already, please let us know your pledge for the coming year.

I was very pleased to see the strong support for the resolution to join the New Sanctuary Movement, and for the process which allowed everyone to voice their opinions on this important issue. We are the first faith community in Connecticut to take the New Sanctuary Pledge, and with this milestone has come a great deal of media coverage. I see this as a unique opportunity to bring attention to our UU values, put them into action in the larger community, and reach out to other congregations in the area who have been struggling with this issue. As in the past, we worked together as a congregation, respecting each other's points of view, and grew and learned together – and we can help others as they do the same. I hope that this will draw more people to our congregation in the coming months, enriching us with their diversity and unique perspectives.

Finally, welcome to our new Board members, Jean Bowen and Eva DeFranco, and new Nominating Committee member, Lana Wallace. I hope you find the enjoyment and satisfaction that I have found in working for our congregation, even when there turns out to be more to do than you originally expected!

Carl

## Welcome to New Members

Welcome to new members, **Jennifer and Chuck Rocca**, and their children, **Josie, Gabe, and Ian**. Jennifer writes:

“Chuck and I began attending services on WCSU's campus in the fall of 2005. Josie was three-and-a-half; Gabe had just turned two. Josie began asking questions that we, as atheists, were struggling to answer. Since coming here we have found that, while Chuck and I are atheists, Josie and Gabe are Christian. We had no idea. Ian is now 18 months and hasn't come to any conclusions yet. Luckily we've found that we all come together as Unitarian Universalists.

“Chuck is a math professor at WCSU. I am a former secondary English teacher. I currently stay home and raise our children while working very part-time at Sylvan Learning Center. As a family we love to hike and go to movies. Chuck is currently training for his first marathon. I am preparing to begin a Master's of Library Science. Josie is finishing off her Kindergarten experience while Gabe is getting ready to begin his. We're happy to officially become members at a place where we can be together and share our common beliefs while each pursuing our own goals.”

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

The summary statistics for February through April of the 2007-08 year are recorded below.

	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>
% Annual Canvass pledge return	59.8%	65.2%	70.8%
Operating Income Year-to-date	\$144,552	\$175,625	\$187,931
Operating Expenses Year-to-date	\$156,981	\$181,872	\$202,231
Operating Income – Expense YTD	<u>-\$ 11,231</u>	<u>-\$ 6,247</u>	<u>-\$14,299</u>

**Analysis for current year:**

The “Operating Income – Expense, Year-to-Date” has continued negative going from minus-\$6,247 in March to minus-\$14,299 in April. The “year-to-date percent pledge payments” (over the last 5 years) have ranged from 75% to 86%. This year’s rate of 70.8% is significantly below average. The % pledge payments over May and June have ranged from 10.31% to 16.16% in our preceding five years. Assuming the best alternative of 16% we will still be shy of our total receipts by 13% or \$23,000. A more likely projection would be 11% (following the current pattern) which would mean that we would be short of our projections by over \$32,000. This would leave our Unrestricted Reserves close to zero (the monies available to spend on short-term cash flow needs.) **So please keep the pledge payments coming.**

The Operating Expenses Year-to-Date is Normal.

**Budgeting for Next Year:**

The Annual Budget of \$240,043 was approved at the congregational meeting earlier this month. The annual costs have been significantly reduced in many areas to make available funds for our newly hired Interim Minister and to adjust to the lower expected pledge receipts. In addition, the dollars to implement plans for expanding the role of our Religious Education director (\$20,000) and the Ministerial Search Committee budget (\$15,000) were both postponed beyond next year.

Estimated Pledge receipts (\$166,000) are significantly below the pledge estimates (\$185,000) used in last year’s budget. Examining received pledges for next year show that some have gone down, and some have gone up, but on average there is no significant increase in average pledging levels. Fortunately there is a significant increase in the number of new congregants who are pledging. The real change is that a small number of congregants with large pledges have had to reduce their pledge to zero for next year, due to changes in economic circumstances or moving away from our area.

Actual pledges at the time of the budget amounted to \$126,000 with an estimate of an additional \$40,000 from members who had not yet submitted their pledges. A telephone canvass was organized and as of May 27, 2008 the actual pledges amount to \$144,000. It is likely that the total, in the end, will not reach \$166,000.

**What all this means is that the Board, in all likelihood, will soon face some significant decisions concerning the programs that can be offered next year.**

Bruce Buzby, Finance Committee Chair  
Marie Dupree, Treasurer

## Perspectives from a 30-Year Member

by Bob Bollinger

*Note: Bob offered these comments as part of his Welcome during the 9 a.m. service on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Linda Hansen thought they would be encouraging to many of you concerned about the ministerial transition and especially the disappointing pledge campaign.*

I have been part of this congregation for thirty years, and am active with the Endowment Committee, the Sunday Services Committee, and the current canvass campaign. I now spend seven months a year in Naples, Florida, and only five here in Connecticut.

When I come back in the spring after being away for so long, I am usually struck by how much has happened over the winter. This year, I come back to find us seeking an Interim Minister because Linda is leaving, and also to learn that the canvass campaign has not, or at least not yet, raised as much money as was expected.

We are terribly sad to see Linda leaving, and the financial situation will present challenges, but from the perspective of thirty years, I don't find these developments surprising or scary.

Thirty years ago, we did not have a settled Minister – just visiting Ministers who did services from time to time. As I recall, the budget was less than \$20,000. And in the early 1980s, a fire burned down the house that had provided living space, offices, and religious education rooms. Yet even back then, Marie Dupree was on hand to help get us through that crisis. Soon, we voted to seek a Settled Minister, and after a few missteps, we finally called Barbara Pescan. I worked on that Search Committee, and on the two others that led to our calling Daniel O'Connell, and Linda. Somehow in the middle of all that, we decided to go from single services to double services to provide members more options, and to fit more people into our limited space in West Redding. We moved from there and had a temporary stay at West Conn, during which time we built our home here on "the Ridge."

Even this short list from thirty years of history illustrates that I have experienced LOTS of changes. Throughout, I have been inspired and stimulated by the energetic people who worked collaboratively to make this progress possible. In my five months in Connecticut this summer, I look forward with optimism and anticipation as UUCD takes the next steps to extend its 186-year lifetime.

### From Your Community Minister:

June is here, and our Linda is soon gone from us – to be much missed, never forgotten, and with our best wishes and love.

Peggy Block



### Salsa Dance Lessons

Clayton Burgess, Salsa instructor, will be offering a series of Latin Dance classes on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. For more information, see Scot Fritz or look for the flyers we will be posting. SALSA!!!

## Religious Education Update

by Mary B. Collins, Director of Religious Exploration (DRE)

June is a month I always associate with transitions due to the school year ending and summer beginning. Graduations take people from their usual places and routines to different ones. Some go through the ruckus of moving due to a new job, a wedding, or retirement. Those staying put still travel the landscape of change by welcoming or saying goodbye to friends or family members.

Beginnings and endings are fraught with mixed feelings. We may feel energized by possible adventure and curious about what's ahead. We may also feel anxious about the future. I have experienced the odd mix of feeling both happy and sad when leaving something familiar. Sometimes the good you remember seems even better, and the bad not so bad. We may not be aware of how we feel, unless we take time to sit for a while or write about it. Transitions mean finding a new map, trying a new path. Breathing helps and keeping your eyes open, but especially keeping our hearts and spirits open to whatever little gems may be found on the road. Here's to hoping all of us learn during these travels.

Here's what I know about Religious Education:

**June 6<sup>th</sup>: 9<sup>th</sup> graders AND 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders meet at 7:00 p.m. to plan for the upcoming sleepover.**

**June 8<sup>th</sup>: Intergenerational Flower Communion Service** (remember to bring a flower for each person coming – from your garden or the store). Nursery care only in the House.

**June 8<sup>th</sup>: Religious Educators' Recognition during the Children's Focus** – If you haven't written or drawn a "Thank You" to our religious educators (paper bags collecting them will be in the house until June 1<sup>st</sup>), please offer your thanks at this service.

**June 15: Father's Day** and our first 10:00 a.m. service. During the Children's Focus we will have a **Bridging Ceremony for our graduating Senior High youth: Thomas Miglietta and Alyse Guild.**

**June 20<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup>: 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders (COA group) Sleepover and workshops** (contact Jurintha & Rob Fallon) beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and ending at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday.

**July 14-18<sup>th</sup>: Interfaith Peace Camp** for children ages 9 to 12. We have registration forms on the little table in the house for this 5<sup>th</sup> annual Association of Religious Communities (ARC) camp. It meets at different houses of worship from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The children will learn "What Peace Means" to different world religions and to learn ways to re-create peace with each other in the greater Danbury Community. *Camp is limited to 25 children;* the cost is \$70 including lunch, snacks and materials. Scholarships are available.

**Senior High Youth Group** on-site meetings have ended for the church year. They will likely start up officially in the fall.

**Summer programming:** July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend through Labor Day weekend. We are still looking for volunteers for assisting these summer meetings for children 5<sup>th</sup> grade and under. Contact DRE by June 26<sup>th</sup>.

## From the Interim Search Committee

by Andrew Bloch

At our Annual Meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup> it was announced that we had come to a mutual agreement with an Interim Minister (IM) to help our congregation through the transition of Linda's leaving, and to work with us all to put the congregation on the best footing possible as we begin the process of searching for a new Settled Minister. At the time of the Annual Meeting we could not say too much as the contract had not yet been signed, but now it has been and it is official: **The Rev. Dr. Suzanne Spencer is the Interim Minister for the UUCD!** We wanted to take this opportunity to briefly describe the process of the search for the IM and to say a bit about Sue Spencer.

The Interim Search Committee consisted of a workgroup drawn from the Board of Trustees: Barbara Myers, Marcia Brooker and Andrew Bloch. We had a short time to prepare our application as well as to put together an informational packet that would give a potential applicant an overview of our congregation and, hopefully, a bit of the personality of our congregation as well. A partial list includes a summary of our Vision 20/20 report, copies of the *Comment*, representative Orders of Service, a copy of our bylaws, our budgets for the past two years, and our (now previous) Mission Statement. The UUA transition team provided us with five candidates who they felt best matched the needs of the congregation. After reviewing the ministerial records online, the Search Committee narrowed our choices to three candidates, and exchanged our informational packets and conducted telephone interviews with all three candidates while together in the same room. After careful consideration and discussion, the Search Committee agreed that Sue Spencer was the best candidate for us, and as we have more contact with her it affirms that decision with more and more surety.

Sue Spencer received her Master of Divinity in 1985, and received her Doctor of Ministry in 2006. She received her Juris Doctor in 1973 and worked as an attorney for eight years before deciding to pursue the ministry. Sue has served as Minister or Associate Minister in four UU congregations since 1985, serving congregations diverse in size, culture and theological orientation. Sue has training in family systems theory, spiritual direction, anti-racism work and community organization. For the past eighteen months Sue has been living in an intentional religious community in Brewster, NY, including one year with its environmental ministry. Sue came to the realization that she missed ministry and being a part of a UU congregation and decided to seek a position as an Interim Minister. Sue describes herself as a strong supporter of religious education, a calm pastoral presence, a deep listener, and a fair-minded mediator. Our contact with Sue has given us great confidence that this is a most accurate description of her personal and professional attributes. While Sue is not yet accredited as an Interim Minister, she will receive on-going training throughout the year and the Search Committee is confident that she will serve us well over the coming year. Sue is single and an animal-lover; she is looking for a two-bedroom apartment near the congregation that is pet-friendly, so if anyone has any leads, please let one of the Search Committee members know as soon as possible.

In fellowship,  
Barbara, Marcia and Andrew

The **Nonfiction Book Discussion Group** 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 June follows: June 12, 2008 - Topic: What should we be looking for in our next President? Facilitator – To be determined. Source: "Command of Office: How War, Secrecy, and Deception Transformed the Presidency, from Theodore Roosevelt to George W. Bush" by Steven Graubard, 2006, 722 pages, \$13.55. With access to former members of both Republican and Democratic administrations, Graubard has written a masterful history of presidential power – one that anyone concerned with American politics will need to read.



The Summer of 2008 is looking bright around the UUCD! We are able to continue our long tradition of lay-led summer services **THANKS** to the contributions of **Gale Alexander, Gina Cassetta, Joe Gillotti, Doris Henderson, Judy Lacker, Charlie Schott, Susan Shaner, Evan Smith, Veronica Swain, Lynn Taborsak, Sue Tarshis, and Carl Tichler**. Just look at the journeys our lay leaders plan to take us on this summer. We will search for our true, authentic voice ... walk a labyrinth ... examine the barriers of assumptions that limit our perceptions and what we can accomplish when we break those barriers down ... ponder how Unitarian Universalism affects our lives ... explore "walking the line" at the boundary between this world and the next ... and much, much, more!

We would like to extend a special invitation to the artists in our congregation to participate in the service celebrating **The Arts** on August 10<sup>th</sup>. For planning purposes, please contact **Veronica Swain** to showcase your VISUAL pieces of art, **Doris Henderson** to submit WRITTEN works, and **Charlie Schott** to share your MUSICAL abilities. Planning for this service is beginning *now*, so please decide how you would like to contribute ... and let us know!

**Refreshments** ... This year, we are again asking people to sign up to host "light coffee hour." This might mean lemonade and popcorn, juice and bagels, coffee and fruit salad ... anything appropriate to gathering in the summer. Please look for a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary and pick a day to bring snacks and drinks to the UUCD!

If you have questions or thoughts to share about Summer Services, please contact **Darlene Anderson-Alexander**.

~ The Sunday Services Committee

## From the Social Action Committee

by Jean Hislop

Dear Friends at the UU,

Members of the Social Action Committee are committed to our promise to reach out to those of you who felt they were not ready to vote to accept the New Sanctuary Movement. Even now that the motion has passed, and we are officially a New Sanctuary Movement Congregation, we know that some members of our congregation may still be feeling ambivalent, or perhaps not confident about the issue of immigration today.

To that end, we are volunteering resources available upon loan from members of the Social Action Committee in the way of books and films dealing with immigration, and other related issues.

I hope you'll take advantage of some of these opportunities to learn more about the issue of immigration, and consider it part of your summer reading/viewing list. Please look for a list of these resources on the table in the back of the Fellowship Hall. Or feel free to ask Sherry Kyriacou to send you a copy if you will not be attending services in the near future.

## New Sanctuary Movement Approved!

by Chris Halfar



The UUCD is making history again with the congregation's approval of our participation in the New Sanctuary Movement. As a result of the vote at our Annual Meeting, we have become the first New Sanctuary congregation in Connecticut. I am so pleased with the overwhelming support this congregation has given us to move forward and create a safe and welcoming dialogue with the immigrants in our community.

We began over a year ago, in April of 2007. I remember the Sunday service that the Social Action Committee presented on immigration. Each of us wore a sign around our neck with some derogatory term to describe our ancestry. In August of that year, Jean Hislop organized an interfaith prayer vigil at Kennedy Park to recognize the hardships our unjust system of laws has created for people who want nothing more than a chance for a better life. Both Reverend Linda Hansen and Board President Carl Tichler spoke movingly to the crowd. In October 2007, the New Sanctuary Movement was the focus of the Reverend Linda Hansen's sermon. In December 2007, Rachel Soltis came from the New York City New Sanctuary Movement. She spoke after the 11:00 service, giving an overview of participating congregations, their structure and activities, and the immigrant families they serve. In February, several SAC members attended "Know Your Rights" training at Southern Connecticut State University and in March, we sent a delegation to Deportation 101 training at NYU Law School.

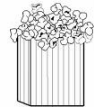
We offered a series of 3 programs this spring in our Fellowship Hall - "The Politics of Immigration," "The Voices of Immigrants" and "The Impact of Immigration Raids on Families." We opened our doors wide and invited our immigrant neighbors to attend and participate. Finally, we invited Father Juan Carlos Ruiz, one of the founders of the New Sanctuary Movement, to come and tell us why it matters what we do. As Margaret Mead would say, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Please join us as we set about to change the world. We welcome your feedback and concerns. The Social Action Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 p.m. to brainstorm and plan for future NSM activities, events and programs. Please attend! We will especially need the help of congregation members and friends who are fluent in Spanish or Portuguese. Summer will distract us as it always does at this time of the year. Help us build a lifeboat for Danbury's immigrant community that we can launch this fall.

## Friday Film and Discussion



The Film Discussion Committee will meet on Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Pat Coulston will be sharing several CD/DVDs; and the discussion will be about FOCUSING.



## Movies with a Message: Fourth Friday Film Series, June 27<sup>th</sup>

by Keith Dupree

Several of our films over the past year have had as their underlying theme the tension and misunderstanding that can occur when cultures collide. (You may recall *Snow Walker* or *Wondrous Oblivion*.) Often these tensions arise when a “foreign” culture intrudes into our own, but occasionally it is when our culture intrudes into another. This month’s feature borrows liberally from Anton Chekhov’s *The Cherry Orchard* to establish its mood and setting. If Chekhov meant his play as a farce, then our film’s modernization of his theme is true to its mentor, as it employs both farce and humor to raise some truly serious questions.

We’ll begin our evening with our short for the month, a story of a lonely man in a lonely job, who one day makes a simple find that changes his life.

7:00 PM – Our short film: from Australia, *Booth Story*.

7:25 PM -- Feature film: *Crazy Like a Fox*. Starring Roger Rees (*A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *The Pink Panther*) and Mary McDonnell (*Dances with Wolves*, *Independence Day*).

9:00 PM – General discussion

Please join us on Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the UUCD Conference Room. As usual, all are welcome. Pizza will be provided for those who wish to chip in. Bring your own beverage. Popcorn optional!

## Soup Kitchen Corner

by Lynn Taborsak, Soup Kitchen Coordinator

On Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, Lisa Austin Smith and Debbie Musumeci will lead Team #4 at the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen on Spring Street with team members Randy and Tucker Smith, Joanne Davidson, Cathie Billings, Cynthia Payne, Leslie LaCroce, and Darrin and Haley Perlow. Summer has officially arrived but our hot meal and hospitality are still really appreciated.

We are trying a new way to schedule Soup Kitchen volunteers to match the work flow at the kitchen. When your team leaders call to remind you about volunteering this month, please tell them which “tasks” you are available to do. You can come in at noon to prepare the main course and side dishes. You can come in at 1:30 p.m. to set up the dining room, wrap silverware, make bag lunches and prepare dessert trays. If you are a highly skilled waiter or waitress, you can come in at 3:00 to serve our guests and stay for clean up duties. We want to be flexible enough to give everyone in the congregation an opportunity to participate in this long-standing project of the Social Action Committee. Our congregation has sponsored these soup kitchen and shelter teams for 25 years, each and every month.

We also need volunteers with WEEKDAY availability to help on two Tuesdays this summer when there is no coverage by regular volunteers. Please sign up to lead or volunteer for these extra shifts on Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday August 12<sup>th</sup> on sign-up sheets in the rear of the sanctuary. This is a great opportunity to try your hand at local social action. You might enjoy it so much that you end up joining one of our existing teams.

If you’re not a soup kitchen volunteer, please consider serving as an occasional alternate when extra hands are needed. You can also help us feed our neighbors by donating a gift card in any amount from a local supermarket in the collection plate on Sunday. You can continue to bring in donations of non-perishable food items every week to replenish our local food pantries. There is a large basket for these items at the entrance to our Fellowship Hall.

Finally, you are responsible for finding an alternate if you are not able to work on your assigned day. You will receive a list of congregation members who serve as alternates with your e-mail reminder.

**Congratulations to**



- **Gale Alexander** on receiving his teaching certificate.
- **Ross Fenster and Jane Leff** who recently celebrated their 15<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.
- **Mary Alice and Sky Kimball** who recently celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.
- **Holly and Bob Murtha** who recently celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.
- **Nyssa May Roscoe**, daughter of **Donna and Brad Roscoe**, who recently graduated *cum laude* from Keene State College in Keene, NH.

**Our sympathy to**

- **Peggy Daines** on the death of her sister.
- **Lisa, Brad, Ryan, and Lindsey Greene** on the death of Lisa's father.
- **Mike and Barbara Searing** on the unexpected death of a member of their extended family.

Contact names in the June *Comment*:

**Darlene Anderson-Alexander: (203) 746-9102**

[dandalex@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dandalex@sbcglobal.net)

**Bob Bollinger: (203) 438-7210**

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### Services at 9 and 11 a.m.

June 1, 2008. **“Slow Down, You’re Movin’ Too Fast.”** This line from Paul Simon’s 59<sup>th</sup> *Street Bridge Song* probably describes most of us in our overly-demanding and too-hectic culture. But summer is a good time to step back and take a look at our lives, and even take a rest. Join Rev. Linda Hansen to explore these possibilities and to sing “Feelin’ Groovy”!

June 8, 2008. **Intergenerational Flower Communion Service.** To frame our Flower Communion Service, and our desire to thank all of our generous volunteers, DRE Mary Collins and Rev. Linda Hansen will use a story appropriate to our UU values and to June! In *Uncle Bobby’s Wedding*, little Chloe worries that she will lose her place in her favorite uncle’s life but discovers she now has a place in her new uncle’s life as well. Come help us act out a June wedding and remind ourselves that everyone of us has an important place at UUCD. Please have each member of your family bring a flower to give away if you are able.

### One Service at 10 a.m.

June 15, 2008. **What Does It Mean to be a Father?** Sean Campanella, Gale Alexander, Uwe Koepke and Gary Winn will discuss this question with personal remembrances of their fathers and/or their role as a father. Mike Searing will also participate.

June 22, 2008. **All Sorts of Pairs.** Part of our June 8<sup>th</sup> Flower Communion celebration will have been a celebration of Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. In this sermon, using the film *A Rather English Marriage*, and with the help of our UUCD Players, Rev. Linda Hansen will consider our culture’s need to expand our understanding of love and friendship. Special music will be provided by the Westport Bell Choir!

June 29, 2008. **Going Where We Have Not Gone Before.** Linda can’t help herself—for her last sermon, she has to use a *Star Trek* theme! And wonderful Rob Catalano will be playing *Star Trek* music, and Gershwin of course!



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