



# COMMENT

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Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury, 24 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, CT 06811 \* 203-798-1994

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NOVEMBER 2008

## For the Time Being

## Notes from your Interim Minister

I don't have to tell you that these are challenging times. We await the November election with a mixture of hope and trepidation, and cast an anxious eye on the fluctuating stock market and forecasts of recession or worse. Some mourn lost jobs, while others pray that they will be able to hang on to theirs. One person writes in our book of *Milestones*, "Many I know and work with are losing jobs and experiencing general trauma due to market conditions in financial services. Thinking of them – and the changes they are going through."

If you are finding yourself beset by these times, please keep in mind: You don't have to go through it alone! We want to be here for you. I'm not talking primarily about financial assistance, though there is a ministers' discretionary fund from which I can make small emergency loans or grants. I'm thinking more of the potential for moral support and networking assistance among UUCD members and friends.

Some congregations have formed Networkers' Groups, to help people who've been laid off to find new work opportunities. If there's interest, we could organize such a group here. In any event, if you're finding yourself in difficulty, please be in touch. There are folks here who care, want to listen and, if they can, to help. Please be in touch as well, if you think you're in a position to coach or otherwise assist those who are struggling with employment issues. We can support each other through these hard times!

Of course, tough economic news may also raise worries, not only for our own personal lives, but for UUCD's financial situation. In this connection, it's heartening to learn that historically, financial support for religious bodies has *not* declined during hard times! As long as members and friends believe that their congregation is fulfilling an important mission, pledging and giving continue. Thus, in the realm of congregational well-being, it's important to beware the negative self-fulfilling prophecy. This is a good time to remember the words of Franklin Delano Roosevelt: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

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Over the past few decades, consciousness has grown that Halloween is only the beginning of a three-day festival, what one writer has called the "Autumn Triduum" of All Hallows' Eve, All Saints (November 1), and All Souls (November 2). We've also come to appreciate the pagan roots of these celebrations; they originate in the Celtic New Year festival of Samhain (pronounced Sow-en), which we'll be celebrating at UUCD on Saturday evening, October 25.

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The line between Saints and Souls is a bit blurry. In Christian scripture, the word “saints” was originally used to describe *all* members of the religious community, not just a few. This usage is not entirely lost; both Puritan and LDS (Mormon) traditions have employed it. And no doubt we all have “saints” in our lives, whether or not in a traditional religious sense.

Universalist that I am, I’m especially fond of All Souls Day, known in Mexico as *el Día de los muertos*, or the Day of the Dead. This is a day to remember *all* our beloved departed. November 2 falls on a Sunday this year, and there will be opportunities during the service to remember those who have died, including members of our religious community who are no longer with us. Please bring pictures of loved ones (people and pets) to place on a special table of remembrance.

Love and blessings,  
Sue Spencer

**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.

**Chalice Circles**

**Chalice Circles** for the 2008 - 09 year began meeting October 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in joining an existing group, or if you'd like to be on a wait list for a possible new group starting in January, please call **Jane Leff**.

**Deadline for the December Comment -**  
**Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.**

## Canvass Corner

by Ross Fenster

A critical Presidential election, a global financial crisis, and recession are looming. Not a great time to plan or ask you to think about our annual Pledge Drive.

We have an abundance of things to be thankful for in our UU congregation. We are a loving and caring community working collaboratively and tending to our collective and individual needs. We are, as we envisioned before our move to Clapboard Ridge, a voice for liberal religious values in the greater Danbury area. We have, just as expected when we moved from Redding to Danbury, a huge potential for membership growth over the next 5 years.

There are many things we can and will be doing to drive membership growth over the coming years. On any given Sunday morning we all need to be UUCD boosters to current members, friends, and visitors. We can't just be Sunday UUs; we all need to pitch in and volunteer to do the myriad of things that will cause us to grow and that can only get done through our volunteer efforts. We need a full-time Director of Religious Education. We need an attractive sign out front to enhance curb appeal and attract people who drive by. We need to run a capital campaign to support finishing the Fellowship Hall's lower level thus enhancing our RE space and rental income potential. We need to become a Chalice Lighter congregation again to support finishing the Fellowship Hall's lower level. We need to pave our parking lot so our fellow congregants can easily walk from their cars. We need to power wash the house. We need some attractive shrubbery on the right hand side of the house to give us more curb appeal. I'm sure we could all add to this list of needs.

I'm confident we can and will confront all these challenges. Not in one year but over time certainly. A successful Pledge Drive, as always, will help and is of course a prerequisite to living our vision of being a larger presence in the religious life of greater Danbury.

Our plan is to run our leadership Canvass in January, the balance of our Canvass in February and have a Celebration Canvass Sunday on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. This Canvass will cover the budget period from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. I look forward to talking with you all as our Canvass develops and thank you for your generous support in advance.



## President's Letter

By Carl Tichler, President

This month will bring us the long-awaited finale to this year's presidential campaign, with the vote on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Whatever this vote brings -- whether you feel the finale is uplifting, depressing, or somewhere in between -- there will then be a brief opportunity to take a breath, a break from the political and a chance to remember and appreciate the personal.

I plan to take such a mental break, as best I can, and remind myself of the bonds of love and caring that matter to me, those of my family, friends, and the community of the UUCD. We recognize the time of Thanksgiving later in the month as when we appreciate the gifts that we have, and recognize those of us who are less fortunate. I hope that in the time after the election and leading up to Thanksgiving, we can also reflect on the strength we have as a caring community, of the power to transform ourselves and the larger community. The election will be over (hopefully), and the real change and healing will have a chance to occur, not from campaign slogans but from our own gifts that we bring. For me, what we do here at UUCD is real political change, personal and tangible. Happy Thanksgiving to all of you!

Carl

## Buildings and Grounds “Thanks you for your support”

by Cynthia Clark, Facilities Manager

Buildings and Grounds have been faced with financial hurdles for the coming year. As requested, volunteers have come forward to assist with the challenges created by the budget cuts needed for UUCD overall.

I am very grateful to **Darlene Anderson-Alexander** for taking on the role of volunteer coordinator, which has been so helpful to Buildings and Grounds.

Thank you to the following volunteers during the first quarter of 08/09:

**Dean Alexander, Jackie Alexander, Valerie Cochrane, Mary Collins, Ross Fenster, Jan Galloway, Bill McWilliams, Sandy Murphy, Barbara Myers, Suzanne Perry, Greg Pings, Chris Schmitt, Charlie Schott, Michael Searing, Meredith Spector, Lynn Taborsak, Al Taylor and Nancy Tramontana.**

I see this as an opportunity to bring attention to our UU values, of working together during difficult times. Buildings and Grounds needs your continued support, please volunteer today. I find enjoyment and satisfaction working for our congregation, even when there turns out to be more to do than originally expected.

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

The summary statistics for Prepaid, July, August and September 2007-08 budget year is recorded below.

	<u>Prepaid</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
% Annual Canvass pledge return	10.6%	16.4%	21.5%	28.2%
Operating Income Year-to-Date	\$17,496	\$28,063	\$37,072	\$51,718
Operating Expenses Year-to-Date	0	\$16,911	\$36,550	\$56,040
Operating Income – Expense YTD	<b>\$17,946</b>	<b>\$11,151</b>	<b>\$ 522</b>	<b>\$ -4,322</b>

**Analysis for August:**

The Operating income YTD (\$51,718) is somewhat behind the Operating Expenses YTD (\$56,040) causing the use of reserve funds (\$ 4,322). The Operating Income normally falls behind the Operating Expenses during the months of September through November. The normally larger December Pledge payments often bring the Operating Income YTD up to the Operating Expense YTD.

The current international financial turmoil may make this more difficult for many of our members. If pledge payments are delayed UUCD could find itself needing reserves larger than \$25,000 this fall. Our reserve funds, due to depreciation of our investments, are not that large any longer so every one is urged to pay their pledge as early as possible.

Bruce Buzby, Finance Committee Chair  
Marie Dupree, Treasurer

**A Note from Karen Judd**

With our recent move, we have the following items for sale and a percentage of what we receive will be given to the UUCD:

- 1) 30" Thermador Electrical Range, glass cooktop, 1999, convection oven, black-stainless, appliance literature included, asking \$250.
- 2) Kenmore Compactor, normal and extra pac setting, black, 1997 model, bags and appliance literature included asking, \$150.
- 3) Keep/Safe wall safe 16" square with border frame, beige, asking \$50.\*\*\*
- 4) Magnavox TV 8" X 11", asking \$15.\*\*\*
- 5) pair of Denon USC-30R speakers, 30 watt output, \$5.\*\*\*

\*\*\* whatever we receive on these items, the full amount will to be given to the UUCD

Please call **Karen Judd** for more information or to arrange for pick up.

## Religious Education Update

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

November is one of my favorite months, even though the leaves are down and the dark and cold are here. Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. The focus on things to be thankful for reminds me to say THANK YOU TO **Stacey Campanella** for donating to RE some of her teaching and office materials. THANKS for the goodies.

### Religious Education Plans:

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>** (clocks fall back) - Senior High Youth Group will be taking on the programming for this day and will create their very own Halloween party for the younger children at both services (9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.). Costumes without gore or weapons please (DRE gets scared easily) on the first floor of the house  
 9:00 a.m. - 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> OWL (Our Whole Lives) meets upstairs  
 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. (not 6:00 p.m.) - 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> OWL meet in the Youth Room

**November 9<sup>th</sup>** - General Group sessions today – based on Joseph (of the Technicolor coat fame). DRE will be off (substitute needed).  
 11:00 a.m. – 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade Junior High Youth Group meet this Sunday

**November 16<sup>th</sup>** - General Group Sessions (sessions topics include “I Can See!,” Simhat Torah, Jesus and the Law, Four ways of looking at the Same thing (the four Gospels)

NOTE: Senior High Youth Group – If you wish to go to the “Spirituality Development Conference” on November 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> in Freeport, NY, please contact **Randy Smith** or **Chan Roewn**, then register on-line at [www.uumetrony.org](http://www.uumetrony.org) (put the [dre@uudanbury.org](mailto:dre@uudanbury.org) in so we get the confirmation of your registration). We may not have youth group this Sunday.

**November 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service (no groups meet - only nursery care in the house)  
 NOTE: Change in DRE office hours to Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> during the week of Thanksgiving.

**November 30<sup>th</sup>** - SINGLE SERVICE at 10:00 a.m. No groups today but children will start in the Fellowship Hall for a “green” Children’s Focus. A brief Children’s worship and follow-up activities will be in the house after that. The day is designed for 5<sup>th</sup> grade and under. *Older children, youth, and adults are welcome to help lead, play an instrument or sing. We may make and serve “Stone Soup.”* Contact Mary Collins if you would like to assist in anyway.

11:00 a.m. story based on RE curriculum. Trial period ends at the end of November. Feedback from 11:00 a.m. service attendees (with and without children) would be appreciated. Contact a member of the RE Committee (**Samantha McCoy**, Chair, **Fern Paes**, **David Payne**, **Suzanne Perry**, **Barbara Searing**) or the DRE. You are WELCOME to join us at the RE Committee Meeting on Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. regarding this or your thoughts on our program.

**December 14<sup>th</sup>** - Intergenerational Tree Trimming event – music and tree decorations for all ages (following the 11:00 a.m. service).

The Junior High Youth Group and their advisors, **Greg & Cathy Pings** and **Veronica Swain**, will be planning and presenting our Tree Trimming Party. In the past we have had a donation of a cathedral height tree, cider, cookies, holiday music cd’s (Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hindu, Pagan, etc…) If you would like to offer them assistance in any way, please contact the DRE and the Advisors.

# REMEMBER ... It takes FIVE to THRIVE!



Be a part of the ENERGY of the UUCD by volunteering! Look for our current needs in the Help Wanted section of this Comment or contact **Darlene Anderson-Alexander** for help in finding YOUR niche. THANK YOU to all of the people who have already offered to get involved. Let's all continue to work together so that the UUCD will THRIVE!



## Help wanted

- Cleaning crew for the *first week of each month*; join a team and do as much or as little as you can.
- Help the Finance Committee with clerical tasks that can be done from home.
- Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee.
- Join the Sunday Services Committee and coordinate services about 1x/month.
- Join the Religious Education (R.E.) Committee.
- Help during R.E. or with preparation – sign up for the time commitment that works for you.
- Organize R.E. supplies & resources.
- Write press releases for the Publicity Committee; distribute flyers to local libraries, etc.

FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO VOLUNTEER, PLEASE CONTACT **DARLENE ANDERSON-ALEXANDER**

## Marriage Equality comes to Connecticut

by Charles Stark

It was with great joy that we learned that the Connecticut Supreme Court ruled in favor of full marriage equality for all, regardless of sexual orientation

We can be truly proud of and thankful for the wisdom of our court. We are also proud of the role that Unitarian Universalists, including members and friends of our own congregation, have played in this fight.

The Supreme Court's decision in Kerrigan is remarkable in its breadth and understanding of the issues. It stands in sharp contrast to the recent decision of New York's highest court on the same subject. In that case the N.Y. Court of Appeals held, in essence, that marriage was for the purpose of procreation and could therefore be rationally limited to members of the opposite sex.

I know not many of you would have had the time to read the Connecticut decision in its entirety. Because I think the words of the court are so cogent and memorable I will take the liberty of quoting here from the opinion.

The court recognized the history of discrimination against gay citizens,

“Gay persons have been subjected to and stigmatized by a long history of purposeful and invidious discrimination that continues to manifest itself in society. The characteristic that defines the members of this group – attraction to persons of the same sex - bears no logical relationship to their ability to perform in society, either in familial relations or otherwise as productive citizens. Because sexual orientation is such an essential component of personhood, even if there is some possibility that a person's sexual preference can be altered, it would be wholly unacceptable for the state to require anyone to do so. Gay persons also represent a distinct minority of the population. It is true, of course, that gay persons recently have made significant advances in obtaining equal treatment under the law. Nonetheless, we conclude that, as a minority group that continues to suffer the enduring effects of centuries of legally sanctioned discrimination, laws singling them out for disparate treatment are subject to heightened judicial scrutiny to ensure that those laws are not the product of such historical prejudice and stereotyping.

Such visceral prejudice is reflected in the large number of hate crimes that are perpetrated against gay persons. The prevalence of such crimes has prompted the legislature to pass hate crime legislation that includes sexual orientation, along with race, religion, ethnicity, disability and gender, as a protected class.”

They said that

“The plaintiffs also share the same interest in a committed and loving relationship as heterosexual persons who wish to marry, and they share the same interest in having a family and raising their children in a loving and supportive environment.”

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Connecticut's court was the first to rule that civil unions, even though they may afford the same or similar rights, do not provide equal protection of the law. They recalled that "separate but equal" did not pass muster in the school segregation cases, and said,

"Especially in light of the long and undisputed history of invidious discrimination that gay persons have suffered; we cannot discount the plaintiffs' assertion that the legislature, in establishing a statutory scheme consigning same sex couples to civil unions, has relegated them to an inferior status, in essence, declaring them to be unworthy of the institution of marriage."

And finally, they saw no harm to the institution of marriage,

"In other words, limiting marriage to opposite sex couples is not necessary to preserve the rights that those couples now enjoy. In this regard, removing the barrier to same sex marriage is no different than the action taken by the United States Supreme Court in *Loving v. Virginia*, when it invalidated laws barring marriage between persons of different races. Although it is true that authorizing same sex couples to marry represents a departure from the way marriage historically has been defined, the change would expand the right to marry without any adverse effect on those already free to exercise the right."

Unitarian Universalists have been in the forefront of this fight. UU ministers were performing commitment ceremonies more than twenty years ago. Some have refused to perform any marriage ceremony while inequality persists. The UUA, at various General Assemblies, has gone on record favoring full marriage equality. At this past GA hundreds of us gathered in the plaza at Fort Lauderdale's City Hall to support the families of GLBT and immigrant people and protest the "defense of marriage" amendment on that state's ballot.

When Love Makes a Family sponsored a door-to-door campaign our congregation turned out the largest number of participants of any in the state.

We can all be proud and share in this wonderful achievement as we celebrate equal rights for all in our great state.

## Greening of the Ridge Invitation

To affirm our UU Principle to "respect the interdependent web of all existence" our Social Action Committee is beginning an effort to become a "Green Sanctuary." This movement is a program of the UUA "Ministry of the Earth." We have purchased a CD of the manual, and our first efforts will be to study the manual, "audit" our current practices, and then develop a plan. If you would like to be part of our "Green Team" planning effort, please contact **Anne Krieg**. We will meet once in November, and then monthly beginning in January.



The Events Committee invites you to join us in the first of a series of **Pot-Lucks on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** Come celebrate the Harvest Season and wow us with your favorite recipe or experiment with a new one. This is

an intergenerational event. Bring an appetizer, salad, main entry, or dessert to serve 8 – 10 people. A sign-up sheet will be on the back table in the sanctuary. We ask that you bring your own beverage. If you have any questions, contact **Donna Lawrence** or **Donna Roscoe**.

## Concert by the UCW Chamber Choir

This concert starts at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Ridge and will be followed by a wine and cheese reception. The choir, based at our sister UU congregation in Westport, will sing a broad range of music – something for everyone. This choir toured Eastern Europe in 2003 from Transylvania to Prague. **Charlie Schott**, who is a member, invited the choir here in support of our UUCD music program. The net proceeds from the concert will fund our program. Donations will be accepted at the concert. Come and enjoy the music!



## Winter Boutique Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Our second annual boutique will offer homebaked cookies in a "Cookie Walk". Come early for the best selection. The Knitting Ministry, artists, and crafts will be available this year. Previously cherished jewelry will be offered with gold, silver and costume pieces available. This is a great opportunity for families to shop for the holidays. A "Snowflake Cafe" will be open for light refreshments. Vendors are still wanted and should contact Valerie Cochrane.

## Round Robin Supper Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

The holiday season is approaching and **Rob and Jurintha Fallon** invite you to join them for a Round Robin supper to be held Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at their home in Southbury. No need to worry about finding a sitter as children are welcome! Please look for the sign-up sheet in the back of Fellowship Hall and make plans to join the party. If you would like to host a Round Robin Supper, please call Darrell or Xin Bradford.

## Movies with a Message The Second Friday in November

by Keith Dupree

This month's themes: *Who is my neighbor? Trying to fit in when nothing really seems to fit.*

Our feature presentation for November is *Eve and the Fire Horse*. In Canada, two Chinese sisters and their Buddhist family strive to understand and accommodate the Christian culture that surrounds them. With the eyes of a child, this film explores what religion truly is and how it influences us as we set out on our life's journey.

Our selected short for the evening is *Across the Hall / El Otro Del Pasillo*. Two immigrant boys dress up for Halloween, trying hard to understand this strange American custom. Their father returns from work to find them about to canvas the unfriendly halls of their apartment building asking for candy. With many outcomes possible, this film takes us in a very unexpected direction.

Beautiful and gentle, these films have their own messages of hope.

Please join us on **Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.** in the UUCD conference room. As usual, all are welcome. Pizza (Vegi) is provided for those who wish to chip in. Bring your own beverage. Popcorn optional!



## Theater Aficionados

by Keith Dupree

Mark your calendars for December 11<sup>th</sup> – “Pay What You Want Night” at Theatreworks to see *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge*. More information at [www.theatreworks.us](http://www.theatreworks.us) All are welcome to be a Theatre Aficionado. You too can be. Call **Keith Dupree**.



### Men out to Breakfast

**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 two and four. Meeting time: 9:00 a.m. November dates are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome. Please notify **Mike Searing** if you plan to attend.

### Women out to Breakfast

**Women out to Breakfast** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month at 9:00 a.m. for informal coffee and conversation at Elmer's Diner located on Padanaram Road across from North Street Shopping Center. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to attend, please contact **Karen Gillotti**. November dates are the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.



## 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 November and December follows:

November 13, 2008 - Topic: History of Language. Facilitator: Bruce Buzby. Source: "The Horse, the Wheel, and Language" by David W. Anthony, 2007, 566 pages, \$25.20. A thorough look at the cutting edge of anthropology, Anthony's book is a fascinating look into the origins of modern humans.

December 11, 2008 - Topic: History of Liberalism. Facilitator: to be determined. Source: "The Conscience of a Liberal" by Paul Krugman, 2007, 352 pages, \$17.13. Paul Krugman, today's most widely read economist, studies the past eighty years of American history, from the reforms that tamed the harsh inequality of the Gilded Age to the unraveling of that achievement and the reemergence of immense economic and political inequality since the 1970s.



## Soup Kitchen Corner

by Lynn Taborsak, Coordinator

The first frost is on the ground and we are still accepting volunteers for the UU Soup Kitchen teams for the coming year! On the first Saturday of each month, we provide a hot, nutritious meal at the Dorothy Day House of Hospitality on Spring Street in Danbury. We have four teams altogether, so you only have to work on one Saturday every four months. Please sign up 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 welcome to feed the hungry. 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 basket in the foyer to help replenish local food pantries.

On Saturday, November 8th, Soup Kitchen Team #1 will be led by **Gary Winn** and includes **Charlie Stark, Donna Lawrence, Craig Mitchell, Tom Miglietta, Mike Stavola, Chris Halfar and Bruni or Mike Edwards**. It is officially fall and our guests are very appreciative of our warm hospitality. If you cannot come on your assigned date, please find a substitute from the alternates list. Remember, the show must go on!



## Women's Retreat 2009 - Calling All Women

by Sue Tarshis

The 9th annual UUCD Women's Retreat is scheduled for the weekend of April 17<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 30 women from our congregation have been gathering each spring to retreat from the daily stresses of life. We connect with each other, participate in workshops that are spiritual, intellectual and/or creative, enjoy the beautiful setting and we spend time together listening, sharing and having fun.. In order to hold the wonderful Wake Robin Inn in Lakeville, CT, we need to send them a deposit by the end of January. The total cost of the retreat is \$260.00, and we will ask for full payment or payment in scheduled installments to hold your spot. To register please give a check (made out to the UUCD) for \$100.00 to Marie Dupree before December 31<sup>st</sup>. You can send it or give it to Marie or put a check in the collection plate with Women's Retreat written on the bottom. Another \$100.00 will be due by January 25<sup>th</sup> and the balance of \$60.00 will be due by the end of February. We also accept an additional \$25.00 to provide scholarship money to help reduce the cost for those in need. If you are interested in receiving scholarship help please contact **Marie Dupree, Sue Tarshis, or Rev. Sue Spencer**. Registration forms will be sent via email and will be available at the back of the Fellowship Hall, but you do not need the form to begin the registration process. We are looking forward to another amazing retreat!!

## Jim Crow Justice & The War on Drugs

If you happen to be on Long Island the weekend of November 16<sup>th</sup>, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington invites you to hear ACLU Past President Ira Glasser speak on "Jim Crow Justice & The War on Drugs" on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. Drug Prohibition is one of the major civil rights issue of our day, says Ira Glasser, past president of the American Civil Liberties Union and currently board chair of the Drug Policy Alliance. He will explain that opinion in a riveting sermon. Coffee and refreshments follow the service. The Drug Policy Alliance is the nation's leading advocate of policy alternatives to the drug war that are grounded in science, compassion, health and human rights. For more information and directions, please call (631) 427-9547 or [www.uufh.org](http://www.uufh.org).

## Services at 9 and 11 a.m.

November 2, 2008. **Forgiving Others; Forgiving Ourselves.** In Mexico, November 2 is “El día de los muertos” (The Day of the Dead); in various parts of Christendom it is “All Souls’ Day.” Either way, it’s a day to remember those who have departed this life. For this service, you are invited to bring pictures of departed loved ones to place on a special table of remembrance. The sermon focuses on those times when remembrance gets complicated. Service led by Interim Minister Sue Spencer.

November 9, 2008. **The Human Cost of the 3 Trillion Dollar War.** Economists Joseph Stiglitz and Linda Bilmes estimate that the war in Iraq will eventually cost the United States three trillion dollars. On Veterans’ Day Sunday, we’ll look at some of the human costs, both to Iraqis and to our returning veterans. Service led by Sue Spencer.

November 16, 2008. **It’s All About Food!** There are many significant links between food, the environment, and social justice. Today we’ll explore the connections, and consider how our own food practices can make a difference in the world. Service led by Sue Spencer.

November 23, 2008. **An Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service.** On this Sunday before Thanksgiving, we explore different dimensions of “Practicing Gratitude.” The service, led by Mary Collins and Sue Spencer, includes a Cornbread and Cider Communion and the distribution of UUSC Guest at Your Table boxes.

November 30, 2008. **Toxins here! Toxins there! Toxins, toxins everywhere!** Rabbi Andrea Cohen Kiener, Director of the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network will present a service on how to identify, reduce and replace common toxins in our environment and become better stewards of our planet.