

Skylights *newsletter*

Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

February 4, 2007 at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. (Two Services)

This I Believe

Worship Leaders: **Eva Liane Foster, Alice Harper, Ben Krejci, Kathy Lehmann, Judy Malsbury**

Music: **Marjorie Herman, Beth Ertz, Rebecca Nice Parrone**

Have you heard any of National Public Radio's "This I Believe" series of essays? This Sunday, several of our own Worship Associates will address this theme. We hope you'll join us and find out what *some* Unitarian Universalists - individually - believe.

February 11, 2007 at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. (Two Services)

Radical Hospitality

Worship Leader: **Rev. Forrest Gilmore**

Worship Associate: **Jeffrey Bock**

Music: **Marjorie Herman, Beth Ertz, the Adult Choir**

What does it mean to openly welcome the stranger? What it would be like if each of us were to offer a radical hospitality to one another? ...to create a home away from home?

February 18, 2007 at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. (Two Services)

The Spiritual Legacy of Lincoln

Guest Worship Leader: **Rev. Chris Reed**

Worship Associate: **Alice Harper**

Music: **Marjorie Herman, Beth Ertz**

We often look to people with vision of the world or society as a place of justice, compassion as spiritual leaders, prophets speaking the truth to power. We likewise look to those who have suffered and endured the lonely night of the soul, as spiritual mentors. And we also look to those whose very actions speak of compassion as spiritual people.

Lincoln is remembered with emotion today, because he was and is these things to us. It is his legacy.

February 25, 2007 at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. (Two Services)

An Even Better Life

Worship Leader: **Rev. Forrest Gilmore**

Worship Associate: **Ben Krejci**

Music: **Marjorie Herman, Beth Ertz, the Adult Choir**

The Good Life... the giant salary, fancy cars, the big house, exotic vacations. From the youngest of ages, we are sold the story that happiness is just a purchase away. But is there an even better life than the good life? How do we as a community support people to find an even better life?

Reflection

By Reverend Chris Reed

I still don't have this taking 4 weeks of study leave in the winter down to a science. When it was in the summer, one didn't miss anything. But I am returning today and find myself jumping into the upcoming pledge drive, the auction in two weeks and the talent show in February.

In addition, we would like to return to a format that Robert Latham and I created a few years ago, a mid-year report, an evening for an active dialogue about our vision as a congregation, about where we are now in our various congregational ministries, and in policy governance. We look forward to the dialogue and as always we invite all to become involved in an area of ministry that speaks to your own spiritual or personal development, your own journey.

One of the many inspirations that I received from Gitte Sinding, a long time member who died this December, was seeing how her involvement here in the Women's Alliance and with the Caring and Sharing Committee was integrally connected to her own leaving Germany during the holocaust and her reaching out to other refugees who needed help here, creating community here that was loving and accepting. One of the exercises that we do in the introduction to membership class is to look at our own personal mission statements and see how they fit with the mission of this congregation.

It is a new year and we invite your reflection on what it is that gives meaning to your life. If you want to be involved in somehow, whether you are new or have been here for decades, please let me know. I would love to explore this with you. And we encourage all to come to both the talent show and the mid-year report evenings.

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A Mid-Year Report from the Ministers, Board President & Council Chair

On Sunday, **February 11th**, 6:30-8:00 pm, join us to hear and discuss the mid-year reports of our ministers, Revs. Chris Reed & Forrest Gilmore, Board president Jordan Corn and Council Chair Aaron Torrance. This will be a significant opportunity to explore the current state of and future vision for our congregation and to ask questions and provide feedback. We will provide light snacks and beverages. Please sign-up in advance by contacting our administrator, Sara Oderwald, at office@uuprinceton.org.

The Mission Covenant of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton

We come together in a free and open search for meaning within the mysteries of life.

We draw inspiration from the wisdom of the ages, guided by reason, intuition, and experience.

Transformed through our shared explorations, we are compelled to build a better World in harmony with all existence.

We commit to love, respect, and nurture each other in our lifelong spiritual journeys.

We pledge our hearts and hands, our minds and means to this sacred bond.

Reflection

By Reverend Forrest Gilmore

This is a good congregation, in some ways, a very good congregation. We have much to be proud of...

We are one of the top 50 Unitarian Universalist congregations in the country. We donate a higher percentage of our income to social justice work than any UU congregation. With the creation of our covenant circles and our pastoral associates program, the use of our committee on ministry to help resolve conflict, and the development of our safe congregation policy by the Board, we are increasingly listening to and caring for one another. We have developed three core social justice ministries, the Princeton Education project, the East Trenton Development Project, and the New Jersey Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry, all of which are on their way to success. We are bursting with new families and our youth program, in particular, is enormous. We have a wonderful and vibrant worship program, with our gifted worship associates, our growing and talented choir, an amazing Kids' Chorale, and the reviving of the bell choir and instrumental ensemble. We have a partner church program that has raised over \$45,000 since 1998 to benefit our partner church in Feheregyhaza, Transylvania. We have a beautiful building that continues to improve and become more sustainable, especially when we add the solar panels we voted on last year. Our stewardship campaigns have been amazingly

successful the last several years and we are developing a wonderful culture of openness and honesty about money, and a real sense of abundance with what we have and what we can offer to one another. We have a lot to celebrate as a community.

And we also have our challenges. As author Jim Collins mentions, "Good is the enemy of great." When we could be great, it is so easy to settle for good. Jim Collins in his book, *Good to Great*, describes the key characteristics of greatness in organizations. A great organization is one that has superior performance, a distinct impact, and lasting endurance. As we think upon ourselves, how would we rate our performance as an organization? Are we superior? Are we having a distinct impact on the community? Would we be missed? And are we setting ourselves up for lasting impact?

I encourage everyone to come to the mid-year report on February 11th from 6:30-8:00 pm as we explore together these very questions. See the article inside for more of the details.



A Contemplative Retreat

Take the time to deepen your spiritual life. Slow down. Be still. Let the moment nourish you, body and soul. Join us on **Saturday, March 10th from 9:00-3:30** for a day-long contemplative retreat led by Rev. Forrest Gilmore. Together, we'll have the opportunity to meditate, prepare a meal and eat in silence together, engage in a work practice, and learn more about the spiritual journey. All are welcome, regardless of experience. Wear comfortable clothing that you would feel good about working in. Come to this incredible opportunity to restore and deepen your life.

Our 2nd Annual UUCP Talent Show

On **Saturday, February 10th from 5:30-9:00**, join us for our 2nd annual talent show as we witness the wonderful gifts of our community. Come and enjoy the show or perhaps perform an act of your own. Reserve your spot now to perform – only a limited number of spots are available. We'll start with a potluck dinner, so bring food to share. Contact the office (office@uuprinceton.org) to sign up to attend or perform.

Next *Skylights* Deadline
Monday
FEBRUARY 19

Religious Education for Children and Youth

RED Room February 11

Chris and Forrest and all of us on a Vision for RE at UUCP!

“Growing the Flame” has become the unofficial mantra of the RE Council this year. Much of our time and energy this year has been focused on envisioning the future of RE at UUCP. More social action, additional community activities, greater diversity and outreach, and greater congregation involvement are all areas we hope to improve.

We are now giving Chris and Forrest an opportunity to share their vision for Children/Youth RE. Come to the Red Room in Fahs Theater on February 11, 2007 at 10:25-11:05am to hear what they think is possible for us and to begin to formalize what we need to do to make the dreams become a reality.

We will begin with Chris and Forrest giving us their thoughts and then open up the conversation to all present. Here is a great chance to ask Chris and Forrest your own questions about children's RE and to share with them the direction(s) you want to see RE go!

Childcare (for all ages) will be provided in Room 7.

For more information, questions, or comments, please email **Tom Prusa** (tjpprusa@hotmail.com)

Mind the Gap

Who comes to Unitarian Universalism? Who stays once they find us? In a recent informal study* of 260 UU ministers, DREs and congregants ranging from age 18 to 91, with a median age of 51, there was a 76% drop-off in church attendance among college age participants. This is the point where there is often no longer age-specific programming for this population and students are exploring their own belief systems.. The study also found that 94% of life-long UUs interviewed had been involved with a Youth Group/Program. Interesting.

Does increased programming and community-building encourage lifelong involvement in Unitarian Universalism? When asked how we can keep more of

Children's RE Calendar

February 4

Meet John Murray

9:15 and 11:15, Fahs Theater

RE Teacher Check-in Meetings

Fahs Theatre, immediately following Children's Worship; Liaisons teach RE Classes

February 10

All-Congregation Dinner & Talent Show

5:30-8:30 p.m.

Call the church office to sign up and let us know what you will bring for the potluck dinner!

February 11

Children's Worship: A Social Action Valentine

9:15 and 11:15, Fahs Theater

RED Room

(Religious Education Discussion)

Ministers Chris and Forrest on their Vision for RE!

10:25-11:05, Fahs Theatre
Childcare available in Room 7

February 18

Children's Worship: Chinese New Year

9:15 and 11:15, Fahs Theater

February 25

Children's Worship: The Difference We Make

9:15 and 11:15, Fahs Theater

RE Teachers, please note that our Check-in Meetings will take place Sunday, February 4 at 9:15 and 11:15 in Fahs Theatre immediately following Children's Worship. Please make arrangements for your liaisons to teach your classes that morning. If you have any questions, call Shelle Sumners (609/924-1604, ext. 14)

our youth and young adults, the answers were:

51% said Stronger Support of Youth Programs

32% said Stronger Support College/Campus Programs

16% said Stronger Support of Young Adult Programs

99% of respondents

The UUA has begun a program called Mind the Gap which is intended to change this draining away of our college and young adult communities. These current “Gen X’s and Gen Y’s” are our future social activists, policy makers and world leaders. Yet, in a number of congregations they are only provided for with a volunteer or part time staff. And, some congregations have no provision at all. The UUA caught onto this and is encouraging all congregations attending this year’s GA to be “Beacon lighters” by funding a Youth’s attendance at the General Assembly in Seattle. Their hope is to really spotlight the need to support this unique segment of our community that often goes under-funded nationwide.

Now imagine... a UUCP parent or UUCP “family” who nurtures their young, supports them with good food, good spiritual nutrition, and realizes that caring for ourselves will indeed spill over into caring for others. This caring for others not only includes caring for our family on the planet, in the US, in NJ, but also caring for our congregation and for our Youth, Campus Ministry and Young Adult programs. The RE Council is asking each and every one of the UUCP members as ‘parents’ of these groups these 3 questions:

- 1) Are we providing good spiritual nutrition for our “family”?
- 2) Have we instilled in our Youth, Campus Ministry and Young Adults the values we aspire to and embrace so that they can move out into the world?
- 3) Have we adequately supported our Youth, Campus and Young Adult communities’ and demonstrated social action IN ACTION?

Currently, without a paid Youth Advisor, the 9th -12th grade Youth program is being coordinated by an extremely talented lay-led team of 3 people. The RE Council cannot say enough about the quality of this team and their commitment to managing and teaching our 35 member Youth group. They meet weekly on Sunday mornings and one evening a week, as well as email and correspond with Youth and Parents. They not only

(Mind the Gap continued on page 5)

Religious Education for Children and Youth, cont'd.

(Mind the Gap continued from page 4)

are teaching, consulting, and supporting Youth, but they are doing the Administrative tasks of running the program as well. Though they yearn to be coordinating larger social action and leadership activities, they are each holding full time positions outside of UUCP. Needless to say, they are overworked and these dreams remain without ability to be actualized.

Without a paid Campus Ministry Coordinator, **Ruth Ramsey** and the "Brunch Branch" of her Committee on Campus Ministry are trying to fill the shoes of Jessica Burrows, running the Campus Ministry meetings at the University, as well as trying to coordinate drivers for students to come to UUCP on Sundays. Until we have a staff member hired, Ruth can use all the help you can offer. She is reachable at r3ramsey@hotmail.com.

Though we are presently looking to fill gaps created through vacancies in our 2 part time positions (Youth Advisor and Campus Ministry Coordinator), **our vision** is to create an environment in which we can intentionally facilitate the **growth** of these communities by creating a full time Youth, Campus Ministry and Young Adult Coordinator.

Presently these programs are staffed with 11 hours set aside for a Youth Advisor and 7 hours set aside for Campus Ministry. There is no specific staffing for our Young Adult group. After watching several Youth Advisors and Campus Ministry Coordinators it is evident that they all have given many more hours to UUCP. After consultation with them and other members in our congregation, it became clear that if we wanted our program to move from a "maintenance"/status quo position to a position of growth and truly "Minding the Gap", we will have to make several changes.

First, we need to offer a full time position with a livable wage, to create consistency and develop linkages between these three unique communities. To that end we are proposing to follow the lead of other UU congregations and combine the Youth Advisor, Campus Ministry and Young Adult Coordinator into **one** 40 hour per week position. We envision the Campus Ministry hours being increased to 10 per week, the Youth Advisor hours increasing to 25 per week and the Young Adults beginning to receive 5 hours a week of paid staff coordination and development.

Next we envision that this UUCP Youth Advisor/Campus Ministry Coordinator (YACM as they are now being referred to) is in a unique position to facilitate the transition for rising high school seniors to college freshman Campus Ministry groups, and to link rising college seniors to active Young Adult groups. If we as a denomination begin to create opportunities for these communities, they **will** thrive. The UUA has developed a packet to help congregations link their new college freshman with UU congregations in their new college communities. But, this is just the tip of the iceberg for us, as this is the next generation that will shape our future as UUs.

Therefore, we also envision this position being held by an individual skilled in developing and facilitating social action and community organization activities. We are looking at having this full time staff member become a conduit for growth and change in our youth, our college students, our young adults and our community at large. One past RE Council member asks us to imagine having a month long summer social action project where houses are being built, or children are being tutored, or legislation is being written and our Youth are creating it all.

All of this is possible, but we too, need to be visionaries, to see beyond "the way we've always done it", and begin to see the way it truly could be.

The RE Council is comprised of **Nancy Gardner, Karen Kent, Cathy Bauer-Koggan, Cassidy Henderickson, Kate Henry, Leslie Ashman, Tracey Post, Tom Prusa, Sarah Spalding-Kleiman**. We look forward to speaking with all of you and answering any questions you may have.

~The RE Council

*Informal study available at www.uua.org/mindthegap

Adult Education & Programs

TAG (35-45)

Are you in the age range of 35-45? Are you in search of where you fit in with in UUCP? Are you in search of spiritual bonding, social justice, travel, new friends and your next adventure? Then why don't you come out and check out our brand new group = TAG (The Adventure Group). If you feel like this may be something you would be interested in to learn more about or would like to inquire further feel free to contact me directly, **Jeffrey Bock** 732-939-5460 or FF32NJ@hotmail.com we look forward to you joining us in the next adventure!

UUCP Adult Singles

UUCP Single Adults? What's It All About? Who's It For?

Some time in December Rev. Forrest Gilmore said during one of his sermons, "Look around you. This room is filled with people who could have chosen to stay in bed on a Sunday morning and read the Times, or go for a walk, or do any number of things. But they are here because they want to be here."

I was very moved by the recognition of the intentionality of our community. Unlike our geographic community, many of us drive here for spiritual enrichment, comfort and enlightenment and/or to be in the company of other like-minded folk, to feel one with others. Many of us come here as part of a nuclear family that may or may not support us and join us in our connection to this intentional community. Some of us come here alone—a family of one, or one adult with child or children. Many of us live alone, eat alone, etc. or lack adult

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Newcomers

Chili Dinner and Program for Newcomers—Friday evening, February 23, 2007, 6:30-8:30 pm

This is an opportunity to visit with a few leaders and members of the congregation and the minister, in an informal, small group setting. After dinner there is a program by the minister and childcare and activities for the children. Childcare is provided if we are notified at the office by Wednesday, February 21. Sign up for the dinner at the Welcome Circle on Sundays or contact the office at office@uuprinceton.org, by February 21. Let us know if you need childcare.

Meet the Ministers

First Sunday of February (2/4) and March (3/4) after each service at 10:30 A.M. and 12:30 P.M. in the John Murray Room for an informal conversation with a minister. Gather at the Welcome Circle 15 minutes after the service.

Introduction to Membership Class

Third Sunday in February (2/18) from 1:00-3:00P.M. in the John Murray Room. After attending the church for a time and you're considering membership, learn the benefits, opportunities and expectations of members. Sign up at the Welcome Circle or contact the office at office@uuprinceton.org by the **Thursday before (2/16)**. Be sure to indicate if you need childcare.

Signing the Membership Book Ceremony

This is for those who have taken the Introduction to Membership Class and want to become members. Please contact one of the ministers: 609-924-1604, to arrange a time. Alternatively, an opportunity for becoming a member is provided at the conclusion of each Introduction to Membership Class. ~Polly Ramstad & Ted Fetter Co-Chairs, Membership Committee

Covenant Circles

Get "plugged-in." Join the 130 people in covenant circles this year. We have an incredible sign up this year, and four new covenant circle leaders. All the circles started meeting in October. The formal sign-up time is over, but if you would like to join a circle or try out a sample circle, you can do so throughout the year by calling or e-mailing Shelle in the congregation office. sumners@uuprinceton.org, 609/924-1604 x14.

It is a practice of the circles to always include an empty chair, for the person who is not yet part of the circle.

If you have any questions about our small group ministry program, please speak with **Shelle Sumners** or with one of our ministers.

Adult Education & Programs, continued

(Young Adults Continued from page 5)

companionship by choice or a circumstance. We may enjoy our solitude and privacy and yet, at times, also feel a sense of isolation.

I began the UUCP Single Adults group to provide a sense of intentional family for those within our intentional community that felt a need for such, even if just once a year. There is no age restriction to join us, other than being an adult. There are no other criteria, and in recognition of how busy we all are, no meetings! Just a desire for companionship to share an occasion movie, dinner, walk, concert, museum trip, lecture....and/or to see a friendly face on Sunday and perhaps someone to sit with. For a single person first joining the congregation, this

can be especially helpfully.

The group is in its infancy. There are currently under a dozen of us. Hopefully we will grow and as we do, we can change to meet the needs of those who are a part of it. For now, we are a very informal social group of FRIENDS, with no intent of seeking a "date" or romantic interest. We have a simple email list and send out requests or suggestions to get together.

If you are interested in being added to the email list, or if you have any questions, drop me a note at SilverDove@comcast.net or catch me at a second service on Sundays. ~Mirah Riben

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee of Alice Harper, Umesh Kurpad, Lorette Pruden, and Lisa Roche have been meeting to choose three candidates for the Church Board of Directors in 2007.. If you are interested in joining the Board or would like to recommend a church member to serve on the Board, please feel free to contact any of the committee members.

~Alice Harper (chair)

Adult Education & Programs, continued

UU Buddhist Group

1st & 3rd Sundays of each month, 12:45–2:45 p.m. in Fahs Theatre or the John Murray Room. Contact **Fay Moore** (fay@elliottmoore.com), 609-933-1625 or **Nancy Keene** (nancy@nancykeene.com), 609-844-1260.

Single Moms UU-Nite

We meet the *first* and *third* Fridays of the month at 7:00 pm. Babysitting will be provided, but please advise the UUCP office office@uuprinceton.org by the Tuesday prior to each meeting with the number and age(s) of the child(ren) you plan to bring. If you have any questions, please contact **Leslie Ashman** at 908-393-9031 or lhashman@optonline.net.

CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans): Full Moon Circle

Friday near the Full Moon, 7:00-9:30 pm, Memorial Garden in fine weather, classroom 11 otherwise. All are welcome. Contact **Elissa Hoeger** (609) 683-4409, hoeger@princeton.edu. Upcoming Date: **February 2**.

Stillness Circle – Always open to newcomers

Meditation is an ancient spiritual practice used throughout the world to help people embrace the moment, engage our shadow and awaken to our interconnections. Join us each week for a chance to sit with others and practice the settling of our minds. Open to beginners and advanced meditators alike. Contact **Rev. Forrest Gilmore** for information.

Great Books wanders into The Secret Garden

Do you remember this opening line: “When Mary Lennox uncle everybody said she was the most disagreeable-first line of Frances Hodgson Burnett’s *The Secret Garden* to revisit a childhood favorite, or, to encounter this classic for the very first time.



was sent to Misselthwaite Manor to live with her looking child ever seen.” It’s no secret – this is the den. Please join Great Books, Sunday Feb 11th at 1 pm in the John Murray Room

to encounter this classic for the very first time. Contact **Karen Siracusa** at kn.siracusa@att.net 896-1016 -- Or -- **Linda Benson** at lbenson5@verizon.net; 609-497-1866 and join us.

Minds on Fire now on Thursday

Come set your minds on fire!! Join us on **Thursday, February 8th from 7-9 pm** for Minds on Fire, our monthly opportunity to explore significant issues through an intellectual lens. Each month, we’ll have a reading available in advance at UUCP or via e-mail that will serve as the basis for our discussion. In order to be timely, our topic this month will be decided closer to the date of the event. Contact Rev. Forrest Gilmore for information and to sign-up.

Post-Ulysses Reading Circle is open to all

Next readings: **February 8 and 22**. This reading group, that meets at 7:30 p.m. differs from most others in that we read texts that we would not read on our own, and we read them aloud together. In May 2006 we finished reading Joyce’s *Ulysses*, a labor of love that took a little over 3 years. After the sign-up went over 15 we closed the group.

But the original 15 have decided to continue, opening the group to all who are interested. This year we are reading aloud three texts that are related to *Ulysses*. The first is Fagles’ translation of the *The Odyssey*. Call the office or leave your name and number with **Shelle Sumners** or **Chris Reed** if you are interested, or just join us.

SAVE THE DATE!!

Saturday, April 21

8:00 pm

Channing Hall

Brother Sun, Sister Moon:

A Concert Celebrating Earth Day

featuring Paul Winter’s magnificent *Missa Gaia*

UUCP Adult Choir

Kids’ Chorale

Instrumental Ensemble

Women's Alliance

The monthly meeting of the Women's Alliance will be on Thursday, **February 15**. We will meet in the Founders Room at 12:00 noon for lunch. Our meeting will begin at 1:00. Rev. Chris Reed will tell us about the "Annual Women's Gathering". Afterward she, Dana Powsner and Emily Townsend will provide a covenant group experience for us all. We invite members as well as newcomers to join us. Please bring a sandwich to share. Soup, dessert and beverages will be provided. ~Lorraine Anderson

Dinner Discussion

Our next Dinner Discussion will be on Tuesday **February 27**, and the speaker will be Leigh Eric Schmidt, chair of Princeton's Department of Religion. His topic is, "Spirituality, Liberalism, and American Culture." So: Are we all too wedded to secularism? Do we have deeper spiritual roots than most people realize? Professor Schmidt will address these and related questions, which is sure to lead to lively discussion. Prof. Schmidt is the author of numerous books (his latest is "Restless Souls: The Making of American Spirituality," 2005), the recipient of several awards (including the 2001 John Hope Franklin Prize for the best book in American Studies), and is a frequent consultant and commentator on religion and American culture for NPR and print media. Sign up with Mal Durbin between services Feb. 18 or 25. Arrive 7 PM for snacks, beverages and dinner (all for \$8; late-comers \$10, if food is available). Talk is at 8:10 PM. You can skip dinner and the fee by arriving just for the talk. ~George Schindler, Jr.

Denominational Connections

UUCP Leads in Chalice Lighter Fund-raising

At \$2,009, our congregation has given more than any other of the 21 in the Metro New York District that have reported so far. However, there are others still to report. The autumn collection was for organizing in the hurricane and flood areas of Louisiana and Mississippi. The spring collection will be for the Plainfield UU church.

~Denominational Connections Committee

UU CONNECTIONS— OREGON

Attention all who would like to join with 3,000 other Unitarian Universalists in singing our favorite songs, hear the most inspiring leaders of our faith, and have a wonderful time in a beautiful city! UUA General Assembly (GA) is **June 27-30** in Portland, Oregon. The UU Connections Committee encourages a large contingent from our congregation to go to GA. We have nine official delegates, but a larger group always attends because GA is a learning experience for anyone in the congregation who is eager to experience our denomination more fully. The best way to reduce some of the cost of GA is to start early. Advance airline sales can be bargains; early registration knocks \$50 off the basic cost; the more affordable lodging goes fast when registration starts. You still have a few weeks until registration opens, so visit the UUA website at www.uua.org to learn about the GA 2007 program.

~The UU Connections Committee

2007 GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO BE IN PORTLAND, CONGREGATION TO RE-INTRODUCE UUSC CONNECTION

Our congregation will soon reactivate its connection with the UU Service Committee (UUSC), which is very visible at the annual UU General Assembly as a national advocacy and service associate of UU congregations. UUSC's mission has changed from decade to decade to meet the needs of the times. It began in the World War II years to rescue Jews from the Nazi regime. In the 1970's UUSC had a program on Central America; it took Congresspersons and clergy of many faiths to El Salvador and Nicaragua to examine the effects of United States policies in those countries.

More recently UUSC sponsored the Promise the Children advocacy network in several States including New Jersey. UUSC is currently promoting advocacy on the following issues: Raising the legal minimum wage in the U.S.; Darfur relief; opposing torture; post-Katrina rebuilding; promotion of fair trade items such as coffee; global economic justice building; and State legislative networks through start-up grants and training. Members of UUCP can participate with UUSC in these ways: 1) Becoming a

member of UUSC; 2) Supporting Guest at Your Table coin collections; 3) Buying UUSC greeting cards; 4) Using fair trade coffee at church; 5) Working on any of the advocacy campaigns listed above. Visit the UUSC website at www.uusc.org. Watch future *Skylights* for news of UUSC activity at UUCP. ~Carol Allen UU Connections Committee

UUA PRESIDENT WRITES TO U.S. PRESIDENT

Unitarian Universalist Association President Bill Sinkford on January 11, 2007, as an act of conscience, wrote a letter to U.S. President George Bush urging him to bring home the U.S. troops in Iraq and not to further escalate the war. President Sinkford is the father of a serviceman who served in Afghanistan. For the full text of the letter, go to www.uua.org.

~Carol Allen

Social Action

TRAVEL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR UU SOCIAL ACTION CON- FERENCE

"Turning Toward One Another" is the second annual UU Social Justice Ministry Consultation, to be held in Denver **February 23-25**. Urban Disciples are a consortium of large, diverse UU Social Action projects. The conference will present practical and inspirational programs and discuss current themes in social outreach. Funds for travel are available through a Veatch Foundation grant. For details, see www.urbandisciples.org.

~Carol Allen

WINTER FILM SERIES

Winter Film Series 2007 is under way at the Princeton Public Library. All films are from 7-9 PM and are followed by a discussion. The films are:

January 30—*Why We Fight*

February 13—*Iraq for Sale*

March 5—*The Ground Truth*

March 29—*The War Tapes*

The series is co-sponsored by the Coalition for Peace Action. For more information, call 609-924-5022; for descriptions of the films, go

www.peacecoalition.org.

~Carol Allen

Legislative Ministry Project Start Up

(Social Action continued on page 9)



HOME
A Film by Jeffrey M. Togman

Our congregation will host a screening of the award winning film HOME on
Sunday March 4, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

The filmmaker, Jeffrey M Togman will join us for a discussion following the film.

HOME provides a thought provoking, realistic glimpse into the struggles faced by New Jersey residents living in poverty. The film takes an in-depth look at one family struggling with issues of affordable housing, credit, neighborhood violence and other aspects of poverty in Newark, NJ.

"Explodes assumptions of both the left and the right."
Newark Star Ledger

WINNER
Special Jury Award
AFI/Discovery Channel
Silverdocs Film Festival

"Marvelously revealing...brilliantly illuminates the invisible damage inflicted by years of deprivation."
New York Times

This community event is free of charge.

Princeton Education Program

Here's what our tutors have to say about their time with students:

Fran Benson—I've been meeting each week with several Princeton High School sophomores who want to improve their writing. We meet on the second floor of the Princeton Public Library, in a comfortable tutoring room that has been set aside for us.

The students have been reading *Night* by Elie Wiesel and *Maus II* by Art Spiegelman, and they have been asked to write essays based on questions about the books. We discuss the readings and the questions each week. Then the students write and I take turns helping each one to prepare written answers to the questions.

The students are hardworking and conscientious, and they are very appreciative of my suggestions for improving their writing. We have lively discussions about the reading; they are clarifying their and using the texts to back up their opinions. They seem surprised and encouraged when I point out how well they are doing and how they are improving. I'm really enjoying our time together!

Trish Myers—I am volunteering one afternoon per week for one hour at the John Witherspoon Middle School in their voluntary after school homework program. I love the flexibility of the schedule, and I can change my day of the week when needed. Most of the students are sixth graders, and there is great diversity among the students. For some kids, English is their second language. I am free to help any students who ask for assistance or I may choose a student who appears to need some support or direction. After just a few weeks, I was able to remember many names, and I began to feel a connection to some of the "regulars" who attend the program. Now, when those few precious kids smile at me and greet me, and I can respond with their names, I feel a much greater sense of satisfaction with the work. While my math skills are very weak after all of these years, I find that it is my effort to assist that really counts. Most of the children need extra support and respond well to a kind and patient adult. The biggest surprise to me is how attached I am becoming to the teaching and counseling staff. They tell me every week how much I am appreciated, and I feel very "at home" there after a short time. I look forward to this hour each week, and I believe that my support to the staff gives a boost to the program as much as my work with the students.

Bill Strong—Since mid-October I've been at the Witherspoon Middle School's after-school program on Thursdays from three to four. I started with two Guatemalan lads, Alejandro (here but two months) and Juan (10 months). We talked, did math, discussed words, laughed. Friendly encouragement. Different students come different days, so you're flexible, shifting to an eighth grader needing a listener for her Spanish, an African-American lad working on math. On a bad-weather day there can be over twenty students,

on other days only five. The staff are wonderful, energetic women, a pleasure to be with.

Mary Tulloss—I have been tutoring three high school sophomores at the Princeton Library on Thursday afternoons. The girls are very good students who just need an extra boost in geometry, biology, and chemistry. Although I am sometimes pretty tired when I arrive at the library at 4:00, I feel better when I leave because I have helped some kids who are very interested in learning and are working hard. The three girls are all friends and I enjoy their sense of humor and liveliness. At least one is also heavily involved in sports and goes back to the high school or university to run track for an hour or so after we finish! What energy!

When I told my husband that I sometimes had trouble helping all of the students at the same time, he offered to come with me. He has now helped one of the girls get an A on a lesson on evolution and I know that one of the students felt confident to put geometry problems on the board to earn extra credit. That made us all feel good and as a bonus I get to go out to dinner with my husband when we finish tutoring!



UUCP Habitat Project Update

Steve Brame, Exec Director of Habitat for Humanity/Trenton, reports that our North Clinton Ave property now has foundation walls and the concrete flooring is now being poured. Next step will be capping on the foundation to create the first floor, followed by framing. The goal is to have the entire group of 5 adjoining homes completed by Thanksgiving. Direct involvement of UUCP volunteers could begin late in February, with the major work beginning in early April. More to follow on skills needed, training, scheduling, etc. Question? Contact **Ray Nichols** (609-737-7442)

(Social Action Continued from page 8)

Forrest Gilmore and Chris Reed have appointed a Steering Committee for the Legislative Ministry Project. It is **Elaine Nigam**, Administration, Policy, Planning & Co-chair, **Peg Caruso**, Non-profit Development, Paralegal & Co-chair, **Doug Rhodes**, LM Development & Denominational Communicator, **George Easter**, Finance & Strategy, and **Forrest Gilmore**, LM Development & Minister.

The committee had its organizational meeting on January 2, 2007 to begin to develop strategy and planning. Our first step will be to initiate endorsements from individuals and congregations to garner statewide support for a New Jersey Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry.

Letters seeking individual personal endorsements from Presidents, Ministers and Social Justice Chairs will go out to the 21 congregations in NJ in

(Social Action Continued on page 12)

Board of Trustees

Conversations from the World Café

Happy New Year!

Thanks to the forty-plus people who attended our workshop held on January 7th, the Board is off to an auspicious start for the year. For those of you who were able to join us, what an evening it was! And for those who couldn't, I will try to capture the energy and spirit of the event.

We began with a light dinner, which was a nice opportunity for all of us to both socialize and prepare ourselves for the work ahead. Following dinner, we participated in a raucous team game that had all of us on a (loud!) scavenger hunt in Robinson Lounge.

Invigorated by the game, we laid out the plan for the evening's work. The model we used was "The World Café", a freely-available technique designed to build dialog around open-ended questions. We had five tables set up, somewhat café-style, complete with flowers, coffee, and dessert. A different second-level Ends statement was the topic of conversation at each table. All of the tables had a sheet of paper with the same questions about the Ends statement at the table: "What would it look like if we got there?", "How will we know we're making progress toward it?", and "What difference will it make?"

A host at each table facilitated a twenty-minute discussion about that table's Ends statement. The discussions started with the questions that were posed, but went wherever the participants felt appropriate. During the conversations, index cards were available for note-taking, and the tables were covered with white paper to encourage doodling, capturing ideas, or literally drawing connections. After twenty minutes, each person at each table (except the host) got up and moved to a different table of his or her choosing. This set everyone up to start another twenty-minute conversation with different people about a different Ends statement. The host's job was to bring the people entering the new discussion into the conversation that had happened in the previous round. After this second round of conversations, everyone except the table hosts switched tables one more time, and a third round of discussions was held.

So, after an hour, everyone had participated in three conversations, and apart from the table hosts, had discussed three different Ends statements. Following the hour of dialog, each table host tied the threads of the conversations together into a summary, and reported it to the entire group.

One of the challenges of the World Café format is that it is very much an open-ended exercise. It takes a significant amount of thought to process the event's results, an activity in which the Board engaged during its regular January meeting. We identified a number of common themes that emerged from the Café. For example, it was repeatedly pointed out that activities that move us toward our Ends need to be programmatic, not just single or isolated events. Another theme was that most participants felt that moving toward our Ends would lead to growth. A third was that social action is part and parcel of nearly all of our Ends statements.

The Board is using the information we gathered at the Café as we create additional details around our Ends, which we will use to help determine resource priorities for the coming year. Our goal is to have drafts of this detail in time for discussion at our

February meeting. This is ambitious, and we have a lot of work to do to make it happen.

So, as you can see, we've been busy! However, we always work to create time to talk to all who are interested. To that end, exactly as we did in November, we are reserving thirty minutes of our February meeting agenda to speak with you. If you would like to join us for an informal conversation between 6:45pm and 7:15pm on February 13th, we'd love to see you! RSVP by e-mail at president@uuprinceton.org, or by telephone at (609)-890-7865.

For additional information about the World Café, visit <http://www.theworldcafe.com>.

Meet the Board

The Board of Trustees invites you to join us for an open discussion on February 13, 2007 from 6:45pm to 7:15pm in the Founders Room. If you'd like to attend, please e-mail us at board@uuprinceton.org.

Ring in the New, UUCP-Style

In what has become the classiest way in town to ring in the New Year, the Arts Committee once again hosted its annual Arts Festival on January 1. Several dozen works of art, all created by members of our congregation, were displayed in the Founders Room. Contributing to the exhibit were **Rick Baker, Ilene Dube, Carl Haag, Joelle Hofbauer, Pat Lange, Elizabeth Peck, Ted Peck, Donna Person, Joannie Piccard, Betty Reed, Betty Sinha, Marie Sturken, Ethel Mae and Bruce Theriault, Emily Townsend, Albin Wagner, Hildegard West, Joanne Widman, and Edna Willis**. With gallery-style seating available, revelers could either enjoy the works up close or sit in comfort and admire them from afar. Delightful snacks and beverages abounded, while music filled the air. Performing were **Cindy Dixon**, whose harp-playing must be heard to be believed, and **Chuck Widman**, whose ragtime piano playing wafted beautifully through the building. Ushering was provided by **Grace Gambino, Gloria Gietz, and Rick Baker**.

It was an honor to serve as Master of Ceremonies for the afternoon's poetry and reading program. **Betty Sinha, Hil Anderson, Charlie Parker, Maggie Pack, Eva Foster, Donna Person, Ted Peck, Rice Lyons, and Ruth Ramsey** by turns amused, regaled, and moved us with their prose and poetry.

Special commendations are due to everyone on the Arts Committee – **Marie Sturken, Betty Reed, Ted and Elizabeth Peck, Pat Lange, and Carl Haag** – for their effort in creating a truly joyous and memorable New Year's event! ~Jordan Corn

Stewardship 2007-2008

This is the second article in preparation for our 2007-2008 Stewardship Campaign. You no doubt have noticed the use of the term stewardship instead of pledge the past several years. Stewardship is about leaving something at least as good as, if not better than, it was before. It involves service, and it indicates a long-term focus, one that includes engaging others in solutions and actions (Block, 1993). The financial part of stewardship is just that, a part. In fact, Michael Durall, in his book entitled "The Almost Church: Redefining Unitarian Universalism for a New Era," states, "Stewardship is not about asking people for money. Stewardship concerns what kind of people the church calls us to become, and how a community of faith uses the resources at its command to serve with love and compassion." Striving to "Build the beloved community on earth" challenges us to lead lives of dedication and commitment through UUCP in order to make and leave whatever part of the earth we can a better place.

For the past several years UUCP has also focused on giving as an expectation of membership in terms of percentage of income rather than specific dollar amounts. I must admit that Jon and I have come a long way in terms of our financial commitment to UUCP. Moving to a percentage of income meant a sizable increase in our pledging. It involved refocusing finances for our household, a process that took me back to my roots where tithing was the norm (and there was no such thing as a pledge campaign) and Jon to the synagogue of his childhood that was rather public about families' levels of giving. Both of us had to deal with ambivalence about our birth religions and what it meant for us to serve more through our UU religious community. Last year we achieved 3% of our income, on our way to 5% within the next several years and possibly higher eventually – and it felt really good. It has meant making UUCP our primary avenue for charitable giving and mapping out a plan that factors in increases in order to achieve 5% while paying college tuition and meeting other financial obligations. Stewardship Standing Chair, Betty Ashwood, is exemplary in that she has already achieved annual giving at 5% of income.

Last month I shared that based on median incomes for zip codes represented in our membership, UUCP could expect to have at least \$1 million in giving if everyone gave at the 5% level. I was asked to share a bit more regarding actual pledging. Last year commitments from 295 pledging families ranged from \$1 to \$55,000. The \$55,000 pledge represents a 5% of income contribution. In descending rank order the greatest number of donors give between \$500 and \$750, followed by pledges of less than \$250, then less than \$1,000, then \$1500-\$2000, then \$2,001-\$2,500, then \$2,501-\$3,000, then \$3,000-\$4,000, \$4,001-\$5,000, greater than \$7,500, \$5,001-\$7,500, \$7,500-\$10,000 and finally greater than \$10,000. Twelve percent of the congregation pledges 50% of the total received by UUCP.

UUCP offers each of us a religious home and community. I have experienced the value of religious education and youth connection for my sons, the opportunity to be cared for and to care for others, to be active in weekly worship, to have my worldview challenged, to change as a person as I internalize

(Stewardship Continued on page 13)

RE COUNCIL CALL FOR FULL TIME ADVISOR

My name is **Beth Surmont**, and I am one of the volunteer Youth Group advisors. I am relatively new to the congregation, and have been participating for less than a year. One of the things I first noticed when we began attending the services was the strength of the youth programs at the UUCP. I was struck by all of the different programs that were offered, to all age ranges, and was impressed enough that I began volunteering my time with the Youth Group. The experience of working with the Youth has been incredibly rewarding for me, and it's one that I would not trade for anything.

Unfortunately, two of our paid advisors have since moved on to better opportunities, the Youth Advisor, and the Campus Ministry Advisor. In the Youth Group, the volunteer advisors are struggling to make up the time of the paid position; however, due to the demands of our careers and families, we cannot devote the kind of attention and long-range planning that the Youth Group requires and deserves. And the Campus Ministry position remains unfilled.

Speaking as someone who is not too far away from my own college years, I feel that the Campus Ministry is something that is too important to let fall through the cracks. There seems to be a significant gap in our congregation – we devote resources to the Youth through their high school years, and then don't show the same dedication to our college age Youth.

The RE Council has been working on a proposal for a full-time paid Youth Advisor. It is my understanding that this person would be responsible for not only the Youth Group program, but also the Campus Ministry, and may devote time to our Young Adult group as well. Having a person who didn't have to juggle a full-time job with the needs of the Youth would be a benefit to both the Youth and the advisors. There would be someone who could put real planning into the lock-ins and overnights, instead of trying to steal an hour here and there over lunch breaks and late at night.

I think that it is important to point out that it is a full-time paid advisor position that will grant this flexibility. As a person would not be able to live on the 17-hour paid position, they would be required to hold down another part-time job, which would present the same difficulties and time challenges as mentioned above. Also, it would hopefully eliminate the turnover that we have seen in past years with the advisor position.

The Youth program is a very important part of our congregation. I feel that it provides our youth with an educational and emotional outlet that is very unique, and not easily found in other places, especially at their age. I do wish that I had something similar available to me when I was growing up. I strongly request that we make every effort to find a way to accommodate a full-time paid advisor in our budget. I do believe that we will find that the rewards far outweigh the costs.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Searching for truth
Supporting each other
Welcoming to all!

These were the statements the students chose to describe the UU Campus Community which is drawn together by our campus ministry at Princeton University. Since 1990, this group of undergraduate and graduate students has gathered weekly during the school year for dinner, fellowship and discussion. These gatherings provide a place for young adult UUs and non-UUs to search for meaning, to explore and develop their own values, to learn about Unitarian Universalism and the UU principles, to find peace within themselves, and to work with others for peace in the world. If you would like to learn more about this outreach to young adults on the campus, and to join in supporting its mission, please contact **Ruth Ramsey**, Campus Ministry Committee

In Appreciation for the Campus Ministry of Jessica Burrows December, 2006

Our Congregation's Campus Ministry supports the Unitarian Universalist Campus Community at Princeton University. The group of undergraduate and graduate students meets weekly throughout the school year for dinner and discussion. This provides a place on the campus for UUs who are far from their home churches. Students who know nothing about UUism are attracted to the group by curiosity or invited by a friend. Often they discover they belong with us, and become active participants.

The Reverend Christine Reed serves as our UU Chaplain and is our official representative at the University. She attends the UUCC meetings once a month, and she oversees the program, providing encouragement, guidance and support. Our Congregation hires a part-time Coordinator to assist her. The Campus Ministry Coordinator is responsible for helping to develop the weekly programs, sending out notices, ordering the food, facilitating meetings that Chris does not attend, and arranging rides to church for students who attend our Sunday services.

This fall **Jessica Burrows** was hired for this very part-time job: it became her ministry. She has conducted the gatherings much like a covenant circle, building a community of friendship, fellowship, and trust, in which students are learning to minister to one another.

Now Jessica is moving away. Surely the most sincere and meaningful way we can thank her for establishing this ministry would be to work to insure that it continues. The students speak of how important the UU Campus Community has become to them. If you wish to help with this outreach to young adults on campus, please speak to **Chris Reed** or to **Ruth Ramsey**.

We extend to Jessica Burrows our wishes for happiness in her new home in Chicago, along with our most grateful and heartfelt thanks.

EARTH FEST APRIL 21, 2007

SAVE THE DAY -- SAVE THE EARTH

An intriguing program is being planned for an experiential encounter with the Great Story of the Universe. Come walk the eons, imagine the Big Bang, wander through the millennia to our modern era. Learn about the challenges to the environment. Explore current technologies available to us for Sustainable Living.

(Social Action Continued from page 9)

February. There are about 11 sizeable congregations and perhaps some smaller congregations, if not all 21, that we hope will become involved and support this endeavor. In the March *Skylights*, UUCP congregants will receive this same packet which will include the letter, a Q & A, and LM Endorsement form to return to the committee.

We have set up an LM Advisory Group of congregants who have expressed an interest in the LMP. We will e-mail them meeting notes, e-mail them for advice on documents periodically, and have advisory meetings every 3-4 months at the "Forum" between services to give status reports and seek input. Those who are on the Advisory Group are **Carol Allen, Betty Ashwood, David Bonk, Sharon Copeland, Lauren Foss, Carl Haag, Rona Henry, William Koggan, Judy Malsbury, Mary Ellen Marino, M. J. Mazure, Greg Nagy, Maggie Pack, Dana Powsner, Todd Royer, Christi Surmont, Bob Tucker, Tony Tucker, Kathryn Turnas, and Circe Urbanski**. Anyone interested in joining this Advisory Group should contact anyone on the Steering Committee.

Later steps will be to get statewide UU Congregations and Boards endorsements and financial commitments, to get prioritizations and consensus on advocate issues, to set up 501(c)3 and 501(c)4 non-profits with Boards for policy decisions and oversight of the project and staff, hiring staff, on going operations in NJ congregations' and individuals' involvement. This process of developing UULMs has taken other states a few years; information about these states, history and advocate issues are listed on the UU State Advocacy Networks web site www.uusan.org or California's LM website uulmca.org.

This is an exciting project that we have all been looking forward to starting over the last year. We will keep you updated and welcome your on going support for and input to the UUNJLM!

(Joys & Sorrows Continued from page 14)

his family.

August 25, 2006 marked **Emma and Garlie Forehand's** 50th Wedding Anniversary. They celebrated the occasion by returning for a week's stay to Williamsburg Virginia, where they spent their honeymoon 50 years ago.

Joe Forehand, active years ago in LRY, became a faculty member in UCLA's Theater Department. He's thrilled to be back designing and building stage sets - and getting good benefits! Good benefits are all important when you've got two children!

Karen Forehand (now Karen Michael), also active in LRY, won a promotion at her company in competition with 15 other people. She celebrated by getting a new hybrid car.

(Stewardship Continued from page 11)

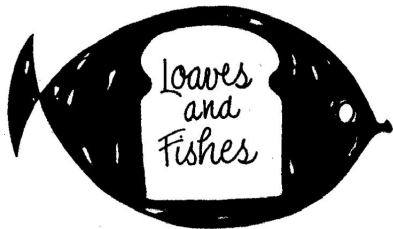
UU principles and live beyond secular life, and to serve beyond myself. The Stewardship Campaign is an essential ministry of this congregation and money is an instrument to accomplish our dreams – to build the beloved community on earth.

~Susan Bakewell Sachs

(NIOT Continued from page 14)

through letters, it is planning a series of video/discussions led by Princeton University speakers and to be held at the Princeton Public Library on Monday nights in April, with a march and demonstration for racial justice in our town to be held at the end of the month. Details will be provided in the next *Skylights*, but for now, put April Mondays on your calendar and come. Bring your children. Bring your friends. Bring your neighbors.

The representatives to NIOT from the UUCP are **Elizabeth Peck, Ted Fetter, and Pat Ramirez**. Call Pat at 609-497-2912 if you have questions or comments.



SAVE THE DATE

**LOAVES AND FISHES
BE PART OF THE MIRACLE**

Friday, March 30 and
Saturday, March 31

Hundreds, literally 700-800 people, men women and children, depend on "Loaves and Fishes" for food for the weekend when the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen is closed. This is the weekend for UUs to make a miracle.

Needed: Publicists and recruiters, shoppers and drivers, bakers and servers, sandwich makers and angels with brooms. Ages 10 to 110 welcome!

Let **Carol Haag** know what part you would like to play.

Spring Film Series 2007

the lives of children

Friday, March 9 Jesus Camp (2006) PG-13

"A wake-up call for liberals and progressive Christians about the training of evangelical children soldiers in the culture wars."—Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat, *Spirituality and Practice*

Friday, March 16 Lost Boys of Sudan (2003) not rated

"This tidy and fascinating documentary follows the plight of two young African refugees transplanted to the U.S. to make a better life."—Elvis Mitchell, *NY Times*

Friday, March 23 Born into Brothels (2003) rated R

A tribute to the resiliency of childhood and the restorative power of art. A portrait of several unforgettable children who live in the red light district of Calcutta where their mothers work as prostitutes. Zana Briski, a New York based photographer, gives each of these youngsters a camera and teaches them how to take pictures, simultaneously causing them to look at their world with new eyes.

Friday, March 30 Two shorter documentaries:

The Hobart Shakespearians (2005) not rated

With genuine passion and ironclad conviction, teacher Rafe Esquith turns the Asian American and Latino children of a violence-stricken central Los Angeles neighborhood on to the wonders of Shakespeare, Mark Twain, and mathematics. At the end of the semester they pull together--with a little help from famous actors Ian McKellen and Michael York--their final triumph: a student production of Hamlet.

Trust Me: Shalom, Salaam, Peace (2003) not rated

An emotional chronicle of 33 children attending a North Carolina interfaith summer camp for Christians, Muslims and Jews, *Trust Me* was filmed in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

**All showings begin at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. in Fahs Theatre.
Discussion following each screening.**

**Contact Shelle Sumners, RE Coordinator 609/924-1604, ext. 14,
sumners@uuprinceton.org**

SAY CHEESE!!

We need YOU to make our UUCP Pictorial Directory a success!

Lifetouch will produce our new UUCP photo directory at no cost to our church. Won't it be great to connect faces and names? But, for a quality directory, **ALL** of us need to be represented.

Everyone photographed will receive a free 8"x10" photo and a copy of the final photo directory; there are no sitting fees.

Photography sessions will be held at the church in the Founders' Room during the last two weeks in March 2007;

You can easily **schedule your photography appointment on-line NOW.**

Just follow the hyperlink in the "**Member Area**" of our UUCP web site (www.uuprinceton.org).

Or, contact Mirah Riben, Scheduling Coordinator (732-329-3769, Silver-Dove@comcast.net).

Questions? Call **Amanda Gillum**, Chair, Directory Committee (609-737-9163)



NOT IN OUR TOWN

By Ruth Ramsey

Here is a story, a true story, of some people in our neighborhood. Although I present it in a stripped down time-line fashion, "just the facts, ma'am," please read it with your mind's eye wide open.

9/8/06 10-11p.m. Three Latino men are beaten and robbed on Franklin Ave., Princeton Borough.

9/14/06 Three African-American youth (one a minor) are arrested for that crime.

9/20/06 Four Princeton High School students, ages 14 and 15, all African-American and allegedly witnesses to the crime, are removed from their classrooms by Borough police without a warrant and without their parents, taken to the police station and charged with juvenile delinquency and complicity in the robbery, which the police allege is gang-related.

Angry parents file a complaint with the Human Services Commission, saying their children's civil rights have been violated and they are fearful of gang retribution. One parent, asking for anonymity, says "Who wants their children in the middle of anything that has to do with any gang? Nobody."

10/25, 12/1, 12/19 Princeton Regional School Board debates the Attorney General's Uniform Memorandum of Agreement, a state-mandated agreement between all NJ school boards and local police departments which describes the law and protocols to be followed when police deal with schools and students. The Board defeats the measure in a close vote and works to propose changes to the state.

11/30 Trenton Times headline—"Princeton faces racial perceptions of police," reporting on the 11/27 Borough/community meeting which gives voice to the widespread belief that blacks are treated differently from others, vehemently denied by Police Chief Federico. The Chief points out that an Attorney General's investigation of the high school incident found that the police had acted within the law. There were points of agreement between the Chief and members of the audience on issues such as the danger of gangs and drugs in the community, but the rift between them on race and fairness remains.

12/06 and 1/07 Letters to the Editor in local papers continue the dialog.

I would call this story Fear...the fear felt by immigrants, legal or not, at being made victims; the fear of citizens who despair that they will be second class citizens forever because of their color; the fear of parents for their children's security; the fear of neighbors for the safety of their streets.

What to do? Here are two suggestions:

1. Find out what your local school board is doing about the mandated police/school protocols and see if you can help to improve them.
2. Not in our Town, the interfaith and inter-racial group that we at UUCP helped form 9 years ago, is actively engaged in this dialog. In addition to talking to the Clergy Association, the school board, and the community

(NOT Continued on page 13)

Joys and Sorrows

This 'Joys and Sorrows' column provides a regular place for informing the whole community of major events in member's and friend's lives. Sometimes people are pleased to have their news shared; sometimes privacy and confidentiality prevail. Thus all items for the 'Joys and Sorrows' column should be sent to skylights@uuprinceton.org for inclusion in the next issue of *Skylights* and will be reviewed by the Pastoral Associates leadership before publication. As always, we invite you to reach out to those you know.

Flora Davis and Mike Tayyabkhan's daughter, son-in-law and 1½ and 3½ year old grandchildren were in a freakish car accident early January. Their daughter and grandchildren were unharmed but their son-in-law, John Tarangelo, was terribly injured and was in a coma for over a week before he died.

Mary Lou Christian passed away peacefully on Thursday, January 4, 2007 at Stonebridge. There will be a private memorial service for the family on Saturday, February 10, followed by a reception at 4 pm at Stonebridge for friends to celebrate her life. We send our love and sympathy to Dick Christian.

Cynthia Ward had a severe bout with pneumonia over the Christmas holidays while she was staying with her daughter Lisa and family. Surrounded by her children and grandchildren, she is recuperating slowly. Cynthia and her family were long time members of this congregation and Cynthia served as the religious educator for many years. Cynthia would be pleased to receive notes from friends: c/o Rev. Lisa Ward, 121 Lapidum Rd., Havre de Grace, MD

Gitte Sinding died at Stonebridge on December 27th. A memorial service was conducted by Chris Reed at the Princeton UU Congregation on January 6th.


David Johnson died at Stonebridge on December 27th. Our deepest sympathies and love are extended to his wife, Libby. Dave and Libby have been very long time members of this congregation and he will be sorely missed. A memorial service will be scheduled at the Princeton UU Congregation - date to be decided.

We extend our sympathies to **Fay Moore** at the death of her father, David Thomas Elliott on January 2nd at age 82. At his funeral service, Fay said, "All the cousins loved when he was around because they knew we would all eat well and have a good time. They all seemed to love him as much as we did. He never left anyone out. . . . He loved life and love and he shared them both with everyone. Daddy we will miss you." Gifts in his name may be sent to the American Cancer Society. To reach Fay, please write her at P.O. Box 350787, Westminster, CO 80035-0787. Fay will at UUCP services on Feb. 4th and looks forward to reconnecting with her congregation friends.

Grace Gambino is recovering at home from a minor heart complication and she would appreciate kind thoughts and prayers for her continued good health.

George Chaiken died on January 9th. His life was celebrated at Princeton Quaker Meeting on January 13. George, his wife Cathy and their children Nicky, Liza and Paul were active members of UUCP in the '80s and '90s. Our love and sympathy go to all of

(Continued on page 12)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
				FEB 1 10:00a-Noon Women's Alliance Board Meeting—Founders 10:00a-12:00p Covenant Circle—Murray 6:30p-8:00p Youth Group—Room 15 7:00p-8:30p Bell Choir Rehearsal—Heald Library 7:00p-9:00p Covenant Circle—Murray	FEB 2 Full Moon ☉ &:00p-9:00p CUUPS Full Moon Circle—Memorial Garden/Room 11 7:00p Single Mom's UU-Nite	FEB 3 8:30a-10:30a Building & Grounds Meeting—Murray
FEB 7—Two Services 9:15 and 11:15a.m. 9:00a-2:00p—Brunch—Founders 10:30a Meet the Ministers—Murray 11:00a-12:30p Youth Group—Room 15 11:15a-12:3p Course in Miracles—Room 8 12:30p Meet the Ministers—Murray 12:45p-2:45p UU Buddhist Group—Fahs Theatre	FEB 5 7:15p-9:15p Covenant Circle—Murray	FEB 6 12:00p-1:00p Office Staff Meeting—Murray 7:00p-9:00p RE Council Meeting—Founders 7:00p-9:00p Covenant Circle—Murray	FEB 7 10:00a-12:00p Covenant Circle—Murray 6:00p Stillness Circle—Fahs Theatre 7:00p-9:00p Covenant Circle—Murray 7:00p-9:00p Adult RE Council—Location TBD 7:30—9:00p Choir Practice—Channing Hall	FEB 8 5:30p-7:00p Social Justice Ministry Meeting—Founders 7:00p-9:00p Covenant Circle—Murray 7:30p-9:30p Post-Ulysses Reading Group—Founders Room 7:00p-9:00p Minds on Fire—Room 15	FEB 9 7:15p-9:15p Covenant Circle—Murray	FEB 10 Last Quarter Moon ☾ 8:30a-10:30a Pastoral Associates—Murray 5:30p-8:30p— New Member Recognition & Talent Show ALL CONGREGATION—Channing, Robinson, Kitchen
FEB 11—Two Services 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. 9:00a-2:00p Brunch—Founders 10:25a-11:05a RED Room—Murray 11:15a-12:3p Course in Miracles—Room 8 1:00p-3:00p Great Books—Murray 11:00a-12:30p Youth Group—Room 15 6:30p-8:00p MID-YEAR REPORT—Channing	FEB 12 Rev. Forrest Gilmore's Birthday!!!  7:30p-9:30p Covenant Circle—Murray	FEB 13 11:30a Men's Club Luncheon—Kitchen & Founders 6:45p-9:00p—Board of Trustees Meeting—Murray 7:00p-9:00p Covenant Circle—Murray	FEB 14 6:00p Stillness Circle—Fahs Theatre 7:00p-9:00p Covenant Circle—Murray 7:30—9:00p Choir Practice—Channing Hall	FEB 15 12:00p-3:00p Women's Alliance Luncheon—Founders & Channing 7:00p-9:00p Covenant Circle Leaders Meeting—Murray	FEB 16 7:00p Single Mom's UU-Nite	FEB 17 New Moon ●
FEB 18—Two Services 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. 9:00a-2:00p—Brunch—Founders 11:00a-12:30p Youth Group—Room 15 11:15a-12:3p Course in Miracles—Room 8 1:00p-3:00p Introduction to Membership Class—Murray 12:45p-2:45p UU Buddhist Group—Fahs Theatre	FEB 19 Presidents Day HOLIDAY—OFFICE CLOSED 4:00p <i>Sky-lights</i> March 2007 issue	FEB 20 12:00p-1:00p Office Staff Meeting—Murray 7:00-9:00 Committee on Ministry—Murray	FEB 21 6:00p Stillness Circle—Fahs Theatre 7:00p-9:00p Covenant Circle—Murray 7:30—9:00p Choir Practice—Channing Hall 7:00p-9:00p Pledge Captains Training—Founders	FEB 22 5:30p-7:00p Social Justice Ministry Meeting—Founders 7:30p-9:30p Post-Ulysses Reading Group—Founders Room	FEB 23 6:30p-8:30p Chili Dinner & Program for Newcomers—Channing, Robinson	FEB 24 First Quarter Moon ☽
FEB 25 Two Services 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. 9:00a-2:00p—Brunch—Founders 11:00a-12:30p Youth Group—Room 15 11:15a-12:3p Course in Miracles—Room 8 1:00p-3:00p Pledge Captains Training—Murray	FEB 26	FEB 27 7:00p-10:00p Dinner Discussion—Robinson Lounge 7:00p-9:00p Congregational Council—Murray	FEB 28 6:00p Stillness Circle—Fahs Theatre 7:00p-9:00p Pledge Captains Training—Founders 7:30—9:00p Choir Practice—Channing Hall 8:00p-9:30p Membership Committee Meeting—Murray			

View the online calendar at: <http://plus.calendars.net/uuprinceton>

FEBRUARY 2007

Ministers' Schedules



Rev. Reed and Rev. Gilmore observe the following office hours:

Rev. Chris Reed
11:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Tues through Thurs
Day off: Monday
Study day: Friday

Rev. Forrest Gilmore
12:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.
Tues through Thurs
Day off: Monday
Study day: Friday

Office hours indicate when ministers are in the church building. However, ministry is not confined to specific hours, and our ministers may be attending meetings at any hour of the day. In the event of emergencies needing the attention of our ministers, please contact either of them first, irrespective of time or day. If necessary, contact Jordan Corn, President of the Board of Trustees.

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About Skylights

Skylights is published monthly. Three additional special issues will be published in October, March, May. It is a publication of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton, 50 Cherry Hill Rd., Princeton, N.J. 08540-7626.

Periodical Postage paid at Princeton, N.J. USPS Permit # 015017.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Skylights*, c/o Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton, 50 Cherry Hill Rd., Princeton, N.J. 08540-7626

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FEB 19

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