

Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

January 2, 2011 at 9:15 & 11:15 a.m.

Burning Bowl

In many UU congregations, at the first of the year, it is becoming customary to have a symbolic burning of things we want to let go of from the previous year. Whether it's an event or an action, writing it on a piece of paper and burning it can be freeing as we move into the newness of a fresh year. We will talk about guilt and repentance. Guilt is a helpful feeling sometimes, yet destructive when it gets stuck.

Worship Leader: **Rev. Meg Barnhouse** Worship Associate: **Patricia Hennigan**

Music: **Beth Ertz—Piano, Marjorie Herman**

January 9, 2011 at 9:15 & 11:15 a.m.

Guidance

Are there ways to get messages from a deeper wisdom about what to do next? Humans have used dreams, prayer and divination to figure out what they should do. How does this work for UUs?

Worship Leader: **Rev. Meg Barnhouse** Worship Associate: **Drake Baer**

Music: **Adult Choir, Beth Ertz—piano, Marjorie Herman**

January 16, 2011 at 9:15 & 11:15 a.m.

A Place at the Table

If we do not take our place at the table of civic life, if we do not engage with the important moral and ethical struggles of our time, then we leave it up to others to shape the rules that govern our communal lives. The UU Legislative Ministry of New Jersey was formed to help us bring our Unitarian Universalist principles into the public arena, and what year it has been! There will be a talk back in Channing Hall after each service.

Guest Worship Leader: **Rev. Julia Hamilton, Exec Dir UULMNJ** Worship Associate: **Kirsten Shearer**

Music: **Jeffrey Fadden—guitar, Beth Ertz—piano**

January 23, 2011 at 9:15 & 11:15 a.m.

Emersonian Unitarianism

My UUism has roots in the Transcendentalist movement of the nineteenth century. Two of the tenets of Transcendentalism are:

- “The unity of life and universe must be realized. There is a relationship, an interconnectedness between all things.
- One must have faith in intuition and experience, for no church or creed can communicate truth.”

Do these sound like tenets of your faith too?

Worship Leader: **Rev. Meg Barnhouse**

Worship Associate: **Ron Campbell**

Music: **Adult Choir, Beth Ertz—piano, Marjorie Herman**

January 30, 2011 at 9:15 & 11:15 a.m.

The Historical Jesus

How can we know who the man Jesus was? What did he really say? What did he really do? Does the historical truth matter, or is the “Jesus of faith” what matters more?

Worship Leader: **Rev. Meg Barnhouse**

Worship Associate: **Chris Sturm**

Music: **Ieva Binderyte—violin, Beth Ertz—piano, Marjorie Herman**

Reflection Reverend Chris Reed

Last August we put some figures together to better understand our membership numbers and attendance on Sunday mornings. We surprisingly found out that what we needed to do in order to better correspond to healthy and growing congregations was attract more visitors. This fall Meg and I have each been involved in a number of community and/or interfaith activities. And, as I wrote in a recent skylights, this fall we have had a wonderful steady stream of visitors and newcomers, many from other countries, and many who identify themselves as Muslims, Jews, Catholics, Lutherans, Hindus and as members of other faith traditions. The conversations have been very interesting and stimulating and affirming of our faith and our basic stance of acceptance and celebration of diversity.

How many newcomers have you met? What have they told you about themselves? What questions have they asked you? How have you helped them connect to the greater congregation?

There are many new people walking through our doors right now, trying out this faith and trying out this community, just as we all once did. While the ministers and the lay leadership might get to meet many of these visitors during programs that are designed for newcomers, the real difference of whether or not they connect and how they feel about the congregation is mostly up to you.

Congregations that have sought to renew their vitality have made an important shift in their culture, developing a primary focus on the newcomer. What would it feel like for you to drive to church on a

Sunday morning and during the drive prepare yourself to talk with people whom you do not know? What would it be like if you intentionally sat down in the service next to people you did not know? And what would it be like, if after the service, you talked with three people you did not know before allowing yourself to talk with anyone you already knew? And what would it be like if you looked around the room for someone who might be new to the congregation and went over and introduced yourself?

We recently had a visitor who went to the brunch after the service and sat alone at one of the brunch tables, while three lively groups conversed at the other tables. What would it feel like if you only ate with people who were new or who had been sitting alone? What would it feel like for you, for the visitor, for the congregation?

I don't know. But words come to mind.... words like beloved community, and sacred, and partnering with that in life that is healing, transforming and hopeful. Joy comes to mind. Renewal. Friendship. Love. Blessed.

I hope that everyone had meaningful and love-filled winter holidays. As we start the new year, and the time draws near for you to call a new minister, may you each remember that the culture of the congregation will not be shaped by that minister, but by the time you devote to and by how intentional you are about acting in welcoming, kind and loving ways. The year is full of promise and hope for this congregation and for each of us.

Welcome New Member!
Tom Bryan



**CLEANING
UP
YOUR
PORTFOLIO?**

Give UUCP a Gift of Stock
You gain significant tax benefits when you give appreciated stock to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton. And you fund the powerful ideas and practical actions of our congregation's mission.

CALL SARA ODERWALD AT
609-924-1604 ext.10

Reflection

Reverend Meg Barnhouse

UNICORN

A couple of years ago I saw a unicorn coming at me as I drove up I-85. That's what it looked like at first glance, anyway. Don't get me wrong, I'm a sensible person. I know there aren't such things in the world, but there it was, this enormous gray ridged horn coming fast toward me southbound, and it was angled forward and up, as if pointing to the Blue Ridge Mountains and after that, the sky. As it blew by me I saw that it was a church steeple on a flatbed truck, being shipped to its new church building.

A sight like that sticks with a person. I started thinking about the church group that was getting that steeple. I wondered how much it cost, and I thought about all the things it symbolized. Most basically, the steeple symbolizes the church pointing to God. We all know that God is not literally "up there;" a lot of us think of The Spirit as everywhere, and that's just the beginning of all of our various thoughts on the nature of the One. I asked myself what would be a better symbol of pointing to God. What direction(s) would it point? It might look like one of those Moravian stars with almost as many points as a chrysanthemum.

I wondered why those people wanted to build one more church when there are already so many. Sometimes the reason is a growing population of people who need you, and no church of your kind is near them, so you build one. Sometimes the reason is a split in an existing church, and one unhappy, hurt and angry group is making a new church where they can become the community they want to be. "All it takes," someone once told me, "is a grievance and a coffee pot."

I thought about how much hope it takes to build a church. "This time," they might be thinking, "this time we will get it right. We will be good people and we will really point folks toward God and there won't be politics or infighting or cliques and we won't ever disappoint each other, and we won't do things in a slap-dash manner, and this, finally, will be the

church we have all been dreaming about. We won't fight about silly things like carpet or moving the piano or the banners. We'll be kind and respectful of one another, challenging one another lovingly, cleaning up our own hearts before we start trying to clean up other peoples' hearts, and it will be like it's supposed to be."

I thought about how, from my perspective, a church like the one they may be hoping for is as mythic and elusive a creature as the unicorn. Churches cause lots of joy, but they also cause pain as they strive to improve people, as they strive to instruct people on what are the right and wrong ways of being a person in this world. Some say don't ever drink, but you may wear jewelry and makeup. Some say absolutely no vanity or fancy dress, but you may drink beer, as it's one of God's gifts. Some churches talk lots about hell and some don't mention it, even though it's there, underneath everything. People try to be kind but often, when we feel passionately about something, it is hard to keep in mind that the other people are more important than correctness of behavior or purity of doctrine. A conviction that the God you claim is loving will punish folks with eternal hellfire can make some people feel an urgency that comes across as meanness. Some churches are kind but ineffectual, some are kind and powerful and they do lots of good and they function in marvelous ways. Churches are like families. Present are the relatives who drive you nuts and the misunderstandings that hurt and the destructive behavior that families have. At church you also get the warmth, growth, shared history, support and love you can find in a family. Joy and pain, just like in any family. People act like people no matter where we are. We all know what to do, though. We know we are supposed

to be kind and loving and not jump down each other's throats for not getting the right kind of free-trade coffee or greeting visitors too enthusiastically, for leaving the lights on or not caring passionately enough about the issue we believe is the central, pivotal, most important one. I heard a poem on the radio the other day, part of which was a prayer: "Lord, please make the bad people good, and make the good people nice."

This congregation is well into its search for a new minister. She or he will be the sole minister, at least for a while. It's easy to dream about the perfect minister, who will be available to come to church events, committee meetings, parties, dinners and work events and who will always be in the office and visiting in the hospital. Who will be intellectual and spiritual and funny (but not too funny) and passionate about social justice and a great leader in stewardship. Who is also deeply interested in religious education, will represent the congregation in the denomination, will preach like a pastor, a prophet and the best teacher you ever had, who will be healthy and good looking and have a stable family life, ethical in life and a crackerjack manager of staff.

What I know is that you all are aware that there are dreams and longing attached to this search. Please be kind and supportive of your search committee, who are working untold hours to get you the best match they can. Please be open to the new person, rooting for them to succeed, understanding that they will not be perfect, that they will make mistakes, they will have a learning curve. Know that everyone wants the best for this congregation. I can't wait to see what happens.

Religious Education for Children and Youth

PLEASE NOTE Important RE Schedule Change

Because we have heard from a large number of teachers and families that they will not be here on **Sunday, January 2, we will not have RE classes that day.** Rev. Meg Barnhouse will be preaching, and welcomes children in the adult service in Channing. **RE classes will resume on Sunday, January 9.**

Teachers, mark your calendars!

Our next **teacher meeting is Sunday, February 13.** Also, our **intergenerational RE Sunday service will be on April 3.** In mid-January we will give you the theme of this year's service, so that your class can plan how they will participate. ~*Shelle Sumners*



Children's Worship & Religious Education Schedule

Sunday, January 2
NO RE CLASSES or Children's Worship
RE resumes on January 9

Sunday, January 9
A No-Bullying Zone
9:15 & 11:15 Fahs Theatre

Sunday, January 16
Martin Luther King
9:15 & 11:15 Fahs Theatre

Sunday, January 23
Special Guest, author Danielle Dolce:
Where is Love?
9:15 & 11:15 Fahs Theatre

Sunday, January 30
Famous UU: Maria Mitchell
9:15 & 11:15 Fahs Theatre

If you have any questions, call **Shelle Sumners**
609-924-1604, ext. 14
sumners@uuprinceton.org



YOUTH MINISTRY

We welcome in the new year with open hearts of gratitude and service... Join us as we share books with the Habitat East Trenton Learning Center this month and work on setting up our Youth Blood Drive!

SAVE THE DATE:

February 4-6, 2011, Social Con: Obi-Wan CONobi, 1st Unitarian Society of Plainfield, NJ

JANUARY 2011 YOUTH

Just about Every Sunday Morning	Morning Youth Group in Room 15	11:00—12:30p
1/2	No Youth Group	No YG
1/9	Youth Group	11:00—12:30p
1/16	MLK Week-end: Book Drive Sharing	Details TBA
1/23	Youth Group	11:00—12:30 p
1/23	Youth Advisor Metro District Meeting Plainfield, NJ Congregation	3:00—6:00 p
1/30	Youth Group	11:00—12:30p

Contact **Pia O'Loughlin** with Youth Group questions!
UUCP Youth Programs Coordinator
YPC @ uuprinceton.org org
732.421.7008

Adult Programs

The programs planned and presented by the Adult Program Committee seek to further the mission of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton by building community; nurturing spiritual growth; and being an active force for building a more compassionate, sustainable, and just world.

NEWCOMERS' CIRCLES

Sunday, January 2, 12:30-1:45 in the John Murray Room.

Drop-in Newcomers' Circles meet on the first Sunday of each month after the second service. Newcomers and relative newcomers are all invited. The group is part getting acquainted, part questions you may have, and part discussion on a theme. We cover various topics, including theology, worship and prayer and UU history. We also cover UUCP, our own congregation, how it works and how you can get better connected into the various ministries and the religious community in general.

Please help yourself to brunch and/or coffee after the service and join us in the Murray Room (beyond the brunch room). Childcare is available in room 3 or 9. Please sign up at the Welcome Circle in Robinson Hall on Sundays or contact **Rev. Chris Reed** at reed@uuprinceton.org. You can also just join us that day.

Saturday "Exploring" UU Class for Newcomers

Date: Saturday, January 8, 2011

Place: UUCP, John Murray Room

Time: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

This "Exploring UU" class is chance to learn about the UU faith, about the UUCP congregation, get a tour of the building, meet other newcomers and share in a light lunch. The class will be led by **Rev. Meg Barnhouse**.

You can RSVP for this event either by phone to **Marty Akers** at (609) 737-3948 or e-mail to welcome@uuprinceton.org by January 5.

Signing the Membership Book Ceremony

This ceremony of becoming a member is for those who have previously taken the "Exploring UU" class or have been in a Newcomer Circle and want to become members. Please sign-up at the Welcome Circle or contact **Rev. Chris Reed** or **Rev. Meg Barnhouse** at 609-924-1604 to arrange a time. We will also have opportunities to sign the book in our worship services.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY—

"Get Plugged In" Join a Covenant Circle

Covenant Circles create community, encourage spiritual growth, and invite authentic connection with one another.



After a check in and short meditation, participants reflect on and share responses to questions that evoke our individual sacred stories.

- There is time for discussion, questions, and socializing for the last 20 to 30 minutes of each Circle.

(The previous format did not give enough opportunity for this.)

- Each Circle is encouraged to get together socially a few times and/or work together on a social justice or service project.
- We grow new groups as needed, so that we hopefully turn no one away.
- Circles meet from year to year.

Please sign up at the Adult Program table in Robinson Lounge or contact **Shelle Sumners** at sumners@uuprinceton.org, 609-924-1604, ext. 14 or **Chris Reed** at reed@uuprinceton.org, 609-924-1604, ext. 12 if you are interested in joining a Covenant Circle.

NEW PROGRAMS

Divorce/Separation Circle

You are invited to participate in a divorce/separation circle support group that is beginning in January. The group will focus on the struggles of living as an individual going through a separation or divorce or has already separated or divorce. Additionally, individuals who have remarried and are struggling with issues surrounding divorce, children, etc are encouraged to

(Adult Programs continued on page 6)

DO YOU HAVE A PROGRAM IDEA?

Is there a program or group that you would like to see at UUCP? Let us know and we'll try to make it happen.

Do you have an idea for a program or group you would like to facilitate? We invite anyone with an idea for an Adult Program to submit a proposal to the Adult Program Committee.

The proposal should contain

- an outline of the content
- the target audience and maximum number of participants
- time line (how many weeks/hours the course will require)
- suggested dates and times
- any costs for materials associated with the course (no fees may be charged for presenting an adult program)

All proposals will be reviewed by the Adult Program Committee and the ministers. Final scheduling and publicizing of the course will be the responsibility of the Adult Program Committee and the facilitators). Please submit any proposals to **Rev. Chris Reed**, reed@uuprinceton.org.

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come and participate. The group is intended as a support of each other during such difficult times. Once formed, the group will decide the direction and format. Please contact **Allison Woolbert** allison.woolbert@gmail.com or **Rev. Chris Reed** if interested in joining or for more information.

Gender Bias Book Study Group

There is a book study starting in January on Gender Bias with the book *Whipping Girl* by Julia Serano. This book study will meet once a month to discuss what is gender bias, how we as a congregation can educate and learn to avoid gender bias. This group will focus on all genders and the interactions we have with each other here at UUCP and abroad. Want to know what Gender Bias is and how damaging it is to daily relationships? Contact **Allison Woolbert** to learn more and sign up!

Allison.woolbert@gmail.com

Buddhist Meditation Group

**1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays, January 2, 16 & 30
at 1:00 in Room 1**

Have you been excited by Meg's sermons on Buddhism?

Would you like to explore how to actually use this way of thinking in our day-to-day living? *How about meditation?* Those of us who have had even a taste of this practice know that the simple act of sitting quietly together can create a greater sense of peace. And yet, even knowing its benefits, many of us struggle to make this practice a part of our lives.

Does the idea of meeting together to experiment with these ideas appeal to you?

We would like to start a group that meets weekly at UUCP. We could combine a period of meditation with a time to explore how to incorporate a more Buddhist approach into our lives drawing on readings and/or Meg's sermons to inspire our quest. If you want to listen to Meg's sermons on Buddhism to help you decide, the tapes are available in the bookshelf in the lounge-- September 6 2009 (Right Livelihood), January 3, 2010 (Right Understanding), March 28, 2010 (Right Speech) and July 25, 2010 (Right Action).

Questions? Contact: **Michele Ochsner** mochsner@work.rutgers.edu 609-924-1166; **Dana Powsner** danapowsner@comcast.net 609-924-5891; **Henry Powsner** powsner@comcast.net 609-924-5891.

Yoga for health, well-being and peace of mind
Thursdays 9:15—10:30 a.m. in Founders Room
Cost: Donation to UUCP Yoga Fund accepted

All are welcome to a new gentle yoga class with Sharon Savage. Sharon's teaching style is based on ashtanga yoga, an 8-limb yoga system, with an emphasis on alignment with breath control, combining effort and surrender in a balanced union.

This yoga class is geared for those new to yoga, those with some experience, and for those who practice regularly. The classes will include pranayama, (breathing exercise), asanas (poses) for balance, strength, and flexibility, and will end with savasana (resting), for deep relaxation and rejuvenation of the mind. Yoga is practiced in bare feet, with clothing that allows free movement. Some mats are available at the church, or bring your own, along with any yoga props you use. (blocks, straps, pillows). Yoga – the Union of the Body, Mind, and Breath.

Sharon is certified through the Devalila Yoga Teacher Training program, (a 200 hour level registered yoga school with the Yoga Alliance)

For more information, see the Adult Program Table in Robinson Lounge on Sundays or send an email to events@uuprinceton.org

Women's Spirituality Circle

Meets only once in January, Sunday evening, January 16 at 6:30-8:00p.m. in the John Murray Room

Join us, as we connect with each other through our lives, our interests, challenges and joys as women. Part check-in, part ritual or spiritual practice, and part themes that reflect the concerns and spirituality of our lives as women.

If you are interested in joining the Women's or a Men's Spirituality Circle, please fill out a Small Group Ministry Registration Form at the Adult Programs table on Sunday morning, or e-mail events@uuprinceton.org. For more information, e-mail **Rev. Chris Reed** at reed@uuprinceton.org

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Telling Our Stories

Marie Sturken will Tell Her Story on Sunday, January 30, at 10:15 in the John Murray Room

Don't miss this next event in the program series of videotaped interviews with some of our amazing senior members who have lived fascinating, engaged and committed lives.

So far this year we have heard from **Joan Waite, Tony Tucker, Sue and Butch Arnould, Henry Powsner** and **Lorraine Anderson**. Still to come:

(Adult Programs continued from page 6)

Charlie Parker, Lieske Wright and others. Please let Carol Haag know of the stories you'd most like to hear.

Questions? please contact **Linda Benson** at lindabenson5@gmail.com, or **Carol Haag** at revcarolh@verizon.net, or **Rev. Chris Reed** at reed@uuprinceton.com.

Y oung Adult Circle

Ages 20-35(ish)

A Sunday in February at 12:30 p.m. in Room 7

Come and join us at our next meeting as we continue to form a new Young Adult circle for our congregation. This is a unique spiritual stage in our lives, and our spiritual growth and enjoyment during this time is enhanced by a loving, supportive and social community.

We meet on the first Sunday of each month for fellowship and spiritual discussion, and the third Saturday of each month for a social activity. Please come and help shape this vital ministry to all who walk through our doors looking for such a community of peers.

To find out more about us, look for the flyer at the Adult Program Table in Robinson Lounge on Sundays. You can sign up in the lounge or by contacting **Valentine Vollmer** datura1207@aol.com

A ging and Saging

Meets on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, January 12 & 26, 10:30a-Noon, in the John Murray Room.

An ongoing program for all over 60 years old. Or anyone who feels over 60. We share our experiences, stories, feelings and information with each other.

We offer this affinity circle for those who would like to meet during the day to create a community of loving, supporting, learning individuals who find it exciting to explore the terrain of getting older with one another. "Sage" is apparently only a noun and an adjective, but for you purists out there, please consider that it resonates with both —age and, as someone over 60 just said, also with sag, both respected verbs.

Sign up by sending e-mail to events@uuprinceton.org or on Sundays in Robinson Lounge at the Adult Program table.

C UUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) Evergreen Chapter

Friday near the Full Moon, 7:00-9:30 pm, Memorial Garden in fine weather, Classroom 1 otherwise.

For more information about us and our activities, contact Eva (likelystories@yahoo.com) or Elissa (atsilvgvhe@gmail.com).

G reat Books Reading Circle

Saturday, January 8 at 1 pm

A Woman In Jerusalem. This special meeting of the Reading Circle will be held at a member's home and includes a potluck meal to celebrate the New Year. We will discuss A.B. Yehoshua's novel about which the Washington Post wrote: "A Woman In Jerusalem is a book about a mission and a memorial...But while the novel is always aware of the sorrows of modern Israel, it soars on wry, wise wings far above the battered landscape...The result is a small masterpiece, a compact, strange work of Chekhovian grace, grief, wit and compassion."

(For more info: contact **Karen Siracusa** at kn.siracusa@att.net or 609-918-1016)

A Course in Miracles

Sundays 11:15 am—12:30 pm in Room 8

January 2 There is no more appropriate lesson to start the New Year than: "There is no cruelty in God and none in me." This seems like an absurd statement given all the cruelty in the world. Yet if God is only love and you and God are one, where does the cruelty come from? Join us and see what the Course offers as an explanation.

January 9 Today we start a several week review process of the previous several months of lessons. This will continue throughout the rest of the month. The theme of the review is: "God is love, and therefore so am I." Each lesson provides a two sentence aspect of this theme.

January 16 Continue our review

January 23 Continue our review

January 29 Continue our review

Hope you might join us in room 8 from 11:15 till 12:30 each Sunday. No preparation is needed other than your own life experience. Each of us is simultaneously a teacher and a learner. Each teaching what one believes and learning from other's beliefs. ~Hil Anderson

The UUCP BOOKSTORE is open every Sunday between services. Contact Alice Harper: aharper67@comcast.net



Interested in Adult Programs?

For more information about any of the classes described on pages 6-8, visit the Adult Program table in Robinson Lounge.

Social Justice and Social Action

UUCP Spring Sale – Start Setting Aside your Donations!

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, May 14

Search your closets and storage places for things you're not using, but someone else could – your treasures – not your junk. Offer only things you would give to a friend. Removing trash is expensive and takes away from the funds we can provide to social outreach.

Volunteer leaders are needed!

Have you helped in past years, and now would like to take on a leadership role? Please let us know. At this time, we are seeking the following:

- Two (2) people to serve with us as co-chairs for 2011, becoming co-chairs in 2012;
- Volunteers for the "Signage" committee, to design new lawn signs and other external postings;
- Chair for the new position of "Post-Sale Sales," to follow up with high-end items not bought during the Spring Sale; This was a good revenue source this year.
- Publicity co-chair to handle press releases, newspaper ads and web notices.

Please contact us ASAP if you would like to help with this worthwhile and fun endeavor.

~ Carol Haag & Amanda Gillum, Co-Chairs

BOOKS FOR KIDS

Thanks to the generosity of so many of you over 400 books have been donated to the East Trenton Learning Center. The children are so excited each time a box of books is delivered and they are making good use of their corner library rushing over whenever their work is finished to pick out books to read.

A special thank you goes out to the children and parents of the 9:15 K-

1 RE class. They put together a fabulous brunch and then donated the proceeds toward purchasing books for the center. Several of the parents purchased the books which have been delivered to the Learning Center and include children's dictionaries, atlases, story books, and chapter books. Some will be distributed to the children to take home and others will remain part of the Center's library. The Social Justice Committee is grateful for their generosity.

We will continue collecting books for the East Trenton Learning Center throughout the church year. If you have any questions please call me at 609 426-1913. ~Pat Radtke

UULMNJ Public Policy Network (PPN) Brunch for All

Everyone is invited to the January 9 Sunday brunch which will be sponsored by Princeton's UULMNJ Action Group to support the UULMNJ Public Policy Network (PPN), the action/lobbying for legislation arm (a 501 (c) 4) of the Legislative Ministry. Donations (not tax deductible) for the PPN will be taken for lunch.

~Elaine Nigam

COMMITTEE MEETING PLANNERS TAKE NOTE

We have childcare available every 1st and 3rd Sunday until 2:00; you may want to plan your after-second-service meetings to



Community Building

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Thursday, January 20

Phyllis Stoolmacher, Director of the Mercer Street Friends Food Bank, will speak about the critical role this organization plays in the work to end hunger in the greater Mercer County region. As reported in the Trenton Times, the Food Bank distributed close to 3 million pounds of food and groceries through its network of 55 local charities this past year.

In the cold winter months, the Alliance gathers at 11:45 in the Robinson Lounge, then moves to the Founders Room for hot soup; coffee and dessert are provided. Attendees are asked to bring sandwiches to share. ~Carol Haag

MEN'S CLUB

Our next meeting will be **January 11** at noon in the Founders Room. If you have enjoyed this group in the past, we look forward to seeing you again. If you haven't attended before, now may be the time to give it a try. A usual, a delicious meal can be expected from the culinary skills of Roger Hoff. In order to know in advance how many will be attending, please inform **Bob Flora** at 908-874-0789 or robertf481@aol.com

UU CONNECTIONS

UU's Ethical Eating Statement of Conscience

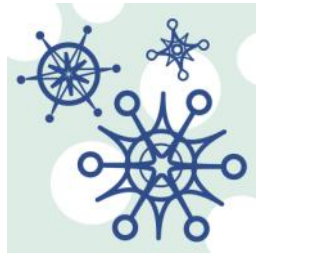
This UU four-year Study/Action Issue has reached the stage of preparing a draft Statement of Conscience to be approved by the delegates at the 2011 UUA General Assembly to be held in late June in Charlotte, North Carolina.

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Congregations have an opportunity to study and comment on the statement with a deadline of January 31, 2011 for suggested changes or additions. Please read the statement by going to www.uua.org and scroll down to the bottom of the page and open the link under the topic Ethical Eating. Early in the new year, an informal discussion will be scheduled to allow discussion and recommendations for this comprehensive statement which implements many UU values and also allows for diversity of opinion. This commitment to ethical production, distribution, and consumption of food is an important aspect of our congregation's environmental awareness program.

~Carol Allen, UU Connections, and Ray Nichols, Green Sanctuary



Winter



Nominating Committee Invites Suggestions

The congregation's Nominating Committee is off to a great start. Our job is to recruit new members for the Board of Trustees and for next year's Nominating Committee. The congregation's bylaws require us to present a slate of nominees prior to the Annual Meeting in early June.

The committee consists of **Judy Malsbury, Tara Grunde-McLaughlin, Sarah Spalding-Kleiman, Ruth Tomlinson, and Liz Warrier**. Congregation members are encouraged to contact any of us (e-mail addresses listed below) with any suggestions, both in terms of potential candidates and process. We welcome your input! Please speak with us if you have ideas about people we should consider for the Board (or Nominating Committee), or suggestions to help the Board operate better or be in better touch with the congregation.

Members of the Board of Trustees are elected to three year terms. There are nine members of the Board and three rotate off each year. We will propose a slate of replacement trustees at the Annual Meeting based on the nominees being considered and recruited over the next few months. We look forward to hearing your thoughts!

Judy Malsbury (judymalsbury@gmail.com), Tara Grunde-McLaughlin (taragm@verizon.net), Sarah Spalding-Kleiman (sarahsk2@comcast.net), Ruth Tomlinson (rtomlinsn@verizon.net), Elizabeth Warrier (aewarrier@comcast.net)

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.*



A Wee Bit of Humor

HOW MANY (xxxxxx) DOES IT TAKE TO CHANGE A LIGHT BULB?

Anglicans: 8. One to call the electrician and 7 to say how much they liked the old one better.

Charismatics: Only one. Hands are already in the air.

Lutherans: Change ?!?!?!?!?!?

Mennonites: At least 15. One to change the bulb and 3 or 4 committees to approve the change. Oh, and a casserole.

Mormons: 5. One man to change the bulb and 4 wives to tell him how to do it.

Pentecostals: 10. One to change the bulb and 9 to pray against the spirit of darkness.

Presbyterians: None. God has predestined when the lights will go on and off.

Roman Catholics: None. They use candles.

Unitarians: We choose not to make a statement either in favor of or against the need for a light bulb. However, if in your own journey, you have found that light bulbs work for you, that is fine. You are invited to write a poem or compose a modern dance about your personal relationship with your light bulb. Present it next month at our annual Light Bulb Sunday Service, in which we will explore a number of light bulb traditions, including incandescent, fluorescent, 3-way, long-life, and tinted, all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence.



Modern UU Minister

She is the very model of a modern UU minister

She's pastoral and personal with power to administer

She knows the leaders of the church and quotes their deeds historical

From Civitus to Sigismund in order categorical.

She's very well acquainted too with matters metaphysical

And understands equations and conundrums that are quizzical

About her sermonizing she has leanings toward the comical

She's flowing and so rhythmical and also economical.

She's flowing and so rhythmical and also economical.

She's flowing and so rhythmical and also economical.

She's flowing and so rhythmical and also economi-nomi-cal.

She's beautiful and praisable and also philosophical

Magnifical, majestic, and highly philanthropical

With matters problematical, she's able to administer

She is the very model of a modern UU minister!

She's very good at integrating many different points of view

And knows the world religions and recites the text of Old and New

In short, she sees the good in all and so removes the sinister

And is the very model of a modern UU minister.

And when she finds the perfect myth, she plies it with the tactical

By analyzing and describing in a way most practical.

To make her point without dissent, she is a true superior

She has a knack for using tact that won't hurt your interior.

She has a knack for using tact that won't hurt your interior.

She has a knack for using tact that won't hurt your interior.

She has a knack for using tact that won't hurt your interi-teri-or.

She's mythical and biblical and often metaphorical

She's lyrical, empirical, she truly is an oracle.

Political and ethical, with talent to administer

She is the very model of a modern UU minister!



Tune: "Modern Major General" by Gilbert & Sullivan

Words: © 1999 by Edward Simon Eckert and

Madeleine Devereaux Eckert

Source: The Eckert Song Collection

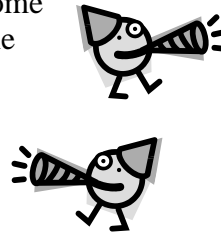
WE NEED HELP...

if we're going to make the Fellowship Auction happen on Feb 19.

The more people, the smaller the jobs! Please volunteer to:



- help with the children's program
- make a gift basket to be raffled
- call and invite people to come
- sit at the admissions table
- help with the database
- collect payments
- sell raffle tickets
- help with set-up
- help with food



Some jobs can be done now, others in February; some are easy peasy and very time limited, others are a little bigger. Let's figure out what works for you. Remember, this is the 2nd biggest fund-raising event UUCP produces. It can't happen without your help and it's FUN!
Contact **Laurie Powsner** ASAP: lrpjak@gmail.com or 921-3032.



SAVE THE DATE!

FELLOWSHIP AUCTION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 5:30 – 8:00 PM

Fun for Adults: Eat, bid, drink, bid, eat, bid, drink, bid – Win!

Fun for Children: Crafts, Games, Dinner and a Movie!

The Fellowship Auction is a fun, intergenerational, community-building event, where we share our services, talents, art and other goodies with each other through bidding. It's a fun way to get to know each other better, both at the auction and when you cash in on your winnings. During the evening we will have great food, wine and beer, music and, of course, FELLOWSHIP!

The Fellowship Auction is fun, fun, fun, but it's also the biggest fund-raising event we produce to support the work of our congregation. But, we can only raise the money we need **IF YOU COME TO THE AUCTION!** We've scheduled it early in the evening (and made it a little shorter) and planned a great children's program, so be there! ~Laurie Powsner

Grace Notes

Still Feeling the Glow: "Lying to the Sea Gypsy"

If you were there, you know how moved and delighted you were. If you weren't there, you're probably kicking yourself because of comments you've heard about it. This was our first offering in Fahs Theater which we hope will be a continuing tradition of intergenerational stage presentations here at UUCP. With **Kiya Heartwood's** brilliant tale and score about the double-edged sword of getting what you wish for, members from all walks of the congregation joined together to present a lively and witty tale of the open seas. Our thanks to Kiya for sharing her work with us, only one of the works she'll be presenting as part of her Composer-in-Residency this year.

Music Ministry Ensembles Encourage Your Participation

Adult Choir. There's always room for *your* voice. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7:30pm til 9:00pm. Singers of all stripes are welcome. Come try it some Wednesday evening – no obligation!

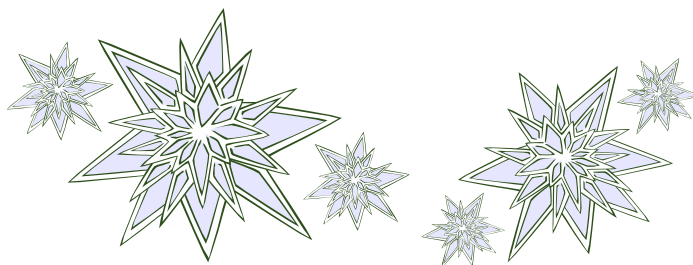
Bell Choir. Our new third octave means that more ringers are needed. Rehearsals are generally every other Thursday and continue on Sept. 30. Previous ringing experience and rudimentary knowledge of music reading are pluses, but not essential.

Kids Chorale. We'd love to welcome your child (ren) to the ranks of the Kids' Chorale this season. The Kids' rehearse on Sundays between services beginning Sept. 26 in Room 2, and we have some terrific music to learn for services this year.

For all information on joining our ensembles, contact Marjorie at marjmuse@optonline.net, or call Marjorie at 609-924-1604, ext. 16.

JANUARY HYMN OF THE MONTH

Our "Hymn of the Month," is No. 8: *Mother Spirit, Father Spirit*. Norbert Čapek (1870-1942) penned both music and words for this simple but affecting hymn. He was raised as a Baptist in Czechoslovakia, but when he visited a Unitarian church in Orange, NJ in the 1920s he realized that this was his true religion. Returning home, he founded the Unitarian Church of Prague where he served as minister for many years. He was killed at Dachau concentration camp in 1942 for speaking out against Nazi persecution. The English version of the text is by Richard Frederick Boeke, another Baptist minister turned Unitarian in 1959.



Music Ministry Mission Statement

To provide, through the power of music, a dynamic ministry that will inspire transcendent personal experiences, draw the congregation into greater kinship, and bring inspiration to the wider community.



Sunday Serenades 2010-11. Mark your calendar for the following dates:

- **Friday***, February 25, 7:30 p.m. **Craig Rubano** in Concert (with **Beth Ertz**)
- Sunday, March 27, 3:00 p.m. *Heart to a Different Drummer*, with singer/songwriter/drummer Sharon Silverstein and friends
- Sunday, May 1, 3:00 p.m. *Voices of the Feminine—An Emerging Story*. Music Ministry Spring Concert featuring an original work by Kiya Heartwood.

*Please note: this event will be performed on **Friday**.



**Ministerial
Search Committee**

THE SEARCH CONTINUES...

November and December were busy and intense months for us. After our Congregational Record went “live” on the UUA website, we eagerly awaited the first names to appear on the list of ministers interested in coming to UUCP. When we reached eight names, we were delighted that we had so many to choose from. At last count, we were at twenty-eight! The candidates varied in age and experience and were about equally divided between men and women.

We exchanged packets with twelve of the candidates. You can view our packet on the members’ section of our UUCP website. The packets sent by the ministers (all electronic but one) contained 100 or more pages of background information, written versions of sermons, discussion of their leadership style and experiences in their current/past congregations, letters of recommendation, and, delightfully, photographs. As we began to narrow our search to six potential pre-candidates, we had to say good-bye to Diana, as she moved with her family to New Orleans. We miss her energy, insights, and expertise, but we carry on.

With the six potential pre-candidates chosen (three women and three men), we conducted telephone interviews between the committee as a whole and each candidate. We all found this experience to be important in revealing still other facets of our candidates, in some cases confirming what we already thought, in others, giving us new information to digest. We divided up the task of interviewing the district executives for each candidate, as well as additional names provided by the candidates themselves.

We have chosen our three pre-candidates and scheduled their visits to neutral pulpits in January and

February. They are all strong candidates who have much to offer to UUCP.

During the phone interviews, one minister asked us what we had learned from our experience of being on the Search Committee, and another asked for an experience at UUCP that was fun for us. Although our answers varied, for all of us, being on the Search Committee ranked right up there as one of the most important and most rewarding experiences we have had at UUCP.

~ Kathy, Carl, Linda, Pete, Sharon, and Susan

Legislative Ministry

Update on Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of NJ (UULMNJ)

During December:

- UULM continues to work with other advocacy groups to generate support for **affordable housing** in NJ. Joining other advocacy groups, UULM task force members met with legislative leadership to present our views and suggest amendments to the proposed legislation. Recent versions of the bill indicate some changes that we support.
- We joined with other advocates in the **Mary and Joseph legislative walk** on December 16 to make the case for legislation that will support **affordable housing in NJ**. The legislative walk links the journey of Mary and Joseph to find a place to stay in the town of Bethlehem with the same struggle of many New Jersey families to find an affordable home in the town where they work or grew up.
- On the national level, we have worked in cooperation with UUA to support passage of the

DREAM Act by contacting our legislators. The U.S. House voted 216 to 198 in favor of the DREAM Act on December 8, 2010 - but, the prospects of success in the lame-duck Senate session is less hopeful but still possible. The DREAM (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) Act would allow hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants brought to this country as minors to legalize their status by attending college or serving in the military.

Upcoming Events:

- **Rev. Julia Hamilton, the UULMNJ Executive Director**, will present the **Sunday Services on January 16, 2011**. There will be an opportunity after each service to discuss issues with Julia and to learn more about UULM.
- We will be sponsoring a **Forum after the second service in March 20, 2011 by Herb Levine, Director of Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness** who will speak on Mercer County programs.
- Please stop by the **Legislative Ministry Action Table** which is available on several Sundays each month after the services to get more information on immigration policy issues and the affordable housing issue. You also have the opportunity to sign up for the UULMNJ e-mail communications. More information is available at www.uulmnj.org.
~Karen Siracusa and Frances Prestianni, co-liaisons for UULM

Joys and Sorrows

To help nurture a beloved community here in this congregation, please remember to share significant events in members' lives with the Pastoral Associates, who are charged with extending the pastoral ministry. This column is a place to inform the larger community of major events in people's lives. Sometimes people want to have their news shared; sometimes privacy and confidentiality prevail. Items for this column should be sent to skylights@uuprinceton.org. All items will be reviewed by the Pastoral Associate leadership team before printing (Jon Krejci, Elizabeth Silverman., and Rev. Chris Reed)

Betty Ashwood would like members and friends to know that she is half way through her chemotherapy treatment (hooray!) and will begin radiation sometime in February. Once that's over, you can count on seeing her around the UUCP a little more often than you do now. She greatly appreciates the messages of support and good wishes she has received from the good folks of the congregation.

Pat Lange just started chemotherapy in mid-December. She is in good spirits and bracing herself for what is to come. Short visits are welcome, but please call first as they do have a busy schedule with visiting nurses and doctor appointments. Phone calls are also welcome, but keep in mind that her energy level is being challenged. If you want more information, please don't hesitate to call Vicky Campbell, her Pastoral Associate, at 609-731-0753.

Peace is Oneness is another way of saying that we're all spiritually one. This new book explores a new vision of science and religion from author and psychology expert **Hilton Anderson**. Hil's new book, which includes some of his poetry, is available at the UUCP bookstore on Sunday mornings.

COFFEE HONOR ROLL



Let's make a New Year's resolution to have 52 new (and old) names on the

COFFEE HOUR HONOR ROLL in 2011.

Sign up for your turn. On Winter Sundays, people are really grateful for hot beverages. The New Year coffee sign-up sheet will be in the lounge December 26 and January 2 and all Sundays thereafter.

Happy Solstice and Happy 2011.
~Carol Allen, Ad Hoc Coffee Committee



Our Beautiful Tree and Greens

Thanks go to **Bart Hoebel** and daughter **Valerie**,

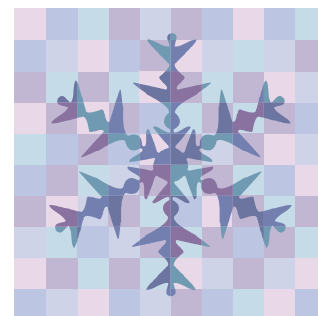
and **Pete Gerster** and **Ted Ellicott** for getting the tree to the church, and to **Jim Sturm**, **Andres Jerez**, **Andrew Doty** and **Bill Gillum** for putting it up. Plus, we had some extra volunteers who were willing to help but in the end didn't need to be there. The Greens were donated by **Stephanie** and **Bob Harris**. This was a real community effort. Thanks to **Ted Fetter** for coordinating!



The Ultimate test of man's (sic) conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard.

U.S. Senator from WI -Gaylord Nelson (1916-2005)

~submitted by Ray Nichols



The UUCP Relational Covenant

Our covenant affirms a commitment to build loving, healthy and trusting relationships within our congregation. We make these promises in order to love better, relate more compassionately and feel the power of our human connections.

Our Promises:

- ◆ We warmly welcome all.
- ◆ We speak with honesty, respect and compassion.
- ◆ We listen attentively.
- ◆ We express gratitude for the service of others.
- ◆ We honor and support one another in our spiritual journeys and in times of joy, need and struggle.
- ◆ We embrace our diversity and the opportunity to share our different perspectives.
- ◆ We address our disagreements directly and openly and see conflict through to an authentic resolution.
- ◆ We serve our spiritual community with generosity and joy.
- ◆ We strive to keep these promises, but when we fall short, we forgive ourselves and others and begin again in love.

January 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 2:00pm-UUCP Art Show [Founders]
2 9:15am-Worship Service 10:35am-Kids' Chorale [Room 2] 11:15am-Worship Service 11:15am-Course in Miracles [Room 8] 12:30pm-Newcomers' Circle [1st Sun][Murray] 1:00pm-Meditation & Dis cussion Grp [Rm 1]	3 Office Closed - New Years 12:40pm-Meditation & Discou Grp [Rm 1] 7:00pm-Ministerial Search Comm [Founders] 7:30pm-Covenant Circle 1st Mon [Murray]	4 7:00pm-RE Council [Founders]	5 7:00pm-Covenant Circle 1st Wed [Murray] 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal [Channing]	6 9:15am-Gentle Yoga Thursdays [Founders] 7:15pm-Covenant Circle 1st Thurs [Murray] 7:30pm-Bell Choir Reheasal [Channing]	7 10:00am-Women's Alliance Board [Murray]	8 8:30am-Trenton Habitat Workday [off site] 8:30am-Pastoral Associates [Murray] 9:00am-Exploring UU for Newcomers [Meg's] 1:00pm-Great Books Reading Circle [off s
9 9:15am-Worship Service 10:15am-Chat with the Boar d of Trustees [Ro 10:15am-Green Sanctuary UU Connections [R 7 10:35am-Kids' Chorale [Room 2] 11:15am-Worship Service 11:15am-Course in Miracles [Room 8] 12:30pm-RE Council Meetin [Murray]	10 5:00pm-Next Monday is Skylights Deadline! 7:00pm-Ministerial Search Comm [Founders]	11 10:00am-Men's Club Lunch Prep [Kitchen] 11:30am-Men's Club [Founders] 7:00pm-BOT Meeting [Foun	12 10:30am-Aging & Saging 2d & 4t Wed [Murray] 1:00pm-Office Staff Meeting [Founders] 7:00pm-Adult Program Meeting [Founders] 7:15pm-Covenant Circle 2d & 4h Wed [Murray] 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal [Channing]	13 9:15am-Gentle Yoga Thursdays [Founders]	14	15 8:30am-Program Council Meeting [Murray]
16 9:15am-Worship Service 10:15am-Talk Back with Rev. Julia Hamilton 10:35am-Kids' Chorale [Room 2] 11:15am-Worship Service 11:15am-Course in Miracles [Room 8] 12:15pm-Talk Back with Rev. Julia Hamilton 1:00pm-Meditation & Dis cussion Grp [Rm 1] 6:30pm-Women's Spiritualit Circle [Murray]	17 Office Closed - MLK B-Day 5:00pm-DEADLINE for Skylights articles 7:00pm-Ministerial Search Comm [Founders]	18 7:00pm-Committee on Ministry [Murray]	19 7:15pm-Membership Committee [Murray] 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal [Channing]	20 9:15am-Gentle Yoga Thursdays [Channing] 11:45am-Women's Alliance Luncheon [Founders 7:00pm-Circle Leaders' Meeting[Murray] 7:30pm-Bell Choir Reheasal [Channing]	21 7:00pm-CUUPS Full Moon Circle [Room 1]	22
23 9:15am-Worship Service 10:35am-Kids' Chorale [Room 2] 11:15am-Worship Service 11:15am-Course in Miracles [Room 8]	24 7:00pm-Ministerial Search Comm [Founders]	25 7:00pm-Leadership Council [Murray]	26 10:30am-Aging & Saging 2d & 4t Wed [Murray] 7:15pm-Covenant Circle 2d & 4h Wed [Murray] 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal [Channing]	27 8:30am-Ministers' Meeting [Murray] 9:15am-Gentle Yoga Thursdays [Founders]	28	29
30 9:15am-Worship Service 10:15am-Telling Our Stories Marie Sturken 10:35am-Kids' Chorale [Room 2] 11:15am-Worship Service 11:15am-Course in Miracles [Room 8] 1:00pm-Meditation & Dis cussion Grp [Rm 1]	31 7:00pm-Ministerial Search Comm [Founders]	1 7:00pm-RE Council [Founders]	2 7:00pm-Covenant Circle 1st Wed [Murray] 7:30pm-Adult Choir Rehearsal [Channing]	3 9:15am-Gentle Yoga Thursdays [Founders] 7:15pm-Covenant Circle 1st Thurs [Murray] 7:30pm-Bell Choir Reheasal [Channing]	4 10:00am-Women's Alliance Board [Murray]	5



View the current calendar online at:

www.uuprinceton.org

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Ministers' Schedules

Rev. Meg Barnhouse and **Rev. Chris Reed** observe the following office hours:

Meg

Noon – 5:00 p.m.
Tues through Thurs
Day off: Monday
Study day: Friday

Chris

Mon Noon – 5:00 p.m.
Tues & Thurs 10:30 a.m.
—3:30 p.m.

Day off: WEDNESDAY
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 Jonathan Sachs, President of the Board of Trustees,
president@uuprinceton.org



Names & Numbers

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reed@uuprinceton.org

Co-minister ext. **12**

Rev. Meg Barnhouse

barnhouse@uuprinceton.org

Interim Minister ext. **11**

Marjorie Herman

marjmuse@optonline.net

Music Director ext. **16**

Shelle Sumners

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Jorge Garcia Salas

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Sexton ext. **19**

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About Skylights

Submissions to be sent to
skylights@uuprinceton.org

Please submit your article as an attachment in our preferred font, Times New Roman, 11 pt. Describe your submission in the subject line of your e-mail and tell us under which section it belongs.

Next Skylights
deadline:
FEBRUARY ISSUE
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JAN 17
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