



The BEACON

July 19, 2010

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton, New York

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ARTICLE:**

Please e-mail to the above
address, or a leave a hard
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NEXT BEACON

DEADLINE:

**Friday,
August 13**

*Items received past
the deadline will be
included in
subsequent issues.*

Upcoming Sunday Services: 10 a.m. only

July 25 "Points of Reference" Eric Cotts

We believe in the inherent dignity of each individual; do you believe you have inherent identity? How do we decide who to become?

Aug. 1 "The Precautionary Principle and Drilling in the Marcellus Shale" Rev. Darcey Laine

If we think something, might be dangerous, the precautionary principle tells us to wait until we find out otherwise. How does this UU principle relate to current environmental quandaries like hydro-fracking?

Aug. 8 "A Polytheism of Selfhood" Rev. David Leonard

Each of us is really many selves; different persons in different circumstances. The "true self" must something that unifies our varied faces. But when we search for it, who's doing the searching?

Aug. 15 "Making Meaning in a Random Universe." A sermon by Rev. Jane Rzepka, read by Gail Elyse Schmick

Calendar

Sat., July 24

9 a.m., Pilates; 1 p.m., Tai Chi

Sun., July 25

10 a.m., Worship 11:30 a.m., Zen of Drawing;
noon, party for Eric Loeb; 7 p.m., CUUPS Full Moon
Ritual

Mon., July 26

6:15 p.m., Parents' SGM; 7 p.m., SGM;
7 p.m., Poetry Group

Tues., July 27

6 p.m., SGM

Weds., July 28

10 a.m., SGM; 6:30 p.m., SGM

Thurs., July 29

7 p.m., CUUPS meeting

Sat., July 31

9 a.m., Pilates; 1 p.m., Tai Chi

Sun., Aug. 1

10 a.m., Worship; 11:30 a.m., Zen of Drawing

Mon.-Sat., Aug. 2-7

Floor waxing/carpet cleaning, no meetings

Fri.-Sun., Aug. 6-8

UUCB Camping Weekend, Salt Springs Park

Sun., Aug. 8

10 a.m. Worship; 11:30 a.m., Zen of Drawing;
11:30 a.m., South Side Cluster picnic

Mon., Aug. 9

6:15 p.m., Parents' SGM;

Tues., Aug. 10

6 p.m., SGM; 7 p.m., Finance C'mte; 7 p.m., Peace Action

Wed., Aug. 11

10 a.m., SGM; 6:30 p.m., Buddhist Meditation;

Thurs., Aug. 12

7 p.m., CUUPS ritual

Sat., Aug. 14

9 a.m., Pilates; 1 p.m., Tai Chi

(Calendar continued on page 3)

REflections

DRE Lynn Garman is away through July 25 on vacation and professional development. Summer hours by appointment only. Call 729-1641 or e-mail DRE@uubinghamton.org.

Faith development is a life-long process that starts in the nursery and continues through a wide variety of activities, workshops, experiences both within and outside of congregational walls for children, youth, young adults, adults and families. Exploring religious truth, meaning and experience is central to Unitarian Universalist faith, and faith development is central to our liberal religious education.

St. Lawrence District website

A lifespan learning community is a community which intentionally encourages and creates opportunity for spiritual growth and learning at all ages of our lives and all stages of our faith development. . . What marks a lifespan learning community is its intention, its willingness and its forethought to setting an environment of growth and learning for all.

Canadian Unitarian Council

Our Lifespan Visioning Team has been charged with developing a vision and structure for lifelong learning within our congregation that supports spiritual growth and learning for all ages and all stages of faith development. We have been gathering information from throughout our congregation, and will continue this process in the fall. To date, here are some of the things we have heard most consistently:

Whatever the terminology (religious education, faith development, spiritual growth), we have diverse and varied responses to the language

There is general satisfaction with children's religious education programming, small group ministry, classes like *Articulating Your Faith*, *Breaking Free*, poetry group, and social justice and environmental forums

Opportunities to learn more about other religious belief systems and cultures, including interfacing with community religious groups

Many would like an adult or older youth version of our Coming of Age program
Alternative, participatory worship opportunities

More multigenerational or intergenerational connection and learning
Book and movie discussions on UU/spiritual related topics
Progressive learning about Unitarian Universalism and our congregation

We hope you will stay tuned as this process continues, and join in the conversation when opportunities arise, as we are co-creating the congregation of our common dreams.

~in joy, Lynn

Culture Camp: Summer RE

Culture Camp integrates peacemaking activities with cultural exploration linked to our Unitarian Universalist Principles. The program for ages 5–12 year olds is scheduled to run through August 29, concurrent with our morning worship. Our summer travel takes us around the world and includes stops in Australia, India, Morocco, Ghana, Brazil and more.

Summer religious education is a cooperative venture, and depends on your participation and leadership to happen. Please sign up in the Social Hall, or contact Lynn Garman or Jessie Cornell for further information.

CUUPS Corner

CUUPS (The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) welcomes all to participate in our pagan-oriented events. We facilitate a Pagan-oriented discussion night, a ritual night, and a Wiccan based Full Moon celebration every month. All levels of experience are welcome, all we ask is that you have an open mind and a willingness to participate with the group.

Sunday, July 25 at 7 p.m. in the Social Hall — CUUPS Full Moon ritual. Charge of God and Goddess.

Thursday, July 29 at 7 p.m. in the Social Hall — Discussion of Stones and Gemstones both purchased and found. We will discuss the importance of them in our daily lives. Bring in your favorite to show and discuss with the group.

Thursday, August 12 at 7 p.m. in the Social Hall — CUUPS Ritual

Rev. Douglas Taylor is on study leave through mid-August. In case of pastoral emergency, call him at 221-4638.

Standing on the Side of Love Donations
Food Donations for The Community Nutrition Project
CHOW: Non perishable foods for local community food pantries.

FOOD NOT BOMBS: Items to prepare a weekly vegan meal for about 40 people weekly at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Especially needed are cooking oils, legumes, brown rice.

PERSONAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS: To be distributed at the community meals at Trinity Memorial, Food Not Bombs, or the CHOW prison ministry. These items cannot be purchased with food stamps. Items needed are soap, shampoo, conditioner, tooth paste, tooth brushes, mouth wash, shaving supplies, and lotions. Hotel size packages welcome.

Eric Loeb's 80th birthday party **Sun., July 25, noon-5 p.m.**

All invited. Potluck (bring dish to pass and table setting), dancing, Morris jig demo, cake and other ceremonial activities, singing and jamming. Gifts unnecessary. Donations OK to: N.Y. Residents Against Drilling (NYRAD.org), Broome Peace Action, or the Social Justice Committee of UU Congregation of Binghamton. This is NOT a surprise party. Questions: Call Lois Einhorn, (xxx)xxx-xxxx.

Leadership Development

St. Lawrence District Consultant Jeanne Crane will be here August 28 to offer a workshop on Leadership Development, specifically designed to address the needs of UUCB. If you have thought about getting more involved in what's going on at UUCB, this is a great opportunity. The workshop begins with a light breakfast and ends in the afternoon (time to be determined). Lunch will be provided. To attend, please call Addie Deacon by August 15.

UUCB Family Camping Trip/Picnic

The RE Committee invites you to a weekend of fun and fellowship at Salt Springs Park, near Montrose, PA. There will a large group site for camping Aug. 6-8, and a congregational picnic on Sat., Aug. 7

Don't want to camp? Join us for the day. Picnic starts at 10 a.m. Bring a lawn chair, your favorite beverage and a dish to share This event is rain or shine. To RSVP, or for more information, contact Jeff Deacon.

Calendar (continued from page 1)

Sun., Aug. 15: 10 a.m., Worship;
11:30 a.m., Zen of Drawing;
12:30 p.m., GLBTC Movie
Mon., Aug. 16: 7:30 p.m., PFLAG
Tues., Aug. 17: 7 p.m., Program Council
Weds., Aug. 18: 6:30 p.m., Buddhist
Meditation; 7 p.m., Worship
Committee; 7 p.m., Vets for
Peace
Thurs., Aug. 19: 4:15 p.m., Adult RE C'mtee;
6:30 p.m., Board meeting
Sat., Aug. 21: 9 a.m., Pilates;
1 a.m., Tai Chi
Sun., Aug. 22: 10 a.m. Worship;
11:15 a.m., Congregational
meeting for SH carpet vote;
6:30 p.m., CUUPs Full Moon
Ritual

Congregational Meeting for Carpet

The carpet in the Social Hall is badly in need of replacement. This fact has been discussed for some time, including at our June congregational meeting. Several avenues have been explored for paying for this much needed maintenance, including our operating budget and our memorial fund, neither of which were possible.

The congregation has a healthy reserve, added to by a small surplus this year, from which we could spend the roughly \$6,000 for a new carpet. However, our By-Laws state that any unbudgeted expenditure exceeding \$1,500 must be approved by a congregational vote.

Right now, several bids are being sought to find the best price. We will hold a Congregational Meeting on August 22 at 11:15 a.m. to decide whether to use funds from our reserves to purchase the carpet. Only members in good standing will be able to vote, although all are welcome to attend the meeting.

We will need a quorum of about 40 members for a valid vote, so we encourage all who can attend to do so. A more precise proposal will be made at the meeting with the figures being gathered. We hope to get the carpet installed before the beginning of the church year, if it meets with congregational approval.



The BEACON

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION OF BINGHAMTON**

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The Unitarian
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SUMMER WORSHIP
SERVICES
OFFERED AT
10 A.M.
SEE FRONT PAGE**