

NOVEMBER 2024

THE BEACON



Newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton

October Sunday Services

ALL SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:30AM

November 3 Memory Tree Taylor and Cooke

The Day of the Dead, Halloween, Samhain, and All Souls Day are all different cultural invitations into honoring the transition from life to death, of remembering loved ones whom we have lost. This Sunday we will host a Memory Tree ritual together for our First Sunday worship.

November 10 To Show an Affirming Flame Douglas Taylor

W.H. Auden wrote “September 1, 1939” about WWII. Our work remains: to build solidarity, to uphold justice, to shine our light, and love bravely in a world too full of desperate loneliness and alienation.

November 17 So All May Be Fed Taylor and Cooke

Join us for another celebration of gratitude, gathered around the table together. With song and story, reflection and even a little food - our worship for all ages has something for everyone.

STAFF:

Minister: Reverend Douglas Taylor
Board President:
Kate Thorpe
Director of Family
Ministry: Dylan Cooke
Music Director: Vicky Gordon
Office Administrator and
Membership Coordinator:
Karen Manzer

HOURS:

Office Hours: 9:00am to
1:00pm M-F closed on
Wednesday

Worship Services: Sundays
at 10:30am

Children and Youth
Programs: Sundays at
10:30am
Nursery Care during
services

HOW TO CONTACT US:

183 Riverside Drive
Binghamton, NY 13905
Phone: 607.729.1641
Email:
office@uubinghamton.org
www.uubinghamton.org

Beacon Newsletter
Deadline: Noon on the last
Friday of each month.





Splinters from the Board

FEAST: At our October Board Meeting, we approved a space usage contract with FEAST (Finding Educational Alternatives in the Southern Tier), a secular home-schooling cooperative. This is the group with whom Douglas and Sidra educated their children and from which our own Dylan Cooke was the first graduate. FEAST will be using the café, social hall, classrooms #3, #4 and #5 (thank you Youth Group for being willing to share) and #6 (the Rainbow Room) most Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Please remember to check our calendar when planning your events. In addition, FEAST will be installing a shelf system downstairs in Rm 12 to store some of their materials. We are thrilled to welcome FEAST to our building and hope that you introduce yourselves to them if you find yourself in the building on a Thursday.

Burn the Mortgage: In addition, the Board has approved the commencement of a “Burn the Mortgage” campaign to retire our building debt before our loan rate more than doubles. If you haven’t already, you will hear lots more soon. Please consider what you can do to meet this challenge and help free us from this burden before it really becomes costly!

Help Wanted!: Your congregation functions largely through volunteer efforts. Currently we need a chair (or pair of co-chairs) for our Spring Stewardship Campaign. We also need someone to fill a 1 year position on our Personnel Committee and we are also recruiting for people to join the Long Range Plan team. If you are interested or even just curious, please contact Kate Thorpe or anyone on the Board (board@uubinghamton.org).

In Service with Love,
Kate Thorpe- Board President

Burn the Mortgage Campaign

UUCB proudly welcomes members and friends to our beautifully renovated building. Over the past few years, we have completed a \$2 million renovation.

The UUCB Board of Trustees is undertaking a Burn the Mortgage campaign, in an effort to be debt free by October 2025, when the interest rate on our mortgage is scheduled to go from 4% to approximately 11%. The balance on our mortgage as of October 2025 will be \$227,000.

We've got this!

Look for more information in a letter and pledge card coming to your home shortly.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about how you might help

Burn the Mortgage with contributions in the 2024 and 2025 tax years, feel free to reach out to members of the Burn the Mortgage taskforce--Kathleen McKenna, Emily Hotchkiss-Plowe, Gay Canough, and Eric Cotts.

HeaRT Is Ready to Serve!

The Healthy Relations Team (HeaRT) would like to remind everyone that we are available to help you with any conflicts or communication issues - in committees, or between individuals. Healthy conflict is good. It is part of hearing all voices and perspectives. But sometimes disagreements can lead to hurt feelings, or we can get stuck. In those situations, HeaRT is here to help. And it's always better to ask for help sooner rather than later. You can reach out to us at heart@uubinghamton.org. We look forward to hearing from you!



Adult Choir is Seeking New Members

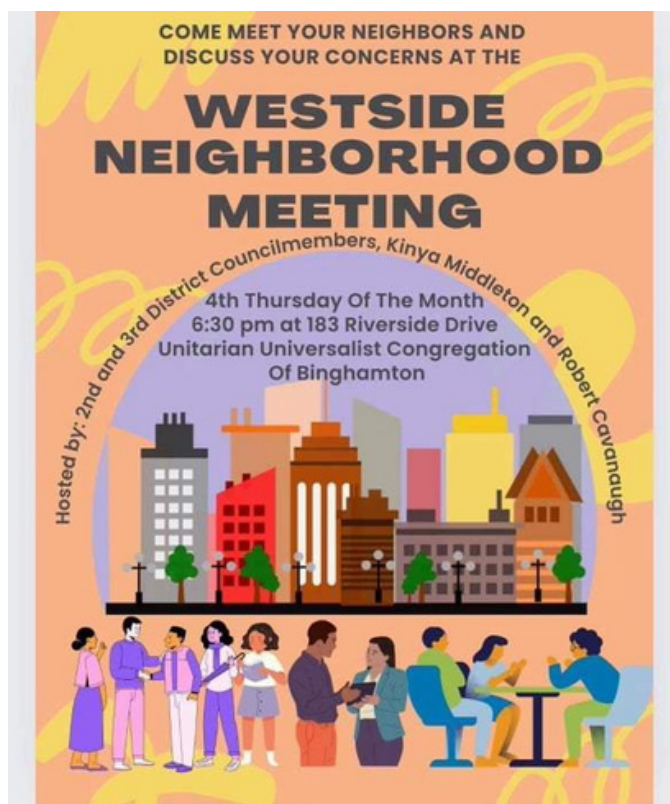
There is nothing more uplifting than being part of a vocal community, and the choir's contribution is a vital part of our Sunday worship together.

We are a welcoming group of enthusiastic and welcoming people who join in our love of music and desire to express ourselves through song. We embrace a variety of musical styles (e.g. spirituals, show music, classical, folk), and encompass a range of musical backgrounds. You need not have a "trained" voice to participate. The ability to sight-read is also not required.

Rehearsals are weekly from 6:30 – 8 on Thursday evenings in the sanctuary. Please consider joining us for our first rehearsal on August 29.

The choir typically sings twice a month. However, there is great flexibility. If you are only able to join us for one song or a few months, that is fine. You needn't feel that you have to make a long-term commitment (although that would please me!).

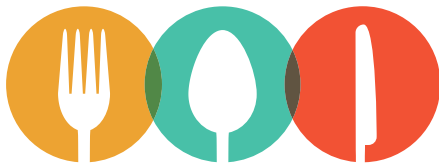
If you have any questions or just want to know more about the choir, please call or text me at 607-222-5836 or e-mail me at vgordon2763@gmail.com.



Westside Neighborhood Meetings

If you live on the Westside of Binghamton, you are invited to attend the monthly neighborhood meetings held at UUCB on the 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30pm.

These meetings are hosted by 2nd and 3rd district councilmembers Kinya Middleton and Robert Cavanaugh and are a good place to find out about changes and information about your neighborhood.



2nd Saturday Suppers



Cranberry Coffeehouse

Our favorite dinner spot is opening again this Fall. UUCB will once again host a delicious and nutritious home cooked meal for a very affordable price on the second Saturday of each month. Thank you to Nancy Knipscher and Lisa Sienkiewicz for cooking these meal as a fundraiser for UUCB.

November 9 – stuffed peppers, Texas toast, carrot cake

Format/prices will remain the same- \$6 main dish, \$3 side dish, \$3 dessert. Folks are encouraged to eat in or bring own containers for take out. Cash is preferred.

We will be taking December off as we will both be involved with the Art and Gift Sale kitchen again. Second Saturday Suppers will resume in January.

This will continue to be a general fund fundraiser.

Cranberry Coffeehouse hosts a live music performance on the 3rd Saturday of each month in the UUCB sanctuary. Suggested donated for these events is \$10 per person but no one will be turned away for an inability to pay.

Coffee, tea and treats are available for purchase and the proceeds form those sales benefits UUCB.

Please Note: Concerts have moved to 7:00 pm (they used to be at 7:30 pm).

Saturday, November 16: Steve Strauss

Saturday, December 21: Bells & Motley (Sondra & John Bromka)

More information (including artist descriptions) is available at the website (cranberrycoffeehouse.org).

UUCB HOSTS DINNER TO FEED THE COMMUNITY

We are teaming up with The Beloved Community to host a big Thanksgiving Dinner in the UUCB social hall on November 30 from 3-6pm. It is called the Thanksgiving Gobbler and we need everyone's helpful hands to pull this off! Watch for emails, Facebook posts and other announcements with information about how you can be a part of this.

Happy Thanksgiving



UUCB Family Ministry



Looking at this coming congregational year we will have offerings for children of all ages!

Nursery care will continue to be offered every Sunday morning unless specified otherwise. Our youngest kiddos can expect structured and unstructured time with our staff.

Starting Sunday September 15th Elementary and Middle classes will be kicking off using the Soul Matters Curriculum. Children will get to explore their curiosity with a dive into our newly voted in article 2 changes and how that interacts with our greater communities as we live out our mission.

Youth Group is looking to start up meetings again this year. Look out for more information to come as the group plots its course through the congregational year.

For more information contact Dylan Cooke at dfm@uubinghamton.org

Join Us for Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience

Date: Sunday, November 17, 2024

Time: 7 PM

Location: Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Binghamton

The Rainbow Alliance and Social Action HUUB invites everyone to come together to honor the lives lost to transphobic violence and celebrate the resilience of the transgender community.

There will be a service and then a time of community connection over refreshments.

How You Can Help:

If you are transgender or gender non-conforming and want to help Alex with the service, contact him at lexkae@gmail.com

If you support the trans community and want to help with hospitality, contact Catherine at catherinemagdala613@gmail.com.

We will need finger foods, baked goods, and beverages donations and help setting up and cleaning up.



Last Sunday Lunch

Karen Manzer is not able to help with the last Sunday Lunch on November 24. If you would like to take the lead on this, please email her at office@uubinghamton.org

Our full calendar of events is at uubinghamton.org

Dining for Dollars - Dinner and a Show

with Douglas Taylor

November 10th starting at 6:00 pm

Our play is "The Thanksgiving Play" by Larissa FastHorse. We will offer it in the Readers Theater style. "Good intentions collide with absurd assumptions in Larissa FastHorse's wickedly funny satire, as a troupe of terminally "woke" teaching artists scrambles to create a pageant that somehow manages to celebrate both Turkey Day and Native American Heritage month."

Our meal will be Douglas' famous chili ("not too hot but full of flavor," with both a vegetarian and meat option) along with cornbread, salad, and desert.

This event is part of our 2024 Dining for Dollars and there is still room for others to "bid" and attend. The minimum bid was \$30, so anyone not already signed up can contact Douglas, make a \$30 donation to the congregation, and join us on the 10th!



Halloween Masquerade Ball Planned

The Annual Masquerade Ball Will be held Friday, November 1st from 7 to 11 pm. Join us for light snacks, a Costume contest, Tarot Reading, a Bonfire with smores, and Dancing. Adult drink tickets will be available for purchase at the door. Tickets are on sale after service in the cafe at \$10 for Adults \$5 for Kids under 12. We need help with this fun events! Anyone interested in helping create an amazing night can contact Adeed Wilson at just80w@gmail.com.



Holiday Art and Gift Sale

Our annual fundraiser will be on the weekend of Dec. 7 and 8 this year. Watch for opportunities to sign up to help out with this fun and festive event! If you would like to be a vendor, contact Lynne Theophanis at ltheophanis@gmail.com. Check weekly emails and Facebook for a sign -up genius to sign up for this festive and fun event.

New Virtual Hymnal



The UUA has a task force to design and build a virtual hymnal! Their vision is “to build a living collection of song resources through an accessible, equitable, online platform grounded in UU values.” The virtual hymnal will be full of resources never before available. In addition to the hymns, virtual sheet music will be available for different instruments and in different keys. Historical resources on each hymn will be included. Copyright permissions will be done. Slides will be available for congregations to display in their sanctuaries and online. Very exciting!

This task force asked for congregational teams to apply to beta test this new hymnal, so Jeff Donahue, Douglas Taylor and Vicky Gordon applied ... and we were accepted! We will review all these new features this fall. In December the task force will begin accepting recommendations for new hymns. The virtual hymnal will be unveiled next June at General Assembly in Baltimore.



First Sundays at UUCB

On the first Sunday of each month, our multi-generational worship service offers innovation in the Sunday Service experience. Designed to increase opportunities for connection and explore many different ways to tap into our intellectual, creative and spiritual depths, we gather for a shorter service in the Sanctuary and then spread out for different workshops. The hardest part is often deciding which experience to choose!

- Service 10:30-11:15
- Break 11:15-11:30
- All ages workshops 11:30-12:15
- Social Hour 12:15-12:45

1st Sunday Workshops for November 3rd: “Repair”

“Repair Your Calm: Make Your Own Wind Chime” with Nicole Olivo and Kira Boyle in the Social Hall: Take a moment to sit and listen to the peaceful sounds of your wind chime as we head into the stressful holiday season. All ages welcome!

“Climate Roundtable” with Wes Ernsberger in the Chapel. Let's compare notes about climate change. How has it affected you and your family so far? What emotions arise? What can we do to help minimize future damage and repair the damage that has already taken place? Are there opportunities for us to help create a future where more people can thrive?

“Now and Forever” with the Endowment Committee in the Rainbow Room. Something for now as the renowned Eric Cotts is bringing chocolate chip cookies to the meeting! Forever for the life of our Endowment Fund, which you can learn more about as committee members describe and answer questions in a more personal setting. Please note: You don't have to be rich to be involved in giving to this fund.



ELECTION DAY CHILI AND CORN MUFFIN SALE

Hey UUCB'ers...did you know there is going to be a pretty big ELECTION on Nov. 5??? UUCB will be a polling place for 3 voting districts! We hope to see many visitors that day and welcome them to our building.

To celebrate we will have an ELECTION DAY CHILI AND CORN MUFFIN SALE as a fundraiser for our church. This will be available not only to voters who come in that day, but also for people driving by who see our promo out front. Lisa Sienkiewicz will be our Chili Master Chef for the chili entree (vegetarian). Yet again, thank you, Lisa.

BUT can you help by baking some corn muffins??? We're going to ask you to use the muffin mix we'll provide (you'll add an egg, some milk, and veg oil) and to follow our simple instructions. While we know some of you have a terrific cornbread recipe, we're asking you to use this mix as we hope to have a standard (but also, a really good!) product to offer all our customers.

Starting Wednesday, 10/2), there will be boxes of corn muffin mix in a large bag in the UUCB kitchen, instructions on tweaking this mix just a bit, AND a sign-up sheet (so we'll know whom to thank).

Please take a box or two and plan to bring in the baked muffins Sunday, Nov. 3, or early on Election Day, itself. You may leave your contributions in the kitchen (please leave your name, too).

Thank you for all who will respond to this request and for all that so many in this congregation do to step up. We are blessed.

-Jean Rose-Klein

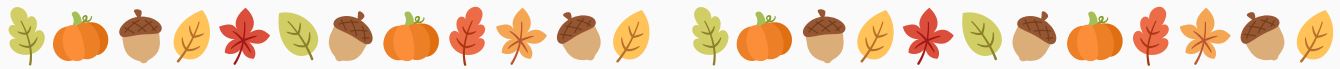


What Are You Reading?

As another way to build connection and a sense of community, Jan Fiore is offering to publish a list of things we have been reading and liking. You are invited to make your suggestion known by sending her an email at janicefiore@gmail.com Either fiction or nonfiction, something you thought was worth reading. I'll include it in the month's Beacon, e-Blast, and UU Facebook page for your consideration.

From Dana Stewart: I'm really enjoying a book called Difficult Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters Most.

I'm also (re-)reading and loving Dante's Divine Comedy, but maybe that doesn't count since I'm reading it for work :-) (Teaching a class on it.) *Actually I'm reading the other book for work too, ha ha. But I'm definitely really enjoying it and getting a lot out of it, personally as well as professionally!*



ONLINE CLASSES WITH REVEREND TAYLOR SCHEDULED

Our ABC Soul Matters SGM (Athens, Binghamton, Cortland “Soul Matters” Small Group Ministry) is a Multi-congregational online session. People are welcome to join any time. We will run 3rd Wednesdays at 6:30 - 8:00 October through May. Co-led by Rev. Douglas Taylor and Becca Boerger. Contact Rev. Taylor for the zoom link.

“Our UU Values” – an ABC conversation

Join us for a multi-congregational online conversation about the “flower” of our new UU Values and Covenant statement. Co-led by Revs Darcey Laine and Douglas Taylor for the Athens, Binghamton, and Cortland UUs. Held on zoom on four Tuesdays from 1-2:30; November 5 & 19
Contact Douglas Taylor dtaylor@uubinghamton.org or Darcey Laine darceylaine@earthlink.net to let us know you plan to attend and to receive the zoom link.

Explore Sexuality & Gender with Critical Thinking!

- Are you curious about sexuality and gender topics?
 - Want a safe space to learn and discuss in your community?
 - Help shape workshops designed for adults like you!
- Join Catherine Magdala for a conversation about Critical Sexuality Studies.
- Learn about this framework for exploring sexuality and gender.
 - Participate in a fun discussion activity.
 - Share your interests and needs through a questionnaire.
 - Help shape her workshops for 2025!
- Limited Space Available!

RSVP by emailing catherinemagdala613@gmail.com

- Indicate your preferred date and time:
- Monday, Nov 4: 6 PM - 8 PM
- Sunday, Nov 10: 12 PM - 2 PM
- Monday, Nov 18: 6 PM - 8 PM
-

If fewer than 5 participants RSVP, the event will be canceled. All those who have RSVPed will receive a courtesy email notification. Take advantage of this opportunity!





Taking Action!

"Here at UUCB, social action is the congregation's work!

The Social Action HUUB exists to support the creation and maintenance of social action teams.

You can either brainstorm an idea for a social action project and then fill out an application on the HUUB bulletin board or sign up to be on someone else's team.

The teams are listed on the bulletin board. If you have any requests, thoughts, or questions, please get in touch with the HUUB at huub@uubinghamton.org.

Please do not offer ideas or request things from HUUB members individually. Please email the whole HUUB. "

Building Bridges Periodical

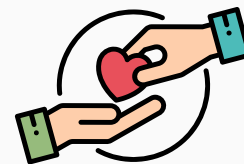
Do you want updates on what is happening in our greater community? Do you like sharing your thoughts and opinions on social justice? Do you enjoy reading other people's thoughts and opinions about social justice?

The Social Action HUUB publishes a monthly periodical called **Building Bridges Periodical**. To subscribe and get the Submission Guidelines, email buildingbridgesmonthly@uubinghamton.org.

POST-ELECTION VIGIL

Wednesday, November 6 at 6:00 pm in the Chapel with Rev. Douglas Taylor. One day after election day, with the results in – which ever way things go, we have set aside time to gather and be together to take what steps we may need to move forward for what will come next.

MONTHLY SPECIAL COLLECTION



Our special collection in November will go to our Sponsor a Family program.

It's almost Sponsor-a-Family time again!

As is our yearly tradition, UUCB, led by our Family Ministry volunteers, will be collecting holiday gifts to distribute to children and families in need.

We will again be partnering with local non-profit agency Mothers and Babies to identify most of our gift recipients. We also are able to provide some gifts to any UUCB affiliated families who are struggling this year.

If you are finding your family in need this holiday season please contact Dylan Cooke for more information about signing up by November 17th.

For everyone else, keep your eye out for wish tags in mid-November and for the November special collection, which will benefit this project. Your generosity makes the holidays brighter for everyone!

PRIDE
COFFEE



Second Saturday
of Each Month
9:30AM

see old friends and make
some new ones!

Centenary Chenango Street
Methodist Church
438 Chenango St., Binghamton NY
13901

Coffee, Teas and Pastries
All Are Welcome!



Each month, we choose a community organization that we can help by collecting donations of items they need. **The Giving Box** is set up in the coatroom and the monthly recipient is noted. If you have any questions about The Giving Box, or have an idea for a recipient who can use our help, you can contact Shawn Steketee at stek@aol.com.

Survivor Watch Party with Sue Smey

Wednesday, November 6 at 7pm—show starts at 8pm. Come watch an episode of Survivor 47 with one of the current contestants— Kirkwood raised Sue Smey, who is a daughter of UUCB congregant Darlyne Mitchell. Bring a snack to share and join us in the sanctuary for a viewing of the show and a meet and greet with Sue!

Bob Dylan Tribute Concert

Sunday, November 10 after the service. Bob Dylan is widely regarded as one of the greatest song writers of all time. In this presentation entitled "A Tribute to the Music of Bob Dylan", a brief history of Dylan's background as well as the honors he has received such as the Kennedy Center Lifetime Achievement and Presidential Medal of Freedom awards will be shown. Peter will sing songs from his early days, emphasizing protest themes as well as themes relevant to interpersonal relationships and Unitarian Universalist principles. Songs will be discussed in their historical context as well as relevance to current times. Join us for a provocative and fun packed afternoon

Elderwisdom Sunday, Nov. 17 at noon in the sanctuary

Join us in the sanctuary for our popular Elderwisdom series. This month, we will hear from long-time UUCB member Gay Canough. Don't miss this opportunity to hear about her interesting life.

Ongoing Events

UUCB Community Drum Circle

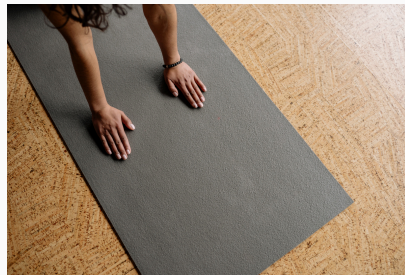
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13 6:30PM

Create a sense of community by joining in our all ages drum circle. The drum circle offers equality because there is no head or tail. It includes people of all ages. The main objective is to share rhythm and get in tune with each other and themselves. Bring your own drum or borrow one of ours. Contact Jenne Micale at Jennemicale@gmail.com for more information.

Beginner Yoga

MONDAYS 5PM

Yoga instructor Irena Trubnikov leads us in a yoga class each Monday. All are welcome. Bring a mat or towel, a water bottle and wear loose comfortable clothing.



Role-Playing Tabletop Games

SATURDAYS 4-7PM

Join us for exciting and fun role-playing games (similar to Dungeons and Dragons) with Dungeon Master Peter Steketee. We meet in the classroom at the end of the hallway.

UU Pagans

UU Pagans is an organization dedicated to networking Pagan-identified Unitarian Universalists (UUs), educating people about Paganism, promoting interfaith dialogue, developing Pagan liturgies and theologies.

Meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at UUCB at 6:30pm.

Depression Support Group

Mondays at 6pm
Anyone who is affected by depression is welcome to join us.

You can find our complete calendar of events at <https://74087865.view-events.com>

If you have an event to add to the calendar, contact Karen Manzer at 607-729-1641 or office@uubinghamton.org



Get Connected

Easy Ways to Get Involved at UUCB



Help the outreach committee do their job! Share info about UUCB and our events on Facebook, in your social circles, and out in the community. Bring a friend to an event or to a UUCB service.

Bring a snack to share for social hour on Sunday.

Social Action: Our Social Action HUUB is looking for your interest and talent! Contact Catherine Magdala at catheriner1312@gmail.com to be on the UUCB social action mailing list.

Sunday Service Associates: We always need new folks to help make the worship service run smoothly. Talk to Kate Thorpe if you would like to help out on a Sunday morning.

Social Hour Team: Talk to Ron Clupper after service on Sundays or call him at 607-727-8516 if you would like to be a part of the team that hosts social hour on Sunday mornings after the service.

Join the Caring Team: Help us identify and reach out to those in our community who need it. Reach out to Karen Manzer at office@uubinghamton.org to find out more.

Sunday Morning Welcome Team: Be on hand on Sunday mornings to welcome visitors, show folks where the coffee is, and more. Reach out to Karen Manzer at office@uubinghamton.org to be a part of this team.

Make your own group or event: Do you have an interest that you would like to share with others? Would you like to start up a monthly crafting group, LGBTQ group, discussion, dance party, movie night? Talk to Karen Manzer about your idea and how it can get added to the UUCB calendar.

Find out about all that is happening at UUCB! Watch for twice a week emails, check out our Facebook group (UUCB Members and Friends) and our public Facebook page. There is a monthly newsletter, The Beacon, available too. There are printed copies of the newsletter in the wall file outside the office and at the info desk, or you can request that a copy be mailed to you at home by asking Karen in the office. Also, check out our calendar of events by clicking the “News and Events” button on our website.