

September  
2011

# Cobblestone News

Unitarian Universalist Church of Cortland: 607-753-0020. Web site: <http://www.uucortland.uuism.org/>



## Superiority

The idea of Superiority is the most seductive idea ever visited upon the human race. It can turn the heart to stone, change warm to cold, yes to no in an instant.

A single sentence, uttered from your pulpits, lecterns and rostrums, by your national congresses and your world summit leaders, could change everything.

“Ours is not a better way, our is merely another way.”

This humble utterance could begin to heal the divisions between your religions, close the gap between your political parties, curb the conflicts between your nations.

With one word you could end them:

“Namaste”: God in me honors God in you.

From *Communion with God*, Neale Donald Walsh

## Chris' Corner

Welcome Back to Another Church Year! This coming Sunday is our traditional “Ingathering Service”. Remember to bring some water from a place you’ve enjoyed this summer and tell us how your summer has been. Rev. Jan Johnson will be with us again this year. She and other members of the Program Committee will provide stimulating Sunday programming for both the forum and services. Hannah Zheng will provide musical accompaniment for our choir, led by Martha Folley, and hymn singing. The Children’s Religious Program will again be directed by Katie Forth.

Our Church Board has been meeting this summer to continue with church business. A new position, Vice President, has been created from within the present Board of Trustees. This person will be “in training” during this church year and then take over the reins of the Board next year. In addition, the Board decided to have a rummage sale during the weekend of the PUMPKIN FEST, Saturday, OCTOBER 1st. Think about the church as you are doing your fall sorting and cleaning. There will be more information forthcoming.. Looking forward to seeing you all on Sunday!

Chris Ogden, Board

President

## Jan's Column



Hello Everyone,

I want to welcome everyone back to church. I think we have an exciting church year planned and hope that everyone is looking forward to coming back. One of the things I’m looking forward to is having our newly formed choir sing on the first and third Sundays of the month. We have been practicing under the direction of Martha Foley who has selected wonderful music for us to learn and sing.

We had a great time at our annual church picnic at lovely Yaman Park.



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*Jan's Column, cont'd from p. 1*

### **A Month Of Sundays**

*Sunday, September 11*

"Still Water Runs Deep". Water is the source and the sustenance of life. It is also a metaphor for the deep bonds which connect us to the earth and to one another. Please join us as we gather to celebrate the sacredness of this very important resource in addition to reconnecting with our beloved community in our sacred space. Also, we will acknowledge and commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of September 11, 2001. I'm certain that each of us can remember exactly where we were and what we were doing when we heard about the planes striking the Twin Towers. People are also invited to share those memories with us as well



*Sunday, September 18*

"Long Strange Trip" - Part 1 In the Beginning

This is the first of a five part film series that takes us on a journey through two thousand years of Unitarian Universalist history from the beginning of the Christian ERA to modern Unitarian Universalism. The film was made by Ron Cordes of Bedford, MA. Ron is a lay leader in his church and he is the maker of another widely respected UU film.

That film is about the "Black Empowerment Controversy" which almost destroyed the newly formed Unitarian Universalist Association in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Once Ron retired from his full time job, he continued his film making hobby with this very impressive undertaking. Part two will be out in November and a date for that showing will be scheduled.

Come at 9:00 AM for coffee and rolls. The film will begin at 9:15. It is exactly 1 hour long.

*Sunday, September 18*

Board Member, Julie Ganson, will be our worship

leader.

*Sunday, September 25*

"My sense is that many of us aspire to live more frequently in ways that are deeply satisfying. We yearn for experiences that hint at a deeper dimension of life. These are the moments that are cherished and recalled." This quote is from Gordon B. McKeeman's book "Out of the Ordinary." Rev. Jan will explore the profound truth of McKeeman's writing in her sermon "The Ordinary and the Extraordinary."

### **Summer Accomplishments and Fall Plans**

*Building and Grounds:* Jim Pelton and Joe Miller have been concentrating on uncovering the floor of the bell tower to see what its condition is and what can be done to stop the leaks. Also, they've done several mini-clean ups during their regular Building and Grounds Committee meetings.

*The Children's RE* committee is looking forward to another year of Sunday activities with our children. Katie Forth will be the Coordinator and lead teacher again this year (Yea! Thanks, Katie!) and Trish and Ellen will support her work in taking the UU principles and helping our group understand and live them in their family, their community and their world. For those too young for RE instruction, childcare will be offered. Both RE and childcare will start Sunday, September 18th.

*The Membership Committee* with Rick Downing will be working on an up-to-date church directory. We will be reconciling the various lists of members and friends.

*Finance and Pledge:* Our treasurer, Marion Lutz, reports that we finished last year in the black. However our pledges for next year fell short by a little over three thousand dollars. This shortfall we'll need to make up through fundraising, the first event of which is the rummage sale the weekend of the Pumpkin Fest, Oct. 1-2.



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John and Chris Ogden

**UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH OF  
CORTLAND**

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*Congregation active  
since 1813  
Building dedicated  
in 1837*