

Please return the form below with a check made out to: **St. Lawrence District** (please put *District Assembly 2009* on memo line) and mail it to: St. Lawrence District, 695 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo NY 14222-1697

Questions? Contact SLD administrative secretary Sue Tabone at 716-882-0430 or smtabone@localnet.com

St. Lawrence District Assembly 2009 Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Congregation _____

Check all applicable items:

- I need child care for Friday evening, April 24 (*free*)
- I need child care for Sat., April 25 (\$5/child by April 10, \$15/child from April 11-17) Child's Name _____ age _____
 Child's Name _____ age _____
- I am a Delegate from my congregation.
- I am the President of my congregation. (*Note: no registration fee for presidents!*)
- I'd like a display table (\$25 fee)
- I have special needs _____

Indicate your Workshop Choices:

MORNING (A - F): first choice _____ second choice _____
 AFTERNOON (G - M): first choice _____ second choice _____

PLEASE REMIT FEES as follows:

Registration:

Adult (\$60/person, \$70 after April 10)	\$ _____
Student or adult age 25 & under (\$30/person, \$35 after April 10)	\$ _____
Friday dinner (\$12/person, must be paid by April 17)	\$ _____
Child care total	\$ _____
Display table (\$25/table)	\$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:	\$ _____



Building the Beloved Community

The St. Lawrence Unitarian Universalist **District Assembly**

April 24-25, 2009
Albany, NY

Hosted by the
First UU Society of Albany



Look Inside for

Detailed workshop & registration information on this weekend of exciting & enriching UU activities.

District Assembly at a Glance



Friday, April 24 • 6:00 - 9:00 pm

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany
405 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY

Featuring Dinner, the Josephine Gould Discourse by Rev. Kaaren Anderson, and a Reception. Join us for a stimulating evening and a chance to meet old and make new UU friends.

Saturday, April 25 • 8:00 am - 4:45 pm

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany
405 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY

A day of activities for congregational members, staff, delegates, young adults, youth, and kids, including:

- Opening Worship
- Keynote address "The Prize Is ... Growing the Beloved Community!" by Rev. Tom Owen-Towle
- 12 thought-provoking workshops (See pages 4-5)
- St. Lawrence District Annual Meeting
- Closing worship, including a Bridging Ceremony for our senior youth (See page 6)
- Child care & recreational activities for children (See page 7).



We hope you can also stay for **"Building Bridges"** on **Sunday, April 26**

The Capital Region Unitarian Universalists of New York (CRUUNY) will hold "Building Bridges," their first joint worship service, at 10:30 am on Sunday, April 26, at the Hilton Conference Center, 534 Broadway, in Saratoga Springs. CRUUNY members are the Albany, Glens Falls, Saratoga Springs, and Schoenectady UU congregations. This intergenerational service will celebrate over three years of joint meetings to cooperate for mutual benefit toward strengthening Unitarian Universalism in the Capital Region. The multimedia worship service will feature pageantry, prose, and music by a four-congregation joint choir.



Children's Programming at District Assembly

Families are welcome at District Assembly in Albany this April. On Friday evening, during the Gould Lecture, child care will be offered. On Saturday, there are three program tracks that we hope families will find appealing. (Additionally, programming for high school youth will be organized by the district YAC.)

The programming offered is based on age.

- Infants and toddlers, up to three years,
- Pre-K through 3rd grade (ages 3 to about 8), and
- 4th through 8th grade (about ages 9 to 14).

The children will have different programming in the morning and the afternoon. They will join their parents for lunch.

Each group in the children's program will be staffed with at least one adult and one youth. The youngest group will use the Albany UU Nursery and toddler rooms for play, age-appropriate activities and quiet time. The pre-K through 3rd grade group will have games, crafts and activities for part of the day. If the weather is nice, the group will go to the playground in Washington Park (less than 3 blocks away) for part of the day. The 4th through 8th grade group will have games, crafts and activities for part of the day and a field trip to one of the local museums. All the children and infants will join their families for meals.

To provide for the safety of all, please pre-register your children and infants. That way we can make arrangements for proper staffing, have emergency information on hand, and accommodate food sensitivities and special needs. If you have any questions about children's programming, please contact Leah Purcell at dre@albanyuu.org



Closing Worship & Bridging Ceremony: *The Bridging Community Celebration*

The transition from youth to young adult is one we celebrate in families, in our congregations, and also as part of our District Assembly. Rather than saying “good-bye,” we welcome them as young adults into their ever widening UU world. The bridging youth will share with us aspects of their journey in faith and fun, while the young adults and entire St. Lawrence community will affirm their place in both our hearts and our congregations. Come celebrate, remember, and sing with us!

All youth making this transition (high school graduation or similar) are encouraged to participate. Youth can either attend the District Assembly with their families, or participate as part of a congregational youth group. Youth group members should see the separate YAC District Assembly/Bridging flyer for more information, or contact SLD Youth Coordinator Kelly Masters at kelly_masters@hotmail.com

Lodging

Rooms are available at the **Best Western Sovereign Hotel**, 1228 Western Avenue, Albany which is an easy, direct 3 mile ride from the church. A block of rooms will be held at a special rate of \$82 for St. Lawrence District Assembly attendees until April 17. This rate includes a continental breakfast. Call the hotel at (518) 489-2981 to make a reservation, and be sure to ask for the St. Lawrence District rate.

A limited amount of **Home Hospitality** will also be available. The cost is \$40 for one person per room per night or \$50 for two persons per room per night. A light breakfast will also be available in each home. Home hospitality requests must be received by April 17 and should be made directly to Eileen Hoffman at (518) 439-8869 or preferably at ehoffmansw@gmail.com

Other Important Information

- Registration fees are higher after April 10! Please read the registration form on the back cover for this and other key details.
- Some financial support is available. Requests should be directed to the District Office.
- Please be sure to bring your congregational banner and top support crosspiece for displaying your banner at the Albany church.
- Questions? Contact SLD administrative secretary Sue Tabone at (716) 882-0430 or smtabone@localnet.com

Detailed Schedule

All these events will be held at the
First UU Society of Albany
405 Washington Avenue

Friday, April 24

- 6:00 – 7:00 Dinner, \$12 per person
- 6:00 – 7:30 Registration
- 7:30 – 8:30 Josephine Gould Discourse: “A Trolling Campaign: 21st Century Evangelism” by Rev. Kaaren Anderson of the First Unitarian Church of Rochester
- 8:30 Reception

Saturday, April 25

- 8:00 – 9:00 Registration, coffee & tea
- 9:00 – 9:30 Opening Worship: Rev. Sam Trumbore of the First UU Society of Albany
- 9:30 – 9:40 Welcome & Introductions
- 9:40 – 10:40 Keynote Address (see below): Rev. Tom Owen-Towle
- 10:40 – 11:00 Break
- 11:00 – 12:15 Morning Workshops (A - F)
- 12:20 – 1:20 Lunch
- 1:30 – 2:45 Afternoon Workshops (G - M)
- 2:45 – 3:00 Break
- 3:00 – 4:15 St. Lawrence District Annual Meeting
- 4:15 – 4:45 Closing Worship & Bridging Ceremony for our senior youth: Rev. Tom Chulak & Karen LoBracco

Keynote address: Rev. Tom Owen-Towle

“The Prize Is ... Growing the Beloved Community!”

As Unitarian Universalists we pride ourselves on being individual questers, and so we should. However, being a fulfilled person is but a 100% half-truth. Progressive religion, at its finest, demands more of us than rugged independence. It requires that we become builders and sustainers of the Beloved Community, both in our congregations and in the larger society.

Morning Workshops

A. Preaching by Parishioners

Jerry Kent and members of the Amherst, NY, UU church will present effective ideas for creating engaging summer services and having a year-round church.

B. Community Building through Lifelong Learning

Weaving a lifelong tapestry of faith development, a challenge for most congregations, will be addressed by SLD Program Consultant Karen LoBracco and other experts from around the district who are using the new UUA online curricula for children, youth and adults. This promises to be an active workshop, especially useful for persons interested in integrating new members and supporting the spiritual growth of all, and for those responsible for religious education.

C. Young Adult & Campus Ministry Workshop for All

Do you wonder how you can connect with young adults? Does your congregation want to welcome young adults, and keep them engaged? Find out the current trends in the UUA Young Adult Ministries office, explore how congregations can effectively get involved in campus ministry, discover what resources are available for young adult ministry ... and bring your own inquires & ideas! Whether you're in the official young adult age range (18-35) or you're an ally who supports young adults, you are encouraged to participate in this workshop in a multi-generational learning community.

D. Building a Better Congregational Website

A great website can build your congregational community from both the inside and the outside, but it requires both human, technical and financial resources. Come learn and share practical ways to improve your site's content, usability, and attractiveness. Presenters Don Porter & Christy Multer will draw upon examples from across the district plus their experiences in building & maintaining different types of sites.

E. Dance as Spiritual Practice

Erin Gingrich, ministerial intern at First Unitarian of Rochester, will introduce this moving meditation practice focused on embodying the present moment. In this practice we seek to awaken to the world that is, the world beyond concept and thought. We catch glimpses of our connection with all that is, which spurs deeper questions and convictions for our spiritual growth.

F. Lean on Us

Rev. Douglas Taylor of the Binghamton congregation feels that during difficult times, people turn to their communities for support. We all need the care and support of others. Our congregations are caring communities. We do well to develop strong pastoral structures filled with compassionate Unitarian Universalists.

Afternoon Workshops

G. When Emergencies Happen: A Guide to Congregational Preparedness

In the wake of the shooting violence at the Knoxville church and natural disasters like Katrina, Rev. Aaron R. Payson, minister of the UU Church of Worcester, MA, will discuss how congregations can be prepared to deal with such events.

H. Promise the Children

Promise the Children is a national UU organization that advocates for and with American children and youth. Its focus is on increasing equity in public education, childhood healthcare and nutrition, early education, and promoting access to age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education for all children and youth. This workshop will focus on how participants work with community partners, plan campaigns, and decide on strategies to promote their work.

J. 12 Hallmarks of Healthy Congregations

Rev. Tom Owen-Towle will particularize what he said in his keynote address on the Beloved Community. He will field questions for the initial portion of the workshop, but will spend the bulk of the workshop specifically delineating what makes for a vital and flourishing UU parish.

K. Yakking with YAC

This workshop provides an opportunity to listen and share, to work and to play. Here's your opportunity to spend some time discussing everything youth. Learn what's on the minds of young religious UUs, what's happening today in the lives of tomorrow's leaders, the state of ministry with youth across our district, and the impact of the proposed district safety policy on youth programs and conferences.

L. Dealing Lovingly with Difference

How do we not only accept and deal with difference but embrace and cultivate its many forms? Jeanne Crane's workshop will explore becoming more aware of how our group identifications (race, ethnicity, gender, age, class, etc.) define us and our interactions with others, identifying some of our own "hot buttons" while becoming more sensitive to the "hot buttons" of others, and using "I-statements" to better speak our truth in love.

M. Faith Without Borders

Rev. Eric Cherry, Director of International Resources, will introduce congregational leaders to this UUA program which assists congregations in designing their international engagement. The presentation includes a powerpoint, printed materials, and a discussion with questions and answers.

