

April
2006

Cobblestone News

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

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, April 25 –
7 pm - Board Meeting

Sunday, April 30 –
9:30 –Forum
10:30 –Service: Barb Blom and New Member Sunday. Brunch following the service.
Noon: Congregational Meeting
3:30 – 7:00 Salvation Army Dinner (Congregational Community Service)

Wednesday, May 3 –
7 pm –Vespers (Rev. Christyann Maxfield)

Sunday, May 7 -
9:30 –Forum
10:30 – Service: Rev. Tim Behrendt (Flower Communion)

Sunday, May 14 –
9:30 - Forum: John Ogden
10:30 – Service: John Ogden

Sunday, May 21 –
9:30 – Forum: John Ogden
10:30 – Service: John Ogden

Sunday, May 28 –
9:30 – Forum
10:30 – Service: Rev. Aaron Payson

Sunday, June 4 –
9:30 – Forum
10:30 – Service: Rev. Tim Behrendt and Barb Blom. Brunch following the



You're song,
A wished-for song.

Go through the ear to the center
Where sky is, where wind,
Where silent knowing.

Put seeds and cover them.
Blades will sprout
Where you do your work.

-Rumi
Translated by Coleman Barks

Barb's Column

Many of you, I am sure, remember the film, "Field of Dreams" with Kevin Costner. The famous line in it is "If you build it, they will come." Yes, it was a little corny, the ghosts of yesterday's heroes walking onto a cornfield (can't get much more "corny" than that!), but there was also something that touched this rational and somewhat sappy UU intern minister; remembering the heroes of yesterday is so powerful.

The Unitarians and Universalists who came before us forged a new concept of religion, one that was based on reason rather than dogma, on intellect rather than pure emotion and one that changed much of the landscape of this country in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The Emersons, Thoreaus and Channings who stood up to the powerful status quo and claimed their own power by virtue of their God-given intellect, truly created a new century of change, insight and growth.

We have become complacent over the years however; our passion to forge

service.

Noon: Annual Meeting
4:15 – Dedication of the Ted Fenstermacher Memorial Bench
5:00 – Organ Concert and Acceptance of the plaque from the Organ Historical Society

Wednesday, June 7 –
7 pm – Vespers (Rev. Christyann Maxfield)

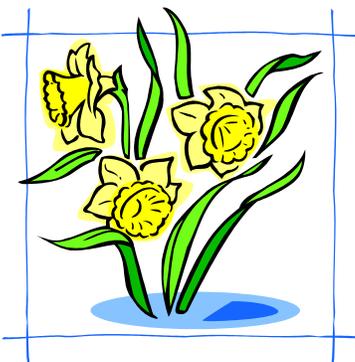
Sunday, June 11 –
9:30 – Forum
10:30 – Service: Older RE Children

Sunday, June 18 –
9:30 – Forum
10:30 – Service: Barb Blom and Volunteer Recognition Sunday

Sunday, June 25 –
9:30 – Forum
10:30 – Service

Sunday, July 9 –
11:30 – Church Picnic at Little York Park. Bring your own tableware, beverage and a dish to pass.

Enjoy the summer and happy gardening!



ahead, to explore new territories has waned. It is often easier to rail against the others. But the only way to create a Beloved Community in the world is to start within ourselves. The UU Church of Cortland is a place for new ideas to be born, new ways of exploring our spiritual journeys and our responsibilities to the web of existence. We offer forums for discussion, vespers for meditation and reflection, a community Sunday morning celebration and fellowship, small group ministries, adult and children's religious education, dinners, get-togethers, book clubs and so much more.

We are creating a Beloved Community in the "Old Cobblestone Church" that teaches and inspires new ways of relating to one and another, to our communities and to our world. Though we do not always agree, we learn to listen to each other, respect differences and agree to disagree. That is the beauty of Unitarian Universalism. Think how much better the world would be if only everyone could learn to listen, to respect differences and agree to disagree, if only the world would embrace our UU principles!

We have a grassroots movement developing in Cortland. You, as a member and friend of this church community, must feel the passion, become part of the movement, to become what you want to see in this world! It takes commitment: commitment of time, commitment of imagination, commitment of passion, commitment of finances and commitment of conviction. Thomas Edison said in his essay, "They Won't Think," "people are far more willing to pay for being amused than anything else." As Unitarian Universalists, we are, at least as willing, to pay for thinking as well.

"If you build it, they will come!"
(And maybe, just maybe, the world will slowly join us as they hear us.)

In the spirit of Shalom,

Barb

Congregational Meeting, April 30. The Board will present to the congregation a vision and a budget for 2006-07 based upon the responses from the retreat, the dinners and the pledges. Members will vote upon the proposal.

Miracles seem to me to rest not so much upon faces
Or voices or healing power suddenly near to us from afar off,
But upon our perceptions being made finer, so that
For a moment our eyes can see and our ears can hear
What is there about us always.

-Willa Cather, 1876-1947 American Write

FROM NEAR AND
AFAR

Love is not only blind, but seeing deeper it forgives and accepts more.

Love is not only for the young and romantic, but for all who live kindly, honestly, fairly and caringly with others.

Love is not only generous giving, but gracious receiving.

Love is not only the spoken word, but the listening ear.

Love is not only contentment and happiness, but fear and sadness when danger and loss occur.

Love is not only durably tough, but giving in and changing.

Love is not only holding close, but letting go.

Love is not only common interests, but shared differences.

Love is not only praise and song, but silence and mystery.

- Timothy Hume Behrendt,
Visiting Minister/Counselor
315 826 7405



“Wilderness is the source of vigor, inspiration, and strength.”
- Henry David Thoreau

Thoreau’s Legacy Revisited

It appears we humans are slow to learn some lessons. Recent attention given to Richard Louv’s new book, *Last Child in the Woods-Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder* prompts one to recall prophetic words penned by Henry David Thoreau more than 140 years ago. He had much to say concerning what happens when a culture divorces itself from nature. Richard Louv defines nature deficit as “the human costs of alienation from nature, among them: diminished uses of the senses, attention difficulties, and higher rates of physical and emotional illnesses”.

Indeed, it is almost as if Thoreau had nature deficit disorder in mind when he uttered perhaps his most remembered statement: “In wilderness lies the preservation of the world”. Thoreau’s words reflect not merely a love for wild places but a strong belief in their numerous biophysical and socio-cultural values.

Thoreau believed human well-being, on the personal and cultural level, would prosper if individuals planted one foot in the natural surroundings and the other in civilization. He saw wilderness “as the source of vigor, inspiration, and strength,” and “to the extent a culture, or an individual, lost contact with wilderness it became weak and dull.”

According to Thoreau, forests and wilderness provide “the tonics and barks which brace mankind”. To him wild places were a source of inspiration containing the “raw material of life” that instilled a sense of wonder, spiritual truths, and the basis of sound intellect to those who frequented such places. Interestingly, in *Last Child in the Woods...* Louv tells us that modern educational psychologists are discovering similar things. Green outdoor spaces “foster creative play, improve children’s access to positive adult interaction and relieve symptoms of attention-deficit disorder”. And by comparison, “activities indoors, such as watching TV, or outdoors in paved, non green areas, increases these children’s symptoms”.

We each begin the earthly journey through natural life-giving processes that pre-date the emergence of our species itself. Humans were not consulted as to the design of this place called Earth or the life that exists on it. It spawned us, whether one believes in a creator God or evolution and has survived much longer than our meager historical footnote. It is, therefore, arrogant and perhaps suicidal to think we can cut our roots to the natural world. Like the biblical prophets, Thoreau was not appreciated in his lifetime. His words, however, continue to provide



*Chris and John Ogden,
Newsletter Editors*

The Energy Diet

There are countless simple ways you can reduce fuel consumption, slow the greenhouse effect, and save money too!

- **Replace** frequently used light bulbs with compact fluorescent ones. The new bulbs will last up to ten times longer and use a quarter of the energy.
- **Plant** a tree native to your region. A tree can absorb one ton of carbon dioxide in 40 years. Plant one near the sunny side of your house; it will help cool you and your utility bill.
- **Wrap** your water heater in an insulating jacket and keep the heater thermostat no higher than 120 degrees F.
- **Clean** an air conditioner filter or replace furnace filter when dirty.
- **Air-dry** your clothes during spring and summer.
- **Caulk** and weather-strip your doorways and windows.
- **Move** your thermostat down 2 degrees in the winter and up 2 degrees in the summer.
- **Avoid** big-screen, high-definition TVs. They are power guzzlers!

-Article by Laurie David, environmental activist and trustee of the National Resources Defense Council, excerpted from House and Garden, May 2006

direction for the living.

It is said that on his deathbed Thoreau was asked if he had “made his peace with God? He responded, “I never knew we quarreled”.

-Article by Charles Yapple, excerpted from Lime Hollow’s *Woodland Whispers*



Blessing

Just as the soft rains fill the streams,
Pour into the rivers and join together in the ocean,
So may the power of every moment of your goodness
Flow forth to awaken and heal all beings,
Those here now, those gone before, those yet to come.

By the power of every moment of your goodness
May your heart’s wishes be soon fulfilled
As completely shining as the bright full moon,
As magically as by a wish-fulfilling gem.

By the power of every moment of your goodness
May all dangers be averted and all disease be gone.
May no obstacle come across your way.
May you enjoy fulfillment and long life.

For all in whose heart dwells respect,
Who follow the wisdom and compassion,
of the Way,
May your life prosper in the four blessings
of old age, beauty, happiness and strength.

-A Traditional Buddhist blessing and healing chant (version by Jack Kornfield)

how to make ends meet?

The St. Lawrence District is partnering with the UUA in an innovative project to making UUA Fundraising Consultation available to six or seven congregations at a reduced cost.

Highlights

- **Introductory Workshop May 20:** Share what is working; learn about fresh approaches; expand your capabilities.
- **Congregational Assessment:** Review your congregation's fundraising history, capacity, and progress on fundamentals needed for success; Identify services appropriate for your situation and goals. Includes a group workshop plus an opportunity for your leadership team to meet individually with the UUA consultant to assess your fundraising capacity and goals.
- **Stewardship Workshop:** How to make your annual pledge campaign more successful and more enjoyable.
- **Searching for the Future:** Learn how to involve your congregation in the process of developing a fresh vision and mission, energizing your members to fund it.

Sign up now for the *Introductory Workshop Saturday, May 20.* (Location will be central to attendees.)

Note: The \$95 registration fee, which includes an unlimited number of members from our congregation, will be paid by the Cortland UU Board of Trustees. There is no charge to attendees.

For additional information contact Sara Clavez, St. Lawrence District Fundraising Coordinator E-mail: sclavez@tds.net or Phone: 607-862-4455 or see

www.uua.org/cde/fundraising/

**UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF
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*Congregation active
since 1813
Building dedicated
in 1837*