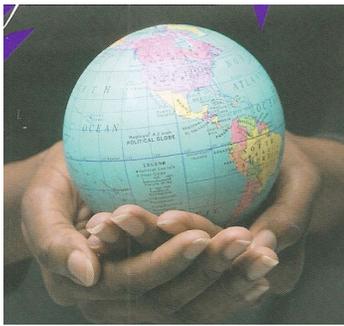


January
2009

Cobblestone News

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



Hope for America

“America – this monument to the genius of ordinary men and women, this place where hope becomes capacity, this long, halting turn of the NO into the YES, needs citizens who love it enough to re-imagine and remake it.”

-Cornel West,
Professor of Religion at
Princeton

“I will open the doors of government and ask you to be involved in your own democracy again.”

-President Barack
Obama

“When you have the choice to be right or to be kind, always pick kind.”

-Dr. Wayne Dyer

Chris' Corner

Creating and Realizing a Vision

Recently, at our congregational retreat, a vision for our church was created under the capable guidance of Julie Ganson, who facilitated the process. Among the things we want in the future are: professional and volunteer leadership, religious education for all ages, a strong sense of community, membership stability to support and sustain our historic building, and a liberal religious presence in the larger community.

The Sunday following the retreat, Julie Ganson spoke about audacious hope, the kind of courageous hope that overcomes despair, the kind of hope that our church needs to see it into the future.

For a vision to become reality, small steps moving forward are needed and that's what is happening. For example, the paint can in the sanctuary has collected \$800 to repair and repaint the steeple, \$500 of which was donated by Julie Ganson's brother

Cont'd. on p. 3



Jan's Column



Happy New Year to everyone! We had a wonderful Christmas Eve service with guest musicians and participation from our own members. Our sanctuary looked spectacular and we had a good turnout. Hopefully next year an evening Solstice Celebration and a New Year's "Burning Bowl" ceremony will be added to the mix of holiday offerings.

Recently we had a long range planning retreat and through a visioning process determined what we wanted our church community to be like in five years. We thought about ways to shore up our committee structure, to improve our Lifespan Religious Education Program, to take care of our beautiful historic building while remaining the warm and welcoming congregation that we are. These are only a few of

Cont'd. on p. 2

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

the things we talked about and more information on our retreat will be coming from the Board. I am sensing that enthusiasm is building and very happy that exciting things seem to be happening. We received generous monetary gifts that will help us paint the belfry and upgrade our sound system in the very near future.

The Cabin Fever Potluck Supper will take place on February 7, 2009. It will be a fun evening and I encourage everyone to come and bring family and friends. Also in February, in honor of African American History Month, I'll be sharing the meditations and reflections of Howard Thurman. He was a spiritual mentor to many of the more well known civil rights leaders like Martin Luther King. I will also be talking about love on the Sunday following Valentine's Day.

March is Women's History Month and I'll do a sermon on the Goddess past and present.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday mornings.

Rev. Jan

NURTURE Your Spirit.
Help HEAL Our World.



Splinters from the Board

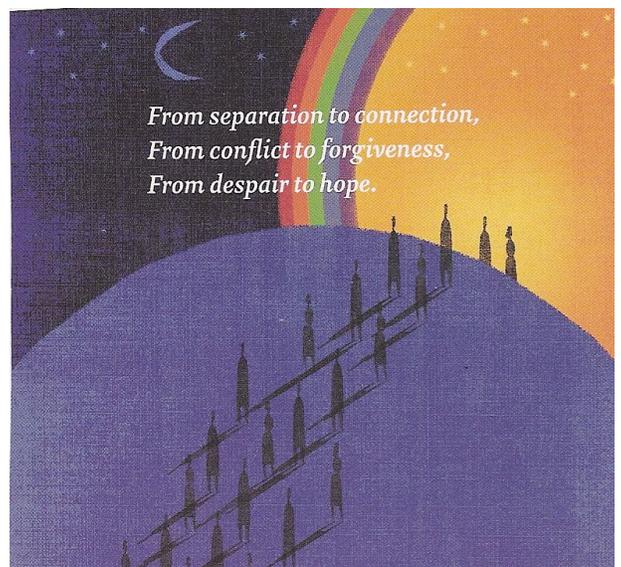
- A large banner (above) has been purchased for the front of the church. It will go up when weather permits.
- "Our Caring Community" occupies space on the large bulletin board in the social hall. This is a place to post notices about anyone in our congregation that needs our caring thoughts or special help.
- A Cabin Fever potluck dinner, craft and game night is scheduled for Saturday, February 7th at

5:30 pm.

- The stewardship campaign calendar of events is set and will begin on Saturday, April 4th with "Singing for the Green", an evening for sharing food and raising our voices.
- Louie Larson has agreed to MC our service auction in the spring.



- Marion Lutz has received two donations as a result of the letters she sent out to RE alumni. Marion would like to gather a group of women who would be interested in sewing a quilt to be raffled off as a fun raiser.
- The Membership Committee sent letters and a survey to former members and friends to learn more about why they no longer attend.
- A welcome table in the social hall will be a designated place for newcomers to the church to pick up information about our church and denomination.





Winter

Let us not wish away the winter.
It is a season to itself, not simply
the way to spring.

When trees rest, growing no
leaves, gathering no light, they
let in sky and trace themselves
delicately against dawns and
sunsets.

The clarity and brilliance of the
winter sky delight. The loom of fog
softens edges, lulls the eyes and ears
of the quiet, awakens by the risk the
unquiet. A low dark sky can snow,
emblems of individuality, liberality,
and aggregate power. Snow invites
to contemplation and to sport.

Winter is a table set with ice and
starlight.

Winter dark tends to warm light;
fire and candle; winter cold to hugs
and huddles; winter danger to visions,
plans, and common endeavoring-and
the zest of narrow escapes; winter tedium
to merry-making.

Let us therefore praise winter,
rich in beauty, challenges, and
pregnant negativities.

-Greta Crosby

Newsletter Editors

Chris and John Ogden

Chris' Corner, cont'd. from p. 1

who got acquainted with our church via our web site.

Chuck Lochner has offered to provide the supplies
needed to rewire the church and David Millett the labor.
Rev. Jan continues to offer stimulating Sunday morning
services and guidance. Julia Schult and two SUNY
Cortland students are providing religious education for
our youth. John Ogden will offer an adult education
program in the spring. Marion Lutz tells us that the
members are keeping up with payments on their pledges.
Coffee hour hosts are providing "good" food to
accompany "good" conversation that helps to bind us
together. Publicity and public events are gradually getting
our church better known in the community. Thank you to
everyone who has contributed to help us realize our vision
for it takes all of us working together to make this happen!

In gratitude and peace,
Chris Ogden,
Board President



"Our task must be to free ourselves from our prison, by
widening our circle of compassion, to embrace all of
humanity and the whole of nature in its beauty."

-Albert Einstein