



The Old Cobblestone Church

UU News

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From the President

When we realized that Rev. Jan would have to stop working with us, we reached out to the St. Lawrence District and Rev. Stan Sears was recommended to us. Several of us met with him and decided to ask him to fill our pulpit for the first Sundays of March through June. We may also look to him for other ministerial help during this time. He has extensive experience in a variety of congregations, and currently serves the Auburn Unitarian Universalist Society. Rev. Sears has a house in Ithaca, and splits his time between there and Montreal, where his fiancé is Second Flute in the Montreal Symphony.

Join us for Rev. Sears sermon on Sunday, March 3
Sermon: "Cultivating Reverence"

Over the years, I have grown in my appreciation for the concept of reverence because it is something that humanists and theists alike can relate to. It is as important to Confucians as it is to Christians, and even Unitarian Universalists! As your preparation for the sermon, begin thinking about a particular place or experience that stirred you from ennui or compelled you to pay deeper attention to where you were and what was happening.

Welcome to Cortland Rev. Sears!

Marion Lutz

UUCS Choir Notes

Have you noticed...? The choir has changed to a regular singing schedule! Starting in January, we are now singing the first and third Sundays of the month and will continue this schedule for the rest of the church year.

Our repertoire is quite varied. Recently, we have been singing some rousing songs! Whether rousing or contemplative, I try to select music with a message worth sharing. I hope you enjoy the messages we sing.

If you wish to be a part of the choir and can match pitches, carry a tune, and attend fairly consistently, we'd love to have you! We meet on choir singing Sundays (now the first and third Sundays of the month) for rehearsal promptly at 8:45 AM in the sanctuary. Come join us!

In harmony,
Martha UUCS Choir Director

For My Brother

Scattered shadows lie
On sunlit snow
As January sadness
Settles all around me

I hear a crunch
With every step
Wind in the branches
The raspy caw of crows

I can see my breath
In frosty air
The sting of winter
On my cheeks

I look up to a
Cloud marbled sky
Pointy tops of trees
Draw me up

I reach to grasp
Memories of distant times
Til a rush of wings
Jars me back.

Joyce Morgan
January 2010

Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee wants to report that we collected \$103 from the guest at your table boxes. The money goes to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Some of our "Guests" this year were:

- Helping rebuild sustainable communities in Haiti using popular education.
- Promoting workers rights and fair treatment in the Restaurant industry.
- Protecting civil rights in communities across the country by empowering diverse coalitions.

Giving people the tools they need to heal themselves in the wake of disaster.
For more info go to <http://www.uusc.org/>

Joyce Morgan

Sunday Service Programming Committee

As previously mentioned, *Rev. Stan Sears* will fill our pulpit for the first Sundays of March through June. President Marion Lutz felt strongly we need continuity and professional ministerial services in this time of transition. So, in addition, *Reverend Janet Shortall* will provide services for 3 additional Sundays. More on this as plans are better formulated.

The 4th Sunday Quiet Meditation and Potluck are being rearranged, too. **Quiet Meditation** is being moved from 3:00 - 4:00 pm to 3:30-4:30 pm. The Dish-to-Pass Supper is being renamed the **Family Night Dinner** and will run from 5-6:30 pm.

4th Sunday of the Month – No regular service, but:

Quiet Meditation	3:30 – 4:30 pm
Family Night Dinner	5:00 – 6:30 pm

Reminders will be sent out close to each Fourth Sunday. Our thanks, again, to Joe Pullman, who is leading the Quiet Meditation hour.



And, an extra special thanks to Chuck Lochner for the incredible aroma of fresh baked apple pie that filled the Social Hall. Yes, there is a heaven ... and there's pie in it.

This recipe was requested after our Sunday morning pancake breakfast (January 21, 2013)!

Corn Meal Pancakes

From *Gen Lief*, a former church member, to *Bess Koval*, to YOU!

1 cup cornmeal
 1 t salt
 1-2 T sugar
 Stir in 1 cup boiling water. Cover. Let stand 10 minutes.

Mix (beat!)
 1 egg
 1/2 cup milk
 2 T oil
 Add to the above.

1/2 c sifted bread flour
 2 t Baking powder
 Add to the above.

Make pancakes and serve with butter and maple syrup.

Children's Religious Education

The Tapestry of Faith Program for children is Moral Tales. I am only entering the topics-you don't need to follow them. They can be expanded on for deeper discussion for older children.

March 3		Session 8: Do unto Others
March 10		Session 9: Generosity: Give and Ye Shall Receive
March 17		Session 10: Footprints: Treading Softly on Earth
March 24: No RE: Meditation 3:30 -4:30 and Family Night Dinner 5:00 – 6:30 pm		
March 31: Easter		Session 11: Do No Harm

Please email (patriciar.roiger@cortland.edu) the dates you would like to teach and the lesson. Let me know how I can support you in your teaching. Thanks! Tricia Roiger

200th Celebration**Did you know?**

Clara Barton, the educator after twenty years, “gave her life to the relief of soldiers in the field, and who was the animating spirit of a movement that has spread over the battle fields of the world a message of mercy and helpfulness that has soothed the sick, healed the wounded, and cheered the last moments of the dying”. . . Clara, the founder of the Red Cross.

“Men have worshipped war”, she declared, “til it has cost a million times more than the whole world is worth, poured out the best blood and crushed the finest forms the good God has ever created.” - Deck it as you will, **war is Hell!**

When **Emerson and Stephen Brewer** Come to Town you will hear Ralph Waldo Emerson say, “Who so would be a man, must be a nonconformist. Truth, though sometimes rough and graceless, is handsomer than love”.

“I have seen scores of men who could silence me, but I want one who can make me better.”

COMING

Peg and Tim Behrendt will be coming to Cortland Saturday and Sunday, April 20 and 21 for a service and a concert. The Saturday night music, song, (and a little dance) will be held in the Social Hall, turning back the clock with some music of yesteryears. Should you wish to wear some of your "digs" of yesteryears, please do so, or just come as you are for a relaxed evening enjoying Peg and Tim's music, with friends and making new friends. A donation will be gladly accepted.

Bess Koval

Traveling Light

*Alone Together, Together Alone
God sets the solitary in families...*

Psalms 68:6

As I drive up Route 41 I occasionally see a lone hawk on the right side of the road by the village of Borodino. I envy the hawk's posture and stillness and pride. No one tells a hawk what to do. At other times I see a cloud of birds flying in formation, turning together as one. I am thrilled by their choreography. They all know where they are going, and they are going there together.

I wonder what God intends for us. Sometimes family, friends, coworkers and their concerns seem to weigh dangerously upon me and I need the stillness and protection of being alone. Yet, everywhere I feel the pull of community, the reassurance of living and working with others and I know that together we are stronger, wiser, and more likely to survive.

***God, help me balance my need for community and my longing for solitude. Where do I belong...up in a tree with the hawk and my bible or out on a crowded hillside on my knees?
Amen***

Lynn Olcott

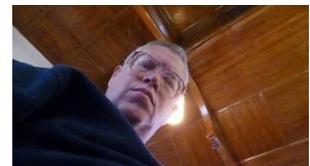
Membership Committee

Work has begun on a new, improved Church Directory. Under our Constitution we have two forms of association with our Church. Active Members are persons in sympathy with the purpose and program of the Church, and who have signed the Parish Records Book. Friends are persons who support the Church in any manner, but do not wish to become members. Friends have limited voting rights.

The details of Membership are available in the 2006 revision of our Constitution. Copies are available from the Membership Committee. By the way, the proper name of our congregation is the "**Unitarian Universalist Church Of Cortland, New York**".

As time allows, members and friends of record will be contacted to see if we have your correct name, address, etc. This Directory information is important for voting, nominating, business and communications purposes.

In addition, if you would like, we'll have photos for a photo board in the Social Hall. Makes it easier to ask "Who's Zat"?



Chuck Lochner

Coffee Hour

“Doctor, Doctor!! The patient blood is brown!!”

“Oh, ... they must be Unitarian ... “

- March 3 Joyce Morgan
- March 10 Julia Ganson
- March 17 Marion and Vola, Vola, Vola!!
- March 24 Family Night Dinner 5:00 – 6:30 pm
- March 31 OPEN - Sign up

Chuck Lochner
CCI (Chuck’s Culinary Institute)

Renovation and Restoration Committee

About 3 or 4 years ago some temporary repairs were done on the Bell Tower deteriorated wood timbers. The Committee determined a contract was needed to access the construction needs for the Bell Tower that also continues to leak. A missed communication between the Committee and the Board has lead to no progress. The Committee has been diminished by illness and other responsibilities. The Committee needs new members. Step right up folks!! This will become critical and more expensive. It’s the price of owning a building. Contact Julia Schult or Marion Lutz.

Ministerial Search Committee

Julia Schult contacted the St. Lawrence District to find out the Ministerial Search procedure. Word, so far, is that our situation is simpler than most. We are looking for a “Contract Minister”, one who is engaged for a specific period of time, under contract. This bypasses the timing and complexity of a full time “Settled Minister” hiring process. Julia will meet shortly with Rev. Chris Neilson for more specifics. One potential major problem is the UUA pay scale.

UU Cortland Congregational Survey, 1/13/13

Total number of survey respondents: 11

1. What is your favorite or preferences for Sunday services?

Other/Comments:

Thought-provoking with hope (not just presenting a problem)
Lecture - Definitely NO;
Living with ones self, get through next week;
Intellectual, challenge, something to think about
Community-building
Music

2. What is important to you in the UU Church of Cortland community?

What is important to you in the UU Church of Cortland Community

Other/Comments:

Building Yes but not if it kills us financially
Community
1- Spiritual connection; 2 - Choir/music; 3 our historic cobblestone building
1 - Sunday services/programs; 2 - Community/social; 3 - RE for the children; 4 - Choir/music; 5 - Spiritual connection.
Suppers
Include kids more in service
(choir/music); (Our historic cobblestone building)

3. How do you prefer to get church communication?

Preferred method of communication

4. What do you like most about our church community?

Live music;
Services which force me to connect to myself and take the time to do that; feeling safe to be myself in the church community
Intelligent people
Spirituality that pervades the atmosphere; no one dictates the tenets of "religiosity";
Conviviality - all are welcome.
People are friendly and caring
The continuity it brings to my life
Connection w/ other
Our shared values
THE PEOPLE
Connection with members;
services that are a connection to my soul.

5. What do you think needs to be most improved in our church community?

It's been a very long time since Rev. Jan's services have been energetic and uplifting. We need to be building energy, not depleting it.
Membership = Budget
Do not burn out members. Once a week attendance; 8 times a month was way too much. Concerts & church was way too much.
Try to encourage members; more people need to be involved.
Need more members to come on Sunday
Membership; good looking presence - inside & out
The size of the congregation
Spiritual
More people to share the load; More presence in the local world
MEMBERSHIP
Membership -> getting more people to share in the duties necessary to run the church; spiritual services

6. Please write any other thoughts or comments.

We need strong leadership in our board, especially in these times. If we cannot keep existing members and friends interested in attending board meetings, committee meetings, and duties, and/or church services, we will not have the manpower or \$ resources to sustain the church. If this is true, maybe we should close up shop before the negative poisons us.
Advertise, especially on SUNY campus
Every Sunday we should be putting on a "show" to impress outsiders/new people.
I'm happy to have found this church. The spirit of community is admirable and the simple but spiritual ceremony is compelling.
Communication
like 1 day monthly potluck
Hi, MOM!!