

# Cobblestone News

Unitarian Universalist Church of Cortland, 3 S. Church Street, Cortland, NY, 13045

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## From the Minister

February was a month of inspiration and commitment for me. First, in researching and preparing not only for Black History Month but also in commemorating the Reverend Bob Payson's participation in the call to Selma, Alabama, I learned a great deal about our congregation's history and found a transcript of the 1956 speech Martin Luther King, Jr. gave right here in Cortland. Doing this work made Civil Rights history come alive for me.



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Ironically, learning about the justice work by the people of our faith tradition made me frustrated that while I can talk, talk, talk about it, I have not committed to walk, walk, walk on the side of social *action*. So when I heard about the Mass Moral March in Raleigh, North Carolina, planned for February 8<sup>th</sup>, I knew I had to go. The march was sponsored by the local NAACP chapter. The march was to embody a protest against a number of new state laws which restrict voting rights, reproductive rights, and funding to uphold quality public education. As with the call to Selma, local Unitarian Universalist clergy and congregations put out a call to come to Raleigh to show solidarity against oppression and marginalization. Tens of thousands of people were there including many UU's from all over the country wearing the bright yellow of the Standing on the Side of Love campaign sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association (see pictures). My experience strengthened my commitment to continue living out my UU values.

We in this congregation have a number of priorities in becoming a vibrant church community and I think social action can be one of them. Of course it won't be on the scale of the Mass Moral March but just some local need that will get us walking our talk again. May it be so.

## Children's Religious Education by Ashley Vormwold, RE Coordinator

This month the children's religious education class will be exploring generosity. We will identify many different ways that we can be generous. We can be generous with material goods, such as sharing toys, giving gifts, and donating money. We can also be generous in other ways, such as sharing ourselves through companionship and being generous with our time and patience. We can be generous toward other people, and we can be generous toward animals and in the measures we take to care for our environment. To extend this discussion with the children in your life, consider asking them the following questions:

What are some ways they have demonstrated generosity? How did it make them feel? How did it make others feel? What might their next generous act be?

During the month of March, the children participating in RE classes will be asked to pay attention each day throughout their week for opportunities to be generous and to share the ways in which they were generous when we meet again on the following Sundays. For reinforcement (and for fun!), families can work on this together throughout the week.

## The Celebration Committee Needs Your Help! by Bess Koval

The celebration committee is collecting church information of the last 100 years. Without a doubt, our records will not be as extensive as those found in a book, "First Hundred Years. Universalist Church. Cortland, NY. Celebrated April 4-7, 1937". Some records since then were not kept, not found or lost.

If you haven't read the above mentioned book, there will be a copy on the table below the Celebration Bulletin Board for your perusal. Please read it. What information in our book to be made, will people 100 years from now find informative and interesting? Here are some ways you can help:

1) We have already asked for a short bio of you and your family. Those questions are posted on the bulletin board.

2) We need your photo along with your bio! Please make a date for after a Sunday morning service/Family night supper for a photo "setting"!

3) We are collecting names and dates for:

- a) Moderators/Presidents
- b) Board Members
- c) Births
- d) Deaths

Please post any info on the bulletin board or give to a committee member.

(Bess, Marion, Jane, and Joyce)

4) We are collecting newsletters. They give much information about church happenings. The specific dated newsletters are in a notebook. Do you have any others?

(1995 – Feb?), (1996 - Jan- Feb), (1996 – Sept),(1997 – Sept) (1997 -Nov.),(1998 – Jan), (1998 – Fall), (1999 -?), (2000 - ?), (2001 – Jan), (2001 – Sept), (2001 – Oct), (2002 - Apr – May), (2002 - Sept – Oct), (2002 - Nov – Dec), (2003 - ?), (2004 - ?), (2005 - ?), (2006 – Jan), (2006 – Feb), (2006 – Apr), (2006 – Aug), (2007 – May), (2008 - ?), (2009 - ?), (2010 - ?), (2011 – Sept), (2012 - ?), (2013 – Feb), (2013 – Mar), (2014 - Mar)

## Traveling Light: Talking While Shoveling by Lynn Olcott

*“This is the day that God has made...let us be glad and rejoice in it...”*

*Psalm 118:24*

While shoveling the walk, I fall into conversation with God. I remark to God on the beauty of the day, the silky snow, the subtly tinted sky and the clean, cold air that is barreling through our valley just now. By the time I reach the end of

the walkway we’ve had quite a good discussion about life, about work, about the family and the past. But what I really need is advice for today. I’m moving.

I’ve moved many times - for necessity, for convenience, for adventure, for love. In my nomadic past I relocated with the carefree, box-slinging, single mindedness of youth and later with the grudging cheerfulness of middle age. Now I am old. I turn my face into the wind

and breathe. I ask God for the energy to pull this off. I ask God to fill my mind with sunlight. I thank God for listening and go back inside to pack another box.

*God of all times and all places,  
together we visit future days. Amen*

## March Worship Theme: Generosity by Kathy Tew Rickey

*What Does it Mean to be a Person of Generosity?*

As I hear the rainfall outside, melting away the icicles and snow, I experience a twitch of excitement for the spring to come. I think of the daffodils, cherry blossoms, and rhododendrons generously giving over their beauty year after year to warm my wintered heart. The beautiful abundance nourishes me deeply. Nature can be generous in that way.

I think of human generosity as coming from our heart and soul place. It can touch us deeply. Generosity is generative. Like kindness, generosity begets itself and creates a sense of spaciousness and abundance in our lives.

Like compassion, the impulse toward generosity is innate in us but needs to be developed over time with teaching and with practice. Assuming that we all come to church to grow in our faith and our moral imaginations, consider that church is the place to learn, grow, and practice our generosity, as individuals as well as a faith community.

Generosity can be practiced in many different ways. One way I practice generosity is to fight my instant gratification impulse. For example, today, a Land’s End catalog came in the mail and as I flipped through the pages I mentally picked out clothing ensembles – they were so beautiful and I really *wanted* those clothes. Then I took a deep breath, tossed the catalog in the recycling bin, and went to my closet which is filled to the brim with the abundance I already have. I said a few want-what-I-have mantras and saved my disposable income for giving away – to church, to non-profits doing good works, and to charity. By giving in this way, I not only grow in spirit but I also help grow the causes I care about most.

The Buddhist practice of generosity is called Dana. The Buddhists say that ultimately, Dana as a value and as a practice is about the kind of person you want to be, and the kind of world you want to participate in creating. ( <http://www.southerndharma.org/dana.shtml> ) *During this month of March, I invite you to explore what being a person of generosity means to you.*

## Chalice Lighters Program by Kathy Tew Rickey

### In this Month of Generosity, an Opportunity for Giving!

Unitarian Universalist districts all over the country have a Chalice Lighters Program. It's basically a program of fundraising and grant-giving to churches in the district who have requested funding for growth, renewal, professional religious leadership, renovations, or starting a new church. Think of it as "crowd-sourcing" for church projects.

As a Chalice Lighter you pledge to give twice per year to the program for specific requests from district congregations. For instance, the UU Church in Auburn recently submitted a five year plan for growth including a new computer-operated sign. They asked for \$10,000 to help fund their efforts and made a matching pledge of \$5,000. The Auburn church was chosen by the Chalice Lighter Program to be the recipient of the next Call to Chalice Lighters which took place in November of 2013. Chalice Lighters like you and me from all over the district responded to the Call and sent in their pledges totaling \$11,400!

Our congregation has been a recipient of a Chalice Lighter grant and we could one day seek another; so, I am pledging \$50 per call. You can pledge any amount you desire. The suggested minimum per Call is \$20.00 (\$40.00 per year). I hope you will join me in signing up to be a Chalice Lighter. I will be distributing brochures with sign-up forms at Sunday services this month. The first 10 people to sign up will get a free vintage chalice lapel pin! (See picture below.)

Together is better as they say and this is a great way to give to and receive financial support from our fellow congregations.

In faith and gratitude,

Kathy Tew Rickey

#### Send no money now!

Sign up to be a Chalice Lighter  
and get this **free** vintage  
lapel pin while supplies last.



For more information about  
the Chalice Lighters Program  
please go to:  
[www.sld.uua.org](http://www.sld.uua.org)

*The Wayside Pulpit*

**We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.**

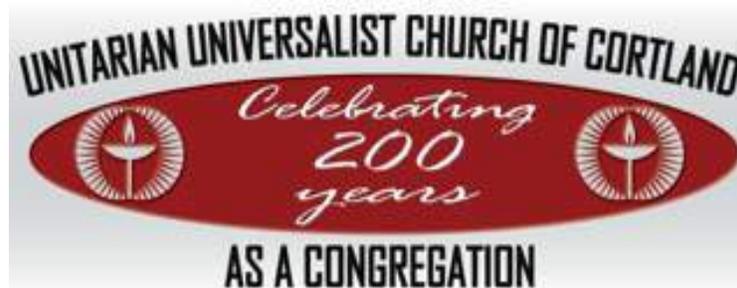
—Winston Churchill

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**Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Cortland**

**3 S. Church St  
Cortland, NY 13045**

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## Upcoming Programming

Join us for Social Hour downstairs after all 10:30am services.

**Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>** - 10:30 am service with Kathy Tew Rickey.

**Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>** - 10:30 am service with Aloya Airewele.

**Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>** - 10:30 am service with Kathy Tew Rickey.

**Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>** - 3-4 pm meditation with Joe Pullman followed by Family Night Supper at 4:30. Bring a dish to pass and your table service. This is a great time for fellowship!

**Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>** - 10:30 am service with Joyce Morgan: Social Justice Sunday

