

November  
2007

# Cobblestone News

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



## Abundance

The universe is exceedingly generous. When a farmer sows one seed, a plant comes forth that produces thousands of seeds. If you desire abundance, be like the farmer and first give up something. Whatever you receive, keep a portion for yourself, and share a portion with others. By establishing yourself in the flow of generosity, whatever you give will come back many fold.

- Swami Kripalu



## Chris' Corner

My mother died October 15, 2007. It was a very sad occasion for me. Given that, in recent years, I had been her primary care giver, her death left a big gap in my life. But one of the things I discovered is that my mother's passing also brought some unexpected gifts into my life. During the time she was in the hospital struggling to live and later, in Hospicare, I had the opportunity to bond with my younger brother and sister in a way that was never possible before. We live a great distance apart and each of us has his/her own busy life. Now we were thrust together to talk about important things and make some difficult decisions concerning my mother's care. We cried together, but we also laughed together. I decided my mother would have liked the idea that we found some joy just being in each others' company despite the seriousness of the occasion because "family" was so essential to her. Even now as we are planning her interment and memorial service - a celebration of her life - we are in contact with one another on a more regular basis. These

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## Barb's Column



Hi All,

The year is flying by! It is so nice to hear from newcomers how welcoming everyone is and how comfortable they feel when they walk in and join us for coffee. And, it is so nice to have so many of you participating in at least one committee. I am enjoying myself and hope all of you are as well! Here is a report of many of the activities that have been happening at the UU Church of Cortland that so many of you have been participating in and putting together! We offer something unique in Cortland and I hope you are all as proud of this church as I am!

The Religious Education Committee is busy. There are about seventeen children on various Sunday mornings. Anyone who would like to

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*Barb's Column, cont'd from p. 1*

spend a morning with the children in our Religious Education program should contact Joe Pullman or Trisha Roiger. It is great fun being with the children! They are a wonderful group! If you have something special you would like to do with them, let Joe or Trisha know!

Though we don't have an official Publicity Committee many events have been happening that make our liberal religion more visible in the Cortland and Homer communities. We have already held many popular events, including the Organ Crawl, Colleen Shaughnessey, The Susquehanna String Band, last year's Mars Rover Presentation by Jim Bell, and many more. Contact me or Chris Ogden if you are interested in helping to organize events or if you have ideas for an event.

There will be a New Member Ceremony on a Sunday on December 2 followed by a New to UU group to explain Unitarian Universalism and our history. Everyone is welcome. If you are a newcomer and interested in officially joining our community, please contact me.



The Programming Committee has been busy planning Sunday morning celebrations and forums. Our Sunday morning forums have been going quite well. We have had many wonderful discussions on various subjects and are always looking for someone new to introduce a topic for discussion. Contact John Ogden if you would like to lead a forum or if you know of someone who might like to.

The Pledge and Finance Committee will be putting together our pledge drive as the congregation must prepare for the future. Many decisions will have to be made in the next few months. It does take a commitment of money as well as time to make the church a meaningful place to be. You will be calling a settled minister next year, so dig deep! John Ogden is the chairperson; he always welcomes new people and new ideas.

The Intern Minister Committee has been working with me, offering suggestions on the celebration and my preaching. Please feel free to offer suggestions or comments to anyone on the committee or to me if you feel comfortable. Pam Jenkins is the Chairperson. Kate Coffey, Aaron Zipp, and Kim Allen also serve on the committee.

The Building and Grounds Committee is hard at work. The bell tower is scheduled to be repaired in November. Contact Jim Pelton if you wish to serve on the committee.

The Social Justice Committee needs a new convener. Helping with the Salvation Army Sunday dinners on the first Sunday is being reconsidered. Many of us participated in the Crop Walk to help alleviate hunger. There are many other causes that need our support, so please contact Chris Ogden or me if you are interested.

The Board of Trustees has been working hard to support our programming and renewed energy. Please check the minutes posted in the Fellowship Hall.

The Search Committee is hard at work organizing a church packet. Dick Benchley is the Chairperson

Small Group Ministry is doing well. As it turns out, it is a women's group. We have met three times now and hope to keep it going long into the future.

It takes more than a Sunday morning together to make a congregation, I am excited to see so much going on and so many of you involved! Let's keep it up!

I am always open to suggestions in what we can do or I can do to make the church a meaningful part of your life! Please feel free to contact me any time at 277-8501 or [barbeblom@yahoo.com](mailto:barbeblom@yahoo.com). I am also available on the Sunday mornings that I am preaching (check the web site calendar) at 9:00 AM and after the Sunday service celebration.

In the Spirit of Shalom,  
*Barb*

## Wisdom Learned

### Truths children have learned:

- No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- Puppies still have bad breath even after eating a Tic-Tac.

### Truths adults have learned:

- Raising teenagers is like trying to nail Jell-O to a tree.
- Middle age is when you choose cereal for the fiber, not the toy.
- If you remain calm, you don't have all the facts.
- You're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoes and wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- You appreciate the fact that wrinkles don't hurt.

- Excerpted from *Good Stuff*



## Receive with Joy

Whatever I am offered in devotion with a pure heart - a leaf, a flower, fruit, or water - I accept with joy. *-Krishna*

We are continually being given to - by our friends, our family members, coworkers, life itself - and we can easily be blind to the gifts. As you go about your day, notice just *one* thing you are being given today, and receive it with joy.

-Excerpted from *365 Health and Happiness Boosters* by M.J. Ryan

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

positive things that have come about during the last weeks of my mother's life and the weeks following have somehow balanced out the great loss I feel. Perhaps life presents comforting benefits to all of us if we pay attention and are open to them when we have to endure pain. They give us the lift and forward push we need to go on and continue with our lives.

May the holiday season bring you, your family, and your friends a quiet peace that will endure into the new year - 2008.

*Chris Ogden,*  
Board President



## Winter Gardening Tips for Wildlife

1. Provide food for wildlife with native plants that offer acorns, berries and seeds.
2. Clean and fill you birdbath on a regular basis. To keep the water from freezing, please invest in a birdbath heater.
3. Anchor your old holiday tree in a secluded part of your yard and wildlife will use it as shelter from winter weather.
4. Provide additional cover for wildlife by starting a compost pile of needles, pinecones and wreaths from you holiday decorations.

Create a wildlife-friendly yard officially certified by NWF's Certified Wildlife Habitat program. Visit [www.nwf.org/habitat](http://www.nwf.org/habitat) or call toll-free 1-800-822-9919 for more information.

### Winter Time or Any Time Gifts from the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF)

Looking for that special gift for the Unitarian Universalist in your life? The CLF sells several styles of chalice jewelry for all genders and all ages. They also offer colorful UU-themed note cards for all occasions. Visit the CLF website [www.clfuu.org](http://www.clfuu.org) and click on **CLF Shop** to view and purchase products.

### Changing a Light Bulb the Christian Way

How many Christians does it take to change a light bulb?

**Charismatic** : Only 1  
Hands are already in the air.

**Pentecostal** : 10  
One to change the bulb, and nine to pray against the spirit of darkness.

**Presbyterians** : None  
Lights will go on and off at predestined times.

**Roman Catholic** : None  
Candles only.

**Baptists** : At least 15.  
One to change the light bulb, and three committees to approve the change and decide who brings the potato salad and fried chicken.

**Episcopalians**: 3  
One to call the electrician, one to mix the drinks and one to talk about how much better the old one was.

**Mormons** : 5  
One man to change the bulb, and four wives to tell him how to do it.

**Unitarian Universalists**:  
We choose not to make a statement either in favor of or against the need for a light bulb. However, if in

your own journey you have found that light bulbs work for you, you are invited to write a poem or compose a modern dance about your light bulb for the next Sunday service, in which we will explore a number of light bulb traditions, including incandescent, fluorescent, 3-way, long-life and tinted, all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence.

**Methodists** : Undetermined  
Whether your light is bright, dull, or completely out, you are loved. You can be a light bulb, turnip bulb, or tulip bulb. Bring a bulb of your choice to the Sunday lighting service and a covered dish to pass.

**Nazarene!** : 6  
One woman to replace the bulb while five men review church lighting policy.

**Lutherans**: None  
Lutherans don't believe in change.

**Amish** :  
What's a light bulb?

*Courtesy of Len and Ellie Ralston*

Newsletter Editors

*Chris and John Ogden*

