

# **UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF HUNTINGTON**

## **Annual Congregational Meeting Part I**

**Sunday, April 13, 2008**

**12 PM**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Previous Minutes
- III. Annual Reports
- IV. Report of the Nominating Committee
- V. Elections
- VI. Mission Statement Change
- VII. Bylaw Changes
- VIII. Affiliated Community Minister
- IX. Other Business
- X. Adjournment

**UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING, PART 2  
JUNE 3, 2007**

President Reba Siniscalchi called the meeting to order at 12:40 pm. Other Board members present were Vice-President, Ben Testa; Treasurer, Joan Caly; Secretary, Marilyn Kopp-Hecker; and Trustees Jennifer Sappell, Ed Vigneau, and Gerri Farrell, Past President.

There was a quorum with sixty-three members attending.

Barbara Grey moved that the minutes of the April 1, 2007 congregational meeting, part 1 be accepted. The motion was seconded and passed.

After considerable discussion of the proposed Budget for 2007-2008, Reba called for a motion to approve it as presented. Frances Whittelsey so moved. The Budget was passed unanimously.

A wide-ranging discussion followed about adopting a two-year social justice project. Journey Toward Wholeness and the Committee on Peacemaking have each presented proposals for all-Fellowship involvement. Reba explained that after the discussion, those present might commit themselves to becoming actively involved with one or both projects by signing their names on the charts provided. Signing neither sheet was also a choice.

After further debate, Frances Whittelsey called the question.

When all who wished to had signed, Reba held up both lists and commented that they looked similar in number of signatures.

Rev. Paul then noted that another task for the congregation will be to find a better process than the one we were using to choose a project.

After more discussion, Marc Leopold raised a point of order that we no longer had a quorum. Reba then suggested that both projects continue to be developed for three more months. She requested a motion to adjourn with the understanding that we would move ahead with both projects. If the efforts don't get enough volunteers, then either or both would not survive. The Board of Trustees will further study this matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Kopp-Hecker, Board Secretary

## **OFFICE VOLUNTEERS ANNUAL REPORT**

Dorothy Burns, Natalie Frevert, Judie Gardner, Ginny Kushnick, Carol Lemke, Marty Lipnick, Sylvia Lipnick, Millie Novak, Susan Peters, and Zoe Taylor

The ten people listed above are invaluable members of the Shared Leadership team that makes the UUFH so special. It is gratifying to be able to count on these volunteers to “keep the place running” even if Judie, our office manager, is absent. In addition to answering the phones in a professional, friendly manner, they perform other duties when needed.... making copies for our minister, the Board, and various committees, getting mailings printed, stuffed and labeled, inventorying supplies, et cetera.

We also have a Collating Crew, consisting of several members upon whom we can call when the need arises to publish booklets and other special material, such as the Adult Religious Exploration Program Sourcebook and Services Auction booklets. This group includes some regulars: Joan Caly, Jack DeMasi, Bill Hecker, Judie Gardner, Marty and Sylvia Lipnick, plus other Fellowship members who just happen to drop in.

Thanks to each and every one of these wonderful helpers. They have found such truth in the statement: “the fellowship of the Fellowship”!

Ginny Kushnick, Coordinator

## **WILL HENDRIE BOOK STALL**

The Book Stall opens every Sunday after the service and is ‘manned’ by Ann Scolnick, Coordinator, with help from Joan Caly, Marilyn Kopp-Hecker and Bea Coryell. We sell CDs by many of our talented members, and books of interest to the congregation upon recommendation by the minister, RE Director, or congregants. Some of the books are used in the Adult Education courses. We also do a brisk business in used books brought in by our members. Some of the used books are read and then brought back for a second resale! We have bumper stickers, bookmarks and other UU-oriented items. Our UUFH cookbook and the History of our Fellowship-50 years are also on hand for purchase at our book stall.

This year, after surveying our members, David Yens has started to bring in CDs of the Sunday services and memorial services for borrowing, as well as audiotapes.

Last year the Book Stall made a profit of approximately \$1000, so come and take a look and maybe make a purchase!

Ann Scolnick

## **CARE/SHARE ANNUAL REPORT**

The annual invitation(s) to volunteer for Care/Share resulted in many old and new members signing up to volunteer their services for the coming year. All information has now been updated using Power Church, and printed out. While we always hope we won't need to use these lists, it should be comforting to all to know that when there's a need, we will care for each other, giving and receiving whatever help is needed. Thanks to all for participating in our registration drive. If there is anyone who hasn't volunteered yet but would like to, please see me for a Care/Share form.

Judie Gardner

## **ANNUAL REPORT NOT NECESSARILY SENIORS**

The Not Necessarily Seniors (NNS) group has met on the first and third Wednesday of each month since September 2007. It will continue that schedule through June 2008. We intend to meet on the third Wednesday of July and August 2008 and then resume our twice per month schedule next Fall.

Our meetings have been in the Social Hall of the UUFH from Noon until 3 PM. Usually we have about between 15 and 20 people who eat a bag lunch and socialize between noon and 1 PM. At 1 PM we begin our program. Our programs are on various topics. They range from having a guest speaker to showing a film or some form of entertainment.

We have two elections each Fellowship year to elect co-equal chairs. Currently Bill Hecker, Dorothy Burns and Miriam Agresti are the co-chairs. A new election will take place in September 2008. Also, in September and January of each year we decide on a tentative schedule of programs for the following six months.

This past Fellowship year our programs included a diverse selection of topics. For example, we had a talk by a former professor on philosophical matters, a film about why we fight and a holiday entertainment program of poetry readings, music and short stories.

In addition, we took a trip to the Vanderbilt Museum Home in Centerport. This coming July we intend to visit the Whaling Museum in Cold Spring Harbor. Everyone is welcome.

Bill Hecker, Dorothy Burns, Miriam Agresti, Co-Chairs

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT, 2007-2008**

The Finance Committee has several functions. Among these are the preparation and presentation of the annual operating budget, oversight for all Fellowship fund-raisers including acting as liaison when needed, preparing deposits, recording of pledge payments and mailing of finance pledge reminders.

We use a computer program called Power Church to track pledge payments and send out contribution statements periodically. We have a bookkeeper to help with our increasing financial chores.

Our major fund-raiser is the Services Auction, which continues to be very successful, helping to provide a great social life for members and friends of the Fellowship while contributing over \$30,000 to our operating budget.

This year there was no published Wish List. The purpose of the Wish List is to accumulate enough money to fund various purchases beyond the scope of our annual budget. Items can be submitted by committees to Finance for approval to be published in the Beacon.

Currently, we are in the process of formulating the 2008-2009 budget, which will be presented to the congregation for their approval at our second annual meeting on Sunday, June 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Peters

## **UU READING GROUPS**

The original UU Reading group, was started by Marilyn Kopp-Hecker and Ann Scolnick 11 years ago and presently has 18 members. We discuss fiction, non-fiction, old and new books selected from suggestions by our group. Members take turns hosting and leading the monthly discussions.

Because the first group was fully subscribed, Anne Rattinger started a second group, which is open to all and announces its selection and meeting place in the Beacon.

Marilyn-Kopp Hecker  
Anne Rattinger  
Ann Scolnick

## **THE BEACON ANNUAL REPORT**

Our newsletter, *The Beacon*, is the primary vehicle for communication in our Fellowship. It began more than 50 years ago and its purpose is to “carry messages from the Minister, the Board of Trustees and various committees, and to publicize Fellowship activities and newsworthy items about the Fellowship, its members, the denomination, and the larger community” (from *The Beacon* Mission Statement).

The Beacon is published every other week, with a few exceptions, when Monday holidays interfere with the schedule. The “editor-of-the-week” receives your submissions from our office manager (Judie Spero), makes whatever changes are needed, clarifies with the writers if indicated, and then sends them back to Judie to be put into proper format, ready for final proofreading. On Beacon Mondays, both Joan and Ginny read and re-read each article, fine-tuning the material before printing.

As always, when humans interact with other humans, there have been differences of opinions regarding Beacon usage and policies. When an instance arises in which the editor and the writer disagree, the editor confers with the Beacon Coordinator, usually passes the article around to the other editors to get a consensus of opinion, then contacts the writer to see if a compromise position can be worked out. Our editors have guidelines to follow, and the good of the Fellowship to honor. We work on the assumption that the writers are equally concerned with that good.

We have had some turnover in our editorial staff this year. Margaret Corvini was on leave with serious illness, and Renée Velkoff took her place in the rotation. Then later in the year, Renée found the job more time-consuming than she had expected, and had to resign. Lisa Fyfe will fill in for the rest of this year. The remainder of the staff consists of Joan Caly, Carol Towne, Ann Scolnick and Lois Ann Sepez. Thanks also to Judie, for serving as editor for the past two summers, thus giving the regular editors a welcome break. Many thanks to these women for their dedication and hard work!

We look forward to producing many more years of Beacons. Of the many UU newsletters that come in the mail, none is as complete, as interesting or as newsy as our beloved Beacon!

Ginny Kushnick, Coordinator

## **USHERS ANNUAL REPORT**

The Sunday usher system at UUFH functions at a basically acceptable level. However, there definitely could be some improvements made. First of all, we need more usher volunteers. Even though the list of ushers appears to be long, many of the volunteers are available only on a limited basis, e.g., when the choir is not singing. Secondly, we need more trained, experienced ushers who are familiar with all the details involved in effective ushering. An updated usher checklist would be extremely helpful in training the ushers. In closing, I thank our small, dedicated group of volunteer ushers who are at their posts every Sunday morning.

Marty Lipnick

## **SUNDAY PROGRAM COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008**

The UUFH Sunday Program Committee has provided the Fellowship with a variety of Sunday services. We have once again worked with the Rev. Paul Ratzlaff to coordinate services together. We look forward to continuing to grow our relationship over the coming years. We have received communications from the Congregation at large regarding coordination of services, their spiritual and thematic direction and greater inclusion of congregants at large in the services. Our biggest challenge at present is maintaining membership on the Committee. We will be exploring these topics with Paul in the near future.

SPC continued to provide self-produced services, services produced in conjunction with other committees and individuals from UUFH, and services involving the greater community. We have enjoyed having Rev. Will Feinberg and the Rev. Ned Wight as guest speakers. Members of the Committee this year were Evelyn Krell, Marty Lipnick, Carlene Tockman, Daniel Sandoval, Cathi Zillmann and co-chairs, Bill Houck and Janet Lupardo.

We have given financial support to Sunday services produced by other committees (Darfur) and plan to do so again (Gay Pride, contemporary evening youth service). Thanks to our members, and all others who helped with providing our programs, and to the members and friends of the Fellowship who support and encourage our work with Sunday Program.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Houck

### **SERVICES AUCTION 2007**

“Be a Star,” this past year’s Services Auction, was held on November 17, 2006. As always, it was a group effort, with much help from many people, and we all worked together to make the event lots of fun, and very productive, netting a total of about \$ . Dinner, desserts, entertainment and children’s activities were highlights of the evening. We had many auction offerings from Fellowship members of parties, excursions, instruction, food, goods and services, as well as wonderful committee baskets and kids’ items to raffle off. Community merchants contributed generously too, with coupons and items for auction. The participation of so many people was crucial to such a successful fundraiser, and the offerings are providing fun and community throughout the year. Many thanks to all!

Joan Caly, Ginny Kushnick, Sylvia Lipnick and Susan Peters, Co-Chairs

## **REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Board of Trustees (three-year terms) and Officers (one-year as part of the three-year Board term)

**President:** Marc Leopold (second year on the Board)

**Vice-President:** awaiting confirmation

**Treasurer:** Joan Caly (third year on the Board)

**Secretary:** Martha Outcault (second year on the Board)

**Trustee:** Linda Paul-Elem

**Trustee:** Barbara Grey

(Continuing Trustees: Dorothy Burns (2nd year), Carol Lemke (3rd year), and Ben Testa (3rd year).

**Cluster Coordinators:** (3 positions, two-year terms)

**Communications:** Jack DeMasi (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

**Lifespan RE:** David Sussman (2-year term)

**Outreach:** Rob Cooper (2-year term)

**Endowment Committee:** (1 position, three-year term)

Bob Bader (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

**Committee on Congregational Ministry:** (2 positions, three-year terms)

Louise Curtis

Lorraine Austin

**Nominating Committee:** (3 positions, two-year terms)

Larry Chorowski

Alex Wolff

Maria Miceli

Names of other nominees will be submitted as they are confirmed.

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee: Ginny Kushnick, Convener  
Liza Burby, Gerald Moss, David Silver, Scott Yanuck

## THE FELLOWSHIP'S MISSION STATEMENT

(See change/addition in italics on sixth bullet point)

We, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington, embracing our rich diversity and our essential oneness, pledge to support this congregation in which we:

- strive toward spiritual fulfillment, as individuals and in caring relationship with each other,
- respect the various religious paths that each finds meaningful,
- celebrate gratefully and joyfully the gift of life,
- pursue intellectual growth,
- promote liberal religious and ethical values in the larger community,
- create and sustain *peace*, justice, equality, compassion and beauty in the world,
- and gather children, youth and adults into a beloved community of life-long learning.

## **PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES**

The proposed bylaw changes will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, April 13, 2008. The UUFH Board of Trustees recommends that all changes be accepted. If you have any questions before the Congregational Meeting, please contact Joan Caly (631-427-1149 or jcaly@optonline.net) or Mary Jane Wochinger (631-423-7807 or rwoching@suffolk.lib.ny.us).

The proposed changes are as follows (in email version, blue print highlights new wording):

- **Existing final paragraph of Article II, Section 2.1** (page 42 in the current Directory): Requirements for Membership

If a member does not meet the requirements for financial support, that person may be dropped from the Membership rolls at the discretion of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees (Article IV) shall notify any member who is being considered for discontinuance of Membership by a letter quoting this Article and requesting a statement of intent.

### **Proposed new wording of Article II, Section 2.1:**

If a Member does not meet the requirements for financial support, he or she may be dropped from the Membership rolls **after consideration by a special Committee comprised of the minister, DRE, Treasurer, Chair of the Finance Committee, Chair of the Membership Committee and any others deemed necessary.** The Treasurer shall notify any Member who is being considered for discontinuance of Membership by letter quoting this Article and requesting a statement of intent. **Cases of financial hardship shall receive individual consideration.**

### **Reason for the proposed change:**

To reflect current practice.

- **Existing Article II, Section 2.2** (page 42): Financial Support – first sentence

Each member shall provide financial support to the Fellowship with an annual paid pledge or a recorded contribution.

### **Proposed new wording of Article II, Section 2.2**

Each Member shall provide financial support to the Fellowship with an annual paid pledge. **(Delete final four words, “or a recorded contribution.”)**

### **Reasons for the proposed change:**

We would like all Members to care enough about the Fellowship to pledge the amount that is right for them.

Our computer software will not accept a pledge of zero or no pledge.

A pledge by Members will aid in the separate tracking of the pledges of Friends.

- **New Article IV, Section 4.4:**

### **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the Minister, President, Vice President, Past President and Treasurer. It shall meet monthly or as needed to discuss and set the agenda for the next Board of Trustees' Business Meeting. The Executive Committee does not have authority to make binding decisions for the Board of Trustees or for other congregational entities and leaders or for the congregation, but may, as appropriate, direct issues and questions to the Cluster Coordinating Council, committee chairs, staff, etc., as well as to the Board of Trustees.

### **Reason for the proposed change:**

To reflect current practice.

- Add **“Serve as member of the Executive Committee”** to sections delineating the duties of the President, VP, etc.