

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF HUNTINGTON

Annual Congregational Meeting Part I

Sunday, April 5, 2009

12 PM

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

**UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING, PART II
JUNE 1, 2008**

President Ben Testa called the meeting to order at 12:25 pm. Other Board members present were

Vice-President, Marc Leopold; Treasurer, Joan Caly; Secretary, Martha Outcault; Trustees; Carol Lemke, Dorothy Burns, Jennifer Sappell, Kim Shultze

There was a quorum with 71 members attending.

David Yens moved that the minutes of the April 13, 2008 Annual Congregational Meeting Part I be accepted. The motion was passed.

After considerable discussion of the proposed Budget for 2008-2009, Susan Peters made a motion to amend the budget to reflect that if there are excess funds, reserves be restored to what is in the 2007-2008 Budget. Motion was passed. Ben Testa called for a motion to accept the budget as amended. Lois Ann Sepez so moved. The budget was accepted as amended, unanimously.

The Nominating Committee was represented by Ginny Kushnick. Other members of the nominating committee are Liza Burby, Gerald Moss, David Silver, and Scott Yanuck.

Ginny proposed that Maria Nielsen be nominated for Vice President. Carol Towne made a motion to approve the nomination. The motion was seconded and passed.

The Bylaws Committee proposed one change to the current bylaws;

- New Article IV, Section 4.4: Executive Committee

Members of the Executive Committee shall be the President, Vice President, Past President, Treasurer, and Minister (*ex officio*). 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. Jan Brenner moved that the change to the bylaws be accepted. The motion was seconded and passed.

The Affiliated Community Minister Covenant was presented by Rev. Paul Ratzlaff. Rewording of the proposal is to reflect the change to item III: Line 1; The Affiliated Community Minister will minister to the congregation in ways that support the *vision and* mission of the congregation and the vision articulated by the settled Parish Minister.

After much discussion filled with emotion, Ben Testa called for a motion to approve the Affiliated Community Minister Covenant as presented. Steve Burby so moved. The Affiliated Community Minister Covenant was passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Outcault, Board Secretary

ANNUAL REPORTS

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.

We also have CDs of the Sunday services and memorial services for borrowing. Come and take a look and maybe make a purchase!

Ann Scolnick

UU READING GROUPS

The original UU Reading group was started by Marilyn Kopp-Hecker and Ann Scolnick 12 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

NOT NECESSARILY SENIORS

The Not Necessarily Seniors Group met the first and third Wednesdays of every month. There were between 12 and 24 attendees at each meeting. Outside speakers who addressed the group during the year included: Ivan Tantleff, LLB who spoke on medical malpractice and other legal issues, Judge H. Czygier, Jr. of the Suffolk County Surrogate’s Court who spoke on wills and estates, and Mary Dewar who spoke about national health care. Other programs such as Ageing, National Health Care, The Afterlife, and Political Discussions were presented by members of the group. In addition, there were several field trips, such as to The Nassau County Museum of Art and The Lloyd Manor House archeological excavations. NNS was also responsible for the Annual Holiday Dinner at the December Centers Night.

Bill Hecker, Dorothy Burns, Miriam Agresti (Co-chairs)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee has several functions. Among these are the preparation and presentation of the annual operating budget, oversight for all Fellowship fundraisers 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 fundraiser 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 almost \$30,000 to our operating budget.

We also had a Holiday Plant Sale and are planning a Spring Plant Sale. The children in the RE classes are also planning fundraising activities for the Fellowship. The sale of posters featuring our children has been very successful. Last Licks Café has also been a great fundraiser and community builder.

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 2009-2010 budget, which will be presented to the congregation for their approval at our second annual meeting on Sunday, June 1.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Peters

INTERWEAVE

Interweave was inactive from the standpoint of meetings as we did not have any meetings last year. However, Interweave was active in the following areas:

Socials - We had socials most every month.

Gay Pride Service: As always, we put on the Gay Pride Service. The 2007 service focused on GLBT adults and their roles as parents, teachers, and mentors - with children. We also provided a welcome breakfast and marched with others from the congregation in the Huntington Gay Pride Parade. We staffed an information table in Heckscher Park after the parade.

We also sponsored a movie at the Huntington Cinema Arts Center at the Gay And Lesbian Film Festival. We had members of Interweave join me up in front of the audience before the movie to talk about UUFH and encourage GLBT people to come to UUFH services.

Kim Schultze

THE BEACON

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).

Our editorial staff consists of Joan Caly, Lisa Fyfe, Ann Scolnick, Lois Ann Sepez, and Carol Towne. Due to the serious illness of her daughter in Seattle, Lois Ann was absent from the rotation for six months. Seamlessly, the rest of the crew took up the slack, but we are all glad that Lois Ann has returned and is once again taking her turn as editor. Many thanks to Judie Spero, our Administrator, for her front-line assistance with Beacon production.

The Beacon is produced every other Monday, with some schedule adjustments necessary because of Monday holidays. Your submissions are emailed or brought to the office, and from there are forwarded to the editor-of-the-week, who examines them for appropriateness of content, grammar and spelling. When they meet the criteria, they are emailed back to the office, where Judie puts them into the format that you see in the finished issue. On Mondays, Joan and Ginny read and fine-tune each item before printing them. We strive for perfection, even though this is a “throw-away” publication!

The Beacon could not be sent to the approximately 250 hard-copy recipients without the collating crew, who are called The Beaconeers. On the next day after “Beacon Mondays,” 5 to 10 people arrive, and go to work in the Board Room, collating, folding, labeling, and sorting the pages. One of the group takes the boxes to the Huntington Post Office and the job is done for another two weeks. Several of the Beaconeers also assist with collating jobs as they come up during the year, for the Directory, the Services Auction booklet, the Adult Program SourceBook, et cetera.

This year’s Beaconeers are: Ruth Auerbach, Mimi Cuth, Doris Kamena, John Kamena, Kim Kayal, Siona Koubek, Millie Novak, Eve Weissleder, Brigitte Zimmer, and Lydia Miller, Coordinator.

Ginny Kushnick
Beacon Coordinator

ADULT PROGRAMS

Our Covenant to the Mission Statement

The Adult Program Committee is included under the umbrella of Lifespan Religious Exploration, and is committed to fostering stimulating programs, which uphold and honor our UUFH Mission Statement. We strive to support a life-long spiritual journey in a nurturing, open community in which we can all share our lives and experiences.

Some Highlights of the Sept 2007- June 2008 Season:

Artists Studio

Meg Eckstein led a studio workshop in watercolor, acrylics and other media that met from September through the winter holidays. With the bad weather in January and other factors, attendance dropped too low to continue the workshops. It is hoped that they may be restarted in the future.

Peacemaking

The Peacemaking Caucus continued the Fellowship's contribution to exploring issues of war and peace and to developing the new UU Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking. A significant part of this work was the *Prep for Peacemaking Forum* on February 28, co-sponsored by the Fellowship and the Congregation at Shelter Rock for the entire Metro New York District. Dr. Paul Rasor, UU theologian and author of *Prophetic Nonviolence*, gave his views on what this Statement of Conscience should be. His clear and thoughtful message helped us better understand the moral and religious issues of peacemaking.

Racial Justice

"The State of Race in America" was explored in evening dialogues between Rev. Paul and several leaders of the Long Island African-American community.

Our Inner World"

- Rev. Paul offered a series of workshops on Non-Violent Communication
- In Pathways to the Spirit, Rev. Paul led explorations of meditation, drumming, chant, and prayer. Nancy Hume provided an introduction to Yoga practice and RE Director Carolyn Freud provided a workshop on walking the Labyrinth.
- Several "Silent Days" were offered by Rev. Paul, each including six hours of silent meditation followed by an opportunity for participants to share their experiences.

The Humanist Group

- In the Fall the humanist group led a Saturday morning discussion probing the issues surrounding illegal immigration.
- In April the Saturday morning topic will be "What Do Non-Believers Believe?" The forum offered an opportunity to investigate the variety of possibilities open to those who do not acknowledge a supreme being.

New and On-Going Programs:

- Rev. Paul has continued to offer “Friday Morning Meditation with the Minister.”
- “Care for the Caregiver” continues to provide a needed source of support.
- “Not Necessarily Seniors” – This vibrant, ongoing group has presented programs twice a month (September through June) for the past several years, and currently attracts 15 or more participants, on the average, each time. Programs vary in content, and sometimes include field trips to local points of interest.
- Nancy Hume continues to offer a free 45 minute Chair Yoga Class at 11:45 AM at the Fellowship on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.
- “Some Days In The Park With George” – A series of nature walks around Long Island, led by our member George Murphy.
- “Very Gentle Yoga” – Nancy Hume once again offered her well-received yoga classes.
- The 2nd Book Club has continued to function as an “open” book club. The schedule of books to be discussed is announced in the Beacon and anyone may call to register for any specific discussion they would like to attend. (There is a maximum group size.)
- In addition, several other groups have met regularly and continue to play an active role in our Fellowship life, including: the Humanist Group, Women’s Group, Mother’s Group, Gardener’s Group, UU Reading Group, and Interweave Group (formerly known as the Gay and Lesbian Concerns Group), UU Ewes, and others.

Summary and Comments

The Adult RE Committee continues to support members by promoting spiritual, personal and intellectual growth through an increasing variety and depth of programs.

Overall enrollment in programs seemed to be lower again this year, however there was continued interest and commitment to the Peacemaking and Social Justice programs. The Peacemaking Caucus completed its third year of work on the Study Action Issue to determine a denominational stand on the issues of war and peace.

Goals for the Future

Future efforts will continue to focus upon supporting Fellowship members and friends by promoting spiritual, personal and intellectual growth through an increasing variety and depth of programs.

In view of the reduced number of new programs starting in January and February, the months immediately following the holidays, and in the interest of reducing resource expenditures, the Committee decided to switch to production of an annual rather than a semi-annual format for the Adult Religious Exploration Sourcebook. Brigitte Zimmer will be using her extensive background in desktop and other types of publications to enhance our upcoming Sourcebook. The annual Sourcebook, published in September/October, now includes only year-long, on-going programs, and is supplemented by seasonal or topical inserts or updates to be made available as appropriate. The Beacon and special fliers have been satisfactory in conveying these updates, and there have been no objections from members of the Fellowship.

Brigitte Zimmer and Susan Kenler, Co-Chairs

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PEACEMAKING CAUCUS

Just Peacemaking

. . . We are called to turn from war and to establish with others a culture of peace and nonviolence for ourselves and among the nations. We are called to help create a just and lasting peace for future generations in the evolving world community.

The belief systems of “just war” tradition and “pacifism” as they are commonly conceived are morally and practicably flawed. “Just war” is too often invoked to support aggressive war. “Pacifism” is commonly dismissed as a passive refusal to fight.

This Statement of Conscience proposes that Unitarian Universalists take up a third way of seeking just and lasting peace for all. “Just peacemaking” is this way – a way of meeting the moral and practical questions of war and peace. . .

from the Fellowship’s proposals for the Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking,
January 2009

The Peacemaking Caucus has worked to engage Fellowship members and UUs across the denomination to help develop a clear and forceful Unitarian Universalist Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking. After three years of deliberations, delegates to the UU General Assembly in June will vote on the proposed Statement, which is intended to help UUs think through the difficult moral and religious questions of war and peace, and take those actions in keeping with their convictions.

The basic tenet of the Peacemaking Caucus continues to be as it was when we started three years ago: For the world’s nations to have just and lasting peace, we need to *change from a culture of war and violence to a culture of peace and non-violence*. Developing such a culture entails both personal and spiritual change that is connected to broader social change in the world. In Gandhi’s words, “We must become the change we want to see.”

To encourage both personal and social change toward peace, the Peacemaking Caucus has tried to engage Fellowship members in four different ways:

First: We extended to everyone an opportunity to make a personal COMMITMENT TO A CULTURE OF PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE. Approximately 90 members have signed and taken on a commitment to the values expressed in this set of six statements, written by Noble Peace Laureates in 2000 at the beginning of the new millennium. As part of our continuing reflection on these commitments and how they affect our lives, they are now displayed in the entrance foyer.

Second: We proposed to the UU Commission on Social Witness that the Statement of Conscience take as its central idea, the notion of “just peacemaking.”

Earlier, we sent all Fellowship members the Draft Statement of Conscience that was presented by the UU Commission on Social Witness last November. After a Fellowship Forum in January (in which many had a chance to give us their input for revision of the Draft) the Peacemaking Caucus decided on the changes to the Draft that we think will express clearly and forcefully our views on war and peace.

A Statement of Conscience, of course, should reflect UU values and help us clarify and strengthen our convictions. But it should be kept in mind that neither the Peacemaking Caucus draft proposals nor the forthcoming UU Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking is an attempt to impose particular beliefs or values on any one of us.

Third: The Peacemaking Caucus helped organize an all-day forum on UU Peacemaking for the Metro New York District on February 28. This forum was sponsored jointly by the UUFH and the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock. UUs came together to become better informed and hear various views on the proposed Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking. The principal speaker was Dr. Paul Razor, UU theologian and author of *Prophetic Nonviolence*, published in the UU World last spring. Dr. Razor raised a set of points to make the Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking a strong and clear statement of Unitarian Universalist values and beliefs.

With the support of the Sunday Program Committee, Dr. Razor was the Fellowship's distinguished guest speaker and gave the sermon the next day during Sunday Service at the Fellowship.

Fourth: Members of the Fellowship continue to be outraged by the deaths and suffering in Darfur. We have worked with members of Shelter Rock to call attention to their plight and demand that more be done to end the killing and aid those who are suffering.

Submitted by Richard Kopp
Convener, UUFH Peacemaking Caucus

ARCHIVES

Audio tapes from 1971 to 2008 were organized and stored in boxes and labeled. A shelf was built to hold the stored boxes.

The 30 plus years of accumulated Renaissance Faire material was reviewed to determine what should be kept. Material was then sorted to prepare for filing.

We gave a presentation in January to the Not Necessarily Seniors on the history of our ministry.

Submitted by Mary Jane Wochinger, Lois Ann Sepez, Carol Towne

CASTLE CARE

Our Castle Care Committee is charged with the job of keeping the buildings and grounds in good repair. Our volunteers take care of many regular maintenance jobs, including keeping the pantry, kitchen, closets, etc. in good order. We change light bulbs, fix leaks, repair furniture, paint, etc. Unfortunately, we have also had to call in plumbers, electricians, tree men and landscape crews to handle larger jobs in their respective areas. In particular, both our paved and gravel parking lots needed expensive upkeep this year, which meant hiring more contractors.

Attendance at our monthly Shared Maintenance days has dwindled. If each Fellowship group or Cluster would send two or three members to work just one Saturday during the year, we could get to the many items that never seem to make it to the top of our punch-list!

A separate group, the "Front Entrance Task Force," consisting of Jim Thomas, Joyce Gotsch, Alice Link plus CC members Bill Hawkins, Susan Peters, Reba Siniscalchi and Ginny Kushnick, spent many hours designing a more attractive and functional front entrance, in anticipation of funding from the Endowment Fund. However, since there will be no distribution from the Endowment Fund this year, our work has slowed. We have many plans at the ready for the time when funding is available.

Thanks to the Committee members, and to all the volunteers listed below.

The Castle Care Committee: Bill Hawkins and Jon Nielsen, co-chairs
Ginny Kushnick, Susan Peters, Reba Siniscalchi, Mary Jane Wochinger

This year's Second Saturday Shared Maintenance volunteers:

Annabel Caner
Frank Sappell
Peter Sepez
Bernie Musso
Arnt Monge
Alice Link
Ann Scolnick
Joyce Gotsch
Lynn Cryer
Dan Sandoval

Larry Buckley
Larry Chorowski
Jim McKenna
Jim Thomas
Judie Gardner
Marsha Tovim
Katherine Hoak
Lee Wilson
Andy Feigin
Patrick MacDevitt

UUFH INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Since July of 2008 the Investment Committee (Kim Schultze, Susan Peters, Ed Vigneau, and Dave Holstein) has worked with Marcia Namowitz, of Ameriprise Financial, to manage the UUFH Endowment Funds.

The Investment Committee gives direction to, and monitors results of, the Investment Advisor (Marcia Namowitz)

- Monitors monthly statements
- Meets with Marcia Namowitz one to two times a year (as needed) to discuss changes in endowment investments.

A spreadsheet was created to determine excess funds which can be withdrawn and allocated to the Endowment Committee. The Endowment Committee then receives proposals from UUFH applicants and makes recommendations to the Board. The following describes the approach which determines Endowment Fund excess funds for spending:

As per the rules of the Endowment Committee, only excess funds are allowed to be withdrawn from the endowment funds. Excess funds are those defined as the average balance for the previous year multiplied by the average annual real return for the previous three years. Real return is defined as the investment return minus the Metro New York Consumer Price Index-Urban (CPI).

Due to unfavorable market conditions, there were no excess funds to turn over to the Endowment Committee this year.

Balances:

This time last year (as of March 31, 2008) we had \$352,023.48 in the UUFH Endowment Funds.

We then had received two bequests. Both were invested 50% in the SRI funds and 50% in the non-SRI funds.

1. \$382,000 from the estate of Howard Steere (to regular UUFH Endowment Fund)
2. \$ 54,000 from the trust of Johanna Van Roy (to create the Peter Van Roy Foundation which shall "provide speakers for the Fellowship at least annually")

As of February 27, 2009 we have \$536,102.50 in the UUFH Endowment Funds.

Submitted by Kim Schultze

REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Board of Trustees (three-year terms)
Officers (one-year term, as part of a three-year Board term)

President: Maria Pignataro Nielsen (second year on Board)

Vice-president: Jennifer Sappell

Treasurer: Kathryn Johnson

Secretary: Dorothy Burns (third year on Board)

Trustee: Ken Buley-Neumar (completing unexpired term, one year)

Trustee: Gerald Moss

Continuing Trustees: Marc Leopold (third year)

Barbara Grey and Linda Paul-Elem (both second year)

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

Administrative & Plant: Jim Thomas

Outreach: Mary Ann Hergenrother

Endowment Committee: (one position, three-year term)

Bill Hecker, second three-year term

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

Peggy Koulias

Katherine Hoak

Nominating Committee: (three positions, two-year terms)

Stan Mehlman

Marilyn Kopp-Hecker

David Silver (second term)

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee: Liza Burby, Convener,
Larry Chorowski, Maria Miceli, David Silver, Alex Wolff and Scott Yanuck

AFFILIATED COMMUNITY MINISTER

With the Fellowship endorsing my hospice ministry at Hospice Care Network this past year, I have been able to give back to the Fellowship in the following ways. For the Fellowship, in October and November 2008, I offered a three-session program entitled "Living Well, Dying Well," a spiritual exploration of living well with an awareness of the wonder and fragility of life. In March 2009, I invited Fellowship members to join me in providing a spirited worship service about Purim which might be the start of a Purim play tradition in the Fellowship. I also participated in the Homecoming and Christmas Eve worship services led by Rev. Paul.

I thank the Fellowship for your support of my ministry in the community.

Will

The Rev. William Feinberg