

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF HUNTINGTON

Annual Congregational Meeting Part II

Sunday, June 1, 2008

12 PM

- I. Call to Order
- II. Previous Minutes
- III. Report from the Minister
- IV. Report from the President
- V. Annual Reports
- VI. Budget Proposal
- VII. Nominating Committee:
Board V. P. Election
- VIII. Bylaws Change:
Executive Committee
- IX. Ministry Recommendation:
Affiliated Community Minister
- X. Adjournment

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL PART I
MEETING MINUTES
April 13, 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; Past President, Reba Siniscalchi; Trustees; Carol Lemke, Dorothy Burns, Jennifer Sappell.

There was a quorum with 68 members.

Zoe Taylor moved that the minutes of the June 3, 2007 Annual Congregational Meeting, Part II be accepted. The motion was seconded and passed.

Discussion of the Annual Reports began with Ruth Auerbach adding that the Beaconeers were not mentioned in the Beacon Annual Report and that they are a group of dedicated members who regularly collate and mail the Beacon.

Barbara Grey noted that the Services Auction Report omitted the netted amount from the Services Auction event. This will be supplied at the June 1st, Annual Congregational Part II Meeting.

The Canvas Committee did not submit a written report. Ann Scolnick verbally reported that as of today \$300,000 has been pledged towards our goal of \$400,000. We have only received 130 pledges out of an expected 340.

Renee Velkoff stated that on behalf of the hearing impaired everyone who speaks at the meeting must use a microphone.

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 the slate of single nominees for each position as follows:

Board of Trustees

Officers:

President: Marc Leopold (1 year, part of his 3 year term on Board)

Vice President: Not yet confirmed

Treasurer: Joan Caly (3rd year on the board)

Secretary: Martha Outcault (2nd year on the board)

Past President: Ben Testa (3rd year on the board)

Trustee: Carol Lemke (3rd year on the board)

Trustee: Dorothy Burns (2nd year on the board)

Trustee: Linda Paul-Elem

Trustee: Barbara Grey

Cluster Coordinators: (2 year terms)

Communications: Jack DeMasi (2nd term)

Lifespan RE: David Sussman

Outreach: Rob Cooper

Endowment Committee

Bob Bader (2nd term)

Committee on Congregational Ministry (3 year term)

Lorraine Austin

Louise Curtis

Nominating Committee

Larry Chorowski

Alex Wolff

Maria Miceli

(Carry-over persons will be Liza Burby, David Silver and Scott Yanuck)

Ben asked for a motion to approve the nominations submitted. Motion to accept slate of nominations was made by Dave Martin. Seconded by Steve Burby.

Nominations accepted. 2 opposed, 0 abstentions

Discussion followed with Johanna Leopold questioning how we can vote with no Vice-President nominee offered. Ben assured the congregation that a V.P. nominee will be presented by the Nominating Committee and voted upon at the June 1, 2008 Annual Congregational Part II Meeting.

Susan Peters commented that there “needs to be an assurance given” to the congregation that all those elected to positions are members of the congregation. Ben stated that they have already signed the book.

Dick Kopp presented a change that the Peacemaking Caucus Group would like to make to the Fellowship’s Mission Statement that would include the word “**peace**” in its sixth bullet. A motion was made by Florence Martin to approve the change. Seconded by Johanna Leopold. The change passed unanimously.

Joan Caly and Mary Jane Wochinger presented a number of Bylaw Changes. After extensive discussion and comments the move to change the bylaws was withdrawn, and will be revisited at the Annual Congregational Meeting Part II, June 1, 2008.

Rev. Paul presented information with regard to having Rev. Will Feinberg be an Affiliated Community Minister associated with our congregation. Several questions and concerns arose from various members. These concerns will be addressed at the Annual Congregational Meeting Part II, as well as a vote.

In closing Ben reminded members of the Seder Supper April 20, 2008, as well as the UUA assessment that will be conducted on May 10, 2008 by Larry Wheeler, a UUA Stewardship Consultant, to determine our congregation’s readiness to move forward with the Master Plan.

The meeting was adjourned 1:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Outcault, Board Secretary

MINISTER'S ANNUAL REPORT

June 1, 2008

Rev. Paul Ratzlaff

THEMES OF THE YEAR: Celebrating the Fellowship's 60th year led to several Sunday services entitled "You, Too, Can Be Proud," that highlighted our achievements, and looked to the future. I chose to accent civil rights and racism, caring, welcoming congregation, and, of course, Celebration Sunday.

We focused much on membership, especially the assimilation of newcomers. Our Fellowship leaders have been sensitized to the need to create better connections with interested newcomers. Through Task Force 300 we have attended to many details that enrich our welcoming environment.

Included in this effort have been a number of activities leading to a heightened sense of our congregation's purpose. Four leaders attended a weekend on congregational renewal and vitalization. We had a "Readiness Assessment" Saturday with Larry Wheeler, UU Stewardship Consultant, which has furthered a conversation about what kind of future we want. The Board is reading *More Than Numbers*, which will help our leaders reflect on different kinds of growth.

Following the lead of the Religious Education program, we are asking ourselves more often, "How were you UU this past week?" More emphasis on living our faith is welcomed.

WORSHIP: Overall this past year, 2007 - 2008, has been a year of effective shared ministry. Our Sunday services have been meaningful, varied, and addressed a range of topics and concerns – thanks to shared leadership with the Sunday Program Committee. The support of our choir and special music has been excellent. I'm especially inspired by the Choir Sunday's "Songs of Peace."

I brought in more UUFH voices into the Sundays that I have led. A highlight was the service on "White Privilege" in which a number of members spoke. I also used member voices in the "You, Too, Can Be Proud" series.

LIFE SPAN LEARNING: Our religious education program continues to be excellent.

For some years we have had the goal of creating truly intergenerational events, as a way of drawing our many-layered congregation into a feeling of being one community. We accomplished much of that with the 60th Birthday Party for UUFH combined with the intergenerational talent show.

I have led a major program, Wellspring, which requires committed reading, a spiritual practice and work with a spiritual director, as a way of inviting participants to deepen their understanding of UU and to work out their own beliefs and practices. In addition, I inaugurated two evenings of conversation about "Race in America" with local African American leaders. I participated in the Jubilee weekend, leading to a Sunday service about white privilege, and a DVD discussion of "Mirrors of Privilege." I also facilitated a conversation with Rabbi Dennis Ross about stem cells.

SOCIAL JUSTICE/ACTION: In social justice, we have had another successful year of providing shelter with the Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative. We worked hard at recruiting new volunteers. That, along with sharing two Sunday evenings a month with other congregations, led to a successful year.

In my role as co-chair of the Social Justice Subcommittee of HiHi, we have expanded the services at the hiring site, provided ongoing education about the contribution of immigrants to Long Island's economy, and supported press coverage of local legislation.

I continue to support the Empire State Pride Agenda's threefold effort: marriage equality; including gender variant rights in anti-discrimination legislation; and providing safe schools for children and youth who are different.

I've had some activity with Planned Parenthood, including hosting a clergy luncheon on stem cell issues.

In my ongoing role on the Public Issues Committee of the Long Island Council of Churches, I've encouraged us to support the MICA program on addressing poverty on Long Island. Inserts have been included in our orders of service, which have provided consciousness-raising tidbits about poverty on the Island.

As a concerned citizen of Northport, I've begun exploring the formation of a coalition to diversify the communities of Northport and East Northport.

I continue to help the Council on Prejudice Reduction to plan its annual conference. That is a wonderful forum where I learn about the many progressive initiatives on the Island.

CARING: I continue to be impressed by the many ways we care for one another. There are so many informal circles of caring, which rally round when the need arises. This year the Pastoral Care Associates continued to expand its understanding of community resources, including the Alzheimer's Association; Huntington's Senior Citizen Social Worker, and Hospice Care Network.

DENOMINATION: Denominationally, we contribute a number of members as leaders of the Long Island Area Council and its activities. David Silver serves as Vice President of LIAC. Our congregation often leads the way in supporting programs like Sophia Lyon Fahs Camp, and the Coming of Age Program. We generously supported two Chalice Lighter offerings. I have organized a third taping of three UU colleagues to video a series for local cable television (thanks to Larry Chorowski, Producer), as a way of promoting our faith.

In addition, this was the first year of the Long Island Leadership Institute, a cooperative UU venture to train our next generation of congregational leaders. Reba Siniscalchi serves as Dean. I serve on the LiLi Steering Committee, which plans the six Saturdays of training. Five UUFH members participated this year.

MINISTRIES THAT SUPPORT OUR INSTITUTION: In the area of "hearth" ministry (i.e., the support for the Fellowship's "heart" ministry) we have accomplished much. Much planning went into the stimulating Readiness Assessment weekend.

While this year's canvass did not raise the money that we had hoped, it did accomplish a wonderful celebration.

Continuing the "split-plate" Sunday offering, we have supported many worthwhile causes, both locally and internationally, with great generosity. Many agencies and organizations have appreciated our support.

Association Sunday raised a whopping \$20,000 for the UUA's effort in promoting our faith. We were recognized for our leading generosity.

The Board has also addressed ongoing issues with the mission of the Beyond our Walls committee. I trust that there will be renewed vitality to this critical program of supporting our members in acting on our UU values in the larger community.

This year, the Cluster Coordinators Council (CCC) has continued to address committee functioning, specifically through developing "shared ministry position descriptions."

STAFF TEAM: We have a terrific staff team in place. Each contributes in her or his area of competence. I am grateful to work with such talented people who contribute to the successful ministry of the Fellowship. In addition to Carolyn and Richard, Judie Spero as our Administrator provides excellent support to our many behind-the-scenes details. This year we welcomed Carol Ziegler as RE Assistant. Carol has helped build our RE community by her gifts for communication, and by freeing Carolyn to provide some of the special programs that she has introduced. Our bookkeeper and a Professional CPA support our financial stability.

On the Fellowship's behalf, along with Joan Caly, we have conducted the negotiations with Rev. Will Feinberg that may lead to his becoming an Affiliated Community Minister with UUFH.

OUTSIDE UUFH: I participated in twice-a-year meetings of the Greenfield Ministers Study Group. Locally, I participate in the Huntington Clergy Council, and the LI UU Ministers Cluster.

This year I will have participated in two of four extended weekends in the Barre Center for Buddhist Study's *Intensive Study and Practice Program*. Studying with other committed Buddhist practitioners helps me reflect more deeply in my own ongoing practice.

I have also fulfilled the role of minister in a variety of rites of passage – namings, weddings and memorial services. This year we mark the loss of Johanna Van Roy, Velta Kayal, Brian Hayward, and Dot Muller, among others.

Overall I am grateful to continue to serve as your minister. I look forward to the coming year with excitement and confidence in our serving as a "Beacon" for liberal religion in the larger Huntington area.

Rev. Paul Ratzlaff

BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT YEAR-END REPORT
Fellowship Year 2007-2008
June 1, 2008

As is true for most Fellowship Years, a lot of activity took place and continues to take place. This report presents and discusses the highlights of the topics, issues and actions that I became involved in throughout the year.

If any congregant wishes to read the detailed President's Monthly Reports that were used as reference for this Year-End Report (submitted to the Board for their review and then are posted within the Board Information Case located just beyond the Entry Foyer area), they are all available in a looseleaf binder located in the Fellowship's Library in the Board Room. If you should have any questions concerning this report, or any of the reports, please feel free to contact me.

As your Board President, my regular duties involved:

- Scheduling, preparing an agenda for, leading and participating in three Board meetings per month: Spiritual Directions, Executive Committee, and Business.
- Providing monthly President's Reports to the Board, and posting them within the Board Information Case that is located just beyond the entrance foyer.
- Setting the agendas for the Annual Congregational Part I and II Meetings, as well as providing this President's Year-End Report.
- Writing Beacon Newsletter articles for the President's Corner column whereupon I chose to address such diverse topics as "The Meaning of Attending General Assembly," "Communication Enhancements of Our New Website," "Empowering Congregations - That's Us," and "An Invite to Participate in the Readiness Assessment," to name four of the 12 articles issued.
- Having the honor to represent our UUFH at various outreach events such as the "Jobs With Justice" fundraiser, the "Long Island Interfaith Energy Network" coordination discussions, the Turkish Cultural Center Dinner held at the Fellowship, a number of "Green Drinks" environmental gatherings held at Oakdale and Huntington establishments, and the installation of the Rev. Alison Cornish at the UU Congregation of the South Fork in Bridgehampton, NY.

In addition, I certainly hope all members, friends and acquaintances of our Fellowship felt I was always available for anyone who wanted to communicate about any issue whatsoever.

Before addressing some specific topics and actions that I got involved with as your President, I want to take this opportunity to personally thank the entire Board who supported me throughout the year, as well as their propensity to act as a cohesive group to discuss and resolve issues. I also want to take a moment to thank Rev. Paul for his wonderful counsel throughout the year. In addition, special thanks goes to the Staff and Office volunteers without which we could not

be the wonderful supportive community that we are. I know I speak for the entire Fellowship community when I say “thank you,” again, and again.

The topics and issues that I spent most of my time on this year were in many cases invigorating for me personally, as well as extremely important to the well-being of our congregation. To encourage this, there has been a concerted effort to discuss various Fellowship-level matters at many of our Board Spiritual Directions Meetings. For instance, we discussed such items as: “Philanthropy versus Fellowship Needs – How Do We Find a Solution?,” “What is the State of Our Caring/Community Environment?,” “Volunteerism – Besides Better Communications, What?,” “Growth and Vitality – How Do They Feed Each Other?,” etc.

I am glad to report that the dialogue held on these, and other matters, was mainly encouraging and has led to a number of positive outcomes. These dialogues have, as one Board member recently said, “laid the groundwork to proceed” forward from this point on. I for one, certainly hope so.

Perhaps the shining example of an encouraging development involves the Beyond Our Walls (BOW) initiative. In September of 2007, a number of contentions had developed between the BOW Committee, the Board and the Minister. I suggested we employ one of our first Spiritual Directions Meetings to see how we might start to resolve the problems. The Board decided to take on a fact-finding exercise that would allow us to come to grips with the root(s) of the problem. Much to the credit of the BOW Committee members, they agreed to join us on this journey toward reconciliation and institutional issue resolution. With a little help from Rev. Hope Johnson of the Garden City, NY congregation who helped us in the “reconciliation stage” of our deliberations, the entire experience was an excellent example for everyone involved indicating how “living our values” can be our most powerful statement for, and toward, each other.

I am glad to report to the congregation that the BOW Committee is once again fully operational. Communication, responsibility, authority, and funding-objective issues were all reviewed and compromises were reached, including the need to make more clear to the congregation the benefit being derived from the BOW Committee’s activities through Sunday Services, promotional events, etc.

Another example of a positive development came about through the advocacy of having a Readiness Assessment Workshop undertaken by the Fellowship. The Master Planning Task Force – Part II (MPTF-II) suggested that we determine, as a congregation, whether we are ready to undertake a capital campaign to implement some sort of phased approach to the Master Plan that was developed a number of years ago. I, and the Board, agreed that by pursuing the workshop, it would give us not only that insight, but also and most importantly, the opportunity to help assimilate the various actions we’ve taken to date. For instance, we can ensure that, as we go forward, there is an integrated approach between the Vision Statement (that deals with Caring, Worship, Education and

Social Justice), with our Mission Statement, and with the Master Plan that will enable our vision to be realized.

In May 2008, the Readiness Assessment Workshop was held, attended by 40 very engaged members, and facilitated by Mr. Larry Wheeler, a UUA Stewardship Consultant. Now that we have received Mr. Wheeler's *Assessment View Report*, the Board and I will (a) distribute the report to all members and friends of the congregation, and (b) have the necessary follow-up discussions with as many of the remaining 229 members who would like to participate in this most important dialogue.

In conjunction with the Readiness Assessment, Marc Leopold (Board VP), Dorothy Burns (Board Trustee), Johanna Leopold (Social Justice Co-Chairperson) and Royal Forest (Membership/Newcomer Coordination) attended the UUA Metro District sponsored "Growth and Vitality Forum," held in Murray Grove, NJ. The data and information that was gathered, and the knowledge gained, can directly contribute toward both understanding and incorporating various actions to improve our maturational, organic, "incarnational," and numeric growth – all of which are so important to our congregation's vivacity and vigor.

On March 11, 2008, the UUFH was honored by the UUA as one of the two empowering congregations in the U.S. to reach "truly empowering levels of generosity on Association Sunday 2007," the other being the River of Grass Congregation in Plantation, FL. As the article on the UUA website indicates, these congregations "executed such organized campaigns that they were able to raise more than \$50 per member!" Furthermore, on March 21, 2008 our congregation was cited as only one of ten to employ a "matching challenge grant" as a means to inspire generosity. Thank you, Reba Siniscalchi and Lois Ann Sepez for enabling this to happen at our Fellowship.

During this Fellowship Year I was able to participate in *Long Island Interfaith Energy Network's (LIEN)* "conference calls" that resulted in our Fellowship being given a free LIPA Energy Audit. The audit led to a LIPA recommendation that the Fellowship, throughout its facilities, retrofit all its fluorescent lighting fixtures with new ballasts able to accept T8 bulbs, as well as to employ "reflectors" within each fixture to reduce light-scattering. In addition, it was recommended that two ceiling fans be placed down the center of the Main Hall for better circulation. The entire expenditure would be approximately \$5,100, realizing a savings of approximately \$2,000 per annum in electricity costs. The analysis indicates a very favorable 2.4 year payback period. Because of the excellent payback, it was recommended that an Administration & Plant building maintenance proposal that sought to use some of the "interest" earned from our endowment fund investments, be modified to align with the LIPA recommendation. This was done, and the Board approved taking the necessary actions to achieve these savings.

On a more personal level, I attended the Second Annual Leadership Day, held at the UU Congregation of Shelter Rock, as well as four of five leadership courses sponsored by the Long Island Leadership Institute (LILI). The courses were held

at a number of UU congregations on Long Island, including our own. Some of the topics included were “Spiritual Covenanting,” “Power Dynamics,” “Communication & Listening Styles,” “Conflict Resolution,” “Volunteers & Leadership,” and “Growth & Leadership.” As the Fellowship Year proceeded I could see where some of the data and information gathered needed to be assimilated into knowledge for the benefit of the Fellowship. It is goal of mine to do so.

Other actions that I was very involved with this Fellowship Year included:

- Chairing the *2007 Board Retreat* held at UU Congregation at Shelter Rock that concerned itself with an “as-is” and “to-be” examination of our Fellowship, both from personal and congregational points of view.
- Preparing and giving a presentation to our *Not Necessarily Seniors* group to obtain their input to such questions as “What do you envision our community to be like in five years, 10 years?” What would you like the Fellowship to stand for as we go forward from this point, etc.?
- Attending a number of new member and newcomer gatherings.
- Authoring a *“Recharge For the Task Force 300 Group.”*
(Although in our most recent discussions this task force will most likely be merged into growth and vitality discussions and actions).
- Reviewing the concepts of how “Enlarging the Breadth of Our Leadership” can be accomplished in a manner that allows us to tap members and friends beyond those we know for leadership and committee member positions.
(The need for implementing some sort of action along these lines is paramount. For instance, it took literally three to six months after the Fellowship Year started to fill various positions that needed Board approval.)
- Attended a number of canvass-related activities such as our 60th Birthday Party, Souper Sunday, and the canvass gathering celebrations where I had the honor of addressing the attendees.
- Taking an active role at the JTW Jubilee World Workshop that led directly to our congregational discussion of “white privilege,” and my participation in a Sunday service that concerned “white privilege” that persists in our society.
- Participating in Rev. Paul’s discussions concerning the Seven Principles, as presently expressed, as to whether they reflect where we perceive our congregation and faith to be today.
- Attending the Peacemaking Caucus Group congregational meeting, suggesting that our faith’s Seven Principles be an integral part of the *Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking*.
- Writing a draft statement that would enable us to incorporate the Executive Committee’s duties within the UUFH bylaws.
- Attending the coordination meeting to formally establish the Peter Van Roy Foundation that will enable our Fellowship to sponsor speakers for Sunday Services and possibly for other Fellowship events.
- Working with the Communications Cluster Coordinator, the Office staff and volunteers, and the Minister to help understand how the Special/Emergency Communications Policy can be revised so that “E-Blasts” can be employed for congregation-wide announcements that have to do with other communication

needs, e.g., revenue generating events, Fellowship business, etc. In addition, we are looking at what is involved to get such announcements on the new website.

- Participating in the budgeting process to prepare the Budget for 2008-2009. As I met with the Treasurer and the Finance Committee over a number of weeks, it became somewhat disheartening (at times) as we found ourselves having to discuss various tradeoffs that inevitably led to reductions in areas that we all felt uncomfortable cutting.

One area where success has been elusive this Fellowship Year has been settling upon a Building Use Policy, a.k.a. the "*UUFH Facility Use Rental & Partnering Policies, Procedures and Forms Booklet*," that the affected Fellowship parties can totally agree on. A new draft version of the policy was recently written. Some strong concerns still exist, i.e., that as written, the policy is too restrictive, so much so as to make it not practical; whereas others who advocated the revised version interpreted the original as too flexible with no clear lines of authority and responsibility. However, I can see a compromise is not insurmountable. For the most part, a compromise has not been reached because the policy has not had priority over other more pressing issues. This needs to be rectified in the near future.

Before closing, I would like to say what an honor it has been to serve all of you and our Fellowship as your Board President for this past Fellowship Year. Thank you for your encouragement and kind words throughout the year, and even when we've had some contention, your support.

In Fellowship,
Ben Testa
Board President

CASTLE CARE ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

Our Castle Care Committee is charged with the job of keeping the buildings and grounds in good repair. While previously we did nearly all of this work ourselves, in the last few years we have had to contract out more and more tasks. Our volunteer workforce has shrunk and many items that we *could* do ourselves get assigned to the paid handyman because it is difficult to predict when a member-volunteer will have the time to visit the Fellowship and take care of the matter in a timely fashion.

Nevertheless, 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, et cetera. In addition, we have had to call in plumbers, electricians, tree men and landscape crews to handle larger jobs in their respective areas. Many hours are spent in handling the small and large situations that plague this aging building of ours. One rather big accomplishment this year was the demolition and removal of our old, unsightly sheds in the back of our property.

Castle Care is also involved with other events at the Fellowship such as the Services Auction, Canvass, Last Licks and HiHi. Every event impacts the building in many ways. Each usage involves clean up, kitchen, bathrooms and general wear and tear on the building. We play a part in helping other committees so that their events are successful.

The Committee prepared and submitted a proposal for the use of this year's Endowment Fund's interest. Several building improvements were included, and if the funds are granted, we expect to proceed with those improvements this summer. Budget constraints are always a factor in our decisions. The "garbage area" near the kitchen door is unsightly, and we hope to schedule improvements there as soon as possible.

Attendance at our monthly Shared Maintenance days has dwindled. We will try to be more pro-active in our publicity. If each Fellowship group or Cluster would send 2 or 3 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!

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 volunteers: SSSM volunteers Feb 07- May 08

Annabel Caner
Peter Sepez
Bernie Musso
Sylvia Lipnick
Alice Link
Ann Scolnick
Judie Gardner
Marsha Tovim
Gerald Moss

Daniel Sandoval
LoisAnn Sepez
Joan McWade
Ed Vigneau
Lynn Cryer
Katherine Hoak
Scott Yanuck
Carol Towne
Lee Wilson

Larry Buckley
Jack DeMasi
Larry Chorowski
Alex Wolff
Jim McKenna
Gerald Moss
Jim Thomas
Joan Caly

THE BEACONEERS

**Ruth Auerbach, Mimi Cuth, Doris Kamena, John Kamena,
Siona Koubek, Lydia Miller, Millie Novak and Eve Weissleder**

The Beacon is sent out by two methods: electronically, and by Postal Service. Currently there are about 225 copies of each issue sent by the latter method.

The Beacon is printed every other Monday, and on the following day a group of dedicated Fellowship members gather in the Board Room to collate, fold, tab and label the printed pages. When all is ready, one of the group takes the completed copies to the Huntington Post Office.

What would we do without the Beaconeers? They perform faithfully, behind the scenes, week after week, year after year. In 2002 they were recognized as Unsung UU's by a grateful congregation, and we hope that they consider serving for many years to come!

Ginny Kushnick, Beacon Coordinator

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 \$31,911.95. 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

JOURNEY TOWARD WHOLENESS ANNUAL REPORT 2007 – 2008

We kicked off this year with our annual Lasagna Dinner, attended by about 30 people. We showed a series of Shorts from the DVD “Media that Matters” 6th Annual Film Festival and had small group discussion. The DVD is available from JTW if anyone would like to borrow it.

In November we held the Jubilee Weekend, which consisted of a Friday night dinner and movie, an all day workshop on Saturday, and a Sunday Service. About 45 people attended including some people from other congregations. We were asked to make some action plans. From this process two groups formed. One group was to begin the process to bring the JUUST Change Consultancy to the Fellowship for the Fall of 2008. The other group was to explore “White Privilege.” The White Privilege group took off. It developed a Sunday Service together with the participation of Rev. Paul. They also explored the possibility of holding a workshop with Bill Gardner. It was decided to wait until the next “year” to hold the workshop, but in the meantime they held a movie discussion. They showed the movie “Making White Visible” after a Sunday Service. About 25 people, including some new faces, attended it.

In December members of JTW came out to support the Winter Solstice Earth Gathering for Peace.

In January we held a Journey Toward Wholeness Sunday. A percentage of money collected went to the UUA’s Anti Racism Programs and the rest went to the Fellowship for future Journey Toward Wholeness projects. JTW also participated in the Service. Many people from UUFH attended the Huntington Interfaith Martin Luther King Prayer Service. Both our Choir and Minister participated in the service. Both Helen & Andre Boxwill attended a NAACP January meeting. A guest speaker was there from Stony Brook University to discuss contemporary issues of concern in the Black Community. The BOW Committee donated \$1,000 to the Hossana Library Project. Helen went to Ethiopia to establish this library in Hossana, a poor rural community there. Helen is pleased to report that every parent will be contributing to the building of the library and the stakeholders are participating in the planning and building.

In February, Black History Month, JTW sponsored a Gallery Show by the Nassau County African American Museum. There were works by many well-known artists and was well received. Paul Glatzer from Stony Brook UU came and facilitated a movie showing and discussion of “Little Rock Nine.” Included in his presentation was a wonderful collage of news clipping from over the years. UUFH & JTW members attended a presentation given by Andre Boxwill at the Cinema Arts Center about the life of John Henrick Clarke. We are hoping to have this presentation come to the Fellowship as a series.

The Evening of Fellowship did not take place this year. JTW, Rev. Paul and members of Bethel AME Church are in discussion to explore different ways to expand our relationship that includes a component of mutual action. In March we learned about Bethel AME Church's fundraising trip to Harlem in May. We had many interested people at UUFH, but unfortunately, the trip will be postponed until a more agreeable date can be found. Please let us know if you would like to go.

The Split Plate for April was in support of an orphanage for children whose parents died of HIV/AIDS. The Fellowship's members and friends contributed \$1500 to the orphanage. April was when the White Privilege working group presented their Sunday Service with Rev. Paul. This gave us an opportunity to hear some new voices share their personal experiences & insights.

In May the White Privilege Working Group held their discussion of the film, "Making White Visible." Helen is involved in working with Garden City UU on their pilot program's new RE Curriculum, "Building A World We Dream Of". We would like to bring this curriculum to our RE Committee.

We want to recognize Rev. Paul for his support of JTW and his work outside the Fellowship. Rev. Paul has consistently, over the year, provided opportunities for the congregation to be involved in many anti-racism activities in the larger community. One organization that he has promoted is Erase Racism. He attended their lecture presented by a John A. Powell. We were excited to support Rev. Paul's "Discussion Series," where Leaders of Color in our community came to the Fellowship to discuss important topics affecting our community. Each speaker picked reading material to read and discuss. This year we had Elaine Gross from Erase Racism, and Rev. Addae Watson from South Fork UU. We hope to see this series continue.

One of JTW's goals is for leaders at the UUFH to attend Anti-Racism training. We were happy to hear that our DRE Carolyn Freud would be attending the Erase Racism training.

Things to come:

On May 31st the Metro District is holding its annual Anti-Racism Conclave. The Keynote Speaker will be UUA President, Rev. William Sinkford. The Conclave will be held at Community Church in NYC from 10-5 PM. We hope to have a large showing from the UUFH.

By the end of May the JUUST Change application will be in to the UUA for consideration. This will enable us to have a UUA consultant work with us for the year, helping us move toward strengthening & expanding our Anti-Racism, Anti-Oppression work within the UUFH and our larger community.

Your JTW Co-Chairs,
Helen Boxwill & Royal Forest

ADULT PROGRAM REPORT, JUNE 2008

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:

UU Identity

- In celebration of the 60th Birthday of the UUFH, a well attended and much appreciated two-part program, The Fellowship Story, was offered by our UUFH Historians, Lois Ann Sepez, Carol Towne and Mary Jane Wochinger.
- Rev Paul offered a program on “Our 7 UU Principles: Do they Still Define Us?”

Peacemaking

- The “5K Run/Walk for Darfur Relief,” organized by the Peacemaking Caucus, was very successful in drawing attention and participation, and earning funds for the Darfur efforts.
- “The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community,” a vibrant on-going book discussion group, developed motivation and commitment leading to a Sunday Service focusing on themes the participants wanted to share with the congregation.
- To encourage a better understanding of the Muslim religion, Susan Kenler arranged for a member of the Muslim community, Dr. Kauser Zaman, to present two evening presentations and discussion programs focusing on “Muslims in America” and “The Role of Women in Islam.”

Racial Justice

- The “Creating a Jubilee World Workshop” was offered by the Journey Toward Wholeness Committee to focus on the themes of multiculturalism and anti-racism. Two trainee representatives from the Jubilee Organization were present to facilitate the workshops that took place on a Friday evening and a Saturday, culminating in a Jubilee Weekend Sunday Service.
- “The State of Race in America” was explored by Rev. Paul in two evening dialogues: one evening with Elaine Gross, President of Erase Racism, and the other evening dialogue with Rev. Addae Watson (minister of the UU congregation in Southold) focusing on Ida B. Wells, who was at the forefront of the struggle to eliminate lynching.
- JTW offered a Movie and Discussion Night focusing on “The Little Rock Nine: Then and Now --1957-2007 -- Fifty Years in Fifty Eight Minutes. “

“Our Inner World”

- A “Healing Evening: Meditation and Music: On Being with Someone Who is Dying” was offered by Rev. Paul and Fellowship member Ramona Machson.
- 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.
- Rev. Paul offered “Wellspring: Spiritual Deepening for UUs.” This program involved an on-going commitment to reading, sharing, seeking and the development of a daily spiritual practice.

Darwin Day

- The humanist group of the UUFH and the Long Island Secular Humanists co-sponsored the annual Darwin Day at the UUFH. The day included lectures followed by a question-and-answer period.

New On-Going Programs Initiated This Year:

- Nancy Hume has offered a free 45-minute Chair Yoga Class at 11:45 AM at the Fellowship on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

Various On-Going Programs Continued:

- 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 (Sept. thru June) for the past several years, and currently attracts 15 or more participants each time. Programs vary in content, and sometimes include a field trip to a local point of interest.
- “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, the Book Club, and Interweave (formerly known as the Gay and Lesbian Concerns Group).

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 than usual, however there was a great outpouring of interest and commitment to the Peacemaking and Social Justice programs, including the Darfur Walk/Run, the “Great Turning” book discussion, and the Jubilee Weekend.

As noted above, in the Fall a variety of important programs and themes led to very labor- and commitment-intensive programs strongly aligned with our values. In January and February, when Spring programs were to be planned, there appeared to be more of a resting period with few new programs being offered.

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 is considering switching to production of an annual, rather than a semi-annual, format for the Adult Religious Exploration Sourcebook. The annual Sourcebook, published in September/October, would include only year-long, on-going programs, and would be supplemented by seasonal or topical inserts or updates to be made available as is appropriate.

Pat Testa

UUFH INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT JULY 2007 – PRESENT

Since July of 2007 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 for granting to UUFH group uses. The following describes the approach for determining 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 Fund. Excess funds are those defined as the average balanced 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).

This year's excess funds that will be withdrawn are \$15,173. This money will be turned over to the Endowment Committee for distribution.

BIG HEALTH WARNING.

Some caution for 2008: 2008 funds could have a much lower payout. We do not expect \$15,000 excess for 2008. This year could be very difficult since returns are down from this time last year. Also, inflation could be troublesome with energy/food remaining high.

As of March 31, 2008 we have \$352,023.48 in the UUFH Endowment Funds.

In addition, we have recently received two endowments which were both invested 50% in the SRI funds and 50% in the non-SRI funds:

1. \$382,000 from the estate of Howard Steere
2. \$54,000 from the trust of Joanna Van Roy (This is a new endowment for speakers, not part of the general endowment.)

Both of these endowments were deposited with our Investment Advisor at Ameriprise Financial after the March statement so this new money is not reflected in the above March 31 statement amount.

Kim Schultze

ANNUAL REPORT BY THE SOUND COMMITTEE TO THE UUFH BOARD

The normal activities of the Sound Committee continued this year. These activities include handling all sound requirements during Sunday services, creation of audiotapes of all services, from September through June, that are distributed by the Bookstall, and video recording of selected services based upon perceived interest; Harvey Balopole has maintained a library of these videotapes and makes copies upon request.

A poll of member preference for audio tapes or CDs was conducted during Winter, 2008, via the Beacon and the Mid-Week News. Twelve responses were received, all supporting CDs. Few cars have tape players any more; most now come with CD players. However, concern was expressed that CDs cannot be re-used, as tapes can be, and it may be easier to damage CDs. On the plus side, with paper slip-jackets, CDs will take less space than tape boxes and several Sunday programs can be (and are) placed on each CD. As a result of the poll, CD recordings of services were informally made available through the Will Hendrie Bookstall in the Spring of 2008. After a trial period, this service was announced in May. We are planning to provide only CDs starting in the Fall. The medium to be used for RE teachers is yet to be determined.

The quality of sound in the Main Hall continues to be a concern. We are still seeking a method to provide adequate volume for presenters, with a variety of speaking styles and timbres, while minimizing undesirable noise and feedback. One approach that was implemented during the Winter was placing speakers on the sides, halfway back in the Main Hall. This has improved volume in the back but we still have feedback problems. Added sound baffling on the rear and side walls has still to be tried.

Additional equipment to provide additional inputs for the multiple microphones has been obtained and will be installed during the Summer. This will permit the use of additional wireless mics to handle complex audio needs.

Respectfully submitted,

David P. Yens
Harvey Balopole

THE ARCHIVES

We have made much progress in our on-going organization of the Fellowship Archives this year.

The photograph collection has been sorted and labeled, and albums have been made and labeled for Major events (Ralph Stutzman's Farewell party, New Building Dedication, 50th Anniversary).

We gained additional storage space with a closet "trade" with the "Sound" people and were thus able to move in one more very large file cabinet.

We sorted, organized and re-boxed our extensive collection of audio tape recordings of Sunday Services, dating back to 1982 and many Memorial Services. (Thank you, David Yens, for your 25 years of commitment to this project!)

We have begun to "tackle" an entire, "totally disorganized," file cabinet full of 31 years of Renaissance Faire items.

We presented two well-attended programs offered under Adult Education, one on Fellowship History, and one on the History of the Building.

If you need any historic documents or artifacts, or if you have anything you think might be of value to the UUFH history, please don't hesitate to talk to any one of us.

Mary Jane Wochinger, Carol Towne, Lois Ann Sepez, UUFH Historians

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

CANVASS REPORT June 2008

As of May 20, the annual pledge campaign has raised \$353,000 of our budget goal of \$400,000. 175 pledge units out of 224 have pledged. Ongoing efforts are still underway to pledge all members by July 1. We hope that the final one-third of the pledges will bring us to a successful completion of our campaign for the first time in three years.

A focus group met in October to give input and suggestions into the type of events that could improve our canvass. This year, a Saturday intergenerational 60th Birthday Party was combined with our pledge drive, followed by a Sunday Service and luncheon, centering around our theme of Pride and Joy. While all who attended these events had a great time, we didn't collect as many, or as much financial commitment as we had hoped. Next year we plan to link the activities more clearly to the canvass and to our need for everyone's financial commitment.

In a wrap-up session with the Board President, Vice-President and Reverend Paul, and in an assessment all-day workshop, different ideas were suggested to improve the canvass for 2009-10. We welcome any and all suggestions.

Canvass Committee

Sue McGovern, Ann Scolnick,

Joan Caly, Terry Donaldson, Sylvia Lipnick, Susan Peters

LAST LICKS CAFÉ ANNUAL REPORT

Last Licks is a non-profit volunteer program of UUFH. Our goal is to present events for raising funds for the Fellowship and providing outreach to the larger community. For four years we have presented a slate of monthly music programming, and while this remains our main focus, this year we began working with the Huntington Repertoire Theatre to stage theatrical performances as well.

We staged eight concerts this year: Headliners were Peggy Seeger, Red Molly, Denise Romas, Glen Roethel, Montana Clay, The Queazles, Matthew Pierce Ensemble, The Blur Division, Luminescent Orchestrïi, The Wiyos, Jacqueline Schwab and The Tobacco Roadies. Our April show with Cheryl Wheeler and Kenny White was canceled at the last minute and has now been rescheduled for January 24, 2009. Additionally, we presented three performances in conjunction with the Huntington Repertory Theatre, and look forward to working with this organization in the future.

None of this would be possible without the tireless efforts of our volunteers. Thanks to Lisa Broughton, Renee Velkoff, Gerri Farrell, Martha Outcault, David Sibek, Jack DeMasi, Zoe Taylor, Ken Thomas, Ben Farrell, Annette Kirk, Susan Peters, Ken Farrell, Sue DeMasi, Mara Moss and Sharon Thomas, Prairie and Sierra Broughton. Robert Cooper is our liaison to Huntington Repertoire Theatre. Due to the combined efforts of the above folks and our performers, we have earned over \$3,000 for the Fellowship this year. Special thanks to our co-founder Daniel Sandoval, who made sure we were totally prepared to handle all sound needs when he departed this year.

Last Licks has only just begun, so please come out and support our offerings. Lend a hand if you can. We can do so much more, and the way you can help us most is to spread the word of our events, attend them and bring your friends!

Respectfully Submitted May 26 2008,

Gerald Moss and Larry Chorowski
Co-Producers, Last Licks Café

UU FELLOWSHIP OF HUNTINGTON DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS 2007- 08 REPORT

Chalice Lighters - There was no Fall Chalice Lighters Call. Our congregation contributed \$ 1,159 in the Spring Chalice Lighters Call for the First Unitarian Society of Rockland County, Pomona, New York to hire their first professional Director of Religious Education (a critical component of their growth plan).

An updated protocol for the Chalice Lighters Calls was instituted this spring by NY Metro District C.L. Coordinators Bill and Rickey Slezak. Other Metro District Events have been posted on the bulletin board from time to time.

Royal Forest and David Silver attended the spring Metro District Meetings in Connecticut. Royal Forest is involved in starting a young adults and youth, district-wide, events group. She reports that Claire Sexton (of the Metro District's Young Adult Ministry) is an excellent resource for college-bound students.

The following people will be attending UU General Assembly in Fort Lauderdale, Florida from June 25-29:

Royal Forest, Marc and Johanna Leopold, Logan Sappell, Marty Lipnick,
Arnt Monge, Cynthia Chaffee and Richard Kopp

They will meet before GA to coordinate their participation.

Several UUFH members attended the Long Island Leadership Institute which is fostering communications and relationships between Long Island congregations: Rev. Paul Ratzlaff, Royal Forest, Ben Testa, Jon and Maria Nielsen, Terry Donaldson, and Reba Siniscalchi.

The UU-UNO Annual Seminar this year on "Creating a Culture of Peace" was attended by John Lineweaver and Richard Kopp, our UU-UNO envoys, and Cynthia Chaffee. The new director of the UU-UNO is Bruce Knotts, recently retired from the U.S. Diplomatic Service.

Cynthia Chaffee and Donald Clarke
Denominational Affairs Co-Chairs

2007-2008 ANNUAL REPORT PEACEMAKING CAUCUS GROUP

How can we find the common thread of Peace that already exists in all our groups, committees and programs and find our way to weave peace into the fabric of our lives?

The Peacemaking Caucus Group is one way that we come together to consider moral and religious questions about war and peace. Carrying forward last year's study and discussion of the morality of war, we began this year to discern what changes in our lives and in the cultures of the world are needed if we are to evolve from a culture of war to a culture of peace and nonviolence.

UU's are in this second year of study and action for the UUA 2009-2010 Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking. The Peacemaking Caucus Group (PCG) sought Fellowship members' thoughts and beliefs for the Fellowship's "Interim Report on Peacemaking (2008)."

At a Fellowship Forum on February 24, Fellowship members raised questions and expressed views on the Report's "Statements" and "Calls to Action." PCG subsequently revised the Report in light of the values and concerns expressed by the members. The Report was then submitted to the UUA Commission on Social Witness.

The first of the eight "Statements" in the Report establishes the moral foundation and direction for the entire Report: *As Unitarian Universalists, we have reverence for all life. Although violence and death are inherent in nature, war is distinctly a human tragedy. The large-scale use of lethal force to subdue a nation's enemies and gain national advantage is abhorrent to us. War has horrific impact over generations on the lives of people, on economies, and on the environment. We seek to establish a culture of peace – to find peaceful alternatives for resolving conflict and to establish a secure world community with justice for all peoples.*

The Report also issued several "Calls to Action." The Fellowship is called to incorporate peacemaking in its mission. As a first step, the Members approved adding "peace" to the Fellowship Mission Statement at the April 13 Congregational Meeting. As an ongoing project, individual Fellowship members are asked to make their personal commitment to developing a culture of peace, first by signing the Nobel Peace Laureates Declaration for A Culture of Peace and Nonviolence.

Other activities during this year also showed us the political, humanitarian, spiritual, and intercultural aspects of peacemaking:

- The Fellowship joined together in the Walk/Run for Darfur on October 21, our United Nations Sunday. Organized by Marc Leopold and Susan Kenler, and with the help of so many of us, the Walk/Run raised \$ 10,000 (matched by Veatch Funds) for the UUSC's "Drumbeat for Darfur" to help protect those suffering from the genocide there. In the emerging world community of nations, all governments have the responsibility to protect their citizens.
- The reading and discussion group led by Cynthia Chaffee on David C. Korten's book, *The Great Turning*, inspired us to present Korten's call to turn away from "empire" to "earth community" at the Peacemaking Sunday Service on February 24. On that morning, RE teachers provided the children with their own peacemaking activities during the extended worship and forum.
- This year's UU United Nations Office April Annual Seminar on "A Culture of Peace" raised questions on what it takes to prevent genocide and to bring about justice and reconciliation in a culture of peace, as in Rwanda.
- In two evening programs arranged by Adult RE and moderated by Susan Kenler, Dr. Kausar Zaman, a Pakistani Muslim and Long Island resident, helped us broaden our understanding of Islam. The Fellowship also hosted a dinner in May with the Long Island Turkish cultural group, Golden Meadows.
- The Choir moved and inspired all of us with their April 27 Choir Sunday Service, when they sang a program of "Songs of Peace."

The Peacemaking Caucus Group is charged with developing and contributing the Fellowship's study and action on UU Peacemaking as it was adopted at General Assembly in June 2006. From the first, PCG has given its attention to the persisting questions of war and peace. We chose not to focus on the ongoing U.S. wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

This decision is part of our failure to address these wars. Although Rev. Ratzlaff has expressed at Sunday Services the concern, anguish, even outrage that we all have felt as the suffering and death in these wars continue, we have not gathered strong and consistent efforts to mount coherent and insistent action to bring aid to those caught up in war, and possibly to affect the course of U.S. war policies. We act as if we don't know what to do.

Dick Kopp, Convener of the Peacemaking Caucus Group

Present and past members of PCG 2007-2008: Annabel Caner, Cynthia Chaffee, Susan Kenler, Richard Kopp, Ann Kristiansen, Marc Leopold, John Lineweaver, Kathleen Porter, Henry Sidorowicz, Zoe Taylor. Associates: Mary Ann Hergenrother, Winifred Jolly, Joyce Williams.

ANNUAL REPORT BY THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE TO THE UUFH BOARD – 2007-2008

In February, 2007, the Committee was informed about the availability of endowment fund interest of approximately \$15,000. As was done last year, a request for suggested uses was prepared and published in *The Beacon*. After several informal discussions, emails, and a formal meeting, the Committee prepared a recommendation to the UUFH Board for the allocation of the funds, primarily to Castle Care and RE. The total funding recommended was \$14,680. The following proposals were approved by the Board:

Castle Care:

(a) Construction of a wooden eave to be placed over the Religious Education exterior door to the cottage, with plastic wind walls around the eave to be installed at a future time. The eave and the wind walls, when added, will provide shelter and eliminate current pooling of rain water, snow and ice outside the door.

(b) Construction of a concrete sidewalk connecting the RE exterior door to the cottage and a second sidewalk from the RE door to the parking lot, both with appropriate grading, eliminating the current bumpy, often muddy, traverse.

(c) Installation of an awning over the Family Room entrance door extending to the corner of the kitchen/pantry wall, with construction of a concrete ramp that will eliminate the step-up to the door sill. This is the Fellowship's handicapped entrance and weather protection is necessary.

In addition, support was provided for an energy improvement audit that will lead to long-term energy savings.

RE: The Committee recommended partial seed funding for a Youth Advisor to coordinate and run youth programming for the UUFH. A youth coordinator will help the UUFH to meet our goal of greater youth involvement, attract additional youth to the program, and encourage our youth to continue their UU affiliation throughout their college years and beyond. Additional support and a long-term plan are to be arranged.

These projects exemplify the ways in which Endowment funds can be used to improve UUFH programs and facilities. Future plans include further publicity to encourage members and friends to use endowments as a means of providing long-term support to the Fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,
David P. Yens, Chairman

BEYOND OUR WALLS (B.O.W.) COMMITTEE

Annual Report

This year has been a time of change and reflection for the committee.

We met with the Board to express our concern regarding the continual reduction in our funding. The funding at this time is insufficient for annual Grant proposals. Instead, as it stands now, we will hold off for this year and combine funding in order to offer sufficient grant amounts next year.

We will also be participating in a September service on the topic of giving beyond our walls. It will involve a retrospective of past grants awarded and what was accomplished with the funding. We hope that it will urge people to participate in the process and rethink the funding that the committee receives. The Split Plate for that service will be the Beyond Our Walls Committee, Grants fund.

The Split Plate collections have been successful. We've awarded funds to a different group each month, covering a wide variety of organizations of interest to our congregants, as well as several UU charities. We have been very successful in arranging for a representative of each organization to come and speak on the first Sunday of the month for which their charity is chosen. We have learned that the donations are larger when the congregation hears directly from a person who is passionate about the charity.

The committee operates on rotating terms of office. We will have openings for two new members this Fall.

Linda Schiess

CAROLYN FREUD, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION
Annual Report 2008

Our Lifespan Religious Exploration Program has continued to offer a variety of opportunities for Faith Development. Bea Coryell has provided guidance as the RE Cluster Coordinator. Pat Testa and Susan Kenler have worked this year organizing and expanding our Adult Programs. New programs have been offered this year for adults and the planning continues to offer a variety of experiences for Lifespan Religious Exploration. Reverend Paul has supported our RE Program for all ages with his interest and involvement.

During the 2007-2008 year the Religious Education Program was energized with the addition of the weekly sharing of *How were you a UU this week?* The highlight of this year has been the addition of Social Action Sunday Projects, combining all ages in the effort. This year the RE Committee worked on personalizing our UUFH Program to strengthen UU Identity. The 2007-8 theme has been UU Identity with an emphasis on the Seven Principles. Members of the REC created UUFH curriculum written specifically to match the standards and goals developed by the RE Committee, as well as collecting lessons from a variety of UUA curriculum for the year. Our program continues to attract new families. The total number of registered children and youth remains at the 150 level.

The members of the committee attend RE meetings, teach RE Classes, plan and run activities and represent Religious Education in the congregation. This year's team of dedicated volunteers included David Silver and Joanne Polichetti as co-chairs, Maria Miceli, Mary Sussman, Michael Goldsmith, Amy Edel-Vaughn, Grace Dwyer and Laura Liepa.

The core of our Religious Education Program are the teachers who volunteer weekly in their session to teach our children and youth our Unitarian Universalist Principles with traditions, stories, songs, games, music and crafts. Their dedication and commitment to help year after year maintain the quality of our RE Program. Nancy Hume offered her leadership and skills to the RE Program with yoga, meditation and movement enhancing the experience. Alex Wolff and Ken Farrell took pictures during the year to extend the fun of being together.

The Religious Education Committee has continued to sponsor Intergenerational Activities this year including the Halloween Party, Fun Day, Christmas Eve family service with the pageant and the Earth Day Celebration. Talent Night was incorporated into the Canvas 60th Birthday Celebration. UU Kids for 2nd - 5th graders offered a few opportunities for social gathering. Growing UUP for our 2nd thru 4th graders and Side by Side, a mother and daughter program will be offered next year. Two 7th graders participated in the LIAC OWL (Our Whole Lives) Program in the Fall. Reverend Paul and I met with our one LIAC Coming of Age youth during her time of study. Our playgroup for parents of younger children met twice monthly during the week with Jennifer Thieke and myself. This variety of events offered opportunity to build community.

As a Credentialed Religious Educator at the Associate Level, I continue with my own religious education as I work toward the next level. In addition to my current Master's Degree, I continue my studies in Religious Education as part of Lifespan Religious Exploration. I am a member of the LIAC RE Committee, as well as LREDA.

In faith,

Carolyn Freud, Director of Religious Exploration

