

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF HUNTINGTON

Annual Congregational Meeting Part II

Sunday, June 6, 2010

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. Adjournment

UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF HUNTINGTON
MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING, PART I
APRIL 25, 2010

President Maria Nielsen called the meeting to order at 12:20 pm. There was a quorum present. Other Board members in attendance were: Vice-President Jennifer Sappell, Treasurer Kathryn Johnson, Secretary Dorothy Burns, Trustees Ken Buley-Neumar, Gerald Moss, and Past President Marc Leopold.

President Nielsen requested a motion to accept as written the minutes of last year's June 7, 2009, Annual Meeting, Part 2. Zoe Taylor so moved. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Jennifer Sappell, Vice-President, read the single slate of nominees for each position as follows:

Board of Trustees (three-year terms) and
Officers (one year as part of the three-year Board term)
President: Jennifer Sappell (second year on the Board)
Vice-President: Bill Houck (first year on the Board)
Treasurer: Kathryn Johnson (second year on the Board)
Secretary: Royal Forest (first year on the Board)
Trustee: David Sussman (first year on the Board)
Trustee: Scott Yanuck (completing third year of an incomplete term)

Cluster Coordinators (two-year terms)
Communications and IT (formerly Communications and Publicity): Larry Chorowski
Lifespan Religious Exploration: David Silver
Ministry: Sue McGovern

Endowment Committee (one position, three-year term)
Marc Leopold

Nominating Committee (three positions, two-year terms)
Mary Sussman, Ed Vigneau and Nikki Willard

Jennifer asked for a motion to accept the nominees, but Sue McGovern raised her hand to note that two candidates had inadvertently not been mentioned.

Jennifer added to the oral presentation of the official slate:
Committee on Congregational Ministry
Ray Forest and Reba Siniscalchi

The term for elected office will be July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. Steve Burby moved to accept the slate as read. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Next, Kathryn Johnson, Treasurer, rose to say that the Board had determined the need to replace all of the heating system except that of the Main Hall. She called for a discussion first of the issues involved and then a vote to affirm the action of the Board.

Frank Towne presented a two page paper that outlined the background of the heating system problems including the fact that the repairs of the last five years have cost \$31,500. He proposed actions, equipment needed for eight individual heating and cooling zones, and a schedule that calls for the work to be completed before the start of the next heating season. The Board has approved an expenditure of \$60,000 for the project.

A lively discussion followed that covered a range of issues. Kathryn explained possible funding for the remains of the cost beyond the \$50,000 in Building Reserves. She said we have borrowed before from the Minister's Mortgage Fund and can do it again without paying interest. Also, at the end of next year, we will be entirely free of mortgages and will be able to rebuild reserves. We will meet our budget this year and have a comfortable budget for next year.

Questions were raised about the possibilities of gas vs. oil heat, for going green with geothermal or solar energy, and potential need for asbestos abatement if any of our old pipes need to be removed. The question of available rebates and/or grants was raised.

Susan Peters explained that Flynn had been consulted about the heating project because that company has much experience with our system and has demonstrated expertise in dealing with its complications. Other firms often do not want to touch it.

Kathryn commented that answers to the questions being raised are currently being worked on as items to be addressed before we proceed. Maria asked that people talk to Frank Towne or Bill Houck who are working on the heating project.

Kathryn read the proposed motion:

We, the congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington vote to affirm the Board of Trustees decision to proceed with the new heating system project. Steve Burby so moved. After a second, the vote to approve passed unanimously but for one abstention.

Maria asked for a motion to adjourn. Nicole Bubolo so moved. Frank Sappell seconded and the vote was passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Marilyn Kopp-Hecker

Annual Report 2009 – 2010

Presented to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington

June 6, 2010

Rev. Paul Ratzlaff

As I reflect on the past year 2009 – May 2010, I'm aware of a number of accomplishments, and some challenges. Among the accomplishments were the following:

- We planned for and implemented Carolyn's sabbatical as Director of Religious Education. Through the invaluable assistance of Mary Sussman, Joanne Polichetti, and the RE Committee Co-Chairs, Grace Dwyer and Catherine Halpern, and innumerable others, we not only provided Carolyn with an opportunity for professional and personal growth and renewal, we also offered her an opportunity to begin her sabbatical earlier than planned to care for her husband, Jim, who suffered a stroke last fall. (I'm happy to report that Jim is doing so well.) And it's wonderful to welcome Carolyn back.
- We weathered a major crisis economically. This year we operated with a severely reduced financial budget. However during the year past we were able to restore RE assistance to help with the sabbatical. The good news is that the climate seems to be turning. We have a much more stable economic picture that which we can budget for.
- A consequence of "weathering the economic downturn" is that we plan to replace the old hearing system in the castle portion of our plant. This should be an amazing improvement! As someone who has endured the vagaries of the old hearing system, I'm delighted with the prospect of the new, more rational, and more efficient system.
- We have undergone a number of transitions. First and most significant has been the transition in Fellowship Administrator. Our previous person in that role, Judie Spero, moved to Cape Cod. We now have Genevieve Dreizen in that role. The transition needed a lot of energy, both with the finalizing of Judie's tenure, and with the definition and search for a new Fellowship Administrator. While Genevieve has been in the position only since the beginning of May, I'm delighted that she has been found and is working happily in the role.
- We've undergone another significant transition. Our long-term renter (maybe more than 20 years) has moved from the cottage. (This may be a blessing in disguise, because the tenant's rent was in arrears, due to a variety of calamities in her life.) Much deferred maintenance was arranged for. Currently we are showing the rental to prospective tenants.

- Thanks to our Vice President, Jennifer Sappell, we were able to conduct the business of administering UUFH through our President's, Maria Nielsen's, knee replacement surgery, after which Maria sadly suffered in the recuperation. While some awkward moments emerged, our Vice President ably filled in.

In addition to these accomplishments, our congregation faces some challenges:

- We face a number of significant committee chairs that are vacant. Most pressing is the position of Membership. Membership was ably filled by Jennifer Sappell, but now she serves as an officer of the Fellowship. We desperately need the kind of person who can foster connections, provide "radical hospitality" to those who visit with us. This is one position among many that are vacant.
 - This is an ongoing challenge for the Fellowship. A number of years ago, it was recognized by then President, Reba Siniscalchi. We formed the Long Island Leadership Institute (LiLi) to address this issue of leadership development in a cooperative fashion with other UU congregations on Long Island. So far we have had two classes of LiLi graduates. (I'm proud that all of our current Presidents have participated in LiLi.) However, LiLi has not served to produce the committee leaders that we so desperately need.
 - The Board's leadership and I agree that a year-round leadership development effort needs to be made. We are currently in conversation with the Nominating Committee about taking on that additional responsibility for the success of this congregation.
- As a congregation, we continue to struggle with an aspiration to "help heal the world." In particular we struggle with funding "Beyond Our Walls" (BOW.) Originally BOW was to be funded with a percentage of pledge income. However, with cut-to-the-bone budgets in the last years, we have temporarily eliminated that principle. Is this the time to restore it?

Lastly, I want to mention some areas of community involvement:

- Avalon Bay – in the congregation's long advocacy for affordable housing, I was proud that a number of congregants got involved in advocacy for the Avalon Bay Transit-Oriented development in the area of the Huntington train station. Since the project isn't approved yet, I trust that advocacy will continue.
- I'm also proud that we are exploring involvement with the Huntington Station area – initiated by the controversy around the future of Jack Abrams Intermediate School.

Rev. Paul Ratzlaff

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CAROLYN FREUD, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Our Lifespan Religious Exploration Program has continued to offer a variety of opportunities for Faith Development. David Sussman has provided guidance as the RE Cluster Coordinator. Chair Susan Kenler and the Adult Program Committee have worked this year organizing and expanding our Adult Programs. Reverend Paul has supported our RE Program for all ages with his interest and involvement. Co-chairs Grace Dwyer and Catherine Halpern and the Religious Education Committee coordinated a variety of action projects creating the teaching moments to walk the talk of our UU Identity. At the core of our Religious Education Program are the teachers who volunteer weekly. They 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 maintains the quality of our RE Program. Our program continues to attract new families and offers many opportunities for faith development for all ages. More information on the activities can be found in the reports from both committees.

This year I was given the gift of time for my own personal Religious Exploration during a five month sabbatical. I appreciate this study and reflection time and value the congregational support for this benefit for the professional role of Director of Religious Exploration. The course I took on storytelling and mentoring was enhanced with the time for quiet reflection. I know I will find many ways to use these insights to enhance an already good RE program. I am very grateful for this sabbatical and I appreciate the many volunteer efforts involved to keep our RE strong. Key to this work was Mary Sussman as chair of the sabbatical committee. Mary and the leadership team of David Sussman, Grace Dwyer and Catherine Halpern, together with Sue Collins as RE Assistant worked to continue the many aspects of RE. Supporting them in both keeping things running smoothly and growing our program were past REC co-chairs Joanne Polichetti and David Silver. David and Joanne also provided our link to UU youth programming through our Long Island Area Council, (LIAC). The REC appreciates the support of the Board of Directors during my sabbatical. The RE Committee, RE teachers and parents also played a vital role this year in RE.

All of the energy of our work as a congregation, over the past few years, to strengthen UU Identity for our children and youth was most clearly noticed within our newly enhanced Coming of Age Program. This year 16 youth in Grades 7-9 made the choice to participate in COA. Under the leadership of Joanne Polichetti, Lee Kurfist and Patrick MacDevitt our youth had a wonderful opportunity to explore their own spiritual journey. Each youth worked with a mentor and had options for class choices to attend the LIAC COA Program, the Sunday UUFH COA Program or both programs. This Sunday morning RE COA has been an exciting new offering within our UUFH RE Program. The next step

will be to continue to offer new opportunities for all ages to explore their UU faith.

Carolyn Freud, Director of Religious Exploration

ADMINISTRATION and FACILITIES CLUSTER

CASTLE CARE/SHARED MAINTENANCE

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, et cetera. Unfortunately, we have also had to call in plumbers, electricians, tree men and landscape crews to handle larger jobs in their respective areas.

This year, after 23 years, our cottage tenant moved out. Some long-overdo repairs were a necessity to get it in shape for renting again. We hired Northport Contracting, Inc., to do this work, which included removal of damaged wallboard, replacement with new, repairing ceilings badly damaged by water leaking from the roof, then painting throughout. We also had the wooden floors refinished upstairs and down, and bought a new refrigerator.

We replaced the flat roof over the maintenance and bathroom area, and had chimney and roof work done on the cottage (yes, we think the leak problem in the cottage has been solved). Between these 2 major projects, the current Maintenance and Repair budget was not adequate to cover the costs. We hope that new tenants will be found swiftly, thus returning the cottage to an income-producing property.

Attendance at our monthly Shared Maintenance days has dwindled. We were pleased, however, to provide an opportunity for Community Service for three Coming of Age students (James Vigneau, Jordan Giacom, and "Adam from Flushing").

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

The Castle Care Committee: Jon Nielsen, chair
Ginny Kushnick, Susan Peters, Frank Sappell and Mary Jane Wochinger.

This year's Second Saturday Shared Maintenance volunteers:

Larry Buckley
Annabel Caner

Larry Chorowski
Andy Feigin

Judie Gardner
John Lineweaver
Nancy Lineweaver
Alice Link
Dave Martin
Jim McKenna
Bernie Musso
Ann Scolnick

Peter Sepez
Marsha Tovim
Carol Towne
Frank Towne
Nikki Willard
Joyce Williams
Lee Wilson

COMMUNICATIONS AND IT CLUSTER

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, Ann Scolnick, Lois Ann Sepez, and Carol Towne. At the end of this Fellowship year, Ann plans to leave our staff, because of other commitments, so we are actively searching for a 4th (and possibly a 5th) editor. The basic requirements are a familiarity with correct spelling, punctuation and grammar, plus a general acquaintance with Fellowship matters and procedures. With a 4-person rotation, each editor has his or her turn every 8 weeks.

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 Genevieve Dreizen, our Administrator, 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 day after “Beacon Mondays,” 5 to 10 people gather in the Board Room, collating, folding, labeling, and sorting. One of the group then takes the boxes to the Huntington Post Office for mailing. 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. Heartfelt thanks to each one.

Ginny Kushnick, Beacon Coordinator

DATABASE

The award of the UU Metro District Grant afforded the UUFH an exceptional opportunity to engage Sue Collins, our database manager, to construct filters and queries useful for targeted communication with our members, friends, prospects, visitors, and others. Sue Collins uses PowerChurch to manage our emailing lists.

FACEBOOK

We currently have 186 "fans" or "followers" or "likes" on our well-rated informational page. We have noted that over one third of those of whom who have deliberately connected with our page are NOT regularly attending congregants. The social networking vehicle seems to be a worthwhile endeavor deserving of maintenance by a small team. It is particularly useful for reaching a youthful demographic.

MID WEEK NEWS AND FELLOWSHIP FLASH

Mid Week News and Fellowship Flash: The Fellowship Flash, a new electronic newsletter, replaced the Mid Week News in April, 2010. It is generally published via email on Tuesdays of non-Beacon weeks for anyone interested including visitors. The Fellowship Flash is currently intended to include selected events and programs in the wider community as well as the Fellowship.

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION CLUSTER

ADULT RE

It has been a busy year with several new programs that have been very well received. Nicole Bubolo offered a series of vegetarian cooking classes that met almost monthly. Andy Feigen's Speaking of Faith has a loyal following that gathers monthly to listen to and discuss Krista Tippet's NPR interviews with clerics, philosophers and poets offering interesting perspectives on faith issues. The Peace Caucus has had a number of film showings, discussions, and of

course the very successful Peace Pancake Sunday last fall. The Humanist group has been leading a series of Saturday morning discussions of issues that arise for patients in current medical practice. *A Life Worth Living* by Robert Mortensen is the basis for these sessions. This spring has seen the return of StillPoint which is finding its audience. The Mediation Group presented the film *Why has Bodhi Dharma Left for the East?* Yoga, Chair Yoga, the book groups and the other programs that have become much loved classics continue as well. Adult RE has many interesting ideas for the 2010-2011 year, but welcomes suggestions from the congregation. We are also seeking new members to help us develop fresh ideas.

Susan Kenler, David Sussman, Cluster Coordinator Lifespan RE

DRE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The DRE Relations Committee has met periodically with the Director of Religious Exploration, Carolyn Freud during the past year as needed. The Committee has provided positive input, support, and reinforcement relating to her goals. It also has provided a bridge for the covenant between her and the Fellowship. The DRE Relations committee also assists the RE Committee during Carolyn's sabbatical.

Submitted by Dove Thomas

HUMANIST GROUP

What you read, what you enjoy as film, what you discuss with friends— all are a source of opinions such as we hear at a typical Humanist Saturday Program. Here, almost once a month, a topic not likely to be addressed at a regular Fellowship service is discussed with emphasis on talk-back. For example, a series of some five programs recently dealt with the agony of making critical health choices for children, the elderly and others in life/death situations. Future programs will deal with issues about which there will be many differences of opinion.

Respectfully submitted by Ray Forest

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. Several presentations were made by members of the group during the course of the year: Bill Hecker talked about the history of the Koran which was followed by a question and answer period, Marty Lipnick showed a DVD entitled "Three Cups of Tea" based on a book which described a program in Afghanistan to build schools, and Marsha Tovim gave the group a lesson in Origami. In addition, several field trips were taken including one to the Nassau County Museum of Art.

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Religious Education Committee (REC) of the UUFH consists of eight members who work along with the Director of Religious Exploration, Carolyn Freud, our Minister, our Cluster Coordinator, David Sussman and the RE Assistant, Sue Collins. The REC is directed to “plan, implement and supervise the Fellowship Education Program for the children and youth to build UU Identity and commitment to social justice.

Continuing REC members for 2009-2010 were co-chair Grace Dwyer-Mauro, Anne Kopstein, Debbie Cohen, and Karen Mallow-Rizzo. Joining the REC in 2009-2010 for a three year term were co-chairs Catherine Halpern, Michael Amendola, Sharon Garfinkle and Adele Pellicane. Adele Pellicane left the committee in May of 2010 due to her relocation to Long Beach.

This has been an active and challenging year for the REC. With the occurrence of RE Director, Carolyn Freud’s six month sabbatical beginning in December 2009, and the budget cut of the RE Assistant, Carol Ziegler, the REC took on the large responsibility of maintaining the RE program with only volunteer staffing. Thanks to the Board of Directors, hours for the RE Assistant position were reinstated in January, allowing Sue Collins to fill that function. To also assist the REC with the coordination and implementation of the many additional responsibilities needing to be covered, Mary Sussman graciously took on the role of Sabbatical Liaison. Joanne Polichetti became the COA Chair, assuming responsibility for that portion of the REC function. Carolyn returned to the congregation in May 2010.

- Our RE program served 152 registered children and youth with year-round classes for pre-school through high school.
- We changed the focus of our social justice projects to UU Action Projects, which included social justice, and local community and UUFH outreach. These activities included making welcome signs and laminated placemats for HHIH guests, making and sending care packages to UUFH college students, and building a bulletin board display of a “Peaceful Poem” written by the youth to commemorate Martin Luther King’s birthday. The youth also made stewardship jars to take home and collect change to contribute to the UUFH while we discussed the topic of stewardship and all the ways youth can contribute to our UU community. We participated once again in the Smile in a Bag project for hospitalized children and did planting in the Memorial Garden.
- Our Growing UUp program was rescheduled for Fall 2010 to be facilitated by Mary Sussman and Grace Dwyer-Mauro.

- One REC-sponsored teacher training and one teacher training/appreciation luncheon occurred.
- A record 16 youth participated in this year's Coming of Age program. Joanne Polichetti, Lee Kurfist, and Patrick McDevitt facilitated a newly formed UUFH Sunday morning in-house Coming of Age program and Joanne and Lee were facilitators for the LIAC Coming of Age sessions. The in-house program is scheduled to be offered every two years.
- The Illuminations column in the Beacon this year was written by Anne Kopstein, with submissions by Jenna Rugile, Adele Pellicane, Joanne Polichetti and Grace Dwyer-Mauro. The column highlighted activities of class activities and helped to keep the Congregation up to date with the direction and goals of the REC.
- We once again held our UUFH Halloween party with the theme of *Wizards Workshop*. Close to 100 children and adults were in attendance. This continues to be a favorite event and a great way to bring families together on a social level at the beginning of the RE year.
- For the Christmas Eve Family Service, REC members Debbie Cohen, Karen Mallow-Rizzo and Sharon Garfinkle provided coordination of youth involvement with the Nativity Pageant, Intergenerational Orchestra (directed by Marty Lipnick) and the Movement Choir (directed by Nancy Hume).
- Two performances of the Intergenerational Choir occurred, led by Grace Dwyer-Mauro and Ramona Machson.
- The REC sponsored the Gallery display in March with an exhibit entitled "Photoshop Fun." It included photos of UUFH youth artistically taken and altered by Alex Wolff, Ken Farrell and Rick Kopstein. Also exhibited were works of art and poetry by the UUFH youth.

This has been a very challenging but rewarding year for the REC. The Committee, along with the help of past members Mary Sussman and Joanne Polichetti, has worked very well together to develop connections with not only families in the congregation, but with the Board of Directors and other committees within the UUFH. Our Committee members worked together with a great spirit, energy and sense of commitment to both the program and the youth of the fellowship and are truly a working team.

Leaving the Committee at the end of the year is Grace Dwyer-Mauro. New members joining the REC for 2010-2011 include Jennifer Thieke, Lisa Moskowitz and Marisa Comple, with the possible additional members of Susan Kinirons, Michele DuNaier and Cindy Neber.

Respectfully Submitted by Grace Dwyer-Mauro and Catherine Halpern,
Co-Chairs

UU READING GROUPS 2009-2010

The original UU Reading group was started by Marilyn Kopp-Hecker and Ann Scolnick 13 years ago and presently has 15 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

WILL HENDRIE BOOK STALL

The Book Stall opens most Sunday after the service and is “manned” by Gerri Farrell, Coordinator. We sell many of our talented members’ CDs 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!

Gerri Farrell

MEMBER SERVICES CLUSTER

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

As of spring 2010, a small group of individuals continues to address visitor and newcomer issues, despite a near complete lack of a Membership Committee. There have been no meetings, no minutes, no leadership and no structure.

Community building initiatives have continued independent of concerted plans. They have generally been the result of personal actions or from our regular fun-loving congregational character.

We began the Fellowship fiscal year (July 1, 2009) with 262 Members and 79 Friends. As of June 30, 2010, the UUFH is likely to reflect 257 Members and 63 Friends, a decline of approximately 6%. Our troubled economy is surely responsible for some of our decline, although the lack of an organized membership program is undoubtedly a contributing factor.

Membership programs and activities are all intended to be “community builders,” and included traditional and new programs:

- Sunday morning welcomes by greeters, RE liaison and hosts
- Multiple new member weekends, including newcomer participants
- Orientation programs
- Newcomer Breakfasts
- Bimonthly evenings of potluck dinners in members’ homes
- Visitor cultivation through phone calls and note cards
- Reconnections phone calls to missing members and friends
- Database development for relationship management purpose

All Fellowship members – members, friends and staff – are ambassadors who represent the UUFH and the welcoming, supportive community we hope to be.

Jennifer Sappel

MINISTRY CLUSTER

THE PASTORAL CARE ASSOCIATES ANNUAL REPORT

The Pastoral Care Associates augment the pastoral care of the Minister by providing a caring presence to Members and Friends who are experiencing a time of challenge and transition. This ministry of presence supplements the many services provided by the Care Share Committee. During the year, many families and individuals have been contacted with cards, calls, visits and suggestions. Our mission takes many forms depending on individual situations and needs.

This year we focused on establishing “teams” who helped Fellowship members, especially those without families to assist them.

Sue McGovern

SEDER ANNUAL REPORT

The Seder Committee was very pleased that over 60 people attended the event and we were able to be self supporting in terms of revenue. The three key members of the committee, including Harriet McKenna and Joanne Polichetti,

have years of experience in putting together the Service and evening program. This helps to make sure all chores are delegated and completed. It is a labor of love and our community is fortunate to have people with the passion and energy to make this happen every year as an integral part of our cultural and religious celebrations.

David Silver

STEWARDSHIP CLUSTER

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

This year we sorted through 4 file cabinet drawers and many boxes stuffed full of Renaissance Faire papers! 31 years of Faires is a long time! We now have a readily accessible collection of posters, programs, minutes, and artifacts over all the years.

Then we began to sort and organize and label our huge collection of slides, which start in the late '60's. We still have many boxes of Faire slides & videos to organize, but we have made a big dent.

In addition, we have routinely updated the Orders of Service, Sermons, Board Minutes and our Beacon collection (dating back to the first issue in 1955).

We have had several interesting requests during the year and are proud that we have been able to find said items. Don't throw out any of your old UUFH "stuff" without running it by one of us first. It might just fill in a gap in our collection.

Mary Jane Wochinger, Carol Towne, & Lois Ann Sepez

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Due to the economy this year no endowment funds were available for distribution. A review of endowment materials available in the entrance indicates a need to print more, which will be done. The next meeting of the Committee awaits the availability of interest funds to distribute.

Respectfully submitted by David P. Yens, Chairman

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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 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 \$25,000 to our operating budget. We are planning a Spring Plant Sale. The children in the RE classes are also planning fundraising activities for the fellowship. Last Licks Café has also been a great fundraiser and community builder. A local theatre group has joined up with Last Licks.

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 the big Wish List item is to raise funds for a new front door and foyer improvements.

We are in the process of formulating the 2010-11 budget, which will be presented to the congregation for their approval at our second annual meeting on Sunday, June 6.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Peters

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The Investment Committee (Kim Schultze, Susan Peters, Ed Vigneau, and Dave Holstein) continues to work 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: As of March 31, 2010 our Endowment funds totaled: \$735,156.15.

Submitted by Kim Schultze

LAST LICKS CAFÉ

This past year, Last Licks Coffeehouse continued to present an eclectic mix of live performances for the fellowship and the greater community. We again presented 9 shows, which were a stylistically diverse mix of performances. As has been the case for the last few years, we struggled to draw large audiences to our shows, and as we have mentioned before, we would love to see you at our shows. Special thanks to our tireless volunteers, including: Jack Demasi, Gerri and Ken Farrell, Anne Kopstein, Laura Leipa, Jon Nielsen, Larry Chorowski, Dove and Jim Thomas, Marc Weiner, and Renee Velkoff. Look forward to our 7th season beginning on September 25th.

Submitted by Gerald Moss

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee surveyed the members of the congregation, and prepared evaluations of UUFH employees. The Personnel Committee approved the reports, and Chair Michael Goldsmith presented the reports to the Board of Trustees, and on March 15, 2010, the Board accepted the report. Dorothy Burns, who is also a member of the Personnel Committee as well as a Board member, was present, and assisted in the presentation.

On March 17, 2010, Michael Goldsmith conducted an exit interview with Judie Spero, and same was drafted and emailed to Paul, and several members of the Board.

It is anticipated that in May, Paul and Michael Goldsmith will meet with each individual privately to discuss his or her evaluation.

Michael Goldsmith, Chair, Personnel Committee

SERVICES AUCTION REPORT

“Star Light, Star Bright,” this past year’s Services Auction, was held on November 21, 2009. As always, it was a group effort, with much help from many people, and we worked together to make the event lots of fun, and very productive, netting a total of about \$25,000. Although this was a smaller amount than the previous years, we had anticipated that in the budget (which we met), and we were very pleased at the turnout and outcome, in light of the current economy.

Dinner, desserts, and entertainment in the way of songs and skits were highlights of the evening. We had many auction offerings from Fellowship: parties, excursions, instruction, food, goods and services, as well as wonderful committee baskets. 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 social events throughout the year. This is a true community building effort by and for the Fellowship - many thanks to all who helped us!

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

TREASURER

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES CLUSTER CHOIR COORDINATOR

NORTH WALL COMMITTEE

The principal activity of the North Wall Committee is the decoration of the entire stage for each Sunday’s service and any other ritual service performed in the Main Hall that requires our support. Examples of the latter would be Christmas, weddings, memorial services, etc. A battery of ready-made props is available for the stage in addition to the regular furniture. Those props not in use at any time are stored in the Green Room. The committee works closely with the Interior Decorator and the Gallery Director, with whom ideas and assistance are

exchanged. A special effort has been made to maintain live flowering plants throughout the year.

Les Swan and Marty Lipnick

SOUND COMMITTEE

The normal activities of the Sound Committee continued this year that included handling all sound requirements during Sunday services, creation of CDs of all services from September through June that were 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. Personal copies of CDs are created for a \$5 donation to the sound/audio fund.

The quality of sound in the Main Hall continues to be a concern. The speakers mounted halfway back on the sides of the main hall have worked well and have improved hearing at the rear.

Two additional wireless microphones were obtained by Harvey and have been connected to the additional mixer to provide additional audio inputs. They have already proved their value for complex setups with multiple instruments.

Respectfully submitted by David P. Yens and Harvey Balopole

SUNDAY PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Sunday Program Committee of the UUFH is constituted as members serving in 3 year rotations with the Board's approval. We currently have 8 members with 3 "old" members, 3 2-year members, and 2 "new" members. As part of our Shared Ministry we are responsible for one third of the year's services. Rev Paul Ratzlaff does two thirds of the services. We are considering asking the Board's permission to keep 2 of our "old" members to keep us prepared for Rev Paul's coming sabbatical (2011 for 6 months). We have asked for increased funding so that we can hire guest speakers to fill our Sunday's with interesting and diverse presentations during the coming year.

The mission in our services is to welcome all and invoke the sacred through varied means while offering a platform for sharing of ideas and experiences that help us find ways to live meaningful lives in the world. We seek to honor the diversity of needs of all who worship with us. The committee meets at least once a month on Center's Night and sometimes for extra meetings as needed. We try to arrange one Spiritual Retreat with Rev Paul once a year to renew our spirits and develop our focus on our mission.

The process of being a member of the SPC turns out to be one of individual spiritual development and growth. This "side-effect" happens in the process of learning how to bring together a service that reaches out to our congregation. We develop close ties and inter-dependent working relationships as we weave our services with much care and thought. We welcome new ideas as well as traditions we have developed.

Carlene Tockman

