



Brockport UU News

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Reflections on Curiosity

By Rev. Peggy Meeker

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Our spiritual theme for February is curiosity: the desire to know or learn. And so I've been reflecting on curiosity, looking for meaning. Actually, I've been thinking that curiosity doesn't seem all that substantial. Most people don't pick a church or a line of work or a life mate because they were curious about something, do they? *Exploration*—now there's a word with a little more weight to it. *Curiosity* seems like a lightweight. And kind of a luxury. Something that we often don't have the time for, or the energy. Hmm. Which makes me think that there might be more to it. It's a simple thing—having an attitude of interest toward what we encounter—but it takes energy. To have our eyes open, to pay attention, to wonder, rather than—what? To not care? Maybe it's not such a lightweight after all.

To be open to what we encounter! In the world and in other people! In ourselves! Maybe curiosity is one of those things that we should cultivate,

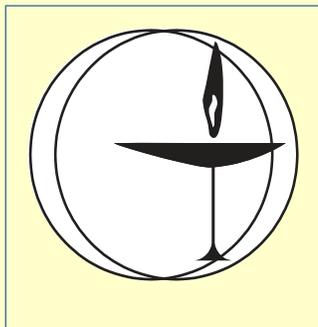
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Immigration Reform Caravan

A number of organizations in and around Monroe County that are working toward comprehensive immigration reform are participating in a caravan that will be coming through New York State in February. Sponsors include groups such as The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester, the Catholic Diocese, and the Rochester Committee on Latin America. Participants are gathering petitions and resolutions from various organizations, which they will present to Congressional representatives, calling for immigration policy that will protect the labor and civil rights of all workers—that is, legislation that will respect the inherent worth and dignity of migrant and farm workers. The caravan will be at Rep. Eric Massa's office in Pittsford on the morning of the 17th, and then will move on to Rep. Christopher Lee's office in Greece, with a final stop near the Batavia Detention Center before proceeding on to Buffalo. If you would like to participate in the caravan, get in touch with Rev. Meeker (contact info above) for more details.

***Comprehensive
immigration reform—
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BUUF in Community—and That Means Opportunities!



BUUF is part of a cluster of area Unitarian Universalist congregations called GUUSTO—Genesee UU Societies Together. The other GUUSTO churches are First Universalist and First Unitarian in Rochester, the UU Church of Canandaigua, and Pullman Memorial Universalist Church in Albion. GUUSTO meetings bring together representatives from each of the five churches to share information and resources, and sometimes to work and/or play together—at Rochester’s Pride Parade, for example, or a symposium on farmworker issues. And now GUUSTO is offering a free two-part workshop on hospitality. On Saturday 2/27, a workshop at First Unitarian will focus on helping newcomers feel at home in our congregations, and on Saturday 3/27, a workshop at First Universalist will focus on welcoming people of all ages, from different backgrounds, and with special needs. Both workshops will be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon. RSVP to memberservices@rochesterunitarian.org by 2/20 for the 2/27 workshop.

Beyond our GUUSTO cluster, there is the wider community of churches in the St. Lawrence District—34 congregations in upstate New York and northern Pennsylvania. On Saturday 3/6, the First UU Society of Albany will be hosting a training program called “Welcoming Children with Special Needs,” led by Sally Patton, who has advocated and worked for children with disabilities for over 35 years. And at the end of April (4/23-24), the district’s annual Assembly will be held in Syracuse, with talks and workshops on topics ranging from healthy leadership to white privilege.

All of these events are great opportunities for the Brockport Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, both for us to learn and to meet other UUs, and for the wider UU community to get to know us. See “The Wider UU World” (p. 3) for additional details, and let’s see each other at some of these events!

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that we should make more room for in our lives. One of those “little” things that can open us up and change the way we approach the day, and maybe even the way we live.

Invite yourself into the lightweight practice of curiosity, and see where it leads you.

We will explore curiosity in our two February Sunday services, on the 7th and the 21st, and in our Soul Matters group, where we will be challenged to pick an issue that we know little or nothing about and explore it until it leads to a consequence, that is, until it leads us to be different in some way.

As we move through the depth of winter, invite yourself into the lightweight practice of curiosity, and see where it leads you. And the next time we meet, perhaps we can be curious together!

The Wider UU World (and Beyond UU)

Harvesting Justice Film Festival: The 2009 film “**Sin Nombre**,” by Cary Fukunaga, about a Honduran teenager who dreams of a life in the U.S., will be shown at the Little Theatre, 240 East Avenue, Rochester at 6:30 p.m. on **February 8th**, as part of the Rural & Migrant Ministry’s work to illuminate labor issues.

For Love of Liberty: The Story of America’s Black Patriots: In honor of Black History month, WXXI presents this free educational film series, Part One on Saturday **February 13th**, 1-4 p.m., and Part Two on Saturday **February 20th**, 1-4 p.m., at WXXI Studios, 280 State St., Rochester. For more information contact Shelley Figueroa at 258-0278 or sfigueroa@wxxi.org.

Radical Hospitality Part I: Going Deeper: free workshop led by Mary Jones on welcoming newcomers to church, **Saturday, February 27th**, 9:30 a.m. to noon, First Unitarian Church of Rochester, 220 Winton Rd. South. RSVP by 2/20 to memberservices@rochesterunitarian.org.

Radical Hospitality Part II: Going Wider: free workshop led by Jan Gartner and members of the St. Lawrence District Catalyst Team on welcoming diversity, **Saturday, Mar. 27th**, 9:30 a.m. to noon, First Universalist Church of Rochester, 150 Clinton Ave. South. RSVP by 3/20 to JanGartnerUU@gmail.com.

Welcoming Children with Special Needs: one-day training led by Sally Patton on **Sat., Mar. 6th**, 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., First UU Society of Albany, 405 Washington Ave. Registration and info at www.sld.uua.org.

St. Lawrence District Assembly—Visions of Hope and Promise: annual District Assembly with talks and workshops, **Friday evening April 23rd – Sat. April 24th**; May Memorial UU Society of Syracuse and Renaissance Syracuse Hotel. Details forthcoming at www.sld.uua.org.

BUUF News

Your input is wanted! The BUUF Steering Committee is making plans for a congregational meeting to be held sometime in March (*tentatively* on Sunday morning, March 14th). We want BUUF to grow, we want to offer more programming, and we want to do something meaningful in our community, and the best way to move toward doing all that is to find out what all of you want BUUF to do and to be. One of our ideas is to have a “Second Sunday Sampler,” which would mean meeting at the usual time and place on the second Sunday of each month, but instead of holding a worship service we would meet in various small groups, perhaps an adult religious education class, perhaps a meditation group, perhaps a social justice group, perhaps a multi-generational group, and/or whatever most interests you. We want everyone to have a voice and to share their ideas and hopes for BUUF. Watch this space for more details next month.

The BUUF Interfaith Book Club will be reading *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee for its discussion on February 9th. This book was published 50 years ago, and was recently chosen by librarians across the country as the best novel of the 20th century. Our March book will be Shreve Stockton’s *The Daily Coyote*, an account of the writer/photographer’s year with an orphaned coyote pup and a portrait of life and love in a small Wyoming town.

If you are experiencing difficulties in your life, or if you or someone in your family is in the hospital and you would like a pastoral call, please let Rev. Meeker know, at pmeecker@frontiernet.net or 224-6312.

Watch for information about a congregational meeting in March.

We want everyone to have a voice and to share their ideas and hopes for BUUF.

BUUF Calendar

Sunday Morning Services—10 a.m. on February 7 and 21, Brockport Exempt Association

Steering Committee Meeting—Thursday, February 18 (third Thursdays), 7-9 pm

Soul Matters Meeting—Thursday, February 4 (first Thursdays), 7-9 pm (contact Rev. Meeker for more information)

Building Your Own Theology Class—Monday, February 8 (final session)

Book Discussion Group—Tuesday, February 9, 6:30-8 pm, Lift Bridge Book Shop, discussing Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* (and you're welcome to come whether or not you've read the book!)

We would love to have you join us at these activities, and even better, bring a friend or family member!

Action Alert

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is partnering with several grassroots organizations to help the people of Haiti, both in the stricken capital of Port-au-Prince and in the many rural areas to which city dwellers are moving in their search for food, shelter, and medical care.

Read the story of this urgent work at http://www.uusc.org/content/haitian_grassroots_organizations, where you can also click on links to donate to the earthquake relief fund and to join UUSC's appeal to President Obama, asking him to work for debt relief for Haiti and to urge that all international aid is provided as grants, not loans.

Brockport Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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