



Brockport UU News

March 2010
Volume 1 Issue 6

Brockport Unitarian Universalist Fellowship www.brockportuu.org 637-6374
Rev. Peggy Meeker, Organizing Minister pmeeker@frontiernet.net 224-6312
David G. Markham, Steering Committee Chair davidm@brockportuu.org

Reflections on Here and Now

By Rev. Peggy Meeker

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Reflections
- 1 Congregational Meeting!
- 2 Chalice Lighter Intros
- 3 The Wider UU World
- 3 BUUF News
- 4 BUUF Calendar
- 4 Action Alert

This morning, February 26th, I woke up to snow. *Lots* of it. So much, in fact, that I wasn't at all inclined to get up and shovel out my driveway and drive out to Monroe Community College for a workshop for which I'd registered. But my neighbor Claude was out there shoveling, so in solidarity, I bundled up and headed out. It was quiet and peaceful. I was outside shoveling for almost an hour, and only four vehicles went by. And *I* was quiet and peaceful, having decided that, workshop or no, this would be a snow day for me.

As I was shoveling, I got to thinking about this month's worship theme—here and now. What does it mean to be a person of here and now? A person connected with the present moment? In that moment, I was feeling deep peace. The words of an old Gaelic blessing came to me, "Deep peace of the running wave to you, deep peace of the flowing air to you." And I

Please see *Reflections* on page 2

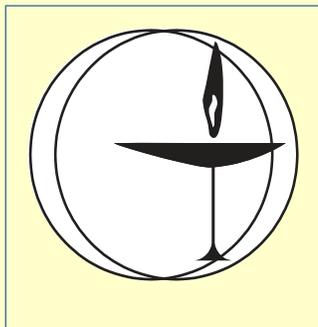
Be Part of Our Congregational Meeting!

Here's another first for the Brockport UU Fellowship: on Sunday morning, March 14th, at 10 a.m., we will hold our very first congregational meeting. Lest you immediately think of by-laws and nominations, that'll be next time! This time, the Steering Committee simply wants to hear from you. We have lots of ideas and dreams for BUUF, but we want to know what you think, what you're concerned about, what you are hoping for.

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 class, perhaps a meditation group, perhaps a multi-generational activity, and/or whatever interests you. We also want to get a social justice group going, and begin to be heard as a progressive voice in the Brockport community. We will provide food and child care for the meeting. All you need to do is come and add your voice to the process.

***We will provide food
and child care. All
you need to do is
come and add your
voice to the process.***

Chalice Lighter Intros



On Saturday, February 27th, two members of our Steering Committee, Jean Sauberan and Don Zimmer, along with Rev. Peggy Meeker, attended a workshop at First Unitarian Church in Rochester on “radical hospitality”—the idea that welcoming newcomers in a congregation is not only important in helping people to feel welcome and in growing a congregation, but is actually a ministry, encouraging people to find a place in a religious faith and community that could transform their lives. It can even be viewed as a spiritual practice, the practice of truly welcoming the “other.”

Since we are *all* pretty much newcomers at BUUF, having been a community for less than a year, we thought we might benefit from learning some of the ideas and best practices of radical hospitality. And we did come away with a lot of ideas, one of which we want to start right away.

The idea is that when people light the chalice at the beginning of the worship service, they would take two or three minutes to introduce themselves and tell the congregation something about what the Brockport UU Fellowship means to them—maybe what brought them to BUUF, or what they’re especially interested in, or what they’ve learned here, or what they’ve come to value about BUUF. These “intros” would then be collected into a booklet, perhaps even part of a future BUUF Directory.

Rev. Meeker will be looking for people who would like to do a Chalice Lighter Intro, so let her know if you’re interested. We might do this once a month, alternating between the chalice lighting words we’ve been using and this new practice. It will be one more way for all of us to get to know each other a little better, and to build our community. (And by the way, there’s a second Radical Hospitality Workshop on March 27th—see p. 3 for details in case you’d like to join us).

Reflections on Curiosity from page 1

thought to myself, Deep peace of the falling snow. Deep peace of the soft drifts. Deep peace of my muscles working rhythmically. Deep peace of my breath, strong and steady. Deep peace of the sky, color of snow. Deep peace of the birds, high in the trees.

*Deep peace of the
falling snow to you.
Deep peace of the
soft drifts to you.*

Of course, that moment is gone now, that here and now has become another here and now, as I sit at my computer writing this reflection. And so the moments fly past us. When we stop, though, and really connect with the moment, we often touch something deep within us; something powerful and grounding and beautiful. As March carries you from winter to spring, from snow shovels to crocuses, may your here and now’s keep you connected and bring you deep peace.

The Wider UU World (and Beyond UU)

Harvesting Justice Film Festival: Two short documentaries and several mini-documentaries, “**Broken Branches, Fallen Fruit**,” by Bill Jungles, at 6:30 p.m. on **Mon., March 15th**. These films look at immigration from the viewpoint of a family from Chiapas, Mexico’s southernmost and poorest state. Part of the Rural & Migrant Ministry’s work to illuminate labor issues. Little Theatre, 240 East Ave., Rochester.

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.

GUUSTO (Genesee UU Societies Together): meeting **Wed., March 17th**, 7 p.m., First Universalist Church, 150 South Clinton Ave., Rochester.

Rice and Beans Dinner and White Dove Awards: annual Rochester Committee on Latin America dinner, silent auction, and awards, **Friday, March 19th**, 6 p.m., Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St., Rochester. International award to Sister Dianna Ortiz, author of *The Blindfold’s Eyes: My Journey from Torture to Truth*; local award to Dr. John (Lory) Ghertner, advocate for migrants’ and farmworkers’ rights. Cost \$15-\$25, sliding scale; email rkaiser3@rochester.rr.com to make a reservation.

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 South Clinton Ave. RSVP by 3/20 to JanGartnerUU@gmail.com.

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

The Brockport UU Fellowship is proud to announce that we have been awarded a \$4,000 grant from the New York State Convention of Universalists, an organization whose mission is to promote the growth of Unitarian Universalism and to promote awareness and appreciation of Universalist history and concepts. The grant will help BUUF with start-up expenses and help us grow our congregation. Thank you, NYSCU!

BUUF’s first congregational meeting will be held Sunday, March 14th, at 10 a.m. This will be an opportunity for everyone to share their ideas and hopes for our congregation’s future. See page 1 for more information.

The BUUF Interfaith Book Club will be reading Shreve Stockton’s *The Daily Coyote* for its discussion on March 9th. This book is an account of the writer/photographer’s year with an orphaned coyote pup and a portrait of life and love in rural Wyoming. Our April book will be *The Doctor’s Wife* by Elizabeth Brundage, a novel about an ob-gyn who is persuaded by a colleague to work at a Planned Parenthood clinic in downtown Albany.

There will be a GUUSTO meeting on Wed., March 17th, at 7 p.m. at First Universalist Church of Rochester, 150 South Clinton Avenue. GUUSTO meets every other month, providing opportunities for the UU congregations of Albion, Brockport, Canandaigua, & Rochester to work (& play) together.

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.

*BUUF has received
a \$4,000 grant
from the
New York State
Convention of
Universalists!*

BUUF Calendar

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

Congregational Meeting—10 a.m. on March 14, Brockport Exempt Association

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

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

Book Discussion Group—Tuesday, March 9 (second Tuesdays), 6:30-8 pm, Lift Bridge Book Shop; discussing Shreve Stockton's *The Daily Coyote* (and you're welcome to come even if you haven't 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 Cancer Services Program of Monroe County (CSP) provides comprehensive cancer screening for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer to eligible, uninsured and underinsured women and men, ages 40 to 64. **They pay for mammograms, pelvic exams, pap smears, and colon cancer screenings.** (People see their own doctors.)

They are in the last quarter of their current grant period and still have funding available to screen many people in Monroe County. If you or someone you know could benefit from this service, the number to call is 224-3070. Help them use their money and benefit our community!

Brockport Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Mailing address: 6558 4th Section Rd, Box 211,
Brockport, NY 14420-2477

Sunday morning service address: Brockport
Exempt Assoc'n, 248 West Avenue

Phone: 585-637-6374

Web: www.brockportuu.org