



Brockport UU News

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Reflections on Possibility

By Rev. Peggy Meeker

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As I write this I am watching an impressive snowstorm. I haven't yet looked out at the street, or sized up the shoveling I'll have to do later. Instead I'm looking out at the back yard and the garden, where everything is covered with a fresh, soft coat of white. When the wind gusts, clumps of snow fly up into the air and birds scatter for cover. It looks like winter is the only story. But the amazing thing is that the days are already getting longer again! And when the wind quiets and the snow drifts gently down and the yard is still, it's quite possible to imagine all the daffodil and crocus bulbs out there underground just waiting for the moment when they will start growing again and sending up shoots of new life. I can't tell where they are, but I know they're out there.

Possibility—our worship theme for January—is a little like those spring bulbs. It's something good coming, but we don't know what or when or

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Fire Communion on January 3rd

Our first service of the new year, at 10 a.m. on January 3rd, will be multi-generational—meaning the children will participate in the whole service, rather than leaving partway through for religious education—and we will celebrate the new year with a fire communion, a tradition in many Unitarian Universalist congregations. Communion, from the Latin “communio,” means sharing in common, and the fire communion is one of several such communions that many UUs observe over the course of the year. Two others are water communion in September and flower communion in June. The fire communion focuses on looking back over the year that has ended, reflecting on what we wish to leave behind, and looking forward to the year that is just beginning, reflecting on what we hope to bring into our lives.

In keeping with our worship theme for January, we will emphasize the looking forward part—possibility. Come and celebrate with us all of the possibility that this new year holds!

Communion, from the Latin “communio,” means sharing in common.

Soul Matters Group Forms



Our first Soul Matters group is forming, and will meet the first Thursday of every month, beginning January 7th, from 7 to 9 p.m. There is room for several more people, and if you'd like to be one of them, contact Rev. Meeker at pmeeker@frontiernet.net or 224-6312 for more information.

Soul Matters, our small group ministry program, is an opportunity to explore the monthly worship theme more deeply and to make real and lasting connections with a small group of people (usually 10 or 12 participants at the most). Participants receive a small packet of materials ahead of time, including short readings and a spiritual exercise. Often there is also a suggestion of one or two movies to watch that are related to the theme. At our monthly meetings, we consider several questions that help us to get at how the topic engages us, or how it impacts our lives. The discussions are not intellectual, nor are they group therapy, but they do focus on listening and sharing about deep personal values.

This month, with our theme of possibility, we'll be exploring and discussing the question "What does it mean to be a person of possibility?" We'll try living with a poem by Robert Bly that starts like this:

Think in ways you've never thought before.
If the phone rings, think of it as carrying a message
Larger than anything you've ever heard,
Vaster than a hundred lines of Yeats.

Together we'll explore what it would be like to live this way, always expectant, always open to possibility. If you're up for more possibility in your life, join us!

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where. It's out there, waiting to show itself. The new year. New experiences will come into our lives, and new people, and new lessons and gifts. Many of these possibilities don't depend on us doing a thing, but what if we ally ourselves with possibility? Actively look for it and encourage it? What if we open doors instead of closing them?—which we often do, by thinking there's no chance of whatever it is we'd love to see or do in our lives. What if we expect and look for *more* rather than less?

During these last days of December and the winter solstice season, as we move into the New Year, give some thought to your deepest desires for your own life. Believe that they are possible. And may we all join forces with possibility and help bring about a really good new year!

*What if we ally ourselves
with possibility?*

*Actively look for it and
encourage it?*

The Wider UU World (and Beyond UU)

ROCLA Meeting/Video: On Wednesday, **January 6th**, at 7 p.m., the ROCLA (Rochester Committee on Latin America) meeting at Downtown Presbyterian Church, 121 South Fitzhugh St., Rochester will show the video “**The Roots of Migration**,” followed by a discussion about why people continually try to enter the U.S. despite the dangers of crossing the border and the difficulties they face after they arrive. ROCLA is a task force of MetroJustice. (Wheelchair accessible and looped for the hearing impaired.)

Eastman at Washington Square Lunchtime Concerts: This free concert series will resume on Thursday, January 14th, 12:15- 12:45, at First Universalist Church, 150 Clinton Avenue South, Rochester. Brown bag lunches are welcome. For a schedule, see <http://esm.rochester.edu/community/calendars/lunchtime.php>.

Women’s Health Matters: A Day of Action: Family Planning Advocates of New York State is sponsoring a day of advocacy in Albany for reproductive justice on **January 11th**. Find more information (and register) at www.fpaofnys.org.

Harvesting Justice Film Festival: The 2008 film “**Brother Towns / Pueblos Hermanos**,” by Charles Thompson, will be shown at the Little Theatre, 240 East Avenue, Rochester at 6:30 p.m. on **January 11th** as part of the Rural and Migrant Ministry’s work to illuminate world-wide labor issues. This film chronicles the human interchange between the towns of Jupiter, Florida and Jacaltenango, Guatemala.

Inheriting the (Slave) Trade: Thomas Norman DeWolf, author of *Inheriting the Trade: A Northern Family Confronts its Legacy as the Largest Slave Trading Dynasty in U.S. History*, will give a talk on Thursday, **January 21st** at 7 pm at the Schultz Center Forum at Nazareth College in Rochester.

BUUF News

Our Christmas/Holiday service on December 23rd, attended by about 45 people, was a wonderful celebration of the whole Christmas/Holiday season, with many people participating in the service and a great social time afterwards with *fabulous* food! Thank you to our story teller for the presentation about Sinterklaas, and thank you to all who made music and all who took part in the play about the December Spirits, and thank you to all who brought refreshments. It was a great first-ever holiday celebration for BUUF.

The BUUF Interfaith Book Club will be reading *Six Degrees: Our Future on a Hotter Planet* by Mark Lynas for its discussion on January 12th. This book, published in 2008 by the National Geographic Society, describes how each increase in temperature of one degree would reshape our world in very troubling ways. The February book will be *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, a book that was recently voted by librarians across the country as the best novel of the 20th century, and that will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its publication in 2010.

Don’t forget that beginning in January we will be holding two services a month, the first and third Sundays, and they will begin at 10 a.m., not 11!

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 pmeeker@frontiernet.net or 224-6312.

*Don't forget that our
January services will
begin at 10 a.m.!*

BUUF Calendar

Sunday Morning Services—10 a.m. on January 3 and 17, Brockport Exempt Association

Steering Committee Meeting—Thursday, January 21 (third Thursdays), 7-9 pm

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

Building Your Own Theology Class—Mondays, January 11 & 25, 7-9 pm, St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Book Discussion Group—Tuesday, January 12, 6:30-8 pm, Lift Bridge Book Shop, discussing Mark Lynas's book *Six Degrees: Our Future on a Hotter Planet* (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 Caritas Pader in northern Uganda on the Oxen Project, to help people who are building for the future after 21 years of war. The project is making it possible for more people to leave the displaced persons camps, where they have lived for years, return to their homes, clear the overgrown fields, and plant crops to sustain their families, which are often headed by women or children. In this project, resources are pooled and oxens and plows are shared by a group of villagers.

Watch a video of people saying thank you at www.uusc.org/content/uusc_oxen_project_thank_you_video, and learn more about the UUSC and this project—and how you can help to support it—at www.uusc.org.

Brockport Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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