

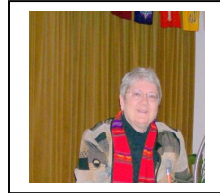
“A Guilt Free Faith”
Volume 2, Issue 7

MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER

Rev. Peggy Meeker

Reflections on...

April Conversations



April will be a month for conversations in the Brockport Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. We'll begin on April 3rd, with a service led by our Worship Associates celebrating the words and deeds of famous past Unitarians and Universalists. Learning about people who have walked this path before us is truly entering into a conversation, not so much with them but with the dreams and ideas that engaged them, and often engage us still, in new ways.

After the service, we'll gather for a potluck lunch—ALL are invited to share a dish, or to help set up or clean up, or to come even if you can't do either of those things! And then, we'll have some conversations about our values and our dreams for BUUF. We'll start with our own individual stories, tease out their deep meanings, and end up with a mission (or charter) statement for our congregation. We want it to be short, so we can all remember it, and we want it to capture something about our deepest values, and what they tell us about what we want BUUF to be.

Then, over the coming weeks, you will hear from a member of our stewardship team who will engage you in another conversation about BUUF and what it means to you. These conversations will also include a chance for you to explore the commitment you are ready to make to BUUF in terms of your time, your talent, and/or your treasure (money!). Money is essential. Yet money alone won't sustain us. We hope you will help support and shape our Church. (And if you don't hear from anyone about this, let Karen LoBracco or me know! We don't want to miss anybody!)

Finally, the end of April brings District Assembly, a chance for conversations with UUs from all across upstate New York. “DA” includes a keynote address, a talk by one of the district's ministers, and great workshops.

**Brockport Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship**
“A Congregation for All Ages”
Services held at
The Historic Garland Church
APRIL 2011 NEWSLETTER



3723 Sweden Walker Rd
Brockport, New York

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Page 10. Calendar BUUF & Beyond
Worship Services are held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Adult Education is on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Children's Faith Development & Toddler's and Young people's playroom is available on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. Book Discussion Group meets 2nd Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00PM, and Small Group Ministry meets 1st Thursdays, 7:00PM- 9:00PM. For more information - www.brockportuu.org

This year, DA will be held in Ithaca on April 29th and 30th. I'd love to see a bunch of us there! For more information go to www.sld.uua.org.

**Here's to April, and all of the
conversations we'll have!**

SERVICE SCHEDULE

*1st Sunday Worship, April 3, 2011

Officiates: Members of the Worship Associates

Topic: **UU Source 2: "words and deeds of prophetic men and women..."** We will be honoring and exploring the rich and interesting history which has shaped what we are today. We will be looking at how we have evolved and at the roles some of our famous UU ancestors played in the development of our faith.

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM Worship Service
 10:15 AM – 11:00 AM Children's Faith Development – Travis Phillips and Jean Sauberan
 11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon - Pot Luck Luncheon and Conversation
 **Toddler's and Young People's playroom available. Child care provided.

Location: The Historic Garland Church - 3723 Sweden Walker Rd, Brockport, New York

** Brockport Ecumenical Food Shelf Sunday. Please bring a non-perishable food item(s).*

**2nd Sunday Sampler - Sunday, April 10, 2011

Coordinator: David Markham

Speaker: **TBA**

Topic: **TBA**

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Location: The Historic Garland Church - 3723 Sweden Walker Rd., Brockport, New York

**No childcare is available at this time

**3rd Sunday Worship - Sunday, April 17, 2011

Officiate: Rev. Peggy Meeker

Topic: **UU Source 4: Jewish and Christian Teachings.** We will celebrate Palm Sunday, an important Christian holy day, and the Jewish holy days of Passover, which begins at sundown on April 18th, and we will explore Unitarian Universalism's Fourth Source, Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Time: 10:00 AM–11:00 AM Worship Service
 10:15 AM–11:00 AM Children's Faith Development – **Holiday Food Hunt**
 11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon Refreshments and Conversation

**Toddler's and Young People's playroom available
 Location: The Historic Garland Church - 3723 Sweden Walker Rd, Brockport, New York

Note: There is NO Worship on the 4th Sunday, April 24 (Easter Sunday)

When you are in need of assistance...

You don't need to go through life's hardships alone, the Brockport UU Fellowship is there with caring support for you and your family. 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 224-6312 or pmeeker@frontiernet.net. *All information is confidential.*

BOOK GROUP NEWS & NOTES

Date: Tuesday, 4/12/2011
Time: 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Location: **Lift Bridge Book Shop,
45 Main Street, Brockport, NY**
Contact: **Rev. Peggy Meeker**



April 12th *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain is one of the great American novels, this book has almost always been controversial, first for its crude language, and today for racial stereotypes, but it remains a wonderful tale of a boy and his adventures (and relationship) with a runaway slave in the American South of the 1830s

May 10th *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot—the fascinating story of a poor southern black woman whose cells (“harvested” in 1951 without her knowledge) became one of the most important and biggest money-making tools in 20th century medicine, and of her family, and of the reporter who uncovered the story.

Remember, we meet the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Lift Bridge Book Shop at 45 Main Street in Brockport, and the Book Shop offers a 20% on book club purchases.

David Markham and I welcome your suggestions for books to discuss over the coming year. We try to choose a variety of books, both fiction and nonfiction, that will enable us to explore spiritual topics, current events, and Unitarian Universalist values. We also try to choose books that are available in paperback and in the Monroe County Library system and that are a reasonable size (say, 250 pages or less).

The Book Group is free and open to the public. Come and bring your friends. For more information contact Rev. Peggy Meeker at 224-6312 or pmeecker@frontiernet.net

An Invitation from Rev. Peggy Meeker

Dear Friends,

*This Sunday, April 3, immediately following the service, please to join me in the Fellowship Hall for a **"POTLUCK LUNCH and FELLOWSHIP MEETING!"** Child care will be provided.*

We'll have lunch and I will lead some conversations about our values and hopes for the future of our Church. Your involvement is needed. The values and hopes we identify as most significant will be crafted into Our Charter (a short statement of what is most important to the Brockport UU Fellowship).

It will remind us and tell others, what we want Our Congregation TO BE and TO DO! Please, bring a dish to share if you can, OR volunteer to help set up beforehand or clean up afterwards. Please let me, Peggy, know (pmeecker@frontiernet.net) if you will be part of the set-up or clean-up crew.

*See you there!
Rev. Peggy*

CHILDREN'S FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Karen LoBracco, Children's Faith Development Coordinator
e-mail klobracco@uua.org Phone: 585-637-4605

Date: Sunday, April 3, 2011

Time: 10:15 AM – 11:00 AM

Topic: *The Gift of Ourselves*

Adults: Travis Phillips and Jean Sauberan

Date: Sunday, April 17, 2011

Time: 10:15 AM – 11:00 AM

Topic: *The Reverse Food Hunt*

Adults: Karen LoBracco

The Gift of Ourselves

On April 3, the youngsters among us will explore *The Gift of Ourselves* with Travis Phillips and Jean Sauberan. The goal is for the children to experience the importance and challenge of being centered in oneself, paying attention to others, and responding authentically. The Penny Jar will be available to receive their gifts of stewardship.

Kind of Like an Easter Egg Hunt

On April 17, the children will be stewards to the larger community. They will hide the food items that will then be donated to the Brockport Community Food Shelf. Karen LoBracco is facilitating. It is the second annual Reverse Food Hunt and takes place after worship at the Garland Church location. Here's the deal: EVERYBODY is encouraged to bring to church donations for the Brockport Community Food Shelf, but especially baby food, diapers, and formula. During the worship service the CHILDREN and helpers hide the items on the grounds. The real fun begins later when ADULTS try to find all that food! This is the kind of social justice event that you can feel good about inviting your family and friends to participate in with you!

As you may have noticed, we always have two adults partnering in our children's program. If you are interested in being a helper, we have one opening April 17. For more information or to volunteer yourself or your family please contact me, Karen LoBracco, at klobracco@mindspring.com or 585-637-4605.

UU Parenting <http://blogs.uuworld.org/parenting/?h3> is a Blog by Unitarian Universalist religious educator, author and parent Michelle Richards. Parents, grandparents and caregivers are invited to read and respond to her postings about current issues and concerns.

ADULT EDUCATION: *SECOND SUNDAY SAMPLER

David Markham, Adult Education Coordinator

****2nd Sunday Sampler - Sunday, April 10, 2011** (No childcare is available at this time)

Topic and Speaker: TBA

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Location: The Historic Garland Church - 3723 Sweden Walker Rd., Brockport, New York

Men's Gathering, June 10-12, 2011 at Unirondack

In a rare opportunity, men of all ages, colors, creeds, and sexual orientations gather each year to share our experiences as men and explore what it means to be a man. We find ourselves renewed and reinvigorated as we talk openly about our lives and hopes. There are workshops to partake in and hiking or canoe trips to join. In all of our activities, from preparing meals together to sharing at the campfire, we enjoy the fellowship of other men. For more information and to register see <http://www.unirondack.org/index.php?page=mensgathering>.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY – SOUL TALK
The next Meeting is on Thursday, April 7, 2011

Small Group Ministry is a way to explore your spirituality more deeply, in a more intimate and confidential setting, with 5 to 7 people in a group. The group meets monthly and once a group is formed, bonds build. New participants are VERY welcome to join, but we ask that you make a commitment to attending regularly. Perfect attendance isn't required, but members of the group count on each other to make the experience supportive and rich. To learn more, contact Rev. Peggy Meeker at pmeeker@frontiernet.net or 224 – 6312.

As always these questions are meant to get you thinking about the topic. Don't feel you have to come with an answer to every question—just see where the questions take you.

Topic: our 4th **Source:** Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves

1. How do you respond emotionally to this source? What do you feel/believe about "God's love"? Have you ever experienced it?
2. Is it God's love that calls you to love your neighbor? If not, what does? Some other experience of love?
3. To love your neighbor as yourself is often called the Great Commandment in both Christianity and Judaism. It's generally taken to mean that you should love your neighbor as well as you love yourself. What happens if we look at it in a slightly different way? Think of "as yourself" as meaning as an *extension* of yourself. Love your neighbor as if that person were an extension of yourself, because they are, because we're all connected, we're all one. In other words, your neighbor is you. How do you feel about this idea? (Notice the question is not "What do you think?" but "How do you feel?" Thinking is OK too, but try to stay with the feeling part for a bit.)

A CALL FOR "CHALICE LIGHTERS"

"Chalice Lighters" is a program dedicated to the growth of Unitarian Universalist congregations in the St. Lawrence District (thirty-four congregations across New York State, except the New York City area, and into Pennsylvania). A Chalice Lighter is a person who pledges to contribute \$20 or more twice a year to a "Call" for a project being funded. If you want to learn more about the Chalice Lighter Program go to www.sld.uua.org/conggrowth/chalichelighters.html. If you are interested in becoming a "Chalice Lighter", and helping another congregation do what we're doing!, please email sldadministrator@verizon.net, call 716-882-0430, or write to the St. Lawrence District, PO Box 1045, Buffalo, NY 14240.

"CHALICE GRANT" REQUEST SUBMITTED

Our application for the Chalice Grant is on its way to the St. Lawrence District for consideration. The grant request is for funds to bring Rev. Peggy Meeker from ¼ time to ½ time status.

Don Zimmer, Chair of the Steering Committee and leader of the project, Ron Beiswenger, Treasurer, and Rev. Peggy Meeker, our Minister, worked diligently on the document and submitted it in advance of the April 1, 2011 deadline.

In an e-mail sent to the Steering Committee, Don stated that, "the adviser for the grant was impressed with our initial draft." He also noted that Rev Peggy did a great job of expressing the needs of our Church Community in the grant; and, Ron was invaluable in the presenting financial and budgetary matters. Don says that he is "cautiously optimistic" about receiving the award.

These members of BUUF deserve our praise and thanks for their effort on behalf of Our Congregation. The Chalice Grant Awards will be announced at the end of April.

APRIL 2011 Newsletter

TOGETHER WE MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE, by David Markham, Founding Member

Reprinted (with updates) from the BUUF Newsletter, March 2011

The **Brockport Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (BUUF)** will be holding its first Stewardship Drive to ask BUUF members and friends to make a commitment to the congregation for the coming church year, July 1 2011 – June 30, 2012.

BUUF held its first service in September of 2009, holding one service per month until December of 2009, when BUUF started holding 2 services a month at the Brockport Exempts. In October of 2010, we added the Second Sunday meetings and in January 2011, we moved the services from the Brockport Exempts to The Historic Garland Church, where we meet today.

All along BUUF has had good music, children's education, and now a new home for our congregation. In addition, over the past 18 months, BUUF has provided a Small Group Ministry with Soul Talk; a UU Book Discussion Group; and, many of our members have been involved in multiple social justice activities such: as Don Zimmer's involvement in Amnesty International; Dave Markham's prison ministry; Jean Sauberan's work with the Brockport Ecumenical Food Shelf; Bernie LoBracco organizing our BUUF contingent in the CROP Walk; congregants marching in the Gay Pride parade and helping with the Brockport Bienvenida. BUUF also provided sponsorship for KOOL KIDS, to bring a steel drum concert for children and their families in the Sagawa Park in July of 2010.

BUUF is slowly growing and making manifest the commitment by its members to live out the UU 7 principles with each other and the broader Brockport Community.

Next fall, I would like to have BUUF move to weekly services, enhance its music program, and continue with its efforts at "Life Span Faith Development Education" for children and adults. What are your hopes, and dreams, and aspirations for BUUF for the coming year and beyond?

In order to realize our jointly visioned goals, BUUF needs your *ideas, hopes, dreams, aspirations, desires, energy, effort, time, and talents; contributions of goods and materials; and money*. On Sunday, April 3rd you will have that opportunity, as Rev Peggy facilitates that conversation at a Pot Luck Luncheon following the service. Be ready to share your ideas about what you would like our future congregation to be like.

I, and some others, have made advance pledges, and in pledging financial resources, it helps the board plan for upcoming activities, in a fiscally responsible fashion. So, when a representative of the steward committee contacts you, please, consider making a pledge for the coming year. The whole congregation, and the greater community, will benefit. With your help, our love for each other and the community at large will be made manifest by Unitarian Universalists in the Greater Brockport area and in the world.

FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

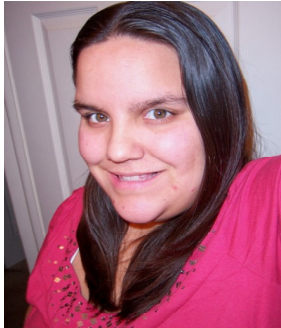
By Matt O'Donnell

The worship committee is thinking ahead about having a "Christmas Adam" service and dinner (our UU version of Christmas Eve) on December 23rd. We are hoping this may become one of our BUUF traditions.

Matt O'Donnell is willing to be head chef (along with some prep cooks and helpers), but the committee does not want to request funds for the food from BUUF's already tight budget. So, we are starting a recyclables drive fund-raiser, starting immediately. Please consider saving your returnables and donating them to us - if we start now, we will have enough funds to put on a Christmas feast. There will be a bin in the fellowship room for your deposits.

THANKS!!

The BUUF SPOTLIGHT SHINES on



Before

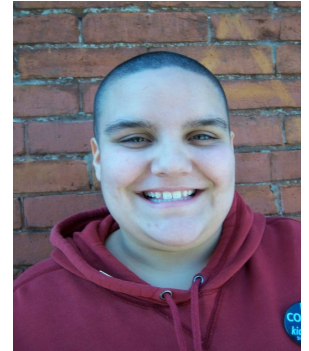
SAMANTHA BEEBE – SCOTT

By Jean Hallen-Sauberan

Quiet - Pleasant – Gentle - Humble...

that was the way I would have described future Charter Member, **Samantha Beebe-Scott**. Except for her sweet warm smile, long shining brown hair, and deep thoughtful eyes, she might have gone un-noticed at Worship or in the Fellowship Hall.

But, that was before March 27, 2011, when Samantha - Samy as she known by her friends, went to a *St. Baldrick's Day Event* at held at *Kitty Hoynes Irish Pub* in Syracuse and had her head shaved to raise money to cure childhood cancer.



After

Samy's first e-mail read:

"Hello, everyone.

I have met a very special family through my church. They lost their daughter to childhood cancer when she was three. I am going to be part of their team called JJ's Angels for the St. Baldrick's Event on March 27. This will include me going to Syracuse with the team and having my head shaved in honor of JJ and to raise money for the Childhood Cancer fight. Please support me if you can and donate to this team under my name. The site is www.stbaldricks.org, type in my name and you will be able to donate... Please help me support this family. Any questions, feel free to call me!!! Love and Peace. Samy

Then, she wrote:

"I've answered the call to be a hero! I'm having my head shaved to stand in solidarity with kids fighting cancer, but more importantly, to raise money to find cures. Please support me with a donation to the St. Baldrick's Foundation. This volunteer-driven charity funds more in childhood cancer research grants than any organization except the U.S. government. Your gift will give hope to infants, children, teens and young adults fighting childhood cancers. So when I ask for your support, I'm really asking you to support these kids. Thank you!"

With each e-mail, the excitement and strength in her voice became louder and stronger.

"First I want to thank those who have donated...so far **I have raised \$325 to help childhood cancer research!** Also out of 69 teams my team is first raising over \$21,000. And, the venue, as of yesterday, raised just shy of \$200,000. Thank you so much!!! I will send everyone a picture after my hair is gone... also, I am **donating my hair to lock of love** to help two causes not just one. So just as a reminder Tomorrow Saturday 3/26/11 will be the last day that I can accept donations for anyone who still wanted to donate. Again thank you so much this has been an amazing journey, I am so glad that I am able to help this cause. My website is <http://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/mypage/participantid/450655>"

Here final e-mail made me re-think the perceptions I, and maybe others, had about Samantha Beebe-Scott.

"Here are some stats...this is as of 3/25/11 at 3:30pm. **I have raised \$335**, JJ's Angels as a team **we have raised \$21,285** which puts us as the first place team at Kitty Hoynes (1st out of 69), **Kitty Hoynes event has raised \$244,236** which has put this venue 9th place out of 842 venues, and **over all St. Baldrick's has raised \$16,291,182 with 36,787 people shaving their heads!**"

So, the next time you see Samy, say "Congratulations"! to this **AMAZING, BOLD, COURAGEOUS, DETERMINED, ENERGETIC, FEARLESS, GENEROUS and HEROIC WOMAN** who, along with 36,786 others, put vanity aside, to make a difference in the lives of those suffering with childhood cancers.

Samantha Beebe-Scott is an Equine Sports and Canine Massage Therapist and Owner of Healing Hands Equine and Canine Massage. Samy is a future Charter Member and lives in Hamlin with her wife Danielle Beebe-Scott.

CHARTER SUNDAY UPDATE

Week by week we get closer to May 15, BUUF Charter Sunday, and our goal of 30 Charter Members. At this time we have 28 completed Charter Member forms. If you would like to become a Charter Member (a founding member of our faith community), you can pick up a form and complete it at a Sunday service or e-mail Jean Sauberan at revjsauberan@rochester.rr.com and she will send you one.

Contact Information

Mailing address:
76 Westwood Dr.
Brockport, NY
14420

Phone: 585-224-6312

Rev. Peggy Meeker
Organizing Minister
pmeeker@frontiernet.net
(585) 224-6312



Sunday Morning Service address:
The Historic Garland Church
3723 Sweden Walker Rd
Brockport, NY14420

Web: www.brockportuu.org

Don Zimmer
Steering Committee Chair
bigz14420@yahoo.com
(585)395-9449

OUR STEERING COMMITTEE:

Bonnie Bieswenger
David Markham
Penny Miller
Matt O'Donnell
Don Zimmer, Chair

ADVISORS:

Rev. Peggy Meeker, Minister
Ron Bieswenger, Treasurer
Bernie LoBracco, Asst. Treasurer
Karen LoBracco, Consultant to the SLD
Gerry Mitrano, Incorporation Committee
Jean Sauberan, Corresponding Secretary / Newsletter

PROGRAM RESOURCES:

Worship Committee:

Matt O'Donnell, Service Coordinator
Bonnie Bieswenger, Worship Assistant
Carol Taillie, Worship Associate
Don Zimmer, Worship Associate

Small Group Ministry Facilitators

Bonnie Beiswenger
David Markham
Rev. Peggy Meeker, Minister
Jean Sauberan

Caring Committee

Penny Miller and Jean Sauberan

Hospitality Committee

Matt O'Donnell, Coordinator

Education and Faith Development Coordinators

Children's Faith Development

Karen LoBracco, Dir. Children's FD
Libby Clifford, Asst. Director Children's FD

Adult Education

David Markham, 2nd Sunday Sampler Coordinator
Adult Faith Development
Rev. Peggy Meeker, Minister/ Facilitator

OTHER RESOURCES:

Bonnie Bieswenger, Music
Kristen Ditlow, Music
David Markham, Website Manager
Annette Mellor, Greeter
George Miller, Bi-Law Committee Chair
Jan and Jason Milliman, Children's FD Assistants
Beth O'Donnell, Children's FD Assistant
Kristen & Travis Phillips, Children's FD Assistants
Cora Schrader, Song Leader

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Jean Sauberan, Brockport Food Shelf Liaison

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Jim Foote, Music for Social Change
Rev. Peggy Meeker, Standing on the Side of Love
Don Zimmer, Amnesty International

The coordinators of programs and committees welcome your participation. Please contact the coordinator or chair and let her/him know of your interest in assisting.

*We gratefully acknowledge the openhearted generosity of the **Brockport United Methodist Church**, whose leaders and members make it possible for us to meet in the Historic Garland United Methodist Church.*

An Invitation to Invest by Karen LoBracco

Stewardship is not just about caring for the present, but investing in the future.

Sometime soon someone may ask to speak with you about becoming a charter member or pledging friend of the Brockport Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. You might wonder “What’s in it for me?” since I am being asked to share my money, my time and my talents. Rather than viewing my contributions as something I am giving away (a loss), I marvel at what an amazing investment BUUF is at so many levels! My participation in worship, children’s faith development and committees is hopefully useful to the congregation, but I know it makes my life more complete, balanced and challenged in a way that promotes spiritual growth. My monetary gifts allow the beacon of this liberal faith to glow and grow in Brockport, as well as being part of a movement that saves and transforms lives in ever widening circles of light.

The Stewardship Campaign is an annual event in Unitarian Universalist congregations, as we govern and support ourselves. From the pledges of financial support, a realistic budget is created and plans are made. I give to the Brockport Unitarian Universalist Fellowship not until it hurts, but until it makes a difference. I invite you to do the same!

*Stewardship takes place at the intersection of our spirituality and our ethics.
 We both celebrate life and accept the responsibility to love and care for the gifts of life.*

Treasurer’s Report (July 2010 – March 2011)

GIVING	Fiscal Year-to-Date	March
General Collection	\$ 9,243.70	\$ 1451.00
<u>Grants & Gifts*</u>	<u>\$ 1,306.47</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Total	\$10,550.17	\$ 1451.00

EXPENSES	Budget	Year-to-Date	February
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$17,417</u>	<u>\$12,081.40</u>	<u>\$ 1389.02</u>
Rent	\$ 1,875	\$ 2,090.00	\$ 225.00
Minister	\$ 9,000	\$ 7,621.91	\$ 861.76
Pulpit Fill	\$ 1,000	\$ 200.00	\$ 0.00
Music	\$ 1,000	\$ 700.00	\$ 100.00
Religious Education	\$ 250	\$ 23.96	\$ 0.00
Outreach & Social Justice	\$ 1,742	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00
Leadership Development	\$ 150	\$ 150.78	\$ 0.00
HSBC Fee	\$ 36	\$ 27.00	\$ 3.00
Mail Box	\$ 264	\$ 132.00	\$ 0.00
Printing & Copying	\$ 200	\$ 106.36	\$ 0.00
Postage	\$ 100	\$ 48.71	\$ 9.24
Refreshments	\$ 250	\$ 52.50	\$ 0.00
Equipment/Materials	\$ 150	\$ 70.41	\$ 0.00
Advertising	\$ 1,400	\$ 817.77	\$ 150.02

March Starting Balance: \$ 6,057.47

March Ending Balance: \$ 6,119.45

BUUF Fiscal Year: July 1 to June 30

* First Unitarian Church Plate Offering for BUUF \$1306.47

NEWS & EVENTS FROM BUUF AND BEYOND



[UUA President Peter Morales Releases Statement on Tragedy in Japan](#)

"As the news from Japan worsens, I send my heartfelt sympathies to all those struggling to cope with this terrible disaster," writes Morales. The UUA/UUSC Japan Relief Fund will support the recovery efforts of our religious partners there. Please join with Unitarian Universalists throughout the United States by contributing to the UUA/UUSC Japan Relief Fund.

Albany, Binghamton Named Threshold Congregations. The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany and the UU Congregation of Binghamton have been selected as Threshold Congregations by the UUA's Central East Regional Group. The Threshold program offers the assistance of CERG's staff to congregations ready to break through to another level of size, activity and effectiveness. Calling Albany and Binghamton "wonderful, energetic congregations with enormous potential," St. Lawrence Interim District Executive Connie Goodbread said the program should help them to realize that potential. Nine threshold congregations were selected from twenty-five applicants from the four districts that make up the region. The nine will work with CERG consultants over a three-year period on aspects of church life identified in their applications as meriting additional attention or a new approach.

April & May 2011 BUUF Stewardship Activities - Dates, times and venues TBA

April 29-30, 2011 - District Assembly in Ithaca

Join folks from the 30+ congregations in upstate NY and PA in this annual gathering to conduct the business, be inspired and informed, and meet folks from congregations like and unlike ours. Lots of information can be found at <http://www.sld.uua.org>.

May 1, 2011 - CROP Walk, Brockport, NY

The 29th Brockport CROP Walk will take place on Sunday, May 1st. The walk will start at the Brockport United Methodist Church (92 Main Street) with registration at 12:30 and the 10 Kilometer (6.2 mile) Walk beginning at 1:00. Let Bernie LoBracco (blobracco@mindspring.com or 637-4605) know if you're interested in taking part. 25% of the funds collected in Brockport are distributed to the Brockport Ecumenical Food Shelf.

June 10-12, 2011 - Men's Gathering at Unirondack, NY

In a rare opportunity, men of all ages, colors, creeds, and sexual orientations gather each year to share our experiences as men and explore what it means to be a man. We find ourselves renewed and reinvigorated as we talk openly about our lives and hopes. There are workshops to partake in and hiking or canoe trips to join. In all of our activities, from preparing meals together to sharing at the campfire, we enjoy the fellowship of other men. For more information and to register see <http://www.unirondack.org/index.php?page=mensgathering>.

June 22-26, 2011 General Assembly Charlotte, NC <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/>

General Assembly (GA) 2011 in Charlotte will mark the 50th anniversary of the merger of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America. Join thousands of fellow Unitarian Universalists from across the country as we remember the persons and events that brought into being the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) in May 1961, to reflect on our denomination's relevant achievements and struggles since then, and to chart new aspirations for the future we are determined to shape.

July 24-27 UU Leadership Team Institute: UU By the Lake

The summer Unitarian Universalist Leadership Training Institute is an amazing week-long residential training experience jointly sponsored by the SLD and three other UU districts.

BUUF & BEYOND APRIL 2011 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
BUUF 1st 3 Sunday Worship Childrens' FD Luncheon 10am- Noon <i>Food Collection</i> Garland Church	BUUF 4 Committee Reports due Worship Committee Meeting 7pm	5	6 Rochester Committee on Latin America (ROCLA) Meeting 7:00 pm	7 Eastman At Washington Square 12:15 pm – 12:45 pm Soul Talk 7:00 – 9:00 PM Location: TBA	8	9 Full Circle Fitness at First Universalist
BUUF 2nd 10 Sunday Sampler TBA 10am-11:30am Garland Church	11	12 BUUF Book Discussion Group 6:30 pm – 8:00pm Lift Bridge	13	14 Eastman At Washington Square 12:15 pm – 12:45 pm BUUF Steering Committee Meeting 7:00 – 9:00 pm	15	16 Full Circle Fitness at First Universalist
BUUF 3rd 17 Sunday Worship Childrens' FD, Refreshments 10am - Noon Garland Church	18	19	20	21 Eastman At Washington Square 12:15 pm – 12:45 pm	22 Deadline for APRIL Newsletter Articles, Calendar Items, News and Notes	23 Full Circle Fitness at First Universalist
24 Easter Sunday NO SERVICE at BUUF	25	26	27	28 Eastman At Washington Square 12:15 pm – 12:45 pm	29 District Assembly in Ithaca	30 District Assembly in Ithaca

Potluck and Discussion of Values, Dreams, and Investments Sunday, April 3, 2011 after BUUF 1st Sunday Service

Eastman At Washington Square Lunchtime Concerts. Thursdays from 12:15 pm – 12:45 pm. Free and open to the public. See schedule: <http://esm.rochester.edu/community/calendars/lunchtime.php>

Rochester Committee on Latin America (ROCLA) meeting: Wed., April 6, 7 p.m., Downtown Presbyterian Church, 121 N Fitzhugh St., Rochester.

Full Circle Fitness at First Universalist: Connect with other UUs as you nurture your mind, body and spirit; aerobic movements, yoga, Qigong, strength training, relaxation/healing techniques and more; one hour class on Saturday afternoons, \$12; contact Brad Hurst at 342-2506 or bradleyhurst@yahoo.com.

Universalist Unitarian Association (UUA) news can be found [here](#).

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) news can be found [here](#).

UU World, the magazine of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, can be found [here](#).

National organization of Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) news can be found [here](#).

New York State Convention of Universalists (NYSCU) news can be found [here](#).

Saint Lawrence District (SLD) news can be found [here](#).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FROM BUUF AND BEYOND - APRIL 2011

Day	Date	Time	Activity	Details
Sunday	April 3	10:00 am – 12:00 noon	First Sunday Worship Service- Food Shelf Sunday, Pot Luck Luncheon The Historic Garland Church	See pages 2 & 4
Monday	April 4	Evening	Worship Committee Meeting Contact Matt O'Donnell	TBA
Wednesday	April 6	7:00 pm	Rochester Committee on Latin America -ROCLA Downtown Presbyterian Church, Rochester	See page 11
Thursday	April 7	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Small Group Ministry: Soul Talk Contact Rev. Peggy Meeker	See page 5
Thursday	April 8	12:15 pm – 12:45 pm	Eastman At Washington Square Lunchtime Concerts, Downtown Rochester	See page 11
Saturday	April 9	1 hr in afternoon	Full Circle Fitness at First Universalist Downtown Rochester	See page 11
Sunday	April 10	10:00 am – 11:30 noon	Second Sunday Sampler The Historic Garland Church	See page 2
Tuesday	April 12	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Book Discussion Group Liftbridge Book Shop	See page 3
Wednesday	April 13	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Steering Committee Meeting Contact Don Zimmer	TBA
Thursday	April 14	12:15 pm – 12:45 pm	Eastman At Washington Square Lunchtime Concerts, Downtown Rochester	See page 11
Saturday	April 16	1 hr in afternoon	Full Circle Fitness at First Universalist Downtown Rochester	See page 11
Sunday	April 17	10:00 am – 12:00 noon	Third Sunday Worship Service The Historic Garland Church	See page 2 & 4
Thursday	April 21	12:15 pm – 12:45 pm	Eastman At Washington Square Lunchtime Concerts, Downtown Rochester	See page 11
Saturday	April 23	1 hr in afternoon	Full Circle Fitness at First Universalist Downtown Rochester	See page 11
Thursday	April 28	12:15 pm – 12:45 pm	Eastman At Washington Square Lunchtime Concerts, Downtown Rochester	See page 11
Friday	April 29	See website	UU District Assembly Ithaca, NY	See page 9
Saturday	April 30	See Website	UU District Assembly Ithaca, NY	See page 9
Saturday	April 30	1 hr in afternoon	Full Circle Fitness at First Universalist Downtown Rochester	See page 11
Sunday	May 1	10:00 am – 12:00 noon	First Sunday Worship Service- Food Shelf Sunday The Historic Garland Church	See May Newsletter
Sunday	May 1	1:00 pm	CROP Walk – 10K Begins at Brockport United Methodist Church	See page 10