



St. Lawrence District

Fall 2009 "News" Packet

SEPTEMBER 5, 2009

FALL ISSUE

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District Summary

President's Message... Ernie Hall reviews the August Board retreat and leadership gathering, recaps the District's financial year and considers the changes that will occur at the national UUA level.

District Executive... Rev. Tom Chulak lists and describes the "10 Characteristics of Unitarian Universalist Spiritual Maturity" needed to be an effective UU leader.

Program Consultant... Karen LoBracco brings us the latest in faith development news such as SLD trainings and conferences, religious education transitions and safe congregation resources.

UUA Trustee...David Friedman shares his GA 2009 experience.

News From Our Congregations... Ellen Asprooth reports on district happenings and new staff in our congregations.

Events You Won't Want To Miss In 2009-2010!



An Evening of Food and Adventure - Join other UUs from the district on **September 25** for an evening of delicious potluck foods and a travelogue from our district executive, Tom Chulak at May Memorial UU in Syracuse, NY. Tom's trip included Jerusalem, Cairo, Tanzania, South Africa and Morocco. RSVP to Alexa Carter at garlex@aol.com

The annual **Presidents' Conference** is scheduled for **September 26** in Central Square, NY. All presidents, vice-presidents and moderators will come together to learn and share approaches, efforts, and skills in areas of stewardship in our UU churches, leadership and district cluster pros and cons.

The **RE Ingathering** will take place on **September 26** at Syracuse First. "Homegrown UUs – Dreaming the Possible Dream?" The keynote speaker for this event will be Katie Parker, a member of the UUA Youth Ministry Working Group.

The **New York State Convention of Universalists** (NYSCU) will hold their annual meeting on **October 16-17** at the First Universalist Church of Rochester, NY. The Rev. Dr. Richard S. Gilbert is the keynote speaker. "The Missing U in Unitarian Universalism: Our Universalist Heritage, Its' Meaning for Today and Tomorrow."

UU Weekend at Silver Bay is scheduled for October 16-18. This weekend retreat is open to Unitarian Universalists and their friends. It is organized by volunteers from several UU congregations in the St. Lawrence District.

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We're on the Web!



www.sld.uua.org

9/2009

There are still slots available to attend the event of the year – the **50th Anniversary Conference** "Celebrating the Birth & Growth of Unitarian Universalism" on **October 30-31**. For places to stay, please see "[Housing Options](#)."



"Doing Justice In An Economic Tsunami" will be presented by the SLD Social Justice Council as their fourth annual conference on **November 7** at the UU Church of Amherst.

YRUU Participation at the SLD Social Justice Conference is sponsored by the St. Lawrence District Youth Adult Committee (YAC). Youth are invited to a sleepover on Friday night and then to participate with adults in the Saturday Social Justice Conference. This is a great opportunity to catch up with both youth and adults from across the district!

Many **Social Justice Workshops** will be offered during the 2009-10 calendar year.

The **St. Lawrence District Assembly** is scheduled for **April 23-24, 2010** in Syracuse, NY and will be hosted by the May Memorial UU Society. **"Visions of Hope and Promise"** is the theme for this great event. This will be an exciting weekend, so mark your calendars!

VERY NOTABLE ITEMS

The **Young Adult and Campus Ministry** Consultant, Elayne Mosher Campoli, is offering a flyer packed with information - *So your congregation wants to stay connected with recent bridgers and other young adults...*

The **Youth Adult Committee** currently has their 2009-2010 YAC information pamphlets available online.

The **District Office** now has a *new "toll free" fax number* –

1.866.881.4234



CHALICE LIGHTERS

All **Chalice Lighter** materials can be accessed through the District's website ([brochure](#), [intent to apply form](#), [application for a single congregation](#) and [application for a group of congregations](#).)



A very special **THANK YOU** to all the Chalice Lighters who contributed to the "call" for the First Universalist Church of Rochester, the UU Congregation of Northern Chautauqua (Fredonia) and the UU Congregation of Binghamton. In spite of a hurting economy, Chalice Lighters opened their hearts and contributed more than \$12,000.00 to help out their fellow UUs.

UUA News

The UUA has scheduled their third **Association Sunday** for October 4. The theme this year is *Growing Our Diversity*.

District Services to Congregations

Behavioral Covenants
Board Retreats
Building Staff Teams
Campus Ministry
Communications
Conferences by Congregational Size
Conflict Management
Fundraising for Congregations
Governance Structures
Growth Grants (Chalice Lighters)
Intergenerational Community
Leadership Development
Library
Membership Retention
Ministerial Transitions
New Congregation Development
Newsletters
Process Consultation
Public Witness
Publicity
RE Consulting
Social Justice Program
Strategic Planning
UU Identity
UU Leadership Team Institute
Website
Worship
Young Adult Network
Youth Conferences

NRG Partner Events (Northeast Regional Group)

As partners with the [Ohio-Meadville](#), [Joseph Priestley](#) and the [Metro NY](#) districts, SLD members are welcome to participate in events hosted by them. Check their websites for more information.

Web-Based Training

Choosing Wisely:

A Biomimetic Approach to Nurturing Growth in Congregations

will be presented this **October** by the District Growth Consultant, Mark Bernstein. This is a free web-based training series designed for lay leaders within UU congregations. Biomimetics refers to the process of taking ideas from nature and applying them to other fields such as organizational structures and leadership processes. This seminar series will use the model of plants to highlight the critical components of leadership in sustaining significant and lasting growth in congregations. *Pre-registration is required (deadline of September 22) and registration is limited. Send completed registration form to St. Lawrence District, 695 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222 or email to smtabone@localnet.com.*

Our Whole Lives for Elementary Grades will be offered on November 6-8 in Long Island, NY by the Metro NY District. <http://www.uumetrony.org/>

News Deadline

The deadline for the next issue of the St. Lawrence District "News" Packet is **January 15, 2010 at 5:00 PM ET**. Please send your "proofed" articles via e-mail to the administrative secretary at smtabone@localnet.com



ENJOY THE FALL
AND STAY SAFE!

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